



# Palm and Pine



A publication of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club  
Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

Volume 45 Number 1

Protect America's Environment For our Families . . . For our Future

Jan-Feb 2015

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## Membership Meetings

**Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> • 7:30 PM**  
**"New England in the Fall"**  
 Presented by: Mike Sappingfield  
*(see write up on Page 1)*

**Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> • 7:30 PM**  
**"Adventure in South Africa"**  
 Presented by: Ladd & Gail Seekins  
*(see write up on Page 12)*

Programs are held at the  
**San Bernardino**  
**County Museum, 2024 Orange**  
**Tree Lane, Redlands**  
*(California St. exit off 10 Fwy)*

## Building a Powerful, Diverse and Progressive Environmental Movement in Our Chapter

By Allen Hernandez, My Generation Campaign, California Lead Organizer  
 • Resident of Fontana •

There is a common misconception that young people, Latinos and/or young Latinos do not care enough about conservation, energy and in general, our environment. In the traditional realm of environmental advocacy, we often do not see or feel their presence. We often see young Latinos on TV engaging on immigration issues and issues related to educational and racial justice. But we do not see that same kind of enthusiasm on environmental issues.

What we need to realize, however, is that young Latinos

and Latinas do indeed care about their environment, and the way they interact and engage in it and with it. While



Marina Barragan testifying on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Palm Desert hearing on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.

they have always had a voice to speak about their passion for the environment, they may not always have a platform

from which to do it. Young Latinos and Latinas, who are student environmental leaders on their high school and college campuses, who are leading university divestment campaigns against fossil fuels and leading campus recycling efforts, have always cared about the environment. They have just lacked a large enough "megaphone" and the resources to share their voice and yell out to the mainstream environmental movement that they do, indeed, care.

Over the last year or so, the San Gorgonio Chapter has shared its platform and served as a catalyst, "megaphone" if you will, for young Latinos and Latinas to finally show how much they really care about our environment. The Chapter's

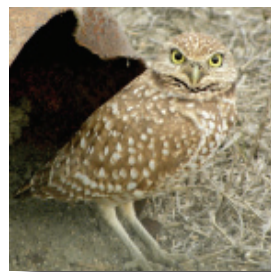
Continued on Page 10 >>>

## Accommodations Available! Tunnels Come Standard, Perch as an Upgrade.

By Teri Biancardi, Santa Margarita Group

Burrowing owls are just one of the West's iconic species that have suffered huge declines in numbers, mainly due to habitat loss.

The yellow-eyed ground owl, voted Audubon California's bird of the year, lives in underground burrows originally built by squirrels. But as the endless sprawl of new neighborhoods and roads encroach on their territory, it's getting harder for the little bird to find a place to call home.



One of the Santa Margarita Group's projects in Temecula's Meadowview neighborhood is aiming to reverse that trend. In November, a team of US Fish and Wildlife Carlsbad employees joined a group of volunteers from Meadowview to install 46 artificial burrows in their acres of open space.

The project was months in the making. The community worked with biologists from the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program to determine appropriate housing for the critters, and vetted a number of different plans, ultimately

Continued on Page 10 >>>

## New England in the Fall: Colors, Scenery, and History Presented by Mike Sappingfield on January 6<sup>th</sup>

Mike Sappingfield will give us an illustrated presentation of his recent adventure leading a grand tour of New England for the Sierra Club. The meeting will be held on January 6, 7:30 PM, at the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands.

An Orange County resident, Mike is the former Chair of the 39,000-member Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, which serves Los Angeles and Orange Counties. A long-time outings leader, Mike conducts about 20 outings each



Fall colors, Acadia National Park, Maine

year, including some special ones to raise funds for the Angeles Chapter's conservation work. These are wonderful tours that draw considerable interest. His most recent New England adventure is

Continued on Page 10 >>>



## Chapter Awards

By Carol Wiley, Chair

San Gorgonio Chapter Awards Committee

It is again time to start nominations for the San Gorgonio Chapter awards for this year. The chapter has four awards that are presented each year to deserving Sierra Club members. The Joe Momeyer Conservation Award is given for outstanding contributions to the conservation effort over a number of years. The Marjorie and Clark Jones Service Award is given for outstanding contributions in any and all other chapter activities over a number of years. The Alice Krueper Service Award is given for long-time service to a non-Sierra Club entity in the name of the Sierra Club. The Ralph Salisbury Outings Award is given to someone who had demonstrated a long-time commitment and made outstanding contributions to the Sierra Club outings by organizing, leading and supporting the outings program.

Please give some thought as to who are the deserving conservationists and nominate these people for the upcoming awards. Please help us identify those people who have given generously of their time, talents, energy and resources for the continued work for the Sierra Club and the environment. You can make these nominations to anyone on the Awards Committee: Joan Taylor, Ed Wallace, George Hague, Dean Shimek, Dave Barrie, Bekke Estes, Kim Floyd or Carol Wiley. If you have any questions contact Carol Wiley, Chair of the Awards Committee at desertlily1@verizon.net.

# Contact Us . . .

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 .....Joyce Burk 760-252-3820

**Group Directory**

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 Meets 3rd Thursday, Discovery Center  
 North Shore, 6:30 p.m.  
 www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org
- Los Serranos Group:**  
 Chair – Mary Ann Ruiz 909-815-9379  
 ruizmaryann@gmail.com  
 Meets 3rd Tuesday Upland Presbyterian  
 Church, Ed Building 7 p.m.
- Mojave Group:**  
 Chair – Jenny Wilder 760-220-0730  
 jensoasis@aol.com  
 Meets 2nd Wednesday except Jul. & Aug.  
 Sterling Inn, Regency Room,  
 17738 Francesca, Victorville 7 p.m.  
 (just north of Bear Valley and Ridgecrest)  
 (also contact earthlingwiley2000@yahoo.com)
- Moreno Valley Group:**  
 Chair – Michael Millspaugh 951-653-2068
- Mountains Group:**  
 Chair – Dave Barrie 909-337-0313  
 barriemail@mac.com  
 Meets 2nd Monday 7:00 p.m.  
 Except Aug. & Dec. St Richard’s  
 Episcopal Church, 28708 Hwy 18, Sky Forest
- Santa Margarita Group:**  
 Chair –Pam Nelson 951-767-2324  
 sierraclubsmg@gmail.com  
 Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thur., 6:00 p.m. except July &  
 August at Temecula Valley Library,  
 30600 Pauba Road, Temecula
- Tahquitz Group:**  
 Chair – Jeff Morgan 760-324-8696



## Palm and Pine

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 Riverside, CA 92501-3204

(Sierra Club members not members of the San Gorgonio Chapter:  
 Supply Club membership number.)

**Member Change of Address**

Sierra Club, Change of Address  
 PO Box 421041  
 Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

(Be sure to supply Membership number)

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**Membership Information**

There is a membership coupon in this issue and address change information above. For other questions, contact the Sierra Club at (415) 977-5663 or ralphsalisbury@att.net

**POSTMASTER:**

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**Measure L's Defeat on City of Riverside Special Municipal Election**  
 By Laura Pearson Densmore, former Riverside Councilmember for La Sierra

The decisive defeat of Measure L in the City of Riverside's November 4th election assures the continued conservation of 650 acres of open space in the La Sierra area next to the Santa Ana River's Hidden Valley Wildlife Refuge. Voters citywide strongly objected to rolling back land use protections in La Sierra afforded by 1979 and 1987 initiative laws Prop. R and Measure C.

Fifty-seven percent rejected the Las Vegas developer's \$1.5 million campaign

for a 1,950-unit housing project on the river banks. Opponents, outspent 30 to 1, were still able to overcome the developer's long head start and open checkbook with a vigorous grass-roots campaign. Measure L lost in all seven city wards.

Local Sierra Club Chapter members should take great pride in the outcome and in the critical part the Club's "No on L" endorsement played. The developer's paid spokesmen claimed to be conservationists and trumpeted Measure L's purported environmental benefits to mislead voters.

The Sierra Club's emphatic opposition to Measure L clarified the issue for

many undecided voters. After voters had received mailers stressing the Club's position in the last week of the campaign, the margin of opposition rose significantly. Mail ballots – mostly cast before the last campaign days – put "No" ahead by 53.5 percent. But voters going to the polls after the campaigns ended gave "L" a 62.5 percent drubbing, an astonishing increase of nine percent!

The importance of L's defeat goes far beyond the rejection of the developer's proposals for the La Sierra area. The conservation legacy of Prop. R and Measure C is alive and well and ready to be expanded by the next generation of concerned local citizens. Any future special interest land use legislation will rightly face voters leery of being tricked again. Other developers and land speculators are not going to

attempt to circumvent the environmental process and create their own self-serving unrestricted zones through paid initiatives anytime soon.

It's time to enhance the recreational and educational potential of La Sierra's unspoiled Santa Ana River area by urging the City of Riverside to restore water to the Hidden Valley Wildlife Refuge pools which attract many birds and fish.

Please call Mayor Rusty Bailey or your Councilman Gardner, Melendrez, Soubirous, Davis, Mac Arthur, Perry, or Adams at (951) 826-5311 or email them at the city website [www.riversideca.gov](http://www.riversideca.gov), click "City Council & Wards", then "Contact Us." If you live in Norco, Eastvale or Jurupa Valley, call/email your 2<sup>nd</sup> District County Supervisor John Tavaglione at (951) 955-1020 or [District2@rcbos.org](mailto:District2@rcbos.org).

# Calendar of Outings, Meetings, and Other Events

## JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2015

The outings calendar is on the Internet at <http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org>

### CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

**DEADLINE:** Items for the March/April 2015 Calendar are due by February 1, 2015.

**FORMAT** items similar to those below. Send items electronically if possible.

**OUTINGS:** Send outings write-ups to your group or section Outings Chair.

**MEETINGS & other events:** Send electronically to Ladd Seekins at <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com>

### GENERAL INFORMATION, RULES & DISCLAIMERS

All Outings Leaders are Chapter Certified Leaders having appropriate Outings Training Courses, First Aid Courses, & experience for the Outings they lead. **LEADERS** may exclude individuals from participation if they believe they may not be qualified. Non-Sierra Club members may join outings unless otherwise stated in the write-up. All participants agree to abide by the Leader's rules. Participants should **CALL THE LEADER AHEAD TO SIGN-UP.**

### WHAT TO BRING

Many Outings specify items to be carried by **EACH** participant. Do not attend Outings without the specified items unless you have first discussed it with the leader. Often the **TEN ESSENTIALS** are required. They are: 1) map, 2) compass, 3) flashlight, 4) knife, 5) windproof/waterproof matches in waterproof case, 6) fire starter, 7) first aid kit, 8) extra food & water for emergency use only, 9) extra clothing including rainwear, & 10) sun protection including sunscreen/sunglasses/hat.

### ADVENTURE PASS SPECIAL NOTICE

Most outings occurring in the San Bernardino, Angeles, Cleveland, or Los Padres National Forests require a Forest Service permit for each vehicle (Adventure Pass). They are indicated by \*\* in the calendar. Be sure to contact the leader regarding permits. The permits cost \$30 per year or \$5 per day; however they may not be obtainable the day of your Outing. If you arrive at the meeting place without making arrangements with the leader & you don't have a permit or find a ride in a vehicle with a permit, you will not be able to attend the outing. You are expected to share the cost of the daily permits equally among everyone in the vehicle or a suggested \$.50 contribution from everyone for annual permits (above normal mileage contribution). America the Beautiful Interagency Passes may be used in lieu of Adventure Pass.

### CARPPOOLING POLICY

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements & assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. Drivers should have adequate insurance coverage & their vehicles should have no safety defects. Drivers of carpools agree to not consume any alcoholic beverages. It is customary for riders to share expenses with the driver. Five cents per mile per person for short trips is suggested while three cents per mile per person over 100 miles is usually reasonable.

### LIABILITY WAIVER

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign the following liability waiver

#### Sign-In Sheet & Acknowledgment of Outing Member Responsibility, Express Assumption of Risk, & Release of Liability

I understand that during my participation in this Sierra Club Outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards & risks, foreseen or unforeseen, which are inherent in each Outing & cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the Outing. These inherent risks include, but are not limited to, the dangers of serious personal injury, property damage, & death ("Injuries & Damages") from exposure to the hazards of travel & the Sierra Club has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries & Damages can occur by natural causes or activities of other persons, animals, trip members, trip leaders & assistants or third parties, either as a result of negligence or because of other reasons. I understand that risks of such Injuries & Damages are involved in adventure travel such as Sierra Club Outings & I appreciate that I may have to exercise extra care for my own person & for others around me in the face of such hazards. I further understand that on this Outing there may not be rescue or medical facilities or expertise necessary to deal with the Injuries & Damages to which I may be exposed.

In consideration for my acceptance as a participant on this Outing, & the services & amenities to be provided by the Sierra Club in connection with the Outing, I confirm my understanding that:

I have read any rules & conditions applicable to the Outing made available to me; I will pay any costs & fees for the Outing; & I acknowledge my participation is at the discretion of the leader.

The Outing begins & ends at the location where the Outing officially commences with leader & participants in attendance, as designated by the Sierra Club ("Trailhead"). The Outing does not include carpooling, transportation, or transit to & from the Trailhead, & I am personally responsible for all risks associated with this travel. This does not apply to transportation provided by the Sierra Club after the commencement & before the end of the Outing.

If I decide to leave early & not to complete the Outing as planned, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to leave & waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision. Likewise, if the leader has concluded the Outing, & I decide to go forward without the leader, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to go forward & waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision.

This Agreement is intended to be as broad & inclusive as is permitted by law. If any provision or any part of any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or legally unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby & shall remain valid & fully enforceable.

To the fullest extent allowed by law, I agree to **WAIVE, DISCHARGE CLAIMS, & RELEASE FROM LIABILITY, & to INDEMNIFY & HOLD HARMLESS** the Sierra Club, its officers, directors, employees, agents, & leaders from any & all liability on account of, or in any way resulting from Injuries & Damages, even if caused by negligence of the Sierra Club its officers, directors, employees, agents, & leaders, in any way connected with this Outing. I understand & intend that this assumption of risk & release is binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators & assigns, & includes any minors accompanying me on the Outing.

I have read this document in its entirety & I freely & voluntarily assume all risks of such Injuries & Damages & notwithstanding such risks, I agree to participate in the Outing. **Note: If the participant is a minor, the minor's guardian must sign on the minor's behalf.**

### RECURRING MONTHLY MEETINGS

(LOOK IN CALENDAR FOR DATES)

**(1ST MON) 6:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCOM MEETING**  
Alpine Conference Room 27236 Blue Jay Mall on Feb 2, Apr 6, May 4, Oct 5, Nov 2. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**(1ST TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING**  
PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com>. (909) 800-3911 CHAPTER

**(1ST WED) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING**  
The meeting place rotates. CONTACT: ED WALLACE, (909) 584-9407, www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org. BIG BEAR GROUP

**(1ST THU) LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCOM MEETING**  
Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov). PLACE: For meeting time & place, call MARY ANN RUIZ (909) 815-9379, <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**(2ND MON) 7:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard's Episcopal Church, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**(2ND TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, <kimffloyd@fastmail.fm> (760) 249-5385. CHAPTER

**(2ND WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, <desertlily1@verizon.net> MOJAVE GROUP

**(2ND THU) 6:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except July and August. The public is welcome. PLACE: Temecula Valley Library, 30600 Pauba Road, Temecula. INFO: PAM NELSON (951) 767-2324 <sierraclubsmg@gmail.com> SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

**(3RD TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except August, The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served. PLACE: Educational Building, Upland Presbyterian Church, Euclid Ave. at 11th. The September 2013 meeting will be held at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens in Claremont and not at the church. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, (909) 815-9379, <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**(3RD THU) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except December. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. INFO: ED WALLACE, (909) 584-9407, www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org BIG BEAR GROUP

**(4TH TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING**  
Chapter governance meeting. Monthly except for December. PLACE: The San Gorgonio Chapter office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: RICK ESTES (951) 314-3328 <scsangor@gmail.com> CHAPTER

Continued on Page 4 >>>

Calendar . . . Continued from Page 3

## WEEKLY RECURRING OUTINGS & FITNESS ACTIVITIES

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings

**MON 6:00 PM RIVERSIDE MT. RUBIDOUX ONE HOUR FITNESS WALK**  
MEET: Ninth Street entrance to Mt. Rubidoux. INFO: JUDY SMITH, (951) 369-5117.  
CHAPTER

**MON 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP CONDITIONING HIKE**  
Please join me for a 3 to 6 mile conditioning walk (usually 3 miles) beside the Mojave River in Apple Valley. We leave promptly at 7 PM. MEET: In the Jess Ranch Marketplace parking lot closest to the Mojave River Bed, between the Jess Ranch Cinemark and Bed, Bath & Beyond Store, address: 18815 Bear Valley Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308. Light post location is 158. Come enjoy the evening air, river breeze, sunsets, stars & moon on this Mojave River walk. BRING: Flashlight & water. WEAR: layered clothing and good hiking shoes. For questionable weather please call LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 961-0731.  
MOJAVE GROUP

**WED 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP CONDITIONING WALK WALK**  
Please join us for a 3 mile conditioning walk beside the Mojave River in Apple Valley. We leave promptly at 7 PM. MEET: In the Jess Ranch Marketplace parking lot closest to the Mojave River Bed, between the Jess Ranch Cinemark and Bed, Bath & Beyond Store, address: 18815 Bear Valley Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308. Light post location is 158. Walks are paced for participants. Come enjoy the evening air, river breeze, sunsets, stars & moon on this 3 mile Mojave River walk. BRING: Flashlight & water. WEAR: layered clothing and good hiking shoes. LEADERS: BILL SPRENG <bspreng@gte.net> (760) 951-4520 & JENNY WILDER (760) 220-0730 <jensoasis@aol.com>.  
MOJAVE GROUP

**FRI 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP CONDITIONING HIKE HIKE**  
Please join me for a 3 to 6 mile conditioning walk (usually 3 miles) beside the Mojave River in Apple Valley. We leave promptly at 7 PM. MEET: In the Jess Ranch Marketplace parking lot closest to the Mojave River Bed, between the Jess Ranch Cinemark and Bed, Bath & Beyond Store, Address: 18815 Bear Valley Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308. Light post location is 158. Come enjoy the evening air, river breeze, sunsets, stars & moon on this Mojave River walk. BRING flashlight, water, jacket & comfortable walking shoes. Wear layered clothing. For questionable weather please call LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 961-0731 <Labelady@msn.com>  
MOJAVE GROUP

## DECEMBER 29 – JANUARY 4

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings  
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

**DEC 29-JAN 2 (MON-FRI) HOLIDAY IN CARRIZO PLAIN SERVICE**  
Once again we return to the Carrizo Plain to celebrate the end of the year and to offer service to the pronghorn antelope in this National Monument. Lying between Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo, this vast grassland is home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, kit fox, and a wide variety of birds. A welcome hike Dec. 29, two and a half days of service modifying barbed wire fencing, and a full day for hiking and exploring are planned. Use of accommodations at one of the old ranch houses is included. LIMITED to 12 participants, \$30 covers four dinners and breakfast on New Year's morning. RESERVATIONS & INFO: contact LEADER: CRAIG DEUTSCHE, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, (310-477-6670)  
CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

**JAN 4 (SUN) 8:00 AM PUSHAWALLA PLATEAU HIKE**  
This moderate hike up to Pushawalla Plateau and pass area affords great views of Pleasant Valley area of Joshua Tree, and in the opposite direction, Mt. San Jacinto and the Santa Rose Mountains and Palm Springs valley. About 6.5 miles round trip, we gain 1000 feet up to the pass. Trailhead is at the end of Geology Tour Road, a dirt road that can be impassable after rain. We will do an alternate JT hike if road is not passable. WEAR layers, hiking boots, bring plenty of water, snacks and lunch. Carpooling recommended, \$15 park entrance fee or National Parks pass required. MEET: Contact leader for meeting place. LEADER: MARY ANN RUIZ 909-815-9379 or ruizmaryann@gmail.com  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

## JANUARY 5 – JANUARY 11

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings  
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

**JAN 6 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING**  
PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com>. (909) 800-3911  
CHAPTER

**JAN 7 (WED) 8:00 AM SUNSET PEAK HIKE**  
This will be a moderate 7 mile round trip hike on a fire road up to the top of Sunset Peak (elevation 5796 ft.), with 1300 ft. elevation gain. Great panoramic views in all directions from the peak. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, snack, sunscreen, layer clothing appropriate for the weather. Adventure Pass will be required for parking at the trailhead. MEET: Contact John St. Clair to confirm and for directions to trailhead and carpooling meeting place. LEADER: JOHN ST. CLAIR, 909-983-8501 or john@stclairs.us.  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**JAN 7 (WED) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING**  
The meeting place rotates. CONTACT: ED WALLACE, (909) 584-9407, www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org.  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**JAN 8 (THU) LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCOM MEETING**  
Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov). PLACE: For meeting time & place, call MARY ANN RUIZ (909) 815-9379, <ruizmaryann@gmail.com>  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**JAN 8 (THU) 6:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except July and August. The public is welcome. PLACE: Temecula Valley Library, 30600 Pauba Road, Temecula. INFO: PAM NELSON (951) 767-2324 <sierraclubsmg@gmail.com>  
SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

**\*\*JAN 10 (SAT) 8:00 AM STODDARD PEAK HIKE**  
This will be a moderate hike up Barrett Canyon to the top of Stoddard Peak (elevation 4624 ft.), 6 miles round trip with 1100 ft. elevation gain. The hike in Barrett Canyon is easy and goes past some charming cabins. The last half mile up Stoddard Peak is a steep scramble. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, snack, sunscreen, layer clothing appropriate for the weather. Adventure Pass will be required for parking at the trailhead. MEET: Contact John St. Clair to confirm and for directions to trailhead and carpooling meeting place. LEADER: JOHN ST. CLAIR, 909-983-8501 or john@stclairs.us.  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**JAN 10 (SAT) 8:00 AM HOPALONG CASSIDY TRAIL HIKE**  
Come hike the trail named after the 1950s cowboy movie star, "Hopalong Cassidy" in Palm Desert, CA. This is an 8.0 mile, out-and-back hike that provides views of the surrounding desert communities. The elevation gain can add up to 1000' overall. RATING: Moderate/Strenuous. MEET: Behind Palm Desert Town Center Shopping Center on Painter's Pathway located one block south of Hwy 111 and Fred Warring Drive, in Palm Desert, CA. A number of trails begin at this location and paved street parking is available. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, 2-liters of water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. RESERVATIONS: Call LEADER, ED CALIENDO (442) 242-4103 or dogs111@msn.com.  
BIG BEAR GROUP

## JANUARY 12 – JANUARY 18

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings  
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

**JAN 12 (MON) 7:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard's Episcopal Church, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313.  
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**JAN 13 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, <kimfloyd@fastmail.fm> (760) 249-5385.  
CHAPTER

**JAN 13 (TUE) 9:00 AM THE CLAREMONT TRIANGLE HIKE**  
That's what I call east on the Thompson Creek Trail, north on the Pomello Trail and south on the Sycamore Canyon Trail, to return to the Thompson Creek Trail. Help celebrate my 3rd year as a Sierra Club hike leader by joining me on this moderate 5-miler with an 800 ft. elevation gain. BRING: water, sturdy boots, layered clothing and hiking poles. MEET: Please call to confirm by 12 January, 5:00 PM. LEADER: JEFF WARHOL (909) 985-7686 or e-mail jmwandjjw@hotmail.com.  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**JAN 14 (WED) 4:30 PM HIDDEN SPRINGS CONDITIONING HIKE**  
Moderate 2 to 3-mile loop hike on the Hidden Springs trail and arroyo. Trail has some ups and downs but basically follows the base of the hills and then we return on the sidewalk. We start promptly at 4:30. BRING: flashlight, water and sturdy shoes. MEET: Hidden Springs School, 9801 Hidden Springs Dr., Moreno Valley. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: EILEEN O'BRIEN (951) 616-9739.  
MORENO VALLEY GROUP

**JAN 14 (WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, <desertlily1@verizon.net>  
MOJAVE GROUP

**JAN 15 (THU) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except December. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. INFO: ED WALLACE, (909) 584-9407, www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**JAN 16 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE SNOWSHOE OR HIKE**  
We will snowshoe or hike depending on the weather. Green Valley Lake has some of the best snow in our local mountains, so come and join me for a day of fun. No prior snowshoe experience is necessary – it is not difficult to learn – just another form of hiking. You need to provide your own equipment. Please CALL to check on weather conditions. If no snow, we will hike. MEET: in Green Valley Lake across from the post office (33271 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341) at 9 AM. WEAR layered clothing, BRING: No need to bring lunch just a snack and water. LEADER: SANDY ELLIS, 909-867-7115, fsellis67@gmail.com.  
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**JAN 17 (SAT) 8:30 AM PYRAMID CANYON, MECCA HILLS HIKE**  
Philip Ferranti, author of 140 Great Hikes in and near Palm Springs will lead us to the Lost Pyramid. This is a natural rock phenomenon resembling the great pyramids of Egypt. This rock formation was created by wind and rain over thousands of years. This is clearly a rare find! We also have the opportunity to visit Big Colorful Canyon with its colorful rock walls of multi-layered and colorful rock strata. This is a 5 to 6-mile hike RATING: Easy. MEET: Take I-10 to Spot Light 29 Casino, Dillon Road off-ramp and look for TA Travel Center gas station signage. Meet in parking lot under the TA Travel sign. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, rain gear, 2-liters of water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. RESERVATIONS: Call LEADER, ED CALIENDO (442) 242-4103 or dogs111@msn.com.  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**JAN 18 (SUN) 8:00 AM HIKE TO THE "M" HIKE**  
Difficult 4 mile round trip hike to the "M" on Box Springs. Trail has some very steep areas. BRING: water, flashlight, and sturdy shoes. MEET: from 60 fwy in Moreno Valley go north on Pigeon Pass to left at the light on Hidden Springs Drive. Driveway into Box Springs Park is on the left off Hidden Springs Drive. Drive up the gravel road and park near the picnic tables. COST: Parking fee of \$5. Carpooling recommended. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: THERESA CARSON (951) 660-7246 or tcarson01@gmail.com.  
MORENO VALLEY GROUP

## JANUARY 19 – JANUARY 25

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings  
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

**JAN 20 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except August, The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served. PLACE:

Continued on Page 5 >>>

*Calendar . . . Continued from Page 4*

Educational Building, Upland Presbyterian Church, Euclid Ave. at 11th. The September 2013 meeting will be held at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens in Claremont and not at the church. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, (909) 815-9379, <ruizmaryann@gmail.com>

LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**JAN 21 (WED) 4:30 PM HIDDEN SPRINGS CONDITIONING HIKE**  
Moderate 2 to 3-mile loop hike on the Hidden Springs trail and arroyo. Trail has some ups and downs but basically follows the base of the hills and then we return on the sidewalk. We start promptly at 4:30. BRING: flashlight, water and sturdy shoes. MEET: Hidden Springs School, 9801 Hidden Springs Dr., Moreno Valley. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: EILEEN O'BRIEN (951) 616-9739.  
MORENO VALLEY GROUP

**JAN 24 (SAT) 8:00 AM SAMUELSON ROCKS, JOSHUA TREE NP HIKE**  
John Samuelson was born in Sweden in 1873 and migrated to America settling in Joshua Tree in 1926. He established a homestead near Quail Springs and carved political saying on the rocks that surrounded his wood and canvas shack. Those carvings are still there today to see and appreciate. This is a 6-mile round trip mile hike. RATING: easy/moderate. MEET: Park Blvd Joshua Tree National Park Visitor Center, just south of Hwy 62 and Park Blvd intersection, 6554 Park Blvd, Joshua Tree 92252. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, 2 liters of water, lunch, and sun protection. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER, ED CALIENDO, 442-242-4103 or dogs111@msn.com.  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**JAN 24 (SAT) 8:30 AM ROUND MOUNTAIN SPRING HIKE**  
This hike is in Juniper Flats area and is a 6-mile round trip from the Vatican trailhead to Round Mountain Spring and back. There is very little elevation gain on a couple of short steep inclines. There are many interesting rock formations to explore. RATED: moderate. BRING: layered clothing, 3 liters of water, snacks/lunch, camera and hiking poles, wear sturdy hiking shoes. MEET: 8:30 am at the Victor Valley museum, 11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308 (near Target). INFO & LEADER: SUSAN STUEBER, 760-900-5330 OR susanquintin.stueber@gmail.com  
MOJAVE GROUP

**JAN 23-25 (FRI-SUN) 11:00 AM RED ROCK CANYON STATE PARK CAR CAMP**  
Join us Friday or Saturday to camp and explore more of this high desert natural and historical area north of Mojave. Planned hikes include White House Cliffs and possibly the Nightmare Gulch area of the Red Cliffs Preserve. Car-pooling is encouraged. INFO & LEADER: BILL ENGS, 909-338-1910, billengs@yahoo.com.  
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 1**

Please read “**LIABILITY WAIVER**” preceding these listings  
(Also refer to **Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities**)

**JAN 27 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING**  
Chapter governance meeting. Monthly except for December. PLACE: The San Gorgonio Chapter office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: RICK ESTES (951) 314-3328 <scsangor@gmail.com>.  
CHAPTER

**JAN 28 (WED) 8:00 AM MOJAVE FORKS TO SILVERWOOD LAKE HIKE**  
This PCT hike along beautiful Lake Silverwood, is 15.6 miles with little elevation gain from highway 173 above Mojave River Forks Reservoir to Silverwood Lake. We begin at an elevation of 3400 ft and end at 3390 ft. This one way hike on the PCT is C-8, and is moderately paced. BRING: lunch, water, and sturdy hiking boots. MEET: at McDonalds Restaurant t Interstate 15 and Highway 138 for carpooling. INFO & RESERVATIONS: Call or email if interested. LEADER: JOE WHYTE, 909-939-0899 or whytejoe@msn.com.  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**JAN 28 (WED) 4:30 PM HIDDEN SPRINGS CONDITIONING HIKE**  
Moderate 2 to 3-mile loop hike on the Hidden Springs trail and arroyo. Trail has some ups and downs but basically follows the base of the hills and then we return on the sidewalk. We start promptly at 4:30. BRING: flashlight, water and sturdy shoes. MEET: Hidden Springs School, 9801 Hidden Springs Dr., Moreno Valley. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: EILEEN O'BRIEN (951) 616-9739.  
MORENO VALLEY GROUP

**JAN 29-31 (THU-SAT) DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION SERVICE**  
Join us in restoring wilderness values in this remote and beautiful National Park. We were not able to access the area on the last trip, so the work this time is again the clean-up of a marijuana grow site. We will gather early Thursday afternoon and work on an as-yet-undecided project, then work on the grow site on Friday and possibly Saturday. Group size limited. RESERVATIONS & LEADER: KATE ALLEN, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056.  
CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

**JAN 31 (SAT) 8:00 AM OLIVE MOUNTAIN HIKE**  
Enjoy the view from Olive Mountain with a moderate 3-mile round trip hike. Elevation gain of about 1,000 ft. BRING water, snack, hiking poles if you want and wear sturdy, non-slip shoes.. MEET: at the park at the end of Kitching St., off of Kalmia (east of Perris Blvd, north of Ironwood). Rain cancels. LEADER: CHRISTINA TORRES (951) 318-7503 or cmt.teck@gmail.com.  
MORENO VALLEY GROUP

**JAN 31 (SAT) 8:00 AM PALM CANYON TRAIL TO STONE POOLS HIKE**  
This is a great introduction to the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation, located on the edge of Palm Springs. This hike takes you through the lush jungle-like river bottom of Palm Canyon followed by a series of plunging cliffs, waterfalls, and exotic pools of shimmering water through rock gorges. We will return by way of the Indian potrero, where for centuries the Agua Caliente Indians inhabited the lands. This is a 9 mile hike with a 1,000 ft. elevation gain, taking 5 hours to complete. COST: Canyon entrance fee: Adults \$8, seniors (62+) \$6. RATING: Moderate/Strenuous. MEET: Agua Caliente Indian Trading Post. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. RESERVATIONS: Call LEADER: ED CALIENDO (442) 242-4103.  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**FEBRUARY 2 – FEBRUARY 8**

Please read “**LIABILITY WAIVER**” preceding these listings  
(Also refer to **Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities**)

**FEB 2 (MON) 6:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCOM MEETING**  
Alpine Conference Room 27236 Blue Jay Mall on Feb 2, Apr 6, May 4, Oct 5, Nov 2. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313.  
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**FEB 3 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING**  
PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com>. (909) 800-3911  
CHAPTER

**FEB 4 (WED) 4:30 PM HIDDEN SPRINGS CONDITIONING HIKE**  
Moderate 2 to 3-mile loop hike on the Hidden Springs trail and arroyo. Trail has some ups and downs but basically follows the base of the hills and then we return on the sidewalk. We start promptly at 4:30. BRING: flashlight, water and sturdy shoes. MEET: Hidden Springs School, 9801 Hidden Springs Dr., Moreno Valley. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: EILEEN O'BRIEN (951) 616-9739.  
MORENO VALLEY GROUP

**FEB 4 (WED) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING**  
The meeting place rotates. CONTACT: ED WALLACE, (909) 584-9407, www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org.  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**FEB 7 (SAT) 8:00 AM ARRASTRE FALLS HIKE**  
Enjoy this easy 4-mile outing through a lovely part of Arrastre Canyon. BRING: warm clothing, sturdy footwear and water. Make a camera an essential, also. RATED: Easy. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum, 11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308 at 8am. LEADER: NORMAN BOSSOM 760-912-3725 or coachnorm@yahoo.com.  
MOJAVE GROUP

**FEB 7 (SAT) 8:15 AM PCT SECTION B, HWY 79 TO INDIAN FLATS RD HIKE**  
This is the start of our Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), Section B Recognition Award Program whereby those individuals completing all 101.4 miles starting in 2013 through 2015 will receive a special recognition patch and participate in the annual awards party. This first segment of 9.2 miles takes us from Warner Springs northward to Indian Flats Road junction while hiking along the Agua Caliente Creek on the PCT (Hwy 79 Southwest of Warner Springs to Indian Flats Campground Road 9S05). RATED: Moderate MEET: We will meet at Warner Springs most southern located Fire Station, 31049 Hwy 79 in the adjacent parking area immediately north of the fire station. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, 2 liters of water, trail snacks/lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. RESERVATIONS: Call LEADER, DAVID MELTON (760) 408-2456 or dmelton61@yahoo.com.  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**\*\*FEB 7 (SAT) 9:00 AM SITTON PEAK HIKE**  
Join me on a 10 mile moderate to difficult hike with 2150 feet of elevation gain/loss to Sitton Peak, which stands at 3,273 feet tall and is one of the 7 peaks in the Santa Anna Mountains. We will begin the hike using the Bear Canyon Loop Trail 3.5 miles to a junction known as four corners. Then take the Sitton Peak Trail 1.7 miles to the Peak. The reason I am listing this hike as borderline difficult is the last 700 yards, which is a steep scramble up an overgrown trail to the peak. Although the peak is only 3,273 feet it has a commanding 360 degree view that includes the ocean on clear days and well worth the effort. MEET: at the large parking lot across from the famous Ortega Oaks Candy Store, 34040 Ortega Hwy. Lake Elsinore. From Lake Elsinore travel southwest on the Ortega Hwy 3.6 miles past the fire station in El Cariso. BRING a minimum of 3 liters of water, a lunch and snacks, sturdy hiking shoes, dress in layers and do not forget the sunscreen. I also suggest hikers wear long pants because of the scramble to the peak. Rain Cancels. Also cars parked at the trailhead must display a Wilderness Pass available at sporting goods stores. RRESERVATIONS & INFO: contact LEADER BOB AUDIBERT, bob.takeahike1@gmail.com or (951)302-1059.  
SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

**FEB 8-10 (SUN-TUE) 8:30 AM JOSHUA TREE SAMPLER CAR CAMP**  
Save these dates and come out to Joshua Tree, spend Sunday through Monday camping at Sheep Pass Group Campsite. We will hike, explore, relax and have a “Best Camping food Cook-off” potluck to share Sunday night. Campsite is reserved, \$10 per night per participant for site, any extra will go to Los Serranos group. COST: \$15 park entrance fee or National Parks pass required. INFO: Contact leader for more info and watch Jan-Feb Palm and Pine for further info. LEADER: MARY ANN RUIZ 909-815-9379 or ruizmaryann@gmail.com  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**FEBRUARY 9 – FEBRUARY 15**

Please read “**LIABILITY WAIVER**” preceding these listings  
(Also refer to **Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities**)

**FEB 9 (MON) 7:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard's Episcopal Church, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313.  
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**FEB 10 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, <kimffloyd@fastmail.fm> (760) 249-5385.  
CHAPTER

**FEB 11 (WED) 9:00 AM WALNUT CREEK HIKE**  
Also known as the MDA or Michael D. Antonovich Trail, this is a 3-mile round trip hike with a mere 400 ft. elevation gain. These numbers make for an easy jaunt through canyon woods with multiple stream crossings, so hiking poles are strongly advised. BRING: water, sturdy boots layered clothing and hiking poles. MEET: Please call to confirm by February 10, 5:00 PM. LEADER: JEFF WARHOL (909) 985-7686 or jmwandjw@hotmail.com.  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**FEB 11 (WED) 4:30 PM HIDDEN SPRINGS CONDITIONING HIKE**  
Moderate 2 to 3-mile loop hike on the Hidden Springs trail and arroyo. Trail has some ups and downs but basically follows the base of the hills and then we return on the sidewalk. We start promptly at 4:30. BRING: flashlight, water and sturdy shoes. MEET: Hidden Springs School, 9801 Hidden Springs Dr., Moreno Valley. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: EILEEN O'BRIEN (951) 616-9739.  
MORENO VALLEY GROUP

**FEB 11 (WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, desertlily1@verizon.net.  
MOJAVE GROUP

**FEB 12 (THU) 6:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except July and August. The public is welcome. PLACE: Temecula Valley Library, 30600 Pauba Road, Temecula. INFO: PAM NELSON (951) 767-2324 sierraclubsmg@gmail.com.  
SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

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# Group News

## Big Bear Group

By Ed Wallace, Group Chair

### A LOOK BACK AT 2014

As in past years we started off 2014 with a fundraiser at a local pizza shop. The proceeds from this event helped fund our annual scholarship program for a graduating senior at Big Bear High School. The winner is determined based on an essay on an environmental problem in the Big Bear Valley and a proposed solution. Each year we see an increase in applications which no doubt suggests the need to potentially expand this program in the future.

In July, thanks again to Christie Walker and her loyal band of volunteers, we held the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Xeriscape Garden Tour. As usual, it was a resounding success. Not only has this been a substantial fund raiser for the group but it has functioned to remind our residents that our aquifers can only produce so much water. The need to conserve as we continue to get years of reduced snow pack is imperative. Pictures of this year's tour are shown on my web site. <http://rewphotography.smugmug.com/> Looking at these pictures, I question why anyone would want a substantial grass lawn.



In November, we held our annual potluck, the Jack Frost Feast. We had a great turn out to a fun-filled evening. Our monthly meeting subjects over the year covered a wide range of topics including a presentation by the director of the MWD on the State of the Lake, a slide show on our group backpacking trip to Humphreys Basin in a remote section of the John Muir Wilderness, vegetable gardening in the mountains, a presentation by Elisabeth Harris the director of the Big Bear Valley Education Trust on the formation of a Wildland Park that will help protect one of the few remaining Pebble Plains, the showing of the movie "Bears" which drew a crowd of 70 residents, a nature walk combined with a desert potluck and lastly a presentation by a Native American group on life in the Big Bear Valley prior to it being settled by the white man. The meeting subjects for 2014 are still under development and will be available on our website and Facebook in February. If you have ideas for meeting topics please send them to me at [edjeanne@charter.net](mailto:edjeanne@charter.net).

Finally, this will be my last year as chair of this group. I have held this position on and off or the last decade. It has truly been a privilege. My hope is that we can draw more youth into the group with young eyes that can lead us into the future.

**CONSERVATION** We continue to wait for the Final EIR on Moon Camp. This project, if approved, would result in a 50-home development on sensitive pebble plain habitat on the North Shore along with a marina in prime bald eagle habitat.

Most likely there will be extensive development proposals that will occur as a result of the change in ownership of the ski resorts. What their nature will be is unknown; however, we have seen traffic studies that conclude that Big Bear could most likely not be evacuated safely if a fast moving fire shut down two of the three routes out of the valley. This scenario is likely should a fire move up the hill following the Santa Ana River and Big Bear Creek drainages. To continue to add a permanent, and even a large, temporary population without addressing this problem is foolish and potentially life threatening.

We will continue to work with the Big Bear Valley Education Trust, the San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust, and others on the development of the Wildland Park between upper Moonridge and Sugarloaf. There will be a need for a substantial volunteer effort over the next few years to help develop trails and increase protection of this beautiful

resource. I would urge you all to get involved, by doing so you will get the benefit of learning to know this spectacular area.

### OUTINGS • 2015 A Look Ahead for the Big Bear Group

We have an exciting year ahead for all levels of hikers and backpackers in Southern California. This year we are repeating both Section B and Section D of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). We separated both approximate 110-mile sections of the Pacific Crest Trail into day hikes. We schedule those day hikes on Saturdays so that the maximum number of working and non-working adults can participate. Accomplishing either or both of these PCT Sections comes with the award of a special recognition patch. Hikers can accomplish a Section over a three-year period. A tentative schedule for Section B, which begins in the first quarter of 2015, is offered below.



In the first calendar quarter of 2015, a series of special single day-hikes are offered. These special events include day hikes to (1) Samuelson Inscription Rocks in Joshua Tree National Park, (2) Author, Philip Ferranti, will provide a guided hike to Lost Pyramid Canyon in Mecca Valley, and (3) a visit to Eagle Rock, the eighth wonder of the world, located south of Warner Springs on the Pacific Crest Trail.

As a special event this summer, we are planning a single day event to climb to the top of San Gorgonio Peak by starting at the Fish Creek Trailhead. This is an approximately 20.0 mile round-trip day-hike containing a 3,120' elevation gain and decent. Those individuals accomplishing this trip will be issued a same-day "I climbed Mt. San Gorgonio" patch. San Gorgonio Peak is the second highest peak (11,500') in California.

2015 summer backpacking trips should be anticipated. Usually, in early July a trip is planned within the Yosemite National Park catching the spring flowers as they begin their season of color. Later, in July, a trip into the Ansel Adams Wilderness and a trip on the John Muir Trail can be a photographer's dream come true. Weather permitting, other backpacking trips will be announced as the year develops.



As in 2014, the Big Bear Group will sponsor our Hike Leader Apprentice Program. This allows individuals to get involved early in Hike Leader activities before taking the mandatory two-day Sierra Club Leadership Training Class in June where individuals may sign-up for the Apprentice training and gain experience in drafting hike descriptions, conducting trailhead meetings, leading hikes, and gaining

hands-on experience in leadership prior to their formal training. At all times, the apprentice Hike Leader is supervised by a fully-qualified Hike Leader.

In June, we will once again conduct a two-day backpack training program where participants may earn a Certificate in Basic Backpacking. This training starts with selection of equipment based upon an individual's needs. Our training includes proper packing techniques, weight distribution, use of trekking poles, and selection of safe camp/tent site, cooking stove operation, water purification, and map/compass training. Also, individuals will learn the proper techniques of Leaving- No-Trace.

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## Mojave Group

By Jenny Wilder, Group Chair

Explore      Enjoy      Protect

### A new ExCom for the Mojave Group:

Thanks you to all who voted in support of our Excom nominees. I am pleased to welcome the new and returning Executive Committee members: Carol Wiley, Bryan Baker, Bill Spreng, Susan Stueber, Sheila Garrison, and Arlene Pierce. Please support them by attending the monthly Mojave Group meetings (general meetings and ExCom meetings) and make a point of getting your voice for conservation heard! This is a great group of people who are volunteering much time and talent to 'notice' and 'do something' about the quality of life in the Mojave Desert.

### February Conservation Coalition Meeting, Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 6-8 pm:



For many years now we have joined other conservation groups to network and meet new people and work on issues together. 2015 will be no exception. The Mojave Group is hosting this year's Coalition Meeting at the Victor Valley Museum. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and to find out more about the wonderful things people in our area are doing to protect your quality of life in the Mojave Desert. Groups may apply to set up a table and/or talk about their activities that protect the quality of life in the Mojave Desert. Please contact Carol Wiley at [desertlily1@verizon.net](mailto:desertlily1@verizon.net), to reserve your spot! Space is limited, so apply early. At this meeting we will be sharing issues and solutions that affect conservation in the Mojave Desert; there will be refreshments and door prizes.

**DRECP:** By far the most serious threat to conservation in the Mojave Desert is millions of acres of renewable energy. Thanks to many who wrote early to extend the deadline for comments! The new deadline is February 23, 2015. Be sure to visit the DRECP website: <http://www.drecp.org/>.

"Without significant input from the public, from you, this juggernaut will proceed relentlessly, sacrificing millions of acres of desert habitat, wasting precious groundwater, degrading air quality, and "taking" endangered species and other wildlife."

—David Garmon, Borrego Springs, who authored a petition.

Read the full article and sign the petition! <http://www.eastcountymagazine.org/petition-launched-opposing-opening-millions-acres-calif-desert-industrial-scale-energy-projects>

Shouldn't we be saving water and putting the energy generation on every rooftop and parking lot?

### SPARC Forum

This is your opportunity to voice your opinion about the county General Plan amendment. "The county of San Bernardino is seeking YOUR Input on San Bernardino County's Renewable Energy Future."

The San Bernardino County Partnership for Renewable Energy & Conservation (SPARC) is creating a Renewable Energy Element for the General Plan and there are many ways you can participate! Provide input via our open forum topics, learn more about the project and join us at one of the upcoming events.

[http://www.sparcforum.org/portals/174/forum\\_home?phase=open](http://www.sparcforum.org/portals/174/forum_home?phase=open)

*Continued on Page 11 >>>*

# Moreno Valley Group

By Ann Turner McKibben, Secretary

The Moreno Valley Group outings leaders have scheduled hikes for January and February. There is a Hidden Springs Conditioning Hike on Wednesday, January 14 at 4:30 p.m. On Sunday, January 18 there is a Hike to the "M" on the Box Springs Mountains; access is from Pigeon Pass Road in western Moreno Valley. The complete list of hikes and information can be found on the Chapter's web site (<http://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org/node/3>), the group web page ([http://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org/groups/moreno\\_valley](http://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org/groups/moreno_valley)) and in the *Palm and Pine* listings. Join us for some fun winter hikes here in Moreno Valley!

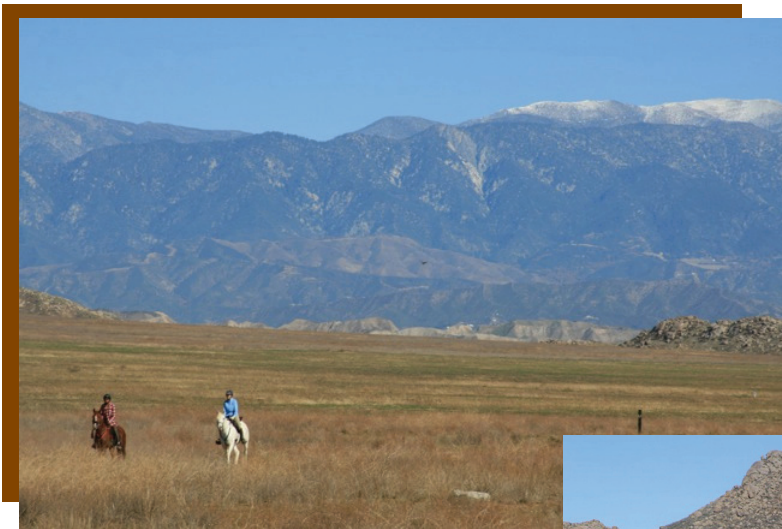
Bald eagle counts will take place at 8:00 a.m. at the Lake Perris State Recreation Area (LPSRA) on December 13, January 10, February 14, and March 14. Anyone can take part in the count. Participants will meet at Perris Regional Indian Museum for orientation which is located within the LPSRA. You do not have to pay the entrance fee if you are taking part in the count. The count lasts about an hour with the wrap up taking place at the museum. You are then free to spend the rest of the day at LPSRA at no cost. Please call (951) 940-5600 to verify all information.

The election of three Moreno Valley city councilmembers took place in November. According to a November 29, 2014, *Press-Enterprise* newspaper article (<http://www.pe.com/articles/spending-755127-vote-benzeevi.html>), the World Logistics Center developer Iddo Benzeevi of Highland Fairview setup four committees that spent a total of \$419,420 on the city council elections, more than \$100.00 per vote. Despite the spending, councilmember Victoria Baca was recalled; LaDonna Jempson was elected to take her place. Benzeevi-supported Yxstian Gutierrez and Jeff Giba were both elected.

The Final Environmental Documents for the World Logistic Center (WLC) may be released in December or January. According to the project planner, the public will have 30 or 45 days to review & make comments. The Moreno Valley Group has been following the approval process for the proposed World Logistics Center (WLC). The proposed warehouse project would put 41,600,000 square feet of warehouses on 2,710 acres of land south of Highway 60. If built, it would share a two-mile border with the San Jacinto

Wildlife Area, home to threatened/endangered species as well as more than 20 species of raptors. Please plan on attending planning commission and city council public hearings on the WLC. You can speak or attend and support those who speak. It is important that all voices be heard in the planning process. Please contact planner Mark Gross at: [markg@moval.org](mailto:markg@moval.org) & (951) 413-3215 for more information & to be notified of all meetings. Donations are needed to help us as we work to provide strong comments on the World Logistic Center project. Your very important donations will and have been used to support our ability to hire experts to review the documents. Any amount is appreciated. Please send your donations to: Sierra Club—Moreno Valley Group, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325 with the memo notation "WLC." Thank you to all who have made donations—your strong support makes a difference!

The developer of the proposed ProLogis Eucalyptus Industrial Park asked for a continuance at the December 9<sup>th</sup> city council meeting. The hearing on the project will now be held on January 27<sup>th</sup>. This warehouse project would put four distribution warehouses (1,529,498 square feet) on 84 acres of land south of Highway 60 between Moreno Beach Road and Redlands Boulevard. The proposed warehouse project would keep 35 adjacent acres in residential use which goes against the recommendation of the AQMD that no residents should be within 1,000 feet of these warehouses. The final environmental impact report on the updated project is now available and posted on the city's web site, <http://www.moval.org/misc/prologis-0314.shtml> Please click on the Final EIR tab. Please take time to contact the city council members and let them know your concerns about the project. Their e-mail addresses can be found at: [http://www.moval.org/city\\_council/council.shtml](http://www.moval.org/city_council/council.shtml) Their mailing address is: Your Councilmember's Name, City of Moreno Valley, 14177 Frederick Street, P.O. Box 88055, Moreno Valley, CA 92552. For more information on the project, contact: Jeff Bradshaw, Assoc. Planner, City of Moreno Valley, (951) 413-3224, [jeffreyb@moval.org](mailto:jeffreyb@moval.org)



Lake Perris November 2011.

Photo by George Hague



Lake Perris November 2011.

Photo by George Hague

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is proposing the "SR-60 Truck Climbing Lanes Project" through The Badlands east of Moreno Valley. The project would construct truck climbing (eastbound), truck descending lanes (westbound) and make road shoulder improvements. Caltrans is still working on addressing the public comments submitted on the project. The environmental document may be completed by summer 2015. Many think the project

should be paid for by developers instead of taxpayers picking up the tab.

Information on the Riverside County General Plan Update, schedule of public outreach & public hearings before the planning commission and county supervisors can be found at: <http://planning.rctlma.org/Portals/0/Production%20Schedule%209-1-14.pdf> Public outreach meetings will be held January 2015–February 2015 before the final environmental documents are released. Please consult their web page to confirm the dates & locations of all meetings. Contact for more information: Kristi Lovelady, [KLOVELAD@rctlma.org](mailto:KLOVELAD@rctlma.org), tel: (951) 955-0781. You can e-mail her to be sent all notices of meetings and documents related to the general plan update.

Riverside County planners are still working on the revised version of the 9,000 unit Villages of Lakeview project on the southern boundary of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. The revised environmental documents may be available by April 2015. Contact Matt Straite at [MSTRAITE@rctlma.org](mailto:MSTRAITE@rctlma.org) or (951) 955-8631 for more information.

The Moreno Valley Group is selling 2015 Sierra Club wall and desk calendars to support Sierra Club work. These beautiful calendars make wonderful gifts for family and friends. Please e-mail us at [movalleygroup@yahoo.com](mailto:movalleygroup@yahoo.com) if you would like to purchase some calendars.

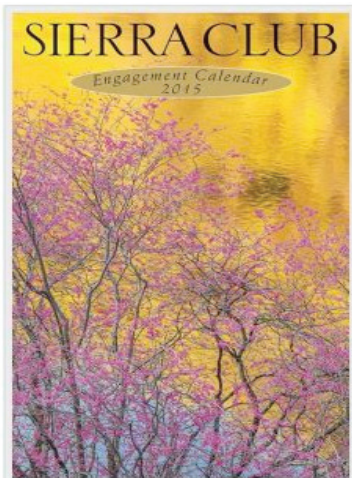
For information hours and visitors fees for Lake Perris State Recreation Area please see: <https://www.facebook.com/Lakeperris> & [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=651](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=651) Notice that Bernasconi Beach access will be closed due to the repair of the dam.

There is a Moreno Valley Recreational Trails Board hike, Saturday, January 25, 2015, Hike to Lake Terri Peak (Difficult), 7:30 a.m.; meet in the parking lot in front of Landmark Middle School, 15261 Legendary Drive, MV. Verify all information at (951) 413-3703 and [http://www.moreno-valley.ca.us/resident\\_services/park\\_rec/trails.shtml#hikes](http://www.moreno-valley.ca.us/resident_services/park_rec/trails.shtml#hikes) to see their listing for more hikes.

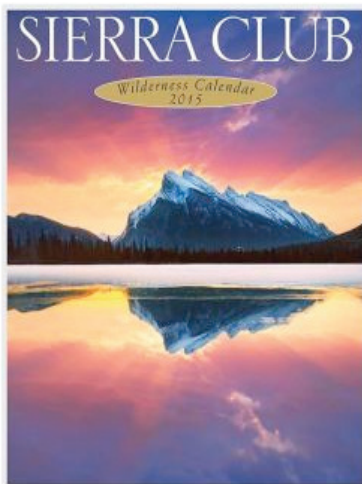
Check our group Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/MorenoValleySierraClub> & our web page [http://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org/groups/moreno\\_valley](http://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org/groups/moreno_valley)



## SIERRA CLUB 2015 CALENDARS



**Sierra Club 2015 Wilderness Wall Calendar**  
Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.



**Sierra Club 2015 Engagement Calendar**  
Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.

### Order Form

Save up to 30% off the list price. Support local conservation efforts.

Titles may be combined for quantity pricing.

Title	1-4 price	5-9 price	10+ price	Quantity	Price	Total
Wilderness Wall Calendar	\$13.50	\$12.50	\$11.50	_____	_____	_____
Engagement Calendar	\$14.50	\$13.50	\$12.50	_____	_____	_____
					Subtotal	_____

\*Shipping to one address: \$6.00 for the first calendar and 50 cents for each additional calendar. Shipping\* \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Sierra Club and mail this coupon to:

**Sierra Club Calendars, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501**

(Cost includes all applicable sales taxes computed to the nearest mil)

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

*Calendar . . . Continued from Page 5*

**FEB 13-14 (FRI-SAT) SOUTHERN NEVADA VALENTINE'S DAY SERVICE**  
Give our public lands a valentine by helping on a Feb 14 service project with the CA/NV Wilderness Committee. We will be working together with the BLM Las Vegas office and Friends of Nevada Wilderness to enhance wilderness characteristics in one of the southern Nevada BLM wildernesses. Begins Friday evening with a sociable campout. RESERVATIONS & INFO: LEADER: VICKY HOOVER, 415-977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org.  
CA/NV WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

**FEB 14 (SAT) 8:00 AM S B MTS, LAKE GREGORY, WINTER BIRD WALK**  
MEET: North Shore parking lot, across from Goodwin's (24089 Lake Gregory Drive, Crestline 92325). Pay \$6.00 parking fee or park on street free. See wintering birds as we walk around the lake (2.5 miles). Optional breakfast after. LEADER: BILL ENGS, 909-338-1910 or billengs@yahoo.com.  
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

## FEBRUARY 16 – FEBRUARY 22

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings  
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

**FEB 17 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except August, The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served. PLACE: Educational Building, Upland Presbyterian Church, Euclid Ave. at 11th. The September 2013 meeting will be held at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens in Claremont and not at the church. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, (909) 815-9379, <ruizmaryann@gmail.com>  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**FEB 18 (WED) 4:30 PM HIDDEN SPRINGS CONDITIONING HIKE**  
Moderate 2 to 3-mile loop hike on the Hidden Springs trail and arroyo. Trail has some ups and downs but basically follows the base of the hills and then we return on the sidewalk. We start promptly at 4:30. BRING: flashlight, water and sturdy shoes. MEET: Hidden Springs School, 9801 Hidden Springs Dr., Moreno Valley. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: EILEEN O'BRIEN (951) 616-9739.  
MORENO VALLEY GROUP

**FEB 19 (THU) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except December. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. INFO: ED WALLACE, (909) 584-9407, www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**FEB 20 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE SNOWSHOE OR HIKE**  
We will snowshoe or hike depending on the weather. Green Valley Lake has some of the best snow in our local mountains, so come and join me for a day of fun. No prior snowshoe experience is necessary – it is not difficult to learn – just another form of hiking. You need to provide your own equipment. MEET: in Green Valley Lake across from the post office (33271 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341) at 9 AM. WEAR layered clothing, BRING: No need to bring lunch just a snack and water. Please call to check on weather conditions. If no snow, we will hike. LEADER: SANDY ELLIS, 909-867-7115 or fsellis67@gmail.com.  
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**FEB 21 (SAT) 8:00 AM LOWER DEEP CREEK HIKE**  
This easy 3-mile outing takes in this wonderful part of the Mojave Desert. The west fork of the Mojave River and its wild, scenic beauty are a joy. RATED: easy. BRING: warm clothing, sturdy footwear, water and a camera. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum, 11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308, at 8am. LEADER: NORMAN BOSSOM 760-912 3725 or coachnorm@yahoo.com  
MOJAVE GROUP

**FEB 21, (SAT) 8:00 AM INDIAN FLATS RD - CHIHUAHUE VALLEY RD HIKE**  
This continues Section B of the Pacific Crest Trail Recognition Program. Those hikers completing all nine segments of Section B will receive a special recognition award. This segment is a total of 9.3 miles. We resume hiking from Indian Flats road (4,450 ft. elevation) to the Chihuahua Valley Road (5,050 ft.) and the PCT, north through the Cleveland National Forest. RATED: Moderate in difficulty. MEET: At the junction of Hwy 79 and Chihuahua Valley Road. From this location we will caravan to the trailhead. This is a shuttle hike. BRING: ten-essential, 2-liters of water, lunch and trail snacks, and sun-protection. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER, DAVID MELTON, (760) 408-2456 or dmelton61@yahoo.com.  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**FEB 22 (SUN) 9:00 AM SANTA ROSA PLATEAU HIKE**  
Moderate 6 to 7 mile hike to the historic Moreno and Machado Adobes. BRING: water, snack, hiking poles if you want, and sturdy shoes. FEE: \$3.00 entrance fee per person. MEET: RSVP for meeting place and to car pool. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: THERESA CARSON (951) 660-7246.  
MORENO VALLEY GROUP

## FEBRUARY 23 – MARCH 1

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings  
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

**FEB 24 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING**  
Chapter governance meeting. Monthly except for December. PLACE: The San Gorgonio Chapter office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: RICK ESTES (951) 314-3328 <scsangor@gmail.com>.  
CHAPTER

**\*\*FEB 25 (WED) 9:00 AM BONITA FALLS HIKE**  
This will be an easy hike to the 90-foot Bonita ("Beautiful" in Spanish) Falls in Lytle Creek Canyon. About 2 miles round trip, 300 ft. elevation gain. Adventure Pass required at trailhead. BRING: water and a snack; wear sturdy shoes/boots. Rain cancels. MEET: Contact leader prior to scheduled date for the meeting place. LEADER: JOHN ST. CLAIR, john@stclairs.us, or 909-983-8501.  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**FEB 25 (WED) 4:30 PM HIDDEN SPRINGS CONDITIONING HIKE**  
Moderate 2 to 3-mile loop hike on the Hidden Springs trail and arroyo. Trail has some ups and downs but basically follows the base of the hills and then we return on the sidewalk. We start promptly at 4:30. BRING: flashlight, water and sturdy shoes. MEET: Hidden Springs School, 9801 Hidden Springs Dr., Moreno Valley. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: EILEEN O'BRIEN (951) 616-9739.  
MORENO VALLEY GROUP

**FEB 28 (SAT) 8:00 AM HILLS OF LAKE PERRIS HIKE**  
Around 6 miles round trip on the hills near Lake Perris, it has some elevation gain. We start promptly at 8:00am. BRING: water, snack, hiking poles if you want, and sturdy shoes. MEET: We will meet in the parking lot in front of Ridgecrest Elementary School, 28500 John F. Kennedy Drive, Moreno Valley and then carpool to a closer starting point. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: CHRISTINA TORRES (951) 318-7503 or cmt.teck@gmail.com.  
MORENO VALLEY GROUP

**FEB 28 (SAT) 8:30 AM EAGLE ROCK HIKE**  
Visit the eighth wonder of the world! Eagle Rock is a natural rock formation that appears to be a sculpture of the American Eagle with wings fully expanded. This large rock formation can be reached by hiking south of Warner Springs on the Pacific Crest Trail 3.4 miles over a rolling terrain. This is a rare opportunity, don't miss it! This a 6.8 mile round-trip hike. RATED: Moderate in difficulty MEET: Warner Springs southern County Fire Station, 31049 Hwy 79. BRING: ten essentials, layered clothing, and sun protection, 2-liters of water, and lunch. Don't forget your camera! RESERVATIONS: LEADER ED CALIENDO, (442) 242-4103 or dogs111@msn.com.  
BIG BEAR GROUP

## COMING UP

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings  
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

**MAR 6-9 (FRI-MON) DEATH VALLEY EXPLORATION & HIKES CAR CAMP**  
Four days of hiking and touring. Hikes include Golden Canyon, Amargosa Canyon, Mosaic Canyon, Natural Bridge and Mesquite Sand Dunes, each 4 miles or less. Visits to China Ranch, Salt Creek, Zabriskie Point, Artist Palette and Badwater. Two nights of primitive camping and one night at a developed campground. Potluck on Saturday night. RESERVATIONS & INFO: LEADER CAROL WILEY, desertylily1@verizon.net or 760-245-8734. MOJAVE GROUP

**MAR 7 (SAT) 9:00 AM HELLHOLE CANYON COUNTRY PRESERVE HIKE**  
Join us on a 8.2 mile hike of one of San Diego's spectacular wildlife preserves. MEET: 19324 Santee Lane, Valley Center. This is an exact address and can be entered into online map services to get exact directions form your location. The hike should take 4-5 hours to complete. RATED: borderline difficult, but not relentlessly so. There is over 2000' of elevation gain/loss over the entire hike. It begins with a 400' decent into the canyon. We will hike up the north face of the canyon. At the Summit the view from the ridge that we will traverse is spectacular from all directions and in my opinion worth twice the climb. The ridge rolls up and down but is an easy hike of never-ending vistas. The decent to the canyon floor is much less steep than the climb and a great time to take in the views to the south. The hike ends with a steep climb back to the staging area. WEAR: dress in layers and wear comfortable hiking shoes, BRING snacks, a lunch and 3 liters of water. Much of the hike is exposed so do not forget the sunscreen. Steady rain cancels. RESERVATIONS & INFO: contact LEADER GARY MARSALONE, hikesie@gmail.com. or (858) 663-1201.  
SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

**MAR 14-15 (SAT-SUN) DEATH VALLEY GHOST TOWNS CARCAMP**  
Explore the ruins of California's colorful past in this spectacular desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp near the historic ghost town of Ballarat (flush toilets). Saturday brings a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with expert Hal Fowler who will regale us with tales of this Wild West town. Return to camp for happy hour and a special St. Patty's Day potluck and campfire. Sunday morning, a quick visit to the infamous Riley town site. Group size strictly limited. RESERVATIONS: Send \$8/person (check payable to Lygeia Gerard), 2 sase, H&W phones, email address, rideshare info to LEADER: LYGEIA GERARD, P.O. Box 721039, Piñon Hills, CA 92372, 760-868-2179. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

**MAR 14-15 (SAT-SUN) SERVE & DISCOVER THE CARRIZO PLAINS SERVICE**  
We pray for winter rains, and if they arrive we can look forward to spring wildflowers in the Carrizo Plain National Monument. On Saturday we will either remove or modify sections of fence to facilitate the mobility of pronghorn antelope. These residents prefer to crawl under rather than jump fences to escape predators. Sunday will be, at the choice of the group, either a hike in the Caliente Range or else a tour of popular viewing areas in the plains. LEADER: CRAIG DEUTSCHE, craig.deutsche@gmail.com or 310-477-6670. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

**MAR 18-22 (WED-SUN) DEATH VALLEY SPRING WEEKEND CARCAMP**  
Our car-camping trip is planned when temperatures are mild and wild flowers may be blooming. We'll hike to waterfalls including oasis-like Darwin Falls, through stunning desert canyons including Titus Canyon, visit ghost towns and mining areas, and explore some lesser known but truly fantastic areas outside of the Park. We will also tour Scotty's Castle. The hikes are rated moderate to strenuous with several hikes off maintained trails. Strenuous hikes to the most interesting locations require short sections of rock scrambling and minor exposure to heights. The hikes range from five to ten miles, with elevation gains up to 500 feet. COST: \$60 per person and includes 4 nights of camping and tour of Scotty's Castle. Group size limited to 15 people. RESERVATIONS: Email or call leader for reservation information. LEADER: RICH JURICICH, rich.sierraclub@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

**MAR 27-29 (FRI-SUN) OLD WOMAN MOUNTAINS SERVICE**  
Join Mojave Group and the CA/NV Wilderness Committee for our annual desert wilderness service project with the Needles office of BLM. This year's is in the Old Woman Mountains. We'll work on restoring a 5-mile stretch of Sunflower Spring Road or on the development of an interpretative trail in the area. BLM is partnering with Native American Lands Conservancy here, and we'll enjoy a joint campfire and stories with their tribal elders Saturday night. Central commissary, RESERVATIONS & INFO: contact LEADER VICKY HOOVER, 415-977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. CA/NV WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

**APR 10-13 (FRI-MON) MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE SAMPLER CAR CAMP**  
Meet on Friday April 10 at Amboy Crater at noon and hike up the crater for lunch. Primitive camping Friday night near Granite Pass. Saturday head to Kelso Dunes for a hike up the dunes. Sunday visit the Kelso Depot and then the lava tube with camping at Midhills Campground. Monday we can hike to Cima Dome on the way out. All hikes are moderate to easy depending on your condition. Saturday night we will have an optional potluck. There are no services in the preserve. RESERVATIONS & INFO: Contact LEADER CAROL WILEY, desertylily1@verizon.net or 760-245-8734. MOJAVE GROUP

**APR 25-26 (SAT-SUN) CARRIZO PLAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT SERVICE**  
This trip is scheduled late in the wildflower season, and we pray that rains have produced a wonderful and long-lasting display. Saturday we will remove or modify sections of fence to facilitate the mobility of pronghorn antelope. Sunday will be, at the choice of the group, either a hike in the Caliente Range or a tour of popular viewing areas in the plains. This is an opportunity to combine car camping, day-hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. INFO: Contact LEADER CRAIG DEUTSCHE, craig.deutsche@gmail.com or 310-477-6670. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

**JUN 19-24 (FRI-WED) COYOTE GULCH BACKPACK**  
Backpack 30 miles through some of the best of Utah's red rock, with shear high-walled canyons and cathedral-like campsites. Trip starts with obtaining permits at the Escalante visitor center. There will be 4-5 miles of travel each day. Most of the hiking is moderate, but requires wading back and forth across the creek. One steep trail will bypass waterfalls. There are side trips so bring a small day pack. This is the warm season, but usually quite pleasant. Limit 12. RESERVATIONS & INFO: Trip details and agenda available on sign-up. LEADER: DAVID HARDY, 702-875-4826 but email preferred, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE





## Santa Margarita Group

By Teri Biancardi

The Santa Margarita Group had a lovely set of hikes these last two months, for both the hard core, and the softer among us. Bob Audiberg led a beautiful seven-mile hike in November in Cedar Springs with a great bunch of people, while our Outdoor Families group enjoyed a stroll along the Santa Margarita river with a couple of docents from the Ecological Reserve who shared lots of interesting information about the area. Looking ahead, we're partnering with the local American Volkssport



Cedar Springs

group for the numerical confluence 10-11-12-13-14 Guinness Book of Records walk. They're trying to get the most walkers ever at 10:11 AM on December 13th, 2014.

Water and watershed issues were top conservation issues these last two months. We continue to follow closely issues arising from Rancho Water's purchase of the Vail Lake Resort. Also, Rancho is looking for projects that could be created in the upper Santa Margarita watershed to do with water conservation, to be included in a grant application to the Department of Water Resources, as is the new facilitator of Cal Trout.

Now based on our group and chapter's recommendation the California Sierra Club is recommending to Governor Jerry Brown that Chuck Washington replace Jeff Stone as supervisor.

In other news, Meadowview HOA received the Environmental Leadership

award from the Elsinore, Murrieta and Anza Resource Conservation District for project that emerged out of a SMG match-making effort, that involves grazing for weed abatement and installing artificial burrowing owl boxes in their open space.

We are looking forward to examining the submissions from local colleges from students wanting to design a logo for the Murrieta Creek trail. The due date is Jan. 7, and the winner will have their logo used on trail signs and maps of the trail, as well as win a \$500 prize. We are also looking into how this project can be incorporated into and managed by WRCOG, who has made trail creation a top priority in our region.

Our group also supported our partners – the Meyncke's led a nature hike at Palomar Mountain State Park Friends annual Apple Festival, and our Christmas party at Rodrigos on December 11th is a fundraiser for the Santa Rosa Plateau. The history of how it was saved by a dedicated and determined group from a developer was the topic of our last presentation, given by the foundation leader Ginger Greaves.

SMG wishes everyone lots of wonderful hiking!



## Sierra Club, Austin Energy Reach Agreement on Proposal to Ramp Up Renewable Energy, Phase Out Dirty Gas and Coal by 2023

By Matt Johnson on December 4, 2014, The Lone Star Chapter

*The Beyond Coal team in Austin, Texas, deserves all your praise! Their hard work over the years has had many successes, but this latest one is super awesome: The city is now proposing to move beyond coal and natural gas by 2023 and to invest in clean energy.*

Source: [hitched@sierraclub.org](mailto:hitched@sierraclub.org) - 12/8/14

Utility officials presented an updated proposal for the 2025 Austin Resource Generation Plan at the Council Committee on Austin Energy at City Hall today. The plan discussed before City Council today will, if approved, make historic commitments to solar power and other forms of renewable energy, increase Austin's commitments to energy efficiency and demand response, begin investments in energy storage, and phase out the city's oldest and most polluting fossil fuel plants – the Decker natural gas plant and Fayette coal plant.

Over the last three months, Sierra Club entered into a dialogue with Austin Energy, Council Member Mike Martinez, and other stakeholders to develop a 2025 Generation Plan that would be affordable, ambitious on renewables and cutting carbon dioxide emissions, and have buy-in from the utility, business community, and environmentalists.

### Highlights of the Proposed Austin Energy 2025 Generation Plan:

- Steam units at the aging Decker natural gas plant – the largest point source of smog-forming, asthma-inducing pollution in Travis County – would be retired in 2018;
- Austin Energy's largest source of climate disrupting carbon pollution, the coal-fired



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### Classified Advertising Rates

Personal: \$0.25 per word. \$5.00 minimum.

Commercial: \$0.50 per word. \$10.00 minimum.

Classified advertising is accepted to a maximum of 8 lines (about 45 characters to the line).

### Circulation and Distribution

Rates are based on an average circulation of 5,500 per issue. The Chapter member subscription is included in membership dues. Subscriptions rates for non-members is \$9.00 for six issues. Single copies are \$1.50. The newsletter is published and distributed on or before the 1st of the month, six times each year beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Deadlines

Deadline: 1st of the month preceding the issue date.

(Feb 1, Apr 1, Jun 1, Aug 1, Oct 1, Dec 1)

### Submission and Payments

E-mail directly to [mywwuni@charter.net](mailto:mywwuni@charter.net)

Payments must be received at least two weeks before deadline. Mail all payments to Treasurer Ladd Seekins, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, Ca 92501; be sure and mark envelope "advertising."

### Any Questions?

**Call or email us TODAY at (951) 686-4141 or [ralphsalisbury@att.net](mailto:ralphsalisbury@att.net) . . . Ask for Ralph!**

All advertising must comply with National Sierra Club advertising policies.



Fayette Power Plant, would begin to ramp-down in 2020 with a retirement process commencing in 2022;

- Renewable energy goals would increase from the current goal of 35 percent by 2020 to 55 percent by 2025;
- Overall solar goals would skyrocket from 200 MW in the current plan to 950 MW by 2025;
- Energy efficiency goals would increase from 800 MW to 900 MW, including a specific demand response goal of 100 MW with a process to increase the total energy efficiency goal to as much as 1,200 MW if affordable and achievable;
- A local storage goal of 30 MW – including batteries, other technologies, and chilling stations – and scoping up to an additional 170 MW of utility-scale storage through a Request for Information.

The plan does authorize new natural gas power – a more modern 500 MW combined-cycle plant that would be more efficient and cleaner than Austin's current natural gas units – but any new power plant would be subject to a third-party independent analysis to make sure any investments adhere to both affordability and climate protection goals.

Cyrus Reed, Acting Director of the Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter and a member of the Austin Energy Generation Planning Task Force, released the following statement in response:

"Sierra Club is pleased to have worked cooperatively with Austin Energy, City Council, and many others on crafting a plan that we believe would be among the most ambitious, environmentally and fiscally responsible generation plans in the nation."

It is critical we don't jump into another investment like the biomass plant. We all agree that major investment decisions should be made only after careful independent analysis, stakeholder input, and consideration of alternatives. We also agree that this plan is a guiding document. It does not bind the utility into specific investments that may not be in people's best interests. It will guide Austin and the nation toward effective climate disruption solutions through affordable and reliable energy.

We look forward to working with City Council on December 11 to maintain broad support for these goals and approve this groundbreaking plan."

Continued on Page 10 >>>

*Environmental Movement . . . from Page 1*

investment in organizing in the East Coachella Valley, a region not only known for its agriculture, but for its extreme rural poverty, is a testament to how, through sharing that platform, we can create a strong and unified voice that is both white and brown, young and old, and working-class and middle-class.

San Gorgonio Chapter's investment in hiring an organizer for the East Coachella Valley has helped build up the drumbeat for more local clean energy, stronger political engagement and a more inclusive movement incorporating elements of environmental justice as well.

Last year, former chapter organizer Barbara Ascencio from Palm Desert was able to organize 45 young people from Desert Mirage High School to attend and speak at the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) meeting in San Francisco on the decision of how to replace the energy from the retired San Onofre Nuclear power plant. The commission had never seen so many young, brown advocates for local clean energy flood a meeting like that.

This year, new chapter organizer Marina Barragan from Oasis, a graduate from Desert Mirage High School's Green Academy, has taken the helm and has taken our organizing to a whole new level. Marina has established a curriculum and leads an after-school class at Desert Mirage High focused on Environmental Justice and youth empowerment. The students named the program "The GREAT/Sierra Alliance" in honor of their green academy (Green Renewable Energy and Technology) and the Sierra Club. From this class, we have been able to bring young people to take leadership in the environmental movement.

Over the summer, Marina led an eastern Riverside county effort to engage Supervisor John Benoit, our representative

on the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). In the 110 degree weather, Marina turned out volunteers from Desert Mirage High and College of the Desert to leaflet twice a week outside of Benoit's office, asking constituents to contact him regarding our poor air quality, and ask him to consider local clean energy initiatives as solutions to our problem. Additionally, Marina and her crew represented the San Gorgonio Chapter in the Raul Ruiz for Congress campaign, turning out volunteers to help with phone banking efforts. Marina also helped with efforts on turnout for the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) and the PUC Public Participation Hearings on Southern California Edison's proposed rate design that would set back efforts and strides we have made in pushing more rooftop solar.

Currently, Marina is organizing students towards the EPA meeting early next year related to the new smog rule. She is also organizing students to attend and comment at the SCAQMD meetings leading up to the SCAQMD's air quality management plan in July 2015 that could potentially reduce carbon emissions and increase local clean energy. New, young leaders, Latinos and Latinas, are also beginning to rise from these efforts.

None of this could have been achieved, however, without the willingness and support from the chapter to share its platform and let these young voices finally resound loudly and passionately. I am very proud to be a part of such a forward-thinking Chapter that prioritizes movement-building, empowerment and diversity. 2015 will bring many new challenges, but this Chapter is on the right path to creating an environmental movement in San Bernardino and Riverside County that the rest of the Sierra Club nationwide will view as the model of the Club's future.



*Burrowing Owls . . . from Page 1*

deciding to go with a wooden box connected to two tunnels.

They then marked out sites for the new burrows, bearing in mind owls prefer creek sides and slopes where they have a good view of any potential incoming predators.

Next, they put out a call to the community for woodworkers willing to volunteer their time and skills to build the burrows. Fifteen woodworkers attended a builders workshop where the



*Photos by Jonathan Snapp-Cook, Partners for Fish and Wildlife*

hardened nearly to rock. And then, the team got to work. Side by side, about 30 locals and the agency workers placed the boxes, angled the tunnels, and back-filled the soil, leaving just a tip of the construction exposed. It was heavy work, and took the team the better part of a day.

And then – success! Lured by the spacious new digs, an owl moved in within less than a week.

The reaction from the 900 home community was incredibly supportive, with one particularly keen and anonymous resident going so far as to print up a sign advertising the vacancies.

If only owls could read.



plans and materials were distributed, and a month later they all returned with their handiwork.

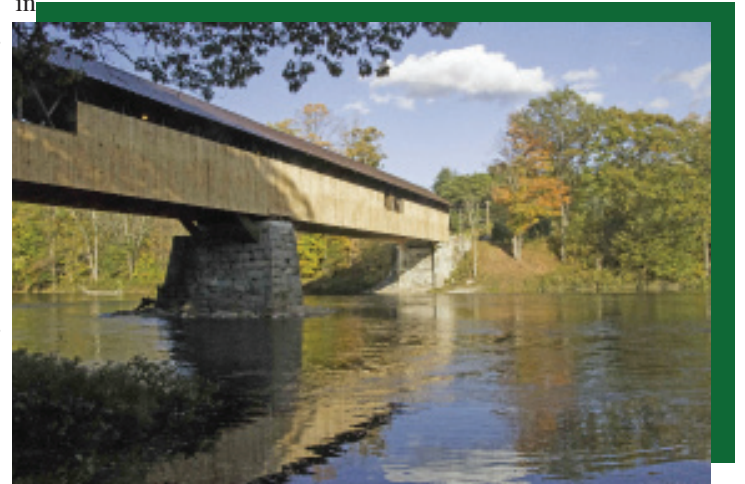
The next step was to dig the holes. For days volunteers and Fish and Wildlife's Clark Winchell put a Ditch Witch RT40 through its paces - carving three foot deep holes and tunnels into soil

*New England Program . . . from Page 1*

no exception.

Mike's New England tour included historic sites in Massachusetts, such as Lexington and Concord with "the shot heard 'round the world," the Plymouth Colony and its replica Plimoth Plantation, a living history museum, and even Henry David Thoreau's Walden Pond. With the fall colors in full spender, Mike took his group through Vermont to

historic seaside lighthouses and to Acadia National Park and even more fall colors.



*Blair Bridge, New Hampshire, repaired after Hurricane Irene.*



*Portland Head Light from Battery, Maine*

see a maple sugar farm, several traditional covered bridges, the stunning and historic Lake Champlain, a huge quarry of the famous Vermont granite, and the Ben and Jerry's ice cream factory.

In New Hampshire's White Mountains, Mike's group rode the cog railway to the top of Mt. Washington, then walked along mountain streams in Franconia Notch and Crawford Notch. Mike described the foliage colors as, "so intense that the reflections on the water in the streams make them look yellow, orange and red." They visited even more covered bridges, then moved on to Maine. The tour concluded with visits to several

Mike has led many other trips equally as fascinating as the New England tour he will cover in this program. Destinations have included the Pacific Northwest, the Black Hills of South Dakota and New Mexico, where he took his group to historic Santa Fe, Bandelier National Monument, Chaco Canyon and the Albuquerque hot air Balloon Fiesta.

Be sure to ask Mike about his future trips. If they are anything like his past trips, they will be well worth looking into.

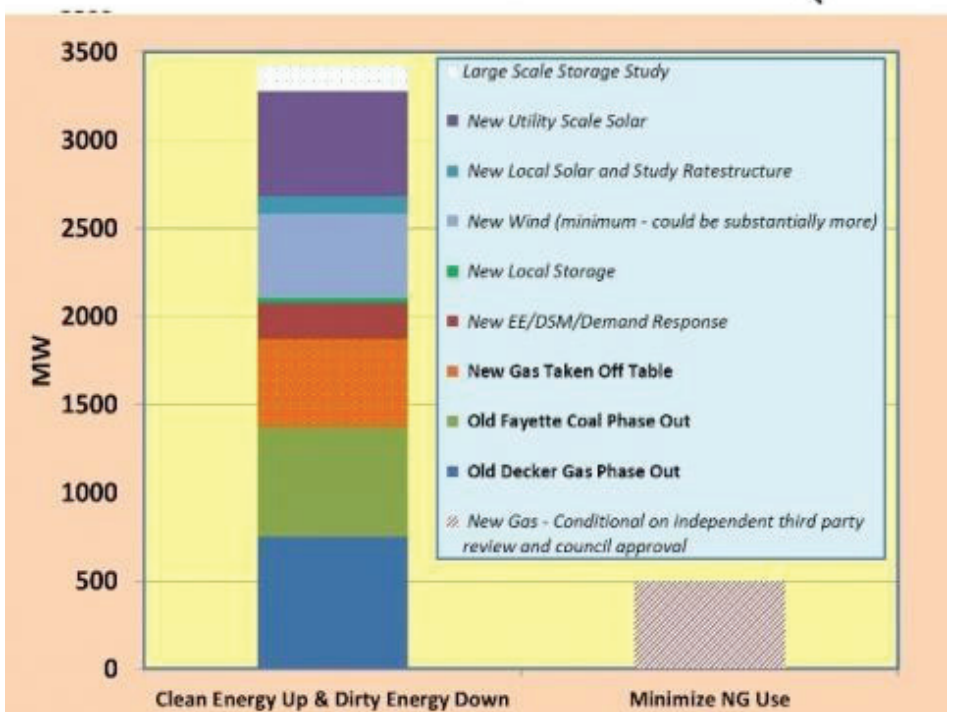


*Ben & Jerry's Factory, Vermont*



*Sierra Club; Austin Energy . . . from Page 9*

**Breakdown of proposed 2025 Austin Resource Generation Plan**



*Big Bear Group . . . from Page 6*

• **Pacific Crest Trail, Section B Recognition Award Program:** Come and celebrate the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) by hiking Section B in 2015. Those individual hikers who complete this 101.4 mile distance will receive a special recognition patch signifying the accomplishment. This section of the PCT is divided into nine day-hikes, scheduled on Saturdays for everyone's convenience.

Section B of the Pacific Crest Trail travels north from Warner Springs in Southern California to the I-10 Freeway near Palm Springs where you will experience 16,645' of gains and 18,332' of loss elevation. We will hike through portions of the Cleveland National Forest, Anza Borrego Desert State Park, San Jacinto Mountain Wilderness, and the San Bernardino National Forest. Those hikers interested in participating in this program are to contact Dave Melton, Hike Leader, at (760) 408-2456 or dmelton61@yahoo.com.

The following is a tentative schedule for completing Section B, of the Pacific Crest Trail in 2015:

Feb 7, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 1: Hwy 79 southwest of Warner Springs to Indian Flats CG Road 9S05, 9.2 mile hike

Feb 21, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 2: Indian Flats CG Road 9S05 to Chihuahua Valley Road, 9.3 miles

Mar 7, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 3: Chihuahua Valley Road to Tule Canyon Truck Trail, 10.3 miles

Mar 21, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 4: Tule Canyon Truck Road to Highway 74, 15.7 miles

Apr 11, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 5: Highway 74 to Fobes Trailhead, 15.7 miles

Apr 18, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 6: Fobes TH to Devils Slide TH, 16.3 miles (Closed due to Forest Fire in 2013) No hike scheduled

Oct 10, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 9: Fuller Ridge TH to I-10, 19.0 miles

Oct 24, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 7: Devils Slide TH to Strawberry Junction, 11.2 miles

Nov 7, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 8: Fuller Ridge to Strawberry Junction, 11.2 miles

This completes all 101.4 miles of Section B, of the Pacific Crest Trail. The total miles to be hiked will slightly exceed the actual miles of Section B due to the need to hike to the Pacific Crest Trail junctions.

Pacific Crest Trail, Section D Recognition Awards Program begins at the end of April with the first of 13 Saturday hikes of the Pacific Crest Trail, Section D. Those hikers completing all 110.2 miles during 2014 will receive a Recognition Patch for their individual achievement. A tentative schedule of Section D hikes will be published in the March-April issue of the *Palm and Pine*.

The Five Peaks of Big Bear Awards Program has returned for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. This popular hiking program takes hikers to the top of Big Bear peaks for grand views of the Big Bear area and at the same time promotes health and fitness.

We will issue a recognition patch to those individuals that accomplish hiking of all five-peaks overlooking Big Bear Lake in 2015. These hikes are scheduled during the summer months under the most favorable weather conditions.

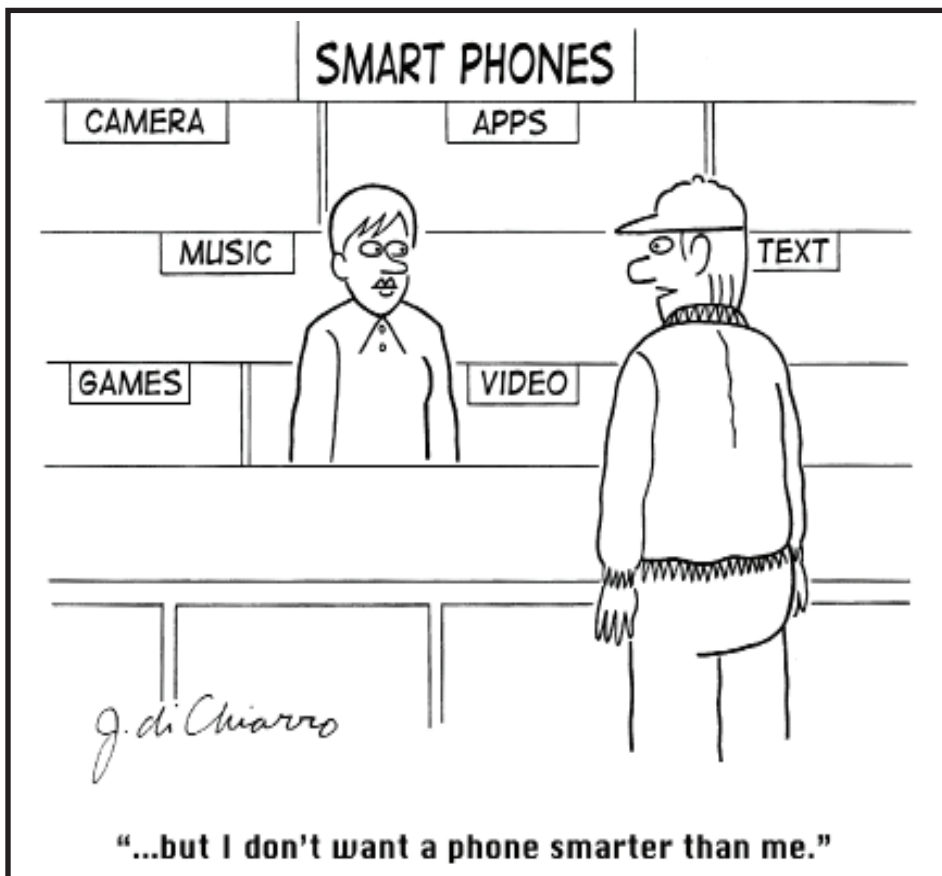
The five peaks are as follows:

- Gold Mountain (8.0 miles, with 1,640 elevation gain)
- Grey's Peak (8.0 miles, with 1,400' elevation gain)
- Bertha Peak (7.5 miles, with 1,400' elevation gain)
- Delamar Mountain (5.5 miles, with 1,150' elevation gain)
- Sugarloaf Mountain (10.0 miles, with 2,500' elevation gain)

A schedule of hikes will be published in the March issue of the *Palm and Pine*. You will have several opportunities during the months of June – October to complete all five peaks.

In conjunction with the issuance of special recognition patches for individual achievements, we will host our annual "Patch Party" on May 30<sup>th</sup> (Sat) to celebrate the individual achievements, have a barbeque, and hand out patches. This is an annual event the whole family will not want to miss!

In summary, there will be something for everyone: In addition to the above special hiking programs and planned backpacking trips, Big Bear Group Hike Leaders will weekly explore areas in Big Bear, Lake Arrowhead, San Geronio Wilderness, San Jacinto Wilderness, Mecca Hills, Mohave Desert, Joshua Tree National Park, and sections of the Pacific Crest Trail. It should be a very exciting year of spectacular trails, special trips, and hiking adventures!

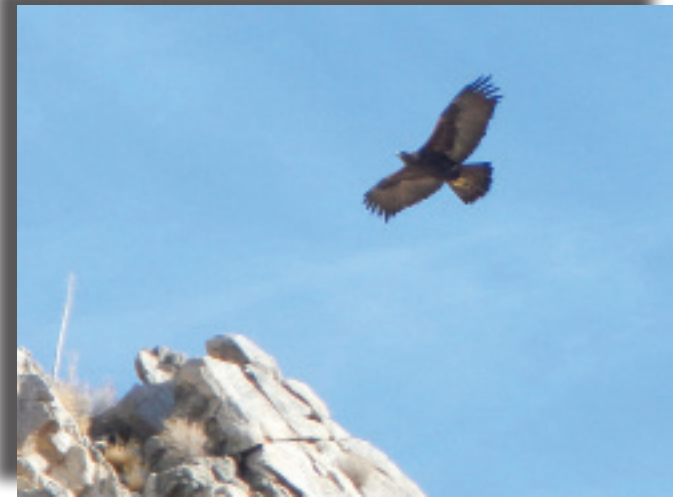


*Mojave Group. . . from Page 6*

**Mojave Group events and activities:**

You may have noticed that we have not been sending out email updates for the meeting and hikes. Melody graciously volunteered to do those emails but she is no longer in a position to continue. However, we post the information on our facebook page. You do not need to sign in to facebook to see our page – only to make a comment. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mojave-Group-Sierra-Club/128853927174168>

Visit the Outings section in every *Palm and Pine* to find a variety of hikes offered by the Mojave Group which include some car-camp and backpacking trips.



*Eagle seen while we were doing graffiti abatement work along the PCT in Deep Creek Canyon.*

*Photo by Susan Stueber*



*Outings leader Quintin Lake points out geology and history along the PCT above Crowder Canyon.*

*Photo by Jenny Wilder*



**Political Update**

*By Jono Hildner, San Geronio Chapter Political Chair*

The November General Election is over and we had some successes and we had some disappointments.

On the success side, all three of our endorsed Congressional candidates won. Raul Ruiz in District 36 and Mark Takano in District

41 had large wins and in District 31, Pete Aguilar was able to get a close victory over his very well funded rival. We also had a huge victory in the State Senate, where Connie Leyva had a landslide victory over her opponent in Senate District 20.

On the State Assembly races, we had disappointments. Kathleen Henry in AD40 and Karalee Hargrove in AD 42, both lost by significant margins.

We only endorsed in two local elections. We endorsed Matt Rahn for City Council in Temecula where he won, and the HUGE victory for a NO vote on Measure L (see the story on page 2) in the City of Riverside was due, in no small measure, to our endorsement and support there. David CAN defeat Goliath. Just look at the fracking bans that passed in San Benito and Mendocino Counties.

There are several lessons that the Chapter can learn from this election season. We must: One, develop and support community leaders who believe in the Sierra Club's values; two, begin our endorsement processes earlier and get involved in local races where future legislative candidates begin to grow their bases of support; and three, get our membership involved in direct action to



help the campaigns of our endorsed candidates. We can do all of these things if we can develop more political activism at the Group level. If you want to get more involved, call or email me.

As we prepare for the 2015 Legislative Session,

we now have the Sierra Club California Report Card for 2014. All-in-all, it was a pretty good session. For a change, there was no credible threat mounted to gut CEQA. Hurray! We got a plastic bag ban (which the industry is collecting signatures to defeat as you read this), we got the first ever legislation to start to regulate ground water, and we made great progress on getting a moratorium on fracking. You can find the full 2014 Report Card at [https://california2.sierraclub.org/sites/california.sierraclub.org/files/documents/2014/10/Sierra%20Club\\_2014\\_Lege%20Scorecard.pdf](https://california2.sierraclub.org/sites/california.sierraclub.org/files/documents/2014/10/Sierra%20Club_2014_Lege%20Scorecard.pdf)

The Report Card shows that we have a long way to go to get our legislative representatives to support our efforts in Sacramento. We need to either do a better job of educating them at home, or we need to work to replace them. Only one member of our delegation got a score of 100%, Asm. V. Manuel Perez, AD56, and he has termed out. At the other end of the spectrum, three of our Assembly Members scored a perfect 0%: Bob Huff, AD29; Steve Knight, AD21; and Mike Morrell, AD23. We should obviously be working on replacing these three. The rest of the delegation ranged from 9% to 91%.

## Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park ~ 2015 Schedule ~

**March 28-30 • April 5-7 • May 3-5 • June 14-16 – A Bird Lovers Special!  
• July 19-21 • August 23-25 • September 27-29 • October 25-27**

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tour of the enchanting Channel Islands! Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds--and an occasional whale. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or, just relax at sea. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara, California. The cost, \$615, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening programs.

To reserve space, send a \$100 check, written to Sierra Club, to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact leader: 626-443-0706; jholtzhln@aol.com



## Adventure in South Africa Featured at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter Meeting

Gail and Ladd Seekins will present a slide show of their recent trip to South Africa. They spent five weeks in the country, visiting many of the top attractions, booking day tours locally. Their show will cover all the places they visited and will feature South African prehistory, history through the Apartheid years, beautiful scenery, outdoor adventures and wildlife.



Gail descending chain ladder in North Drakenberg Mountains.

The meeting will be held on February 3, 7:30 PM, at the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands.

Gail and Ladd, as usual, organized everything themselves, staying mainly at backpacker-style guest houses

and traveling by bus. They saw a good representative slice of this very large and diverse country, from Cape Town up the coast to Durban and then to Johannesburg and Kruger National Park.

While in Cape Town, they toured the Cape of Good Hope, visited the Imizamo Yethu Township, a penguin colony, the Kirstenbosh National Botanic Garden and the former prison on Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners were incarcerated. They learned about apartheid, went wine tasting, hiked Table Mountain and visited the South African Holocaust Museum.

In Hermanus they saw southern right whales, toured an abalone farm



Zulu dancers at Durban.

JOIN NOW

Membership

YES, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the 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 \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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	INDIVIDUAL                      JOINT
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Supporting .....	\$75 .....\$100
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Senior .....	\$24 .....\$32
Student .....	\$24 .....\$32

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and went wine tasting again. They learned about maritime history in Mossel Bay and hiked through some great rugged seaside scenery at Stormsriver. In Port Elizabeth they took a historic city walking tour and spent a day at the Addo Elephant National Park viewing wildlife. At Coffee Bay it was more rugged seaside hiking.

In the southern Drakensberg Moun-tains, they took a day trip over Sani Pass into the Kingdom of Lesotho, where they sampled bread and native millet beer in a traditional Basotho village and visited the 9429 ft. Sani Top Lodge, Africa's highest pub. In Durban they took a day to walk through the city, visiting Victoria Market, the botanic garden and several museums, stopping to watch a political protest on the city hall steps and some wild Zulu dancing in the plaza.

They had three days in the northern Drakensberg Mountains, two days hiking



Protea at Kirstenbosh Botanic Gardens.

independently in the Royal Natal National Park and one very long day hiking to the top of the 3107 ft. Tugela Falls, the highest waterfall in Africa.

Arriving in Johannesburg, they started a six-day safari in Kruger National Park, where they saw much wildlife, including a leopard and a pair of rare black rhinos in addition to the more plentiful impalas, other antelope, zebra, elephant, giraffe, lions and cape buffalo. The weather was cool and the hippos were out of the water in the middle of the day.

While in Johannesburg they toured Soweto, visited the stunning new Apartheid Museum, took a day trip to Pretoria, visited the Cradle of Mankind region, viewed the city from the top of Africa's highest building, and saw some outdoor museums on Constitution Hill and the mining district.



Black Rhino at Kruger Nat'l Park.