



Tehipite Topics

February 2005 ♻ Vol. 51, No. 2

www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

February General Meeting— Master Urban Parkway Plan

program presented by Professor Mark J. Keppler

The Coalition for Community Trails (CCT) is working with the cities of Fresno and Clovis, Fresno County, the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD), the Fresno Irrigation District (FID) and Tree Fresno to develop a multi-purpose Parkway Plan for the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area. The plan consists of the approved bikeways in the cities of Clovis and Fresno and Fresno County, as well as possible FID irrigation canals that could accommodate trails. The CCT is coordinating this effort with the FMFCD to encourage the development of parks at recharge basins adjacent to these trails. The goal is to connect over 100 FMFCD recreational sites with a network of over 200 miles of urban trails in the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area.

Professor Mark J. Keppler is the Executive Director of The Maddy Institute of public affairs at California State University, Fresno. He is also a federal mediator for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and an arbitrator

See *Parkway Plan*, page 6



Fun on the Raven Trail!

Twelve of us pitched in and built this snowman.
Photo by Mike Smith.

Tehipite Chapter Annual Banquet

Yosemite Park Interpreter *Shelton Johnson* will present a program from the standpoint of an African-American soldier in the 9th Cavalry, patrolling Yosemite Park at the turn of the 20th century.

Fresno State Student/Faculty Dining Facility
Wednesday, February 23, 2005, 6-9 P.M.

Send \$23.00 per person, payable to
“Tehipite Chapter Sierra Club” for
tickets.

Ron Mackie
1617 Hwy. 49 South
Ahwahnee, CA 93601

Please indicate meal choice(s) of
Chicken Piccata, Baked Lasagna, or
Vegetarian Baked Lasagna.





SIERRA CLUB
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Tehipite Chapter

P.O. Box 5396

Fresno, California 93755-5396

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Chapter phone(559) 229-4031

Web . . . www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

Officers

Chapter Chair

Gerald D. Vinnard . (559) 431-5780
 gvinnard@cvip.net

Chapter Vice-Chair

JoAnne Armstrong. .(209) 726-0636
 sierrafer@peoplepc.com

Chapter Secretary

Aimee Leyva (559) 438-8670
 aimee_leyva@yahoo.com

Chapter Treasurer

Joe Ruff (559) 436-4880
 2tehipite@sbcglobal.net

Executive Committee Members

Tom Eliason (559) 439-7195
 tomeliason@comcast.net
 William Fjellbo (559) 642-4511
 jbfjellbo@sierratel.com
 Don Gaede (559) 431-5780
 gaede80@sbcglobal.net
 June Gill (559) 224-4105
 junegill@cvip.net
 Ron Mackie (559) 683-0293
 rmackie@sierratel.com

Chapter Committee Chairs

Awards

Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-9606

Hospitality

Rae Marx (559) 641-7589

Tehipite Topics Editors / Website

Marcia & John Rasmussen.
 (559) 332-2419
 Rasmussen@BigBaldy.com

Membership

Marian Orvis (559) 226-0145

Ione Scott. (559) 665-0460

Ray Marx. (559) 641-7589

Newsletter Distribution

Marian Orvis (559) 226-0145

Outings and Outings Leader Training

Carolyn Ordway . . . (559) 449-7780
 jbord606@yahoo.com

Political Committee

Emily Templin (559) 486-3138
 emtem79@hotmail.com

Programs

Heather Anderson . . (559) 434-2510
 ha062@cvip.net

Conservation Committee

Conservation Chair

Heather Anderson . . (559) 434-2510
 ha062@cvip.net

Air Quality / Transportation /

Global Warming

Kevin Hall (559) 227-6421
 hallmos@aol.com

Kings Canyon National Park /

Giant Sequoia National Monument /

Sequoia Forest

John Rasmussen . . . (559) 332-2419
 John@BigBaldy.com

Sierra National Forest

Tom Eliason (559) 439-7195
 tomeliason@comcast.net

Wilderness

Ron Mackie (559) 683-0293
 rmackie@sierratel.com

Yosemite National Park

George Whitmore . . (559) 229-5808
 geowhit1954@comcast.net

Merced Group

Conservation and Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 10th at 7:00 P.M.
 Rod Webster's home, 345 E. 20th, Merced

General Meeting Thursday, February 17th

Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M. St. (M St. and Yosemite Ave., across from Merced College)

“Improving Water Quality with Better Waste Treatment”

presented by Dave Tucker

Dave Tucker, city engineer, will share plans for a new wastewater treatment system for the city of Merced. Currently in its pre-design stage, the new system will increase the capacity from 10 million gallons a day to 15 million. It will upgrade from a secondary treatment system to a tertiary one. Come find out what all this means and how these improvements will improve the water quality in our city.

Outings

Saturday, February 12th

San Luis Wildlife Refuge—birding on the winter migration flyway and checking in on the Tule Elk herd. Bring binoculars, sandwich, something to drink, and rainwear just in case. Meet at 9:00 A.M. at the Almond Tree Restaurant in Livingston, Hammett exit, west side of the freeway. We'll carpool.

Special Request

The Merced Group needs someone interested in chairing or co-chairing the Conservation Committee. To find out what the hot local issues are that need monitoring, and to get an idea what the job entails, contact Marsh Pitman at (209) 723-2986 or marshpitman@sbcglobal.net.

2005 National Activist Outings

by Vicky Hoover, *Activist Outing Chair*

As spring days grow longer, our thoughts turn toward outings into the wilds! This year, why not select a Sierra Club national activist outing?

What's an activist outing? An intriguing Club trip that takes you to a special place that needs protection. And while you're enjoying a memorable outdoor experience in a scenic location, you're learning how you can become a leader in the campaign to keep the area wild.

Why an activist outing? As a Sierra Club member, you seek more than just travel: to blend your wildlands enjoyment with advocacy for the magnificent place you are visiting. Activist trips make it easy and also empower you to defend America's wild heritage against the sinister attacks of the Bush administration.

In 2005, the Sierra Club proudly presents five national activist outings—from May to September: choose from Maine, Nevada, Idaho, Alaska, or Utah.

May 20–28

Protecting the Owyhee Canyonlands of Nevada, Oregon, and Idaho: Three States and One Treasure. These little-known desert uplands and deep, sheer canyons boast spectacular scenery, dramatic geology, and immensely varied biology. Hike, camp, travel by van, and explore this breathtaking, incomparable wide-open country. Leader: Craig Deutsche. Price: \$625. [05035A]

July 14–25

Rafting the Wild Rivers of Alaska: A Journey Through the Wrangell, St. Elias, and Chugach Mountains. Rafting the mighty Copper River, surrounded by lofty peaks and massive glaciers, is a world-class adventure. Float 150 miles and draw inspiration from this remote wilderness. Enjoy time for hiking, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Minimum age: 16. Leader: Cristina Breen. Price: \$2,495. [05036A]

July 16–24

Protecting Wild Nevada. Mountain streams, lush meadows, and 11,000-foot snowy peaks in Nevada? Yes, you'll drive across this little-known and less-traveled state to its eastern edge to day hike in varied astounding wild areas. The Schell Creek Range and Mt. Moriah are just the start. Nevada has more potential wilderness than any other state. Leaders: Cal and Letty French. Price: \$595. [05101A]

July 17–23

Vision for the Maine Woods: Restoring Valuable Wilderness. Maine activists are working to create wilderness areas in a once-primeval forest now largely privately-owned. Learn more about this major long-range campaign as you canoe four days on the idyllic west branch of the Penobscot River (once explored by Thoreau) and camp one night at Lily Bay State Park. Canoes provided. Leaders: Joan and Barry Saxe. Price: \$475. [05102A]

September 17–24

Utah's Wild West Desert. Virtually unknown compared to redrock country, western Utah offers compelling Great Basin mountain ranges and endless, sweeping landscapes. Car camping by van, explore on day hikes and one overnight backpack. Enjoy scenic peak climbs in the majestic Deep Creek and House Ranges, plus other wild ranges. Leader: Vicky Hoover. Price: \$525. [05103A]

For more information, contact Vicky Hoover at (415) 977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org. Ask about partial scholarships for applicants for whom cost is a deterrent. Some Chapters may be able to help if you become an official Chapter representative. For a trip brochure and application form, call the Sierra Club Outing Department's 24-hour voicemail at (415) 977-5522, or visit www.sierraclub.org/outings. ☞

Merced Group

Sierra Club
Box 387
Merced, CA 95341

Group Chair

JoAnne Armstrong . . . (209) 726-0636
. sierrafer@peoplepc.com

Group Vice-Chair

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747
. rwebster@elite.net

Group Treasurer

Dave Tucker (209) 384-2835

Group Secretary

Annette Allsup (209) 723-5152

Member-at-Large

Jule Biesiada juleb13@msn.com

Conservation Chair

Marsh Pitman (209) 723-2986

Publications

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747

Agriculture

Charlie Magneson . . . (209) 394-7045

Membership

Tammy Johnson (559) 665-5507

Publicity

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747

Population

Tammy Johnson (559) 665-5507

Meet Your Executive Committee



Bill Fjellbo

I like to explore...

“Seashores, marshes, rivers, Yosemite, Maritime Provinces of Canada.”

I enjoy...

“Hiking, skiing, bird watching, fishing, camping.”

I'd like to protect...

“Outside of our immediate area, tidal marshes and coastal estuaries. In our area, Sequoia National Monument.”



Gerald Vinnard, Chair

I like to explore...

“My favorite outdoor area is Kaiser Pass, and the surrounding peaks, lakes and trails.”

I enjoy...

“I enjoy all sorts of outdoor activities, but my favorites are cross-country skiing and backpacking.”

I'd like to protect...

“The two areas I am most interested in protecting are Yosemite National Park and the San Joaquin River.”

JoAnne Armstrong, Vice-Chair



I like to explore...

“The high country of the Sierra. The Sierra is my heart and soul.”

I enjoy...

“Hiking, backpacking, downhill skiing, biking, snorkeling, sailing, skating, and running.”

I'd like to protect...

“I'd like to see all wild areas (or what's left of them) preserved wild, and National Parks protected as was the intention when established. Let's get cars, buses, and RVs out of the parks. My immediate goal is to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. In my lifetime, I'd like to protect and preserve the environment as a whole and educate others to do the same when I'm gone.”

Don Gaede

I like to explore...

“Anywhere in Yosemite National Park, especially the trail from Tuolumne Meadows to Clouds Rest, and Cathedral Lakes and Peak.”



I enjoy...

“I like to hike, cross-country ski, backpack, and bag waterfalls (take a dip under waterfalls.) *Seeing* waterfalls is nice, but *feeling* the water on your head and shoulders after a hot hike is *très* cool. I hope to do Upper Yosemite Falls this year, *after* it slows down to a strong trickle.”

I'd like to protect...

“The Sierra foothills are being rapidly developed, but they have wonderful beauty in their wild state—especially the Table Mountain areas, with their unique vernal pools. McKenzie Table Mountain area is a real treasure; we need to preserve more areas like it.”

Aimee Leyva, Secretary

I like to explore...

“My favorite area to explore is Kings Canyon National Park. There are some great trails there and not a lot of people on the trails.”

I enjoy...

“My favorite activity is hiking. I enjoy day hikes that average 8-10 miles during the summer months.”



I'd like to protect...

“There are a lot of areas I would like to protect. Yosemite seems to be my biggest concern because the less aesthetic it becomes. I would like to hike to the top of Yosemite Falls with



Tom Eliason

I like to explore...

"The East Fork of Bear Creek, in Sierra National Forest."

I enjoy...

"Backpacking and mountaineering."

I'd like to protect...

"I'd like to preserve roadless areas."

Ron Mackie

I like to explore...

"Our own High Sierra, particularly Evolution Valley to the Big Horn Plateau."

I enjoy...

"Hiking and backpacking."

I'd like to protect...

"Our support of Sequoia National Monument Task Force is of immediate importance. Supporting and protecting our public lands is my greatest interest."



Tehipite Chapter's 2005 Executive Committee

June Gill

I like to explore...

"I have recently spent a lot of time exploring the Eastern Sierra around Lee Vining and Mammoth (Inyo National Forest). It's some of the most spectacular mountain scenery anywhere."

I enjoy...

"My favorite outdoors activities are hiking, backpacking, and camping."

I'd like to protect...

"I think we need to make sure that the unique environment of the Sierra foothills is preserved for the next generation."



No specific reason, other than the fact I like that there are

10-15 miles. As a hike leader, I try and lead the longer hikes

concern and interest right now The more construction I see, without seeing all the structures at the bottom."

Joe Ruff, Treasurer

I like to explore...

"I enjoy the desert areas in the fall, winter and spring. The Death Valley area is one of my favorites."

I enjoy...

"Hiking in just about any area."

I'd like to protect...

"I would like to see more desert lands protected from development."



ECOVIEW

by Marian Orvis

Dear reader, what do you think about our environment? Crowded? Trashed? Burned out? I'll venture to say that everything that is wrong with our planet is caused by too many humans. I urge you to read John Uhl's book, *Life on a Crowded Planet: How You Can Help Create a Sustainable Future*. Check it out for free from lifeonacrowdedplanet.com. If you agree that population is an issue, talk to others about how a stable population is key and necessary component of sustainable human life on Earth. I figure we are already being warned by Mother Earth that she's pretty upset with us. What do you think?

Found another interesting item in *Real Money*, November/December 2004 Letters to the Editor. "The EPA says mobile phones are hazardous waste because they contain lead, mercury, cadmium, and arsenic. About 100 million or so toxic cell phones are 'retired' each year in the U.S., so recycling your unwanted cell phone is a great way to protect people and the planet." Send your phone to any of the following for refurbishment or recycling:

- **Collective Good**
(770) 856-9021 www.collectivegood.com
Will refurbish your old cell phone and resell it at a considerable discount to people in developing countries.
- **Donate a Phone/Call to Protect**
(888) 901-SAFE www.donateaphone.com
Refurbishes old cell phones in partnership with Motorola and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The phones are programmed to dial 911 and are given to victims of domestic violence with free emergency airtime.
- **ReCellular**
www.wirelessrecycling.com
Enter your zip code at this website to find a local Re-

Cellular cell phone dropoff center for refurbishing or recycling. It manages recycling programs for many large companies such as Sprint and Verizon, as well as charities like the Easter Seals, Call to Protect, and Goodwill. In addition, donations often benefit local charities that organize collections.

Hope this was new info for you...

And, from *The Washington Spectator*, V. 31, No. 2, comes this tidbit:

Try, Try, and Try Again to End an American Anachronism

In 1969, the House of Representatives, then with a Democratic majority, voted 338 to 70 for an amendment to the Constitution that would have abolished the electoral College. It was the strongest showing in many tries. But in the Senate, southern conservatives filibustered it to death. In 1979, the Senate fell 15 votes short of the two thirds majority needed to try again. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) has promised legislation this year that would close the Electoral College and provide for a direct, popular vote election of the president and vice president. I, personally, pray that she succeeds. I'll even light candles at the altar even though it's not in my religion!

Kudos

Excuse my lateness in thanking the dedicated sticky label ladies who spend time almost each month on your newsletter. Thanks to Barbara Ludeke, Marie Carnahan, Louise Dorman, Helen Schultz, Joan Weeks, and Nancy Howard. Frank Orvis receives my special commendation for his years of toil and mostly putting up with me! Martha Froelich's presence in our dedicated group is sorely missed. We think of her often. ☘

Parkway Plan, from page 1 with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

As Executive Director of The Maddy Institute, Prof. Keppler serves as the CEO of the Institute. He is responsible for the management of the Institute, including seeking grants and other funding; recommending the appointment of the Maddy Professor; preparing and implementing the budget; coordinating the intern-scholars program in Washington, D.C., Sacramento and Fresno and training programs designed for government leaders.

His awards include the Clovis Citizen of the Year, California Department of Transportation Excellence In Transportation Award, Duncan Enterprises Faculty Award and the School of Business Faculty Award for Classroom Excellence. ☘

Upcoming Chapter General Meeting Presentations

February 9	Mark Keppler.....	Master Urban Parkway Plan
March 9	Keith Sauer	North Slope to North Fork
April 13	John & Marcia Rasmussen...	A Trek to the Top of Mt. Rainier
May 11	Heather Anderson	Alaska and ANWR

Unitarian Church, 4144 N. Millbrook, Fresno, 7:00 P.M.

New meeting location coming in April

Trip Schedule

Outing Ratings

Distance	Elevation Gain
1) up to 6 miles	A) under 1,000 feet
2) 6 to 10 miles	B) 1,000 to 2,000 feet
3) 10 to 15 miles	C) 2,000 to 3,000 feet
4) 15 to 20 miles	D) 3,000 to 4,000 feet
5) over 20 miles	E) over 4,000 feet

Our New Tehipite Chapter Outings Chair is Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 jbord606@yahoo.com. Please contact her with any questions concerning our outings program. Contact the trip leader directly if you are interested in one of the listed trips.

Tehipite Chapter outings are free and open to the public. All leaders are unpaid volunteers assuming responsibility for a good trip, and your cooperation is mandatory. Please review additional trip and participant requirements at www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings.

February 5th - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing
Beginners' Lesson

Location to be determined, weather and snow permitting.

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

February 6th - Sunday

Annual Snowshoeing Bowl.

A perfect antidote for the Supper Bowl. Location to be determined.

Dave Wallace (559) 284-2586

February 12th - Saturday

Angel Falls (1A) 4.8 miles

A wide cascade that looks like angel wings. It's located on the northeast end of Bass Lake near Oakhurst.

Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780

February 12th - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing-Intermediate

Location to be determined

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

February 19th - Saturday

Day Hike (2A/2B)

Fremont Peak is 20 minutes North of Mariposa. Meet at Mariposa Fruit &

Nuts in Mariposa. If snow, there will be an alternate hike.

Paul Weiss (209) 966-6605

February 19th - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing
Moonlight cross country skiing (intermediate) or Snowshoeing (any level) to the spectacular Dewey Point above Yosemite Valley.

Gerald Vinnard - XCS (559) 431-5780.

Carolyn Ordway - Snowshoeing (559) 449-7780

February 20th - Saturday

Day Hike (2B)

San Joaquin River Gorge

*Aimee Leyva (559) 438-8670
or (559) 301-3977*

February 26th - Saturday

Day Hike (2A) Moderate
Goat Mt.

Let's hoof it up to the fire lookout above Bass Lake.

Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

February 26th - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing - Intermediate
Location to be determined, weather and snow permitting.

Steve Fretz (559) 439-6673

February 26th - Saturday

Trail Run, variable distance.

Middle Fork of the Kaweah
We'll run for about 2 hours.

*Marcia Rasmussen (559) 332-2419
Marcia@BigBaldy.com*

March 5th - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing
Beginners' Lesson

Location to be determined
Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

March 4th - 7th Friday to Monday

Adopt-A-Cabin Tour. (1C)

Friday meet at the Jawbone Ranger Station (Bureau of Land Management) on Highway 14 near Red Rock Canyon State Park at 10 A.M. From there we will visit Bureau Schmidt's

Tunnel and Cabin, 3 cabins near the Garlock Road and make car camp at the Minnietta Cabin in the Panamint Valley. Saturday hike (1C) to the lookout, ghost town and Stone Canyon Cabin. Depending on road conditions, we will make camp at the hot springs in the Saline Valley and visit Buckhorn Cabin, Lower Beveridge Cabin and waterfalls. Or if the pass is closed at China Garden, visit mining activity on Zinc Mountain, Darwin Falls and almost ghost town of Darwin. Five dollar deposit required (refunded if you go on the trip) for this trip to handle mailing, maps, detailed itinerary, etc. High clearance vehicles required; 4WD not required. Dogs OK if non-aggressive and capable of 12 mile (very rocky) hike. Extension of trip in north part of Saline Valley for those interested on March 8 and 9. You will learn about the environmental geography and history of the area.

Please sign up early for this one.
*Richard Sloan, 1509 E. Fallbrook Ave., Fresno, CA 93720 (559) 696-2971,
RiverRich1509@aol.com*

March 13th - Sunday

San Joaquin River Gorge to Sky Harbor. (4A)

Visit scree slope cave and see progress on the new bridge. Dogs OK on this trip if non-aggressive and capable of 16 mile hike. You will learn about the environmental geography and history of the area.

*Richard Sloan, 1509 E. Fallbrook Ave., Fresno, CA 93720 (559) 696-2971,
RiverRich1509@aol.com*

Visit

www.tehipite.sierraclub.org
for additional outings and more information on our outings program.



SIERRA CLUB

TEHIPITE CHAPTER

FOLK 3-11-1993 P.O. Box 5396 • Fresno, California 93755-5396

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March *Topics* deadline.....February 15th

Rally in the Valley

Rally in the Valley for Peace and Social Justice will be organized and sponsored by a coalition of valley and mountain groups dedicated to peace, social and environmental justice. The rally will feature speakers, music, food, and groups who seek to make our communities and this world a better place. It will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2005, noon to 3:00 PM. in the Fresno County Courthouse Park (pending permit approval.)

On March 19, 2003 the United States began its war in Iraq. The rally marks that date and will be an opportunity for the peace and justice community to stand together for the positive goals that we share. It will be a time to say NO to the agenda of war, to U.S. attacks on our civil rights and civil liberties, and to the current degradation of environmental safeguards. Come take a public stand of solidarity for local, national, and international peace and justice.

Please call Peace Fresno's voice mail (559) 487-2515, e-mail president@peacefresno.org, or visit www.peacefresno.org.



More Fun on the Raven Trail!

Photo by Mike Smith.

Meetings

Conservation Committee - Wed., February 2, 7:00 P.M.

General Meeting - Wed., February 9, 7:00 P.M.

Executive Committee - Wed., February 16, 7:30 P.M.
(Call ExCom member for new meeting location.)

Conservation Committee - Wed., March 2, 7:00 P.M.

Unitarian Church, 4144 N. Millbrook, Fresno

Beginning in April, the Conservation and General Meetings will meet in a new location.