



# THE *O.C. Sierran*

■ News, Information, Events and Outings & more ■

July / August 2024 • Volume 33, Issue 4

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Dear Ed,

When I look at humanity's approach to dealing with climate change I'm reminded of Aesop's fable about the tortoise and the hare. Slow and steady may have been a winning strategy in ancient Athens but I'm afraid slow and steady won't cut the mustard when dealing with the climate crisis. Now the world's motto ought to be "everything everywhere all at once."

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## Wilderness Travel Course

It's great that the South Coast Air Quality Management District's board recently voted 9 to 1 to force the **conversion of boilers from fossil fuels to renewables** and it's great that **30% of new car sales on Orange County were electric vehicles** during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024 (24% statewide). But beyond our state's borders, EV sales are at an anemic 7%, and the boiler decision took many years to germinate.

If we want to reach the goal of reducing GHG emissions by 50% by 2030, we – members, friends and supporters of the Sierra Club – need to roll up our sleeves, get to work, and lead by example. Please take a measure of your GHG footprint, convert to electric in your home and on the road wherever you can, vote for candidates and measures that are in sync with our goals, and keep an eye on your city council's approach to climate change.

I was privileged to witness the important vote by the governing body of the South Coast Air Quality Management Department in favor of stringent new rules to force the conversion of commercial water boilers and heaters from fossil to renewable fuels.

In closing I'd like to alert you to our newsletter's move toward a tighter format where content is presented in short introductions with links to full length articles that sit on one of our websites. I hope that you'll appreciate this as a positive step in making the OC Sierran more accessible, especially if you're visiting us on your cell phone.



With best regards,

Ed Maurer



Become a wilderness expert. Learn about:

- Gear and clothing selection
- Ten essentials
- Amassing your backpacking kit
- Topographic map and compass navigation
- Nutrition, hydration, and cooking outside
- First Aid, weather, and wilderness dangers
- Trip planning and obtaining permits

**OC WTC DETAILS**

*Special Events*



**Sierra Sage of South Orange County:  
Preserve Cultural Heritage Sites  
July 23: 7:00 PM**



Putuidem Village, © Sharon Koch

**Presentation by Dr. Patricia Martz, Ph.D, founder and president of California Cultural Resources Protection Alliance (CCRPA)**

Learn about its successful effort to help protect the traditional home of the Acjachemen in San Juan Capistrano, resulting in the dedication of Putuidem Village in the city's northwest open space preserve.

Join us in person at the Norman Murray Community Center, 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo or virtually for this program.

[More](#)

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**Orange County Sierrans  
Harwood Lodge Oktoberfest**

**October 5 and 6, 2024**





Blue skies, clear mountain air, beautiful views, hiking, music, and relaxation. Come and celebrate the beginning of Fall at Harwood Lodge. Musicians bring your instruments. Newcomers welcome. The cost of \$70 (\$85 non-members) includes Saturday and Sunday hikes and a special hike with California Professional Geologist, Jay Schneider, Happy Hour, lodge fees, Saturday night dinner, Sunday breakfast. Funds from this event go to support Harwood Lodge.

[Register](#)

*Our Great Outdoors*

Participating in our outdoor activities makes everybody feel better in body and soul. We invite beginners to join one of our easy hikes to try out their walking skills and to get to know our regular participants since our programs have a strong social component and many participants become friends. Check out our

[calendar](#) and come along! If you're not quite sure whether the chosen activity is right for you, please contact the leader with your concerns.

Everybody is welcome to our activities.

## Calendar of Events

A detailed description of each hike can be found in the calendar listings of all events offered by Sierra Club entities in Orange County. The level of difficulty rating for each hike—easy, moderate, strenuous—is based upon distance, elevation gain/loss, and nature of terrain. Please note that more outings may be added to the calendars after this newsletter is published.

**Rio Hondo Group Calendar**

**Orange County Group Calendar**

**Orange County Sierrans Calendar**

**Sierra Sage of South Orange County Calendar**

*Group News*



**SIERRA CLUB**  
ANGELES CHAPTER



**SIERRA CLUB**  
ANGELES CHAPTER

**Rio Hondo Group**

**Orange County Group**

**Puente-Chino Hills**

**Orange County Fair**

**Wildlife Corridor**



This oasis of beauty in a sea of spread needs your help: **The missing link that is part of Orange County is still at risk.** Orange County is trying to cram 1,857 units into the 300 acres of this hilly, geologically unstable land as part of their Housing Plan submittal to the State. At this point, the State is calling that plan unrealistic, and we hope that Orange County comes to its senses and instead takes a hint from Los Angeles County in realizing that the best use for this land is as protected open space. Tell your supervisor, especially Supervisor Chaffee, that this land should be protected.

**August 14 – 18 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM**

We need your help for a few hours at our table at the OC Fair to share the Sierra Club's story as the nation's oldest and largest grassroots organization. Or you're always welcome to stop by for a chat.

[More](#)

[Contact Organizer](#)

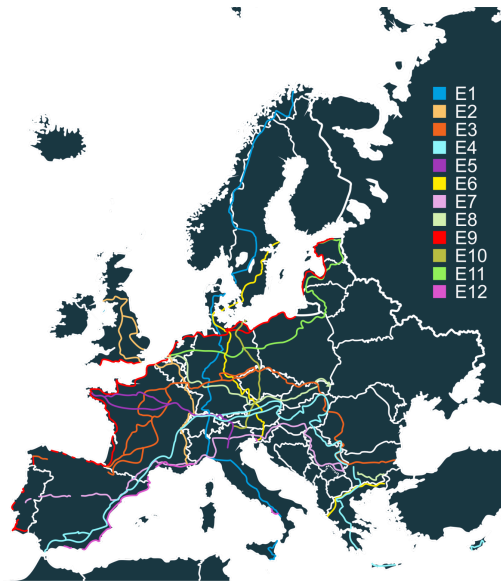


**Sierra Sage of South Orange County**

**Sierra Sage of South Orange County**

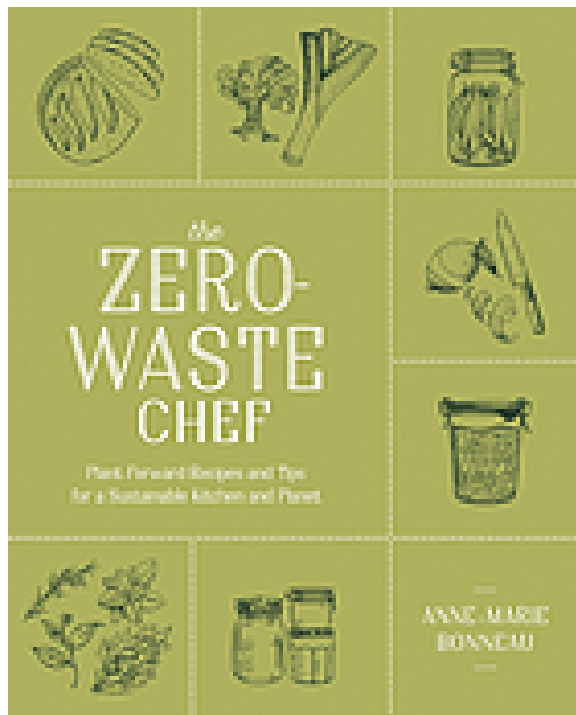
**European Long-Distance Paths**





12 waymarked routes are magnets for hiking aficionados with plenty of time. They range in length from 2,880 km / 1,790 mi. to 6,950 km / 4,4320 mi. If these trails seem daunting, you're not alone, and many hikers choose scenic sections of a trail and follow it for a week or two. Especially in western Europe, the paths are serviced by an extensive infrastructure for hikers that includes lodging, restaurants, shops, and luggage transportation.

[More](#)



Sharon Koch enjoys cooking, finds it relaxing to putter about in the kitchen and reads cookbooks for pleasure. But let's get real: food costs are increasing, and we cannot afford to spend limited resources on items we will not reuse or consume. It's not healthy for our pocketbooks, our bodies, or the planet. But what can we do? My local library provided some answers in this eye-opening cookbook.

[More](#)



## Rio Hondo Group

### Student Internship at CSUF

The Rio Hondo Group is breaking new ground in sponsoring a Student Internship at California State University Fullerton to help organize a Sierra Club group on campus (and potentially on nearby campuses) with funds from a bequest by Shirley Gregg. If you are a



## Angeles Chapter

### 2024 Chapter Awards

Two important awards were received by two Orange County members at the Annual Chapter Banquet on May 18, 2024.

- **Donna Specht**, Chapter Representative of the Orange

CSUF student, use the button below.

**Information &  
Application**



## Orange County Group

### Wednesday Hikes

Another successful season of hikes came to an end with a short walk along Aliso Creek and a fine potluck picnic on June 19. The gathering concluded with a group picture with OC Parks supervising park ranger Adam Martinez, and everybody is eagerly looking forward to a resumption of the program in fall.



County Group, received the prestigious **Lifetime Achievement Award** for outstanding vision, dedication, and lifelong contributions to furthering the Sierra Club's mission.



- **Ed Maurer**, editor of the OC Sierran, received the **Lori and Robin Ives Journalism Award** for outstanding work in journalism, communications, and media.



*Climate Crisis*



# Great Victory for SoCal Air and Climate



Climate activists celebrating their victory at SCAQMD.

At the June 7 meeting of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Governing Board meeting voted to implement the nation's first zero-emissions standard for boilers (water heaters). A coalition of environmental organizations worked hard to make this happen and celebrated the event before and after the vote. Its importance was emphasized by Vanessa Delgado, South Coast AQMD's Governing Board Chair: "This is the first all zero-emissions rule we've adopted, and the second highest reductions achieved from a rule in the past decade -- second only to our rule which reduced emissions from petroleum refineries by nearly 8 tpd of NOx. Not only is this a huge step towards improving air quality for our communities, it will have tremendous public health benefits."

[More](#)



# Publication and Subscription Information

## Circulation

The OC Sierran is sent to over 20'000 email addresses of members and supporters of the 3 geographic Sierra Club entities in Orange County, i.e., Rio Hondo Group, Orange County Group, and Sierra Sage of South Orange County.

## Contributors

A big thank you to the writers that have contributed to this issue and to our copy editor, Helen Maurer.

Mike Bressler, Lubna Debbini, Margee Hills, Eric Johnson, Sharon Koch, Kim Orbe, and Linda Pauer

## Current & Back Issues

Our archive includes the current and back issues of **OC Sierran** and copies of its predecessor, the **Sierra Sage**, stretching back to 2011.

[OC Sierran Archive](#)

## Videos

The bimonthly general meetings of Sierra Sage have been videotaped since May 2022. This was prompted by the pandemic, but it also means that these educational events remain available for your perusal.

[Video Archive](#)

## The OC Sierran

The **OC Sierran** is a bimonthly newsletter published by and for the members of these Sierra Club entities of the Angeles Chapter.

- Orange County Group (OCG)
- Orange County Sierrans Section (OCSS)
- Rio Hondo Group (RHG)

## Editorial Team

### Core Group

- *Editor:* Ed Maurer
- *Assistant Editor:* Linda Pauer
- *Copy Editor:* Helen Maurer
- *Title Design:* Risa Koppel

- Sierra Sage of South Orange County (SSOSOC)

The editor is responsible for all content.

The OC Sierran is delivered by email at the beginning of January, March, May, July, September, and November to all members and supporters in Orange County.O

## **September / October Issue**

We'll try again to focus on trips & travel und keep readers informed about out groups' activities.

## **Advisory Group**

- **Orange County Group:** Gideon Strich
- **Sierra Sage:** Vicki Hazley & Sharon Koch
- **Rio Hondo Group:** Mike Bressler & Margee Hills
- **OC Sierrans Section:** Donna Specht,
- **OC Group Outings:** Sherri Sisson
- **Sierra Sage Outings:** Sylvie Coté

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