



**SIERRA
CLUB**

Loo Wit Rumblings

Environment, Education, Conservation & Events for Southwest Washington



September 18th is Electric Vehicle Day at Clark Public Utilities

The Loo Wit Group of the Sierra Club is hosting an event for the sixth annual National Drive Electric Week nationally organized by Plug in America, the Sierra Club and the Electric Auto Association. The annual event is designed to accelerate the national adoption of plug-in electric vehicles (EV). Through test drives, parades, news conferences and announcements of new EV policies and programs, community events demonstrate how EVs are greener, cheaper and more fun to operate than conventional vehicles.



(Article continues on next page)

If you're planning to drop by the National Drive Electric Week afternoon program, bring some extra cash or a check (no debit/credit) and take home some cool Sierra Club merchandise! Steve Foster, Loo Wit treasurer, will have several items available: Hiker T-shirts: \$12, Graphic and ANWR (Arctic Nat'l Wildlife Refuge) T-shirts: \$14, Sierra Club caps (vintage & contemporary): \$6, duffel bags: \$7, water bottles w/ Sierra Club logo: \$10, Sierra Club backpacks: \$10.

You can also sign up for Sierra Club 2017 calendars: Wilderness wall calendar is \$13.95 and the Engagement desk calendar is \$14.95. All proceeds benefit the Loo Wit Group.



This year, National Drive Electric Week 2016 will run September 10-18 with events in more than 90 cities registered and more than 200 expected. Since launching in 2011 with events in 29 cities, National Drive Electric Week has experienced rapid growth:

2013: 98 events in 35 states with over 30,000 participants

2014: 152 events in 39 states, five Canadian provinces and three European countries with over 95,000 participants

2015: 196 events in 41 states, seven Canadian provinces, Hong Kong and New Zealand with more than 130,000 participants and 9,000+ test rides



The Vancouver, Washington event is scheduled to take place Sunday, September 18, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the parking lot of Clark Public Utilities located at 1200 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver, WA. This is our first year participating in the event and we are very excited.

National Drive Electric Week is based on the idea that when it comes to transitioning drivers from gasoline to electricity, nothing beats the opportunity to experience the clean, quiet and powerful plug-in vehicles firsthand.

Each year, Plug In America, the Sierra Club and the Electric Auto Association team up with local groups to organize events, which typically feature all-electric and plug-in hybrid electric cars from every automaker on the market. National Drive Electric Week events are linked to increased plug-in vehicle sales, which have jumped by as much as 23 percent the month after.

The Loo Wit Group of the Sierra Club's event will feature live music from Queen Chief, Alan Webb Nissan test drives of Nissan Leaf, Clark Public Utilities booth highlighting renewable energy efforts, Cynergy E-bikes and Sierra Club Outings Leader, Lehman Holder e-bike tours of the Fort Vancouver area, Hoesly Eco Automotive and more. Many proud electric car owners of Leaf, Volt, Fiat, Focus Electric and more will be showing off their kick gas rides.

"Electric vehicles provide an important 21st-century solution to climate disruption," said Sierra Club's Electric Vehicle Initiative Director Gina Coplon-Newfield. "These cars are not only better for our climate, improving air quality and reducing our dependence on dirty fuels, but they save consumers money while also being fun and convenient to drive. National Drive Electric Week provides consumers, media and policymakers the perfect opportunity to understand why more than one million drivers around the globe are making the switch to electric."



“Americans are increasingly saying goodbye to gas stations and hello to a high performance, smooth and quiet driving experience,” said Plug In America’s Executive Director Joel Levin. “U.S. plug-in vehicle ownership has jumped by almost 50 percent since the beginning of last year. When you consider that nearly 400,000 people pre-ordered Tesla’s Model 3, it’s clear that plug-in cars are becoming mainstream.”

“With plug-in vehicles no longer rare sightings and carmakers around the world expanding their offerings today - it’s different than even just five years ago,” said Chairman of the Electric Auto Association Ron Freund. “Our events, in virtually every major US city, enable drivers everywhere to try out electric vehicles, test drive and ask questions in a relaxed, informational setting.”

The environmental and financial benefits combined with the growing convenience of electric vehicles, from longer ranges to expanding charging infrastructure, are causing a steady increase in use. Plug-in electric vehicles are selling at a faster pace than the first generation of hybrid cars. Even with significantly lower gas prices, EV sales were much higher in the first quarter of 2016 than they were in the first quarter of 2015.

Each year, American passenger cars and trucks, through vehicle tailpipe, oil extraction and transport emissions, spew upward of three trillion tons of carbon pollution into the air by burning about 121 billion gallons of gasoline.

“A switch to fully electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, which require little or no gasoline and emit little or no tailpipe pollution, presents a critical solution to slash pollution, create American jobs, move beyond dirty fuels and forever change the impact of vehicles on our planet,” said Coplon-Newfield.

Thanks to federal, state and industry rebates and tax credits, as well decreasing prices in EV technology and the much lower price of electricity versus gasoline, the cost of owning and operating an electric vehicle is now notably lower than that of many gasoline-fuelled vehicles.

“With fewer moving parts -- no mufflers, catalytic converters, or even oil changes -- EVs are both cheaper to fuel and maintain than conventional vehicles,” said Levin. “And best of all, many drivers quickly learn they don’t need to waste time “going somewhere” just to refuel their ride. They just head home to do it!”

For more information on National Drive Electric Week and The Vancouver, Washington event go to <https://driveelectricweek.org>.

Fundraiser Set for Gifford Pinchot Task Force



The Gifford Pinchot Task Force, an organization that has worked with the Loo Wit Group on a number of environmental projects, will have its annual banquet and auction at the Columbia Sportswear flagship store in downtown Portland, Nov. 3, beginning with a cocktail and social hour at 6:30 p.m. Individual tickets are \$75.

The Task Force has changed its name to Cascade Forest Conservancy. Executive Director Matt Little said the change came about because the organization hopes to broaden its work and its appeal to other environmentalists. For information about the banquet and to buy tickets, visit www.cascadeforest.org.

Members of Loo Wit have worked with the Task Force in past years to stop a proposed copper, molybdenum and gold mine in federal forest land along the Green River just outside the Mount St. Helens blast zone. The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management are now reviewing an Environmental Assessment and are expected to approve plans to explore for minerals. If exploration is approved, the Cascade Forest Conservancy will appeal the decision and is expected to ask for help in the appeal.

Loo Wit representatives also worked with the Task Force and other environmental organizations in an effort to have Congress designate rivers that flow from the watersheds on Mount St. Helens as Wild and Scenic. After Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler declined to introduce legislation designating the rivers, the coalition decided to postpone the effort.

Calendar of Events:

- **Sunday, Sept. 18th**—Electric Vehicle Event, Clark Public Utilities
- **Tuesday, Oct. 4th**— Loo Wit Conservation Committee Meeting 6:00 pm, ExCom Meeting 6:30 pm
- **Tuesday, Nov. 1st**—Loo Wit Conservation Committee Meeting 6:00 pm, ExCom Meeting 6:30 pm.
- **Saturday, Dec. 3rd**—Loo Wit Holiday Party

Meetings and Events are open to the public and all are welcome!

Loo-Wit ExCom Leaders:

Mark Leed—Chair

Don Steinke—Vice Chair/Oil & Coal

Steve Foster—Treasurer/Sales

Holly Swofford—Conservation

Mike Newsham— Outings Liason

Alona Steinke—Oil & Coal/at large

Lehman Holder—At large

Sincere Thanks to Cathy Morton and Lynn Stiglich!

Cathy Morton, past Loo Wit chair and current political chair, and Lynn Stiglich, editor of Loo Wit Rumbings are leaving their positions after years of extraordinary work for our group.

Cathy served as Loo Wit Chair for six years and then became political chair, where she has conducted a very strong political committee since 2013. Her 6-year tenure as chair resulted in Loo Wit becoming the strongest group in the Washington State Chapter.

Since 2014, Lynn's editorial, layout and computer skills have resulted in tremendous improvements in our electronic newsletter. Rumbings goes to every member with email access, and is mailed to those who don't.

A huge round of thanks for these two very talented and skilled Sierrans! Kudos, Cathy and Lynn!

Loo-Wit ExCom Elections Ahead: Candidates Needed!

Loo Wit's executive committee (ExCom) is seeking some good people! If you're a Sierra Club member who's thought about serving in a leadership role, now is your time. Candidates for ExCom are critically needed! A few of Loo Wit's ExCom members will be moving on at the end of 2016, and in order for Loo Wit to remain a strong, viable group, replacements must be found. So we're asking: please come forward! Join us at our ExCom meetings October 4th and November 1st. If you have an interest, please contact Loo Wit Chair Mark Leed at markleed002@gmail.com or Lehman Holder at tripsguy@aol.com.

You'll find us a very friendly and welcoming bunch! New faces and ideas will make us stronger!



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Summer's Winding Down but Fall Outings Ahead!

Although Fall is getting close, it's been a great summer of sea kayak and bike outings for Loo Wit. We've cycled in the Columbia Gorge, done the Champoeg Loop in the Willamette Valley and the Banks-Vernonia State Trail, one of America's most beautiful rail-trails.

And, we've also had fun on the water, with monthly beginner/novice and intermediate sea kayak outings. Don't wait *too* long though—summer/fall outings conclude in mid-October.

Questions? Email outings leader Lehman Holder at tripsguy@aol.com.

To sign up, go to <http://www.meetup.com/Portland-Vancouver-Sierra-Club-Outings-Events>.

Outings are posted 7-8 days in advance.



Photos from one of Loo Wit's summer kayak outings in the South Sound



Photo credit: Lehman Holder

Mt. St. Helens Climb—August 7, 2016

We camped overnight at Climbers Bivouac and got an “alpine start”, leaving camp just at daylight, 5:30 am, with five us on our way to the summit of Mt. St. Helens. The first 2.1 miles were relatively easy trail up to Kiwi Camp at the foot of Monitor Ridge.

At this point the climbing commenced, as we threaded our way through the boulder fields up to the Monitoring Station at 6,800'. There we took a short rest, preparing ourselves for the final 1,500' of rocks and mostly loose volcanic ash. A “fun time” was had by all by the time we had reached the summit.



Looking down Monitor Ridge



The Monitoring Station at 6,800

The day was beautiful and the views were astounding. We could see all of the major volcanoes, from Mt. Jefferson to Mt. Rainier. We stayed on top for an hour, eating lunch, and then made our way back down the mountain, relishing the views we had left behind.

We made it back to the Climbers Bivouac a little less than 10.5 hours after we started. It was a great day with great views and lots of camaraderie. Everyone felt that it was worth the effort to see and climb one of the premier mountains in the Northwest.



The Dome in the Crater



The hardy Mountaineers

Photo credits Mike Newsham

Kalama Fights Hard Against Methanol Refinery

The people of Kalama and surrounding area have been fighting an uphill battle against climate change, public safety risks, and the petrochemical industry. Early in 2014, a brand new company called Northwest Innovation works (NWIW) proposed to build methanol refineries at the port of Tacoma, Kalama and St. Helens. The brave people of Tacoma successfully defeated the proposal in March this year.

They are a Chinese government-backed company, and have never built methanol refineries before. They would bring in natural gas from Canada, refine it to methanol, and then ship it to China to make plastics to be sold on the world market. The refinery would use fracked natural gas. This natural gas would be transmitted to the refinery via pipeline. Natural gas pipelines are notorious for leaking. Further, a pipeline extension will be needed for the project, and it is proposed to seize private property, as well as a portion of a public cemetery through eminent domain. The refining process will cause severe air pollution. The refinery itself has a high risk of explosion, which would shatter windows within a 6 mile radius. The refinery would also include a 345 foot tall 'flare stack' which is essentially a flame, which would burn day and night, 7 days a week. There is no doubt that this is a bad project, and the people of Kalama and Cowlitz county have been fighting tirelessly to defeat it.

NWIW was defeated in Tacoma. We can stop them in Kalama! Grassroots pressure on elected officials has risen in the past year. Locals are showing up in masses to public meetings at both the port and the city council. 'No methanol' signs can be seen visibly across the town. Since then, NWIW has doubled down on its 'community engagement in Kalama, spreading misinformation through doorbelling and mailers. We say, let them spend their money. We know in the end that people power wins! Soon enough, public officials will have no choice but to listen to the public, and shut this down!

Cecile Gernez
Conservation Organizer
Sierra Club Washington State Chapter



EFSEC Report

During the EFSEC adjudicative process, the tribes were represented by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. First foods, are central to the cultural identity and economy of the tribes.

The Tribes fought for a century to defend their treaty rights to first foods such as salmon. Billy Frank Jr. and other Tribal members were arrested many times for fishing in their usual and customary places, until 1974, when Federal Judge George Boldt, forced the State of Washington to respect tribal treaty rights.

During EFSEC adjudication, we became increasingly aware of the many tribal families that would be adversely affected by an oil spill in the Columbia. The reputation of the fish in the Columbia has already been harmed by pollution. The tribes want the pollution cleaned up, not be exposed to more of it.

The tribes also expressed concern regarding oil trains running through their fishing sites. The Yakima, and Quinault Nations have taken firm stands against oil trains through the Gorge.

The Yakima Nation sent nearly their entire Tribal Council to North Dakota on August 28 to Stand with the Standing Rock Sioux blocking the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) under the Missouri River. Twice within the last 5 years, Montana has declared a state of emergency when a pipeline leaked into the upper Missouri River system.

As soon as the EIS is completed for Vancouver Energy, EFSEC will begin preparing a recommendation on the oil terminal. It will then give the recommendation to the governor who has 60 days to decide. Until then, the Governor is required to be neutral.

The Columbia River tribes stopped the Morrow Pacific Coal Terminal in Boardman Oregon and the Lummi Nation stopped Gateway Pacific Coal Terminal in Cherry Point near Bellingham.

The Lummi Nation is conducting a Totem Pole Journey from Whatcom County to the Standing Rock Sioux to galvanize opposition to fossil fuel exports. Go to totempolejourney.com to find dispatches from the journey.

The Whatcom County Council recently declared a 3 month moratorium on new fossil fuel facilities until their comprehensive plan is completed.



EFSEC Completes Adjudicatory Process

Following five weeks of courtroom-like testimony, EFSEC ended adjudication regarding the proposed Tesoro/Savage oil terminal in Vancouver on July 29, with final public testimony. The Council listened to testimony from industry, the building trades, neighborhoods, firefighters, fishermen and the Tribes, among others. Environmental groups, such as Sierra Club, Friends of the Gorge and Columbia Riverkeeper were represented by Earthjustice and their attorneys were awesome!

The lawyers for the proponents made some ridiculous statements -- such as, an oil spill would be good for fish and wildlife, because no one would be able to hunt or fish if the animals were covered in oil. They also said that there would be lots of jobs available to clean up after an oil spill, and regarding the tribal fishermen, they could just go fish somewhere else on the river. The tribes have hereditary fishing spots, handed down to families over many generations. They won't be giving these up to go fish where there are no fish to be caught.

Native Americans have traditionally been the best stewards of our earth. We need to learn from them and join them in advocating for clean air and clean water. As they do, we need to think about how our actions will affect at least the next 7 generations who will follow us.

Now that this part of the EFSEC process is over, we await a decision from the Council. They will make a recommendation to Gov. Inslee. They may recommend that the project be denied, or very likely, they may recommend approval with many conditions. If that's the case, we could hope that the conditions would make this project too costly for Tesoro/Savage, and that they would walk away from it.

Upcoming Rallies and Public Hearings

What: Rally and Public Hearing regarding the Union Pacific double track proposal for Mosier.

When: Tuesday September 6, 2:15 pm

Where: The Discovery Center in The Dalles, Oregon

What: Rally and Public Hearing regarding Portland's ban on certain fossil fuel facilities.

When: Tuesday September 13, 11:45 a.m.

Where: 1900 SW 4th Ave, Portland

The Army Corps of Engineers will soon hold a public hearing on the coal terminal proposed in Longview. We need to make sure that we outnumber the supporters of the terminal. Plan to join us for that hearing in Longview. Contact Don Steinke at crVanWash@gmail.com for more information.

2016 Political Year: Wild and Crazy

It has been a wild and crazy year in the political arena for sure! Please remember to vote and **VOTE DOWN THE BALLOT ALL THE WAY**, in this critical voting year. Turnout is essential. Please remind your neighbors and friends to participate and help choose our community leaders.

Local race endorsements are finished for this year.

We recommend:

Sharon Wylie and **Annette Cleveland** in the 49th LD,
and **Tim Probst** in the 17th LD.

We are also recommending a rare dual endorsement for **Monica Stonier and Alisha Topper** in the 49th. These two candidates have both been previously endorsed by us in other races and are good friends of our environmental interests.

Please refer to the [Loo Wit website](#) under the political section for links to their sites.

by Cathy Morton
Loo Wit political chair



Loo Wit Holiday Party

When: Saturday, December 3rd, 5:30-8:30 pm

Where: Vancouver's Unitarian Universalist Church, 4505 E. 18th St.

Mark your calendar for Loo Wit's annual holiday party on December 3 at Vancouver's Unitarian Universalist Church, 4505 E. 18th St. Festivities run from 5:00 to 8:30 PM and include finger food and refreshments as well as silent auction and raffle items. Wildlife biologist Mitch Wainwright will treat us to a fascinating presentation about bats, touching on the deadly white nose syndrome that has killed over 6 million bats in eastern North America, and has now been documented in Washington and Oregon. Please join your fellow conservationists December 3 to celebrate another year of Sierra Club's work.



Celebrate National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 24th marks the 23rd annual celebration of National Public Lands Day. The day will feature free admission to all federal public lands, including Washington's Mt. Rainier, Olympic and North Cascades National Parks. At Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, the entrance fee for the reconstructed fort will be waived. Day use fees at all Washington state parks will also be waived. Loo Wit ExCom member and outings leader, Lehman Holder will be leading a bike outing to Fort Vancouver and Pearson Air Museum that day. Sign up by September 22nd at <http://www.meetup.com/Portland-Vancouver-Sierra-Club-Outings-Events/>.

Across the nation, around 200,000 people will participate in volunteer activities to benefit our public lands, including tree planting, invasive plant removal, trash clean-up and trail restoration. Did you know that over 30 percent of the United States is public land? In Washington state that figure is 41.9 percent!

-by Mark Leed, Loo Wit Chair



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