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TOIYABE JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2017 TRAILS

MARGE SILL MEMORIAL ISSUE

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF NEVADA AND THE EASTERN SIERRA FROM THE TOIYABE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

From the Chair

Transitions

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN
(vonseg1@sbclbobal.net)

Transitions. We all make them in life, and the Toiyabe Chapter is undergoing one. This fall we transition away from the **Marge Sill** era. Marge's death in late October has left us bereft of the most regarded elder in our tribe. We have devoted a fair amount of this issue to commemorate Marge Sill, and I will not add to that. We thank Dorothy Hudig, special editor, for pulling together articles from key people who knew Marge in various ways. Please read them and get to know more about this remarkable woman.

The other transition is to a **paid staffer**. We are now in the process of hiring a Chapter Director. When the ExCom looked at our reserves and when national Sierra Club asked us to spend down our c3 reserves especially, we concluded that the opportunity existed to bring a staff person into our leadership. This is a huge step, but one which has been taken by the majority of chapters within the Sierra Club. I ask all our members to support us in this transition. One of the Chapter's facets which will need to be honed is the fundraising role, and I hope all members will find the means to help support this position in the com-

Please see FROM THE CHAIR, page 2.

Need information about Toiyabe Chapter?

Try the . . .

Chapter website

<<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>>

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What Would Marge Sill Do Now?

CONTRIBUTED BY DOROTHY HUDIG

A big question. Marge Sill, Mother of Nevada Wilderness, was born December 2, 1923 and died October 23, 2016. She had a lifetime of environmental achievements which we'd like to at least briefly highlight below.

Very importantly, she made countless of us environmentalists look at ourselves, our tactics, our emotions, and then revise our approaches in the spirit of "What would Marge Sill do?"

In this memorial article, I want you to ask yourself, "What would Marge Sill do (with my own environmental concern)?" I'll illustrate her tactics with stories that I collected from a few of her many environmental friends. Her approaches might work again!

Marge Sill's legacy. Senator Harry Reid issued a public statement immediately after Marge died that began, "No one cared more about protecting Nevada's breathtaking wilderness than Marge Sill, and no one fought harder to ensure it stayed that way."

Marge was instrumental in protecting over 3.4 million acres of Nevada wilderness, starting with the passage of the federal **Wilderness Act of 1964** that established Nevada's first wilderness area, the **Jarvis Wilderness**, which she advocated for and helped explore and map.

She was a powerful force for creating **Great Basin National Park in 1986**.

Her work for the 1989 wilderness bill that designated **Mt. Rose, Mt. Charleston, and other Nevada wildernesses** gave us places of beauty and solitude close to Nevada's cities and far from the cities as well.

She was a founder of **Friends of Nevada Wilderness in 1984**, and served on its board until her last moments.

She lobbied hard for the **Black Rock NCA**.



Marge at Timber Creek Campground.

Her involvement with the Sierra Club's **Toiyabe Chapter** was early, consistent, and passionate: she led hikes, backpacks, was a spokesperson for countless issues, and was emailing on environmental issues to the day before her death. She died at home 'with her boots on'.

Three of Marge's tactics (recognized by her niece, Judy Cameron) were FOCUS, POSITIVITY, AND CONNECTIVITY. Can these tactics help you? Read on and see. (The writers' comments were made at the time of their stories; ". . ." indicate deletions and () indicate explanations.

1. FOCUS. For Marge, this meant major efforts, extreme patience (often over 10+ years), active persistence, and conviction.

Roberta Moore, park ranger at Great Basin National Park said, "I met Marge Sill in the late 1990s and immediately saw and felt her positive approach to advocacy. I recall the times when perhaps she didn't agree with someone's view or approach to an issue and/or everyday life and how she'd scrunch up her face and without much verbalization, move forward on the sometimes steep and rocky trail to resolution. This was Marge at her best. Her vision was clear and her persistence moved mountains (including those who may not have agreed with her). Marge had an incredible knack for making a difference and bringing about change without conflict."

". . . I learned much about her advocacy for Great Basin National Park in the park's historical files. I

remember reading Marge's and her late husband's letters, promoting the 49th national park long before I met her. As I read her words, I was inspired by Marge's ideals, her tenacity, and her strength . . . Without Marge, there may have not been a Great Basin National Park." (Please see Wheeler Peak photo on page 2.)

Sally Miller, Sierra Club volunteer, remembers that "The Eastern Sierra was a special place to Marge, and she made many trips here to participate in countless Sierra Club meetings, public hearings and field trips. I first met Marge at a Sierra Club subgroup in 1986 . . . -- here was this lively, lightning-sharp woman with a raucous laugh, mischievous twinkle in her eyes and red-painted toenails. She not only knew so much, she knew and was friends with everybody, from the local Forest Service and BLM employees to the Senators and House members from Nevada."

"At that time, the Inyo National Forest was developing its management plan for . . . the Eastern Sierra. The agency was soliciting public comments . . . Marge, predictably, participated in the Wilderness subgroup [workshop]. Several hundred thousand acres of roadless lands were up for consideration for wilderness and Marge of course wanted each and every roadless area to be recommended as wilderness. She was a strong and effective advocate who did not shy away from espous-

Please see MARGE SILL, page 2.

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MARGE SILL MEMORIAL ESSAY . . .

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ing her sweeping vision even if it was unpopular, which it was. Nor would she modify her vision because someone told her it was “unrealistic!” She was particularly passionate about protecting the White Mountains . . . Marge’s big vision and stalwart advocacy for these and other places formed the foundations of the Eastern Sierra wilderness bill that passed in 2009. The White Mountains, Owens River Headwaters and Hoover Wilderness Additions are part of Marge’s extensive legacy. I honestly don’t think



Wheeler Peak, 13,065 feet, in Great Basin National Park. PHOTO: National Park Service.

our vision would have become reality if Marge had not constantly urged us to be bold and think big.”

“Marge provided undying encouragement to all of us, her many Children of Wilderness, to dream big and to never give up. Marge had great confidence that our collective pursuit of conservation protections would prevail not because we were ‘right’ but because the things we sought -- wilderness, clean air, clean water -- were good for people.”

Steve Wathen, environmentalist, Northern California, describes Marge as “. . . some woman. I remember when some “right wing cowboys” were getting out of hand during a local Sierra Club meeting [about mining issues]. Marge took it on herself to go up to the front of the meeting, like she would probably have done in one of her classes, and got them to shut up -- with just her hands on her hips and the right attitude. I didn’t realize she went all the way back to getting wilderness in the Sierras in 1964 . . . She was even more important than I knew. She is probably up there in heaven, hands on her hips facing down the devil to set part of hell aside for wilderness. And she probably will. Go girl!”

The question now is: “Where is our focus?”

2. POSITIVITY. This meant Marge engaging in conversation to discover what was important to the other person. She consistently avoided issuing public criticisms, aspersions and derisive statements.

Shaaron Netherton, executive Director of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, recalls, “In those early days [of the 1980s] I was working with the BLM in the Wilderness Program in eastern Nevada. I knew Marge as

dates from the fall of 1970. Brand new to the Silver State, and totally unfamiliar with high desert hiking, I joined a Sierra Club outing led by Marge. Off we went into an arid brown landscape that suddenly, to my amazement, turned apricot and pink with striations of white. And when we finally climbed out of the curling Incandescent Rocks canyon, there was the blue turquoise of Pyramid Lake stretched out below . . .

Once we camped high in the Schell Creek Range on the Fourth of July. It snowed, and snowed, and snowed. I remember Marge, honestly, walking barefoot in her sandals, red toenail polish glistening against the white. That night we toasted the Summer-time Gods of Winter, red wine all around. I remember other Marge hikes too. Up Hendry’s Creek to the table on Mount Moriah, Marge leaning on her walking stick and chattering along the way. No flower was too small to escape her eye, no animal track was ever insignificant.”

It’s up to us to answer: What are the positives in our issues?

3. CONNECTIVITY. Marge spent a huge amount of energy connecting with others. She was kind, drew others into revealing conversations, and opened her house for meetings, parties, overnight guests, and to countless environmental activists as basement tenants.

Larry Dwyer, friend, Sierra Club and Friends of NV Wilderness environmentalist, recalls, “In late August, 1965, a friend and I “camped out” in the Sill’s back yard prior to joining Dick on a 10-day Sierra Club backpack trip in the high Sierra. Thus began a lifelong friendship

Please see MARGE SILL, page 3.

FROM THE CHAIR . . .

continued from page 1

ing years. You will be asked! As one ExCom member said: “We are upping our game”.

In 2017 we will be working at the state legislature for more and better **clean-energy legislation**, along with many partners of similar interest. We will also be working on **protecting our public lands for wildlife and recreation**, again along with partners of similar interest.

Surveys show that most people in Nevada are thinking along with us on these two important issues — sometimes politicians need to be reminded of that. We note that several state legislators who were of the opposite view were defeated in the election.

What you can do. In this issue you will find information on how to join us in the legislative endeavors. Please join our efforts!

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create an Environmental Legacy.



Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club’s environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:

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Toiyabe Trails



SERVING NEVADA
& CALIFORNIA’S E. SIERRA

Toiyabe Trails is published four times each year by the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 8096, Reno, NV 89507, to help keep our members well-informed and better able to protect the environment—for our families, for our future.

Editor – Lynne Foster (Bishop, CA; 760-873-3829; lfoster@schat.net.)

Deadlines – Contributions are due by the 1st of the month for publication in the following month’s issue: December 1 for January-February-March; March 1 for April-May-June; June 1 for July-August-September; September 1 for October-November-December.

Submissions – Call or e-mail editor before deadline for late submissions. Submit news, story ideas, photos, and letters-to-the-editor to the editor (contact info above). Please include your name, phone, e-mail address, and group with all contributions. Please send your contributions by e-mail. If you don’t have a computer, please ask a friend to help you. For photo return, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The *Toiyabe Trails* reserves the right to edit all contributions for reasons of space, clarity, slander, or libel.

Subscriptions – *Toiyabe Trails* is free to all Toiyabe Chapter members. Subscription cost for non-members is \$12 per year. To subscribe, send check for \$12, payable to “Toiyabe Chapter,” to *Toiyabe Trails* Subscriptions, Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter, c/o Treasurer. Contact Treasurer, Glenn Miller (775-846-4516) for address.

Change of address – Postmaster & Members, please send address changes to Sierra Club, Change of Address, P. O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or <address.changes@sierraclub.org>.

Membership information – There is a membership coupon in each issue of *Toiyabe Trails*. You can also call the Chapter Membership Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) or the Sierra Club office in San Francisco (415-977-5663).

Other Sierra Club information. Call the Toiyabe Chapter Chair or Conservation Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) or the Sierra Club Information Center in San Francisco (415-977-5653). Also, see group pages for website addresses of groups.

MARGE SILL MEMORIAL ESSAY . . .

continued from page 2

with Marge Sill. A few years later, that house . . . was to become my home for two years. I arrived on their doorstep in late Fall of 1969, wanting to return to UNR, but with no place to live and very little money. Without hesitation, Marge and Dick took me in, fed me and cared for me . . . Thus, I became one of the first in a long line of people who directly benefited from Marge's extraordinary generosity. After Dick passed away, his office in the basement was turned into a bedroom that became home to numerous students, graduate students and others whom Marge cared for over the years."

"During the time that I lived at their house Marge did all of the shopping and cooking, kept the house neat and clean, cared for Dick, myself, and the three cats, and worked full-time as a math and English teacher at Sparks High School. On top of that, she also kept up on political, environmental-, conservation- and, particularly, wilderness-related issues, writing countless letters and speaking or testifying at numerous meetings and hearings. I was always amazed at how she was able to get by on only 4-5 hours of sleep, reading late into the night and always up by about 4 am to grade papers or prepare lesson plans.

Then, in their "free" time, she and Dick would hike and backpack in places all over Nevada and California. It was always special for me when I joined them on these adventures, riding in their Volvo station wagon on some of the gnarliest roads. Marge would drive on the paved roads so Dick could read and then he would take over when the roads deteriorated. One fond memory was when we all headed out to the Snake Range and what would become Great Basin National Park to climb Wheeler Peak before there was a paved road to the upper campground. The Volvo made it . . ."

Vicky Hoover, national Sierra Club staff, looks back to the mid-1980s, ". . . starting in 1986 when I began going to [Sierra Club] CNRCC meetings, [I] remember her bringing a huge bundt cake to feed people during the meeting . . . When I began to get interested in Nevada wilderness work, . . . she was an expert practical guide on where to go. My first trip was in 1987 (that was to Arc Dome, and Mt. Jefferson), and regular trips continued from then on. In 1990, the summer after passage of the Forest Service 1989 Wilderness Act, Marge backpacked with us to one of the new wildernesses -- her favorite, Mt. Moriah. That may have been her last backpacking trip . . ."

"I have long considered Marge, . . . my true mentor in learning how to

be a passionate, positive, and I hope effective advocate for our wild lands. When I wanted to start a [CNRCC] Wilderness Committee back in 1997, it was Marge I turned to . . . She . . . insisted that we hold the first, organizational meeting . . . at her house, in Reno. And we did. She helped organize nearly half a dozen later meetings of that committee in Reno. Soon afterwards, . . . she and I co-led two Sierra Club national activist outings into Nevada -- to let people from other states see quite a lot of the wild Nevada that is remote and altogether too much unknown."

Anne Amaral, lifelong friend, said, "I saw more of Marge after she and Dick divorced in 1978. . . . We traveled together We went to England to visit a friend and hike in Cornwall. We hiked about 40 miles

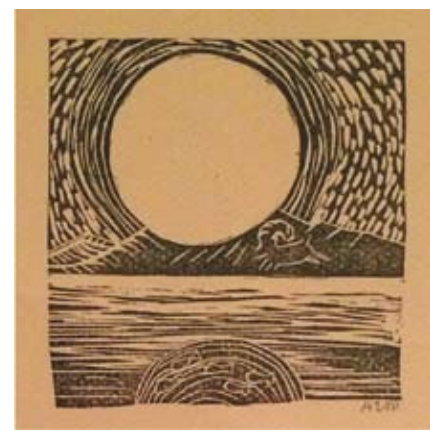
APPLEGATE TRAIL

Why the journey?

*To stay back would be easy,
More comfortable.*

*I come to visit the old ones,
Collect black obsidian chips
Highlighted on the white sand,
Inhale sulfur from Double Hot,
Dart with tiny dace in emerald pool,
Feel grit against my fingers,
In my mouth, against my tongue,
Feel my bones unhinge,
bleach, scatter,*

Rest.



over several days. We also visited Scotland, Glasgow and Edinburgh. With Marge, we never sat around much. Marge and I went to Hungary and stayed with a friend of hers who was the head of Hungary's National Parks." (See more of Anne's reminiscences on page ??.)

Terry Woodin, UNR Biochemistry faculty, notes, "How appropriate to be celebrating her life as opposed to mourning her death. Now we are celebrating, but, let's be honest, without Marge there is a big hole in the environmental fabric of Nevada. As time goes by we will miss her wise counsel, her skill as a peacemaker when discussions became heated, and her ability to help hunters, environmentalists, and ranchers all see they are all really on the same side -- preserving the public's access to our public lands and preserving

those lands in as pristine a condition as possible. I have known Marge for over forty years. When we first came to Nevada she welcomed my five children to Sierra Club family hikes. She was patient when they lagged, quick to notice when they needed to be gently nudged back onto a trail and proactive in alerting them to wildlife treasures as we passed them.

"As I welcomed high school students into my research lab I discovered her skill as an inspiring Math teacher When I asked her to join the UNR Women's Center Advisory Board she quickly said yes and

was always a voice of reason and a source of good advice when needed. And then there were those wonderful small dinners Marge hosted over the years when I learned of her nieces and their accomplishments and how she admired and loved them."

"Marge was truly an extraordinary human being. The world is truly a better place because Marge was in it."

Dennis Ghiglieri and Rose Strickland, lifelong friends and activists, remember a poem Marge wrote in 2001. It was published with an illustration by Amy Louise Mazza as outreach for the Black Rock-High Rock Canyon NCA. (See below, left.)

Help needed with Marge's archive

Dear Friends of Marge Sill,

As you know, Marge was devoted to conservation and in particular to wilderness. She was involved in many wilderness campaigns, was active in the Toiyabe Chapter, attended regional conservation meetings and, of course, helped to found Friends of Nevada Wilderness. While she may be best known for her wilderness activities, Marge also wrote letters on many Forest Service and BLM land planning proposals. And she seemed to know everyone. Nothing prevented Marge from being involved when a voice was needed. Marge, over the many years of her participation, created and recorded our conservation history.

Fortunately for us and for posterity, Marge had a basement and kept her papers. These papers have been gathered and taken to Special Collections in the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center at UNR. This is the same location where all the Toiyabe Trails, meeting minutes, position papers, and photographs reside, as well as those of Marge's husband, Dick.

For Marge's documents to be properly inventoried, catalogued, and made available for research will require about \$10,000. Unfortunately, Special Collections staff does not have the financial resources to take on this task without some assistance. If you can make a contribution to, please send to:

Millie Mitchell
Director of Development, University Libraries
Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center
University of Nevada, Reno/0322
Reno, NV 89557-0322
Phone/Email: (775) 682-5682, mimitchell@unr.edu

— contributed by Ann Ronald & Tina Nappe



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, less than an hour from Reno, two hours from Mammoth Lakes, and two and a half hours from Bishop. Expect excellent family style meals, friendly staff, and a casual atmosphere.



For more info on lodge activities, to receive a schedule, or to make a reservation, please go to <www.sierraclub.org/outings/lodges/ctl> or call 800-679-6775.

Range of Light Reflections

Range of Light Group

Group News

BY DICK HIHN, ROL GROUP CHAIR

Greetings from Mammoth Lakes Range of Light Group! As I write this, it is late November, and Mammoth Mountain is active once again. We just received our first snow in town, about 8 inches or so (more on the mountain), and some have already gone cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The snow probably will not last long, so we continue to hope for more.

Outings. ROL's outings schedule for January is starting to shape up, though some leaders are unable to continue to lead. Thus, we need more leaders to make this work! Being an outings leader is an important part of our group -- and a rewarding experience.

Becoming an outings leader. To learn what it takes to become a leader, please contact either Joanne Hihn at jhphotos73@gmail.com or me, Dick, at rhihn@skidmore.edu.

Our newest leader, **Dale Choppin**, is usually in the Bishop area.

Participating in our outings. If you'd like information on any of our outings, please visit our website (<http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light>) or our Meetup page (<http://www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/>). Also, don't forget we are also on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Range-of-Light-Group-464737966890277/>)

Cross-country skiing. The ROL map of our cross country blue diamond route is available at no charge in Mammoth Visitor Center. We have improved the existing routes, and have added a short "connector"



Range of Light OUTINGS

BY JOANNE HIHN & DICK HIHN

WINTER 2017 OUTINGS

ALL OUTINGS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES!

All phone numbers are 760 unless otherwise noted.

CST2087766-40. Registration as seller of travel does not constitute approval by State of California.

CHECKING FOR UPDATES. In addition to contact information listed in the *Trails*, check for updates on . . .

- our WEB PAGE at www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light
- on FACEBOOK, search "Range of Light Group"
- on MEETUP at <http://www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/>
- in LOCAL MEDIA (newspapers, etc.), where we submit outings information (note that it does not always get included in their calendar of events and sometimes published information is not accurate). **Best suggestion:** always check with leader for updated information about an outing you are interested in joining. Remember, you don't have to be a member of the Sierra Club to participate in our outings, but we encourage you to support the good work of the Sierra Club and its many volunteers.

What to Bring on Winter Outings

Prepare for a variety of conditions. Bring water, lunch and snacks, layered clothing, hats, gloves, sunglasses, appropriate footwear as well as skis/snowshoes if appropriate.

Important Notice

Outings destinations may change due to unforeseen weather conditions. Abominable weather will cancel an outing. If in doubt, please contact leader ahead of time.

OUTINGS

JANUARY 8 (SUNDAY)

Cross-Country Ski/Snowshoe/Hiking. Unstable weather conditions make it difficult to plan a specific outing. Our leader will choose

the best option. Info: Brigitte (jungberman@mac.com, 760-924-2140).

JANUARY 15 (SUNDAY)

Cross-Country Ski/Snowshoe/Hiking. Unstable weather condi-

Please see ROL OUTINGS, page 5.

DEADLINE!
MARCH 1



FOR
APR-MAY-JUNE ISSUE

ROL Group ExCom

BY DICK HIHN, ROL CHAIR

Our ExCom will next meet in November, at the home of Dick and Joanne Hihn. You are welcome to attend. Please contact me in advance for details (rhihn@skidmore.edu or 760-709-5050).



ROL Group Website

<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/>

&

Chapter website

<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>

Range of Light Group

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Webmaster	Jo Bacon	jbacon22@verizon.net
Webmaster Emeritus	Owen Maloy	760-934-9511

* Voting ExCom member

** Owens River Watershed Conservation Chair

You're Invited!

Range of Light Group Monthly Meetings Everyone welcome!

For all potlucks please bring a dish for 6-8 people and your own *non-disposable* table setting. For months with potluck and program, you are welcome to skip the potluck and come only for the program.

January 17 (Tuesday)

6:15 pm, Social & Potluck
7 pm, Program

Crowley Lake Community Ctr
(next to Crowley Lake Store)

MOVIE: "Torn"

Cal State University, Chico: The Department of Anthropology tells the story of looters destroying petroglyphs on the Volcanic Tablelands. Paiute tribal leaders are interviewed and raise awareness of the importance of The Antiquities Act.

February 21 (Tuesday)

6:15 pm, Social & Potluck
7 pm, Program

Crowley Lake Community Ctr
(next to Crowley Lake Store)

"Where will the trails take us?"

Joel Rathje, Trails Coordinator for the Town of Mammoth Lakes, will talk about what the future holds for the Mammoth Trails System.

March 21 (Tuesday)

6:15 pm, Social & Potluck
7 pm, Program

Crowley Lake Community Ctr
(next to Crowley Lake Store)



"Monarchs, milkweed, & citizen science"

Rachel Williams, Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will tell us what these three things have in common.

Please submit suggestions for program topics and/or speakers to our Program Chair, Mary Shore (marymikesore@gmail.com). We always need fresh ideas!

Range of Light FALL PHOTO GALLERY

Photos by Joanne Hihn



Locals never tire of hiking to Minaret Falls, Inyo National Forest, near Devil's Postpone National Monument.

A year after the Bohler Canyon fire, Mono County, CA, prickly poppies dot the landscape.



Several ROLG members joined Friends of the Inyo on a trip to the historic mining town of Cerro Gordo, Inyo County, CA.

Magnificent views of the Sierra Nevada Range can be had from a viewpoint above Heart Lake, Mono County, near Mammoth Lakes, CA.

Range of Light OUTINGS

continued from page 4

tions make it difficult to plan a specific outing. Our leader will choose a cross-country ski/snowshoe/hiking option. Our leader will choose the best option. Info: Brigitte (jungberman@mac.com, 760-924-2140).

JANUARY 22 (SUNDAY)

Cross-Country Ski/Snowshoe/Hiking. Unstable weather conditions make it difficult to plan a specific outing. Our leader will choose the best option Info: Dick (rhihn@skid-

more.edu, 760-709-5050).

JANUARY 29 (SUNDAY)

Cross-Country Ski/Snowshoe/Hiking. Unstable weather conditions make it difficult to plan a specific outing. Our leader will choose a cross-country ski/snowshoe/hiking option. Our leader will choose the best option Info: Dick (rhihn@skidmore.edu, 760-709-5050).

PLEASE NOTE. For February and March outings, see the web pages noted above in the "Where to Check for Updates"



CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

Thank you, Senator Reid!

BY TINA NAPPE

For 30 years Senator Reid has served Nevada, first in Congress (1982-1986) and then as senator (1986-2017). His environmental record is unlikely to be surpassed. In the brief space allotted, I will focus on key legislation he authored and bypass his success in forestalling amendments or elimination of laws such as the Endangered Species Act. Here is a brief summary of his environmental record.

Nevada's First and only National Park — Great Basin National Park. Created in 1986, incorporating Lehman Caves National Monument (established in 1933).

Red Rock Conservation Area. Established in the 1990s and incorporating 10,000 acres of the Red Rock Recreation Lands which the Bureau of Land Management had set aside in 1967.

Lake Tahoe Summit. The first summit was held in 1997 with President Bill Clinton -- Vice-President Gore presiding. The summit led to passage of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act in 2000, providing \$300 million over 10 years. In 2016 the legislation was re-authorized (with Senator Heller's essential support), including \$415 million over 10 years. The focus is maintaining Lake Tahoe clarity. Since 1997 the Tahoe Summit has been held annually. President Obama spoke at the 20th Tahoe Summit in 2016.

Truckee River. Between 1988-90 Senator Reid constructed legislation to resolve years of conflict on the Truckee River. His signature legislation, passed in 1990 -- PL 101-618: Truckee-Carson-Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act -- divided the waters between Pyramid Lake, Lahontan Valley, and Truckee Meadows. Included in the legislation were measures



Senator Harry Reid.

to protect Cui-ui and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in Pyramid Lake and wetland dependent birds in Lahontan Valley.

The legislation was followed by years of negotiation and was finalized in 2008 in the Truckee River Operating Agreement. It was finally implemented in 2016. (The Toiyabe Chapter, as a member of the Lahontan Valley Wetlands Coalition, worked with sportsmen on behalf of providing water for Lahontan Valley wetlands.)

Black Rock Desert. Working with primary sponsor Senator Richard Bryan (NV) Senator Reid assisted in creating the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Emigrant Trail National Conservation Area, which was approved by congress in 2000.

The legislation includes 741,844 acres as Wilderness.

Nevada Wilderness. Beginning in 1989 with passage of the Nevada Wilderness Act, which established 733,400 acres of Forest Service Wilderness, Senator Reid has guided almost 3.4 million acres of wilderness legislation benefiting Nevada. The latest wilderness designations in 2014 are Wovoka (47,500 acres) and Blue Lakes (26,000 acres).

Basin & Range National Monument. In 2015 President Obama, using his Executive authority under the Antiquities Act, and at the urging of Senator Reid, established the Basin and Range National Monument in central Nevada. This monument may be a first, in that 704,000 acres of BLM lands surround private lands housing a monumental art installation by Michael Heizer -- a sculpture called "City". The private land is now owned by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Water rights for wildlife. Senator Reid has managed to obtain millions of dollars for purchasing water rights for wildlife in Lahontan Valley and Walker Lake, as well as for maintaining clarity in Lake Tahoe.

Senator Reid has always been a friend of the environment. Thank you, Senator Reid!

Marge was my friend . . .

NO ONE CARED MORE ABOUT protecting Nevada's breathtaking wilderness than Marge Sill, and no one fought harder to ensure it stayed that way. Marge worked tirelessly to help pass the Wilderness Act of 1964 and she played an important role in preserving Nevada's wilderness ever since.

Over the past five decades, every protected acre in Nevada has had Marge's fingerprints on it. The Silver State is better off because of her hard work and dedication to Nevada's natural wonders.

In addition to being the Grandmother of Nevada Wilderness, Marge was also my friend. She was there for me during every campaign, every wilderness initiative, every public lands push. I will never forget that.

Marge was an inspiration to generations of wilderness advocates, and she was certainly an inspiration to me. I offer my condolences to her family and join my fellow Nevadans in mourning her passing.

— press release from
Senator Harry Reid, October 25, 2016

MAKE A TREE HAPPY! Get your Trails online

Opt out of the paper *Toiyabe Trails* and walk the Sierra Club talk by saving our natural resources. Email us at "optout@toiyabe.sierraclub.org" (put that address in the "To" line). Then put "optout" in the "Subject" line — that's all you have to do.



2017

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

April 2-4 • May 7-9 • June 11-13 • July 16-18

August 20-22 • September 24-26 • October 22-24

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to California's Channel Islands!

Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Snorkle in pristine waters teeming with colorful fish. Swim with frolicking seals and sea lions. Look for unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox.

Or . . . just relax at sea!

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, \$650, includes: an assigned bunk; all meals, snacks and beverages; plus the services of a naturalist-docent assigned by the national park to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening programs.

For more information contact leader: Joan Jones Holtz (626-443-0706, jholtzhln@aol.com)

2017 Session of the Nevada legislature

We'll be there!

BY ANNE MACQUAIRIE

Maybe not all of you know that the Toiyabe Chapter has a Legislative Committee. Right now we're gearing up for the 79th (2017) Session of the Nevada Legislature, which will begin on Monday, February 6, 2017.

As a longtime resident of Carson City, I once compared the opening of the biennial state legislative session to a big spaceship landing in our town. Suddenly, there are a lot of new people in town wearing strange clothing (suits and ties, high heels) and talking a different language (bill drafts, markups, floor sessions). It's kind of exciting (lots of new and diverse people in the local coffee shops) and kind of scary (will they do any damage?)

Because I live only minutes from the State Legislature, it made sense for me to volunteer to chair the Legislative Committee. This will be my second session in that role.

The work of the Chapter's Legislative Committee includes:

- **interpreting** and applying Club policies
- **consulting** with the Chapter's experienced conservation activists to decide our strategy and the relative priority of bills
- **reaching out** to allies beyond the Club
- **educating** Chapter leaders and members about legislative realities as they evolve during the session

I see the Legislative Committee as a communication hub for conservation. We link Chapter members, activists, and conservation issue experts with those who are working "inside the building" (as they say in Carson City) -- our volunteer and professional lobbyists, those from other environmental organizations, and our elected representatives and their staff.

Clean energy will be big

With the passage of the Energy Choice Initiative in November and the steep increase in fees for rooftop solar providers approved by the PUC earlier this year, there will be lots of attention on energy in this session. We think the legislators will see the passing of the energy choice initiative by a huge margin as clear direction from the people of Nevada to overhaul our system of providing electricity.

The job of our Chapter's Legislative Committee will be to make sure that any new system emerging in this and subsequent sessions has a strong clean energy component. The

overall goal of the Sierra Club is a 100% carbon-free electrical sector by 2030, so we see our work in the legislature as pushing for significant movement towards that ambitious goal.

What to look for. We want to see legislation reinstating rooftop solar at fair rates, a bill to enable community solar gardens, movement on energy efficiency, an aggressive renewable energy portfolio standard, and more.

Land & water

In the 2015 session, the Sierra Club strongly opposed SJR1, a resolution asking the U.S. Congress to transfer our federally managed public lands to the state of Nevada -- and many up you showed up at the Legislature to rally against the bill. The resolution, unfortunately, passed -- mostly along party lines. Now that both the Assembly and the Senate are majority Democrat, we don't expect any similar land-grab bills to pass in this session, but we will remain vigilant in protecting our public lands, the environmental benefits they provide, and our access to them.

With the continuing drought, many of our state groundwater basins over-allocated, and the state population growing again after the great recession, water will be another issue in the legislature. We are concerned about a radical change in state water law proposed by the Nevada State Engineer.

As Rose Strickland explained in the last issue of Trails, the state engineer is seeking 'flexibility' to approve new applications for water rights without having to comply with current requirements protecting existing senior water rights. The proposal includes no checks and safeguards, no requirements for baseline data, and no requirement for mitigation planning.

WHAT YOU CAN DO Join the activist alert list & legislative committee

Sometimes the Nevada Legislature can move very quickly, especially towards the end of the session, and having a group of committed environmental activists ready to write, call and visit quickly can really make a difference. If you want to know more about environmental issues that emerge in this legislative session and help move forward our environmental and clean energy

Tell Nevada legislature not to undermine water law

by Howard Watts III, Great Basin Water Network Communications Specialist

Our state's top water official -- the State Engineer -- wants the "flexibility" to manage conflicts if it turns out the State-allowed water pumping that impacts the environment or other users of that water resource. That might sound reasonable, but unfortunately various loose interpretations, overoptimistic assumptions, and loopholes since the start of Nevada water law have led one in every five water basins in our state to become over-appropriated, with more rights on paper than water to supply them.

Past State Engineers have ignored the links between ground and surface water, failed to count thousands of domestic wells against a basin's yield, or assumed that not all water rights will be put to beneficial use. Their actions have allowed for the most development, and left future generations on the hook for the results of overpumping.

Our state's water law was designed to protect water resources from being overused and to protect those that came first from having their water taken by thirsty newcomers. That's why Great Basin Water Network, White Pine County, and others have been successful in court, challenging State Engineer decisions to approve water rights for a massive groundwater pipeline from Eastern Nevada to Las Vegas. Flexibility is the problem, not the solution. What the state needs is clear guidance to be prudent, not a blank check to rubber stamp water rights now and deal with the problems later.

The State Engineer's broad proposal would also contradict Federal and state constitutional protections for due process and property rights.

goals please consider joining our legislative activist alert list. Those on this list will receive timely updates about environmental legislation, with requests to take action -- with details about time and date of hearings, critical legislators to be contacted, and so on.

And if you have experience, interest, or a calling toward legislative work, we are looking for more members to serve on the legislative committee. Remember, the Nevada legislative session lasts only 120 days, so it's a good opportunity to dip your toes into legislative activism without a long commitment. And it's a great education.

If you're interested, email me at annemacquarie@gmail.com with your name, email, phone number, street address (so we know which legislative district you're in), and a note about what issues you're most interested in.

Thanks -- and I hope to see you in "the building".

Lawsuits over the government's "takings" could be plentiful and costly for taxpayers as senior rights holders seek compensation for their diminished resources.

On August 26, the Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Water finalized its recommendations to change water law during the 2017 Legislative session. State Senators Pete Goicoechea and Aaron Ford committed to drafting a bill to allow flexibility through "adaptive management." Great Basin Water Network asks them to work with us to make sure changes strengthen our state's water law, not weaken it. Anything half as vague as the State Engineer's plan should be a nonstarter.

To be clear, GBWN doesn't oppose mitigation plans. But that process has to happen before rights are granted, with specific triggers and remedies. The burden and mandate must be on the applicant as a junior rights holder to scale back when conflicts occur.

We believe that language is already in state law and said as much in our comments to the Water Subcommittee. Perhaps the State Engineer needs it spelled out even more, but giving broad authority to grant water rights now, with a promise to deal with conflicts later is a mistake. It jeopardizes senior water rights and exacerbates, rather than controls, the state's chronic overappropriation problems.

It's essential that legislators hear now from all Nevadans who depend on consistent fair water law, including farmers and ranchers, well owners, and others whose livelihoods depend on water, before Nevada water law is changed in ways that jeopardize senior water rights and provoke property rights takings lawsuits.

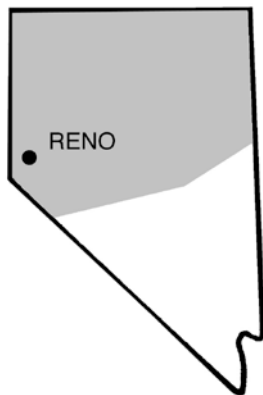
DEADLINE!



MARCH 1

FOR
APR-MAY-JUNE ISSUE

Great Basin Gatherings



Great Basin Group

Message from the Chair

BY KATY CHRISTENSEN

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR friends in the Great Basin! The Great Basin Group will continue to host monthly meetings during 2017 at the Bartley Ranch Regional Park Western Heritage Interpretive Center on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm. The ExCom will continue to meet the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm.

Monthly Programs. The GBG program schedule will kick off a new year of programs on January 12, 2017 with

Caron Tayloe helped raise over \$200 for our Get Kids Outdoors fund by selling ornaments that went on the Giving Tree.



PHOTOS: Sue Jacox

our very own Roleigh Martin, John Muir Trail expert, who recently completed an eight-week, 430-mile hike through part of the Pacific Crest Trail. He promises to



Roleigh Martin was awarded the "Tin Cup" for his dedication and commitment as Treasurer, Outings Leader, and Ashi First Aid Trainer for the Great Basin Group.

present a lively slide and talk show of his many adventures in the Sierra Nevada. The February and March programs also offer exciting presentations from acclaimed adventurers. Please see Outings section for more details.

GBG Holiday Party. The annual party was held on December 3, 2016, and was a great success – great food AND great

Please see CHAIR'S MESSAGE, page 11.



Great Basin Peak Section News Changes

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX



SADLY, IN OCTOBER WE LOST MARGE Sill, a GBPS member known as The Mother of Nevada Wilderness for her 50-plus years of public lands advocacy. She was an enthusiastic supporter during the formation of the GBPS and though her hiking days had ended, she said that she felt honored to be a member. Marge lead my first Sierra Club hike as well as inspiring me to join Sierra Club and Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Along with many others, I will truly miss her.

In the spirit of Marge, we need to continue exploring wild areas, hiking peaks, and working to preserve these special areas. In this spirit, I'm includ-

ing part of an email from GBPS member, David Porter, describing actions you can take to keep access open in some great hiking areas.

Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization EIS Public Input by david porter

Fellow Outdoor Recreation Fans, Congressman Mark Amodei's Nevada lands bill, if passed, would allow substantial portions of National Forest and BLM land to be transferred to the State to manage, lease, or sell. This would create a potential loss of public access, and set a precedent for removal of our Federal public lands in other states.

In addition, the U.S. Department of the Navy is proposing to withdraw BLM lands for Naval Aviation purposes --and this could also impact outdoor recreation. The withdrawal is said to be

Please see GB PEAK SECTION NEWS, page 9.

GREAT BASIN GROUP

OFFICERS

Chair	Katy Christensen*	702-755-2267	mabelnv@hotmail.com
Vice-Chair	Holly Coughlin*	775-331-7488	ladyhiker1@att.net
Secretary	Sue Jacox*	775-849-1890	suejacox@nvbellnet
Treasurer	Roleigh Martin*	952-905-0822	roleigh@pobox.com
Conservation	Open		
Energy	Open		
Membership	Open		
Outings	Holly Coughlin*	775-331-7488	ladyhiker1@att.net
Political	David von Seggern*	775-303-8461	vonseg1@sbcglobal.net
Programs	Charlotte Cox*	775-848-0741	charcox@charter.net
Publicity	David von Seggern*	775-303-8461	vonseg1@sbcglobal.net
Webmaster	Mitch Silveira-Brown	775-233-6971	potzagilla@gmail.com

Great Basin Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 775 unless otherwise noted.

ALL events include conservation education activities.

CST Nevada Tour Operator – Registration Information, Nevada Tour Operator
Ref. No. 2008-0041 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

NOTE: Meetup address referred to in some outings below is :

<<http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/>>.

JANUARY 2 (MONDAY) 8A

Saw Mill in Desert Day Hike. Near Buckland Station/Silver Springs, along Carson River in 8 mi loop, mostly flat. Remains of sawmill operation, current route of railroad, with 100-year-old bridge, on rail line to Hawthorn. Hike part of route of Carson & Colorado Railroad, circa early 1880s with original wooden culvert. A few enigmas. ND. Leader: T Taro (775-530-2935). Easy.

JANUARY 11 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P Full-moon short hike. Moon will be nearly full on this day before official full moon; it will be already in sky as we gather at 5:30p. We'll use Hunter Creek trailhead to access Steamboat Ditch, hike along ditch under moon for a couple of hours. Dress warm. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Dorothy Hudig (775-323-4835; hudig@sbcglobal.net). Mod. Easy.

JANUARY 12, 2017 (THURSDAY) GB Group Program Meeting. "Nine years Hiking the High Sierra John Muir Trail, in Pictures & Stories", with Roleigh Martin. When: 6:30p, social hour with refreshments; 7-8p., program. Where: Bartley Ranch, Western Heritage Interpretive Center, Reno. Info: Katy (702-755-2267).

JANUARY 15 (SUNDAY) 9:45A Snowshoe Chickadee Ridge. Favorite outing with vistas of Tahoe, all surrounding mountains cloaked in snow.

If lucky, chickadees might visit us, too. This snowshoe is about 5 mi (comparable to 7 mi hiking), about 1000 ft gain at moderate pace. Participants MUST have some experience with snowshoeing, have own equipment. We'll have lunch on ridge. Wear layered clothing for weather conditions (no cotton), plenty of water to stay hydrated, sunscreen, hat, gloves. Well-mannered dogs OK, but have leash for near road and clean-up baggies. Meet at Starbuck's near Raley's on Mt. Rose Hwy. Waiver to be signed, \$1 donation to SCGBG is appreciated. Trip limit 16. Please email me to confirm your spot, Thanks! DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Moderate.

JANUARY 16 (MONDAY) 8A

El Dorado Canyon near Dayton. About 12 + mi hike in and out, under 900 ft gain. Riparian habitat; many crossings of small stream. Lunch at natural arch. See small slot canyon. Learn some history of area. High clearance vehicle needed or ride share. ND. Leader: T Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

JANUARY 21 (SATURDAY) TBA Beginner's Snowshoe, Tahoe Meadows. This is for first- or just-a-few-timers. Must have own equipment. Details to be announced at nearer to the date; will be posted on Sierra Club Reno Hiking Meet-Up site. DL. Leader: Connie

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

*GB GROUP WEBSITE: <<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/gbgroup/>>

FACEBOOK: <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/scgbg/>> (Sierra Club GBG)

MEETUP: <<http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/>>

Winter Break Day Camp

BY SUE JACOX, SUEJACOX@NVBELL.NET

Parents and grandparents often ask about outdoor programs for their children especially during school breaks when they need to find wholesome and enriching activities to keep them occupied.

For those in the Reno area, Winter Day Camp -- January 2-6, during the final week of WCSD winter break -- is just the thing! Great Basin Outdoor School will host first through sixth graders at the River School Farm from 9a-4p each day, with an option for before and after care.

The River School Farm is a

WINTER DAY CAMP
Jan. 2-6, 2017
at the River School Farm at
7777 White Fir in Reno near Patagonia
for 1st- 6th graders
9:00-4:00
Full week: \$195

Learn about snow science, winter safety, bears, geology, recycling, & more!

Call 775-324-0936
Education
[@greatbasin-os.org](http://greatbasin-os.org)

lovely setting on the Truckee River near Patagonia where children can snowshoe, hike, explore, and learn from visiting natural resource professionals and Great Basin Outdoor School staff.

Details and registration info. Please see flyer to L on this page and www.greatbasin-os.org.

Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

Webb Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler Mod. Easy.

JANUARY 28 (SATURDAY)
8:30A - 3:30P

Spoooner Lake Snowshoe. Beautiful snowshoe hike around lake. About 1.8 mi loop around lake, but we will meander around park, enjoying fresh outdoor air and peacefulness of area for 3-4 mi. Lunch by lake at halfway point. Trail will be relatively flat. Need snowshoes, water, something to eat for lunch. Meet at McDonald's on N. McCarran, carpool to lake. ND. Leader: Rhonda Jarrett (rjarrett23@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Robert Jarrett (jarrettr102@gmail.com). Mod. Easy.

FEBRUARY 9 (THURSDAY)

GB Group Program Meeting. "Kayaking from Central Canada to the Arctic Ocean," with Hans Frischeisen. When: 6:30pm, social hour with refreshments; program, 7-8p. Where: Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Interpretive Center, Reno. Info: Charlotte (775-848-0741).

FEBRUARY 12 (SUNDAY) 9:45A

Snowshoe Skunk Harbor. This takes us right down to the shoreline of Lake Tahoe, where we will have a nice spot for lunch. About 4-5 mi RT, all downhill going to lake, then uphill with about 800 ft gain at moderate pace. Bring plenty of water to stay hydrated, layer clothing (no cotton; remember hat, sunscreen, gloves, lunch. This is *not* a hike for beginners. If you've only been out once



2015 day hike led by Holly (4th from L) to Eureka Lake.

and know how to use your snowshoes, you should be fine. Well-mannered dogs OK, but must have leash for near road, baggies for clean-up. E-mail me if you would like to sign up. There is a 16-person trip limit. Waiver to be signed at meeting location (it will be emailed back to you). \$1 donation to SCGBG is appreciated. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Moderate.

FEBRUARY 13 (MONDAY) 8A

V & T Downhill Hike. Virginia & Truckee Rail bed from Gold Hill to

Mound House. About 9 mi downhill, learn some history of area. Vehicle shuttle necessary. ND. Leader: T Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

FEBRUARY 18 (SATURDAY)
TBA

Incline Lake Loop Snow Shoe. This outing is for folks who have some experience. Details to be announced on Sierra Club Hiking Reno Meet-Up site. DL. Leader: Connie Webb Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler Moderate.

FEBRUARY 18 (SATURDAY)
TBA

Stillwater Mountains WSA Exploratory Hike. This Wilderness Study Area includes some spectacular lands E of Fallon. Fallon Naval Air Station is attempting to extend their control into some of these areas. Representatives from Friends of Nevada Wilderness will explain what is going on along with some history of land management in the range. Also learn what you can do to keep these beautiful areas open to the public and protected for future generations. About 4-8 mi up to 2500 ft gain. Snow cover, weather will help define specific itinerary. Please contact leader for further details. ND. Leader: Larry Dwyer (775-745-6628; kdwyer31@charter.net). Mod. Strenuous.

FEBRUARY 20 (MONDAY) 8A

Carson River Railroads Day Hike near Mound House. About 9 mi one way, with vehicle shuttle. Gain 500 ft. Very scenic with possible wildlife. Remains of two Comstock era railroads, Parts off-trail. ND. Leader: T Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

FEBRUARY 27 (MONDAY) 6:30P

Outings Meeting & Potluck. If you are interested in getting involved as an Outings Leader, please join us as we plan for upcoming outings in April, May, June. Bring potluck dish to share. Meeting will be hosted by David von Seggern. RSVP by contacting David or Holly for info. Email will go out to all existing Leaders with directions. ND. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461). Easy.

MARCH 5 (SUNDAY) 9:45A

Snowshoe Sagehen Creek. Depending on snow conditions, we'll snowshoe into Sagehen Creek or do alternate desert hike. Sagehen Creek is scenic snowshoe that finishes at end of Stampede Reservoir. About 7 mi RT at moderate pace, 600 ft gain overall. Bring plenty of water to stay hydrated, lunch, layer clothing, hat, gloves, sunscreen. Not a good trip for beginners; experienced snowshoers only, please. Well-mannered dogs are welcome, but have leash for near road, baggies for cleanup. Email me if you'd like to attend and I'll send you directions. Trip limit 16. Waiver to be signed at meeting location, \$1 donation to SCGBG is appreciated. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Moderate.

MARCH 9 (THURSDAY)

GB Group Program meeting. "Cycling in Cuba", with Glee Willis. When: 6:30p, social hour with refreshments; program, 7-8p. Where: Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Interpretive Center, Reno. Info: Charlotte (775-848-0741).

MARCH 11 (SATURDAY) 8A

Burro Mt. Hike. Weather permitting, we'll drive to Smoke Creek Desert above Pyramid Lake, hike to top of Burro Mountain on W side of playa. Along the way, learn about history of this area, view some of artefacts. Rain or snow cancels, Call for details. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Dorothy Hudig (775-323-4835; hudig@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

MARCH 13 (MONDAY) 8A

John C Two Enigma, near Dayton. Features associated with old mining operations. One-way hike of 8 mi with vehicle shuttle. Expect 2000 ft gain. Scenic views. Return parallels Carson River. Hiking poles recommended; long steep descent on 'marbles'. ND. Leader: T Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

MARCH 18 (SATURDAY) TBA

Penny Pines Snowshoe. For folks with some experience. Details to be posted

GB PEAK SECTION NEWS...

continued from page 8

need that could take precedence over regional concerns. So it's important to make sure the tradeoffs of this proposal are known during the alternative evaluation and decision-making process.

The Fallon Range Expansion proposal would prohibit public access to parts of five of Nevada's Mountain Ranges important to us. My goal is for the EIS process to recognize and document that the proposal will have social and recreation impacts on destination hiking, 4-wheeling, rock hounding, wildlife viewing, bird watching, driving to cultural heritage sites, etc. There are alternative ways to mitigate the impact such as allowing cherry stem road access to Fairview Peak or allowing an annual public access.

What you can do. The public comment period is open and must be post-marked or received online by Dec. 12 for consideration in the Draft EIS. The comment web link is: <https://frtcmernization.com/Proposed-Action>.

Note from Sharon Marie. The other thing you may want to do is to check some of these peaks off your list before the area is closed off to the public, possibly forever. Please take time to follow David's lead voicing your concerns on a bill that could restrict our recreation access in five of Nevada's mountain ranges.

Looking back: An outings memoir

BY HOLLY COUGHLIN

In 1986, my grandparents recommended that I look into a group called the Sierra Club, so that I could meet other people who enjoyed hiking and not be off on my own. My very first outing was on the West side of Tahoe with Fred Zoerner as leader. I was absolutely hooked, even though my feet were killing me in the "waffle stomper" boots I wore from high school! I immediately went out and bought real hiking boots and was thrilled when I received my new daypack that Sierra Club sent me for my membership.

Within a few months, I decided I wanted to become an Outings Leader. Why? For three reasons. First, as a participant, I couldn't handle the dust on some of the trails. I figured that if I became a Leader, dust would no longer be a problem. Another reason had to do with being extremely shy — I wanted to



Holly leading beginners' backpack with Tenaya and Whitney.

break out of that mold. I remember Ed Corbett, AKA Ridgewalker, encouraging me, but I was still nervous. Lastly, I was a young mother of a four-year-old and I thought this might be a great way to lead some outings geared toward parents with children. Becoming an Outings Leader allowed me to accomplish all of these things and so much more than I could have ever imagined.

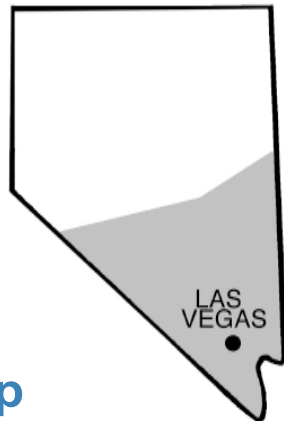
Exploring and learning about new trails and areas to hike became a huge part of my life. At some point, I asked Mitzi, an amazing leader who has now passed, if she would lead a backpack for beginners. She complied and I carried all my gear, which was far too heavy, into a beautiful little lake in the Sierra. I was so thrilled that I couldn't wait to start leading backpacks, too.

Within a few years, I was leading hikes, backpacks, car camping trips, snowshoes, and even ghost-town driving trips. Around the end of 1999, the current Outings Chair, Sally Lyons, was getting ready to move and she asked me if I would be interested in taking

Please see HOLLY'S OUTINGS MEMOIR, page 11.

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 11.

The Mojave Monitor



Southern Nevada Group

Group News

Meetings, Events, Opportunities

ExCom: January 4, February 1, & March 1

Group ExCom Meetings. Open to all members, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee (ExCom) are typically held on the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. We meet from **5:30-8p** at the Sierra Club Office, located just off West Sahara near Palace Station at Building C, Suite 109, 2330 Paseo del Prado, Las Vegas, NV 89102. There is plenty of free parking in the surrounding lot.

Please join us on **January 4** (2nd Wednesday), **February 1** or **March 1**.

Program Meetings. As in 2016,

our General Program Meetings this year are being conducted as quarterly Membership Mixers.

The first Membership Mixer of 2017 will be on **Friday, January 20**, when we will meet and greet Sierra Club members and guests traveling to Las Vegas to attend the Toiyabe Chapter ExCom meeting the following day.

The Mixer is scheduled to start at **6p** and will be held at the **Sierra Club office**. Please mark your calendar and make a point of joining us for some fun and camaraderie.

Las Vegas ICO partnership with the Urban League

BY TONY FOUNTAIN

November 2016 marks the one-year anniversary of the Las Vegas Inspiring Connections Outdoors partnership with the Las Vegas Urban League (LVUL).

Since our first outing on November 21, 2015, Las Vegas ICO has conducted six outings in the Red Rock Canyon and Hoover Dam areas for 56 children, grades 2 through 5. A seventh outing was conducted on May 14, 2016, for eight of the students' parents.

The mission of the Las Vegas Urban League is to empower communities and ensure equal opportunity for low income citizens.

Our partnership is presently focused on the Afterschool Achievers' Program at The 100 Academy of Excellence. The Program Director is Ms. Carol Santiago and is designed to help students who are at risk of not succeeding in school to increase their academic, social, and leadership skills.

The genesis of our partnership goes back about six years, when I was hiking in Red Rock Canyon and

Southern Nevada Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 702 unless otherwise noted.

All hikes and service projects are led by certified outings leaders.

(Please use email when leaders state that they prefer email, especially if you have a long distance telephone number.)

ALL EVENTS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Nevada Tour Operator – Registration Information, Nevada Tour Operator Ref. No. 2008-0041.

A full calendar of our outdoor activities can be found online at www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada. You can also visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sierraclub.sng, and please "like" our page.

JANUARY 1, 2017 (SUNDAY)

Hangover Hike, Valley of Pillars in Rainbow Gardens. About 4 mi RT, 100 ft gain, mod. strenuous. Start the new year right by joining your fellow hikers on E side of town. This uncrowded trail has spectacular desert scenery with rugged sandstone buttes and volcanic mountains. How do you recognize volcanic rock? Meet mid-morning. Leaders: geologists Nick Saines (702-896- 4049, greatunc@aol.com), and Gary Beckman (648-2983, glbeckman@hotmail.com). Level 3.

JANUARY 9 (MONDAY)

Hot Spots of Valley of Fire – Three Moderate Short Hikes. About 5 mi total. Valley of Fire is Nature's gift to the hikers of Las Vegas. First hike: 1 mi RT to Mouse's Tank with some of best petroglyph panels in Southern Nevada. Second hike: 3 mi RT to Fire Wave, beautiful outcrop of Jurassic sandstone resembling famous Wave in Utah. Third hike: 1 mi at White Domes, includes narrow slot canyon; see an old movie set from 1966 movie, "The Professionals." Why can slot canyons be dangerous to hikers? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896- 4049, greatunc@aol.com). Level 2.5.

JANUARY 30 (MONDAY)

Arnight Trail to Pine Creek, Red

Rock Canyon NCA. About 2.6 mi, mod. strenuous. Great desert hike from trailhead at Oak Creek Canyon N to Pine Creek, passing Juniper Canyon, and descending into Pine Creek along beautiful section of trail, then picking up our cars at Pine Creek trailhead. Why is Juniper Canyon different than Oak Creek and Pine Creek Canyons? 2.5 miles, mod. strenuous. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896- 4049, greatunc@aol.com). Level 3.

FEBRUARY 13 (MONDAY)

Turtlehead Peak, Red Rock Canyon NCA. About 5 mi RT, 2000 ft gain, strenuous. Hiking up Turtlehead Peak is most challenging of 19 hikes in Red Rock Canyon, as described in BLM visitor guide. The view of Red Rock Canyon from top is spectacular. Why is this Paleozoic limestone mountain perched on top of younger Jurassic sandstone? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896- 4049, greatunc@aol.com). Level 4.5.

FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 2 (TUESDAY - THURSDAY)

San Diego, California – Beach and Mountain Hikes. Leave early Tuesday morning in time for moderate late afternoon sunset hike on beach. Wednesday, drive inland for mod. strenuous scenic hike to top of Garnet Peak (2.6 miles RT,

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.



the LVUL. The LVUL gave a special certificate of appreciation and recognition to ICO on September 8, 2016. ICO Chair Betty Gallifent and I attended the program.

As our partnership with the LVUL continues to grow, I am looking forward to providing more opportunities for our urban youth to be exposed to southern Nevada's great outdoors. Providing our children with the opportunity to get out of the city has immense

came upon a group of urban youth with their chaperones. After a brief discussion, Carol Santiago and I exchanged contact information.

Fast forward to September 2015, when I made contact again with Ms. Santiago to inquire about Las Vegas ICO possibly working with her program.

During this first year, a close relationship has developed between the Las Vegas ICO and



Please see ICO & URBAN LEAGUE, page 11.

SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

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* ExCom member

ICO & URBAN LEAGUE . . .

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need to protect our environment, exercise, a chance to clear their mind



of the daily distractions, and a sense of perspective of the greater world

we live in. I tell them I volunteer my time to take them on these outings, but it's for a "FEE" -- Fun, Education and Exercise.

For more information. Find out more about Las Vegas ICO at our website, <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/las-vegas-ico> or on Facebook at Las Vegas ICO.

Great Basin Group CALENDAR

continued from page 9

on Sierra Club Hiking Reno Meet Up site prior to outing. DL. Leader: Connie Webb. Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler. Moderate.

MARCH 20 (MONDAY) 8A

Two Ladies, Two Gents. Come and meet them -- 3 peaks over 6000 ft (Rose & Kate Sutro, Grosch Brothers). Near Virginia City with 1000 ft gain in 3-mi loop. Mostly off trail, some rock scrambling. An enigma. ND. Leader: T Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

MARCH 25 (SATURDAY) TBA

Petersen Mountain Exploratory Hike. Explore a different side of Petersen Mountain by starting from area NE of peak. This area has solitude, wildlife,

many other wilderness attributes that deserve to be protected for future generations. Representatives from Friends of Nevada Wilderness will explain history of area, what they are doing (and what you can do) to encourage BLM to provide better protection for these wildlands. The peak, at 7841 ft, is also on Sierra Club's Great Basin Peaks list. Hike about 6-8 mi, about 2000-2400 ft gain. Note: significant snow accumulation and/or weather could modify our plans. Please contact leader for details. ND. Leader: Larry Dwyer (775-745-6628; kdwyer31@charter.net). Mod. Strenuous.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE . . .

continued from page 8

company. The 2016 recipient of the annual Tin Cup Award was Roleigh Martin! Roleigh has spent one month each summer for the past nine years hiking the JMT, inspiring others to take up his passion. As a GBG lead hiker, he has led countless hikes, up to six weekly during warmer months and 2-3 hikes during the winter months. He has co-led overnight trips through both CA and NV peaks, including the challenging 2015 Thanksgiving weekend trip to the Great Basin & Range National Monument where participants survived abnormal 10 degree night temps. He daily responds to John Muir's words, "I hear the mountains calling, and I must go!" Congratulations, Roleigh!

Get Kids Outdoors. The 2016 GKO programs supported by the Great Basin Group enabled five schools to participate in outdoor adventures for over 300 students, mostly from low-income area schools. Through grants, GBG supports exploration trips for (primarily) elementary school students. The GKO Giving Tree at the Holiday party raised \$218 to help support future outdoor adventures for area school children. See additional highlights of GKO events in article included in this *Trails* issue.

HOLLY'S OUTINGS MEMOIR . . .

continued from page 9

on the position. I decided it would be another way I could serve Sierra Club and perhaps bring new ideas to Outings. Little did I realize, this would lead to my running for the ExCom, on which I have served for fourteen years.

I believe the best part of serving as Outings Chair and as a leader, has been the opportunity to meet so many talented, interesting, and dedicated people, many of whom are lifelong friends. Throughout the years, I have had the pleasure of learning and teaching about the environment; including the flora and fauna we observe, some of the history behind places we visit, and Leave No Trace. In 2012, I received the Oliver Kehrlein Award from National for my contributions to our Outings Program. This was a huge honor and one that I will always cherish.

I'm stepping down as Outings Chair and our ExCom at the end of this year, but I plan to continue leading lots of outings and will continue to support the Great Basin Group. Sierra Club has been and will always be an important part of my life and I look forward to the trails I have not yet explored, with friends both old and new.

S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 10

500 ft gain), crossing Pacific Crest Trail. Thursday morning, another beautiful moderate beach hike, before heading back to Las Vegas in afternoon. How long is the Pacific Crest Trail? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com). Guest co-leader: Anita Bouse (thebouses@cox.net). Levels 2 and 3.5.

MARCH 10 - 12 (FRIDAY - SUNDAY)

Death Valley Backpack, Johnson Canyon, Death Valley Nat'l Park. Moderate difficulty. Meet at Furnace Creek Visitor Center at 8a on 3/10. Drive to West Side Rd, then Johnson Canyon Rd (6.5 mi high clearance road). Once we get to where water is flowing (in about 4.5 mi and 2000 ft elevation), we can set up camp or go further in. Saturday, we'll explore the area; bring a day pack. There are trees and we may encounter some bushy areas and stream crossings. Sunday morning, hike out. We must have at least two 4x4 vehicles and 6 people. The number of vehicles will determine how many seats for passengers. Maximum 4 vehicles and 12 people. When you commit I will send you trip sheet. Leader: David

Hardy (702 875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com). Level 3.

MARCH 13 (MONDAY)

Painted Pinnacles, Valley of Fire State Park. Explore Painted Pinnacles area (also known as "God's Bowl"), one of the most beautiful and photogenic places in Valley of Fire. Hike to site along ridge overlooking pinnacles, descend 300 ft down rocky cliff into bowl, and hike through colorful pinnacles, where we will have lunch. Then, hike out on route that does not take us into Fire Canyon. Three-mile loop, mod. strenuous. What is the origin of the colors of the pinnacles? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com). Level 3.5.

MARCH 27 (MONDAY)

Sloan Canyon NCA. About 3.5 mi RT, mod. strenuous. Rugged volcanic terrain to Petroglyph Canyon, one of the most interesting archaeological sites in Southern Nevada. Why are there so many petroglyphs in this canyon? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com). Level 3.5.

Great Basin Group PROGRAM MEETINGS

JANUARY 12, 2017 (THU)

NINE YEARS HIKING THE HIGH SIERRA JOHN MUIR TRAIL, IN PICTURES & STORIES, WITH ROLEIGH MARTIN

Roleigh Martin has put together and led group hikes on the John Muir Trail (JMT) nine times. The JMT is a 218-mile trail, 90% of which exists on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). (The JMT is the highest elevation part of the PCT.) Roleigh will present a slide show of his best pictures and tell stories of these nine years on the JMT. In 2016, he doubled the distance of his group's JMT hike in order to also cover the distance from Yosemite to Lake Tahoe on the PCT. He will also include pictures from that part of the PCT.

Roleigh has been the lead moderator of the John Muir Trail Yahoo Group since 2011. The group has over 5200 members and writes the JMT Permit FAQ which serves over 25,000 members on the JMT and Facebook JMT Groups. He has widely published on multiple topics about the JMT over the last 8 years. He has his own Meetup group, focused on long distance High Sierra backpacking aimed at Reno and nearby Californians at <https://www.meetup.com/Reno-CA-JMT-Backpacker>. Anyone interested in these backpacks are invited to join it. He is also a very active Sierra Club hiking group leader, trainer, and is also the local Sierra Club group treasurer.

Details: See January 12 in GB Calendar.

FEBRUARY 9, 2017 (THU)

KAYAKING FROM CENTRAL CANADA TO THE ARCTIC OCEAN, WITH HANS FRISCHEISEN

"In March of 1990, I terminated my sales position with IBM and received a nice retirement package. Wonderful! I was now free to pursue my lifelong dream to travel non-motorized around the world. My first major adventure began in Central Canada, from where I kayaked with my then 11 year old son to the Arctic Ocean. Our foldable 'Klepper' kayak seats two people. Along

with food (we hoped it would last for four weeks), camping and fishing gear, we put the boat in our car and drove from Reno to Ft. Nelson in northeast British Columbia. Our kayak adventure began"

Hans Frischeisen is an explorer extraordinaire! Born in 1941 in Germany, he emigrated to North America and lived 5 years in Alaska, exploring the state, then moved to Nevada in 1973. By alternating biking, kayaking, and hiking, he began non-motorized trips around the world. By biking through Iran, the UAE, and Oman he completed his fifth global circumnavigation. On one of his adventures, Hans learned of the Nicaragua Project -- a non-profit group designed to teach agricultural development, family planning and education to people in extreme poverty. He will share more about this group after his talk and ask for donations.

Details: See February 9 in GB Calendar.

MARCH 9, 2017 (THU)

CYCLING IN CUBA WITH GLEE WILLIS

I have been an avid long distance cycle tourist for many years, and cycling in Cuba became a travel goal as soon as I read "The Handsomest Man in Cuba" by Lynette Chiang. Inexpensive travel is all I can afford, so I couldn't spring for a "legal" visit to Cuba. Getting there before cruise ships full of tourists flooded the streets of Havana was also an extremely high priority. My slideshow documents the two weeks my (mostly Canadian) tour group spent cycling across western Cuba.

A Life Member of the Sierra Club, I retired in 2014 from a career as an academic librarian at UNR and since then have been continuing to squeeze onto my dance card as much "active" travel as possible before I am too old to do so. Because my feet are a problem for me, nowadays rather than hiking trail time I must opt for saddle time -- thus my cycle tour of western Cuba.

Details: See March 9 in GB Calendar.

Friends of the Inyo Outings

APRIL 2 (SAT)

Chocolate Mountain Hike. Join Friends of the Inyo for a hike exploring Chocolate Mountain. Meeting time and location TBD. Bring appropriate clothing, sturdy footwear, water, and lunch. Information: contact info@friendsoftheinyo.org or 760-873-6500.

APRIL 28-30 (FRI-SUN)

Owens Lake Bird Festival: Save The Date. Join Friends of the Inyo at the 3rd annual Owens Lake Bird Festival, celebrating migrating shorebirds as they move between hemispheres at Owens Lake Important Bird Area, highlighting



the significance of the Owens Lake story and the return of threatened habitat. Still in planning phase, but will include Friday and Saturday receptions and tours of Owens Lake for different interests and abilities. Camping and lodging available in Lone Pine area. Information & Registration: info@friendsoftheinyo.org or 760-873-6500.

MARCH 18 (SAT)

Centennial Flat Exploration. Join Friends of the Inyo for an exploration of one of the new California Conservation Lands. Exact time and meeting place TBD. Bring clothes for any weather condition, food, water, and sturdy shoes. Information & Signup: info@friendsoftheinyo.org or 760-873-6500.

FEBRUARY 11 (SAT)

Volcanic Tablelands Exploration. This area offers exceptional winter exploration possibilities. With fantastic volcanic land forms, hidden canyons, winter wildlife and archeological sites, there's something for everyone. Join Friends of the Inyo for exploration of human history in the area. Exact time and meeting place TBD. Bring clothing for any weather condition, food, water and sturdy pair of shoes. Contact & Signup: info@friendsoftheinyo.org or 760-873-6500.

JANUARY 21 (SAT)

Crater Mountain Hike. Looking for a winter hike? South of Bishop, Crater Mountain sits at the north end of Big Pine Volcanic Fields. This Wilderness Study Area offers spectacular views of Sierra and Inyo Mountains. We'll have a good chance of seeing Tule Elk and prehistoric cultural sites. Bring hiking shoes, sun protection, water, and lunch. Meet at Big Tree at junction of 395 and 169. Time TBD. Directions: Take Glacier Lodge Road, a signed, graded dirt road where all but lowest clearance vehicles are fine. Take sharp L and go 3 mi to pull-out on E side of road. Contact & Signup: info@friendsoftheinyo.org or 760-873-6500.

Founded in 1986, Friends of the Inyo is a Bishop, CA-based non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation, exploration and stewardship of the region's public lands, made possible through member support, grant funding and federal agency partnerships.

Winter Desert Trips

The CNRCC Desert Committee's purpose is to work for protection, preservation, and conservation of California/Nevada desert.

All Desert Committee activities, unless stated otherwise, are suitable for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. The average car or high clearance vehicle will be adequate for most trips. For a good guide to desert travel we used to recommend the Sierra Club book, *Adventuring in the California Desert*, by Lynne Foster. However, this book is now out of print, though used copies are available on the internet.

For questions about, or to sign up for, a particular outing, please contact leader listed in write-up. For questions about Desert Committee outings in general, or to receive outings list by e-mail, please contact Kate Allen (kjallen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).



Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

FEB 24-27 (FRI-MON)

DEATH VALLEY NP CAR CAMP

This car camp tour will have some primitive camping and some easy-to-moderate hikes. Meet Friday at noon, at a primitive campsite near Shoshone. Hike in Amargosa Canyon in the afternoon. Saturday, start on a tour of Death Valley, stopping at Badwater, Natural Bridge, and Golden Canyon, then camping at Furnace Creek. Sunday, we'll tour with stops along the way and camp at a campground in N part of park. On Monday morning, hike Mesquite Sand Dunes before heading home. Reservations, details: Carol Wiley (earthlingwiley2000@yahoo.com, 760-245-8734).

Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

MAR 10-13 (FRI-MON)

MOJAVE PRESERVE CAR CAMP

On Friday, meet at Sunrise Campground at noon, then hike Teutonia Peak (4 mi RT). Saturday, move on to Midhills campground and hike in that area. Sunday, visit Kelso Depot and continue to Kelso dunes for primitive camping, where we'll enjoy a moonlight hike on the dunes. Sunday, have a last enjoyable hike before heading home. The Preserve has no services, so you need to start with a full tank of gas, plus food and water for entire trip. Temperatures can vary greatly; bring clothing for both warm and cold weather. Reservations, details: Carol Wiley (earthlingwiley2000@yahoo.com or 760-245-8734).

Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

MAR 29 - APR 2 (WED-SUN)

MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE SPRING WEEKEND

Visit the California desert when temperatures are cooler and wild flowers may be blooming. See some well-known features such as Hole-in-the-Wall, Kelso Dunes, Joshua tree forests, and Lava Tube. Stay in a group campground (\$20 per person) with vault toilets, trash receptacles, drinkable water, fire ring, grill, and picnic shelter with tables. The campsite will be available from 2pm Wednesday until noon on Sunday. Wednesday is a free day. Arrive any time and explore park on your own. Maximum hiking distance about 8 mi, 1500 ft gain. Deposit required to con-

firm participation. Trip limit: 20. Net proceeds support Sierra Club Desert Report. Reservations: contact leader Rich Juricich (rich.sierraclub@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181)

Sacramento Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

NON-SIERRA CLUB DESERT ACTIVITY

FEB 10 (FRI)

MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE RESTORATION EVENT

Join California/Nevada Desert Committee and National Park Service for a restoration project in Mojave National Preserve (MNP) on February 10, one day before Desert Committee meeting on Saturday and Sunday. Gather on Friday, 9 am, work through afternoon and adjourn in time to reach Shoshone for dinner hour. Our primary task will be to remove "culturally planted species" (tamarisk, fan palm, sunflowers) along Zzyzx Road and at Desert Studies Center. Bring water, sunscreen, hat, gloves, and lunch. Tools provided. Information: Sid Silliman (gssilliman@cpp.edu). Don't miss this annual, pre-Shoshone service opportunity. Work will be rigorous yet rewarding.




Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

**Saturday, 9 am
January 21, 2017
Las Vegas, NV**

For details, contact the Chair,
DAVID VON SEGGERN


**Chair@Toiyabe.
SierraClub.org**

All Toiyabe Chapter members are welcome to attend these meetings, which usually begin at 9 am. We reserve a time slot for input from members; if you have an issue on which you want to address the ExCom, please attend. For ExCom members' contact info, see the Chapter Directory on page 2.



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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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