Wilted Greens
by Jono Hildner, Political Chair

With the New Year upon us, we have a lot of work to do in the political arena. As everyone is aware, the 2013 was not particularly good for us in Sacramento. While Sierra Club California, including yours truly, will be working on every statewide office, all of which will be up for election in 2014, we have many races here in the Chapter that will need to be evaluated to determine whether we want to make endorsements. In some cases, it will be difficult because there are several good candidates that could win and in others, we will have to decide that even though there is a clear environmental standout, that candidate doesn’t have a chance to win in that district.

We not only have to identify the races in which we want to get involved, we also have to find enough volunteers willing to participate in the process of endorsement. Some of you may not be aware of what all goes into the process of making a Sierra Club endorsement, so let me take a moment to lay out the process that we use.

After the Political Committee determines the races (legislative and local) in which we want to get involved, we identify a subcommittee of 3-5 member volunteers that are willing and able to initiate the process. The subcommittee has to identify all of the candidates who have filed, or in some cases, who are expected to file, for that office. Then, and it’s often difficult, they have to make contact with each candidate or possible candidate to determine if any of them wants our endorsement. In some cases, we may have a candidate who is viable, but because of their perception of the electorate, may not want our endorsement, but might want our quiet support. Once the candidates have expressed an interest, the subcommittee will finalize a written questionnaire that is sent to each candidate. After the questionnaires are returned and reviewed, each candidate is interviewed by the subcommittee. The subcommittee then makes a recommendation to the Political Committee. There are really only two criteria necessary for endorsements: one, environmental championship; and two, electability.

The recommendation to endorse needs to be based on the environment record of the candidate, or where there is no record, an assessment of whether we feel that candidate will support our policy positions after taking office. The second criterion of electability is also a judgment call and involves the ability of the candidate to run a successful campaign and the political environment of the district. Generally, the recommendation of the subcommittee may take the form of an endorsement for one candidate, none of the candidates, or something known as “support short of endorsement.”

Then the recommendation goes to the Political Committee, then to the Chapter Excom and then, depending, on the office being sought, it may go to a state level committee and then to a national Club committee for approval. The Sierra Club does not take endorsements lightly and the Club Political Team Compliance Guidelines are extensive.

Where we have an incumbent that we’ve previously endorsed, and they have shown a strong environmental voting record, we can truncate the process and move forward with an early endorsement. However, sometimes our endorsed candidates have become “wilted greens” once they take office. The lure of corporate money and interests causes them to begin to vote against our positions. In those cases, we need to have very serious discussions with them and make sure we have constituent Club members who have regular contact with them on our issues.

Once the endorsement process is completed, then the real work begins. The San Gorgonio Chapter needs to put a lot more effort into supporting the election of our endorsed candidates and do it in a way that those candidates know that it was the Club that turned out the volunteers and helped raise the money that made the campaign a winning one. We must become a stronger force to keep those who represent us from becoming “wilted greens.”

Let’s keep turning the Inland Empire from Red to Green!

Championing the Ideals of the Sierra Club

By Maro Kakoussian, Opamago Agyemang, and Jasmine Kavesade

Nested in between the vast valleys and huge hills of Descanso, was the site for our summer program (Sprog) retreat at Camp Oliver. It was an exciting sight for the three of us coming from the concrete jungles of the Inland Empire, when we celebrated the clean air and the serenity of the wilderness. We also, at first, hesitated – are we really going to be spending a whole week down here? The three of us, Maro, Opamago, and Jasmine came from the common origin of the Inland Empire, the city of Riverside. Not only did we pack our gear for outings and hikes; we brought our curious attitudes to learn new organizing tactics, strategies, and looked forward to express our ethnic perspectives about environmental justice with fellow youth activists. Coming from communities where environmental injustice occurs to many people of color, seen through grievances such as warehouse truck emissions and polluting manufacturing plants, we indeed were eager to share our stories and learn from others along the process.

It’s time to start the process for this year’s awards. We need San Gorgonio Chapter activists to make nominations for award recipients for this year. There are four awards: one for outstanding conservation efforts over a number of years; a service award for outstanding contributions to chapter activities over a number of years; a service award for long time service to a non-Sierra Club entity in the name of the Sierra Club; and an awards outing for long time commitment to the outings program by organizing and leading outings.

Your recommendations for people deserving of this recognition will be greatly appreciated. Anyone in the chapter can make such a nomination to anyone on the awards committee (Joan Taylor, Gail Seekins, Ed Wallace, George Hague, Dean Shimiek, Dave Barrie, Bekke Estes or Carol Wiley). Please keep these awards exciting by contacting Carol Wiley at deseritilly1@verizon.net or (760) 245-8734,
Join Fellow Sierra Club Mates as They Present a Slide Show on Their Trip Down Under at Our Chapter Program on January 7th

“An Adventure in New Zealand” is the theme of the chapter’s January 7, 2014, meeting. Chapter members Mike and Jan Millspaugh will present a slide show of their trip last August and September. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM at the San Bernardino County Museum 2014 Orange Tree Ln, Redlands.

The Millspaughs visited Auckland,Rotorua,Queenstown,and several nearby sights during their 12-day adventure.Auckland is a modern city of four million people. Rotorua is a fascinating place of Maori culture,geysers,hot springs and boiling mud pots. It is the center of one of the world’s most lively fields of geothermal activity.

Queenstown on the South Island is a four season lake and alpine resort town. It is the capital of the Southland region and has a population of about 5,000. The town is surrounded by mountains and lakes and offers many outdoor activities. Some of the most popular activities are bungee jumping, jet boating, and caving.

The Millspaughs visited it and it was a vibrant ski town.

Chapter Conservation Issue Chairs
Desert Issues – High Desert
Chair – Jan Taylor
Kim Floyd 760-680-9479
Jtaylor@fastmail.fm

Desert Issues – Low Desert
Chair – Jim Mitchell 951-506-9607
sierrachub@gmail.com
Meet 2nd Thu., 6:30 p.m. except July & August at Rancho California Water District
Hartsg., 42135 Winchester Rd., temecula

Tahquitz Group:
Chair – Jeff Morgan 760-324-8696
santamargarita@mac.com
Meet 2nd Thu., 6:30 p.m. except July & August at Rancho California Water District.
Hartsg., 42135 Winchester Rd., temecula

San Bernardino Mtns. Group:
Chair – Dave Barrie 909-337-0313
barriemail@mac.com
Meet 2nd Thu., 6:30 p.m. except July & August at Rancho California Water District.
Hartsg., 42135 Winchester Rd., temecula

Mountains Group:
Chair – Dave Barrie 909-337-0313
barriemail@mac.com
Meet 2nd Thu., 6:30 p.m. except July & August at Rancho California Water District.
Hartsg., 42135 Winchester Rd., temecula

Santa Margarita Group:
Chair – Jim Mitchell 951-506-9607
sierrachub@gmail.com
Meet 2nd Thu., 6:30 p.m. except July & August at Rancho California Water District.
Hartsg., 42135 Winchester Rd., temecula

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Queenstown on the South Island is a four season lake and alpine resort town. It is called the adventure capital of the Southern Hemisphere, it is the place where bungee jumping was invented and features jet boat trips and other exhilarating outdoor activities. In the Southern Hemisphere late winter when the Millspaughs visited it was a vibrant ski town.
A LOOK BACK AT 2013

We started 2013 with a fund raiser at a local pizza shop. The proceeds from this event funded our annual scholarship program for a graduating senior at Big Bear High School. We have since upped the scholarship amount to $1,000 from $750. The winner is determined based on an essay on an environmental problem in the Big Bear Valley and a proposed solution.

In July, thanks to Christie Walker and her loyal band of volunteers, we held the 11th annual Xeriscape Garden Tour. As usual, it was a resounding success. This might be an idea that other groups could use as a fund raiser. Pictures of this year’s tour are shown on our web site. http://rewphotography.smugmug.com/

In November we held our annual potluck, the Jack Frost Feast. Even with some mountain weather we had a great turn out. Our monthly meeting subjects over the year covered a wide range of topics including a presentation on solar flares and the workings of the solar observatory, a slide show on hikes in the Sierras, vegetable gardening in the mountains, birds of the Big Bear Valley, the activities and goals of San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust and a journey through many of our national forests and parks through the lens of Eva Nichols, past chair of the Big Bear Group. Perhaps the best received presentation was given by Scott Tangenberg, the Mountain Top District Ranger. Scott came to talk about trees of the San Bernardino’s and the discussion evolved into broader topics of interest in the National Forest. Sadly for the residents of the mountains, Scott, who has been a great advocate of public, hiking on the mountain will be leaving the San Bernardino after the first of the year. We wish him the best and know he will be successful wherever he goes. The meeting subjects for 2014 are still under development and will be available on our website and Facebook in January. However, if you have ideas for a meeting topics please send them to me at edjeannea@charter.net.

CONSERVATION

The economy must be picking up based on development activities being proposed in the Big Bear Valley. We have recently received a proposal from the county to rezone a 40-acre parcel of land in Big Bear City from R20 to single family residential which would, if approved, result in a proposed 67-home development. Also, received was a rezoning proposal in Big Bear Lake of a commercial property containing wetlands and endangered species to a residential designation. This change has the potential of a housing project being built with no environmental review. In addition, the county has notified the environmental groups that the Final EIR on Moon Camp will be released for review in the very near future. This project, if approved, would result in a 50-home development on sensitive pebble plain habitat on the North Shore. We have seen traffic studies that conclude that Big Bear could most likely not be evacuated safely if a fast moving fire shut down two of the three routes out of the valley. This scenario is likely should a fire move up the hill following the Santa Anna River and Big Bear Creek drainages. To continue to add to this problem is foolish.

OUTINGS • 2014 A Look ahead for the Big Bear Group

By Ed Caliendo, Group Outings Chair

We have an exciting year ahead for all levels of hikers and backpackers in Southern California. This year we are announcing an expansion of our trails program by increasing our Pacific Crest Trail Section hiking programs, as well as organized trips to the Inyo National Wilderness, and the John Muir Wilderness. We will continue with our “Five Peaks of Big Bear” physical fitness program to the Inyo National Wilderness, and the John Muir Wilderness. Backpacking trips will increase our Pacific Crest Trail Section hiking programs, as well as organized trips to the Inyo National Wilderness, and the John Muir Wilderness. This year we are announcing an expansion of our trails program by increasing our Pacific Crest Trail Section hiking programs, as well as organized trips to the Inyo National Wilderness, and the John Muir Wilderness. We will continue with our “Five Peaks of Big Bear” physical fitness programs.

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ter is a good time to get out for some cold weather walks with the Moreno Valley Group. Outings Chair Theresa Caruso and outings leaders Christina Torres and Eileen O’Brien have a number of walks planned for January and February. Christina will lead a walk on Sunday, January 12, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at San Timoteo Hike (moderate). Park on Loscuit Street off of Redlands Boulevard in Moreno Valley. Rain or muddy conditions will cancel the walk. Contact Christina at (951) 318-7503 or cmt.teck@gmail.com More hikes are listed in the Palm & Pine and the Moreno Valley Group web page: http://sangorgonio.sierriclub.org/moreno-valley/calendar/index.html

Moreno Valley Group Conservation Chair, George Hague was one of 35 individuals and organizations honored at the 35th anniversary celebration of the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCEAJ) on November 14. George was honored for his many years of environmental work in Moreno Valley and his ability to inspire others to focus on community issues. George and his wife Marty were unable to attend the event, but their daughter Maria accepted the honor for him. A number of Sierra Club members also attended.

According to the Moreno Valley Planning Department there is no time-line in place for the release of the final environmental impact report for the World Logistics Center (WLC) and no new information. The proposed WLC project is one of the most important conservation issues our group is following. The proposed project plans to put 41,600,000 SQUARE FEET of warehousing on 2,710 acres (approximately the size of 700 full-sized football fields) in eastern Moreno Valley. The project site is located between Highway 60 and the northern boundary of the state-owned 19,000 acre San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA). The wildlife area is home to the endangered Palomardine plants and animals. The SJWA is known for the high number of wintering birds of prey (20 species of raptors can be found there, five species of owls). The proposed project will significantly impact air quality, traffic, and cause long-term health issues. These issues will affect all of the Inland Empire, beyond the geographic borders of the city. To get up-to-date information on the project, please contact Mark Gross (mark@govmail.org), Planning Division, City of Moreno Valley, 14177 Frederick Street, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325. We sincerely appreciate your help!

The Moreno Valley City Council will consider approving the State Route 60 East Corridor Study (east of Nason Street) at its January 14 city council meeting. The corridor study does not change the city’s general plan but “focuses on long-term goals and policy guidance for any future land use modification proposals in the study area.” For more information contact Matt Strate, (951) 955-8631, e-mail: MSTRATEG@rcitma.org

The Villages of Lakeview—The project proponent is working on a revised version of The Villages of Lakeview. The draft environmental impact report (DEIR) may be out by April 2014. Please contact the Riverside County Planning department project planner: Matt Strate, (951) 955-8631, e-mail: MSTRATEG@rcitma.org

2) Riverside County General Plan Update—Possible release of draft environmental impact report (DEIR) in early 2014. Please contact Frank Coyle (FCOYLE@rcitma.org) and Kristi Lovelady (klowelad@rcitma.org), Riverside County Planning, 4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside, CA 92501-3634 at (951) 955-0781 and request a copy of the draft EIR for the GPU and all other documents and notices of all meetings pertaining to it.

Lake Perris State Recreation Area (LPSRA) is open seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Please check their web page (http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=651) for entrance fee information and hours of operation. More information can be found at: https://www.facebook.com/Lakeperris

Moreno Valley Group News

By Ann Turner McKibben, Secretary

Please consider making a donation to support the Sierra Club as they comment on the proposed World Logistics Center project. The proposed project will be one of largest facilities in the country (not county, but county). Any size of donation is appreciated and will help us as we work to provide strong comments on the project. If you have not already sent us a check, please take time to donate what you can to help the Moreno Valley Group submit additional comments on the WLC’s massive documents. Previous donations allowed us to hire a traffic engineer to review the document. As a result, the project proponent had to make significant changes to their traffic, air quality, greenhouse gas and noise analysis. When the final EIR comes out we must be able to hire these types of experts. If we decide to litigate, these comments could make the difference between losing and winning. Thank you to those who have already donated! Please send your donations to: Sierra Club, Moreno Valley Group, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325. We sincerely appreciate your help!

For more information contact planning issues:

1) Villages of Lakeview—The project proponent is working on a revised version of The Villages of Lakeview. The draft environmental impact report (DEIR) may be out by April 2014. Please contact the Riverside County Planning department project planner: Matt Strate, (951) 955-8631, e-mail: MSTRATEG@rcitma.org

2) Riverside County General Plan Update—Possible release of draft environmental impact report (DEIR)

2013 was a great year for our Group and the predictions are that 2014 will be even better. We started 2013 still celebrating the end of Liberty Quarry, a 7 year struggle that had an influence on the decision to found the Santa Margarita Group. We have moved on in 2013 to expand further a full range of Sierra Club activities. Our active membership has grown significantly. Through our conservation efforts, we have become much more visible in the local community. We have expanded our environmental programs for local school kids. We are leading more hikes in the surrounding hills and nature areas. All things considered, 2014 is going to be a very active year for our Group.

And here are some of the things our active Group is doing:

1) Conservation Activities, Trail Development and Outdoor Families by Pam Nelson

Planning for conservation is a new theme for our group and is progressing well with the help of the Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation and the Friends of the San Jacinto Mountain State Park. Our ongoing relationship with the local RCD, the Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza Resource Conservation District, will keep us directed towards wildlife corridor/ crossing efforts. Our Meetup.com Group and Outdoor Families, bring people of all ages to interesting outdoor events and sites. Also a new partnership, through our member, Kathy Bundy, is bringing us interesting walks with Volkspport, an international walking group. The Ironwood Trail project, facilitated by a grant with the National Park Service and staff member, Patrick Johnston, is moving into a new phase. The renewal of the grant this year will take the inventory report to officials and politicians so that...
DECEMBER 23 – DECEMBER 29

Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings

(Also refer to Weekly recurring outings and activities)
DECIDMG 30 – JANUARY 5
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

JAN 1 (WED) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING
The meeting place rotates. INFO: ED WALLACE (909) 984-9407.
BIG BEAR GROUP

JAN 2 (THU) LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCOM MEETING
Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, & Nov). There is no meeting in July 2013 because of conflict with the Independence Day holiday. PLACE: For meeting time & place, call MARY ANN RUZ (909) 815-0979. <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JAN 4 (SAT) 8:00 AM BONITA VISTA HIKE HIKE
Bonita Vista, 4 miles roundtrip. See the lovely views across the High Desert and walk through valleys of Juniper trees. Bring water, snacks and layered clothing. Meet at the Victor Valley Museum at 8am. Contact on 760-912-3725 or coachnorm@yahoo.com if you have any questions. LEADER: NORMAN BOSSOM. MOAVE GROUP

JAN 4 (SAT) 8:00 AM SUNSET PEAK HIKE HIKE
This will be a moderate 7 mile round trip hike on a fire road up to the top of Sunset Peak (elevation 5796 ft), with 1300 ft. elevation gain. Great panoramic views in all directions from the peak. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, snack, sunscreen, layer clothing appropriate for the weather. Adventure Pass will be required for parking at the trailhead. Contact John St. Clair to confirm and for directions to trailhead and carpooling meeting place. LEADER: JOHN ST. CLAIR at 909-983-8501 or john@stclair.us. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JANUARY 6 – JANUARY 12
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

JAN 7 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING
PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 204 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit 1-l0 at California St. INFO: LADO SEEKINS <ladog.seekins@gmail.com> (909) 800-3911. CHAPTER

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

JAN 11 (SAT) PACIFIC CREST TRAIL SILVERWOOD LAKE AREA HIKE
Hike come a hike on the PCT on the route from Arrowhead Lake Road towards Silverwood Lake. It is a moderate, fairly level hike of 3 miles, 6 round trip. This is a scenic hike, kids accompanied by parent or guardian are welcome. Portions of the trail are steep and loose dogs may pose risk to hikers, so be prepared to put dog(s) on leash. Plan on bringing 2-3 quarts of water, a snack, a hat, and dress in layers for this time of year. TIME & MEET: Call or email at 9S05) with the PCT. RATED: Moderate. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, 2 liters of water, trail snacks /lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. MEET: Warner Springs Post Office parking lot and carpool to beginning of PCT. Section B, Box RESERVATIONS: Call LEADER ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090 or email at dogs111@msn.com. BIG BEAR GROUP

JAN 12 (SUN) 9:00 AM SAN TIMOTEO CANYON HIKE HIKE
Moderate 5-mile round trip hike with 400-foot elevation gain. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. Bring snack and hiking poles if you want. Hike goes along a service road into a wilderness conservation area and up a hill to a 320° view of Mt. Baldy, San Gorgonio, San Jacinto, around to Ortega Mountain. MEET: Park on Cucalor off of Redlands Blvd in Moreno Valley (across from Equestrian/Dog Park). Rain or muddy conditions cancels. LEADER: CHRISTINA TURINI 9S05) 318-7503 or cteck.teck@gmail.com. MORENO VALLEY GROUP

JAN 13 – JANUARY 19
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

JAN 13 (MON) 7:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING
MEETING
Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard's Episcopal Church, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARBIE (951) 337-0313. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

JAN 14 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING
Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate; we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, <kimfloyd@fastmail.fm> (760) 249-5385. CHAPTER

JAN 16 (THU) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
MEETING
Monthly meeting except December. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group with site www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. CONTACTED WALLACE (909) 584-9407.

JAN 17 (FRI) 9:00 AM POTATO MOUNTAIN HIKE HIKE
This moderate 5-mile RT hike is like a 1200’ elevation gain that answers “New Year’s Resolution Challenges” as you propel your way through Every Canyon up to Potato’s summit. We will meet at NW corner of 16th Street and Mountain Ave, in the Upland State Bros parking lot to carpool. Please call hike LEADER: JEFF WARHOL (995) 985-7866 or email jmawndj@hotmail.com to confirm by JAN 16, 5:00 PM.

JAN 18 (SAT) 8:00 AM ARARSTE FALLS HIKE HIKE
4 miles roundtrip. This lovely riparian area with spectacular vistas is a joy to the eye. Bring a camera. Also water, snacks and layered clothing. Meet at the Victor Valley Museum, Address: 11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92388 at 8am. LEADER NORMAN BOSSOM (760) 912-3725 or coachmommy@yahoo.com.

JAN 19 (SAT) 8:15 AM SEVEN SISTERS WATERFALL HIKE HIKE
Visit the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation and hike a new trail to the Agua Sisters Waterfall Trail. We Trading Post will hike the West Fork Trail to Murray Canyon and view the waterfall before hiking out to the Andreas Trailhead parking lot. This will be a shuttle hike, RATED: This is a 9.5 mile hike and is rated moderate. MT: 233 E. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, in the rear parking lot of the Lyons English Grille. BRING: Ten-essentials, 2-liters of water, lunch, snacks, sunglasses, and hat. COST: There is a $7.00 to $10.00 entrance fee depending upon your age. Parking is at no-fee. RESERVATIONS: Call LEADER ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090 or email at dogs111@msn.com.

JAN 19 (SAT) 9:00 AM TERRE PEAK HIKE HIKE
Difficult 5-mile round trip hike to Terre Peak with 1,000-foot elevation gain. Trail starts on a path behind homes and has some steep sections as it follows an old road to the top. BRING: water, snack, and sturdy shoes. MEET: from 60ftw in Moreno Valley, exit south on 74 to Bunch Beach road.
Continued on Page 6

Follow Moreno Beach road for 3.4 miles, then turn left on Via Del Lago. Park on the right side of the road past the housing tract, do not enter Lake Perris Park. Rain cancels. INFO & LEADER: THERESA CARSON (951) 660-7246. MORENO VALLEY GROUP

JANUARY 20 – JANUARY 26
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

JAN 21 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except August, The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served. PLACE: Educational Building, Upland Presbyterian Church, Euclid Ave. at 11th. The September meeting will be held at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens in Claremont and not at the church. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, (909) 815-9379, ruizmaryann@gmail.com. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JAN 23 (THU) 4:30 PM HIDDEN SPRINGS CONDITIONING HIKE Moderate 2 to 3-mile hike on the Hidden Springs Trail and arroyo. Trail borders the west side of seasonal creek and falls. Be prepared for a little of downs but basically follows the base of the hills and then we return on the sidewalk. We start promptly at 4:30. Sunset is at 5:10. BRING: flashlight, water and sturdy shoes. MEET: Hidden Springs School, 9801 Hidden Springs Dr., Moreno Valley. Rain cancels. INFO & LEADER: EILEEN O’BRIEN (951) 616-9739. MORENO VALLEY GROUP

JAN 25 (SAT) 8:00 AM INDIAN FLATS TO CHIHUAHUA VALLEY RD HIKE This is a continuation of the Section B, Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Recognition Program. Those hikers completing all seven sections of Section B will receive a special recognition. Make sure to wear a red bandanna and ask for the best entrance to Joshua Tree National Park and includes variety with many excellent views across the entire PCT. WEAR hiking boots, layered clothing as winter can be cold in the high desert. BRING: lunch and water minimum. Rain cancels. MEET: Contact leader for meeting place, 8:30 am inam and 10:00 in Joshua Tree. LEADER: MARY ANN RUIZ 909.815.9379 or ruizmaryann@gmail.com. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JANUARY 27 – FEBRUARY 2
Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings and Activities)

JAN 28 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING Chapter governance meeting. Monthly except for December. PLACE: The San Gorgonio Chapter office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: RICK ESTES (951) 314-3328 <scsangor@gmail.com>. CHAPTER

JAN 30 (THU) 4:30 PM HIDDEN SPRINGS CONDITIONING HIKE Moderate 2 to 3-mile hike on the Hidden Springs Trail. 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. Sunset is at 5:17. BRING: flashlight, water and sturdy shoes. MEET: Hidden Springs School, 9801 Hidden Springs Dr., Moreno Valley. Rain cancels. INFO & LEADER: EILEEN O’BRIEN (951) 616-9739. MORENO VALLEY GROUP

JAN 30-31 (FRI-SAT) 8:00 AM DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION Help restore wilderness values in this beautiful and remote national park. Project will be picking up plane crash debris in the southern part of the Park. MEET early Thursday afternoon in Shoshone. Work at the crash site on Saturday and all day Friday. Saturday work if needed. Primitive camping Thursday and Friday night near the work site, will need to bring all supplies, including water. LEADER KATE ALLEN kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

JAN 31 (FRI) 8:00 AM AMARACK RD TO WHITESTRAW TROUT FARM HIKE This is a great new hike starting near junction 10-11 and all day Friday. Saturday work if needed. Primitive camping Thursday and Friday night near the work site, will need to bring all supplies, including water. LEADER KATE ALLEN kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

FEB 1 (SAT) 8:00 AM LOWER DEEP CREEK HIKE Feb. Lower Deep Creek is a 3 miles round trip visit to a beautiful part of the canyon, which has a series of small waterfalls and a beaver dam and abundance of various trees. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum, 11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308 at 8am. LEADER: NORMAN BOSSOM, (760) 912-3725 or crashnomn@yahoo.com. MOJAVE GROUP

FEB 1 (SAT) 8:30 AM MURRAY HILL (PEAK) Hike: This hike is a perennial favorite! It is difficult to call Murray Hill anything but a “peak” yet officially it is on all the maps. After climbing 2,100’ elevation gain you will think it more like a “peak”! THE views are magnificent, see the region around Palm Springs, Cathedral City, and Cadiz Mountains while on the route to the east. The desert will be in bloom! This is an approximate 3.2 mile round-trip loop hike. RATED: Moderate and is a hike for the people who are in good physical condition.

FEB 2 (SUN) 9:00 AM OLIVE MOUNTAIN Hike: Moderate to difficult 4-mile round trip with 1000 ft. elevation gain. Bring water and wear sturdy, non-slip shoes. Brick snack and hiking poles if you like. MEET: Park at the end of Kitching St., off of Kelso Valley Rd., north of Iverson Road. Rincon cancels. LEADER: CHRISTINA TORRES (951) 318-7503 or cmt.reck@gmail.com. MORENO VALLEY GROUP

FEB 3 (MON) 6:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCOM MEETING Meeting at 6000 levels. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Change Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit 1-10 at San Bernardino St. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-6013. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

FEB 4 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Change Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit 1-10 at San Bernardino St. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-6013. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

FEB 5 (WED) 9:00 AM AZUSA PEAK AND GLENDORA PEAK This hike is a continuation of the Section B, Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Recognition Program. Those completing all eight segments of Section B will receive a special Recognition Award. This outing combines a day of service in the Carrizo Plain National Monument with a day of hiking. MEET 9:00 AM at grassy area near the driveway of the hilltops. MEET at 5:00 E Serena Madre Ave, Azusa, 91702, MEET: Contact John Smith, Chair to confirm and for directions to trailhead and carpooling meeting place. LEADER: JOHN ST. CLAIR at 909-983-8501 or john@icucals.us. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

FEB 5 (WED) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING The meeting place rotates. INFO: ED WALLACE (909) 584-9407. BIG BEAR GROUP

FEB 8 (SAT) 8:00 AM CHIHUAHUA VALLEY RD - TULE CANYON HIKE This is a continuation of the Section B, Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Recognition Program. These hikes completing all eight segments of Section B will receive a special Recognition Award. This Segment No. 3 of the PCT is a total of 10.3 miles and we will cross-over from San Diego County to Riverside County (Chihuahua Valley Road to Tule Canyon Truck Road). The PCT continues north along the east side of Blackmount Mountain. RATED: Moderate in difficulty. BRING: ten-essential, 2-liters of water, lunch and trail snacks, and sun-protection. MEET: From the junction of Hwy 74/371 drive south on Hwy 371, 4.3 miles to Kirby Road. We will meet at Kirby Road junction. From there we will caravan to the trailhead. This is a shuttle hike. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER ED CALDIELINO at (760) 528-1090 or dgo111@msn.com. BIG BEAR GROUP

FEB 8-9 (SAT-SUN) CARRIZO PLAIN WINTER ESCAPE SERVICE/CARCAMP This outing combines a day of service in the Carrizo Plain National Monument with a day of sightseeing and, of course, taking photos. Weather can be cold, gray, and rainy, or it can be warm and bright - we take our chances. The service will be in removing or modifying fences to give gronghorn greater mobility on the Plain, and the recreation will be determined by the wishes of the group. This is an opportunity to combine carcamping, day-hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. RESERVATIONS & INFO: Contact LEADER: CRAIG DEUTSCHE, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

One Environment . . . One Simple Way to Care for it.
Join us in protecting the future by doing your share today.

Between drinking clean water and breathing clean air? Between parks and beaches? How can you choose between the eagle and the buffalo? Between the elephants and the whales?
How can you choose between the eagle and the buffalo? Between the elephants and the whales?
Earth Share is not part of your employer’s workplace giving campaign?
Now there’s a way to help not just one, but all these things. It’s called Earth Share of California – the world’s leading environmental and conservation charities working together.

Through Earth Share of California you can make a one-time gift, or a payroll deduction donation that helps every day to preserve and protect the environment – locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.
Earth Share is not part of your employer’s workplace giving campaign?

How can you choose between the eagle and the buffalo? Between the elephants and the whales?
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Join us in protecting the future by doing your share today.
FEBRUARY 10 – FEBRUARY 16
Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly recurring Outings and Activities)

FEBRUARY 10 (MON) 7:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard's Episcopal Church, 28788 highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARBIE (909) 337-0135. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

FEBRUARY 11 (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@hotmail.com>.

FEBRUARY 15 (SAT) 8:00 AM ROUND MOUNTAIN SPRING HIKE MEETING Six mile round trip. A little visited area in Juniper flats. Views across the Victor Valley and numerous wonderful rock formations. MEET: Victor Valley Museum, 11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308 at 8am. LEADER NORMAN BOSROM (760) 912-3725 or normchown@yahoo.com. MJAVE GROUP

FEBRUARY 16 (SUN) 9:00 AM SANTA ROSA PLATEAU HIKE Moderate to 6 mile hike to the historic adobes. BRING: water, hiking poles if you want, and sturdy shoes. COST: $5.00 entrance fee per person. MEET: RSP Headquarters, 42135 Winchester Rd., Temecula 92589. INFO: JIM MITCHELL (951) 506-9467 <sierrarbgsb@gmail.com>.

FEBRUARY 17 – FEBRUARY 23
Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
(Also refer to Weekly recurring Outings and Activities)

FEBRUARY 18 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING Monthly meeting except December. The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served. PLACE: Educational Building, Upham Presbyterian Church, Euclid Ave. at 116th. The September 2013 meeting will be held at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens in Claremont and not at the church. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, (909) 815-9379, cruziamaryam@gmail.com. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

FEBRUARY 20 (THU) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING Monthly meeting except December. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site www.sierrachubbibeargroup.org. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. CONTACT: ED WALLACE (909) 384-5407, 760-247-4502. BIG BEAR GROUP

FEBRUARY 22 (SAT) 7:30 AM PCT SEC B: TULE CANYON TO HWY 74 HIKE This is a continuation of the Section B, Pacific Crest Trail Recognition Program. Those hikers completing all eight sections of Segment B will receive a special Recognition Award. This Segment No. 4 of the PCT is a total of 15.7 miles (Tule Canyon Truck Road to Highway 74). We will hike from Tule Canyon north towards Table Mountain (4,930') and then descend to Alkali Wash (4540') before reaching Hwy 74. RATE: Moderate. BRING: ten essentials, layered clothing, sun protection, lunch, 3 liters of water. MEET: At the PCT junction on Hwy 74 located approximately 1.0 miles east of Hwy 74/74 Riley junction. A road sign identifies the PCT crossing. A dirt parking area is located on the north side of Hwy 74. RESERVATIONS are possible by contacting the LEADER: ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090 or edog110@msn.com. BIG BEAR GROUP

FEBRUARY 22 (SAT) 9:00 AM HILLSIDE CANYON COUNTY PRESERVE HIKE Join us on an outing in one of San Diego's spectacular wildlife preserves. MEET: The hike will start at 19324 Santa Lane, Valley Center, CA, 92082 and should take 4-5 hours to complete. DIFFICULTY: 1 rate the hike as borderline difficult, but not relentlessly so. There is over 2000' of elevation gain/loss over the entire hike. It begins with a 400' decent into the canyon. We will hike up the north face of the canyon. At the Summit the view from the ridge that we will traverse is spectacular from all directions and in my opinion worth twice the climb. The ridge rolls up and down but is an easy ascent. There is never enough water. Due to the changeable nature of the weather at this time of year, you should bring a good mix of hot and cold weather clothing. FREEDOM: All ages are welcome and we do not guarantee that we will follow the same trail every time. Water is carry in a hydration pack. MEET: The Summit is also a good place to have a picnic. At the parking area Contact: LEADER: ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090 or edog110@msn.com. BIG BEAR GROUP

FEBRUARY 25 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING Chapter governance meeting. Monthly except for December. PLACE: The San Gorgonio Chapter office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: RICK EISTES (951) 314-3328 <excomanger@gmail.com>.

FEBRUARY 27 (THU) 4:30 PM HIDDEN SPRINGS CONDITIONING HIKE MEET: 2 to 3 mile loop hike on the Hidden Springs trail. 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. Sunset is 5:30 BRING: flashlight, water and sturdy shoes. MEET: Hidden Springs Dr., Moreno Valley. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: EILEEN O’BRIEN (951) 616-9739.

FEBRUARY 28 – MAR 3 DEATH VALLEY CAR CAMP On Friday, February 28, we will meet at primitive campsite at 11:00 a.m. to set up. Fridays hike will be at 12:00 noon in the Amargosa Canyon. Sat. we will travel through lower Death Valley, seeing the sights and hiking at Natural Bridge and Golden Canyon, and camping at Texas Springs Campground in Furnace Creek. Sunday we will travel north through the park stopping at sites along the way to Mesquite Sand Dunes and camp at Stovepipe Wells. Monday we will hike up Mosaic Canyon. You will need to bring your own food, plenty of water and start with full tank of gas. There are some services at Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells. If you choose, you can join the trip for just Sat. & Sun. RESERVATIONS & INFO: LEADER: CAROL WILEY at 760-245-8374 or earthlingwiley2000@yahoo.com. MJAVE GROUP

MAR 2 (SAT) 8:30 AM CHINO HILLS STATE PARK HIKE Chino Hills State Park is reminiscent of early Southern California. Rolling green hills, oak woodlands, rare black walnut trees and early spring wildflowers are all here to enjoy. Hike will be about 8 miles, 1200 ft elevation gain. Rain within 48 hrs. cancels WEAR sturdy shoes or boots. BRING lunch and snacks, 2 liters water. CONTACT: LEADER: MARY ANN RUIZ 909-815-9379 or cruziamaryam@gmail.com. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

MAR 6-9 (THU-SUN) SPRING AT JOSHUA TREE NP CARCAMP Visit Joshua Tree National Park when temperatures are cooler and wild flowers may be blooming. You may explore palm oases, boulder areas, and desert canyons or climb peaks that may be less steep than the climb and a great time to take in the view to the south. The hike ends with a steep climb to the summit. The ridge rolls up and down but is an easy ascent. The weather is changeable nature of the weather so bring a mix of hot and cold weather clothing. FREEDOM: All ages are welcome and we do not guarantee that we will follow the same trail every time. MEET:合适: Joshua Tree National Park, 76959 Park Rd, CA 92221. RESERVAIONS possible by contacting the LEADER: RICK JURICH, rich.sierrachubb@pccbel.net, 916-492-2181. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

MAR 28-30 (FRI-SUN) MOJA VE NATIONAL PRESERVE TOUR CARCAMP MEET at Sunrise Campground at 11:00 am on Friday, 4 mile hike to Tuftosa Peak that afternoon. Potluck that evening. Saturday enjoy a 6 mile hike around Barber Peak from Hole-in-the-Wall. Hike to Kelso Dunes on Sunday. For those wanting to stay over on Sunday, we car camp at Granite Pass. Camping is primitive so bring plenty of empty water bottles. COST $30 per person and includes 3 nights of camping. 2020 deposit required to confirm participation. Group size limited to 16. RESERVATIONS & INFO: CALL leader: RICK JURICH, rich.sierrachubb@pccbel.net, 916-492-2181.

APR 19-20 (SAT-SUN) CARRIZO SERVICE AND FLOWERS SERVICE/ CARCAMP This outing combines a day of service in the Carrizo Plain National Monument with a day of sightseeing and/or hiking. If there are rain wars, wildflowers can be spectacular, although this is not a promise that can be made far in advance. Weather will be cool in evenings and comfortable in the day. The service is removing or modifying fences to give pronghorn greater mobility on the Plain, and the recreation will be determined by the wishes of the group. This is an opportunity to combine campcaring, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. LEADER: CAROL DEUTSCH, craig.deutsch@deutch.com, 310-477-6670. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES

The following activities, meeting & events are neither sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities & makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.
the grant this year will take the inventory report to officials and politicians so that it will become part of City and County future plans. We will continue to have a team that can give input to development along the creek making sure the Trail is included. We will make the communities aware of Saving Train Day events. Sites for the events will be located along the length of the Trail/Creek so will involve the 4 Cities, Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar and Lake Elsinore. 2014 is the year to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Our group will bring awareness to our members by hiking 50 miles of wilderness, accumulating the mileage during the year, and participating in celebration events.

* A January 2014 Hike with Gary Marsalone

On January 25 (Saturday) starting at 8:30 AM hike on the Tenaga Falls Trail to the Morgan Trail cutoff. Enjoy a day in the lush San Mateo Wilderness. Join us on an 8.0 mile round trip (4 miles in each down hike) to El Pottro de la Cienega area. The hike is moderate with about 1000 ft of elevation gain. The trail makes crossings over several seasonal creeks and the Falls. Be prepared for a little of areas with Poison Oak and lots of Chaparral.

We will meet at the first trailhead (Tenaga Trail) and carpool to the Falls trail head. “Rain Cancels.” You will need to bring plenty of water, wear comfortable hiking shoes (sandals may be useful for creek crossings), dress in layers and don’t forget the sunscreen. A Wilderness Pass is required for all parked cars, available at sporting goods stores. Directions: From I-15 take the Clinton Keith exit. Go west the road eventually turns into Tenaja Road. Turn right on Cleveland Forest Road. You will see the trailhead parking lot on the left about a mile in. Reservations & info. Leader Gary Marsalone at (858)663-1201 orhikesie@gmail.com

* A February 2014 Hike with Bob Audibert

On February 22 (Saturday) starting at 9:00 AM hike Hole-Hole Canyon. Preserve. Join us on a 8.2 mile hike of one of San Diego’s Spectacular wildlife Preserves.

**Riverside County’s General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan**

By George Hague

Have you ever been outraged by development built near one of your special places within our Chapter or by the increase in traffic caused by a development? Most of the time these harmful developments are sanctioned by a General Plan. Riverside County is now in the process of revising its General Plan. The public review period for Riverside County’s General Plan Update (GPU) Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) will tentatively start in early 2014 with public hearings probably occurring in late Spring and early Summer. The DEIR will help us see what impacts could occur on special places in our County and also on some adjacent lands in San Bernardino County. The GPU will impact all of us within Riverside County as well as many in neighboring San Bernardino County as it will lay out land use designations for years to come. It will also address sprawl, global climate change, noise and open-space issues. Land use designations in this CPU could significantly impact such special places as Joshua Tree National Park, Santa Rosa Plateau ecological reserve, San Jacinto Wildlife Area, and Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Preserve as well as open valuable agricultural lands for development. Parts of the San Bernardino and Cleveland National Forests as well as the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument could all easily be directly impacted by Riverside County’s GPU.

Climate Action Plans (CAP) are like comprehensive roadmaps that outline the specific activities that Riverside County should undertake to reduce greenhouse emissions.

Please become involved in this process to help protect these special places and others that you know need our attention as well as reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. County planners for the General Plan Update and Climate Action Plan are Frank Coyle, fc0yle@rcfma.org or (951) 955-2706 and Kristi Lovelady, klavelody9@rcfma.org. Please contact them and let them know that you want a copy of the DEIR and wish to be notified of all future documents as well as meetings related to Riverside County’s GPU and CAP. Your donation during our Chapter’s March Fund Appeal will help the Sierra Club follow both the GPU and CAP in an effort to make them better.

The link below, from the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, has useful information that will help explain and/or define what a general plan is related to Riverside County’s GPU and CAP. Please use this source to expand your knowledge of what a good general plan should include.
Sprog is a 7-day retreat for youth organizers to learn a curriculum behind forming vital organizing skills and advice from Sierra Student Coalition’s dedicated and hardworking Sprog trainers. When we arrived, we were greeted in the huge common room by trainers, fellow Sproggers, and Sierra Student Coalition staff. We were each handed a thick participant manual, which to this day we each treat as our holy text. This book held all the secrets to organizing a potent campaign from public narratives to coalition building and everything in between.

On my group’s favorite part was the food, the food was all vegetarian and oh so good. We had conversations ranging from human nature to the latest fashions and music during meal time and found out that we all came from different places from Connecticut and South Carolina, to Arizona and California. Our days typically entailed workshops where we were encouraged to pay attention, because we were preparing for our simulation (SIM), which was the biggest display of what we learned at Sprog. SIM involved each of us living in a fake town called Arreis (sierra spelled backwards) in the “State of Calamity,” where a coal plant was going to be built in the poorest ward in our town, Ward 5. Trainers would dress up as city council members, business people, political officials, and hardworking Sproggers, and would dress up as community members. When we arrived, we were greeted in the huge common room by trainers, fellow Sproggers, and Sierra Student Coalition staff. We were each handed a thick participant manual, which to this day we each treat as our holy text. This book held all the secrets to organizing a potent campaign from public narratives to coalition building and everything in between.

press advisories, and of course organized demonstrations, fries, and rallies.

From the roles we played in SIM, to searching for shooting stars in the pitch blackness at the tops of hills, to the meaningful conversations at meal times and swimming in the pool, Sprog was indeed a life changer for the three of us. On Saturday night, the last night, we all took turns talking about our green-fire. Reading from an excerpt of Aldo Leopold’s A Fierce Green Fire, we sat around a campfire and shared what invigorates us to fight for a cleaner world, based on an excerpt from his book. It was a time to rekindle the passions we had and what brought us to Sprog. For many of us, it was to be the voice of the future, for some it was simply a duty. It showed us all that we were not alone in the fight for a better world.

On Sunday morning, no one wanted to leave and the tears flowed from each and every one of us. From the veterans of Sprog to the first-timers, we all cried and laughed. To this day we know our friends from Sprog will be our life-long friends after this life changing experience.

We want to thank the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club for making this experience possible for the three of us. For any young people who are interested in learning more about building a coal plant. During the week, each time we learned a new campaign tool, we would use that to further our group’s cause, coordinate with ally groups, or we stopped and interfered with other groups about building a coal plant. Throughout our SIM we had moments where we met with decision makers, published reading this, we encourage you to apply for the 2014 program — we know it will change your lives as it has ours. For the leadership of the San Gorgonio Chapter, we encourage you to sponsor another group in 2014 and we will continue a life-long pursuit to champion the ideals of the Sierra Club.

Tahquitz Group Excom Election

Please vote for three and mail ballot to arrive by January 31, 2014 to: Tahquitz Group of the Sierra Club, POB 4944, Palm Springs, CA 92263.

If two voted from a joint membership are enclosed, be sure to print name and address and sign for both. Please also sign your name on the outside of the envelope. Thanks!

- Eric Baecht
- Jono Hildner
- Al Murdy

First Ballot
- Eric Baecht
- Jono Hildner
- Al Murdy

Second Ballot - Joint Membership
- Eric Baecht
- Jono Hildner
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On my group’s favorite part was the food, the food was all vegetarian and oh so good. We had conversations ranging from human nature to the latest fashions and music during meal time and found out that we all came from different places from Connecticut and South Carolina, to Arizona and California. Our days typically entailed workshops where we were encouraged to pay attention, because we were preparing for our simulation (SIM), which was the biggest display of what we learned at Sprog. SIM involved each of us living in a fake town called Arreis (sierra spelled backwards) in the “State of Calamity,” where a coal plant was going to be built in the poorest ward in our town, Ward 5. Trainers would dress up as city council members, business people, political officials, and hardworking Sproggers, and would dress up as community members. When we arrived, we were greeted in the huge common room by trainers, fellow Sproggers, and Sierra Student Coalition staff. We were each handed a thick participant manual, which to this day we each treat as our holy text. This book held all the secrets to organizing a potent campaign from public narratives to coalition building and everything in between.

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On my group’s favorite part was the food, the food was all vegetarian and oh so good. We had conversations ranging from human nature to the latest fashions and music during meal time and found out that we all came from different places from Connecticut and South Carolina, to Arizona and California. Our days typically entailed workshops where we were encouraged to pay attention, because we were preparing for our simulation (SIM), which was the biggest display of what we learned at Sprog. SIM involved each of us living in a fake town called Arreis (sierra spelled backwards) in the “State of Calamity,” where a coal plant was going to be built in the poorest ward in our town, Ward 5. Trainers would dress up as city council members, business people, political officials, and hardworking Sproggers, and would dress up as community members. When we arrived, we were greeted in the huge common room by trainers, fellow Sproggers, and Sierra Student Coalition staff. We were each handed a thick participant manual, which to this day we each treat as our holy text. This book held all the secrets to organizing a potent campaign from public narratives to coalition building and everything in between.

press advisories, and of course organized demonstrations, fries, and rallies.

From the roles we played in SIM, to searching for shooting stars in the pitch blackness at the tops of hills, to the meaningful conversations at meal times and swimming in the pool, Sprog was indeed a life changer for the three of us. On Saturday night, the last night, we all took turns talking about our green-fire. Reading from an excerpt of Aldo Leopold’s A Fierce Green Fire, we sat around a campfire and shared what invigorates us to fight for a cleaner world, based on an excerpt from his book. It was a time to rekindle the passions we had and what brought us to Sprog. For many of us, it was to be the voice of the future, for some it was simply a duty. It showed us all that we were not alone in the fight for a better world.

On Sunday morning, no one wanted to leave and the tears flowed from each and every one of us. From the veterans of Sprog to the first-timers, we all cried and laughed. To this day we know our friends from Sprog will be our life-long friends after this life changing experience.

We want to thank the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club for making this experience possible for the three of us. For any young people who are interested in learning more about building a coal plant. During the week, each time we learned a new campaign tool, we would use that to further our group’s cause, coordinate with ally groups, or we stopped and interfered with other groups about building a coal plant. Throughout our SIM we had moments where we met with decision makers, published reading this, we encourage you to apply for the 2014 program — we know it will change your lives as it has ours. For the leadership of the San Gorgonio Chapter, we encourage you to sponsor another group in 2014 and we will continue a life-long pursuit to champion the ideals of the Sierra Club.

Tahquitz Group Excom Election

Please vote for three and mail ballot to arrive by January 31, 2014 to: Tahquitz Group of the Sierra Club, POB 4944, Palm Springs, CA 92263.

If two voted from a joint membership are enclosed, be sure to print name and address and sign for both. Please also sign your name on the outside of the envelope. Thanks!

- Eric Baecht
- Jono Hildner
- Al Murdy

First Ballot
- Eric Baecht
- Jono Hildner
- Al Murdy

Second Ballot - Joint Membership
- Eric Baecht
- Jono Hildner
- Al Murdy
Backpacking the Sierra’s – Several backpacking trips to the Sierra’s will begin in early July through the end of September. Experienced backpackers can expect a physically challenging, 5-day trip into the eastern Sierras capturing the spring flowers, early snow melt, and cool temperatures. Also, a beginners backpacking trip is planned in late July to the John Muir Wilderness. As in the past, these trips fill up early so please keep a sharp lookout at the Big Bear Group website for more information www.bigbeargroup.com.

In Summary, there will be something for everyone – Apart from the above special hiking programs, Big Bear Group Hike Leaders will regularly explore areas in Big Bear, Lake Arrowhead, San Gorgonio Wilderness, San Jacinto Wilderness, Mecca Hills, Mohave Desert, and Joshua Tree National Park. It should be a very exciting year of spectacular trails, special trips, and hiking adventures.

Over the next few articles we will be presenting a short biography of the hikers leaders in the Big Bear Group. The following highlights Dick Banks who has lead hikes in Big Bear for almost a decade.

**There’s Gold in Them There Hills!**

Now around Big Bear you will find abandoned mines that flourished during the California gold rush period. For hikers, it is an opportunity to explore the old dugs and often see how the gold diggers eked out a living. In September, Dick Banks, Hike Leader, took a group of eager hikers to explore the **Lucky Baldwin** gold mine. Dick explained to the group that in 1874, Elias J. “Lucky” Baldwin started a “gold rush” when he constructed a large 40 stamp mill at the base of Gold Mountain. The immediate gold rush created an instant town with two saloons, a butcher shop, and two-boarding houses.

Unfortunately, the mine shut down after only seven months failing to meet expectations. That is the way Sungevity looks at our Environmental impact.

This year, 2014 we were determined to go solar, even though our bill is low. We decided that we would spend money on many other things, such as patio covers, redecorating the house or to go on vacation, so why shouldn’t we put solar panels on our roof even if it wouldn’t be cost effective? Why not make the upgrade just because we think it is the right thing to do and we can and we want to? We contacted several solar companies. Some said they could not help us because we lived next to 4-trees in our neighborhood. That is the way Sungevity looks at our Environmental impact.

**Your Bill is Too Low to Benefit From Solar Energy….**

By Jenny Wilder

For three years or more we were told this. That it wasn’t “worth” it. Some contractors didn’t even bother to return our calls. But this year we went SOLAR and in less than one month our SOLAR home has offset 380 lbs of emissions, has prevented 435 miles of greenhouse emissions and we have planted the equivalent of 4 trees in our neighborhood.

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We’ve had our solar photovoltaic system on our roof for about three years now. Here are the most important things I learned from our experience, not necessarily in the order of importance!

Buy a solar system instead of leasing if you possibly can. Even if you have to take out a loan to buy a system, leasing costs a lot more in the long run. Leasing sounds great – little or no up-front cash, you pay a little less per month on the solar lease than what you paid to the electric company. But in the end you don’t own anything. Leasing is OK for cars, but who leases a new solar system every few years?

Don’t offset 100 percent of your electric consumption. At least that’s the financially smart thing to do. The first ten or twenty percent of your electric use is actually quite cheap. So paying for those extra panels and capacity to offset that last bit of electricity doesn’t make sense financially. Of course you may not be doing this for financial reasons in the first place.

Don’t worry about maintenance. I do almost no maintenance on my system. If there’s been no rain for a while I’ll take a hose and rinse off the panels, but otherwise I haven’t had to do anything but sit back and watch the electricity production.

Get Internet monitoring if it’s available. I can check it at any time and see my current production, past few days and months, and download all production data to a spreadsheet. Very cool.

Cloudy days are depressing. Solar production on a cloudy day can be less than half that of a sunny day. A recent stormy day produced only 3 kilowatt-hours, when a sunny day would have produced over 20!

Keep conserving after you install. I didn’t install a 100-percent-offset system, but then had to replace my A/C, which I did with a more-efficient system. That, along with using more efficient light bulbs and appliances, resulted in a system that more than offset my entire electric consumption for the year.

Net metering isn’t romantic, but it’s practical. Net metering means you are tied into the electric grid; your meter runs backward during the day while you’re generating more than you use, and runs forward at night as you tap into the grid. It also means that if the grid goes down around you, you have no power, even if your panels are generating. The alternative is a system with lots of batteries and a very different lifestyle. That’s only practical if you (and more importantly, your family) can handle it.

Solar not only cuts your electric bill, but increases the value of your house. One study showed that the value of your house increases by about the cost of your system!

Make sure to get multiple quotes before choosing a company to install your solar system. I got interested in getting solar because a conservation group (not the Sierra Club) had an arrangement with a solar installer that provided the conservation group with a contribution after the install. But I got half a dozen quotes, and that first installer’s quote was about double that of the lowest quote! If an installer is promising some money back to you or to a conservation group as part of your solar installation, that money is coming from somewhere. I got a much better deal with another installer, gave my own contribution to conservation on top and still came out better off.

Don’t be afraid to go solar. I’ve never regretted getting a system. I waited a few years, thinking it might not be worth it if we sold our house shortly after installing. But it’s been a great experience in every way.

**Top 10 Lessons I Learned With Solar**

**Palm and Pine**

By Bryan Baker

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**Mojave Group… Continued from Page 3**

Pat Bertram is the author of the suspense novels Light Bringer, More Deaths Than One, A Spark of Heavenly Fire, and Daughter Am I. Bertram is also the author of Grief: The Great Yearning, “an exquisite book, wrenching to read, and at the same time full of profound truths.” Connect with Pat on Google+. Like Pat on Facebook.

http://patbertram.com
http://piberttram.wordpress.com
Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park
3-Days ~ 3-Islands ~ Live-Aboard Cruises

2014 Schedule:
April 12-14          May 4-6          June 8-10
July 22-22          August 24-26       September 14-16

Join us as we explore these enchanting islands! Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. A ranger/naturalist will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and present evening programs. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara, California. The cost, $590, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages plus the services of a ranger/naturalist.

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; jholtzhla@aol.com

T
hree young people from Riverside, Maro Kakoussian, Opamago Agyemang and Jasmine Kavesade, attended the Southwest Sprog training in August, 2013. The San Gorgonio Chapter sponsored them. At our chapter meeting February 4th, they will tell us about the intensive seven-day experience, what they learned and what they will do with their new organizing skills. Assisting them will be chapter Political Chair Jono Hildner from Palm Desert. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM at the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands.

Sprog – short for “summer program” – is the training for organizers conducted by the Sierra Student Coalition (SSC), the Sierra Club’s organization for young people. Sprog is intended for youth from high school age through young adulthood. It is an intensive seven-day session that gives young activists the tools they need to launch and lead winning campaigns for change, gets them connected to supportive networks, and develops their potential as leaders.

The young people sent by the San Gorgonio Chapter say, “Sprog was indeed a life changer for the three of us.” The Southwest Sprog in August 2013 was held at Camp Oliver in the mountains 40 miles east of San Diego. Each summer regional Sprogs are held at several locations across the country.

Jasmine is completing work at UC Riverside for a bachelor’s degree majoring in psychology and minoring in environmental science. She is co-president of Sustainable UCR, one of the largest environmental groups on campus, and sits on two committees for the UCR Green Campus Action Plan.

After graduation she plans to be an environmental community organizer in the Inland Empire. She says that growing up in the Inland Empire she has always had an affinity for nature. “…I find solace and have a deep sense of protection for this planet and that’s why I would like to start organizing and eventually start my own organization involving sustainability, particularly around stopping pollution.”

Opamago has been an activist for seven years. He moved to Riverside two years ago from Ithaca, New York. He holds a bachelor’s degree in political science with a minor in philosophy. He attended the Southern California campaign promoting rooftop solar power and other clean energy strategies. Jono Hildner is a retired Human Services Administrator from Clackamas County, Oregon. He served twice as Oregon State Health Division Director. He is a long-time hiker and whitewater rafter now living in Palm Desert. Political Chair of the Tahquitz Group and the San Gorgonio Chapter, he has been active in the Sierra Club for the past six years. Jono ran the successful “Save Our Mountains” campaign to stop a massive resort development on the alluvial fan below the Palm Springs Arial Tram in Chino Canyon.

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Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

Chapter’s February 4th Meeting to Focus on “Sprog Perspectives,”
Sierra Club’s Grassroots Activist Training Program

Happy New Year

Palm and Pine
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