



EXPLORE, ENJOY, & PROTECT THE PLANET.

# TOIYABE OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2016 TRAILS

## FALL ELECTIONS Issue

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

### From the Chair

## A little outdoor history of our region

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN  
(vonseg1@sbclub.org)

Is it any wonder that Toiyabe Chapter members get outdoors a lot with so many opportunities to recreate on our public lands in Nevada and eastern California? These public lands are a big draw to urban and rural folks alike, and many meet-ups of Chapter members are punctuated by “Have you been to ...?” or “Have you seen ...” Indeed, our Chapter’s region practically embodies the part of the club slogan that says “Explore” as in “Explore, enjoy, & protect the planet”. In the past, though, Nevada’s arid environment presented special challenges to European explorers.

**Early days.** In 1827 Jedediah Smith traversed Nevada with two companions as part of his legacy of opening up the West to those of European descent. His historic trek should probably be recreated in ten years in celebration of his achievement. Other explorers followed, notably, Peter Skene Ogden in 1829 and John Fremont in 1843. Per-

Please see FROM THE CHAIR, page 2.

**Need information about Toiyabe Chapter?**

Try the . . .

**Chapter website**

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



Great Basin National Park in the fall. Please see article on park’s 30th birthday celebration which begins on this page. (PHOTO: Dennis Ghiglieri.)

## WESTERN WATER LAW: Will it be undermined by Nevada Water Engineer?

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

The Toiyabe Chapter’s work in opposing what is known as the “water grab” from eastern Nevada to southern Nevada since 1989 has taken a strange turn. As part of the Great Basin Water Network (GBWN) and its allies, we are now opposing a radical change in Nevada water law being proposed by the Nevada Water Engineer.

**Water applications to be approved without compliance with present water law.** Instead of the old-fashioned and legal scenario of a developer or new business buying water rights from existing senior water rights holders for new water uses, the Nevada Water Engineer wants to simply approve new applications for water by applicants like the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) without them having to comply with current water law requirements. He will, of course, have to convince the Nevada legislature to change the law. With the proposed new provisions, “new” water would be free to applicants and simply lost by the current owners. We think that this approach has led to the 56 over-appropriated basins in Nevada, so far, despite Nevada water law mandates.

The idea seems to be that to avoid future court reversals, simply change water law to increase the State

Engineer’s authority to mitigate potential conflicts and to approve water applications . . .

- (1) without a determination that water is available
- (2) without a determination that the proposed water use would not harm senior water rights holders and domestic well owners
- (3) with the assumption that these takings are in the public interest

**Future mitigation?** Sometime in the future, after application approvals, there would be a requirement for a mitigation plan to monitor and manage water use to avoid conflicts with existing water rights — subject to the State Engineer’s approval.

This would mean that holders of existing water rights would no longer have legal protection from the taking of their water rights by junior appropriators under Nevada water law and would, instead, have the burden of proof that the promised mitigation is not effective and that the new water use is

Please see WATER LAW, page 2.

### 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](mailto: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.

## 2016 Chapter ExCom election schedule

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN, TOIYABE CHAPTER CHAIR

The 2016 election for Toiyabe Chapter’s Executive Committee will take place according to the following schedule. If you have an interest in running for ExCom or want to have more information about the duties, please contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Richard Cook ([richard\\_cook99@yahoo.com](mailto:richard_cook99@yahoo.com)).

### Toiyabe Chapter Election Schedule 2016

- Oct. 1:** Publication of this schedule in *Toiyabe Trails*
- Oct. 28:** Nominating Committee submits report of candidates
- Nov. 2:** Executive Committee approves slate of Chapter candidates via email vote
- Nov. 11:** Deadline for candidate petitions to be submitted to Election Committee
- Nov. 23:** Election materials sent to printer by Elections Committee
- Nov. 25:** Retrieve election ballot mailing list from national database
- Dec. 2:** Mail ballots to Chapter elections mailing listec. 31: Closing date for acceptance of ballots at Chapter post office box
- Jan. 3:** Vote count

*Come to the party!*

## Great Basin National Park turns 30

BY ROBERTA MOORE\*

Visiting Eureka, Nevada in October, 1878, John Muir wrote, “The height

Please see GBNP TURNS 30, page 2.

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## FROM THE CHAIR . . .

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haps the most important individual to leave a mark on Nevada, however, was the one who never explored Nevada: the celebrated naturalist, Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859). The largest interior river of the Great Basin is named after him (by Ogden), as well as ranges, peaks, and more, in Nevada. One Nevada county even bears his name. His extensive explorations of Latin America (1799-1804) and the many volumes he published afterward led to him having tremendous scientific influence in his day, particularly in botanical geography and geophysical measurement. He heavily influenced Charles Darwin, Henry David Thoreau, and John Muir.

**A modern explorer.** Fast forward now to the latter part of the past century. Alvin McLane is a name synonymous with exploration in Nevada. Well known for naming many of the state's mountain ranges, for documenting hundreds of petroglyph sites, and for exploring the underworld of caves in Nevada, Alvin McLane far exceeded the more famous personalities of

Nevada exploration in his breadth of coverage and documentation. It is likely that Alvin McLane saw more of Nevada than any person, living or dead. Alvin McLane passed away in 2006, but his legacy remains strong.

**An explorer's award?** I have for long thought about having an annual award from the Toiyabe Chapter for a member who distinguishes themselves by ardently exploring Nevada, documenting the natural wonders of our state, or bringing the knowledge of Nevada's physical environment to a large audience. Would not it be appropriate that such an award bear the name of one of our state's foremost names in exploration: Jedediah Smith, John Fremont, Alexander von Humboldt, or Alvin McLane? Who better to present such an award than the Sierra Club? How better to honor the Sierra Club mission than to celebrate our modern-day explorers of Nevada? Your thoughts on this matter are eagerly solicited. We have a small committee working on this idea, but welcome more to serve on it. Contact the Chapter Chair for details.

## WATER LAW TO BE UNDERMINED? . . .

continued from page 1

harming their existing water rights.

Existing water users will continue to be shut out of process. In addition, the current process for development and evaluation of the effectiveness of a mitigation plan occurs with no required involvement of the existing water users, neighbors, protestants, local governments or tribes, and the public, thus avoiding any legal challenges to the Nevada State Engineer or the junior applicant.

### Safeguards of rights missing.

According to GBWN attorneys who submitted a white paper to the Legislative Commission on potential legal impacts, the proposed changes in Nevada water law provide no safeguards such as those used by state and federal agencies in adaptive management for range and forest resources, including no requirements for developing baseline data, setting thresholds that trigger mitigation actions, specifying the actual mitigation measures that will be implemented -- including stopping pumping -- nor how mitigation measures will be evaluated and changed if ineffective.

GBWN attorneys also raise Constitutional and takings issues from the

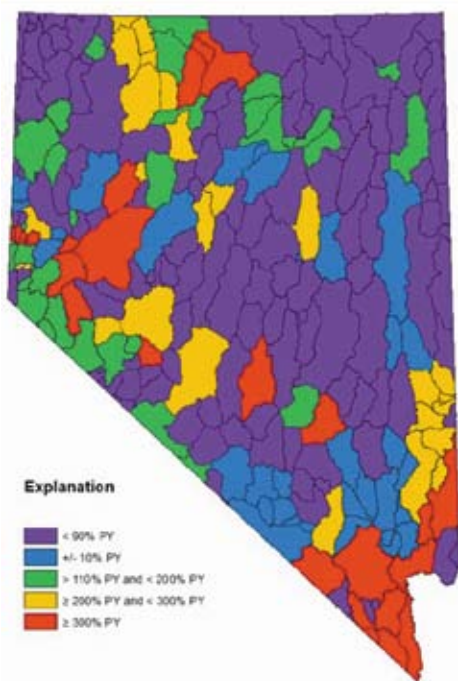
proposed changes, including violating the due process clause of both the United States and Nevada Constitutions. This is because existing water rights holders would have few to no rights to challenge the State Engineer's administrative actions or approvals of water applications which result in the taking of their water.

**State may have flood of lawsuits.** The proposed changes to Nevada water law would most likely result in an explosion of legal claims against the State of Nevada for violations of due process as well as illegal takings. This situation would subject the State to potentially immense financial liability and court orders to restore water rights and aquifers damaged by overpumping.

**What you can do.** You can read the details of the State Engineer's proposed changes to the Nevada water law on the website of the Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Water:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/InterimCommittee/REL/Document/8877>. For the white paper by GBWN attorneys, follow this link: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/InterimCommittee/REL/Document/7960>

It is likely that both the Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee and the Nevada State Engineer will



Of the basins shown here, 56 (red and yellow) are over 200-300% overappropriated as of February, 2016. (Nevada State Engineer)

## GBNP TURNS 30 . . .

continued from page 1

of the timberline in eastern Nevada, near the middle of the Great Basin, is about 11,000 feet above sea level; consequently the forests, a dwarfed, storm-beaten condition, pass over the summits of every range in the State, broken here and there only by the mechanical conditions of the surface rocks. Only three mountains in the State have as yet come under my observation whose summits rise distinctly above the tree line. These are Wheeler's Peak, Mount Moriah, and Granite Mountain, all about 12,000 feet and situated near the boundary line between Nevada and Utah Territory." (*Steep Trails*, Chapter 13, Nevada's Forests)

Little did he know that seven years later Absalom Lehman would discover "a cave of wondrous beauty" in this very same landscape. This discovery would lead, first, to designation of Lehman Caves National Monument, which was managed by the USFS 1922-33, when the monument was placed under jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

On another October day in 1986, 108 years later, Great Basin National Park was established. The new national park (the 49th) included the original monument acreage, is Nevada's only national park, and a crown jewel of the National Park Service — with its goal of conserving and protecting our natural and cultural heritages.

As we celebrate Great Basin National Park's 30th birthday on **October 27**, let's also celebrate Sierra Club members, like our own Marge Sill, who championed this cause and helped create another incredible piece of "America's Best Idea".

**Mark your calendar.** Great Basin National Park is planning a celebration for the park's 30th birthday. For more information, visit the park's website at <https://www.nps.gov/grba>.

NOTE. Retired from the National Park Service, Roberta resides in Baker, Nevada, with her husband David, adjacent to a 431-acre bird and wildlife sanctuary the Moore family donated to the Nevada Land Trust in 1999. She focuses on the preservation and restoration of Nevada's wild and beautiful landscapes.

# DEADLINE!

# DECEMBER 1

FOR

# JAN - FEB - MAR ISSUE

submit bill draft requests on these legislative proposals for the 2017 Nevada Legislative session. Nevada citizens should contact their legislators (after the elections) to oppose these egregious changes to Nevada water law.

You can read more about the history of the Chapter's water campaign on the GBWN website: <http://greatbasinwater-network.org>.

## 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 Gift Planning Program  
85 Second St., 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(800) 932-4270  
[planned.giving@sierraclub.org](mailto:planned.giving@sierraclub.org)



### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Be the Change Project & Reno Rot Riders

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN (VONSEG1@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

WE HAVE OFTEN HEARD the line (attributed to Mahatma Gandhi) "Be the change you wish to see in the world". No one could embody the "Be the change . . ." line more than Kyle and Katy Chandler-Isacksen of Reno, Nevada. This couple and their young family live entirely without electricity within Reno proper, raise their own food, eschew motorized vehicles, and still find time to bring their message to all who will listen.

Perhaps their commitment is at the extreme end of the spectrum, but we admire their example. You

can learn more about their lifestyle and philosophy for living at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehfgU3AMDW4>.

One of their subsidiary projects is called "Reno Rot Riders". This is a program to pick up food waste from residences and businesses near downtown Reno in an organized and regularly scheduled route. This food waste is then distributed to other people or composted for the Chandler-Isacksen garden.



Realizing the beneficial and educational merits of this program, the Toiyabe Chapter ExCom recently voted to fund purchase of about 30 pickup bins (see photo) for use in this program. Application of Sierra Club logos to each bin was a requirement in the funding.

The Club is proud to have our logos displayed around Reno in this worthwhile endeavor. Such food waste would ordinarily end up in the landfill, contributing to methane production and to reaching the landfill's capacity earlier.

At this time, Kyle runs the route on his zero-emission bicycle with a special cart for the bins, and he wishes to increase the pickup capacity with additional workers in the future.

**What you can do.** Are you in the Reno area? You can help grow this program by contacting Kyle ([kisacksen@gmail.com](mailto:kisacksen@gmail.com)) if you wish to pick up some of the food waste on a regular basis from his property. You can also contribute food waste — commercial businesses are especially encouraged to volunteer their waste.

## Fall 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](mailto:kjallen96@gmail.com), 661-944-4056).



### Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

**OCTOBER 15-19 (SAT-WED)**

#### PANAMINT CITY BACKPACK & BACKCOUNTRY CABIN ASSESSMENT

Come assist Park volunteer Birgitta Jansen in assessing the state of backcountry cabins in Death Valley National Park. Meet Saturday evening at Chris Wickt camp; backpack up Surprise Canyon to Panamint City on Sunday. Monday and Tuesday, work with Birgitta on assessing the cabins' conditions. If we finish early, there will be time for exploring this interesting historical area. Not a beginning backpack. There is water in the canyon, but may require a hike to get it and it must be filtered before drinking. Be prepared to carry all food and equipment needed for trip, as well as helping to carry some tools we'll be using. Contact leader: Kate Allen (kj.

[allen96@gmail.com](mailto:allen96@gmail.com), 661-944-4056). Group size limited.

CNRCC Desert Committee

**OCTOBER 22-23 (SAT-SUN)**

#### GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA

Celebrate Halloween by visiting the ghosts of California's colorful past in the eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp near historic ghost town of Ballarat. Saturday, a challenging hike to ghost town of Lookout City with historian Hal Fowler, who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. Return to camp for Happy Hour and potluck feast, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. On Sunday, tour town of Ballarat itself before heading home. Contact leader: Lygeia Gerard (760-868-2179). Asst. leader: Marguerite McGuigan.

Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

## ROL Group News

continued from page 5

### Conservation report

BY MALCOLM CLARK, ROL CONSERVATION CHAIR  
([WMALCOLM.CLARK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WMALCOLM.CLARK@GMAIL.COM))

**Sierra frogs.** The Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, the mountain yellow-legged frog, and the Yosemite toad won extra protection when the USFWS declared nearly 3000 square miles in the Sierra Nevada mountains as critical habitat for the endangered animals. The designation, mainly on federal land, means closer controls on potentially threatening human activities. More at <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/california-protections-imposed-endangered-frogs-toads-41658898>.

**Sierra Nevada Forest Coalition.** This coalition of environmental groups submitted extensive comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and draft plans for the Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia National Forests. These comments, while acknowledging strong points,

highlighted weaknesses and omissions in the plans. More at [wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com](mailto:wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com).

**Pika.** A recent study confirms that pika numbers are decreasing in many places in the west, including California — likely caused by global warming. Pikas are one of the "indicator species" that give clues to how global warming may affect wildlife. More at [http://www.hcn.org/articles/american-pika-disappearing-from-western-regions?utm\\_source=wnl&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.hcn.org/articles/american-pika-disappearing-from-western-regions?utm_source=wnl&utm_medium=email).

**Coal export terminals.** Governor Brown has signed a bill that will prohibit use of state funds to facilitate projects enabling coal exports from terminals to be constructed on the California coast. More at [https://www.gov.ca.gov/docs/SB\\_1279\\_Signing\\_Message.pdf](https://www.gov.ca.gov/docs/SB_1279_Signing_Message.pdf).

### Sierra Club's CLAIR TAPPAAN A GATHERING OF FRIENDS TO ENJOY AND SUPPORT THE LODGE SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2016



*Saturday Afternoon*  
Guitarist  
Stephen Holland,  
Wine and Cheese



*Saturday and  
Sunday Morning  
Hikes*



*Swim in a High Sierra lake*

*Sierran Panoramic  
Slide Show, Raffle,  
Whiskey and  
S'mores, Art Sale*

Friday - Sunday, September 16-18  
2 nights, all activities & meals (+vegetarian) - \$200  
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Phone - 530-426-3632  
Email - [manager@clairtappaanlodge.com](mailto:manager@clairtappaanlodge.com)

# Range of Light Reflections

## Range of Light Group



### Group News

BY DICK HIHN, ROL GROUP CHAIR

Greetings from the Sierra Club's Range of Light Group! In many ways the last quarter has been business as usual for our group, with many outings and meetings with interesting and informative guests.

**New leader joins ROL.** We would like to welcome **Dale Choppin** as our newest ROLG leader! His leadership and experience comes at an opportune time, as some of our longtime members will be stepping down as leaders. In that regard, please consider joining our group as a leader! It doesn't take a lot of time, and the experience is quite rewarding. Feel free to contact me about the process. (See my email and phone at end of article.)

**Outings on hold for Oct-Nov-Dec.** As you will see on this page, ROL will not be offering outings during the months of October, November, and December, due to changing and unpredictable weather conditions. We will resume outings again in January, with our usual skiing and snowshoeing.

**Blue Diamond ski routes.** We have continued our blue diamond work on Nordic ski routes to "tweak" some of the existing routes and add signage as we wait for Forest Service approval for a slight expansion of some routes. New maps will be printed in the coming weeks and will be available at the Visitor Center.

**Lobbying for more wilderness.** Perhaps the most important activity was the Club's push to lobby the Forest Service for more wilderness areas, as well as offer many other improvements to the plan. In addition to sending letters to the Forest Service, letters have also been sent to the Mono County Board of Supervisors, encour-

aging them to support the additions and changes. We can't give enough thanks to Fran Hunt for spearheading the drive by organizing letter-writing campaigns and for her tireless support and work!

**2016 ROL ExCom election.** Finally, please note that our annual Chapter and group ExCom election process is now underway. See this page for details. If you have any questions about the process, please do not hesitate to write or call me (rhahn@skidmore.edu, 760-709-5050).

### ROL ExCom nominations needed for election

OUR GROUP NEEDS at least three new candidates for our group ExCom election later this year. Of the three members whose terms are up, two have said they wish to run for another term: Malcolm Clark (Vice Chair and Conservation Chair) and Fran Hunt (Member-at-Large). The third member, Dick Hihn (Chair) will be stepping down from ExCom.

When possible, we like to offer a choice by fielding more than three candidates. Please send your suggestions

Please see ROL ELECTION page 5.

### 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 (rhahn@skidmore.edu or 760-709-5050).



### ROL Group Website

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

&

### Chapter website

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

## Range of Light OUTINGS

BY JOANNE HIHN & DICK HIHN

### FALL 2016 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](http://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).

### Thursday Outings

These ROL summer outings *end October 1*. They will resume in May, 2017, when weather allows and days are longer.

### Saturday & Sunday Outings

These day trips also *end October 1*. They will resume in January, 2017 with x-c ski and snowshoe trips. Watch for information on our website, ROL Facebook Page, ROL Outings Meetup pages, and the Jan-Feb-Mar 2017 *Trails*..

### Unscheduled Fall Hikes

These are NOT sponsored by the Sierra Club Range of Light Group, and so are not covered by insurance. However, some outings may be possible, as weather allows, from October through December, 2016. If interested, contact Joanne and Dick Hihn for details (760-709-5050, rhahn@skidmore.edu).

## 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.

#### October 18 (Tuesday)

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

Crowley Lake Community Ctr  
(next to Crowley Lake Store)

"A sensible approach to the climate change challenge"

Don Condon, of Citizens Climate Lobby, will outline how a Fee & Dividend plan will work towards reducing carbon emissions.

#### November 15 (Tuesday)

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

Crowley Lake Community Ctr  
(next to Crowley Lake Store)

"Bohler Canyon retrospective"

ROL Citizen Scientists will show photos of fire devastation in the canyon and discuss recovery.

#### December 6 (Tuesday)

6 pm, Social & Potluck



Location TBA

We are looking for a place to have the annual *Holiday Party*. If you have a suggestion, please contact Mary Shore (805-217-5563).

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

### Range of Light Group

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Dick Hihn*	rhahn@skidmore.edu
Vice-Chair	Malcolm Clark	760-924-5639
Secretary	Lesley Bruns*	lestravel@hotmail.com
Conservation	Malcolm Clark	760-924-5639
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ORWC** Chair	Mark Bagley	760-873-5326
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Programs	Mary Shore	mary.shore@gte.net
Publicity	Rosemary Jarrett	rosemaryjarrett@gmail.com
Webmaster	Jo Bacon	jbacon22@verizon.net
Webmaster Emeritus	Owen Maloy	760-934-9511

\* Voting ExCom member

\*\* Owens River Watershed Conservation Chair

## Range of Light LATE SUMMER PHOTO GALLERY

Photos by Joanne Hihn



ROL hikers never tire of visiting Gaylor and Granite Lakes, located just inside the eastern entrance to Yosemite NP. On this August day, thunder clouds were forming all morning and early afternoon. We kept a watchful eye as we climbed to the abandoned Great Sierra Mine overlooking Gaylor Lakes, and then descended cross-country to Granite Lakes, where we paused for a quick lunch. As things turned out, the timing was perfect. Rain and thunder began as we reached our cars in the parking lot.



July is the perfect time for a mellow float on Mono Lake.



ROL's Mike Shore, along with his wife Mary, are avid amateur historians who enjoy researching local Mammoth area mines. We enjoy accompanying them on Thursday evening walks to areas less traveled. On this August evening walk we started at the Consolidated Mine historic site but branched off the trail and bushwhacked our way to a new mine location seldom visited. Mike is convinced this is the location of a smaller mine known as the Lisbon. We await more information as Mike continues to research the area.

### ROL ELECTION . . .

continued from page 4

for someone you think could make a valuable contribution to our ExCom and who might be willing to serve (get the nominee's permission first). Don't hesitate to nominate yourself! The ExCom normally meets four times a year. It is the voting and final decision-making body of the Range of Light group.

**Deadline.** In order to have our list of candidates submitted to the Chapter in time, our deadlines are slightly earlier than Chapter deadlines. Please submit nominations **by Oct. 10** to the chair of our Group's nominating committee, Joanne Hihn (jhphotos73@gmail.com).

**Petition nominees.** The deadline for anyone nominated by petition is **November 9**. Petition nominees need to secure and submit the required 10 signatures from current group members.

Submit petitions to rhihn@skidmore.edu. For more information, email rhihn@skidmore.edu, or snail mail Range of Light Group, PO Box 1973, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

Ballots for group and chapter ExCom election will be mailed December 2 and must be received by December 31 to be counted.

Please see ROL NEWS, page 3.



Walking to Heart Lake out of Goldwater Campground provides a moderate cardio workout combined with great views of our Sierra Range. On this lovely evening, we were also treated to wildflowers along the way.



On July 16, ROL's excellent wildflower expert, Jean Dillingham, took us on a wildflower walk



along the Starkweather Trail -- a long, downward path from the ranger kiosk at Minaret Summit to Starkweather Lake. Some of us hiked back up the trail for exercise while others took the Red's Meadow shuttle back to our waiting cars.



ROL has long been committed to cleaning up a 2-mile section of Highway 395. We do this three times a year. On July 20 we met, as usual, at the Crestview parking area, suited up in vests, hard hats and gloves. Next, we chose a favorite "picker" and were assigned a section of the highway. One never knows what trash will appear along the roadside. In recent years we have given an award for the most unusual find. Stan's sense of humor and his wife LaVeta's handy cellphone made for this great, tongue-in-cheek photo.

# CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

## Wilderness, wildlife, & climate change

BY MARGE SILL

Because of climate change, much wildlife will have to seek new habitats. This is particularly true in Nevada, which is growing warmer at a faster rate than any other place except the Arctic. In Nevada, wildlife will have to migrate to cooler places.

Because most of Nevada's wildlife now lives at higher elevations, it will be necessary for it to cross some lower country in order to get to a suitable habitat. This is true both for large mammals, such as deer and elk, and for smaller creatures like marmots and voles.

Wilderness designation offers the best opportunity for wildlife to mi-

grate without encountering roads or developments. The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management will need to cooperate in any wilderness designation. Because of the threats to Nevada's wildlife from climate change, we need to advocate even more strongly for wilderness.

## Bonneville Cutthroat Trout lose home to Strawberry Fire

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

On August 8, 2016, smoldering vegetation ignited a few days earlier by lightning flared rapidly in Great Basin National Park's Strawberry Creek Canyon. The fire spread quickly and eventually burned nearly 4,800 forested acres of pinyon pine, Utah juniper, white fir, and aspen, as well as open meadows of grass and sagebrush.



Strawberry Fire explodes along Blue Ridge on Aug. 8, 2016, in Great Basin National Park (PHOTO. D. Ghiglieri.)

The fire spread quickly in high winds and took 11 days to control, claiming the life of U.S. Forest Service firefighter, Justin Beebe, from a Montana hotshot crew.

Strawberry Creek is a small stream with headwaters on the north side of Bald Mountain (11,562 ft). It is near to the northern border of the park, with Bureau of Land Management managed lands to the north. Strawberry Creek was one of five streams in the park which had seen successful restoration of Bonneville cutthroat trout in the last decade and a half.

The fire killed many Bonneville cutthroat immediately, by heating and fouling the water, according to park biologists Todd Williams and Ben Roberts (Las Vegas Review Journal, Aug. 26, 2016). With approaching storms and fall and winter weather on the way and be-

cause the creek will likely become unsuitable for the fish, park biologists collected and removed 200 fish and relocated them to other streams. Flooding and erosion are expected to further damage Strawberry Creek and make survival of the fish population there less certain. Recovery of Strawberry Creek will take 3-5 years, "if we get super lucky", Roberts said.

Although a setback for the trout, fire could be a benefit for the area. Roberts told the RJ that elk will benefit from new meadows opened up after the fire, and aspen and other riparian vegetation should bounce back relatively quickly. The park is developing a long-range fire recovery plan that will guide what to plant to reduce cheatgrass and other invasive weeds and speed recovery of the stream by reducing erosion on steep hillsides.

According to the park website, the fire area of Strawberry Creek in the Park is currently closed because of the hazard to the public of falling trees and damage to roads and trails.

NOTE. See <<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/nevada/strawberry-fire-has-left-destructive-mark-great-basin-national-park>>.

## BLM Resource Advisory Councils in Nevada grapple with threats of violence

DAVID VON SEGGERN (VONSEG1@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

MANY PEOPLE DON'T KNOW that the Bureau of Land Management has councils of citizens to advise BLM, make formal recommendations to BLM, and in general serve as a conduit for information between BLM and the public. In Nevada there are three RACs: in the northwest, the northeast, and the south. Each Nevada RAC consists of 15 members representing various constituencies. I have served on the northwest RAC (Sierra Front Northwestern Great Basin RAC) as the Environment representative for over five years and will pass the torch to the next volunteer in May 2017.

**RAC website.** The past year has seen a greater effort on the part of RACs and BLM to give more exposure to the RACs and to solicit more public input for RAC members. You can view agendas, minutes, recommendations, BLM District reports, and other pertinent RAC-related information at [http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/res/resource\\_advisory.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/res/resource_advisory.html).

BLM manages over half the land in Nevada. Do you know what they are doing? A perusal of any District report will reveal the large number of responsibilities BLM has and the numerous issues they deal with. BLM has been tasked to do an enormous amount of work with limited staff and resources.

**Violence on public lands.** An issue our RAC has addressed recently concerns threats of violence on public lands. The Malheur NWR seizure in January of 2016 was an extreme example that caught national attention. In Nevada, resolution of the this "Bundy

affair" seems eventually to have ended peacefully, but there is still concern about violent encounters.

Our RAC members have recognized that, despite having no consensus on disposition of public lands, we share a belief that contentious issues should be settled peacefully with means established by our constitutional government: the vote, the courts, lobbying, etc. We have written the following resolution, approved it, and sent it on to the BLM district managers in our RAC. We are now trying to bring this to the attention of the other two Nevada RACs.

### Resolution on dealing with violence on public lands

*"Be it resolved that the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC supports peaceful protest and will listen to those that request the use of that process; and that the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC does not support blatant and continuous disregard of federal regulations pertaining to the use of public lands, whether done by individuals or by organized groups; and that the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC supports quick and firm actions, appropriate to the level of the situation, to prevent and defuse illegal and potentially violent forms of protest; and that the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin RAC supports appropriate review of any illegal and potentially violent acts to uncover what led to the unlawful actions and to provide guidance in the future to prevent similar situations and improve upon their peaceful resolution."*

## Public Lands Day & the Soldier Meadows desert dace

BY TINA NAPPE

When volunteers dig out aquatic plants in Black Rock Desert on Public Lands Day September 24, they will become another "friend" of the desert dace. Now confined to about six miles of springs and overflow in Soldier Meadows, populations of desert dace — which are less than 3 inches long — fluctuate depending on available habitat. Their limited range in Nevada's dry desert valleys is in contrast to their ancestors, who presumably swam freely in ancient

Lake Lahontan.

Today, 26 or more Nevada fish species are confined to vulnerable water sources. The desert dace was first identified by Drs. Hubbs and Miller

who spent many months driving over rough roads to collect fish specimens in 1939 and published a description of them in 1948.

Water is gold in Nevada and Soldier Meadows, a winter military outpost



Illustration by Joseph R. Torsellini  
(From USFWS 2012 publication on Desert Dace 1 Year Review: Summary and Evaluation)

in 1865, was subject to disposal sales by the state of Nevada. A succession of ranchers developed the property; the fish have contended with channelization, irrigation, livestock, and roads.

The desert dace was listed as threatened in 1985. When Nature Conservancy established a chapter in Nevada, one of its early projects was to negotiate the purchase of 1,820 acres and a

Please see DESERT DACE, page 7.

**DEADLINE**  
**DECEMBER 1**  
**FOR JAN - FEB - MAR ISSUE**

## Chinook salmon return to Owyhee River in Nevada

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

In late spring of 2015 and again this year in June, Chinook salmon were trucked by Idaho Fish & Game to Duck Valley Reservation on the Nevada-Idaho border to be released into Owyhee River in Nevada. The Duck Valley Reservation, about half in Nevada and half in Idaho, is the home of the Shoshone and Paiute Tribes, who harvested the bountiful salmon from the river before the construction of dams on the Owyhee, Snake, and Columbia Rivers blocked migrating salmon.

For centuries, Chinook salmon spawned in rivers which were tributaries of the Snake River: the Salmon Falls, Bruneau, Jarbidge, and Owyhee Rivers, whose head-



USFWS photo, contributed by Dennis Ghiglieri.

waters are in northeastern Nevada. The salmon run for the Owyhee river ended with the construction of Owyhee Dam in 1928.

The leaders and members of the tribe, who call themselves ShoPai, worked for years with Idaho Fish & Game and many others to return the salmon to the river to restore part of their lost cultural heritage. Sho-Pai tribal members, elders and kids alike, celebrated the return of the salmon. "This was a hugely anticipated event," said Buster Gibson, vice chairman of the Shoshone Paiute Tribes Business Council, of the 2015 return. "It brought new hope for a lot of people." A video taken for this year's release, shows a large gathering of tribal members celebrating with singing and drumming as the fish are released into the river and captured using traditional spear fishing. [You can see a 17-minute video of the 2016

Chinook Salmon Release Ceremony at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1JNKG2zpE&feature=youtu.be>].

According to the Idaho Statesman, the fish were released so that they could also spawn in the river. Although the Chinook can survive and even spawn in the Owyhee River, the release is not described as a salmon restoration project. The Owyhee River Dam prevents the adult fish from returning to the release site even if young salmon could manage to navigate the dozens of dams between the Owyhee River in Nevada

and the Pacific Ocean.

Though the tribe wants the fish release to occur annually, ShoPai Tribal leaders say for now approval is on a year-by-year basis.

In 2008, Nevada Senator Harry Reid attempted to block reauthorization of dams on the Snake River that prevent migrating Salmon to Nevada's headwater rivers according to an article in the High Country News (HCN) of that year.

Although Sen. Reid was supported by sportsmen in the effort, no change to the operation of the dams has occurred. Prior to dams being constructed on the Snake and Columbia Rivers, tens of thousands of Salmon made it to Nevada each year. The native American people depended on the annual Salmon runs for their survival for thousands of years. See <https://www.hcn.org/issues/363/17486>.

## SOLDIER MEADOWS DESERT DACE...

continued from page 6

conservation easement on 5,150 acres in Soldier Meadows to protect desert dace; the lands were transferred to BLM in 1993. A conservation easement ensures that conditions for the desert dace (sufficient water) will remain available. But as the Public Lands Day project demonstrates, the habitat must be continuously maintained.

In 2010, the Nevada Department of Wildlife discovered a second population of desert dace in Fly Canyon in the High Rock Lake Wilderness Area. In 2015 an emergency project was initiated when wild horses threatened the future of the fish. Fencing material was flown in (an emergency permitted under the Wilderness Act), and a portion of the spring

was fenced, leaving water for horses.

What you can do. On Public Lands Day, volunteers will deepen channels to prevent the sunfish, an introduced species, from swimming upstream and decimating the vulnerable desert dace. If you don't own Wellingtons or hip boots to reach those water-loving bulrushes, BLM will bring a few pairs and offers volunteer projects on dry land as well. But come. See the fish, the scenery, and the volunteers. Contact Friends of Black Rock and Friends of Nevada Wilderness for more specifics at <http://blackrockdesert.org/national-public-lands-day-2016/> and [http://www.nevadawilderness.org/calendar\\_of\\_events](http://www.nevadawilderness.org/calendar_of_events).

## Black Rock Desert water grab by Idaho rancher

BY SUSAN LYNN

A new water export project request from Idaho rancher, Rodney St. Clair, has been filed with the Nevada State Engineer's office. St. Clair wants to pipe 7000 - 15,000 acre feet of water from Mud Meadows, near Double Hot springs to the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center and Fernley.

Sierra Club, Great Basin Water Network, counties, tribes, and ranchers have filed protests on this speculative project (Black Rock Water Importation Project). If the water rights are granted, they will be combined with water from Hualapai Valley and San Emidio Desert.

Hualapai Valley is one of the groundwater basins that is over-appropriated by the State Engineer's office. Wells, pipelines, electrical lines, roads, and more would impact the High Rock/Black Rock Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area. The pipeline would need to pass through the Pyramid Lake Reservation and across BLM lands. More grabs would follow.

## Nevada moves forward on protecting sage grouse

BY TINA NAPPE

THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE Fund (EDF), a leading environmental organization monitoring state progress in implementing sage grouse plans, has recognized Nevada's Conservation Credit System (CCS) as a new and potential model for use in other states. The CCS has been accepted by federal agencies as a valuable tool.

"This is the first ever habitat exchange approved by a federal agency, and creates an... impetus for other states to act on sage grouse," said Eric Hotst, of EDF.

Under the leadership of Governor Sandoval, the state of Nevada has moved forward by steadily and proactively implementing a sage grouse management program while recognizing the importance of historical and current uses of agriculture, mining, and energy production. In addition to a plan which was two years in development, the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC)\* has underwritten a sage grouse map prepared by the USGS and recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with federal agencies on working together.

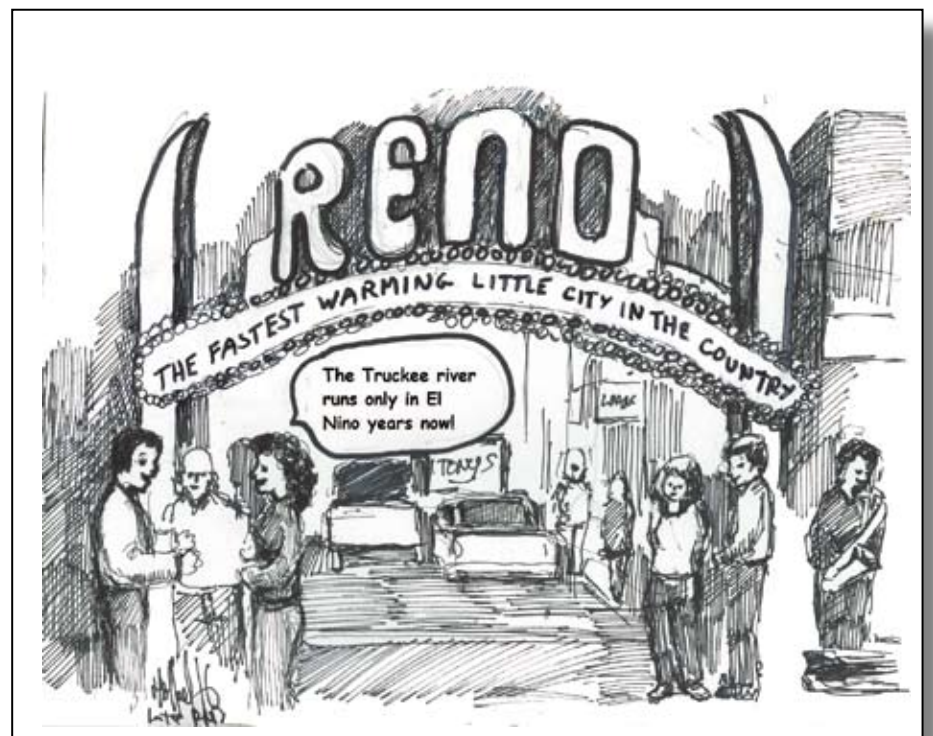
The plan identifies low elevation fires

as major concerns. These fires destroy native vegetation; the areas are then overgrown by invasive plants such as cheat grass and increasingly dense stands of pinyon-juniper trees. The goal of the Nevada program is to slow this decline of native plants and reverse it where possible.

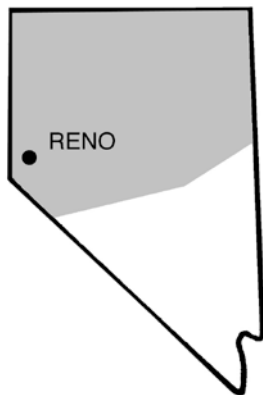
The CCS specifies development impacts based on quality of sage grouse habitat; it also requires mitigation. It is designed to discourage development in important sage grouse habitat.

What you can do. The Legislature authorized \$2 million to jumpstart the program. The first projects have been approved. If you know someone who is interested in this issue, check out the web site at <https://www.enviroaccounting.com/NVCreditSystem/Program/Home>.

\*The SEC is comprised of voting members including agriculture, energy, mining, tribes, conservation, and nonvoting but equally important members from BLM, U.S. Forest Service, USF&WS, Department of Wildlife, and Department of Agriculture.



# Great Basin Gatherings



## Great Basin Group

### Message from the Chair

BY KATY CHRISTENSEN

**Monthly Programs.** Great Basin Group will continue to host monthly meetings during Fall 2016 at Bartley Ranch Center on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm.

**Annual Holiday Potluck Party.** This fun event for all members will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2016, at Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Center.

**Thank you, Charlotte!** A special note of appreciation goes to Charlotte Cox for doing an excellent job of scheduling interesting and diverse programs for GBG members throughout 2016.

**Outings.** Our 2016 summer outings program hosted over 75 hikes, featuring many conditioning hikes each week, both day and evening, and for all levels of hikers. The GB Outings Meetup site has over 2000 subscribers.

Holly Coughlin, GB Outings Chair, held a fall Outings Meeting with great participation and many new hike leaders. The goal is to add more weekend hikes during the coming months.

**Summer Picnic.** The end-of-2016 summer season annual GB picnic was enjoyed by many members on August 27 at Galena

Creek Park. (See article on this page.)

**Membership.** Our group has 500 active members and a total of 2300 participants on the Meetup site. We'll issue an invitation to join the Sierra Club to the Meetup list people several times during the year.

**Get Kids Outdoors (GKO) Programs.** Through grants, GB supports exploration trips for (primarily) elementary school students. The underlying purpose behind the GKO programs is to raise youth awareness of how to safely explore and preserve nature. Today's youth will become the future stewards of our world!

The GB ExCom recently approved GKO grant support for two fall field trip experiences with the Great Basin Outdoor School. The schools are Roger Corbett Elementary School and Desert Heights Elementary School.

Throughout 2016, our group has supported GKO grants for five schools, impacting approximately 300 students. Member and friend support of these grants is greatly appreciated! Look for ways to donate to the GKO grant fund at each of the GB Group programs.



## Great Basin Peak Section News A busy summer

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX



THIS HAS BEEN a busy summer for those pursuing peak lists. Three of our members accomplished list finishes this summer and many enjoyed trips in pursuit of their various peak lists.

First, congratulations to **John Ide** on his finish of the GBPS list in June on Haystack Peak. John is the fourth person to complete this peak list. Stay tuned for his List Finish Celebration this autumn.

Congratulations also go to **Sue Wyman** and **Vic Henney**, who finished the Tahoe OGUL peak list this summer on Mount Fillmore. They celebrated with a campout and feeding

frenzy at Davis Creek Park.

**Larry Dwyer** led a fun Sierra Club outing to four Great Basin list peaks in June. His exploration included Indian Peak, Fool Creek Peak, Swasey Peak, and Notch Peaks. Everyone looks forward to his next trip!

There have been many fine peak explorations this summer and we hope everyone gets the opportunity to experience many more before the snow starts to blanket the mountains.

**What you can do.** Join the GBPS! For details on membership, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports check out Great Basin Peaks Section at <<http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin-peak-outings>>.

P.S. Check out the photo of the four Peaks List finishers on the next page.

### 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@nvvbell.net
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/>>.

### OCTOBER 6 (THURSDAY) 6P

**Thursday Night Open (mod. hike).** Find latest updates for trip, all details, RSVP here: <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/>. Create a free, no-obligations Meetup account, then request to join a Meetup group. Once you can view trips on our Meetup site, look for a Meetup titled "Thursday Night Open (Moderate.hike)". Ensure the trip is the date you want to attend (there are several Thursday night trips posted). "Going to the mountains is going home," said John Muir. DL. Leader: Daniel Ellsworth (775-741-8384; danomike@yahoo.com). Mod. Strenuous.

### OCTOBER 8 (SATURDAY) 8:30A

**Pt. Moriah Loop Trail.** Nice hike off Old Hwy 40 in Soda Springs area. Midway point offers spectacular views of mountains, valleys, overall Sierra Beauty. About 5 mi, gain/loss about 1000 ft. Trail is nice under your ft, not boulder-y. Carpool from Mae Anne, McCarran, Kohl's/McDonald's parking lot. Bring water, snacks, lunch. Be prepared for weather this time of year. Well behaved dogs OK, but be a driver if bringing your dog. Back around mid-afternoon. DL. Leader: Connie Webb

(775-772-4187). Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler (775-843-9828). Moderate.

### OCTOBER 9 (SUNDAY) 9A

**Hidden Valley Highland Loop.** Great fall hike above Hidden Valley with views of entire Truckee Meadows, valleys to E. Mod. strenuous, though only 6.4 mi, over 1000 ft gain. Bring good trail shoes, poles would help, lunch, plenty of water. Well-mannered dogs welcome, but must have a leash for walking in park to get to trailhead. DL. Leader: Tom Fusso (hammer360@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

### OCTOBER 10 (MONDAY) 8A

**Looking for Autumn Leaves.** Buckland Station near Silver Springs, 10 mi loop, 0 gain, From Historic Buckland Station downstream along Carson River, enjoying riparian habitat, fall leaves. Return on segment of Pony Express Trail. Learn some history. State Park walk-in fee: \$1 per person. Option to tour remains of Fort Churchill on your own after. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Easy.

### OCTOBER 13 (THURSDAY) 6:30-8P

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/>>

## Nature Trivia at GB Picnic

BY SUE JACOX (SUEJACOX@NVBELL.NET)

"How can you tell a golden mantled ground squirrel from a chipmunk?"

"Which insects are indicators of good water quality?"

"What is Nevada's state mammal?"

THESE QUESTIONS AND others were pondered and answered during a fun ice-breaker as a ball with the questions was tossed around at our annual summer picnic at Galena Creek in August. All are colorfully illustrated and explained in the pocket field guide "Tahoe Area Plants & Animals" with over 100 local species.

This fun field guide is sold by Great Basin Outdoor School at



stuffers. Get an early start to your Christmas shopping and reach Sue at the email above to help connect both your loved ones and children in need with nature at the same time!

Meeting and greeting old friends and new at the picnic made for fun conversations on a perfect August afternoon under the pines. Horseshoe tossing competition, barbecuing, and walking the trails at Galena Creek built camaraderie. Once



again, we enjoyed the excellent picnic fare prepared by our members. We also survived having to share our meal with hungry yellow jackets.

# Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

**Great Basin Group Program Meeting.** Join us for a program on Croatia. Meet and welcome Reno newcomers and International Sierra Club trip leaders Aurora and Hurston Roberts. They will share pictures and tales of trips they've lead to Croatia on this night. Their experience as Sierra Club leaders is vast, including trips to Jordan, Vietnam, Switzerland, New Zealand, Japan, and Scotland. Meet: Bartley Ranch building, L side. Leader: Charlotte Cox (775-848-0741). ND. Easy.

**OCTOBER 13 (THURSDAY) 6P Thursday Night Open (mod. hike).** See Oct. 6 for Meetup details, instructions. DL. Leader: Daniel Ellsworth (775-741-8384; danomike@yahoo.com). Mod. Strenuous.

**OCTOBER 15 (SATURDAY) 8:30A- 3:30P**

**Saw Tooth Trail.** Long but relatively easy hike through mostly forested woods, with several vista points offering good views of Truckee River Canyon and peaks around Donner Summit. About 9.5 mi, some gain. Bring plenty of water, something to eat for lunch at halfway mark. Meet at McDonald's off N. McCarren, carpool to trailhead. Gain +625/-625 ft. DOK. Leader: Rhonda Jarrett (rjarrett23@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Robert Jarrett (jarrettr102@gmail.com). Moderate.

**OCTOBER 16 (SUNDAY) 9A Spooner Summit Fall Colors Hike.** Through aspen groves around Spooner Summit. Either head N toward Marlette Lake or S along TRT, depending on weather/trail conditions. See turning trees, busy squirrels, Clark's Nutcrackers preparing for winter. About 10 mi RT, up to 1500 ft gain. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker. (853-8055). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (851-3043). Moderate.

**OCTOBER 17 (MONDAY) 8A Fire & Ice.** Fire, Ice, Machado Postpile, Carson Pass area. Existence confirmed in 1990. Hexagonal basalt columns, possibly millions of years older than Devils Postpile near Mammoth. "Fire" was lava; 'ice' was glaciers, evidenced by numerous large erratics, glacial striations. About 5 mi total on in-and-out; 800 ft gain, Not on trail. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775 -530-2935). Mod. Easy.

**OCTOBER 20 (THURSDAY) 6P Thursday Night Open (mod. hike).** See Oct. 6 for Meetup details, instructions. DL. Leader: Daniel Ellsworth (775-741-8384; danomike@yahoo.com). Mod. Strenuous.

**OCTOBER 21-23 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) Last Hot Springs Trip of Season, Orionid Meteor Shower.** No signups until after 10/10. Must call leader (775-843-6443) by 5p on 10/19 to sign up. Signups through website not accepted. High clearance vehicles preferred, 4WD not needed. Spend Friday night about 90 mi N. of Reno at a Hot spring near Gerlach, balance of trip depends on playa conditions. May cruise through

site of Burning Man, check on their clean-up. Probably will visit another hot spring and camp there Saturday night. Bring all water, shovel for personal needs, LNT, possible potluck Saturday night. DL. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443); call for details. Easy.

**OCTOBER 23 (SUNDAY) 9:15A**

**Mt. Davidson Day Hike.** A great, but tough hike in Virginia Range above Virginia City. About 8 mi, 800-1000 ft gain, BUT a STEEP downhill into Virginia City of 2000 ft or more. Most of hike on trail, but some off-trail, too. Great vistas of Sierra, desert to east. Car shuttle. Plan on a stop in Virginia City for a cool libation. Must have 2 liters of water, really good trail shoes, clothing for weather conditions, poles helpful. Trip limit: 14. DOK; must have leash for walking in V.C., be well mannered. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticarmot@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

**OCTOBER 27 (THURSDAY) 6P Thursday Night Open (mod. hike).** See Oct. 6 for Meetup details, instruc-



The four Great Basin Peaks List Finishers on the summit of Mount Blitzen: Sue Wyman, Bob Sumner, John Ide, and Vic Henney. (Photo: Sharon Marie Wilcox.)

tions. DL. Leader: Daniel Ellsworth (775-741-8384; danomike@yahoo.com). Mod. Strenuous.

**OCTOBER 28 (FRIDAY) 8:30A**

**Nevada Day Hike.** Celebrate our state and ourselves making it through

one more year, with traditional peak bag of our local landmark, Peavine Mt. (8300 ft). We'll try to find a good route up "backside". About 10 mi, 3300 ft gain. Expect to learn a lot about diverse habitats we will be climbing through. If lucky, we'll see migrating mule deer. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker. (853-8055). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Mod. Strenuous.

**NOVEMBER 3 (THURSDAY) 6P Thursday Night Open (mod. hike).** See Oct. 6 for Meetup details, instructions. DL. Leader: Daniel Ellsworth (775-741-8384; danomike@yahoo.com). Mod. Strenuous.

**NOVEMBER 5 (SATURDAY) 8:30A Five Lakes Hike in Granite Chief Wilderness.** Dramatic views, gorgeous

lakes. Mod. hike of about 5 mi RT, gain of 1100 ft, mostly in first mile. We will pass by 5 lakes so there will be an opportunity to get your feet wet, if weather allows. Meet in parking lot off of MaeAnne and McCarran by Kohl's/McDonalds, to organize car pooling. Bring plenty of water, snacks, lunch, layers of clothing to allow for possible changes in temperature. Back mid-afternoon. DOK. Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187). Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler (775-843-9828). Moderate.

**NOVEMBER 7 (MONDAY) 8A Mt Davidson: Virginia City.** This peak in Virginia City area is on GB Peaks Section list (7664 ft). About 10 mi loop, 1700 ft gain. Parts off-trail; steep with brush; strenuous in places. View part of Comstock era wooden box flume of Virginia City water system. Great views. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775 -530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

**NOVEMBER 10 (THURSDAY) 6:30-8P**

**Great Basin Group Program Meeting.** Join us for a public lands forum: "Living in Bundyland: The New Challenges of Protecting Our Public Lands". Hear the status of the current state public land takeover movement and the role Nevada plays in this movement from a panel of people closest to the issue. Get an update on bills being drafted in Washoe, Pershing, and Douglas counties and what we can expect in the 2017 session of Nevada Legislature. Learn how to get active in protecting our public lands. Panel moderated by Anne Macquarie. Meet: Bartley Ranch

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 11.

## Exploring Nightingale Range in Pershing Co. Nevada

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

THE NIGHTINGALE RANGE parallels the east side of dry Winnemucca Lake and has beckoned me to explore it and its interesting geology for many years. As we returned from a hike up Pah-Rum Peak in March and drove by this range, I decided it was time to add Nightingale to the agenda.

The next week we headed out to hike both the Nightingale Range High Point (6942 ft) and Nache Peak (6552 ft). After the long drive on a rocky dirt road to access the east side of the range, both peaks were easy hikes and rewarded us with 360-degree views including the Virginia Mountains, Pyramid Lake, Lake Range, Pah Rah Range, Selenite Range, and Winnemucca Dry Lake.

The Nightingale Range is one of 314 Nevada mountain ranges identified by Alvin McLane in his 1978 book, *Silent Cordilleras: The Mountain Ranges of Nevada*. This designates Nevada as the most mountainous state besides Alaska!

Alvin McLane was an archaeologist



Summit of McLane Peak: Ron Moe, Deborah Stevenson, Vic Henney, Sue Wyman, and Sharon Marie Wilcox. (Photo: Ron Moe.)

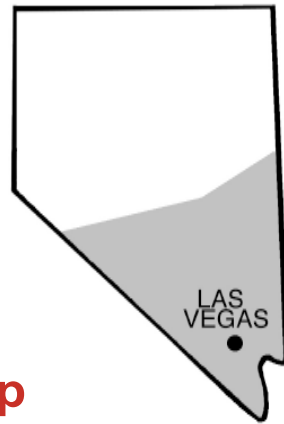
at Desert Research Institute -- author, field guide, spelunker, climber, ski mountaineer, historian, and conservationist. He spent countless hours exploring and completing various research projects throughout Nevada, often accompanied by his dog, Petroglyph. Alvin's book is a valuable resource for those exploring and hiking Nevada mountains.

A few days after our first exploration in the Nightingale Range, I learned that a peak in this range had officially been named McLane Peak, to honor Alvin. So in April we headed back to climb his namesake peak (6474 ft). Though not the range high point, this peak provided a more interesting and challenging hike, with excellent surrounding views. A worthy peak dedicated to Alvin's memory and one I encourage you to explore. (See another Nightingale Range photo on page 10.)

But why stop here? Continue your exploration to Nevada's other 313 ranges! The solitude and views will never disappoint.

**DEADLINE!**  
**DECEMBER 1**  
FOR  
**JAN-FEB-MAR ISSUE**

# The Mojave Monitor



## Southern Nevada Group

### Group News

#### Meetings, Events, Opportunities

##### ExCom: 1st Wednesdays, Oct. 5 & Nov. 2 (dark in Dec.)

**ExCom Meetings.** Open to all members, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the Sierra Club Office, 2330 Paseo del Prado, Building C, Suite 109, Las Vegas, NV 89102-4336. We meet from 5:30 to 8 pm. There is plenty of free parking around the building. Please join us on October 5 or November 2 (dark in December).

**Opportunities.** We currently have several openings on our leadership team. If you have an interest in local politics, event planning, membership activities or conservation efforts, contact SNG Chair Taj Ainlay for details (tajainlay@aol.com).

**Events & Mixers.** These are also

held at the Sierra Club office unless otherwise noted in the SN Calendar, which begins on this page. Please join in our activities on **Saturday, October 15 (Get Outdoors Nevada Day)** and **Wednesday, December 7 (Holiday Potluck Mixer)**. And . . . we are always happy to have volunteers assist in tabling, event organization, and setup/cleanup! See details in our Calendar, which begins on the next column to the right.

**Outings.** A full calendar of our outdoor activities can be found here in the **Trails** or online at <[www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada](http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada)>. You can also visit us on Facebook at <[www.facebook.com/sierraclub.sng](http://www.facebook.com/sierraclub.sng)>. Please "like" our page!

### ICO Youth Celebrate

#### NPS 100th Birthday at First Creek

BY BETTY GALLIFENT

SIX WILD BURROS CROSSED the trail only 100 feet ahead, stopped, perked their ears, and stared back at the pack of young travelers coming toward them. The youth, likewise, stopped, and stared at the burros, which, for most of them, was the first time seeing wildlife in their natural habitat.

All was quiet for a minute or two, as each group sized up the other. Such was the beginning of the day's



Wild burros cross hikers' trail. (PHOTO: Ron Sandgren.)

adventure into First Creek in Red Rock Canyon, just west of Las Ve-

## 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](http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada). You can also visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sierraclub.sng](http://www.facebook.com/sierraclub.sng), and please "like" our page.

#### SEPTEMBER 29 (THURSDAY) – OCTOBER 2 (SUNDAY)

**Service Weekend, Zion National Park.** This centennial year of the National Park Service will once again find us doing Service in Zion National Park, NPS's 6th busiest park. As park guests, we can arrive Thursday night and stay through Sunday with no fees for either park entry or Watchman campground. Help maintain Pa'Rus Trail on Friday; work with native nursery staff on Saturday. Join us for one or both days. Details: To RSVP and obtain Fee Waiver Letter, please contact Par Rasmusson (parasmusson@gmail.com, 702-215-9119). Level 1.

#### OCTOBER 9 (SUNDAY)

**North Fork of Main Fork Pine Creek, Red Rock Canyon NCA.** About 5-6 mi RT, mod. strenuous, lots of scrambling. Very deep canyon, much like Zion. May be cold in parts of canyon, so be prepared. What rock formations make up Red Rock? Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, 702-875-4826). Level 3-4.

#### OCTOBER 15 (SATURDAY)

**GET OUTDOORS NEVADA DAY.** Location: Lorenzi Park, 3343 W Washington Ave, Las Vegas, NV 89107. Time: 9 am to 2 pm. Info: <[www.getoutdoorsnevada.org](http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org)>. Recreation enthusiasts

will gather to celebrate the spirit and opportunities the Mojave Desert provides. Community groups, nonprofits, government agencies, retailers, outfitters and outdoor event promoters will be on hand to showcase Southern Nevada's spectacular natural offerings. We are an exhibitor again this year, so please stop by our booth!

#### OCTOBER 15 (SATURDAY)

**The Muffins, Red Rock Canyon NCA.** About 5 mi RT, 1000 ft gain, mod. strenuous. The Muffins, composed of Triassic conglomerate, are on N end of Blue Diamond Hill. They were channels cut into exposed sea bed 250 million yrs ago. Gentle switchback trail to Muffins, E to fabulous overlook of Las Vegas, then back down Skull Canyon Trail. What was the environment for deposition of conglomerate? Leader: geologist, Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049). Level 3.5.

#### OCTOBER 21 (FRIDAY AM) – OCTOBER 23 (SUNDAY)

**Death Valley Backpack, Johnson Canyon.** Meet at Furnace Creek Visitor Center, 8a, Friday, Oct. 21. Drive West Side Road (which should be open at time of this trip) and Johnson Canyon Road, a high clearance road. Hike ~5 mi, 2000 ft gain, to flowing

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

gas, for eight of Nevada Partner's young adults -- out on this day to see just how accessible these public lands are for them as newcomers.

"This is your park too, you own a part of it; it's here for you to come and enjoy, but also to protect," they were told by the ICO\* leader. Las Vegas ICO had designated this outing as part of the NPS 100 Outings Celebration in honor of the National Park Service's 100th birthday this year. Participants were welcomed

at the trailhead by Mike Naft, a district representative from the office of Congresswoman Dina Titus, who noted that it was through the decades-long efforts of people like Congresswoman Titus that we now have Red Rock Canyon preserved as a National Conservation Area. (\**Inspiring Connections Outdoors*)

This birthday trek held many more revelations about the natural outdoor world that inspired the curiosity of these new adventurers. "What causes the rock to be so red? . . . Why is the trail filled with sand?" they asked, as they stood surrounded by Aztec Sandstone mountains. They took note of wildflowers—the globe mallow and desert primrose -- asking, "What are they called?"

By chance, the group came upon a class of adult learners, the Nevada Naturalist (Co-operative Extension). After introductions, their instructor quizzed the young hik-

Relaxing in the shade at midday. (PHOTO: Ron Sandgren.)



Please see ICO CELEBRATES, page 11.

### SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com
Vice-Chair	Kobbe Shaw*		kobbeshaw@gmail.com
Secretary	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer	Taj Ainlay	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com
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At Large	Open		
At Large	Vinny Spotleson		vinny.spotleson@gmail.com
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Coal Power Plants	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Conservation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Endangered Species & Wildlife	Kobbe Shaw*		kobbeshaw@gmail.com
Energy	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Global Warming	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
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Membership	Kobbe Shaw*		kobbeshaw@gmail.com
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Outings	Open		
Parks, Refuges	Open		
Political	Open		
Programs	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com
Publicity	Open		
Transportation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Webmaster	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com

\* ExCom member

## S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 10

water; set up camp or go further. Saturday, explore; bring a day pack. Trees, bushy areas, stream crossings. Hike out Sunday morning. Need at least two 4x4 vehicles, 6 people. Number of vehicles will determine how many passengers. Max 4 vehicles and 12 people. Email contact preferred. Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, 702-875-4826). Level 3.

**NOVEMBER 8 (TUESDAY)**  
**GENERAL ELECTION DAY.** Vote from 7am to 7pm at your assigned polling place. You may vote for all offices and questions on the ballot for your precinct, regardless of your party

affiliation. Info: [www.clarkcountynv.gov/election/Pages/EDVoting.aspx](http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/election/Pages/EDVoting.aspx).

**NOVEMBER 19 (SATURDAY)**  
**Fire Canyon & Painted Pinnacles Loop, Valley of Fire State Park.** About 4 mi loop, 300 ft gain, mod. strenuous. Descend into sandstone wilderness of Fire Canyon and return through Painted Pinnacles (also known as "God's Bowl"). One of the most beautiful hikes in Valley of Fire. What is origin of color of rocks? Leader: geologist, Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049). Level 3.0.

**DECEMBER 7 (WEDNESDAY)**  
**HOLIDAY POTLUCK MIXER.** It's

time for our annual holiday celebration! Come enjoy great food and fellowship at the Sierra Club office. Parking in the northwest corner of The Plazas Business Park gives you immediate access. Potluck items are welcome and appreciated. Bring along your favorite dishes and drinks to share. Time: 6pm to 9pm. Info: tajainlay@aol.com.

**DECEMBER 17 (SATURDAY)**  
**Prospect Trail, Valley of Fire State Park.** About 5 mi one way (car shuttle), 200 ft gain, mod. strenuous. Valley of Fire is Nature's gift to the hikers of Las Vegas. Hike through strange and colorful landforms. Part of hike is along a

fault. How do you recognize a fault in the field? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049). Level 3.0.

**JANUARY 1, 2017 (SUNDAY)**  
**Hangover Hike, Red Rock Canyon NCA.** About 3 mi RT, 400 ft gain, mod. strenuous. Start New Year right by joining your fellow hikers on our traditional hike to Calico Tanks in Red Rock Canyon. One of the most popular hikes in Red Rock for its colorful rocks and scenic views. What is a tinaja? How does it form? Leaders: geologists Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049) and Gary Beckman. Level 3.0.

## Great Basin Group CALENDAR

continued from page 9

building, L side. Leader: Charlotte Cox (775-848-0741). ND. Easy.

**NOVEMBER 10 (THURSDAY) 6P**  
**Thursday Night Open (mod. hike).** See Oct. 6 for Meetup details, instructions. DL. Leader: Daniel Ellsworth (775-741-8384; danomike@yahoo.com). Mod. Strenuous.

**NOVEMBER 11 (FRIDAY) 9A**

**Hidden Valley Highland Loop.** Day hike on eastern skyline of Reno along Highland Trail in Hidden Valley Park, E side of town. Take in "Road to Nowhere" Peak, Flag Peak, then loop back down Pembroke Canyon. About 7 mi, 1550 gain. Learn of Virginia Range flora, fauna of Virginia Range. Hope to run into wild mustangs, golden eagles, prickly ponderosas, pinyon pine, jostling junipers. DOK. Leader: Ridge Walker. (853-8055). Co-Leader: Rhonda Jarrett (622-8698). Moderate.

**NOVEMBER 11 (FRIDAY) 8A**  
**Veteran's Day: Lahontan Shoreline.** Lahontan Reservoir, near Silver Springs. Enjoy silence, stark beauty along shoreline. About 6 mi RT in-&-out, nearly zero gain. View Tufa formations. Reported location of "Mark Twain" hotel described in a flood of Carson River. Bring your U.S. Flag. State Park Fee: \$1 cash. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Easy.

**NOVEMBER 12 (SATURDAY) 8A - 3P**

**Martix Peak Lookout Day Hike.** Along Martix Peak Rd up to Martix Peak Lookout, where we will have supreme views of Lake Tahoe. Lunch at top while enjoying beautiful views, exploring lookout. Gain is +1750 ft, but well worth trip up to top. Bring

yak traks or some type of slip protection in case of ice on road. ND. Leader: Rhonda Jarrett (rjarrett23@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Robert Jarrett (jarrettrl02@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

**NOVEMBER 13 (SUNDAY) 9:30A**  
**Incandescent Rocks Day Hike.** One of my favorite desert destinations -- in Virginia Mountains near Pyramid Lake. Climb

about 1200 ft, winding through a desert canyon, then down a different drainage. About 7 mi, mod. strenuous, off-trail for parts of trip. Great vistas, balancing rocks. Bring plenty of water, lunch, layer clothing for fall conditions. Well-mannered dogs, okay. DL. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: James Call (freneticarmot@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

**NOVEMBER 17 (THURSDAY) 6P**

**Thursday Night Open (mod. hike).** See Oct. 6 for Meetup details, instructions. DL. Leader: Daniel Ellsworth (775-741-8384; danomike@yahoo.com). Mod. Strenuous.

**NOVEMBER 24 (THURSDAY) 6P**  
**Thursday Night Open (mod. hike).** See Oct. 6 for Meetup details, instructions. DL. Leader: Daniel Ellsworth (775-741-8384; danomike@yahoo.com). Mod. Strenuous.

**DECEMBER 3 (SATURDAY) 630P**  
**Holiday Party Potluck!** Contact Charlotte for details (ccoxboog111@gmail.com).

**DECEMBER 3 (SATURDAY) 9A**  
**Pah Rah Petroglyph Hike.** A repeat of hike from last spring, but didn't have enough room for all that wanted to go. About 6+ mi hike with petroglyphs, a little extra time for exploring for ancient art. Fairly steep in places, so rated mod. strenuous! Recommend sturdy hiking boots, poles if you use them. Be sure to dress in layers, bring plenty of water, lunch. Meeting place TBD. Snow,

## ICO CELEBRATES NPS 100<sup>TH</sup> AT FIRST CREEK...

continued from page 12



Students at First Creek Grotto. (PHOTO: Ron Sandgren.)

myself to be a part of nature, not separate from it."

Students took a peaceful lunch break at the grotto, accompanied by the sound of the waterfall, then sang happy birthday to the National Park Service, and noshed on confetti topped cupcakes. Now it was time to explore

ers, asking, "How does a cactus photosynthesize if it doesn't have leaves?" This led to a back and forth exchange with the instructor until they decided it photosynthesized "through its stem, the pad."

Students noticed the drastic change in plant life as they neared the running creek — what had been cholla cactus, yucca, and Joshua tree, now was manzanita, juniper, and towering pinyon pine. They descended into fern-lined First Creek grotto, and were awed by the cascading water pouring down from the creek above into a quiet pond. When they asked if it was okay to swim here, the ICO staff told them that the pond was the hatching area for young tadpoles and other water life... so what did they think? Shaking her head no, one girl commented, "I consider

in the creek area downstream, or just relax and soak in the solitude of this outdoor space, a sharp contrast to the usual hubbub of life in the city. One group helped to scatter large rocks from a makeshift fire pit built under a low hanging branch of a pinyon pine. "We probably just prevented a fire," one young woman noted.

A moderate and pleasant breeze blew throughout the day, keeping the sky a brilliant blue and the air clear. This seemed to reflect the disposition of the group as noted in their closing circle comments:

"This time out here helped me to straighten some things out in my head — get rid of some negative energy, and increase the positive energy."

"Nature is so beautiful; who would guess we are this close to Las Vegas."

"I really didn't think I'd get this close to nature, but I did today. I'll definitely be back."

**What you can do.** To find out how you can help Las Vegas ICO get more youth into the outdoors, go to the website, < [www.sierra-club.org/toiyabe/las-vegas-ico](http://www.sierra-club.org/toiyabe/las-vegas-ico) >, find us on Facebook at: Las Vegas ICO, or email: lasvegasico702@gmail.com.

weather conditions may change location, whether we can hike, or if we will change to a snowshoe. DOK. Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187). Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler (775-843-9828). Mod. Strenuous.

**DECEMBER 5 (MONDAY) 8A**  
**Churchill Butte Day Hike, near Silver Springs.** Overlooking historic Ft. Churchill, parts of emigrant wagon route, ancient and modern Lake Lahontan, Pony Express Trail, Lincoln Hwy. Learn some history. About 10 mi, 2200 ft gain. Parts of route are off trail with steep ascents, descents. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 12.

THE NATIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC lands are under attack yet again. This year's face-off at the Malheur Wildlife should remind the environmental community that the money changers and resource raiders never rest.

This book by Robert Binnewies throws light on past and ongoing efforts to sabotage our parks' preservation mission, as he describes his years as Yosemite Superintendent. For seven years, 1979 until 1986, Robert Binnewies led a valiant effort to draft a master plan for Yosemite National Park. He and his staff went to extremes to secure public input and jump through the hoops of the National Environmental Policy Act. Over 60,000 individuals responded in the largest planning effort ever undertaken by the National Park Service. The resulting 1980 Yosemite General Management Plan was a visionary plan to de-urbanize Yosemite Valley...but it was all for naught.

The park concessionaire, a unit of MCA, prevailed upon its close ties with the Reagan White House to torpedo the plan and preserve its cash cow profits. Reagan's old Hollywood press agent and head of MCA didn't need an appointment to get into the White House. Even NPS Director William Penn-Mott went along with the conspiracy that saw Binnewies being fired and the GMP confined to the scrap heap.

# Bookshelf

## YOUR YOSEMITE A THREATENED PUBLIC TREASURE

By Robert Binnewies

White Cloud Press, 2015.

The cost: Ten years of planning and about \$20 million went down the drain. Profit, politics and the good ole boy network had trumped the NPS mission of protection and preservation

The associated costs: the nation's faith in government planning. There was no congressional inquiry; the NPS inspector general report abetted the cover-up. No park service official fell on his sword. The press failed its responsibility. There was no public outcry. The sabotage of the Yosemite GMP was a national tragedy.

While the author avoids some of the details that led to his dismissal, his message underscores how money and politics have come to dominate public land issues.

Among other things, he explores the NPS' inability to understand the meaning of "unimpaired," the operative word of the 1917 Organic Act that defined the mission of the NPS. How much growth, development

and park visitation are enough?

Binnewies also rails against the park service's failure to write a concessions contract that preserves park values and instills a measure of competition while protecting the public interest.

Once again, today, America's "Best idea..." the national parks and public lands are under attack from a new generation of resource raiders. Marketing, "branding" and the call for ever more economic development of public lands should be a wakeup call for the environmental community.

Fans of Yosemite history will enjoy the author's review of pre-park historic events, including the pioneering behind the Yosemite Grant of 1864, the nation's first real effort toward wildland protection.

For those dreamers who had looked to the national parks as one place where the dollar does not dominate... dream on. Park, forest, desert protectors... read on; the money changers are everywhere...even in the high cathedral of Yosemite.

— reviewed by Gene Rose

Reprinted with permission of Sierra Club's *Words of the Wild* newsletter, September 2016.

WORDS OF THE WILD EDITOR'S NOTES. In this book, readers will also enjoy Binnewies' keen reminiscences of varied public interactions during his years as Yosemite Superintendent.

Gene Rose, for many years the environmental reporter on the Fresno Bee, is now retired and living in Oakland, California.



## LOST AMONG THE BIRDS ACCIDENTALLY FINDING MYSELF IN ONE VERY BIG YEAR

By Neil Hayward

Bloomsbury USA, 2015.

WHEN LIFE'S HARD DECISIONS ARE staring you down, the thing to do is procrastinate. Neil Hayward, a shy Englishman living in Boston, needs to figure out how to jumpstart his



erstwhile career, what to do about his lovely girlfriend, and why, at the ripe age of 39, it seems like the best of life is behind him. Instead, he goes to see a rare Nutting's flycatcher in Lake Havasu, Arizona. And then a red-flanked bluetail in Vancouver, a gray partridge in Calgary, and ultimately more than 700 birds across North America. Suddenly, a small midlife crisis becomes a Big Year\* of birding — and the subject of his memoir *Lost Among the Birds: Accidentally Finding Myself in One Very Big Year*.

\*In the parlance of birders, a Big Year is an informal race to see or hear the most birds within a geographical area — in this case, the United States and Canada — during the calendar year.

— excerpted first paragraph from Susan Pagani's lively review of *Lost Among the Birds*, in *Sierra*, July 2016. (I'm already trying to find this book!)

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

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## Great Basin Calendar

continued from page 11

**DECEMBER 10 (SATURDAY)  
8:30A - 3:30P**

**Spoooner Lake Snowshoe.** Beautiful snowshoe hike around Spooner lake. About 1.8 mi loop around lake, but we'll meander around park enjoying fresh air, peacefulness of area, for a total of 3-4 mi. Trail relatively flat. Bring snowshoes, water, lunch. Meet at McDonald's on N. McCarren, carpool to lake. ND. Leader: Rhonda Jarrett (rjarrett23@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Robert Jarrett (jarrettr102@gmail.com). Mod.

**DECEMBER 12 (MONDAY) 8A**

**Carson River Railroads Day Hike, near Mound House.** About 9 mi one way, with vehicle shuttle. Gain 500 ft. Very scenic, may see wildlife. Remains of two Comstock era railroads, parts are off-trail. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775 -530-2935). Moderate.



### Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

**Saturday, 9 am  
October 1, 2016  
Baker, 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.