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Membership Meetings

Tuesday, November 7th • 7:30 PM
“Nature Photography: How Not to Take Bad Photos”
By Steve Kaye
(See write up on Page 6)

Tuesday, December 4th • 7:30 PM
“Bhutan and Cambodia”
Presented by Gail and Ladd Seekins
(See write up on Page 12)

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

Sierra Club Day at Whitewater Preserve on Saturday 12/2

Join us for Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter Day at Whitewater Preserve, organized by the Los Serranos Group. Saturday, December 2, come out from 9:00 am into the afternoon for a day in this beautiful Preserve, part of the new Sand to Snow National Monument. Late fall is the perfect time to visit – cool days, early snow on the surrounding mountains, and autumn leaves.

Hike leaders from Los Serranos Group will be on hand to lead two different hikes starting out from the Ranger Station at 10:00 am. Check the Outings Calendar in this paper or online for hike details.

John St. Claire will lead one hike up over the Canyon Loop trail, climbing south on part of the Pacific Crest Trail up and above the river with striking views of the canyon. Jeff Warhol is leading a hike North on the PCT, a less strenuous walk up the river canyon leading to an interesting rock formation and views up towards Mt. San Gorgonio. Both hikes are 3.5 – 4 miles, the first hike is steep and more challenging.

Come out to learn from the Indigenous neighbors about culture and history native to this beautiful area. If you don’t feel like hiking, enjoy exploring the area around the Preserve headquarters with trout ponds, fall trees, and the year-round river – and be sure to pack your binoculars and camera. Bighorn Sheep are often seen on the canyon walls just above the Ranger office. Bring your picnic lunch and snacks, refillable water bottles and your time to enjoy a lovely day outside. Look for more details on our website and Facebook page as we get closer to 12/2.

Chapter ExCom Election Information
By Dave Barrie, Chapter Nominating and Election Committee Chair

Let’s look at the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) election ballot and your voting options.

On Page 11 you will find the Chapter “paper ballot” that you can cut out, complete, and mail in. Or, as you will see on the ballot, you can go to the Chapter website – http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org and vote online. And that is a first for us at the Chapter level.

A note about online voting: The Sierra Club has a policy of ballots being secret ballots but says about online voting: “Because it is not possible with current technology to verify one-member/one-vote without an Election Committee member having access to each member’s voted online ballot, the requirement to maintain strict ballot secrecy has been removed. We still expect that members’ votes will be kept confidential by the individual examining the online voting record.” And that is how we will treat your ballot.

You will notice that we have three candidates and three positions to fill. That’s not too competitive is it? Next year we could use more volunteers to run for ExCom positions so that there are more choices available than there are positions to fill.

But, even though the election will only result in three winners (and no losers), you can help us to test our online voting system by voting online. And just because you can vote for all three candidates that doesn’t mean that you must vote for all three. If one candidate gets more votes than the others it tells us that perhaps the voters want to recognize that candidate’s particular contribution to the efforts of the Chapter.

All of our ExCom members are volunteers who give many hours of their time to the efforts of the Sierra Club and San Gorgonio Chapter. Please take a little of your time to vote in this year’s election.

Continued on Page 9 >>>

Helping Your Chapter as a Monthly Donor is as Easy as 1-2-3

1. Go to http://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org and hit the “Donate” button:
2. Pick your monthly amount $3? $10? $20? you choose; any amount is appreciated;
3. Hit “submit” for a big

Thank you from San Gorgonio Chapter!
One Year. As you read this it will have been a year since our electoral system left us with a popular vote losing President. We now have a cabinet effectively dismantling years of social and environmental progress. Whatever you think of Mr. Trump and his interpretation of his job as President of the United States, it is obvious that his interpretation of his job as President is in the best interests of big business and wealth at the expense of the nation's well-being. We have seen many setbacks – pulling out of the Paris Climate Agreement; challenges to our National Monuments and Public Lands; rescinding DACA; and attempts to diminish health care and public education. Bullying and racist comments from Mr. Trump divide us and alarm our allies. Another year of tragic gun deaths with no action to prevent this epidemic.

In the face of these challenges, you have not given up. Sierra Club volunteers have worked harder. Donors have stepped up and helped us know we have sustained interest in their communities at countless town hall meetings, traveling to meetings, telling their stories, and working with policymakers, reading through pages of Environmental Impact Reports on questionable development projects. Volunteers spending the time to learn about their local politicians, to understand what happens at City Council, State Legislatures, Congress and the Supreme Court.

Thank you to the donors who read the emails, respond to our requests for support, who give $5, $25, $50 or $500, every donation helps. Thank you also to our donors, those who give what they can, whether it is $5 or $500, every donation helps. Thank you to our sustaining donors who give monthly – that $5 or $10 per month adds up and helps us know we have sustained funding. Thank you to our members and supporters who read the emails, respond to the actions, make that phone call or send that letter.

Thank you all for the difference you make to understand what our local politicians and what happens at City Council, State Legislature levels. Volunteers reaching out to their communities at countless events and outings, taking the time to make a difference. Thank you all for your generous donation of your personal time. Thank you also to our donors, those who give what they can, whether it is $5 or $500, every donation helps. Thank you to our sustaining donors who give monthly – that $5 or $10 per month adds up and helps us know we have sustained funding. Thank you to our members and supporters who read the emails, respond to the actions, make that phone call or send that letter.
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2017

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

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS:
DEADLINE: Items for the January/February 2018 Calendar are due by December 1, 2017.
FORMAT: items like 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 Sheikh at <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com>

GENERAL INFORMATION/RULES/DISCLAIMERS: – All Outings Leaders are Chapter Certified Leaders having appropriate Outings Training Courses, First Aid Courses, and 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! Many Outings specify items to be carried by each participant. Do not attend Outings without the specified items unless you have first discussed it with the leader. Often the TEN ESSENTIALS are required. They are: 1) Map 2) Compass 3) Flashlight 4) Knife 5) Windproof/waterproof matches in water case 6) Fire starter 7) First aid kit 8) Extra food and water for emergency use only 9) Extra clothing including rainwear 10) Sun protection including sunscreen/sunscreen/sunscreen. Carpooling is encouraged, but solely the responsibility of individual participants. The Sierra Club and its leaders may facilitate carpooling; however they will not assign. Drivers should have appropriate insurance coverage and their vehicle should have no safety problems. For Sierra Club facilitated carpooling, drivers agree to not consume any alcoholic beverages. It is customary for riders to share expenses with the driver. The above information applies to Sierra Club Outings and Activities only. Non-Sierra Club activities may be listed in a separate location as a courtesy. Please be sure to read the disclaimer that accompanies these activities.

**ADVENTURE PASS:** – Ongoing in the San Bernardino, Angeles, Cleveland, and Los Padres National Forests may require a Forest Service “Adventure Pass” for each vehicle. The Forest Service designates where the passes are required. Generally, areas that have developed parking and may include toilet facilities, interpretive signs and trash cans require passes and unpaved areas do not require passes. Outings that require passes usually will be preceded by **(*)** in the listings that follow and/or the leader may indicate the need for Adventure Passes. While leaders try to provide accurate information, ultimately it’s the vehicle’s driver that assumes responsibility to adhere to all rules, regulations, and laws - not the Sierra Club. The permits cost $30 per day or $3 per hour; however, they may not be obtained the day of your outing. As a passenger, you are expected to share some of the cost of the daily passes along with a mileage contribution along with others in the vehicle. Golden Eagle Passports and Golden Age Passports may be used in lieu or the Adventure Pass.

CARPOOLING POLICY: – In the interests of facilitating some outings, it is customary that drivers pool passengers to share some of the cost of the daily passes along with a mileage contribution along with others in the vehicle. Golden Eagle Passports and Golden Age Passports may be used in lieu or the Adventure Pass.

LIABILITY WAIVER: – To participate on one of the Sierra Club’s outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please visit the San Gorgonio Chapter website at sangorgonio.sierraclub.org and click on Disclaimers under the Outings tab.

RECURRING MONTHLY MEETINGS (LOOK IN CALENDAR FOR DATES)

(1ST MON) 6:00 PM MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING
Alpine Concourse, DoubleTree Guest Suites, 1320 Palm Ave., Indio, CA. Meet in the lobby Monday of selected months: Feb. 6, Apr. 3, May 1, Oct., 2, Nov. 6. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. MOUNTAINS GROUP

(1ST TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING
Monthly chapter meeting. PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2420 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com, (909) 800-3961. CHAPTER

(1ST THU) LIDDOSS RANGERS GROUP MEETING
Odd-numbered months: Jan., Mar., May, Jul., Sept., Nov. & Jan. PLACE: For meeting time & place, contact BRIAN ELLIOTT, briannel@aol.com LOS SERRANO GROUP

(2ND MON) 7:00 PM MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING
Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard’s Episcopal Church, 28/708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. MOUNTAINS GROUP

(2ND TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, kimfloyd@fastmail.fm, (760) 249-2385. CHAPTER

(2ND WED) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
The meeting place rotates. CONTACT: ELLEN KESLER, 909-585-1062, jrcricket47@yahoo.com BIG BEAR GROUP

(2ND WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: SUSAN STUEBER, susanasteber@gmail.com MOJAVE GROUP

(2ND THU) 6:30 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except July & August. The public is welcome. Doors open at 6:00 PM, meeting starts at 6:30. PLACE: Temecula Valley Library, 30600 Pauba Road, Temecula. INFO: PAM NELSON (951) 767-2324 siracranberry@gmail.com SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

(3RD TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
Monthly except July & August. Please join us for an informative program. PLACE: Goldy B. Lewis Center, Central Park, 11200 Baseline Rd., Rancho Cucamonga. INFO: BRIAN ELLIOTT, briannel@aol.com LOS SERRANOS GROUP

(3RD THU) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
Meeting Monthly except January, February and December. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site <sierc.org/san-gorgonio/big-bear/>. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. INFO: ELLEN KESLER, 909-585-1062, jrcricket47@yahoo.com BIG BEAR GROUP

(4TH TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
Chapter governance meeting. Monthly except for December. PLACE: The meeting is by teleconference. If you wish to participate, contact Mary Ann for instructions. INFO: MARY ANN RUZ, ruizmaryann@gmail.com, (909) 815-9379. CHAPTER

WEEKLY RECURRING FITNESS ACTIVITIES

Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings

MON 6:00 PMPRIMERSIDE MT, RUBIDOUX ONE HOUR WALK

OCTOBER 23 – OCTOBER 29
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings
(Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

OCT 24 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
Chapter governance meeting. Monthly except for December. PLACE: The meeting is by teleconference. If you wish to participate, contact Mary Ann for instructions. INFO: MARY ANN RUZ, ruizmaryann@gmail.com, (909) 815-9379. CHAPTER

OCT 27 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE HIKE
Join us on a 3-5 mile easy/moderate hike around the Green Valley Lake area of the San Bernardino Mountains. Learn about the history and ecology of this region. Well-behaved dogs on leash are welcome, but don’t forget your doggie poop bags. MEET in Green Valley Lake across the street from the post office (33271 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR layered clothing and hiking shoes. BRING snacks and water. CALL to check on weather conditions. Inclement weather will cancel. LEADER SANDY ELLIS, 909-867-7115 (no text), feuillet67@gmail.com SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

OCT 27-29 (FRI-SUN) DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION SERVICE
Join us as we continue the clean-up of a grow site in this beautiful National Park. We will hike about 3 miles up a rugged canyon to gather and carry out the trash left behind in an illegal grow site. Participants should bring an old backpack if they have one. Studio trash bags will be supplied to protect packs. Details on meeting time and camping location have not been finalized. Potluck Saturday night. LEADER: KATE ALLEN, kallen66@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

OCT 28 (SAT) 8:00 AM SPILL TOWER HIKE
On this hike with Split Rock, split Rock, middle, we will see many interesting rock formations. There will be some off-trail hiking so hikers are not recommended. A high clearance vehicle is needed to get to the trailhead. RATED: Moderate, there is some elevation gain at the beginning of the hike and at the end. This hike is approximately 4 miles long. BRING: water, a snack/lunch, binoculars, camera, and sun protection. WEAR: sturdy shoes/boots and dress in layers. MEET: Victor Valley Museum, (11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley 92308) at 8:00 AM. LEADER: QUINN LEW, (951) 315-7691 or qlake15@gmail.com MOJAVE GROUP

**OCT 28 (SAT) 8:00 AM SOUTH RIDGE TRAIL HIKE**
Hike Enjoy an early morning hike to Tahquitz Peak Lookout Tower. MEET: At the “Fort” in Idyllwild between Jo’Ans and the coffee shop at 8:00 AM so we can caravan to the starting point. We will hike from the beginning of the Forest Road to the trail-head on a 9 mile out and back hike to Tahquitz Peak Lookout Tower. The hike is moderately difficult with about 2500 ft of elevation gain. This trail in the on the way up is shaded by pines, oak in the early morning by the mountain ridge. The views along the trail and from the Tower provide fabulous vistas from the Garner Valley all the way to the ocean in the West. DIRECTIONS: From the “Fort” where we will meet in Idyllwild drive south on highway 243, turn left at Saunders Meadow Rd (Mile High Cafe) and left again on Pine (Forest Service Rd) to C30W261, (11 Mount San Bernardino) CA. The access pass is not needed if you park on the side of the road at the junction of Forest Rd 3511. I will obtain Wilderness Trail pass for those that register for the hike in advance. There is no fee for this pass. BRING: 5 liters water; Snacks; Ten Essentials, and layered clothing. RAIN CANCELS. To register for the hike or if you have questions about the hike contact LEADER GARY MARSALONE at hikiese@gmail.com SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

Continued on Page 4 > > >
**OCT 28 (SAT) 8:30 AM**  
**HANNA FLATS HIKE**  
This is a moderate to 8-9 mile round trip with approximately 800’ elevation gain. This hike starts at the Gray’s Peak trailhead at the bottom of the Gray’s Peak Trail then turn north and hike toward the Hanna Flats campground. We should see beautiful fall colors. Since the Butler fire of 2007, there has been much new growth from the many pine tree seedlings that were planted. MEET: at the Gray’s Peak trailhead on North Shore Drive, 2.7 miles from the dam going to the Tennis Courts. We will hike approximately 4 miles then start back at the trailhead on the Gray’s Peak Trail, then turn north and hike toward the Hanna Flats campground. We should see beautiful fall colors.

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**NOV 4 (SAT) 8:00 AM**  
**SPLIT ROCK HIKE**  
**NOV 1 (WED) 4:30 PM**  
**TERRI PEAK HIKE**  
**NOV 4 (SAT) 8:30 AM**  
**SKYLINE TRAIL HIKE**  
**5330 or sstueber16@gmail.com  MOJA VE GROUP**  
**(951) 315-7691 or qlake15@gmail.com CO-LEADER: SUSAN STUEBER, (760) 900-**

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**NOV 8 (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 7596 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, trekking poles, cameras. RSVP by 7 pm on Nov. 9. MEET: Contact John St. Clair to confirm and for directions to trailhead and carpooling. LEADER: JOHN ST. CLAIR at 909-983-8501 or john@stclairs.us

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**NOV 8 (WED) 6:30 PM**  
**BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING**  
**NOV 8 (WED) 7:00 PM**  
**MOJA GROUP MEETING**  
**NOV 9 (THU) 8:30 AM**  
**CHANTRY FLATS LOOP HIKE**  
This will be a moderately strenuous 10-mile loop hike from Chantry Flat, through Sturtevant Falls, Spruce Grove & Hoegees Campgrounds, returning via Upper Winter Creek Trail. This is a very steep trail following creeks, mostly forested, and will end with a climb of 1800 feet. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, lunch & snacks, sunscreen, hat, and layer clothing appropriate for the weather. Adventure Pass is required for parking at the trailhead. CONTACT Kathy Viola to confirm and for directions to trailhead or carpooling from Upland. LEADER: KATHY VIOLA, 909-346-9653 or kviola268@gmail.com

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**OCTOBER 30– NOVEMBER 5**  
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings  
(Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

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**NOV 1 (WED) 4:30 PM**  
**TERRI PEAK HIKE**  
Difficult 4-mile roundtrip hike to Terri Peak, overlooking Lake Perris, with 1,800’ elevation gain. The 7 mile route is on the border of the San Bernardino National Forest. MEET: 6:00WY in Moreno Valley, exit south on Moreno Beach Drive. Follow road for 3.4 miles, then turn left at the intersection of the railroad tracks. We will hike approximately 9 miles up to 8000’ elevation. We turn around there and return. Day time high is expected to be 85 degrees. BRING: water, snacks and water. LEADER: SANDY ELLIS 909-867-7115 (no text), fsellis67@gmail.com

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**NOV 3 (FRI) 9:00 AM**  
**SB MTS GREEN VALLEY LAKE AREA HIKE**  
Join us on a 4-6 mile easy/moderate hike around the Green Valley Lake region of the San Bernardino Mountains. MEET: in Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR layered clothing. BRING: snacks and water. LEADER: SANDY ELLIS 909-867-7115 (no text), fsellis67@gmail.com PLEASE CALL to check on weather conditions. CO-LEADER: KARLA KELLEMS 909-533-0590 (no text) karllakellems@gmail.com

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**NOV 4 (SAT) 8:00 AM**  
**SPLIT ROCK HIKE**  
This is a loop hike with Split Rock in the middle. There will be some off-trail hiking so shorts are not recommended. Come find out why this is one of our favorite places to hike to in Juniper Flats. RATED: Moderate, there is some elevation gain, the terrain is up and down. This hike is approximately 4 miles long. BRING: water, a snack/lunch, binoculars, camera, and sun protection. WEAR: sturdy shoes/boots and dress in layers. It can get windy up there. MEET: Victor Valley Museum, (11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley 92308) at 8:00 AM from there we will carpool to the trailhead. LEADER: SANDY ELLIS, 909-336-2836 (no text). SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

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**NOV 5 (SUN) 7:30 AM**  
**MECCA HILLS EXPLORATION HIKE**  
Explore 3-7 miles up a Mecca Hills canyon; no trail, just enthusiasm and willingness to “wing-it,” take in sights, & enjoy the canyon geology/flora. RATING: Moderate with uneven footing, no trail, and exposure. MEET: base of TA Travel Steps sign, 46155 Dillon Road, 2.7 miles north of Mecca. MEET on the side of the road nearest the meadow. Bring a snack and water. MEET: ELJ Call for meeting place and details. LEADER: HEATHER SARGEANT 909-336-2836 (no text). SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

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**NOV 9 (FRI) 9:00 AM**  
**SB MTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE HIKE**  
Join us on a 3-5 mile easy/moderate hike around the Green Valley Lake area of the San Bernardino Mountains. Learn about the history and ecology of this region. Well behaved dogs on leash are welcome, but don’t forget your doggie poop bags. MEET: Green Valley Lake across the street from the post office (3327 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR layered clothing and hiking shoes. BRING snacks and water. Inclement weather will cancel. Please CALL to check on weather conditions. LEADER: SANDY ELLIS, 909-867-7115 (no text), fsellis67@gmail.com CO-LEADER: KARLA KELLEMS 909-939-5790 (no text) karllakellems@gmail.com

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**NOV 10 (SAT) 8:00 AM**  
**PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, HIGHWAY 173 HIKE**  
Easy to moderate 4 mile loop along trees, a creek and mountain views. Bring water, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, snack. Possible lunch opportunity afterwards. MEET: take the Oak Glen exit of the 10 FWY in Yucaipa north until you reach Los Rios Rancho Apple Ranch. Park near the main entrance of the Montane Botanic Garden. Or from Moreno Valley quick route live Oak Canyon. Rain cancels. RSVP by 7 pm on Nov. 9. INFO and LEADER: CHRISTINA TORRES (951) 318-7503 or cm.teck@gmail.com

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**NOV 11 (SAT) 8:00 AM**  
**CASCADIA CRANBERY HIKE**  
This is a 6-9 mile outing rated moderate due to some elevation gain and an area where we will explore off trail through a burn area. Views across the historic Summit Valley are spectacular. BRING: layer clothing and appropriate for the weather. Adventure Pass will be required for parking at the trailhead. MEET at the Visitor Center Museum, Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308 by 8am. LEADER: NORMAN BOSWORTH 760-912-3725. couchnorm@yahoocom

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**NOV 12 (SUN) 8:30 AM**  
**CRYSTAL LAKE TO MT. ISLIP HIKE**  
This is a fun loop hike to the top of 8080’ Mt. Islip. Total distance is more than 7 miles

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Continued on Page 5 > > >
BRING water, a snack and layered clothing. Strong footwork is a requirement. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum, Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308 by 8 a.m. LEADER: NORMAN BOSSMAN 760-912-3725, cooknarm@yahoo.com  MOJAVE GROUP

**NOV 18 (SAT) 8:30 AM  GRANDEVIEW POINT HIKE**

This hike starts at the Aspen Glen Picnic area in Big Bear. It’s a 6.5 mile out and back hike through pine, firs, juniper and oaks. Grandeview Point will be our snack/lunch break. There are breathtaking views from the point! From there we will retrace our steps back. Bad weather cancels. RATED: Moderate in difficulty. BRING: 10 essentials, 2 liters of water, snack/lunch, wear layered clothing, hiking boots, trekking poles and camera. MEET: At the Aspen Glen Picnic area on Millcreek Rd. on the west side of Big Bear, an Adventure Pass is required to park there. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER JUDY ATKINSON (909) 289-1932, judy7523@gmail.com  BIG BEAR GROUP

NOV 19 (SUN) 8:30 AM  GOLD MOUNTAIN HIKE

The Holcomb fire in June reached as far south east as the PCT trailhead to Gold Mountain. The forest ranger closed the trailhead for a year. I will alternate a route and route everyone which I have chosen. RATED: Moderate with a few steep slopes. Elevation gain is about 1,200 feet. It is a 7-mile in and out hike. BRING: The ten essentials including layered clothing, sunscreen, sunglasses, snack/lunch, a good pair of hiking boots, and two liters of water. MEET: Saturday November 19th at 8:30 AM at Apple Valley parking lot. We will carpool to the trailhead. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER PETER MICHELSEN at petemichelsen@gmail.com or call 760-333-3103.  BIG BEAR GROUP

NOVEMBER 20 – NOVEMBER 26

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

NOV 22 (WED) 9:00 AM  INTO LAKE PERRIS HIKE

Moderate 6-mile hike along hills into Lake Perris. BRING water, snack, sunscreen, sturdy shoes. Rain cancels. MEET: Ridgecrest Park at 28506 John F. Kennedy Dr., Moreno Valley. Carpool to trailhead. INFO and LEADER: CHRISTINA TORRES (951) 318-7503 or cmtdeck@gmail.com  MORENO VALLEY GROUP

NOV 24 (FRI) 10:00 AM  SB MTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE ARTISAN TOUR

Explore the community of Green Valley Lake on a moderate 3-mile walk around town with stops to visit local artisans. Our own hiking leader Sandy Ellis will open her home to the tour. This is a great opportunity to get some exercise, and some Christmas shopping done. BRING: snacks, water, and money for shopping. MEET in Green Valley Lake across the street from the post office (33271 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR layered clothing and walking shoes. Inclement weather will cancel. LEADER KARLA KELLEMES karlakellems@gmail.com, 909-939-5790 (no text)  SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

NOVEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 3

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

NOV 28 (TUE) 7:00 PM  SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCURSION MEETING

Chapter governance meeting. Monthly except for December. PLACE: by teleconference. If you wish to participate, contact Mary Ann for instructions. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, ruziamaryans@gmail.com, (909) 815-9379.  CHAPTER

DEC 1 (FRI) 9:00 AM  SB MTS, ARROWHEAD RIDGE HIKE

Come join us on this moderate 2-mile hike. Explore massive ponderosa pine forest in this lush forested area. After the hike check out the Veterans Monument, an Eagle Scout project. Moderate head on out and back on the Arrowhead Ridge Road, with a nice section of trail in the Big Bear Club. Look for the boulder with a carved Arrowhead on the right. WEAR layered clothing and hiking shoes. BRING snacks and water. Inclement weather or poor trail conditions will cancel. LEADER KARLA KELLEMES 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com  SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

DEC 2 (SAT) 8:00 AM  BONITA VISTA HIKE

There are beautiful views from the top and numerous other trails from this trailhead. There are short stroll of a mile or less to 6 or more miles. This hike, called the “Ridge Loop,” is over 2 miles. RATED: Easy to Moderate, there is elevation gain in the beginning. BRING: water, a snack, lunch, binoculars, camera, and sun protection. WEAR: sturdy shoes and dress in layers. MEET: VICTOR VALLEY MUSEUM, (11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley 92308) at 8:00 AM from there we will carpool to the trailhead. LEADER: QUINTIN LAKEL, (951)315-7691 or qkle15@gmail.com  SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

DEC 2 (SAT) 8:00 AM  HOPALAND CASSIDY TRAIL HIKE

The trail starts at the Bump and Grind trailhead and contours through the hills and side canyons west of Highway 74 in Palm Desert, eventually joining the Art Smith trail and hiking out at the national monument visitor center on CA-74. Portions of the trail will be the city in view, while other sections feel quite remote. With a short car shuttle, we will hike the entire trail. The 1600 ft. cumulative elevation change and 10-mile distance make this a substantial hike. Optional late lunch gathering afterwards. RATED: Moderate-Strenuous. MEET: Starbucks at the SW corner of Highway 111 and Monterey/Highway 74. 7:30AM El Paseo, Palm Desert, CA 92266. BRING: ten essentials, layers and sun protection, snack, 3-liters of water RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER DAVE MELTON at (760) 408-2456 or dmelton41@yahoo.com  BIG BEAR GROUP

Continued on Page 10 > > >
Tahquitz Group
Submitted by Joan Taylor

Tahquitz Group Executive Committee Election

This year’s Nominating Committee (Gary Gray and Rob Taylor) wants you to know that if you want to be considered for nomination, or know someone that you want to present for nomination you can contact either one of them (mountaintracker47@gmail.com or juniperree@mac.com). Before you do, however, please look over this year’s Election Rules.

Election Rules

• Nominees must be Tahquitz Group members who give their consent to be nominated.
• Requests for nomination must be received by November 20, 2017.
• If the Nominating Committee chooses not to place a willing candidate on the ballot as a nominated candidate, the candidate may seek placement on the ballot as a petition candidate.
• The name of any Tahquitz Group member may be proposed by written petition (with candidate approval) containing the signatures of at least 10 Tahquitz Group members. Petitions with valid signatures must be received at PO Box 4944 Palm Springs CA 92263 by 6:00 pm on November 20, 2017.
• All Tahquitz Group members as of December 5, 2017, shall be sent ballots.
• Ballots will be mailed (as part of the Palm and Pine) by approximately December 20.
• Final receipt date for ballots shall be January 24th at 12 noon.
• Ballots will be verified, opened, and counted at 11:30 am on Monday, February 12, 2018, at Starbucks Coffeehouse, 67760 E Palm Canyon Dr, Cathedral City, CA.
• The 2-year term of office for the newly elected Excom members will commence on Feb 12, 2018, and will run through December 31, 2019.

Last month with the passing of Jeff Morgan, Chair of Tahquitz Group, we lost a wonderful friend and great champion of the California desert.

Ever since Jeff moved to the Coachella Valley over two decades ago, he worked tirelessly to fight development and OHV threats to the desert’s special places. With wide-ranging experience around the globe as a mountaineer, spelunker, engineer, contractor, and finally property appraiser, Jeff brought many skills to the table. He could decipher maps and plans, and judge feasibility of development with expertise that often stymied our opponents when they tried to pull the wool over our eyes! True to his mountaineer background, Jeff always remained cool and undaunted in the face of adversity.

Jeff worked on a number of environmental issues, but is especially known for his leadership in the Pine Mountain, Shadowrock, and Paradise Valley battles. The former two battles were consummated and the areas preserved in perpetuity. But the “new town” of Paradise Valley next to Joshua Tree National Park is still being processed by Riverside County. It will be very tough to fill Jeff’s shoes on that project, but we will try.

Jeff was no armchair environmentalist. He loved to explore desert peaks, archaeological sites and canyons, often discovering unique routes into hard-to-reach destinations. A “Renaissance man,” Jeff was indeed a very special compatriot – he will be greatly missed.
Temecula creek continues. This summer I, Pam Nelson, transportation-workshop-rapid-mass.html
And ... http://sierraconservation.blogspot.com/2017/02/
riverside-to-san-diego-commuter-train.html
more information link to:
http://sierraconservation.blogspot.com/2017/09/dealing-with-
desirable because of the affordability condition:
Interstate 15 in Temecula may make the commuting time shorter
will evaporate. This concept is fully false. Indeed, expansion of
expanded by adding more lanes, the problem of the congested road
Riverside. This option relies on the concept that once a highway is
These improvements would include the addition of traffic lanes and
and to Riverside, respectively. To reduce traffic on Interstates 15
much larger. Interstates 15 and 215 connect San Diego to Ontario
corridors would indicate that the 2030 projection is expected to be
A review of construction expansion within the Interstates 15 and 215
by 2030 at the junction of the Riverside and San Diego county line.
Our general meeting speaker series looks exciting for this year. We had an eye-opening overview of how water and sewer can be used to make a sustainable supply for our region at our last meeting. Eastern Municipal Water District’s Joe Mouawad explained the innovative method the District is using that includes desalination and fuel cell technology.
Our October presentation by The Nature Conservancy (Trish Smith and Cara Lacey) will tell us about wildlife connectivity in So. California. The next month will be Maria Serrano showing her artistic and creative nature photographs.
We are planning some fun social events as well. We will be repeating our Holiday Party at the Vail Lake Resort on Dec 10th. Mark your calendars!
By Pam Nelson, Chair

Congested Interstates Traffic Through the Temecula Valley: Options

The average daily traffic through Temecula Valley was about 165,000 vehicles during 2015 (source Caltrans: 159,000 to 169,000). This number was projected to increase to 250,000 by 2030 at the junction of the Riverside and San Diego county line. A review of construction expansion within the Interstates 15 and 215 corridors would indicate that the 2030 projection is expected to be much larger. Interstates 15 and 215 connect San Diego to Ontario and to Riverside, respectively. To reduce traffic on Interstates 15 and 215, several options have been presented. Among these are an improvement of California State Route 79 from Highway 8 to Aguanga, north to Hemet connecting to Highway 10 and 60 at Beaumont. It would allow an alternative route for trucks and cars passing through the region to the north and east of Temecula Valley.
The second option is improvement of both Interstate 15 and 215. These improvements would include the addition of traffic lanes and an extension of the express lanes from Escondido to Ontario and Riverside. This option relies on the concept that once a highway is expanded by adding more lanes, the problem of the congested road will evaporate. This concept is fully false. Indeed, expansion of Interstate 15 in Temecula may make the commuting time shorter but it allows more distant places such as Hemet to become more desirable because of the affordability condition:
http://sierraconservation.blogspot.com/2017/09/dealing-with-
traffic-on-interstate-15.html

SANTA MARGARITA GROUP ELECTIONS

This year’s Nominating Committee (Michael Momeni, Bob Audibert and George McMackin) wants you to know that if you want to be considered for nomination, or know someone that you want to present for nomination, you can contact any one of them (sierraclubsmg@gmail.com). Before you do, however, look over this year’s Election Rules.

Election Rules
• Nominates must be Santa Margarita Group members who give their consent to be nominated.
• Requests for nomination must be received by October 25, 2017.
• If the Nominating Committee chooses not to place a willing candidate on the ballot as a nominated candidate, the candidate may seek placement on the ballot as a petition candidate.
• The name of any Group member may be proposed by written petition (with candidate approval) containing the signatures of at least 10 Group members.
• Petitions with valid signatures must be received by 5:00 pm on Oct 25.
• All Group members shall be sent ballots in the Jan/ Feb 2018 issue of the Palm and Pine newsletter.
• Final receipt date for ballots shall be January 31, 2018.
• Ballots will be verified, opened, and counted on Feb 1st by the election committee.
• The 2-year term of office for the newly elected Excom members will commence on February 15, 2018, and will run through December 31, 2019. Everything accomplished by the Group is done by volunteers and this is one way that you can help make a difference. If you want to know more about the duties of an Executive Committee member please feel free to contact Pam Nelson at pamela05yahoo.com
Conservation News for Mojave Group

1. Installation of interpretive signs at Arrastre Falls, trash cleanup, fix the fence if needed and talk about wildlife and riparian areas.

2. Installation of interpretive signs, restoration project nearby, followed by a short hike led by the Friends of Juniper Flats. The hike was led by Jenny Wilder the coordinator for the Friends of Juniper Flats. Hikers were given information about the vegetation, history and rock formations of the area.

3. General clean-up of trash off of I-15. (A road that leads to one of our favorite hiking areas.)

It was a beautiful day, sunny and a bit on the windy side. Following National Public Lands Day the Friends of Juniper Flats held their annual membership meeting. There are a lot of exciting things happening in the Juniper Flats area. We are making some headway at hiking trails designated in one of the WEMO alternatives. We are planning ways to get more attention from community leaders on the uniqueness of the area.

If you are interested in getting involved please contact Jenny Wilder at jensasias@gmail.com or Susan Steuber at susstueber16@gmail.com.

Election Rules

1. Nominees must be Mojave Group members who give their consent to be nominated.

2. Requests for nomination must be received by November 27th.

3. All Mojave Group members will be mailed ballots as part of the January/February Palm and Pine.

4. Ballots must be received by January 26th or you can submit your ballot at the January 10, 2018, Mojave Group general meeting.

5. Results will be published in the March/April Palm and Pine and will be announced at the February 14th Mojave Group general meeting.

6. The new members 2 year terms will start on February 1, 2018.

Ballots will be verified, opened, and counted at December 10, 2017, 3:00 p.m. in the patio area of Starbucks located at 12751 Moreno Beach Dr., Moreno Valley, CA 92555.

The 2-year term of office for the newly elected ExCom members will commence at their first meeting of 2018, and will run through December 31, 2019.

Requests for nomination must be received by October 20, 2017. The nominees must be Moreno Valley Group members who give their consent and there is no compensation provided. If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Dale at (951) 941-3883 or kdallenm@aol.com

MORE MORENO VALLEY GROUP NEWS

O r all group hikes continue with the November 1st Terri Peak Hike. For complete information and a list of our hikes, please go to: http://sangorgonio2.sierrclub.org/groups/moreno_valley

The Woodland Village Project (IVP): The Moreno Valley Planning Commission and the city’s Recreational Trails Board have unanimously rejected the IVP at their meetings. The developer did not file the required appeal of the planning commission denial, but the item was scheduled to be put on the city council agenda. In August the developer asked the project to be designed independently. Local residents group, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, have organized in opposition to the project. Residents are concerned about the small lot sizes and loss of rural land uses, compromising the city’s plan, increases in traffic, and elimination of city public multi-use trail. The city has done a mitigated negative declaration which does not include a complete analysis of the project.

Moreno Valley Logistics Center (MVLCl): The project proposes four warehouses totaling about 1.8 million square feet. One building of 1.3 million square feet is planned for existing homes with truck docks lining the wall facing the homes. Of major concern is the effect that poor air quality, noise, and traffic will have on the adjacent neighborhood. The project proponent wants to reduce the setback from 300 feet to 100 feet further endangering local residents. The project was unanimously approved by the city Planning Commission in July. The city council hearing has been continued to November 7, 2017. Comments may still be submitted to the planner, Julia Descoteaux at julia@mvcl.org. The environmental documents can be found at the city’s web page: http://www.moreno-valley.ca.us/cdd/documents/about-projects.html

World Logistics Center (WCL): A coalition of environmental groups (San Bernardino Audubon Society, Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club and other groups) are being represented by Earthjustice. The appeal hopes to reverse the decision of the Riverside County Superior Court judge who denied the request by the coalition to block two Moreno Valley city initiatives which may allow the city to circumvent state environmental laws in analyzing the environmental impacts of the WLC project. Our California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) challenge to the WLC will be heard in court during the first week in January 2018.

Villages of Lakeview (VOL): The final environmental document was released on August 2017. The Riverside County Planning Commission hearing on the project was held on September 6, 2017, and continued to October 4, 2017. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors could hold hearings on the project as soon as November. The proposed VOL housing project (11,350 units) is planned on the southern boundary of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. The current hearing process includes a modified project of 8,725 housing units referred to as Alternative 7. You can contact planner Russell Brady at rbrady@rctlma.org or (951) 955-3025 for more information and to be put on their mailing list.

Donations Needed: Please note that our group fall newsletter will be sent out in early November. There will be a self-addressed, self-stamped envelope that can be used to return your group election ballots and make a donation if you wish to challenge the latest version of the Villages of Lakeview project and continue to help with the World Logistics Center litigation. You can check out the “Sierra Club” with the notation WLC/VOL and send your donations to: Sierra Club—Moreno Valley Group, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325. Thank you to all who have already donated.

Mid County Parkway (MCP): The six-lane MCB between the cities of San Jacinto and Perris is designed to allow projects like the Villages of Lakeview to be built. While we lost in court, the Center for Biological Diversity has filed an appeal on the federal decision on behalf of the Sierra Club and other groups and is reviewing the potential for an appeal of the State Superior Court decision.

Moreno Valley Recreational Trails Board hike, Saturday, October 28, 2017. Hike to Idyllwild Springs M Trail (DIFFICULT) also moving forward with our opening brief filed on September 27.

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17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: /s/ Ladd G. Seekins, 10/2/2017
DEC 2 (SAT) 10:00 AM WHITETAIL CANYON SOUTH VIEW LOOP HIKE A 3.5-mile moderate loop trail with excellent views of the canyon and surrounding mountains. This trail leaves from the Whitewater Preserve Ranger Station and follows the Pacific Crest Trail heading south. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, snacks, sunscreen, layer clothing, and for directions to trailhead and carpool meeting place. LEADER: JOHN ST. CLAIR at 909-983-8501 or john@stclair.us LOS SERRANOS GROUP

DEC 2 (SAT) 10:00 AM WHITETAIL PRESERVE NORTH TO RED DOME HIKE Hike along the PCT. From Whitewater Preserve Ranger Station hike north, 2 miles to Red Dome, an interesting rock outcrop. There are views to Sand to Snow National Monument, maybe even snow on the mountains. RATED: Easy. 4 miles RT, level. BRING: hiking boots, layered clothing, 2 liters of water, and snacks. Exposed hike, hat and sunscreen advised. MEET: Whitewater Ranger station. LEADER JEFF WARHOL 909-985-7686 jwmwandjj@hotmail.com LOS SERRANOS GROUP

DEC 2 (SAT) 9:00 AM CHAPTER DAY AT WHITETAIL SOCIAL Explore Whitewater Preserve in Sand to Snow National Monument with friends. We will have two hikes to choose from beginning at 10:30 AM. We will have a table with San Gorgonio Chapter info, group pic after the hikes (be a picnic lunch!), education on cultural awareness from indigenous tribe members, and welcoming info for new members. See hike details on this date and Palm and Pine article on front page for further details. INFO: CONTACT MARY ANN RUIZ, mizmaryan@gmail.com or 909-815-9377. SANGORCINO GROUP

DEC 3 (SUN) 8:00 AM LOST PALM OASIS TRAIL, JOSHUA TREE NP HIKE This oasis has the highest concentration of native California palms in Joshua Tree. Visit via a 7.4-mile-round trip hike with 400 feet of elevation gain from Cottonwood Springs. Climb over rocky ridges and follow narrow sandy washes, passing many cacti and large groups of non-native boulders. MEETING PLACE: From Interstate 10 15 miles east of Coachella or 168 Cottonwood Springs Road, turn left (north) for 7 miles, turn right (east) before visitor center, and 1 mile to trailhead at end of road on the right. COST: Entrance fee or pass required. RATED: Moderately difficult. BRING: Ten essentials including layered clothing, sun screen, 2 liters of water, and hiking poles. RESERVATIONS: CONTACT APPTRENDLE LEADER DAVID HOLTEGAARD 909-881-3329 or dfolleie@aol.com or LEADER ED CALIENDO 442-242-4103 ordog111@msn.com BIG BEAR GROUP

DEC 3 (SUN) 8:30 AM EYE OF GOD VIA PCT HIKE This hike is through a dense forest of Pinyon pines dotted by the occasional Joshua tree. After about a mile the tree canopy opens up onto the high mountain desert. Then take an access road to the Eye of God, a rose colored quartz boulder held sacred by the Serrano Indians. RATED: Easy. It is a five mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 400 feet. BRING: The ten essentials including layered clothing, sun screen, hat, sun glasses, snack/ lunch, hiking boots and 2 liters of water. MEET: Vons parking lot at 8:30 AM. We will car pool to the trailhead. RESERVATIONS: CONTACT LEADER JUDY ATRINSON (909) 289-1932, judy5723@gmail.com LOS SERRANOS GROUP

DECEMBER 4 – DECEMBER 10

DEC 5 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING Monthly meeting program. SEE front page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS ladd.d.seekins@gmail.com. (909) 800-3911. CHAPTER

DEC 6 (WED)/7:30 AM NORTH VIEW LOOP TRAIL, JOSHUA TREE NP HIKE Seven mile loop on the trails: North View, 2.7m; Maze, 1.2m; Windmill Rock, 1.9m; 1.2m back to Cars Varied views and terrain. Don’t forget your camera! RATED: Moderate; short ascent/descent; a few hundred feet total elevation gain/loss overall. Some sand; some rock footing. MEETING PLACE: Joshua Tree Visitor Center parking lot. 6554 Park Boulevard, Joshua Tree CA 92252. Extremely limited trailhead parking; we’ll take as few cars as possible. The trailhead is about 1/2 mile from the West Entrance Station BRING: Water & snacks for the 6 am start, hiking poles, wind/sun protection (hat, sunscreen, protective clothing), first aid supplies WEBER: Desert winter days can be warm or cold; check forecast prior to hike. Rain or snow cancels. RESERVATIONS: EMAIL LEADER LJ FOSTER at eljayeffhiker@yahoo.com or leave name, contact number at (951) 845-9440. BIG BEAR GROUP

DEC 6 (WED) 9:00 AM UPPER MARSHALL CANYON HIKE This moderate rated hike goes through a convoluted trail, 4.5-mile RT with a 750’ elevation gain at the start of the hike. Layer clothing and wear for the weather. CONTACT hal park, BRING: water, sturdy boots, layered clothing and hiking sticks. Rain cancels. MEET: Please CALL LEADER: JEFF WARHOL to confirm by 5 DEC. 5:00PM or e-mail jwmwandjj@hotmail.com LOS SERRANOS GROUP

DEC 9 (SAT) 8:00 AM DEEP CREEK CANYON, SOUTHERN SECTION HIKE An 8-mile round trip through this beautiful and historic canyon, RATED moderate only because of the Monitor. Minor elevation gain in one section. Tater climbing. There will be an historic commentary BRING water, a snack and layered clothing. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum, Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92398 by 8 AM. LEADER: NORMAN BOSMOM 760-912-3725. cooknum3@yahoo.com MOJAVE GROUP

DEC 9 (SAT) 8:00 AM JOSHUA TREE NP, SMITH WATERS CANYON HIKE A beautiful, narrow, and lush canyon with steep walls. Thickets of desert willow and cottonwoods choke the bottom making for an interesting hike. In the lower part, a climb of about 20’ tall spans the water requiring a small section of bushwacking. The trail is 8 miles with an elevation gain of 2,300 feet. RATED: Moderate-Strenuous. MEET: At the Applebee’s on Hwy. 62, 57796 Twenty-Nine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley 92284. BRING: ten essentials, layered clothing including long-sleeve shirt that can withstand thorny brush, sun screen, sunglasses, and first aid supplies. RESERVATIONS: CONTACT APPTRENDLE LEADER BOB McWILLIAMS 760-897-7403 or email janetroy2@yahoo.com or LEADER PETER MICHELSEN at petermichelsen@gmail.com or call 760-333-3103 BIG BEAR GROUP

DECEMBER 11 – DECEMBER 17

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

**DEC 12 (TUE) 8:00 AM STODDARD PEAK HIKE** This is a moderate hike up Barrett Canyon to the 4624 ft. top of Stoddard Peak, 6 miles round trip with 1100 ft. elevation gain. The hike in Barrett Canyon is easy and goes past some charming cabins. The last half mile up Stoddard Peak is a steep scramble. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, snack, sunscreen, layer clothing appropriate for the weather. Adventure Pass is required for parking at the trailhead. MEET: Contact leader to confirm & for directions to trailhead or carpool place in Upland. LEADER: KATHY VIOLA at 909-346-9635 or kviola26@gmail.com LOS SERRANOS GROUP

DEC 12 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, kimffloyd@fastmail.fm (760) 249-5385. CHAPTER

DEC 13 (WED) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP ECOEX MEETING The meeting place rotates. CONTACT: ELLEN KESLER, 909-585-1062, jrick4et@yahoo.com BIG BEAR GROUP

DEC 13 (WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE MEETING Monthly meeting except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Room 1773, Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: SUSAN STUBER, susanannin.stuber@gmail.com MOJAVE GROUP

DEC 14 (THU) 6:30 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING Monthly meeting except July & August. PLACE: Applebee’s on Hwy. 62, 57796 Twenty-Nine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley 92284. BRING: water & snacks for the meeting, hats, sunscreen, protective clothing, and for directions to carpool meeting place. MEET: Contact leader to confirm & for directions to trailhead or carpool place in Desert Center. LEADER SUSAN MELTON, 760-897-7403 or email janetroy2@yahoo.com or LEADER PETER MICHELSEN at petermichelsen@gmail.com or call 760-333-3103 BIG BEAR GROUP

DEC 15 (FRI) 9:00 AM SMBTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE HIKE/SNOWSHOE Join us for a 2-3 mile easy/moderate hike/snowshoe around the Green Valley Lake area of the San Bernardino Mountains. If we have enough snow we will snowshoe. All levels welcome, and no experience is required. MEET in Green Valley Lake across the street from the post office (33271 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA92341). WEAR layered clothing. BRING snacks and water. LEADER Sandy Ellis, 909-867-7115 (no text), foillow676@gmail.com Inclement weather will cancel. Please plan to check on weather conditions. CO-LEADER KARLA KELLEMS, 909-939-5700 (no text) karfakellmes@gmail.com SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

DEC 15-17 (FRI-SUN) MECCA HILLS, PAINTED CANYON CAR CAMP Camp in the desert. The Mecca hills were formed by plate tectonics along the San Andreas Fault. This geological marvel has some of the best sloped canyons in California. Easy to moderate talks to explain hikes included. The public is welcome. Dozes open at 6:00 PM meeting starts at 6:30 PM. PLACE: Temecula Valley Library, 30600 Pasko Road, Temecula. INFO: PAM NELSON (951) 767-2324 sierrachubsgm@gmail.com SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

DEC 16 (SAT) 8:00 AM DEEP CREEK CANYON, NORTHERN SECTION HIKE This 6 mile round trip is a great hike for monitoring eg and off trail hiking. The area has much historical interest and a commentary will be provided. There is water in the Mojave River to be prepared to get your feet wet. A short 1 mile downhill is recommended. This is a fun adventure. BRING water, a snack and layered clothing. Continued on Page 11 > > >
COMING UP
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

**JAN 5 (SAT) 9:00 AM SB BTS, HEAPS PEAK ARBORETUM WALK Here’s your last chance to get the kids out into nature before the end of winter break. Join us for a 1-mile easy walk on the family friendly Sequoia Trail. The interpretive trial is an educational opportunity to learn the names of local plants and animals. MEET: Heaps Arboretum on Highway 18. Adventure Pass recommended. WEAR layered clothing and hiking shoes. Inclement weather or poor trail conditions will cancel. LEADER KARLA KELLEMS 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

DECEMBER 18 – DECEMBER 24
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

DEC 19 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING Monthly except July & August. Please join us for an information program. PLACE: Goldy B. Lewis Center, Central Park, 11200 Baseline Rd., Rancho Cucamonga. INFO: BRIAN ELLIOTT, brianneli@aol.com LOS SERRANOS GROUP

DEC 20 (WED) 9:30 AM WILDCOW CANYON STATE PARK HIKE This 5-mile loop has some steep areas, follows a ridge and oak trees. BRING: water, a snack, sturdy shoes, sun protection (hat, sunscreen, protective clothing) & insect repellent. MEET: at visitor center (909) 786-0297. RSVP by 7 p.m. DEC 15th INFO and LEADER: CHRISTINA TORRES (951) 318-7503 or cmt.teck@gmail.com MORENO VALLEY GROUP

DEC 22 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB BTS STRAWBERRY PEAK WALK Join us for a 1-mile easy hike on the Strawberry Peak Trail. Fun interpretative hike led by Garden Writer and impressive “Harry Potter” tree fan who is very familiar with the whole family. After the hike, check out the views at the Strawberry Peak fire lookout tower (road conditions permitting). Meet at the Strawberry Peak trailhead on HWY 189 across the street from the Strawberry Peak fire lookout tower.ξ• Extra warm layers recommended.ξ• Bring water and snacks.ξ• Bring layered clothing and hiking shoes.ξ• BRING snacks and water.ξ• Inclement weather or poor trail conditions will cancel. LEADER KARLA KELLEMS, 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

DEC 23 (SAT) 7:30 AM MEHCS MILLENIA EXPLORATION #2 HIKE Explore 3.6 miles up a Mecca Hills canyon; no trail; just enjoy, enthusiasm and willingness to “wing-it”, take in sights, & enjoy the canyon geology/flora. RATING: Moderate with several short uphill climbs. MEET: Base of the TA Travel sign 46155 Dillon Rd, Coachella CA 92236, follow the TA Travel Center gas station signage. Meet in parking lot under the TA Travel sign. Right turn at 5 hour turn 1 complete. RATING: Easy/moderate. MEET: Take I-10 to Spot Light 29 Casino, Dillon Road off-ramp and look for TA Travel Center gas station signage. Meet in parking lot under the TA Travel sign. 46155 Dillon Rd, Coachella CA 92236 BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, 2-liters of water, lunch/snack, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. Hikers should wear long pants or 2-in1 pants. RESERVATIONS: Call LEADER ED CALIENDO (442) 242-4103 or dogs11118@msn.com BIG BEAR GROUP

**DECEMBER 31 – DECEMBER 31
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

DEC 29 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB BTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE HIKE/SNOWSHOE Join us for a 2.5 mile easy/moderate hike/snowshoe around the Green Valley Lake area of the San Bernardino Mountains. If we have enough snow we will snowshoe. All levels welcome, and no experience is required. MEET in Green Valley Lake across the street from the post office (33271 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR layered clothing, BRING snacks and water. LEADER Sandy Ellis, 909-867-9175 (no text), fullsun657@gmail.com Inclement weather will cancel. PLEASE CALL to check on weather conditions. LEADER KARLA KELLEMS, 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

DEC 31 (SUN) 8:00 AM NEW YEAR'S EVE, JOSHUA TREE, WARREN PEAK HIKE A 7-mile loop combines easy wash walking in pretty Black Rock Canyon; an occasionally serious steep trail through the aptly named Panorama Loop; a short, steep, occasionally loose walk-up on an exposed ridge; a short, stiff walk on a use trail off the north side of the peak. The vegetation includes some nice larger pinyon, juniper and oak. Starting elevation of 4000 feet with 1100 foot gain. RATED: Moderately difficult. MEET: Visitor’s Center, 9900 Black Rock Canyon Road, Yucca Valley, CA 92284. No entrance station or fee should be back. To the trailhead by 8:00 p.m. BRING: ten-essentials, hiking poles, layers and sun protection, lunch, and 2.5-liters of water RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER DAVE MELTON at (760) 408-2456 or dmelton61@yahoo.com or CO-LEADER PETER MICHELSEN at petermichelsenor@gmail.com or call 760-333-3103. BIG BEAR GROUP

Election Rules
• Nominees must be Los Serranos Group members who give their consent to be nominated.
• Requests for nomination must be received by November 10.
• If the Nominating Committee chooses not to place a willing candidate on the ballot as a nominated candidate, the candidate may seek placement on the ballot as a petition candidate in advance of the election date.
• The name of any Los Serranos member may be proposed by written petition (with candidate approval) containing the signatures of at least 10 Los Serranos members.
• Petitions with valid signatures must be received by 6:00 p.m. on November 24. At Los Serranos member of the executive-committee, shall be sent ballots as part of the Palm and Pine.
• Ballots will be mailed as (part of the Jan/Feb 2018 Palm and Pine) by December 20. Cut the ballot from the Palm and Pine and mail it to the address that is indicated on the ballot. Your name(s) should be on the envelope.
• Final receipt date for ballots shall be January 24, 2018, at 12 noon.
• Ballots will be verified, opened, and counted at Last Name Brewing in Upland on January 27, 2018.
• The 2-year term of office for the newly elected Excom members will commence on March 1, 2018, and will run through Feb 28, 2019. Everything accomplished by the Los Serranos Group is done by volunteers and this is one way that you can help make a difference. If you would like to know more about the duties of an Executive Committee please feel free to contact Brian Elliott at brianneli@aol.com or Mary Ann Ruiz at ruizmaryann@gmail.com. Please review this year’s Election Rules that follow:

Palm and Pine
Gail and Ladd will share their wonderful adventure at the December 5th chapter meeting. The original color slides from 2004 have been digitized and newly edited to highlight these two unique nations.

The adventure started with a landing in Kolkata (Calcutta) due to mechanical difficulties, unexpectedly adding a day to the itinerary. The trip started with a landing in Kolkata (Calcutta) due to mechanical difficulties, unexpectedly adding a day to the itinerary. The trip ended with a short stay in Bangkok.

The Seekins based their Cambodia activities in the tourist city Siem Reap, renting bicycles to visit the nearby temples despite the intense heat and wilting humidity. The temples, including Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom, East Baray, and several others, are the crumbling remains of the great capital city of the Kmer Empire of the ninth through sixteenth centuries. The next day they sensibly hired a tuk-tuk and driver to tour the more remote temples and visit one of the floating villages on Tonle Sap, Southeast Asia’s largest freshwater lake.

The heart of the tour was Bhutan, the only remaining Himalayan Buddhist kingdom, where the Seekins met a group organized by a friend. Their Bhutanese guide was a university-educated biologist who had worked at the International Crane Foundation in Wisconsin. Bhutan has one of the world’s 15 species of cranes. Like many crane species, it’s endangered from habitat loss. Bhutan’s forests contain 40 species of rhododendrons. Except for two or three, the Seekins saw them all in bloom. The tour visited several dzongs in the drive across Bhutan.

Political Planning for 2018

On Saturday, September 23, members of your Executive Committee and Political Committee, under the leadership of our ExCom Chair, Mary Ann Ruiz, spent most of the day in a face-to-face meeting on the campus of the University of Redlands to plan our use of limited resources and volunteers to make the largest possible political impact for the environment and environmental justice in 2018.

We discussed the famed and feared “SIERRA CLUB POLITICAL TEAM COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES” and talked about the changes that we are likely to see in the new edition. Our emphasis for that portion of the day was on the Endorsement process. Not only on how to comply with the guidelines, but the nuts and bolts of making an endorsement move smoothly and be effective for the endorsed candidate. We intend to make many more endorsements in 2018 than we have in the past and I URGENT ANY MEMBER WHO WANTS TO GET INVOLVED IN ENDORSEMENTS CANDIDATES IN STATE OR LOCAL OFFICE RACES, CONTACT YOUR GROUP POLITICAL CHAIR OR SEND AN EMAIL DIRECTLY TO ME: JONO@HILDNER.COM. Because so many cities have recently been threatened with lawsuits if they don’t start electing their council members

To preserve Bhutanese culture, television and the internet were banned until 1999. National costumes, ghos for men and kira for women, is compulsory for schoolchildren and adults in public. The government runs tourism and the number of visitors is strictly limited. Tourists pay a flat fee per day regardless of the size of the group, their itinerary, or the comfort of their accommodations. The fee includes the compulsory guide and all meals and lodging.

In 2005, the king ushered in a constitutional monarchy, resulting in national parliamentary elections for the first time in 2007. Drivable roads are very limited. Health care is good but often far away. The government’s goal is to increase “gross national happiness.” It’s a nation of less than 800,000, yet the 1990s saw a forced removal of possibly 100,000 Bhutanese of Hindu Nepali ethnicity.

The highlight of the Seekins tour was the Paro Tsechu, a four-day religious festival featuring ritual dances by monks in costumes representing demigods and daemons. Toward the end, a gigantic thangkha, a textile painting of the Buddha, is revealed, said to bring instant enlightenment to all who view it. The Seekins met Michael Palin of Monty Python fame who was in the audience with a crew filming his documentary on travels in the Himalayas.