



SIERRA
CLUB

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Outings leader training,
March 29

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SANTA LUCIAN



Protecting and
Preserving the
Central Coast

The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club • San Luis Obispo County, California

Sick Transit

by Eric Greening

It is ironic that the same state legislature and governor who passed and signed AB 32 and SB 375, with their calls for transit oriented development, would so readily raid State Transit Assistance money to pretend to balance the budget.

This, and the reductions in sales tax revenue, have left transit providers in a difficult fix; at a time when more and more people are flocking to the buses, less and less money is trickling into the system.

Nonetheless, on February 4th, the Board of the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority took a step back from implementing service cuts, although this issue will likely be revisited before the next fiscal year begins on July 1st.

Every year, the Council of Governments Board (made up of the same people who serve as the Regional Transit Authority Board—all 5 Supervisors plus one representative from each incorporated city) must find that there are no unmet transit needs reasonable to meet before jurisdictions are free to divert sales

tax money intended for transit (with a measly 2% taken off the top for bikeways) to road work.

This common diversion, the habit of the county and all cities except Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo, violates the legislative intent of the Transportation Development Act, the 1/4 cent of sales tax receipts governed by the Act. The legislative intent is clear: "Because public transportation systems provide an essential public service, it is

desirable that such systems be designed and operated in such a manner as to encourage maximum utilization of the efficiencies of the service for the benefit of the total

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Nav

The Carrizo Management Plan Needs You

The Bureau of Land Management has released the public draft of the Resource Management Plan for Carrizo Plain National Management Plan (RMP). Now they need to hear from you.

Specifically, they need to hear that the Monument is a special and fragile place—that's why it was given special status, and the way it is managed should be special, too.

The Carrizo Plain National Monument is a uniquely diverse landscape. It is a singular place of national and worldwide significance.

Its species, communities and ecosystems are extremely rare and imperiled. The very future of its extraordinary plants and animals, unique ecosystems and other outstanding features could very well depend on the decisions made in the RMP.

Because of its significance, designation as a National Monument and inclusion in the National Landscape

Conservation System, the BLM should manage the Carrizo Plain National Monument differently than other BLM lands. The BLM should prioritize resource preservation.

The Natural Area Plan and the preferred alternative in the February 2004 draft of the Environmental Assessment provided a solid foundation for future management. The BLM should build upon these recommendations.

The valuable and fragile evidence of pre-historic and historic peoples should be protected. Painted rock and other archaeological and historic sites within the Monument preserve an important span of history. The BLM should ensure that it manages the Monument to provide for their preservation and restoration.

The road system on the ground should support transportation needs

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Take a Hike!

Wanted: Outings leaders

The Outings component of the Chapter is an excellent avenue through which to connect with members, meet new people, and explore the lands which we protect. Here's an opportunity for you to assume an important leadership role in sharing your love for the outdoors with your friends and the greater community. The Santa Lucia Chapter wishes to increase the number of qualified Outings Leaders and increase the variation on types of outings. We want your involvement and imaginative input!

Join us for an informative and fun day where we will give you the tools to become a qualified Sierra Club Outings Leader!

When: Sunday, March 29
Where: Sierra Club office at 547 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo
Cost: First Aid Class is \$25.

The Outings Leadership Training (OLT) and after-party are FREE! If you are already First Aid certified, then you are welcome to just show up for the free OLT segment and stay for the food and company after. For

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photo/Karen Walsh

It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

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Our Steelhead, Ourselves

It was one of those news stories that seems to come into existence just to provide a dramatic illustration of a social divide and seize the popular imagination; a dramatic tableau with a plaque affixed to the bottom of the frame reading something like "A Dilemma For Our Time:" Homeless man gets ten days in the slammer for eating a protected fish.

And so it was. For weeks after reporting the story of the fateful creekside meeting of Victor Manuel Silva, a victim of economic devastation, and a steelhead trout, victim of environmental destruction -- and also pregnant, the loss of her roe causing a significant blow to the survival of the species -- the *Tribune* editorialized, printed waves of letters, and conducted on-line polling memorializing the incident. What did we all think? Should he have been let off with a warning? Or if ya gotta eat, ya gotta eat? Or is the law the law?

The usual sides formed up, holding forth on our overregulated society, the elevation of concern for a fish over the Rights of Man, etc. Class war raised its inevitable head, with writers suggesting that latte-sipping yuppies were condemning the downtrodden while reclining on their velvet divans. Others pointed out that the CEOs of the companies polluting, damming and developing steelhead habitat don't seem to be spending many nights in jail.

While later reports took some of the steam out of the story -- the gentleman in question evidently was not homeless, was allegedly in the country without benefit of citizenship or passport and had a parole violation; otherwise, yes, he would have gotten off with a citation -- the central conflict remained, and the wrestling match and pot-shots fired over the species and class divides just as futile.

No one suggested that we might do better to focus our attentions on remedying the conditions that put the steelhead into environmental intensive care and put that man in a place where he didn't have many options in determining where his next meal was coming from, nor was it pointed out that both of these problems are symptoms of the same disease.

To that end, we direct your attention to page 6 of this issue, and our report on the Good Jobs/Green Jobs national conference held last month in Washington, D.C., just as the federal stimulus bill arrived in the

Senate.

The point of the conference was that focusing economic recovery efforts on building a green economy will actually address and help to resolve several problems at once: Creating new industries, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, cleaning up the pollution of our air and water, and lifting millions out of poverty who have been permanently disenfranchised by the inequities inherent in the old economy. Locally produced, decentralized power is key to that new, green economy. Green job training is essential to making it happen. An end to the dumping of toxic substances on low-income communities is part of that new economy. A carbon-free, nuclear-free model (see facing page) will make it happen. An economic model of corporate trade like the one that drove down wages and living conditions south of the border many decades ago under what was then called colonialism and is now called NAFTA (see facing page) -- which has also driven indigenous farmers off their land, and can take credit for driving any number of undocumented immigrants to the banks of steelhead creeks with fishing poles in hand -- is definitely not part of that new, clean green economy.

A dirty recovery -- one that simply reestablishes what was there before -- "would be worse than no recovery," as Jonathan Schell of The Nation Institute recently pointed out. "It would be the quickest path to a bigger bust.... The just-crashed 'successful' economy, excellent as it was in producing cheap goods, was also producing environmental catastrophe."

What was articulated by the Blue Green Alliance over those three days in D.C. is a vision for a future that provides a real job at a decent wage for that disenfranchised man on the banks of San Luis Obispo Creek, making him a sustaining member of a functional community, while providing that trout with an unchoked stream and unfouled habitat that lets her function as a vital part of an ecosystem that sustains her species and ours.

And when that day comes, as a bonus, we can stop yelling at each other on letters pages about who deserves the most punishment for how screwed up everything is. We'll have something better to do.

SANTA LUCIAN

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COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The Executive Committee meets the third Friday of every month at 12:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 547-B Marsh St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

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The Other Side of the Fence: US-Mexico Border Reality Tour

Register by March 6

In 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was implemented, leading to a corporate rush for the border as companies hurried south in search of lower wages and environmental regulations. As a result, industrial waste continues to pollute the water and air along the border while many factory workers struggle to support themselves and their families on meager pay and benefits.

To see for yourself the impacts of NAFTA and this free trade model on the environment and communities, join the Sierra Club's Responsible

Trade Program on April 24-26, 2009, for a tour of the border in Tijuana, Mexico.

Beginning in San Diego on Friday, April 24th, we will cross the border into Tijuana, where, over the course of our two days in the border region, we will visit factories, dump sites and workers' settlements. Participants will also have the opportunity to speak with factory workers and activists working to improve environmental protections, workers rights, and public health.

Culminating with a stop at the border fence in San Diego, the tour

will provide participants with a "one of a kind" opportunity to learn more about the far-reaching impacts of our international trade agreements.

Tour costs, including food and local transportation during this three-day, two-night tour, will be subsidized by the Sierra Club; however, participants will be asked to cover a \$200 accommodation fee in addition to travel and personal expenses. In exchange, we'll ask you to share your experience with friends and family upon your return. For a detailed itinerary, visit www.sierraclub.org/trade/bordertour or contact Susan Ellsworth at



202-548-6593 or susan.ellsworth@sierraclub.org.

Space is limited for this amazing opportunity and applications must be received by March 6!

Note: The Sierra Club is closely monitoring the safety of travel to Tijuana at this time. We will be sure to update participants when and if circumstances change.

National Sierra Club Election is Upon Us

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well.

Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. Visit the Club's election website: www.sierraclub.org/bod/2009election. This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

The candidates are:

Laurence Gibson (TX)
Chris Warshaw (CA)
Frank Morris (NY)
David A. Scott (OH)
Robin Mann (PA)
Rafael K. Reyes (CA)
Lane E. Boldman (KY)
Phil Wheeler (CA)

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, the user-friendly Internet voting site will save time and postage.

No Carbon, No Nukes



On January 24, the Sierra Club's California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee voted to approve a "Carbon-Free, Nuclear-Free Statement of Principles."

The Committee recommended that national Sierra Club do the same, and recommend the Statement to the Obama Administration for appropriate consideration in upcoming energy-climate policy decisions.

The Carbon-Free, Nuclear-Free campaign invites everyone to be part of the project of building the world you want to live in by changing your local energy source, getting your voice heard, or influencing national leaders. You can join the CFNF Alliance and they'll plug you into a network of people working for a carbon-free, nuclear-free future. Go to www.ieer.org/carbonfree.

40 Years with the Mothers for Peace

The San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace invites you to join us in celebrating 40 years of activism on behalf of the land, the people, and future generations of the Central Coast. The celebration will take place April 25, at the Odd Fellows Hall on Dana St. in San Luis Obispo. The festivities begin at 7 p.m., with lots of great hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar with great local wines. Donations will be welcomed and there will be a live auction selling services provided by members and supporters of Mothers for Peace: dinner for four, house cleaning, a day's sail on a 35-foot sloop, and MORE. Come celebrate with us!

MFP was launched when, in 1969, a young mother wrote a letter to the editor of the local newspaper asking that people who shared her frustra-

tion at the needless loss of life in the Vietnam War join her in searching out ways to act effectively as a group. The shared values and compelling need to act that originally brought the group together have continued to characterize the Mothers for Peace.

In that same year the Hosgri earthquake fault was discovered by oil geologists just three and a half miles off shore from Diablo Canyon. PG&E did not recognize the fault for several more years, and in installing seismic bracing accidentally read its blueprints in reverse, necessitating a costly retrofit that added billions of dollars and several years to construction costs. In 2008, another fault was discovered to be even nearer to the power plant. Its significance is yet to be evaluated.

The Mothers joined with the

Abalone Alliance in 1977, and in 1979 forty thousand people gathered at an anti-nuclear rally organized by the Abalone Alliance that included a speech by Governor Jerry Brown, who called for a moratorium on the construction of nuclear plants in California until and unless the problem of storage of nuclear wastes was resolved.

Fast forward to 2006 when Mothers for Peace attorney, Diane Curran, won a favorable ruling from the Ninth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals that the NRC must study the environmental effects of a terrorist attack on the proposed dry-cask storage facility. The NRC has still not fully complied with that ruling, so the MFP has again appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court. The costs of this appeal are expected to be between \$70,000 and \$100,000, so contributions to the legal work of Mothers for Peace are welcome.

The Mothers for Peace is a local nonprofit, but its work for improving the safety of all nuclear power plants throughout the U.S. has been widely recognized. It advocates conserving energy and bringing about the sustainable, renewable energy revolution, a commitment as strong as its commitment to stop the generation of more nuclear waste with nowhere to go.

None of this could have been done alone, and the Mothers for Peace are grateful for all the help we have received from other individuals and organizations through the years.

The Mothers for Peace website is <http://mothersforpeace.org>



Pointed: Sandy Silver of the MFP, taking on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in SLO in 1981.

The Grand Jury Wants You

by David Georgi

You Should Consider Applying for the Grand Jury

If you would like to participate in a pure form of democracy and learn about local government, you should consider applying for the Grand Jury (GJ). The GJ has a tradition that dates back to time of the Norman Conquest of England. During the Reign of Henry II (1154-1189), a "jury of presentment" was established consisting of twelve "good and lawful men" to investigate suspected crimes. GJs existed in colonial New England and were included in the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution. In early California, GJs investigated local prisons and audited county books.

San Luis Obispo County, like all other California counties, has a Grand Jury that investigates civil issues. The objective of the GJ is to "shed a light" on all aspects of local government to ensure they are being governed honestly and efficiently. Any citizen can apply at http://slocourts.net/grand_jury/forms. The deadline is March 30. Citizens can also obtain a complaint form at this site and complain about anything having to do with local governmental agencies. GJs do not have jurisdiction on state or

federal matters, or on issues under litigation.

I applied last year and was one of 19 jurors selected. One of my main motives was to learn about local government and I was not disappointed. In the first few months, jurors were given extensive training. Key government officials and staffers came to explain what they did in their jobs. I soon was conversant with terms like "Community Service District," "LAFCO," "joint powers agreement," and learned to associate faces with the names that frequently adorn local newspapers. Local news stories now have an operatic drama because I have developed familiarity with the complex political maneuvering and riveting personal motivations that underlie them.

There are many cool features of being on the GJ. In the first few weeks, you get taken to the Sherriff's Department to be photographed and issued an official GJ badge. You get official GJ business cards and key to a cute little house downtown, known as the "Grand Jury House." The county pays you mileage for GJ business and you receive the princely sum of \$15 per day for jury duty. Along with the

19 selected Jurors, eleven alternates are chosen to fill in as Jurors drop out. The GJ conducts regular business two mornings per week and then pursues individual investigations as necessary.

GJs have several specific responsibilities. Jurors tour all holding cells and evidence rooms in the county. They are shown complete tours of the prison and disaster center. Each week, the foreperson reads any new citizen complaints and the jury decides whether to investigate it. Each complaint is given a number, and it is surprising how fast they add up. GJs are also empowered to identify cases, that is, issues generated by jurors. Cases are identified by letters. The SLOGJ usually accumulates several dozen cases and complaint investigations in a year.

Grand Juryies possess several powers. Witnesses can be asked to testify, and the proceedings are recorded for later reference. Witnesses are admonished that everything asked and answered during the interview, including who said what, is confidential. Breaching this confidentiality is subject to contempt of court. Jurors are under the same admonish-

ment. Witnesses can be sworn, as in a court case. And, if necessary, witnesses can be subpoenaed. Government agencies are required to provide any documentation needed by the GJ.

The GJ is organized into committees and subcommittees for specific investigations. When an investigation ends, the pertinent committee appoints a juror to write a draft report following a prescribed template. The report is reviewed by the committee and then passed to an editorial committee. The revised report is sent to County Counsel for fact checking, and returned to the whole GJ, which votes whether to make it public. It takes 12 of the 19 jurors to approve including the investigation report in its final report. The final report is released at the end of the GJ year and is made available to local news organizations and governmental agencies. It is published on the GJ web site. Government agencies that are the subject of investigations must respond to the report. Each year, the GJ reviews the previous report and investigates any developments.

The composition of my GJ is mostly

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Learn to Lead: We'll Teach You How!

Sierra Student Coalition Youth Leadership Training Opportunities

by Jon Barrows, SSC Training Director

Students at high schools and on college campuses around the country have been busy. Last fall, they collected 350,000 pledges from their peers, committing to civic engagement around building a clean energy economy. This February, they gathered in record numbers (10,000 strong!) in our nation's capitol for Power Shift '09 (www.powershift09.org), to deliver a message to our leaders: we need bold climate action now!

Youth are also active at the local level, passing green fees to purchase renewable energy and retrofit old buildings, passing policies that require new buildings to meet LEED certification standards, converting vehicle fleets to bio-diesel, getting their schools to commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to zero over the next couple decades, and demanding national leaders follow their lead. And that's just the beginning. It's like the '60s without the drugs.

How did they do it? Many of these students attended one of the Sierra Student Coalition's Summer Environmental Leadership Training programs. In 2009, the SSC will run nine programs across the country (see www.ssc.org/sprog for dates and

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Correction:

The article "On Smokoska Time" (January) referred to Ken Smokoska as chair of Sierra Club California's Energy and Climate Change Committee. Ken was Chair from 2003-2008 and is currently a member of the committee. The committee is chaired by Jim Stewart and Ed Mainland.

Going to Bat

Will Montana de Oro State Park remain free to the public, requiring the County to forfeit revenues from state-owned facilities it currently administers, or will a user fee be imposed?

Or is there a third option? When Los Osos resident Gwen Taylor saw the AT&T Asia-America Fiber Optic Cable Project coming down the pike, she thought there just might be. The cable will come ashore at the Park's Sandspit Beach parking lot, and cross Pecho Valley Road and Clark's Gap Road. Might the County be owed something for the use of public land?

Taylor contacted the Los Osos Community Advisory Council, who contacted County Supervisor Bruce Gibson. On January 6, Supervisor Gibson, joined by Janice Rohn (left) and Linde Owen of LOCAC, attended the State Lands Commission's presentation of the Environmental Impact Report on the trans-Pacific cable project. Gibson spoke in favor of the idea of including a condition of the project whereby AT&T – either as mitigation, compensation for the use of public land, or just as a gesture of good corporate citizenship — would supply the annual funding for the park that is otherwise proposed to come out of user fees.

Stay tuned.



Local Opportunities for Renewable Energy

On Friday, February 6th, close to 200 public officials, educators, and concerned citizens attended the Renewable Energy Education Forum (REEF) at the Veteran's Hall in San Luis Obispo. Presented by the Strategic Energy Alliance for Change (SEA Change), the event featured keynote speaker Cisco DeVries, Managing Director of Renewable Funding, speaking on AB 811, the recent state legislation that allows for the creation of a community energy financing district. Three panel discussions provided a review of plans and visions for local renewable energy projects on the Central Coast, and an offering of available resources for improving energy efficiency in business and home remodels. Rounding out the renewable energy forum was an all-day exposition of alternative energy options.

Renewable Funding offers a turnkey solution package for a city or county

to create a community financing authority for renewable energy and energy efficiency. CityFIRST is a government program that provides a straightforward financing method to help homeowners and small businesses convert their property to clean energy. The CityFIRST program is financed by revenue bonds, which provides participants with a reasonable interest rate, fixed for 20 years. San Luis Obispo County and the Cities of San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Atascadero, Morro Bay, Pismo Beach and Grover Beach can implement this program with minimal upfront or administrative costs while providing leadership to dramatically reduce energy costs, boost the local economy and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Sierra Club members can help to provide the leadership for rapid deployment of climate change

continued on page 5

My Dear Sooties



How remarkable they are
the sooty shearwaters
gliding like bomber pilots around the bay
They appear like a cloud of mist
darting in and out of my gaze
as they vanish for a moment, returning when the "white flash" of their wings
shimmers in the sun,
a swath of silver in the sky, like a waving flag in a magic trick.

They are the estuary entertainers
zipping high, low, clumped like a swarm of bees
mystifying in their movements;
I give this show—nature's play—my awe and an ovation.

*Kalila Volkov
February 2009*



Victory night: Mr. and Mrs. Hill on election night 2008.

Art & Adam

WHAT: Meet and greet County Supervisor, Adam Hill at "Art after Dark"
WHERE: ECOSLO (1204 Nipomo Street, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93401)
WHEN: Friday, March 6th, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Take your part; enjoy Art and your local Supervisor after Dark!

The Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County (ECOSLO) is participating in Art after Dark by providing an opportunity for our community to meet with a member of the County's Board of Supervisors while enjoying a local student's artwork.

On Friday, March 6th, supervisor Adam Hill will be featured along with the artwork of a high school student from his district. Please drop by ECOSLO at 1204 Nipomo Street from 5:30 – 7:30 PM for a chance to mingle with one of our County's leaders. This is a great opportunity for citizens to get involved!

For more information, call 544-1777 or e-mail info@ecoslo.org.

A Profound Movement

The environment, labor, investment and social justice converge at “Good Jobs, Green Jobs” conference

by Andrew Christie, Chapter Director

In a stroke of incredibly good accidental timing, the second annual Good Jobs/Green Jobs National Conference, an event bringing together more than 2,000 business, labor and environmental advocates to shape the national dialog on a new green economy, took place in Washington, D.C., two weeks after Barack Obama became President of the United States and at the precise moment when the U.S. Senate was beginning to debate the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, including \$100 billion worth of clean energy initiatives.

Neither of these things – nor the current economic condition of America and the world — were known to be in the offing when planning for the conference began almost a year earlier, aiming for February 4-6, 2009.

That planning was done by the Blue Green Alliance, a national partnership between labor unions and environmental organizations dedicated to expanding the green economy and advancing the rights of workers, comprised of United Steelworkers, Sierra Club, Communications Workers of America, Natural Resources Defense Council, Laborers’ International Union of North America and Service Employees International Union. The three days of “Good Jobs, Green Jobs: Making a Down Payment on the Green Economy” consisted of educational programs, speakers and networking opportunities that all had four goals:

- Bring national focus to the specific policies, public investments and funding mechanisms necessary to accelerate the growth of the green economy
- Illustrate the job growth potential of global warming solutions
- Demonstrate the breadth of the coalition that supports the transition to a clean, renewable energy economy



Nothing the matter with Kansas: Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius told the story of how her state became the first in the nation to cancel plans for a coal-fired power plant due to concerns over greenhouse gas emissions.

Good Jobs and Start Building a Low-Carbon Economy put it, writing in the February 16 issue of *The Nation*, “The transformation to a clean energy economy can...serve as a major long-term engine of job creation [and] can also become a cornerstone of a long-term full employment program in this country, which in turn will be the most effective tool for moving people out of poverty and into productive working lives. In short, the transition to a clean energy economy has the capacity to merge the aims of environmental protection and social



Bull session: The Sierra Club delegation gathers for a conference re-cap.



Workin' it: Sierra Club stalwarts man the booth at the Green Jobs Expo on exhibition floor.

- Highlight the potential of the green economy to forge a new social agenda that lifts Americans out of poverty, improves public health and strengthens our middle class.

Or as Robert Pollin, author of *Green Recovery: A Program to Create*

justice to a degree that is unprecedented. It is an opportunity that must not be lost.”

The conference was the hottest ticket in town, quickly growing to more than twice the size of its first-year convocation in Pittsburgh. The

Blue Green Alliance had sold out the hall and been forced to shut down online registration weeks before, but requests for registration kept coming in. All of the participants who packed the plenary sessions and workshops for all three days at downtown D.C.’s Omni Shoreham and Marriott Wardman Park hotels were aware of the historic moment. Conference goal #3 – “demonstrate the breadth of the coalition” – was front and center throughout in the visible convergence of the interests and strengths of the labor, social justice and environmental movements.

That this agenda came to unfold a few blocks away from the simultaneous deliberations of the Senate over the administration’s \$800 billion effort to dig us out of the hole that decades of unfettered predatory capitalism have dropped us all into (“We now see the collapse of an economy built on ever-increasing inequality,” as Apollo Alliance Chair Phil Angelides put it) lent immediacy to the proceedings. “How’s it feel to be in the right place at the right time?” asked a smiling Sierra Club President Allison Chin, as a crowd of 2,000 roared back.

Scheduled presenters such as

Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Sherrod Brown (D-OH) had to rush back to the Senate immediately after speaking in order to vote on amendments to the Recovery Act. “We’re getting a lot of opposition from the same folks whose policies put us where we are today,” Stabenow said. “We want to be bipartisan, but we don’t want to go back to that.” The Senator said she wanted to see more electric vehicles “with batteries made here in the U.S.,” then apologized for cutting short her remarks but she had to get back to the Senate in order to add a plug-in electric vehicle provision to the Recovery Act, joined by Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT).

United we stand

Conference participants — including many of the 250 Sierra Club members who attended from chapters across the country — returned the favor, dropping in on legislators in their Capitol Hill offices to bring them the message that we are in the midst of an environmental and economic crisis and we want to see policies that match the problem and an investment in job-creating clean



"Whoever said you can't herd cats never tried a can opener". Jim Hightower knocks 'em dead at the evening reception.

energy technologies. Dr. Jim Stewart, Co-chair of the Sierra Club California Climate-Energy Committee, joined in lobbying the California delegation in the House of Representatives, visiting the offices of Joe Baca (D-43), Linda Sanchez (D-39), Dennis Cardoza (D-18), Pete Stark (D-13), Bob Filner (D-51), and Xavier Becerra (D-31). "We lobbied them on energy efficiency and infrastructure upgrades, long-term extension of clean energy tax incentives, loan guarantees for domestic manufacturing and job retraining, investment in transportation infrastructure and transit, and funding the Green Jobs Act," Stewart said.

The point that this message was coming to them from a united front spanning tree-huggers and steel workers was not lost on the lawmakers.

"I'm sure it was a shock for some folks to see Sierra Club and labor together," said a smiling Rich Trumka, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO. "Here's the message for them: Get over it. We reject the notion that you have to choose between good jobs and a green environment." Trumka cited the Stern Report on global climate change, which characterized the climate crisis as "the greatest and widest ranging

market failure ever seen."

But can the environmental and labor movements really get along? Aren't there significant differences between the goals of hard hats and tree huggers?

Teamsters President James Hoffa recalled the impasse of the Teamsters and environmentalists over drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

"Then last fall," he said, "we decided you can't drill your way out of this. We are no longer in favor of drilling in ANWR."

Hoffa remembered marching against the World Trade Organization at the 1999 Battle in Seattle as

the "Teamsters and Turtles" met in the streets, in clouds of tear gas, to protest corporate trade rules that harm American workers and the environment alike.

"That was the beginning of our dialog with the environmental movement," said Hoffa. "We saw who was there for us. We looked to one side of us and saw the Sierra Club. We looked and we saw Public Citizen. It's about knowing who your friends are."

Blue Green Alliance Executive Director David Foster cited a favorite saying of legendary pro-labor steel magnate Henry Kaiser: "Problems are just opportunities in work clothes." He was joined by Leo Gerard, the

BLUEGREEN ALLIANCE

President of United Steelworkers and co-founder of the Blue Green Alliance and the Apollo Alliance, who proclaimed "This is the Davos of the working class and the progressive movement," referring to the annual World Economic Forum held in Switzerland by the movers and shakers of corporate globalization.

"They said 'We're gonna deregulate the financial industry and global trade, and the free market will take care of us,'" he thundered. "This is where we grab the agenda and we say to the crowd that got us into this mess, 'We ain't gonna go your way no more!'"

A climate recovery partnership

Dr. Donald Kennedy, President Emeritus of Stanford and Chair of the Sierra Club's new Climate Recovery Partnership, also got right to the point, echoing a passage from President Obama's inaugural address: "The good news is: Science is *back*."

And on global warming, "the case is closed," said Kennedy. "The Sierra Club has launched what we're calling the Climate Recovery Partnership, a groundbreaking effort to solve the climate crisis and help our environment recover using new technology. This will be a serious effort in half a dozen sectors to evaluate new technology, support the political will needed to bring it to us, and empower the Sierra Club membership, one million three hundred thousand boots on the ground with an abundant supply of sweat equity in making this a better planet to live on, by bringing them the innovations that they need in support of their efforts."

A Regional Climate Policy panel brought together representatives from the three regional climate change initiatives in the U.S.: The Western Climate Initiative, (involving seven states and four Canadian provinces); Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, (ten northeastern and mid-Atlantic states); and the Midwestern

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The Employee Free Choice Act

A strong labor movement is crucial to a strong environmental movement. The Sierra Club supports the Employee Free Choice Act because we believe that reducing global warming pollution and investing in clean energy will create a strong, sustainable economy by creating millions of green jobs. Our country is in dire need of an economic renewal that can provide family and community-sustaining jobs. Allowing workers the basic right to form a union and to play a greater role in the workplace will be essential to the success of a green and healthy economy.

Protecting workers' freedom of association is closely linked to the efforts to protect the environment and communities. Workers serve as the front line of defense against hazardous pollution, chemical spills and other accidents that can devastate communities. Union workers are better trained to know about the risks of hazardous chemicals and have greater protections if they blow the

whistle on hazards and accidents in the workplace.

Global warming represents not only one of the greatest challenges we face as a generation, but also a tremendous opportunity. By investing in a green energy economy we both combat climate change and create millions of good jobs that help support America's working families. To fully capitalize on the potential of the green economy, we will need a robust and skilled workforce.

Passage of the Employee Free Choice Act represents a significant step towards protecting workers' rights to advocate for stronger protections for workers and for communities.



Darren Springer, Senior Policy Analyst for the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices; Environment America Energy Program Director Rob Sargent; Keith Reopelle of Clean Wisconsin; and Barbara Byrd, Secretary-Treasurer of Oregon AFL-CIO, at the Regional Climate Policy workshop.

Carrizo

continued from page 1

around the Monument, but must also support protection of the Monument's natural values:

The natural splendor of the Monument is best protected by limiting the number of roads. The BLM should limit the roads in the Monument to those that support the mission of protecting the Monument's values.

The BLM should consider the road network and fencing across the Monument in the context of the connectivity of the landscape.

The BLM should consider removing fences which inhibit the movement of pronghorn.

The BLM should consider closing and rehabilitating redundant roads, roads that serve no visitor or administrative purpose, and roads in sensitive resources areas.

There are a number of locations where off-road vehicle use is occurring contrary to the Monument proclamation and the current management plan. The BLM should document off-road vehicle use, analyze its impacts and develop a plan to address the impacts including signage, law enforcement and restoration.

Grazing/invasive species need to be managed to protect the natural environment. The BLM should analyze the impacts of livestock grazing to plant and animal species and ecosystems. The BLM should permit livestock grazing only if it can be demonstrated to benefit native species and ecosystems.

The BLM should consider phasing out the remaining long-term grazing leases and replacing them with annual free use permits if grazing is used as a resource management tool.

To control exotic plant species, the BLM should analyze and consider the use of prescribed fire in conjunction

with or as an alternative to livestock grazing and other methods.

The BLM should develop fire management policies and prescriptions for the Monument which provide for the use of naturally occurring fire to restore and maintain the Monument's species and ecosystems.

Oil and gas drilling can impact the natural landscape, plants and animals:

The BLM needs to address the potential impacts of oil and gas drilling on split estate lands.

Only responsible hunting and firearm use should be permitted. Hunting is one of many ways that visitors use the monument. However, the BLM

should consider the impacts of non-game hunting to the Monument's ecosystems and to threatened and endangered species found on the Carrizo Plain, including the San Joaquin kit fox and the San Joaquin antelope squirrel. The BLM should consider limiting hunting to game species in season.

The BLM should consider prohibiting the use of lead

bullets, because lead poisoning from those bullets can kill the California condor, an endangered species, golden eagles, and other raptors.

Target shooting can result in the accumulation of litter, soil contamination by lead and wildfires. It can also impact the safety and experience of visitors. The BLM should maintain its current policy of directing target shooters to facilities outside the Monument.

Now is the time to develop a smart approach to managing visitors to the Monument. Visitor use is expected to increase and the BLM should identify ways to accommodate current and

future visitor use in a way which will prevent or lessen the potential impacts of visitor use.

TAKE ACTION

Copies of the CPNM Draft RMP/Draft EIS are available online www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield. Comments are due by April 22. Send your comments via fax: (661) 391-6143, email at ccarrizormp@ca.blm.gov, or mail to:

CPNM RMP
Bureau of Land Management
3801 Pegasus Drive
Bakersfield CA 93308



Tell the BLM: Painted Rock should be preserved and restored.

Letters

send to: sierra8@charter.net, or Sierra Club, P.O. Box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406. Letters may be edited for space.

CFLs: Other questions, not so frequently asked

The CFL article by Dr. Wollman ("Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs: Frequently Asked Questions," February) was very informative and helpful. I do believe there are several other things to ponder, before jumping on the CFL bandwagon.

What about our economy and jobs? The congress has mandated CFL use in phases over the next several years, but no USA manufacturer produces these light sources, and is unlikely to begin production in our nation. This likely means all CFL lights will come from China. This hurts our trade deficit, and China does not have a good reputation for non-polluting manufacturing processes. Are we just going to offset our problems at home, by having those problems grow in China?

What about clean-up of those inevitably broken CFL lamps? Here is an EPA website that addresses the dangers we may be putting into our homes. www.epa.gov/mercury/spills/index.htm#fluorescent

What about our health? The government says those mercury dangers are minimal and reasonably

safe. That would be the same government that said "xx" radiation levels were safe in the 1950's, then reduced the safe level exposure several times over the next few decades. Are they right about mercury now, or will they be right about mercury later? What health price might we really pay for this version of energy efficiency?

What about our electrical systems? When you turn on and off incandescent lamps, there are no voltage spikes in your wiring. When you do the same with CFLs, the voltage in your home wiring can spike to over 500 volts. Studies show that these voltage spikes damage computers and other electronic devices on an ongoing basis, which may well lead to their premature failure.

With the rise of "smart homes and smart appliances", and the fact that almost all our phones, TV's, alternative energy systems, etc. have electronic chips in them; how will these voltage spikes affect the operation of our energy efficient systems? If even one "smart appliance" is damaged by these spikes, did we save any money by using CFLs? If one child breaks a

CFL during "horseplay", and breathes in the fumes, or gets the mercury powder on their face, are we doing the "right thing"?

The problems of power quality (voltage spikes, harmonics, etc.) are already raising concerns throughout the industry, and changing to CFLs will likely make that concern grow. There are devices we can install onto our electrical systems to reduce the issues, but they will cost more money, use more energy, need to be manufactured somewhere, and add to electrical system complexity.

Am I against using CFLs? No, but I think it best to put all the facts out to the members, so they can make their own decisions, based on knowledge and logic. I use CFLs, but only in select and safe physical locations, and only on circuits that do not also have electronic devices on the same circuit breaker.

I hope these infrequently asked questions will provoke research and discourse that leads to intelligent choices in energy conservation.

Joseph Furino, electrician

Most of these arguments are well known and readily answered: Incandescent bulbs are also made in China; parents should instruct children not to play with any potentially hazardous household item; mercury hazards are far better known and more accurately characterized today than radiation was in the 1950s, etc. The point about voltage surge, however, is a new one on us. According to Energy Star: "While there is a brief surge in energy use when a CFL is turned on, with today's starting technology, that surge usually lasts about a tenth of a second and consumes about as much energy as five seconds of normal operation. So, even when turned on and off frequently, a CFL uses less energy than its incandescent equivalent. But because turning a CFL on and off more frequently can shorten its life and CFLs are more expensive than incandescents, we recommend consumers use CFLs in applications where they are on for at least fifteen minutes."

No word about potential harm to other appliances. Anyone out there have more info on this?

Sick Transit

continued from page 1



transportation system of the state and all the people of the state, including the elderly, the handicapped, the youth, and the citizens of limited means of the ability to freely utilize the systems” (Public Utilities Code 99220). Nonetheless, \$3 million in the current year are being diverted from transit to road work by the six jurisdictions that have this habit.

Since RTA service CUTS were to be discussed later on the same morning that the SLOCOG Board convened to hear requests for service IMPROVEMENTS, many of the public spoke to the unmet needs that would suddenly befall them if it were no longer possible to travel among our communities evenings and Sundays. RTA passengers have recently stepped forward with a meaningful fare increase, and presented compelling arguments at the hearing, from personal stories to civil rights claims based on disability.

Thus, the decision makers issued a temporary reprieve from the service cuts, while creating a task force to search for efficiencies among our fragmented and sometimes redundant transit systems that could be implemented without compromising the ability of the carless public to get around. After all, the RTA is only one of many systems providing transit in our county, albeit the one with the widest coverage. In the two cities that use all their eligible TDA for transit face challenges in balancing needs of their local systems with their proportionate contributions to the RTA system that connects us all. Indeed, the system in the City of San Luis Obispo faces its own prospect of significant service cuts, without the wiggle room of being able to redirect TDA funding from roads to its proper use. Thus, it is incumbent on all of us to continue to lobby the state and federal governments to provide or restore operating assistance for public transit in any way they can.

It is important to lobby our senators and congresspeople to be more generous with transit (whose funding in the federal “stimulus” bills was a pale shadow of road money) and to make the use of transit money flexible so that it can be used for operations as well as capital needs.

The purpose of stimulus is to arrest the layoff-driven slide into depression, and preventing the layoff of bus drivers, mechanics, and other staff, and of those who would lose their jobs if they couldn’t get to work, would have seemed to be the most appropriate way to use that money.

Our state legislators in the recent budget bloodfest seemed likewise unaware that cutting transit funds in a time when more and more people are unable to keep their clunkers going, and are finally making the shift to buses, is unsound both environmentally and economically, and that

transit helps us make more efficient use of our road system, obviating the need for hugely expensive road expansions.

Closer to home, we need to keep the pressure on our own local elected officials. If you live in a jurisdiction that diverts TDA funding to road work, press for a halt to this regressive practice! (Paso Robles is making progress in that direction; its diversion next fiscal year will be only 6%, a great improvement from the 40% that is the present average for other jurisdictions that divert.) If you want the Council of Governments and Regional Transit Authority to continue to resist the growing pressure to cut RTA service, remember their meeting dates of March 4th, April 8th, May 6th, and June 3rd.

If you live in San Luis Obispo, encourage your Council to reach beyond TDA in keeping its own system whole while maintaining its commitment to the regional system to which it contributes. While its fiscal straits are unenviable, a city that can afford \$150,000 for 10 parking spaces in Mitchell Park ought to be able to maintain a robust commitment to public transit. And, given the extent to which it benefits from an enormous jobs-housing imbalance, with huge daily surges of workers and shoppers who do not live there, it has an obligation to be generous with the Regional system that should carry an ever-increasing share of that traffic.

To sum up, transit is something to which almost every public official pays lip service. The RTA Board recently took a step beyond lip service in maintaining its commitment to regional transit in the face of economic gloom and doom. But the gloom and doom won’t go away, and neither will the growing need for transit, and the growing opportunity to find the silver lining of our hard times by maintaining access to more frugal and efficient ways of getting where we need to go.

Water Experts on Tap

How to protect and manage local water resources will be explored by area experts and the public at a “Lunch & Learn” event presented by the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County. The session, which is free and open to the public, will be held Thursday, March 5, at the PG&E Community Center in Avila Beach, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The local League is reviewing its position on local water issues, said Ann Garfinkel, League president, and it’s seeking input from the public. “Currently, the League’s position is in support of policies and actions that

Renewables

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solutions. We can learn about the state laws, such as AB 32, AB 811, AB 117, and SB 375 which require and enable significant and rapid changes in our energy procurement, production and use. We can tell our elected

officials and decision-makers that we favor the creation of a community energy financing authority to assist local citizens, businesses, and governments to bring renewable energy to San Luis Obispo County.



Case study: Cisco DeVries of the City of Berkeley lays out AB 811.

So what are these laws?

AB 811 is one of several creative measures that will assist California cities and counties to implement AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB 811 allows for the creation of a community energy financing district. The Santa Lucia Chapter and Sierra Club California has also identified AB 117, the Community Choice law, as an important tool to provide local funding opportunities to communities around the state, including San Luis Obispo County. The County has included Community Choice in its Draft Conservation and Open Space Element update as follows: Chapter 5, Goal #1 (Energy), Policy E 1.2 (“Local Control”), which states: “Determine if Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) or a similar program is a cost-effective and low-risk strategy to increase use of renewable energy. If CCA is a feasible option, consider joining the program.”



Wind on the ground: Harley McDonald describes the Lompoc Wind Energy Project.

Grand Jury

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retired people who have an active interest in local government. Even though we represent many different political views, we have bonded with a mutual respect borne of intense investigation of often thorny issues.

My experience on the GJ has benefited me in several ways. I achieved my objective of learning the process and players in local government. I gained enormous respect for the various governmental officials, staff and citizens who interact in this grassroots dance of democracy. And perhaps most fulfilling has been a sense of achievement at putting in many hours of hard work and study to understand contentious issues and make coherent recommendations that may have positive effect in our local community.

provide for protection and efficient management of water resources, with emphasis on conservation and high standards of environmental quality in all areas, as well as consideration of a variety of water supply sources, including reclamation.”

Event attendees may bring a brown bag lunch or reserve a box lunch for \$15. To reserve a lunch or for more information, call 543-2220 or email sharon@sharonwhitney.com. For more details about the event, visit the League website at www.LWVSLO.org.

Green Jobs

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Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord (six states and Manitoba).

The business and investment communities were well represented at the conference workshops. Denise Bode, CEO of AWEA, provided an update on “the fastest growing energy industry in the U.S.: “85,000 people directly employed; almost double that number indirectly employed; capacity growth of 32 percent in the last 4 years in the U.S., which is now beating Germany for the first time. (See www.newwindagenda.org).

Cliff Majersik of the Institute for Market Transformation (www.imt.org) pointed out that “utilities lose money on energy efficiency unless you decouple energy sales from utility profits;” meaning the key to selling electric utilities on energy efficiency is not to tie their profit to the amount of energy they sell. But “the biggest obstacle to efficiency is the lack of trained people to do green building.”

Weighing in with good news on that front was Michael Caplan of Berkeley’s East Bay Green Corridor Partnership between the city, UC Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The partnership has founded a Green Academy – with a four-year program in green energy management, engineering and architecture; a Green Economy MS and PhD; and community college bridge programs and certificates into green building trades.

The other kind of green

Others had tips for investing in the new green energy economy. Sheri



Labor takes the stage: AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Rich Trumka, Sharon Beard of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and Blue Green Alliance Executive Director David Foster field questions from the audience.

Behrenbach of the Calvert Foundation, community lenders who specialize in poverty alleviation through the creation of green jobs and the sale of “community notes,” urged cities to avail themselves of the bond market, issuing bonds to raise capital for retrofits. Nancy Pfund of the venture capital firm DBL Investors, the San Francisco outfit that bankrolled the Tesla electric roadster, specializes in tiny companies that can have “an embryonic influence” on the next generation of companies while “enabling social, environmental and economic improvement in the San Francisco Bay Area’s low and moderate income neighborhoods.” She proclaimed her firm’s intention (take heed, SLO) “to fight the lie that you

can’t do manufacturing in California. You can, if you put together the right incentive package”

United Nations Under-Secretary General Achim Steiner asked “How many people know there are already more jobs in renewable energy worldwide than in the oil and gas industries?” But he did not stint on the dire statistics: “We have managed to reduce the biomass of large commercial fisheries by 90 percent; 25 countries have eliminated their entire forest ecosystems; another 29 have 90 percent of their forest ecosystems depleted... and our loss of fisheries, forests, biodiversity, desertification is not an inevitable outcome of their being six or seven billion human beings on the planet; it is the

outcome of an arrogance, an ignorance and a lack of responsibility, as individuals, as communities, as societies.” He expressed the hope that in a green New Deal, we would exercise our prerogative to shape the marketplace in a way that “serves the long-term objectives of our society.”

Representative Keith Ellison (D-MN), who founded Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota before coming to Congress, defined the difference between this movement and the movements for civil rights, women’s rights and gay rights, noting that if you weren’t black, a woman or gay, respectively, you could be an ally of those movements, but you would never feel the direct weight of the injustice you opposed. “This movement doesn’t have ‘allies,’” he pointed out. “You are all directly affected. Everybody counts. Everybody matters.”

The conference closed with an address by Van Jones, the charismatic leader of Green for All, one of those speakers that no other speaker ever wants to have to follow.

“We can’t just stop at solar power and not do anything about the water, the air, toxic waste and the way we treat each other,” he said, “or we’ll wind up with green bulldozers and biofueled bombers and we’ll still have a dead planet in a hundred years.”

For Jones, “This is a profound movement, a noble movement; something that’s been torn apart too long, coming back together.” We’ve been “waiting and wishing for a long time,” he said, and we now have “a chance to take the struggle from the ballot box to the workplace. The sacrifice zones of the gray economy will be the sacred zones of the green economy we’re making.”

Sierra Students

continued from page 4

locations). The demand for these trainings has grown exponentially in recent years. We trained twice as many youth in 2008 as in 2007.

While the demand is intense, we need as much help as we can get to spread the word about the programs. If you are a high school or college-aged youth, or know any; if you are a teacher or know one, please pass the word along about these programs.”

Participants learn from some of the top youth organizers in the nation in

these peer-to-peer training programs. Over the course of the week, participants learn how to start or sustain a group, recruit and develop new leaders, engage in strategic campaign planning, plan effective events, work with the media, engage their leaders and much, much more. Additionally, participants will enjoy playing games, hiking, and meeting other like-minded students.

Every year, the program changes lives. Participants leave inspired and

empowered to be leaders and bring out leadership in others. This is the way we build a movement.

Past participants have gone on to become National Director of the Sierra Student Coalition, sit on the Sierra Club’s National Board of Directors, land jobs working for the Sierra Club, SSC and other environmental groups and dozens of other prominent leadership positions on national and local levels.

According to past participants, the program “bridges the gap between wanting to make a difference, and actually being able to make one.” Students really do leave being a force for change!

If you’d like to make a donation in support of these programs, you can send a check to Sierra Student Coalition, 408 C St. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, payable to “Sierra Student Coalition.”

Take a Hike!

continued from page 1

those not members yet, applications will be available as well. Partial scholarships may be available upon request.

The day’s schedule:

- 10a.m. to 1p.m.: First Aid Training hosted by the American Red Cross. Along with being a member of the Sierra Club, one of the steps to becoming an official leader is to be First Aid certified. At the end of this short class, you will be certified and receive your First Aid card in the mail. (CPR certification is not required.)
- 30 minute break
- 1:30pm to 4pm: An exclusive Outings Leadership Training Seminar led by veteran leaders. This afternoon segment will consist of a mini-course, “Outings Leadership Training 101,” a curriculum of practical information for leading a safe, enjoyable, and informative outing. The Sierra Club requires this for all who desire to conduct outings. To make the material more relevant to our area, three veteran leaders will give pointers, interspersed with sometimes hilarious examples of things to do and avoid when leading hikes in the great outdoors.
- 4p.m. on: Pizza, beer, and refreshments, provided by the Sierra Club. If you are so inclined, bring a side dish to share. This is a chance to share your ideas and get to know other new and old members of Sierra Club.

Come prepared to talk about a hike/outing you want to lead. We are not limited to just trails; ideas relating to urban, historical, or botanical tours are just the beginning of a list of varied types of outings.

During this gathering, you will also have the opportunity to sign up for a hike with one of our established Outings Leaders, during which you will “shadow” the leader to become

more accustomed to the nuances and protocols of leading.

Share your passion for exploring the beautiful Central Coast by becoming a Leader!

Please RSVP for this event, as we have a limited number of spots available for First Aid, and space in general.

Contact Barrie Valencia at the Sierra Club office, 805-543-8717, by March 23.

Classifieds

Next issue deadline is **March 11**. To get a rate sheet or submit your ad and payment, contact:
Sierra Club - Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
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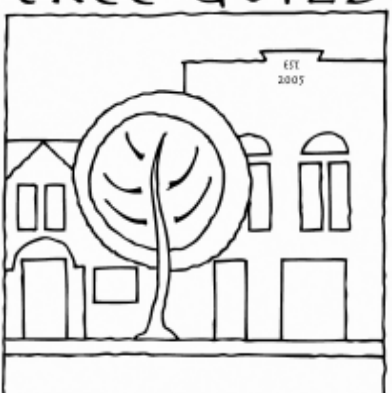
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Outings and Activities Calendar

All of our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Leader **Gary Felsman (473-3694)**. For information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader. Outings Leaders please get your outings or events in by the 1st for the next month's outings.

Hiking Classifications:

Distance: 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 3-5 mi., 3 = 6-9 mi., 4 = 10-12 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.

Elevation Gain: A = 500', B = 1000', C = 1500', D = 2000', E = 2500', F = 3000' or more.

Sun. Mar. 1st, 0930, Bike Ride Through Nipomo: Meet at junction of Willow * Albert Way for a tour of this instant city. Easy ride, no dogs, kids welcome. Call (929-3647) or e-mail bdenneen@kcbx.net a few days before for details. Sponsored by Elder Bill.

Sat., March. 7th, 9 a.m. - Noon. City of SLO, Johnson Ranch Trail Work Party: Bring gloves, water, snack and dress for the weather. Meet at the Intersection of Ontario Road and S. Higuera Street. This City is trying to open up this area by next spring. But needs to build 3 miles of trail to make this happen. The more volunteers the better to make this happen.

Mar 8th, 0930, Sun. NATURE HIKE IN NIPOMO AREA: Easy hike. Kids & dogs welcome. Call (929-3647) or e-mail bdenneen@kcbx.net a few days before for details. Sponsored by Elder Bill. (Dog Owners be sure of location prior to bringing your pet.)

Sun, March 8, 10 a.m. Pole Cats is dedicated to leading local Sierra Club day hikes and modeling the benefits of using trekking poles (see Pole Cats Can Turn You Into a Quadruped). Join us for an easy hike on the **Eagle Rock Nature Trail**. The trailhead is located across from Cuesta College at El Chorro Regional Park. From SLO, take Highway 1 North and turn east (right) at the first of two turn signals to El Chorro Regional Park. Follow the signs to the Day Use area, passing the ball fields and Botanical Garden. Park in the Day Use area at the end of the park, just before the locked gate. Confirm with David Georgi at polecatleader@gmail.com 458-5575 for upcoming activities. Bipedes welcome.

2nd Saturdays, 9am-12pm, OCTAGON BARN, South Higuera, SLO: The Octagon Barn on Higuera - just south of San Luis Obispo. Restoration and development is ongoing at this Historic 108 year old building site. We are in preparation to open the Barn as part of our 25th

Anniversary Celebration. Come join us on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Learn first-hand how historical restoration works and be part of the transformation of San Luis Obispo's iconic Octagon Barn. Stop by to check it out! If you're not "handy" contact us about joining the Barn Committee to plan and strategize on opening the Barn for community use next year. Call 544-9096 for details. (Sponsored by The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County).

Sat., March 14th, 8 am, Gifford Ranch Hike: Here's a new place to check out off Route 166 east. It is not a spectacular hike, but still worth the drive. There is no data as of yet on distance and elevation gain. The walk is up and back on the same route. There is some very steep terrain in the later part of the hike which some individuals may not want to do. Estimated length is 8-10 miles, 1100 ft. of elevation gain, and rating is moderately strenuous. Expect to be gone most of the day. The trailhead is 27 miles east of highway 101 on route 166. There is very little poison oak. Ticks are probable. Rain postpones this to Sun. March 15th. Meet at Santa Rosa Park, SLO. Other pick up locations Halcyon Exit commuter parking lot in A.G. and the dirt pullout at beginning of Route 166 in Nipomo as the meeting spots. If you want to meet in either of the later places or want more information please contact Carlos to coordinate @ 546-0317 prior to the hike.

Sat.-Sun., March 14-15, Ghost Town Extravaganza: Come with us to this spectacular desert landscape near Death Valley to explore the ruins of California's colorful past. Camp at the historic ghost town of Ballarat (flush toilets & hot showers). On Sat, do a very challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with expert Hal Fowler who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. Later we'll return to camp for Happy Hour, a potluck feast and campfire. On Sun, a quick visit to the infamous Riley townsite before heading home. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Sierra Club), 2 sase, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 294726, Phelan, CA 92329; (760) 868-2179. CNRCC Desert Committee.

Sat., Mar. 21st, 8:00 a.m.; Rocks Corral Exploratory Hike: Come take a 10 - 13 mile, with unknown elevation gain as this is an exploratory hike on the Avenales Ranch East of Pozo. We should have plenty of wildflowers, and pleasant weather. Bring lunch, water, sturdy hiking shoes, and plan to be out all day. Meet at the Pacific Beverage Company in Santa Margarita. This is not a beginner's hike. Limit 20 people. For details, reservations and meeting place call Gary (473-3694) (5e) Rain or threat of rain cancels.

Fri.-Sun., March 20-22, California Desert Wilderness Spring Service: Enjoy our traditional spring equinox fling in far-eastern California desert helping BLM's Needles office wilderness coordinator Mona Daniels restore and improve wilderness - car camping with central commissary by Vicky Hoover. Contact Vicky, (415)977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. CNRCC Wilderness Committee and Mojave Group.

Sun, March 22, 10 a.m. Pole Cats is dedicated to leading local Sierra Club day hikes and modeling the benefits of using trekking poles (see Pole Cats Can Turn You Into a Quadruped). Meet at the **Quarry Trail at the Cabrillo Peak trailhead**. From SLO, go 12 miles north on Hwy 1 to Los Osos/Baywood Park exit just before Morro Bay. Go south on Southbay Blvd. and drive .7 miles to the State Park entrance. Continue straight for .2 miles and look for the dirt parking lot on the left. It is easy to miss. Do not wait at the Live Oak trailhead, which is shortly after the Quarry trailhead. Confirm with David Georgi at polecatleader@gmail.com or 458-5575 for upcoming activities. Bipedes welcome.

Wednesday Hikes Return, March 25th 5:30 p.m.: 1 to 2 hour hike around San Luis Obispo. 5 - 6 mile hikes with elevation gain around 1200 feet. Sign up for the Hikers list for more information.: backpackingary1@gmail.com

Sunday, March 29th; Outings Leaders and Others Training Day: If you are interested in improving your outdoor skills and take a basic first aid course this activity may be for you. Come meet other like minded people and see what it takes to be a leader for the Sierra Club. For more details and reservations, call 543-8717.

Sat., April 4th, 9 a.m. - Noon. City of SLO, Johnson Ranch Trail Work Party: Bring gloves, water, snack and dress for the weather. Meet at the Intersection of Ontario Road and S. Higuera Street. This City is trying to open up this area by next spring. But needs to build 3 miles of trail to make this happen. The more volunteers the better to make this happen.

Sat., Apr 4th Tentative Carrizo Plain Outing. Watch Web Site for more details.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park Fundraising Cruises in 2009

May 1-4
July 17-20
August 7-10
September 11-14

Come and explore the wild, wind-swept islands of Channel Island National Park. In spring, the islands are ablaze with wildflowers. The pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary will entice both snorkelers and kayakers in all seasons. Watch for the highly endangered Island Fox. Marvel at the sight of whales, dolphins, sea and land birds, endemic plants, and reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. All islands are ringed with rugged shorelines and dotted with sea caves. Each island offers special charm: San Miguel for white sandy beaches and a huge congregation of elephant seals; Santa Rosa for a rare stand of Torrey Pines; Santa Cruz for high mountains, deep valleys and the famous Painted Cave, Anacapa for the brown pelican rookery, a picturesque lighthouse, excellent snorkeling waters and a colony of friendly sea lions who will swim with snorkelers and follow



Sun.-Fri., April 5-10, Fences and Flowers in the Carrizo Plain - a service opportunity: This National Monument is famous for open spaces, for abundant wildlife, and for its springtime wildflowers. Fences significantly restrict the movement of the resident pronghorn antelope, and our service will be in modifying and removing fences for their benefit. We will plan a welcome hike on April 5, three and a half days of service, and a full day for exploring the monument. Use of accommodations at Goodwin Ranch included. Limited to 12 participants; \$30 covers 5 dinners. For more information, contact leader: Craig Deutsche, deutsche@earthlink.net, (310-477-6670), or co-leader leader Melinda Goodwater, mgoodwater@sbcglobal.net, (408-774-1257). CNRCC Desert Committee

This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter. Please check the web page www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.

kayaks.

Cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel Truth. The fee, \$950, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and present evening programs. The proceeds from these fundraising cruises will benefit Sierra Club's political programs in California. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information: 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com

