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Membership Meetings
Tuesday, January 6th * 7:30 PM
“New England in the Fall” Presented by: Mike Sappingfield (see write up on Page 1)
Tuesday, February 3rd * 7:30 PM
“Adventure in South Africa” Presented by: Ladd & Gail Seeksin (see write up on Page 12)
Programs are held at the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands (California St. exit off 10 Fwy)

Building a Powerful, Diverse and Progressive Environmental Movement in Our Chapter
By Allen Hernandez, My Generation Campaign, California Lead Organizer • Resident of Fontana •

There is a common misconception that young people, Latinos and/or young Latinas do not care enough about conservation, energy and in general, our environment. In the traditional realm of environmental advocacy, we often do not see or feel their presence. We often see young Latinos on TV engaging on immigration issues and issues related to educational and racial justice. But we do not see that same kind of enthusiasm on environmental issues. What we need to realize, however, is that young Latinos and Latinas do indeed care about their environment, and the way they interact and engage in it and with it. While from which to do it. Young Latinos and Latinas, who are student environmental leaders on their high school and college campuses, who are leading university divestment campaigns against fossil fuels and leading campus recycling efforts, have always cared about the environment. They have just lacked a large enough “megaphone” and the resources to share their voice and yell out to the mainstream environmental movement that they do, indeed, care.

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

Accommodations Available!
Tunnels Come Standard, Perch as an Upgrade.
By Terti Biancardi, Santa Margarita Group

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

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

New England in the Fall: Colors, Scenery, and History
Presented by Mike Sappingfield on January 6th

Mike Sappingfield will give us an illustrated presentation of his recent adventure leading a grand tour of New England for the Sierra Club. The meeting will be held on January 6, 7:30 PM, at the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. An Orange County resident, Mike is the former Chair of the 39,000-member Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, which serves Los Angeles and Orange Counties. A long-time outings leader, Mike conducts about 20 outings each year, including some special ones to raise funds for the Angeles Chapter’s conservation work. These are wonderful tours that draw considerable interest.

His most recent New England adventure is...
The decisive defeat of Measure L, in the City of Riverside's November 4th election assures the continued conservation of 650 acres of open space in the La Sierra area next to the Santa Ana River's Hidden Wilderness Special Municipal Election

By Laura Pearson Dennis, Former Riverside Councilmember for La Sierra

T he decisive defeat of Measure L in the City of Riverside’s November 4th election assures the continued conservation of 650 acres of open space in the La Sierra area next to the Santa Ana River’s Hidden Wilderness Special Municipal Election. Voters citywide strongly objected to rolling back land use protections in La Sierra afforded by 1979 and 1987 initiative laws Prop. R and Measure C.

Fifty-seven percent rejected the Las Vegas developer’s $1.5 million campaign for a 1,950-unit housing project on the river banks. Opponents, outspent 30 to 1, were still able to overcome the developer’s long head start and open checkbook with a vigorous grass-roots campaign. Measure L lost in all seven city wards.

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

The Sierra Club’s emphatic opposition to Measure L clarified the issue for many undecided voters. After voters had received mailers stressing the Club’s position in the last week of the campaign, the margin of opposition rose significantly. Mail ballots – mostly cast before the last campaign days – paid off by a margin of 53.5 percent. But voters going to the polls after the campaigns ended showed up in force as well, accounting for the astonishing increase of nine percent!

The importance of L’s defeat goes far beyond the rejection of the developer’s initiatives anytime soon. The Club’s position in the last week of the campaign was the key to the outcome.

The Palm and Pine is published six times per year January/February, March/April/ May/June, July/August/September/October and November/December. Submit all articles to the Editor by the 5th of the Month prior to issue. Preferred format is electronic mail. The Editor reserves the right to edit all works for space, clarity or libel. If you wish to have your photos or discs returned, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Outings must be submitted to the appropriate Outings Chair.

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

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(To be sure to supply Membership number)

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

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Palm and Pine

Measure L’s Defeat on City of Riverside Special Municipal Election

By Laura Pearson Dennis, Former Riverside Councilmember for La Sierra

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

Fifty-seven percent rejected the Las Vegas developer’s $1.5 million campaign for a 1,950-unit housing project on the river banks. Opponents, outspent 30 to 1, were still able to overcome the developer’s long head start and open checkbook with a vigorous grass-roots campaign. Measure L lost in all seven city wards.

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

The Sierra Club’s emphatic opposition to Measure L clarified the issue for many undecided voters. After voters had received mailers stressing the Club’s position in the last week of the campaign, the margin of opposition rose significantly. Mail ballots – mostly cast before the last campaign days – paid off by a margin of 53.5 percent. But voters going to the polls after the campaigns ended showed up in force as well, accounting for the astonishing increase of nine percent!

The importance of L’s defeat goes far beyond the rejection of the developer’s proposals for the La Sierra area. The conservation legacy of Prop. R and Measure C is alive and well and ready to be expanded by the next generation of concerned local citizens. Any future special interest land use legislation will rightly face voters lerry of being picked again. Other developers’ land speculators are not going to attempt to circumvent the environmental process and create their own self-serving unrestrictive zones through paid initiatives anytime soon.

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

Please call Mayor Rusty Bailey or your Councilman Gardner, Melendrez, Soubirous, Davis, Mac Arthur, Perry, or Adamus at (951) 826-5311 or email them at the city website www.riverside.ca.gov, click “City Council & Wards” then “Contact Us.” If you live in Norco, Eastvale or Jurupa Valley, call/e-mail your 2nd District County Supervisor John Tavaglione at (951) 955-1020 or District2@rchcs.org.
CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS
DEADLINE: Items for the March/April 2015 Calendar are due by February 1, 2015.
FORMAT: items similar to those below. Send items electronically if possible.
OUTINGS: Send outings write-ups to your group or section Outings Chair.
MEETINGS & other events: Send electronically to Ladd Seikins at dadd.g.seikins@gmail.com.

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

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

ADVENTURE PASS SPECIAL NOTICE
Most Outings occurring in the San Bernardino, Angeles, Cleveland, or Los Padres National Forests require a Forest Service permit for each vehicle (Adventure Pass). They are indicated by ** in the calendar. Be sure to contact the leader regarding permits. The permits cost $30 per year or $5 per day; however they may not be obtainable the day of your Outing. If you arrive at the meeting place without making arrangements with the leader & you don’t have a permit or find a ride in a vehicle with a permit, you will not be able to attend the outing. You are expected to share the cost of the daily permits equally among everyone in the vehicle or a suggested $5.00 contribution from everyone for annual permits (above normal mileage contribution). America the Beautiful Intercany Passes may be used in lieu of Adventure Pass.

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

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

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

In consideration for my acceptance as a participant on this Outing, & the services & amenities to be provided by the Sierra Club in connection with the Outing, I confirm my understanding that:
I have read any rules & conditions applicable to the Outing made available to me; I will pay any costs & fees for the Outing; & I acknowledge my participation is at the discretion of the leader.
The Outing begins & ends at the location where the Outing officially commences with leader & participants in attendance, as designated by the Sierra Club (“Trailhead”). The Outing does not include carpooling, transportation, or transit to & from the Trailhead, & I am personally responsible for all risks associated with this travel. This does not apply to transportation provided by the Sierra Club after the commencement & before the end of the Outing.

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

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

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

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

RECURRING MONTHLY MEETINGS
(LOOK IN CALENDAR FOR DATES)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1ST MON</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>SB MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCOMM</td>
<td>MEETING</td>
<td>Alpine Club Room 72236 Bluejay Mall on Feb 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 5, Nov 2, INFO: DAVE BARREZE, (909) 337-6513.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1ST TUE</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>SAN GORIONGO GROUP CHAPTE</td>
<td>R PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 203 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEIKINS <a href="mailto:dadd.g.seikins@gmail.com">dadd.g.seikins@gmail.com</a>, (909) 800-3911</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1ST WED</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOMM</td>
<td>MEETING</td>
<td>The meeting place rotates. CONTACT: ED WALLACE, (909) 584-9407, <a href="http://www.sierrabcbigbear.org">www.sierrabcbigbear.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1ST THU</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCOMM</td>
<td>MEETING</td>
<td>Odd-numbered months only Jan, May, Jul, Sep, Nov, PLACE: For meeting time &amp; place, call MARY ANN RUÍZ, (909) 815-9379, <a href="mailto:ruizmaryann@gmail.com">ruizmaryann@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2ND MON</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>SB MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard’s Episcopal Church, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARREZE, (909) 337-0561.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2ND TUE</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING</td>
<td></td>
<td>CONTACT: ED WALLACE, (909) 584-9407, <a href="http://www.sierrabcbigbear.org">www.sierrabcbigbear.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2ND WED</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>MOJAVE GROUP MEETING</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monthly meeting except for July &amp; August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, <a href="mailto:desedel10@verizon.net">desedel10@verizon.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2ND THU</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monthly meeting except July and August. The public is welcome. PLACE: Temecula Valley Library, 30600 Pauma Road, Temecula. INFO: PAM NELSON (951) 767-2324 <a href="mailto:sierraclubsmg@gmail.com">sierraclubsmg@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3RD TUE</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING</td>
<td></td>
<td>CONTACT: ED WALLACE, (909) 584-9407, <a href="http://www.sierrabcbigbear.org">www.sierrabcbigbear.org</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3RD THU</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monthly meeting except December. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site <a href="http://www.sierraclubbigbear.org">www.sierraclubbigbear.org</a>. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARREZE, (909) 337-0561.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4TH TUE</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>SAN GORIONGO GROUP CHAPTE</td>
<td>R PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 203 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEIKINS <a href="mailto:dadd.g.seikins@gmail.com">dadd.g.seikins@gmail.com</a>, (909) 800-3911</td>
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Items for the March/April 2015 Calendar are due by February 1, 2015.
WEEKLY RECURRING OUTINGS & FITNESS ACTIVITIES

Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings

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

CHAPTER

MON 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP CONDITIONING HIKE

Please join us for a 3 to 6 mile conditioning walk (usually 3 miles) beside the Mojave River in Apple Valley. We leave promptly at 7 PM. MEET: In the Jess Ranch Marketplace parking lot closest to the Mojave River Bed, between the Jess Ranch Cinemac and Bed, Bath & Beyond Store, address: 18151 Bear Valley Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308. Light post location is 158. Come enjoy the evening air, river breeze, sunsets, stars & moon on this Mojave River walk. BRING: Flashlight & water. WEAR: layered clothing and good hiking shoes. LEADER: BILL MOORE <bspreng@gte.net> (760) 951-4350 & JENNY WILDER (760) 220-0730 <jensuassit@aol.com>

MOJAVE GROUP

FRI 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP CONDITIONING HIKE

Please join us for a 3 to 6 mile conditioning walk (usually 3 miles) beside the Mojave River in Apple Valley. We leave promptly at 7 PM. MEET: In the Jess Ranch Marketplace parking lot closest to the Mojave River Bed, between the Jess Ranch Cinemac and Bed, Bath & Beyond Store, address: 18151 Bear Valley Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308. Light post location is 158. Walks are paced for participants. Come enjoy the evening air, river breeze, sunsets, stars & moon on this Mojave River walk. BRING: Flashlight, water, jacket & comfortable walking shoes. WEAR: layered clothing. For questionable weather please call LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 961-0731. MOJAVE GROUP

DECEMBER 29 – JANUARY 4

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

DEC 29-JAN 2 (MON-FRI) HOLIDAY IN CARRIZO PLAIN SERVICE

We will celebrate the end of the year and to offer our service to the pronghorn antelope in this National Monument. Lying between Bakersfield and Palm Springs valley. About 6.5 miles round trip, we gain 1000 feet up to the pass. Trailhead is at 12,000 ft.) , with 1300 ft. elevation gain. Great panoramic views in all directions from the peak. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, snack, sunscreen, layer clothing appropriate for the weather. Adventure Pass will be required for parking at the trailhead. MEET: Contact John St. Clair to confirm and for directions to trailhead and carpooling meeting place. LEADER: JOHN ST. CLAIR, 909-883-5768 or john@sc1clas.us.

LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JANUARY 5 – JANUARY 11

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

JAN 6 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING PROGRAM: See front-page notice; PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit 1-10 at California St. INFO: LADY SEEKINS <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com> (909) 803-3911

CHAPTER

JAN 7 (WED) 8:00 AM SUNSET PEAK HIKE

This will be a moderate 7 mile round trip hike on a fire road up to the top of Sunset Peak (elevation 7900 ft.), with 1000 ft. elevation gain. Great panoramic views in all directions from the peak. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, snack, sunscreen, layer clothing appropriate for the weather. Adventure Pass will be required for parking at the trailhead. MEET: Contact John St. Clair to confirm and for directions to trailhead and carpooling meeting place. LEADER: JOHN ST. CLAIR, 909-883-5768 or john@sc1clas.us.

LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JAN 7 (WED) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCITING

The meeting place rotates. CONTACT: ED WALLACE, (909) 581-9407, www.sierrabigbeargroup.org

BIG BEAR GROUP

JAN 8 (THU) LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCITING

Meeting Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov). PLACE: For meeting time & place, call AMY MN RUIZ (909) 815-5199 or jrs369@msn.com

LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JAN 8 (THU) 6:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING

Monthly meeting except July and August. The public is welcome: PLACE: Temecula Valley Library, 30600 Posa Road, Temecula. INFO: PAM NELSON (951) 766-7234 stiracho@sierramargarita.com

SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

JANUARY 13 – JANUARY 19

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

JAN 12 (MON) 7:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING

Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard's Episcopal Church, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DARRELL BARRIE, (909) 337-0313.

SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

JAN 14 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, kfloyd@fastmail.fm (760) 249-5385.

CHAPTER

JAN 15 (TUE) 9:00 AM THE CLAREMONTRIANGLE TRiANGLE

That's what I call east on the Thompson Creek Trail, north on the Pomeo Trail and south on the Sycamore Canyon Trail, to return to the Thompson Creek Trail. Help celebrate my 3rd year as a Sierra Club hike leader with an opening ceremony. A 1-2 mile elevation gain, BRING: water, sturdy boots, layer clothing and hiking poles. MEET: Please call to confirm by 12, January 5, 00 PM. LEADER: JEFF WARKHOL, (909) 885-7686 or e-mail jwarkholm@juno.com.

LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JAN 14 (WED) 4:30 PM HIDDEN SPRINGS CONDITIONING HIKE

Moderate 2 to 3-mile loop hike on the Hidden Springs trail and return. This hike is 2.5 to 3 miles long, with an elevation gain of 300 feet. BRING: water, sturdy boots, layered clothing and hiking poles. MEET: Please call to confirm at 4-30. BRING: flashlights, water and sturdy shoes. MEETING: Hidden Springs School, 9801 Hidden Springs Dr., Moreno Valley, Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: EILEEN O'BRIEN (951) 616-7493.

MORENO VALLEY GROUP

JAN 16 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCITING

We will snowshoe or hike depending on the weather. Green Valley Lake has some of the best snow in our local mountains, so come and join me for a day of fun. No prior snowshoe experience is necessary – it is not difficult to learn another form of hiking you will provide yours. Please CALL to check on weather conditions. No snow, we will hike. MEET: In Green Valley Lake across from the post office (3327) Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92541) at 9 AM. WEAR layered clothing. BRING: No need to bring lunch just a snack and a water LEADER: SANDY ELLIS, 909-867-7115, feelast07@gmail.com

SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

JAN 17 (SAT) 8:30 AM PYRAMID CANYON, MECCA HILLS HIKE

Philip Ferranti, author of 140 Great Hikes in and near Palm Springs will lead us to the Lost Pyramid. This is a natural rock phenomenon resembling the great pyramids of Egypt. This rock formation was created by wind and rain over thousands of years. This is clearly a rare find! We also have the opportunity to visit Big Colorful Canyon with its colorful rocks washed out in multi-colored and colorful rock strata. This is a 5 to 6-mile hike RATING: Easy. MEET: Take 1-10 to Spot Light 29 Casino, Dillon Road off-ramp and look for TA Travel Center gas station signage. Meet in the picnic area under the TA Travel sign. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, rain gear, 2-liters of water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. RESERVATIONS: Call LEADER, ED CALIENDO (442) 242-4103 or dogsl111@aol.com.

BIG BEAR GROUP

JAN 18 (SUN) 8:00 AM HIKE TO THE “M”

Difficult 4 mile round trip hike to the “M” on Box Springs Trail. Trail has some very steep areas. BRING: flashlights, water, and sturdy shoes. MEET: From 68 m in Moreno Valley go north on Pigeon Pass to left at the light on Highwood Springs Drive. Drive onto Box Springs Rd on the left off Hidden Falls Dr. Drive onto the graded road near the table topo maps. Parking fee of $5. Bring your own carpooling recommended. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: THERESA CARSON (951) 660-7246 or tcarson01@gmail.com.

MORENO VALLEY GROUP

JANUARY 19 – JANUARY 25

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

JAN 20 (TUE) 7:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING

Monthly meeting except August, The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served. PLACE:

Continued on Page 5 > > >
JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 1

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

JAN 27 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING

JAN 28 (WED) 9:00 AM MOJAVE FORKS TO SILVERWOOD LAKE HIKE
This hike takes you through beautiful Silver Lake Valley, 15 miles (with an elevation gain of 1700 feet) above Mojave Forks Reservoir to Silverwood Lake. We begin at an elevation of 3400 feet and end at 3390 feet. This one way hike on the PCT is C & D, and moderately packed. BRING: lunch, water and sturdy hiking boots. MEET at McDonald Restaurant Interstate 15 and Highway 138 for carpooling. INFO & RESERVATIONS: Call or email in interest: LEADER: JOE WHYTE, 909-399-0899 or jwhyte@tcsnn.com.

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

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

JAN 31 (SAT) 8:00 AM OLIVE MOUNTAIN HIKE
Enjoy the view from Olive Mountain with a moderate 3-mile round trip hike. Elevation gain of about 1000 ft. BRING: water, snack hiking poles if you want and wear sturdy, non-slip shoes... MEET: at the park at the end of Kitching St., off of Kalmia (off of Perris Blvd, north of Ironwood). Rain cancels. LEADER: CHRISTINA TORRES (951) 318-7503 or cmt.teck@gmail.com.

JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 8

February 2 – February 8 Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

FEB 2 (MON) 6:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCOM MEETING
Meeting for committee members. No meetings are held during July and August. PLACE: St. Richard’s Episcopal Church, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARRE, (909) 337-0313. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

FEB 3 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING
MEETING PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 204 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADY NUNEZ <lad.g.seekins@gmail.com> (909) 800-3991.

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

FEB 5 (THU) 7:00 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING
The meeting place, dates, contact and wall call information. PLACE: contact ED WALLACE, (951) 584-9407, <dick@bigbearlegion.org>. BIG BEAR GROUP

FEB 7 (SAT) 9:00 AM SITTON PEAK HIKE
Join me on a 10 mile moderate to difficult hike with 2150 feet of elevation gain/loss to Sitton Peak, which stands at 3,273 feet tall and is one of the 7 peaks in the San Gorgonio Mountains. This hike begins at the upper end of the trail worth the Sitton Creek Parking Area. The hike starts at about 1,000 ft. elevation gain. BRING: backpack, a minimum of 3 liters of water, a lunch and snacks, sturdy hiking shoes, dress in layers and do not forget the sunscreen. I also suggest hiking poles for long pants and use of the area's water supply system. We will stop and rest at the Sitton Peak Trail 1.7 miles to the peak. The reason I am listing this hike as borderline difficult is because of the last 700 yards, which is a steep scramble up an overgrown trail to the peak. Although the peak is only 3,273 feet it has a commanding 360 degree view that includes the San Jacinto Mountains and the Coachella Valley to the east. MEET: at Sandy Valley Picnic Area on state park road 9S05. MEET: 6:30 AM at the park Visitor Center, just south of Hwy 62 and Park Blvd intersection, 6554 Park Blvd, Joshua Tree, CA 92259. RESERVATIONS: Cal or email in interest: LEADER: DAVID MELTON (760) 808-2456 or dmbadboy6@gmail.com. SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

FEB 8-10 (SUN-TUE) 8:30 AM JOSHUA TREE SAMPLER HIKE
Save these dates and come out to Joshua Tree, spend Sunday through Monday camping at Sheep Pass Campground Campsite. We will hike, explore, relax and have a “Best Camping food Cook-off” potluck to plant Sunday night. Campsite is reserved, $110 per night per participant for site, any additional is extra will go to Los Serranos group. COST: $15 park entrance fee or National Parks pass required. MEET: Broken Bow Campground on Wednesday night at 7pm. contacting MARY ANN RUZ (951) 819-3679 or mrazmary@gmail.com. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

FEB 10 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Meeting monthly or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, ekimfloyd@fatnail.info (760) 249-5385.

FEB 11 (WED) 9:00 AM WALNUT CREEK HIKE
Eagle also known as the MDA or Michael D. Antonovich Trail, this is a 3.5 mile round trip hike with a mere 400 ft elevation gain. These numbers make for an easy jaunt through canyon wood with multiple stream crossings and boulder jumping. BRING: a minimum of 3 liters of water, a lunch and snacks, hiking poles. MEET: please call to confirm by 10:00 AM. LEADER: RICK WAHOL (909) 995-7068 or jwainz@hotmail.com. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

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

FEB 11 (WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING
Meeting monthly except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgeway). Enter on Ridgeway side of the building. INFO: CAROL VIKERL, (760) 245-8734, deavatar100@gmail.com. MOJAVE GROUP

FEB 12 (THU) 6:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING
Meeting except July and August. The public is welcome. PLACE: Temecula Library, 30600 Posa Road, Temecula. INFO: PAM NELSON (760) 774-2355 or sierraclubsmg@myway.com. SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

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A LOOK BACK AT 2014

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

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

In November, we held our annual potluck, the Jack Frost Feast. We had a great turn out to a fun-filled evening. Our monthly meeting subjects over the year covered a wide range of topics including a presentation by the director of the MWD on the State of the Lake, a slide show on our group backpacking trip to Humphreys Basin in a remote section of the John Muir Wilderness, vegetable gardening in the mountains, a presentation by Elisabeth Harris the director of the Big Bear Valley Education Trust on the formation of a Wildland Park that will help protect one of the few remaining Pebble Plains, the showing of the movie “Bears” which drew a crowd of 70 residents, a nature walk combined with a desert potluck and lastly a presentation by a Native American group on life in the Big Bear Valley prior to it being settled by the white man.

The meeting subjects for 2014 are still under development and will be available on our website and Facebook in February. If you have ideas for meeting topics please send them to me at edjeanne@charter.net.

Finally, this will be my last year as chair of this group. I have held this position on and off over the next few years to help develop trails and increase protection of this beautiful resource. I would urge you all to get involved, by doing so you will get the benefit of learning to know this spectacular area.

OUTINGS • 2015 A Look Ahead for the Big Bear Group

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

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

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

San Gorgonio Peak is the second highest peak (11,500’) in California.

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

As in 2014, the Big Bear Group will sponsor our Hike Leader Apprentice Program. This allows individuals to get involved early in Hike Leader activities before taking the mandatory two-day Sierra Club Leadership Training Class in June. Those individuals may sign-up for the Apprentice training and gain experience in drafting hike descriptions, conducting trailhead meetings, leading hikes, and gaining hands-on experience in leadership prior to their formal training. At all times, the apprentice Hike Leader is supervised by a fully-qualified Hike Leader.

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

Mojave Group

By Jenny Wilder, Group Chair

A new ExCom for the Mojave Group:

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

February Conservation Coalition Meeting, Feb 11th 6-8 pm:

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

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

“Without significant input from the public, from you, this juggernaut will proceed relentlessly, sacrificing millions of acres of desert habitat, wasting precious groundwater, degrading air quality, and “taking” endangered species and other wildlife.” — David Garmon, Borrego Springs, who authored a petition.

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

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

SPARC Forum

This is your opportunity to voice your opinion about the county General Plan amendment.

“The county of San Bernardino is seeking YOUR Input on San Bernardino County’s Renewable Energy Future.” — The San Bernardino County Partnership for Renewable Energy & Conservation (SPARC) is creating a Renewable Energy Element for the General Plan and there are many ways you can participate! Provide input via their open forum topics, learn more about the project and join us at one of the upcoming events.

http://www.sparcforum.org/portals/174/forum_home/?phase=open

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The Moreno Valley Group outings leaders have scheduled hikes for January and February. There is a Hidden Springs Conditioning Hike on Wednesday, January 14 at 4:30 p.m. On Sunday, January 18 there is a Hike to the “M” on the Box Springs Mountains; access is from Pigeon Pass Road in western Moreno Valley. The complete list of hikes and information can be found on the group’s website http://sangorgonio2.sierrclub.org/node/3. The group web page is http://sangorgonio2.sierrclub.org/groups/moreno_valley and in the Palm and Pine listings. Join us for some fun winter hikes here in Moreno Valley!

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

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

The Final Environmental Documents for the World Logistics Center (WLC) may be released in December or January. According to the project planner, the public will have 30 or 45 days to review & make comments. The Moreno Valley Group has been following the approval process for the proposed World Logistics Center (WLC). The proposed warehouse project would put four distribution warehouses on 2,710 acres of land south of Highway 60 between Moreno Beach Road and Redlands Boulevard. The proposed warehouse project would put four distribution warehouses (1,529,498 square feet) on 84 acres of land south of Highway 60. According to a January 5, 2015, Enterprise-Record newspaper article (http://www.recorde.com/articles/2015/1/5/10711693.html), the proposed warehouse project would put four distribution warehouses on 2,710 acres of land south of Highway 60.

The developer of the proposed ProLogis Eucalyptus City Park asked for a continuance at the December 9th city council meeting. The hearing on the project will now be held on January 27. This warehouse project would put four distribution warehouses on 2,710 acres of land south of Highway 60.

Information on the Riverside County General Plan Update, schedule of public outreach & public hearings before the planning commission and supervisors can be found at: http://www.rclina.org/Portals/0/Production%20Schedule%209-1-14.pdf. Public outreach meetings will be held, by appointment, on January 14-15. In 2015, the environmental documents are released. Please consult their web page to confirm the dates & locations of all meetings. Contact for more information: Kristi Lovelady, KLOVELAD@rclina.org, tel: (951) 955-0781. You can e-mail her to be sent all notices of meetings and documents related to the general plan update.

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

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

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

There is a Moreno Valley Regional Trails Board hike, Saturday, January 25, 2015, Hike to Lake Terri Peak (Difficult), 7:30 a.m.; meet in the parking lot in front of Landmark Middle School, 15261 Legendary Drive, MV. Verify all information at (951) 413-7033 and http://www.moreno-valley.ca.us/resident_services/park_rec/trails.shtml#hikes to see their listing for more hikes.

Check our group Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/MorenovaSierraClub & our web page http://sangorgonio2.sierrclub.org/groups/moreno_valley
FEB 13-14 (FRI-SAT) SOUTHERN NEVADA VALENTINE’S DAY SERVICE  Give our public lands a valentine by helping on a Feb 14 service project with the CA/NV Wilderness Committee. We will be working together with the BLM Las Vegas office and Friends of Nevada Wilderness on a backpacking trip to the Hidden Springs Trail. Begins February 14th with a sociable campout. RESERVATIONS & INFO: LEADER: VICKY HOEY, 415-977-5527 or vicky.hoe耶@sierraclub.org.

FEB 19 (SAT) 6:30 AM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING Meeting monthly except December. See the Group website for complete information. MEET: St. John’s Episcopal Church, 200 Harvard Ave., Big Bear City, CA 92314. RESERVATIONS: Email or call leader for reservation information. LEADER: RICH JURICICH, craig.deutsche@gmail.com or 310-477-6670. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

FEB 21 (SAT) 8:00 AM HILLS OF LA PERE HIKE Around 6 miles round-trip, on the hillside above Big Bear Lake. Bring some elevation gain. We start at 8:00am. BRING: water, snack, hiking poles if you want, and sturdy shoes. MEET: We will meet in the gym at Big Bear High School, 1200 Lakeview Ave., Big Bear Lake, CA 92315 at 8:00am. MEETING place and transport to and from the hike. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: THERESA CARSON (951) 660-7246. MORENO VALLEY GROUP

FEB 26 (SAT) 8:00 AM EAGLE ROCK HIKE Visit the eighth wonder of the world! Eagle Rock is a natural rock formation that appears to be a sculpture of the American Eagle with wings fully expanded. This large rock formation can be reached through the beautiful and well-maintained Eagle Rock Trail, a 1.5-mile round-trip hike on the west side of town, or via the famous, off-road trails on the south side. This is a rare opportunity, don’t miss it! This is a 6.8 mile round-trip hike. RATED: Moderate difficulty. MEET: At the trailhead, 9901 Hidden Springs Dr., Big Bear Lake, CA 92315. BRING: water, snacks, winter shoes if needed, easy, well-fitting, clothes, and sturdy hiking shoes. RESERVATIONS: Email or call leader for reservation information. LEADER: VICKY HOEY, 415-977-5527 or vicky.ho耶@sierraclub.org.

COMING UP Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (Also refer to Weekly rooccurring Outings and Activities)
The Santa Margarita Group had a lovely set of hikes these last two months, for both the hard core, and the softer among us. Bob Audiberg led a beautiful seven-mile hike in November in Cedar Springs with a great bunch of people, while our Outdoor Families group enjoyed a stroll along the Santa Margarita river with a couple of docents from the Ecological Reserve who shared lots of interesting information about the area. Looking ahead, we’re partnering with the local American Volkssport group for the numerical confluence 10-11-12-13-14 Guinness Book of Records walk. They’re trying to get the most walkers ever at 10:11 AM on December 13th, 2014.

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

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

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

Santa Margarita Group
By Teri Biancardi

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

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

SMG wishes everyone lots of wonderful hiking!

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

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

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

Source: mitchell@sierracclub.org · 12/8/14

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

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

Highlights of the Proposed Austin Energy 2025 Generation Plan:

• Steam units at the aging Decker natural gas plant – the largest point source of smog-forming, asthma-inducing pollution in Travis County – would be retired in 2018;
• Austin Energy’s largest source of climate disrupting carbon pollution, the coal-fired Fayette Power Plant, would begin to ramp-down in 2020 with a retirement process commencing in 2022;
• Renewable energy goals would increase from the current goal of 35 percent by 2020 to 55 percent by 2025;
• Overall solar goals would skyrocket from 200 MW in the current plan to 950 MW by 2025;
• Energy efficiency goals would increase from 800 MW to 900 MW, including a specific demand response goal of 100 MW with a process to increase the total energy efficiency goal to as much as 1,200 MW if affordable and achievable;
• Local storage goal of 30 MW – including batteries, other technologies, and chilling stations – andscoping up to an additional 170 MW of utility-scale storage through a Request for Information.

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

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

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

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

We look forward to working with City Council on December 11 to maintain broad support for these goals and approve this groundbreaking plan.”
investment in organizing in the East Coachella Valley, a region not only known for its agriculture, but for its extreme rural poverty, is a testament to how, through sharing that platform, we can create a strong and unified voice that is both white and brown, young and old, and working-class and professional.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Burrowing Owls . . . from Page 1

Burrowing Owls . . . from Page 1

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

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

Next, they put out a call to the community for woodworkers willing to volunteer their time and skills to build the burrows. Fifteen woodworkers attended a builders workshop where the plans and materials were distributed, and a month later they all returned with their handiwork.

The next step was to dig the holes. For days volunteers and Fish and Wildlife’s Clark Winchell put a Ditch Witch RT40 through its paces - carving three foot deep holes and tunnels into soil no exception.

Mike’s New England tour included historic sites in Massachusetts such as Lexington and Concord with “the shot heard ‘round the world,” the Plymouth Colony and its replica Plimoth Plantation, a living history museum, and even Henry David Thoreau’s Walden Pond. With the fall colors in full spendor, Mike took his group through Vermont to see a maple sugar farm, several traditional covered bridges, the stunning and historic Lake Champlain, a huge quarry of the famous Vermont granite, and the Ben and Jerry’s ice cream factory.

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

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

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

Photos by Jonathan Snape Cook. Partners for Fish and Wildlife

hardened nearly to rock.

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

And then – success! Lured by the spacious new digs, an owl moved in within less than a week. The reaction from the 900 home community was incredibly supportive, with one particular area and anonymous resident going so far as to print up a sign advertising the vacancies.

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

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

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

- Feb 7, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 1: Hwy 79 southwest of Warner Springs to Indian Flats CG Road 9005, 9.2 mile hike
- Feb 21, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 2: Indian Flats CG Road 9005 to Chihuahua Valley Road, 9.3 miles
- Mar 7, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 3: Chihuahua Valley Road to Tule Canyon Truck Trail, 10.3 miles
- Mar 21, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 4: Tule Canyon Truck Road to Highway 74, 15.7 miles
- Apr 11, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 5: Highway 74 to Fobs Head Trail, 15.7 miles
- Apr 18, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 6: Fobs TH to Devils Slide TH, 16.3 miles (Closed due to Forest Fire in 2013) No hike scheduled
- Oct 10, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 7: Fuller Ridge TH to I-10, 19.0 miles
- Oct 24, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 7: Devils Slide TH to Strawberry Junction, 11.2 miles
- Nov 7, 2015 (SAT) – Segment 8: Fuller Ridge to Strawberry Junction, 11.2 miles

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

Pacific Crest Trail, Section D Recognition Awards Program begins at the end of April with the first of 13 Saturday hikes of the Pacific Crest Trail, Section D. Those hikers completing 100.2 miles during 2015 will receive a Recognition Patch for their individual achievement. A tentative schedule of Section D hikes will be published in the March-April issue of the Palm and Pine.

The Five Peaks of Big Bear Awards Program has returned for the 7th consecutive year.

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

The five peaks are as follows:
- Sugarloaf Mountain (10.0 miles, with 2,500’ elevation gain)
- Bertha Peak (7.5 miles, with 1,400’ elevation gain)
- Grey’s Peak (8.0 miles, with 1,400’ elevation gain)
- Sugarloaf Mountain (10.0 miles, with 2,500’ elevation gain)

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

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

We will issue a recognition patch to those individuals that accomplish hiking of all 110.2 miles during 2014 will receive a Recognition Patch for their achievements. You may have noticed that we have not been sending out email updates for the meeting and hikes. Melody graciously volunteered to do those emails but she is no longer in a position to continue. However, we post the information on our facebook page. You do not need to sign to facebook to see our page – only to make a comment. https://www.facebook.com/page/Mojave-Group-Sierra-Club/128853927174168

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

Outings leader Quentin Lake points out geology and history along the PCT above Cowden Creek. Photo by Jenny Wilder

Political Update
By Jono Hildner, San Gorgonio Chapter Political Chair

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

On the success side, all three of our endorsed Congressional candidates won. Raul Ruiz in District 36 and Mark Takano in District 41 had large wins and in District 31. Pete Aguilar was able to get a close victory over his very well funded rival. We also had a huge victory in the State Senate, where Connie Leyva had a landslide victory over her opponent in Senate District 20.

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

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

There are several lessons that the Chapter can learn from this election season. We must: One, develop and support community leaders who believe in the Sierra Club’s values; two, begin our endorsement processes earlier and get involved in local races where future legislative candidates begin to grow their bases of support; and three, get our membership involved in direct action to help the campaigns of our endorsed candidates. We can do all of these things if we can develop more political activism at the Group level. If you want to get more involved, call me or email me.

As we prepare for the 2015 Legislative Session, we now have the Sierra Club California Report Card for 2014. All-in-all, it was a pretty good session. For a change, there was no credible threat mounted to gut CEQA. Hurrah! We got a plastic bag ban (which the industry is collecting signatures to defeat as you read this), we got the first ever legislation to start to regulate ground water, and we made great progress on getting a moratorium on fracking.


The Report Card shows that we have a long way to go to get our legislative representatives to support our efforts in Sacramento. We need to either do a better job of educating them at home, or we need to work to replace them. Only one member of our delegation got a score of 100%. Assm. V. Manuel Perez, AD36, and he has termed out. At the other end of the spectrum, three of our Assembly Members scored a perfect 0%: Bob Huff, AD29; Steve Knight, AD21; and Mike Morrell, AD23. We should obviously be working on replacing those three. The rest of the delegation ranged from 9% to 91%.
Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park ~ 2015 Schedule ~
March 28-30 • April 5-7 • May 3-5 • June 14-16 ~ A Bird Lovers Special!
• July 19-21 • August 23-25 • September 27-29 • October 25-27

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

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

Adventures in South Africa Featured at the February 3rd Chapter Meeting

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

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

Gail and Ladd, as usual, organized everything themselves, staying mainly at backpacker-style guest houses and traveling by bus. They saw a good representative slice of this very large and diverse country, from Cape Town up the coast to Durban and then to Johannesburg and Kruger National Park.

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

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

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

They had three days in the northern Drakensberg Mountains, two days hiking and a day to visit the Drakensberg Mountains, two days hiking and a day to visit the Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden, independently in the Royal Natal National Park and one very long day hiking to the top of the 3107 ft. Tugela Falls, the highest waterfall in Africa.

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

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

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Regular ..................$39 ..................$47
Supporting ...............$75 ...............$100
Contributing ..........$150 ..................$175
Life .......................$1,000 ..................$1,250
Senior ....................$24 ...................$32
Student ...................$24 ...................$32

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