



# Tehipite Topics

September 2011 ☞ Vol. 57, No. 7

[www.tehipite.sierraclub.org](http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org)



## The Climb That Wasn't

by Gerald Vinnard

*The best laid plans o' mice an' men gang aft a-gley.*  
Robert Burns

Tehipite Chapter members have been climbing Mt. Whitney for many years, but very few have encountered problems of the sort experienced by ten of our hikers on July 30.

Planning for the day hike began in February, with submission of a permit application. In due course, a permit for a group of ten hikers was issued for Saturday, July 30, and the hikers began planning for the climb.

JoAnne Clarke, Glenda Wilkerson, Elleen Deck and Gerald Vinnard left Fresno on Thursday, July 28, for the campground in Onion Valley. On the 29th, they enjoyed a climb in near-perfect weather to the top of the waterfall flowing into the Valley, while the other six hikers (Outings Chair Marcia Rasmussen and her husband John, Tracie and David Goodwin, Mike Harrold and

Mount Whitney viewed through storm that prevented trip

Matt Chauser) were making their way to Lone Pine from Fresno.

Clouds were beginning to appear on the Sierra crest as the four campers relocated from Onion Valley to the Lone Pine campground, on the road to Whitney Portal. By the time they reached the Lone Pine Campground, a storm had crossed over the Sierra crest into the Lone Pine area. High winds and a few drops of rain persuaded the four campers that abandoning their campsite for a room at the Lone Pine Hostel would be a prudent decision.

By 5:00 p.m., the view of the Mt. Whitney summit from Lone Pine was completely obscured by a severe thunderstorm. JoAnne, Glenda, Elleen and Gerald enjoyed watching a spectacular electrical storm directly over the Mt. Whitney summit from the Hostel balcony, with flash after flash of lightning illuminating the Sierra Crest. The few hikers returning from Mt. Whitney reported muddy, flooded trails, overflowing streams, mudslides, rocks falling onto the Whitney

Portal road, and hikers trapped above overflowing stream crossings.

The group of ten hikers met for dinner to discuss the deteriorating weather. No one wanted to abandon a climb that had been in planning for months, but it had become obvious that reaching the summit was by now unlikely. At Mike Harrold's suggestion, eight of the hikers drove to Whitney Portal after dinner for a first-hand look at the trailhead. What they saw was stunning – the aftermath of an incredibly severe summer thunderstorm. The streams running into Whitney Portal had become huge cataracts. Water flooding onto the roads and into the parking areas had left sand and rocks everywhere. Sheriff's deputies were interviewing hikers coming off the trail. It was obvious that it was time for a "Plan B."

On July 30, the sun once again rose to a clear blue sky. At Marcia's suggestion, the group spent the morning exploring the unique geological formations in the Alabama Hills. Six of the hikers returned to the trailhead area shortly after noon for another look at the aftermath of the storm. Sheriff's deputies were still in the area. The trail had been closed since 9:00 p.m. on Friday, and would remain closed until 1:00 p.m. Saturday. Forty-seven hikers had been forced to spend the



L-R Joanne Clarke, Gerald Vinnard, Elleen Deck, and Glenda Wilkerson on Whitney Trip

night on the mountain by the rapidly rising streams. All hikers were apparently eventually able to leave the trail, although at least one hiker had

See "Whitney" page 4

# Chapter Meetings

## General Meeting

September 21st at 7 p.m.

UC Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno

### September General Meeting Program

Our September meeting will feature two local authors, Gene Rose and Coke Hallowell. Fresno author and historian Gene Rose will discuss the "Soul of the Sierra" at the September meeting of the Sierra Club's Tehipite Chapter General Meeting. Coke Hallowell will discuss *Take Me to the River*.

Former long-time environmental writer from the Fresno Bee, Gene Rose frets that the on-going debate over the economy and the federal budget will overshadow the continuing concerns facing the Sierra Nevada. The author's appearance before the Tehipite Chapter coincides with the impending release of his latest book, *Kings Canyon--America's Premier National Park*. Kings Canyon, he noted, represents a 50 year effort by the Club to

protect the upper Kings River basin from the resource raiders, who wanted a half dozen dams, resorts, ski area and other facilities until the Club with the help of Harold Ickes, the interior secretary under President Franklin Roosevelt made it his cause célèbre. Rose believes that the nation needs a new era of stewardship that will protect

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## Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings September 14th

The Conservation Committee meets at 7 PM

The Executive Committee meets at 8 PM  
University of California Center  
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



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# Merced Group

## Merced Group

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## Merced Group

### Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings

(First Thursday of each month)

Our next Conservation and Executive Meetings is Thursday, April 7, 7:00 P.M., at Rod Webster's home, 345 E. 20th St., Merced. The Conservation meeting is first and can last 30-40 minutes. Anyone with an interest in local, state, or national conservation issues is welcome to attend.

Photo by Daniel Mayer 2002



## Merced Group General Meetings

(Third Thursday of each month except December and May)

General Meetings start at 7:00, usually over by 8:30 or so.

Our first General Meeting of the "new season" is Thursday, Sept. 15th, at 7:00 P.M.

**NEW LOCATION** : United Methodist Church, 899 Yosemite Parkway, Merced. We meet in the Fireside room, accessed from the parking lot on Cypress Ave. Park on end near Yosemite Parkway. There will be signs.

**Program**: Sorry we do not have this nailed down yet so . . . TBA . If you are on Rod's email list I will send details on the program a week or so before we meet. If you're not, feel free to call me or email me: 723-4747, rwebster@elite.net, or better yet take pot luck and just show up!

## One of THOSE Conversations

by Chip Ashley

A close acquaintance and I recently had a conversation about global warming. He opined that the discovery of some emails among climatologists in the U.S. and Great Britain had dealt a "great blow" to the theory of anthropogenic climate change, a theory held by perhaps 98% of the world's climatologists. The conversation got started when I noted that we aren't hearing much in the mainstream media these days about climate change, global warming, or climate destabilization—call it what you will.

"That's probably because the theory has been discredited," said my acquaintance, not quite able to hide a snarky smirk.

"Really? How's that?" I queried. "I thought it had mainly to do with politics and boredom with the subject than the emails, which I didn't take all that seriously. People will be people; they are prone to error; but that doesn't much discredit a theory with as strong a consensus as this one has."

"No, no. They got it wrong. Their modeling involved statistics, and not one of them is a statistician. I analyzed the modeling, and they clearly had it wrong."

"Funny," I replied, "that all these thousands of climatologists from the most important universities all over the planet, all working on probably the most important theory ever, and they had no access to even a single statistician to go through their computer modeling and set them straight."

My acquaintance is a smart guy, actually a well published mathematician and computer scientist, but it just seemed he was getting a tad bit over the top. He is also quite a reactionary with a strong tendency to let his ideology drive his thinking when he believes science might be getting in the way of his investments. The human mind is a devious thing.

"Funny thing," I added, "despite these terrible emails and all that corruption in the IPCC [International Panel on Climate Change], the polar ice is melting at unprecedented rates. I even read the Inuit people are shooting their dogs. The ice is too thin—for the first time in the memory of their culture—to support their dog sleds."

He wasn't making too much of an impression on me, so he took an  
See "Conversation" page 6



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



### Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

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to be rescued by helicopter because of hypothermia.



Whitney viewed through natural bridge at Alabama Hills. Photo by JoAnne Clarke

After the trail opened, six members of the Tehipite group walked as far as the first Lone Pine Creek crossing, where four of them were able to assist a heavily loaded backpacker who slipped and fell into the overflowing creek while attempting a crossing. They then returned to the Alabama Hills where they explored movie sites and enjoyed a short hike to an arch, while storm clouds were once again gathering. Shortly after they returned to the Hostel, lightning and rain once again enveloped the area.

Our hikers were obviously disappointed about their inability to complete – or even begin – the planned hike. However, the opportunity to witness a spectacular Sierra storm was at least some compensation. Perhaps next year . . .

*(Editor's note: Long-time members will remember Kevin Hall's column which ran regularly in Tehipite Topics for several years as he fought pollution in the San Joaquin Valley as a Sierra Club volunteer. We're pleased to report he's back in action and has asked us to again carry his dispatches from the front. As dedicated breathers, we're happy to oblige.)*

## Clearing the Air

By Kevin Hall

“It's like déjà vu all over again”

Returning to the field as a member of the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition in the deadly game of polluters vs. breathers, those immortal words of baseball's Yogi Berra are ringing in my ears. A decade ago valley activists filed lawsuits against the EPA for ignoring Clean Air Act requirements to act on a pollution reduction plan submitted by our air board, and against the valley air district

for refusing to pass cleanup rules it had committed to. Those agencies are again attempting a double steal in virtually the same way, and valley activists are again being forced to the courts.

In another replay, the industry-government alliance that rules the Fresno-based air board is demanding research into particulates from China and will soon be claiming they can't pass rules until the findings are in. In response to such criticisms, the agencies' spin-doctors echo another quote from Mr. Berra, who once explained, “Half the lies they tell about me aren't true.”

## Tarnished Records

And there are more lies to come. Consider this summer's shutout by the Arvin Nine, aka the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Board of Directors. For many years this agency's headquarters was home to an air monitoring station of the California Air Resources Board which continually reported the highest levels of pollution and the greatest numbers of dirty air days in the valley.

The Nine, representatives from very large farming interests who do a lot of trucking, resented the state air board's new regulations on diesel trucks, long overdue rules for one of the largest sources of pollution and cancer-causing toxins. As an act of retribution, they refused to renew CARB's lease for the station. It's been replaced by a mobile station a few miles away where the number of violations has dropped precipitously. Not only did the valley air board stay mute, but district staff and board will soon be misrepresenting the drop in violations as proof of their success. Like a steroid-laden player's homerun record, the tarnished numbers should forever carry an asterisk.

## Out of Right Field

But the most threatening example of déjà vu all over again is the valley air district's proposal to open an “emission reduction credit” bank for greenhouse gases. ERCs are salable, tradable pollution. Theoretically, they are created when a polluter exceeds the reduction requirements of a rule or installs clean-up equipment before the rule is enacted. But as the ever-wise Yogi once said, “In theory there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice there is.”

The practice of the air district is to signal rulemaking years in advance, delaying as long as possible to allow polluters to bank credits for pollution they should have reduced years earlier. Worse yet, when the district was formed 20 years ago, they immediately created an ERC bank for pollutants by grandfathering-in vast amounts of faulty credits. In short, the polluters were allowed to run up the score before the game ever began.

And now they want to do it again, but with the most serious pollution problem we'll ever face – global warming. The PR machine at the air district will claim it's in everyone's best interest, but the majority of this agency's board and the industry lobbyists who control them are coming at this from the far right field of the political spectrum. They are climate-deniers of the first order who, in anticipation of greenhouse gas reduction requirements from the state, will cynically exploit the crisis no matter the cost.

We live on a new planet – in a new valley – permanently altered by climate change. As Yogi put it, "The future ain't what it used to be." The future will be what we make it. We need you on the team at any position you want to play. We need you now, on the field not in the bleachers. Drop me a line and we'll sign you up.

(Kevin Hall is director of the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition based in Fresno and online at [www.calcleanair.org](http://www.calcleanair.org) and on Facebook. He can be reached at [kevin@calcleanair.org](mailto:kevin@calcleanair.org).)

## CALLING A BOOK!

PLEASE COME HOME. I MISS YOU TERRIBLY; YOU WERE SUCH A GOOD FRIEND.

LOVE, HEATHER

(The book, *Wilderness Forever: Howard Zahniser and the Path to the Wilderness Act of 1964* by Mark Harvey was borrowed from Heather Anderson and she would greatly appreciate its return. 681-6304 or [heather.anderson8@comcast.net](mailto:heather.anderson8@comcast.net) or bring it to a meeting.)

## Nukes Go On the Road

By Chip Ashley

This is a story about one of those little details the nuclear industry would prefer you not know about.

Tehipite member Ron Dickerson reported to me that he and some friends did some backpacking on the east side of the Central Sierra in early August. In route his party was delayed by a "moving roadblock" in the form of a massive truck as long as a football field transporting a radioactive steam generator weighing in at 700,000 pounds from Southern California Edison Company's San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant near San Diego to a plant in Clive, Utah.

Due to the sensitive load, the truck can travel about 15 mph, never any faster than 25 mph, and only at night. During the day, it remains parked along such routes as Ocean-side Boulevard, Oceanside; in the middle of West Mission Road, Escondido; and along CA 395 and I-80 in Utah. The trip will take about 21 days. The trip will be repeated three more times to transport all four of San Onofre's generators.

"Once in Utah," according to KPBS City News Service, "the truck will be broken down into seven pieces and shipped back to San Onofre, then reassembled to haul a second generator. The process will be repeated through December until a total of four radioactive steam generators from San Onofre are in Utah for disposal," which means that it will be buried in some desolate place and remain there forever.

"The generators are being moved because they have each been replaced by new, nearly identical steam generators brought to California from Japan over the past two years as part of a \$674 million project. Southern California Edison decided to replace the large metal capsules after engineers spotted microscopic cracks in some of the generators' internal plumbing."

No radioactive worries though, we are told by the experts. If you stand six feet from one of these discarded monsters for an hour, you will receive the amount of radiation you would get from a dental x-ray.

## Great

### San Joaquin River Clean-up

Please contact Richard Sloan at 559-696-2971, [riverrich1509@aol.com](mailto:riverrich1509@aol.com), Steve Starcher, 559-289-8874, [sastarcher@gmail.com](mailto:sastarcher@gmail.com) or Steve Haze, 559-970-6320 re opportunities to help clean up the San Joaquin River.

## Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

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September 9-11 and October 17-19

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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](mailto:jholtzhl@aol.com))



## Oregon Caves National Monument

By Chip Ashley

My wife, Julie, arranged for our family--Julie, Megan (12), me--to travel to the Oregon Caves National Monument in early August. The drive up, except for the part in the SJ Valley and the Bay area, is relaxing with great scenery. The monument is worth visiting, not only because of the cave, but also because of the Siskiyou Mountains and wildlife.

Actually, I even found some parts of the drive through the Bay Area interesting. We crossed the Bay on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, which took us past the Chevron Oil Refinery and Terminal in Richmond. This is the single biggest air polluter in California, and the odor emphasizes this fact. The refinery and terminal covers several square miles.

We spent our first night in Ukiah before heading up U.S. 101 next morning through Eureka and Crescent City before turning northeast toward Oregon Caves National Monument, located near Grants Pass. The drive through the coastal redwoods is pleasant, and several state parks are located on this route.

The last few miles is a steep winding climb of perhaps 2,000 feet up a well-maintained road. We arrived at our destination, the Oregon Caves Chateau about 6 PM, unpacked, and dined in the Chateau's restaurant, which proved quite good.

Next morning, after a good breakfast in the Chateau's coffee shop, we toured the nearby cave. The cave was quite beautiful, but I was somewhat dismayed by all the blasting that had been done to make the cave accessible to tourists, such as myself. The exit is a 200 yard tunnel, entirely blasted out of Siskiyou marble.

The small monument has a number of hiking trails, and we did a two-mile hike that afternoon. The next morning we did a longer hike, which for me was the highlight of our visit. The 3.3 mile Big Tree Loop has an elevation gain of over 1100 feet, so it provides a good cardio workout. About a quarter of the way, as the trail makes a big turn up a gently sloping ridge covered with Douglas fir, I heard the loud call of a pileated woodpecker, followed soon by reverberating staccato pecking.

Pileated woodpeckers also live in the Central Sierra, but I have seen only two or three of them in my 60 years' experience in our local forest. So I was glad to see at least two in-

dividuals on the same day. The monument contains old growth forest, excellent habitat for these large woodpeckers. We quietly followed the sound of the pecking, which seemed to be coming from a large dead fir. Soon we discerned the large bird with its distinctive red topknot--about three times the size of an acorn woodpecker and often confused with the similar looking ivory-billed woodpecker--100 feet up the dead tree, hammering away and knocking off large chunks of bark in its search for insects and grubs. We watched appreciatively for several minutes before heading on to the main goal of the hike, Oregon Caves' Big Tree.

The trail steepened some, and another mile revealed the Big Tree, a massive Douglas fir, which would pass for a *Sequoia gigantea* except for its foliage and bark. The tree is over 11 feet in diameter, certainly the largest Douglas fir I have ever seen.



Julie and Megan Ashley next to Oregon Caves national Monument's Big Tree, the largest known Douglas fir in Oregon

After three days at Oregon Caves we drove down the Northern California Coast. We were headed for Elk, a village on the Mendocino coast, and decided to explore the winding coastal road from Ferndale, a historic Victorian town few miles south of Eureka, through the one-store town of Petrolia to a spot on the road called Honeydew. This area boasts some unspoiled coastal scenery. We were going to try to cross the King Range to Sheltered Cove and connect with Highway 1, but when the road turned to dirt southwest of Honeydew, we decided our street vehicle wasn't suitable and turned around and drove through Redwoods State Park and took 101 to Leggett, where we turned off on Highway 1 to the coast. We spent a restful evening after a long day of driving in Elk and awoke to the beautiful Mendocino Coast. The drive south through Mendocino and Sonoma Counties offers spectacular scenery, but the Sonoma coast is getting over-developed.

## "Conversation" from page 3

other tack. "Did you hear about the NASA study that shows directly with measurements from space that the earth is reflecting much more heat back into space than accounted for in the IPCC's modeling?"

"No, I haven't seen that one. I'll look into it." "By golly, he might have a point," I thought. He had my interest, and that evening I did a bit of research on this "NASA study."

Turns out it's not a NASA study at all. Oh, it is based on NASA data. But the modeling was created by one Dr. Roy Spencer of the University of Alabama. Now I am neither a climatologist nor a mathematician, so I am not qualified to evaluate Dr. Spencer's modeling. As a substitute, I read peer critiques, and sought in vain for any that actually supported Dr. Spencer's findings. Many were quite critical of his work and seemed somewhat put out to have to waste time dealing with it. They critiqued it not so much for the benefit of their peers, almost all of whom have long since accepted the theory of anthropogenic climate change (though details may change as they often do in even the strongest theories, i.e. the theory of evolution), but more for the benefit of the public, many of whom deny the theory despite overwhelming evidence. "I cannot believe it got published," said Kevin Trenberth, a senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Spencer's paper was published in a geography journal (not a scientific journal), called Remote Sensing. No matter. The flimsiness of the publication did not, of course, stop the usual yahoos gloatingly ballyhooing it. According to Rush Limbaugh, for example, "The whole thing has been a hoax. I'm gonna stick with the word hoax. Dr. Spencer will not. He won't go that far. I've argued with him about it. I've said, 'Why do you even bother responding to these stupid claims that are political?' 'Well, I'm a scientist. We have to do it.' So he's done it, and he's proved, with actual NASA science data from their satellites, that all these computer models are bogus--and 69% of the American people now say it's likely scientists have been lying about their own research." Ugh!

The problem, of course, is that it may be too late already to save many of the creatures on this planet--including our own species--from the effects of climate change. We may be past the point of no return.

So who is Dr. Roy Spencer? I will probably be accused by a few readers of similar stripe to my

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# Outings 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 Tehipite Chapter Outings Chair is Marcia Rasmussen, Marcia@BigBaldy.com, 559-332-2419. Please contact Marcia 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](http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings).

Outings Leaders may post their own trips on the web page or send them to Marcia@BigBaldy.com.

CST #2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRF) under the California Seller of Travel Act. The TCRF is not applicable to these Outings. The law requires us to advise you that you would not be eligible to make any claim from the TCRF in the unlikely event of default by the Sierra Club. California law also requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. The Sierra Club has such a trust account.

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## Sierra Club California Needs Your Help

You have great people in Sacramento lobbying to protect the Sierra and on other critical issues like climate change. Bill Magavern, Jim Metropoulos, and Annie Pham do a terrific job, and they need our help. Please go to the Sierra Club California web site at

[www.sierraclubcalifornia.org](http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org)

**Donate generously!**

## Required Liability Waiver

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Saturday, September 17

Day Hike (1A)

Fall Hike, Tuolumne River Regional Park (Yokuts)

4 miles, along the Tuolumne River from Legion Park, Modesto. Meet at the parking lot by American Legion Hall (1001 S.Santa Cruz Ave.) at 9 AM. Dogs and children welcome. Dorothy Griggs, leader, Jim McGurrian, co-leader. Call Dorothy at 209.549.9155 for more info.

September 23-25, 2011 Friday-Sunday

Camping w/Dayhike (1A)

Pinecrest Lake, Emigrant Wilderness (Yokuts)

Meet at Pinecrest Lake Campground on Friday after 4:00pm. The sites near the lake are convenient. We'll hike around the lake and up to Cleo's Bath on Saturday. Bring all your own gear/food. Bring something for a potluck dinner on Saturday night. Sunday morning, we can go hiking or relax. Departure time is negotiable among the group. It's \$20 per site per night, 6 people/2 vehicles per site, elevation 5700', piped water, flush toilets, hot showers available at nearby Pinecrest Store. Call 877-444-6777 or [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) for more info. Contact Monica Casey [hikerlady1955@gmail.com](mailto:hikerlady1955@gmail.com).

October 8, 2011 Saturday

Day Hike (1A)

Bear Lake, Emigrant Wilderness (Yokuts)

This is approximately a six mile hike, beginning at Crabtree at elevations of about 7,200-7,700ft with a moderate uphill on the way in. Swimming is an option, if warm enough. Bring lunch, ten essentials, and money for dinner at Mi Pueblo in Sonora on the way home. Meet at Denny's parking lot in Oakdale at 8:00 a.m. Contact Monica Casey at [hikerlady1955@gmail.com](mailto:hikerlady1955@gmail.com), or co-leader, Alan Bernikoff at [abernikoff@gmail.com](mailto:abernikoff@gmail.com).

"Conversation" from page 6

acquaintance of going ad hominem. But here I go anyway. In this case, some "irrelevant" facts about Dr. Spencer tell a great deal about where he's coming from and what he's about. Interestingly, Dr. Spencer is a proponent of Intelligent Design Theory—a warmed over version of creationism. He writes for the Heartland Institute, which is funded by petroleum giant Exxon-Mobil. The purpose of Dr Spencer's "scientific" activities is pretty clear (maybe the wrong word in this context): He is a corporate hack whose job is to muddy the waters and keep the public confused about the reality of climate change.

It's a sad fact of human nature that, as the example of my acquaintance proves, even the smartest people can be fooled by Spencer's kind of nonsense. As a planet, we—a collective in this case containing not only Homo sapiens but all the other creatures of Earth—don't have time for this nonsense.



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Your (members') articles and photos are welcome! Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the 15th of each month. Please submit material to [wattsvalleypreservation@gmail.com](mailto:wattsvalleypreservation@gmail.com).

### Friends of Lost Lake Park Take Concerns to County Supervisors

By Radley Reep

The "Friends of Lost Lake Park" (FLLP) has good news to report. On August 30, 2011, FLLP went before the Fresno County Board of Supervisors with an offer to help the County maintain and operate the park. FLLP is coordinating this all-volunteer effort. The participants include the Fresno Audubon Society, the League of Women Voters of Fresno, Revive the San Joaquin, the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust and the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club.

FLLP first organized itself in the fall of 2010 in response to various proposals affecting the park: the Lost Lake Park Master Plan, the Friant Ranch housing project and the location of the new Friant Community wastewater treatment plant. FLLP now meets twice monthly

at the River Center located on Old Friant Road.

Over the next 18 months, FLLP hopes to firm up its volunteer program, gather data on plant and animal life in the park and participate in the EIR that will be prepared for the park master plan.

FLLP's first volunteer day at the park will be September 17, 2011 from 9:00 AM to noon. That Saturday is California Coastal Cleanup Day, an annual beach and inland waterway cleanup event that draws tens of thousands of volunteers. FLLP volunteers will be cleaning up the river edge within the park under the direction of the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust. To register for cleanup of the park, please click here or contact Parkway Project Manager Lina Valenzuela at [linav@riverparkway.org](mailto:linav@riverparkway.org).

If you have questions or suggestions for the Friends of Lost Lake Park or would like to offer assistance, please contact [radleyreep@netzero.com](mailto:radleyreep@netzero.com).

### General Meeting, from page 2

not just national park but rural areas and open space--concerns that underscore the future of the country.

Coke Hollowell is one of Fresno's foremost philanthropists and spark-plug for the San Joaquin River Parkway. According to Hollowell, she and her daughter Joell "began interviewing people 10 years ago about their life on the San Joaquin River." They interviewed 74 people! whose stories all come from different perspectives; some are farmers, some are fishermen, and some just grew up along the river. Goldminer families, and environmentalists, some just told of adventures along the river." Coke Hollowell has worked as a volunteer for the Parkway for about 25 years. Joell is a professional writer and editor and filmmaker. The mother-daughter partnership worked perfectly for this story-collecting adventure. Take Me to The River is published by Heyday Books.