



Nov-Dec 2017

## Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

# Sierra Sentinel

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### Sierra Club Holiday Party and Potluck

**Wednesday, December 20,  
6:30 p.m.**

In December we will not have a regular meeting with a speaker, but instead will socialize and celebrate the holidays with members and guests. Bring food or a dessert to share. Drinks will be provided. We will have a raffle for an new REI Camp Dome 2 tent and two sets of

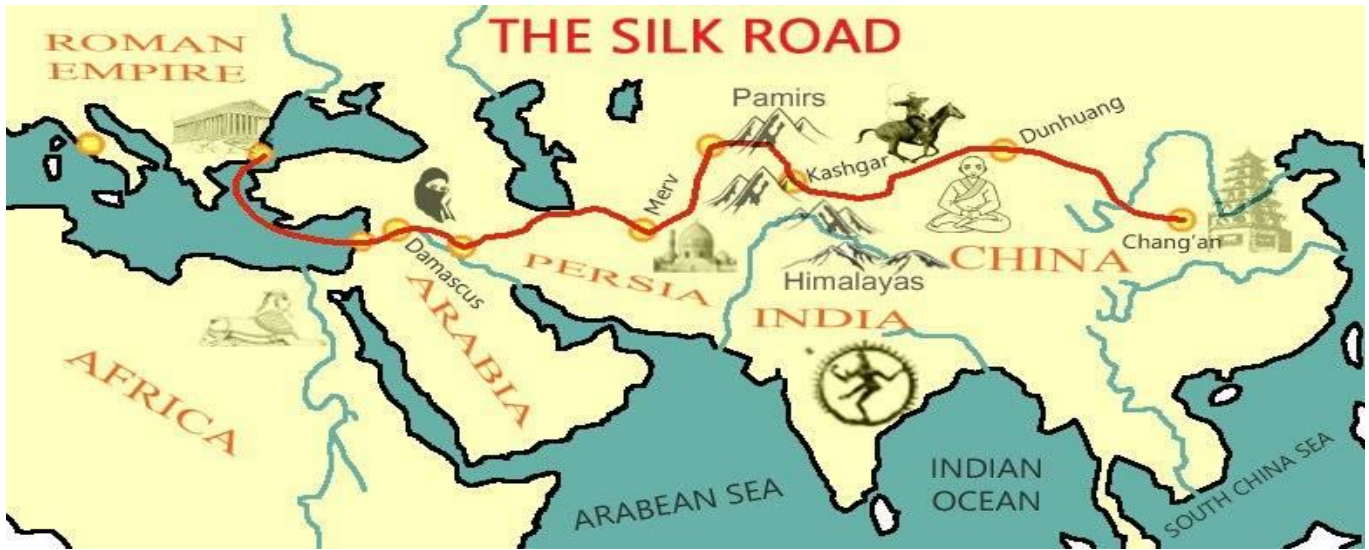
50th Anniversary FW Nature Center wine glasses, and our Sierra Club merchandise will be available for sale. Please join us! Location: Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Azalea Room, Moncrief Garden Center, 817-871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth. All are welcome!



**Lightweight, durable and easy to pitch, the Camp Dome 2 tent sleeps 2 comfortably and offers supreme ventilation through 2 easy-access doors.**

## November Monthly Meeting

November 15, 6:30 p.m.



Martha Ohlson, long time Sierra Club member, will share her experience of her trip on the Silk Road Overland. The Silk Road or Silk Route was an ancient network of trade routes that were for centuries central to cultural interaction originally through regions of Eurasia connecting the East and West and stretching from the Korean peninsula and Japan to the Mediterranean Sea.

We meet in the Azalea Room at 6:30 for a potluck with meeting to follow. Please bring a dish (main, side, dessert) to share. Drinks are provided. Also, be sure to pick up your raffle tickets (\$5 per ticket or \$20 for 5 tickets). Raffle will be held at our December meeting and includes an REI tent and 2 sets of 50th Anniversary FW Nature Center wine glasses.

### Ask Mr. Green

**Q: I'm an environmentalist with no kids, no pets, no dependents. If I drive or fly 5,000 miles a year, how does my carbon footprint compare with that of my hypothetical twin sister who owns a 50-pound dog but rarely takes trips?**

**A:** A few years ago, claims that a dog had a bigger environmental footprint than an SUV were bouncing around social media. It was easy to prove that this canine slander was the result of prodigious mathematical fudging. But putting your hypothetical sister's dog—let's call him Reginald—up against air travel is tougher, because a plane can move a person 50 miles on a gallon of jet fuel, whereas only hybrid or electric cars can beat that. (Of course, if you have a passenger in your car, it can then equal or beat the plane because you cut the gallons per person in half—a basic truth that has yet to dawn on the millions who don't carpool.)

To make the case for the hypothetical Reggie, I put him on an equally hypothetical luxury diet of hamburger and enough carbs to meet his caloric requirements. Even so, his annual carbon footprint would be only three-quarters that of your 5,000-mile flight, and possibly only half, because high-altitude emissions have a greater global warming effect than those at ground level.

Most real dogs, however, dine on hamburger only in their dreams. Because most pet-food makers use innards, mystery parts, and other stuff deemed unfit for human consumption, the carbon footprint of a dog-food diet is much lower than posited above. So Reggie's paw print is smaller.

*Read more advice from Mr. Green and submit your own questions for him at [sierraclub.org/mrgreen](http://sierraclub.org/mrgreen).*





# LET'S RECYCLE!!



**SATURDAY, NOV. 4**

**9 AM–12 PM**

**Daggett Montessori School parking lot on Hemphill St.  
at Jessamine St. (2300 Hemphill St.)**

## **ITEMS ACCEPEPTED from HOUSEHOLDS/BUSINESSES:**

**ELECTRONICS** (computers, laptops, cell phones, small appliances, printers, monitors, TVs, CRTs, cameras, DVD players, VCRs, microwaves, vacuums, toasters, cables)

**TEXTILES & SHOES** (new-used-torn men's, women's, children's clothing, towels, bedding, linens, pillows, shoes, work boots)

**PLASTIC & STYROFOAM** (grocery bags, dry cleaner bags, plastic film)

**WIRE HANGARS**

**BATTERIES**

## **ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:**

Tires, paint, hazardous waste, glass

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FORT WORTH!!

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# Our National Parks Might Become a Gated Community

By Jason Mark | Oct 26, 2017



PHOTO BY KELLYVANDELLEN/ISTOCK

The mission of America’s national parks seems pretty clear. Legislation establishing the National Park Service, passed just over a century ago, said the parks and monuments should “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life” of parks and monuments “by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” Such places should be widely open to visitors. The Park Service is supposed to ensure that nothing “interfere[s] with free access . . . by the public.”

But somehow the people who now oversee the national parks didn’t get the memo. They’re hoping to jack up entry fees at some of the most iconic parks by such enormous percentages that those places will no doubt become less accessible to many.

Earlier this week, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced a proposal to more than double entry fees at 17 of the most popular parks during the summer months. Vehicle fees will go from \$30 to \$70. Motorcycle visitors will see their entry fees spike from \$25 (and as low as \$12 in some parks) to \$50. Per-person rates—for those who arrive on bicycle, foot, or horse—will go from \$15 a head to \$30. America’s public lands, rightly celebrated as an inspiring example of the country’s democratic aspirations, are at risk of becoming a gated community.

Here are the names of the parks facing skyrocketing fee increases (on the chance that one of the places is beloved by you): Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Denali, Glacier, Grand Canyon, Grand Teton, Olympic, Sequoia & Kings Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Zion National Parks.

You might be asking, What’s this all about? Zinke claims the fee increases are needed to address the Park Service’s reported \$12 billion backlog of maintenance projects. “The infrastructure of our national parks is aging and in need of renovation and restoration,” Zinke said in a statement calling for “targeted fee increases at some of our most-visited parks.”

I have a hard time believing Zinke’s concern about the infrastructure backlog when, at the same time, he and President Trump are proposing a budget that would cut spending on the Park Service by 13 percent and reduce staff by up to 1,200 employees. Zinke’s deferred maintenance anxiety feels a bit disingenuous—enough crocodile tears to match Yosemite Falls. And while it’s true that some park facilities are badly in need of repair, the whole maintenance issue is a bit of a red herring. According to a report from [the Center for American Progress](#), about \$400 million of the backlog should actually be paid for by the concessionaires like Aramark and Xanterra that are making a killing on selling hot dogs at the visitor centers. Nearly half of the Park Service’s list of needs, close to \$6 billion, is just for four roads in a handful of parks.

Maybe the proposed entry fee hike is some gesture to show the administration is serious about fiscal probity—you know, help balance the budget by doubling the price for a family wanting to spend a summer vacation in Arches or Yellowstone. That doesn’t pass the sniff test either, not when Zinke is also [giving oil and gas companies a nearly 30 percent discount](#) on their shallow water leases in the Gulf of Mexico.

I suppose the plan, with its focus on the summer months, might be a way to reduce what has become [the unbearable overcrowding at some parks](#) at peak season, a challenge that park officials acknowledge is making it difficult to leave their stewarded areas “unimpaired.” But if you really want to improve visitor experience, you don’t ratchet up prices to keep people away; instead, you build new and better infrastructure, with more buses in and out of parks being the obvious solution. There’s something more going on here. Zinke’s whole proposal—the government is going to make it vastly more expensive for you to visit the lands you already own—seems a perfect expression of the Trump administration’s id. In Trump and company’s narrow world view, there are no common goods or shared assets, no civic solidarity. Public lands? What are those? One must pay to play.

Zinke has insisted again and again that he is [“absolutely against”](#) the sale of public lands. Yet that’s exactly what he’s doing with this proposed skyrocketing of national park fees. No, I suppose there won’t be any transfer of title. But every summer our common grounds will be rented to the highest bidders. National parks will become more like the exclusive enclaves and private planes the Trump folks love so dearly.

The national parks are supposed to be open-aired temples of democracy. If Trump and Zinke get their way, the affluent will have the places all to themselves.

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## C'mon, Join the Club!!

Did you know that for only \$15.00, you can join the Sierra Club and enjoy all the benefits of membership? Such as a one-year subscription to the Sierra Magazine and automatic membership in your local chapter. And for a limited time, receive a free gift when you join. So please help support the Sierra Club by joining today!

To join and find out more, please click here → → → →



## Do you Shop at Tom Thumb?

If your answer is yes, how about helping the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club earn money while you shop? Just link your Tom Thumb Reward card to the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club, and every time you purchase groceries, the store will donate a portion of the purchase amount to the Club. Just go to <http://www.tomthumb.com/IFL/Grocery/Home>, click on "Community Caring" at the bottom of the page, click on "Good Neighbor" in the column on the left, and then click on "Get Application and Start Saving Today." That link will take you to a form you can fill out to link your card to the Club. The Club's number is 4659. If you shop at Tom Thumb, please take advantage of this easy way to contribute. Thanks for your support!



## Do You Shop at Amazon.com?

If so, you can shop and support the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club at the same time. All you have to do is go to our website, <http://www.sierraclub.org/texas/greater-fort-worth>, scroll to the bottom of the page, and you will see a link to the Amazon website. Just click on that link and start shopping away! Amazon.com will automatically gift a portion of the money you spend to the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club. How easy is that? I hope you'll remember us next time you shop with Amazon.com. Thanks for your support. We appreciate it!

## Social Connections



Are you on [Facebook](#)? So are we. Like us to stay up to date on outings, conservation issues, and any events we are having.



### Meetup.com?

Find us there too and meet others who are interested in the same activities as you.



Visit the Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club's [web page](#) and see a list of our outings, events, and upcoming meetings, learn about our bag ban campaign, and find lots of good links!

## How to Join a List Serve and Why Should I?

If you would like to receive current information about club news, outings, and conservation issues, please sign up for our list serves. That way you won't miss out on any important news and will be informed if there are any last-minute changes to any of our outings. Occasionally an outing may be cancelled because of weather conditions, etc., so if you are on our Outings list serve, you'll be the first to know. And if you're on our News list serve, you'll receive a reminder about our general meeting each month. And don't worry, you won't get spammed. We don't distribute email addresses to anyone, so the only organization you'll be getting emails from is us! To sign up, go to the home page of our website or click on these links.

[Lonestar-FTW-News list serve](#)

[Lonestar-FTW-Outings News list serve](#)

[Lonestar-FTW-Conservation Forum list serve](#)

### Cyberspace Contacts

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fw.sierra.webmaster@gmail.com

### How to Volunteer and Where am I Needed?

Volunteers are essential to any organization, especially one that doesn't have a full-time paid staff. Currently the Fort Worth Sierra Club needs help with:

- Outings leaders for car camps, hikes, and backpacks
- Fundraising
- Volunteers to bring light snacks and drinks to our monthly general meetings

If you want more information or are interested in helping us, please contact Claudia at 817-924-6242 or [claudia.blalock@att.net](mailto:claudia.blalock@att.net)

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Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

**Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)**

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