

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter for the Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club

Volume 38, Number 1 - January 2007



the new Music City STAR

by Ralph Bowden

Sierra Clubbers are bound to greet the first Music City Star commuter rail line, which opened September 18, enthusiastically. The Club's position is that "... highways that are built to sustain sprawling suburbs add to our pollution and energy problems, and increase our dependence on an auto-centric way of life which is unhealthy, anti-social, and unsustainable. The Sierra Club encourages public transit and pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly neighborhoods."

Certainly, on the face of it, the Music City Star project looks like creative public policy in action, and the Regional Transportation Authority deserves credit. The 32 mile commuter line between Lebanon and downtown Nashville, was brought in for just under \$40 million (80% federal), or about \$1.2 million/mile. Compare that to \$6 million to as much as \$12 million per mile just to widen an Interstate highway. And that \$40 million included the construction of all six stations (Lebanon, Martha, Mount Juliet, Hermitage, Donelson, and the downtown River station), the purchase of the rolling stock, and the upgrading of the roadbed. This line is the first of five or six planned Star commuter lines linking the center city with the suburbs and exurbs.

Riding the Music City Star is, for the most part, pleasant. You are riding, not driving. You can read, nap, wind down or gear up as appropriate, and arrive on time. There are no delays due to wrecks, construction, extra traffic from games or visiting dignitaries. The views are surprisingly bucolic. Modern life is all centered on highways, so from the train there are no billboards, gaudy strips, high rises, residential developments, or malls to assault your visual sensibilities. The train is quiet and comfortable, the staff is informal, the atmosphere laid back. Buses and free shuttles meet the train downtown and at several stations, and parking at the stations is free. Some employers pick up the ticket cost. Belmont University, for example, provides free rides for students, staff, and faculty to reduce congestion and parking on campus.

A closer look, however, may dampen the enthusiasm. The schedule is commuter only, with early morning and late afternoon runs, five days a week. No midday, night, or weekend trains. The stations are tastefully done, but rudimentary, with no facilities and minimal shelter. A machine dispenses tickets for \$5 at all stations. That's not too bad if you're going the whole 32 miles, but some people might wonder if a 12 minute ride from Donelson to downtown is worth \$5. Even so, revenue will only cover a third of the line's annual operating expenses of about \$2.5 million. The rest is federal, state, and local subsidy. The ridership so far is only about 640 per day, or actually, since virtually all are round trip passengers, only 320 people a day. That's a very small number compared with what's going on by I-40 every day. Of course, I-40 is 100% subsidy and was vastly more expensive to construct, but the

per passenger mile cost of the Star line is not cheap. If the trains were full, the energy efficiency and pollution reduction per passenger mile would be significant. But in fact, the two-car trains, with a capacity of about 300, are by no means full, so these advantages are marginal. Nobody claims the line will decrease parallel traffic noticeably. It impedes cross traffic significantly at the many dangerous grade crossings, where drivers line up, probably snarling at the privileged train riders.

There are social, demographic, and political issues, too. The Star line serves basically middle class suburban riders. Working class inner city riders use (and complain about) the bus system. The \$40 million poured into the Star rail line might have been spent to establish many express, commuter bus runs, and to upgrade inner city bus service to the point where riding the bus becomes an attractive option for all socio-economic classes. True, buses are subject to traffic delays, but HOV/Bus lanes and priority traffic light controls could reduce these.

Some cities have used light rail for both radial commuter lines and for inner city transit. The track and rolling stock are intended for passenger service only, and operation is more efficient, especially with frequent stops and starts. Construction of new lines, however, is very expensive, even with conventional technology -- forget esoteric mag lev and monorail systems -- and results have been mixed. Cities like Portland, Oregon have built an extensive light rail system, and then found they needed to stop building roads and impose density restrictions on land use to encourage ridership. That may be a forward-looking

approach, but it's hard to imagine in Nashville without a lot of public consciousness raising.

As for the four or five other planned commuter lines -- northeast to Gallatin, southeast to Murfreesboro, south to Franklin, west to Kingston Springs, and possibly northwest serving Cheatham and Montgomery counties -- they are well down the road. The RTA chose the Lebanon line as a demonstration project because it could be done so cheaply. The used 11 cars were available from the Chicago transit authority for \$1, and the used, ex-Amtrak switcher engines (diesel-electric) were only \$200k each. The track is the old Nashville and Eastern line, upgraded to allow 60 mph; the Star trains lease it on favorable terms. The other proposed lines will be considerably more expensive because of heavier freight traffic. A large and dedicated base of riders will have to develop on the Lebanon line before planners will spend much implementing the others. So far, the powerful road building lobby has hardly noticed any diversion of funds, but it will surely flex its muscle in the legislature if the RTA starts talking real money.

So it's a complicated mix, with many questions, options, and obstacles. We'd like to say "Yes, go for it, this is the way of the future." But it's not that easy. The real problem holding back all public transportation options is, as the Sierra Club quotation suggests, the "auto-centric way of life" and how thoroughly it has shaped our consciousness. Don't we have an individual right to go any place at any time on any whim? Isn't the government's first obligation to protect that right by building more roads?



Explore, Enjoy and protect the planet

Tennes-Sierran

The monthly newsletter of the Tennessee Chapter of the Sierra Club.

SEND ARTICLES TO:

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SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO:

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Or mail new address to:
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
Address changes are processed much faster if you include your
Sierra Club membership number. To find your membership
number, look on the address label of this newsletter.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submission DEADLINE is the 10th of the month preceding the new month's issue.

1. Email embedded text submissions, or PDFs, which are preferred to tn.sierra@gmail.com.
2. Photographs should be in a .jpg or .tif file format, whenever possible, then either attached to email or mailed via US Postal Service (USPS) on a CD Rom. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your disk or photo prints returned.
3. Hard-copy handwritten or typewritten articles may be accepted. Pre-approval from the Editor is required.
4. Any materials submitted via USPS mail cannot be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

The opinions expressed in the Tennes-Sierran are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Tennessee Chapter, or the Sierra Club.

Island Hopping — in — CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

WHALES, PINNIPEDS, & WILDFLOWERS

Please join us for an exciting tour of Channel Islands National Park. We are offering 4-day, 4-island cruises, cost \$775, on April 13-16; May 4-7; July 20-23 visiting San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz & Anacapa Islands. Two 5-day, 5-island cruises are planned for August 25-29 & September 15-19, cost \$925 visiting all of the islands of Channel Islands National Park, including tiny Santa Barbara Island.

These fundraising cruises depart from Santa Barbara, CA, aboard the 68' twin diesel Truth. Prices include assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages & services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes and help identify plants, flowers, wildlife & remnants of the rich culture left behind by the Chumash people. Proceeds will benefit Sierra Club programs.

Activities include hiking, kayaking, swimming, snorkeling, beach combing, or just relaxing at sea. In spring, the islands are ablaze with wildflowers. The pristine waters of the Marine Sanctuary churn with colorful fish & sea lions and will entice snorkelers & kayakers.

Each island is unique & offers special charm: San Miguel for its white, sandy beaches & huge congregation of elephant seals; Santa Rosa for its rare Torrey Pine forest; Santa Cruz for high mountains, deep valleys & the famous Painted Cave, Anacapa for the west coast brown pelican rookery, steep cliffs, a picturesque lighthouse & excellent snorkeling waters. Tiny Santa Barbara Island delights visitors with its friendly colony of frolicking sea lions.

To make a reservation send \$100, payable to Sierra Club, to leader Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. (626) 443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com.

Moving?

My new address is:

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

or Email to:

address.changes@sierraclub.org
(be sure to include your member ID#)

Mail to:

Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, Colorado
80322-2968

Attach mailing address label in this box, or
fill in current name, address & Membership
ID#

Current Address:

Member ID# _____

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**Please notify the Editor
when changes are needed**

Chickasaw Group News

Contributed by various members

Old Earth Is Warmin' Up

A number of Chickasaw Group Sierrans attended a lecture on Global Warming at Rhodes College in Memphis on November 14, 2006. Professor David Kesler presented a primer on the chemistry and physics of climate change. Professor Kesler teaches about ecology and environment at Rhodes. His illustrated talk on global warming was so popular that there was an overflow crowd! (Quick, name the most common greenhouse gas... yes, water vapor!). While water vapor is the most common greenhouse gas, it is carbon dioxide (CO₂) that is the one of the two main gases that causes the majority of climate change, with methane being the other.

CO₂ has been measured with high levels of quality assurance since the late 1950's. These measurements were started by Professor Roger Revelle, who hypothesized that the post World War II economic boom, driven by exploding human populations and fueled by the burning of ever increasing amounts of coal and oil would drive up the concentrations of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Professor Revelle, and another researcher, Charles David Keeling began to take measurements from the summit of Mauna Loa on the big island of Hawaii. Since these measurements started, the concentrations of CO₂ have jumped from about 310 parts-per-million (ppm) to about 380ppm.

Professor Kesler then discussed what are known as "feedback loops" in regards of global warming. One feedback loop is that as the CO₂ concentrations makes the atmosphere better able to retain more heat, then water vapor will increase - which increases global warming even more. The reason is that warmer air holds more water vapor than cooler air. These ramifications to the global climate engine of these feedback loops are only now being understood with a measure of confidence, but the results seen so far are disturbing. Mankind needs to act, "yesterday" to reduce the injection into the atmosphere of CO₂ so as to minimize the impacts of global climate change.

Chickasaw Group Holiday Party

Big food! Big fun! Big river! The Chickasaw Group held its annual Holiday party at the Church of the River on December 8, 2006. About 85 people showed up for the food, fellowship, and festivities. Both State Representative Beverly Marrero and City Council member Carol Chumney attended.

An annual highlight of the Holiday Party is the presentation of awards. The TN Chapter of the Sierra Club presented the Mack Prichard award to the Memphis Commercial Appeal political cartoonist Bill Day.



Left to right: Teri Sullivan, Don Richardson, Judith Hammond, Jill Johnston, and Margaret Dixon at the Chickasaw Group's Holiday Party. Photograph by David Carter.

Mr. Day's cartoons provide a humorous and insightful look at politics. Nothing escapes the sharp pen of Mr. Day, whether it is the environmental rollbacks of the Bush administration or the antics of local Memphis politicians. For a look at his cartoons, you can go to, <http://www.commercialappeal.com/>, and click on "Opinion Columnists", and look for Bill Day.

Three Environmental Justice Awards were presented. The first was to Reverend Balinda Moore for founding the Concerned Citizens of Crump and leading the fight for Environmental Justice in her north Memphis community. The second award was for one of Balinda's tireless assistants, Diane Ivy.

The last award was to Reverend Ralph White. Rev White has opened his church to have meetings for the community, whether it is against a refinery or a proposed low-level nuclear waste incinerator in a poor community already impacted by pollution.

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to former Memphis/Shelby County Office of Planning and Development member Louise Mercurio. This was in recognition of her efforts in making growth and development activities in Memphis & Shelby County smarter. She was instrumental in creating a Unified Development Code and other development - related regulations that level the playing field for smart growth in both the city and the county. The fruit of her efforts are being realized in the Medical District and the Broad Avenue Master Plan.

Certificates of Appreciation went to Deborah Mays, David Carter and Julian Prewitt in recognition of their efforts at various tabling events in 2006. Chickasaw Group Outings Chair Judith Hammond was presented an Outstanding Outings Leader award for her efforts in planning and leading informative and safe outings, and to recruit new outings leaders in the Chickasaw Group. A special award honoring the late Dr. Darrell C. Richardson was inaugurated. Dr. Richardson was a book collector, military chaplain, and long-time friend of nature. The first recipient of the new award was his son Don for his years of staunch environmentalism in Memphis.

Congratulations everybody! The elves are already busy getting ready for next year's even bigger party!

Sierra Club RADIO

contributed by Kim Haddow, Sierra Club

The Communications Team is pleased to announce the launch of "Sierra Club Radio," a weekly half hour radio program that will be broadcast in the San Francisco Bay Area and available nationally on the Web and via podcast. Sierra Club Radio is designed to help us meet the mounting demand for "green" news -- information Americans can use as consumers, as citizens, as neighbors and parents to make responsible choices, to connect to the growing environmental community.

The program, produced by Sierra Club staff and hosted by Club publicist Orli Cotel, will feature Sierra Club content -- including lifestyle tips from Sierra magazine's Green Life editor Jennifer Hattam and Mr. Green, Bob Schildgen; in-depth interviews with Sierra Club Books authors and contributors to Sierra magazine; and political observations and commentary by Executive Director Carl Pope. The program will also highlight stories from our conservation work, our grassroots fieldwork, and our partnership work -- especially our hunter/angler and faith outreach efforts. In addition, Sierra Club Radio will feature in-depth conversations with a wide range of environmental experts and activists, artists, and authors inspired by nature.

In terms of the broader communications context, Sierra Club Radio provides us the ability to tell our stories, highlight our issues, and share our expertise and advice directly, unfiltered by the media. And it provides one more communications channel for the Sierra Club to promote our programs, principles, and brand, and to reinforce the stories we are also telling in print, in video and on-line. Our ultimate goal in 2007 is to make this content available broadly to radio stations across America. In fact, the content consultant who helped us secure our twice-monthly programming on Air America is working with us pro bono to help us identify markets and programs that would be interested in airing segments from Sierra Club Radio.

Sierra Club radio is broadcast every Saturday at 3:30 pm on the Quake radio (960 am) in the Bay Area. The program will be available on the Web and via podcast the following Monday at www.sierraclubradio.com. Please check it out and let us know what you would like to hear on Sierra Club Radio. If you have story ideas, please send them to orli.cotel@sierraclub.org, and put "Sierra Club Radio story idea" in the subject line.

Here is the first show's line up to give you an idea of the mix of content we will be offering:

Jen Hattam on Green Holiday Tips

Chris Paine, filmmaker and director of Who Killed the Electric Car

Carl Pope on what to expect from the new Congress

Mark Heilesen on the surprising public transit revolution in Utah

Ask Mr. Green

Sarah Alexander on spending 12 months on an entirely local foods diet



Political cartoonist Bill Day receives his award from Clark Buchner, Chapter Awards Committee Chair. Photograph by David Carter.

GET OUT!

Learn about local chapter outings at www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter today!

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photo/Xavier Gallardo

Conservation Issue Committee Reorganization

By Gary Bowers
TN Chapter Conservation Chair

A year ago this past September the national Sierra Club held its first ever Sierra Summit in San Francisco. Over 700 delegates from around the country attended the Summit. Input was obtained from those in attendance via a voting process. As a result of the input received at the Summit, the national organization has reorganized the Club's priorities. Issues were classified in three areas: Energy, Wild Legacy, and Safe & Healthy Communities.

At the July 2006 Chapter Executive Committee meeting, the TN Chapter Excom voted to reorganize the Chapter conservation committee structure for 2007. The decision was made to align the conservation issues into three super committees that paralleled the national Club's reorganization. This will allow the Chapter to maximize its effectiveness as we will be able to use national's expertise and initiative in each of these areas.

As a result of the Chapter's reorganization, all members of the previous conservation issue committees became members of the super committee that includes that issue. The new super committee alignment and the issues included in each are shown below.

We are pleased to announce that the Energy super committee will be chaired by Clark Buchner and the Wild Legacy super committee will be chaired by Axel Ringe. As this article goes to press, we are still looking for

a chair for the Safe & Healthy Communities super committee. More details will be available as this process continues to develop and they will be published in future Tennes-Sierrans.

We urge you not to wait, but to act now to indicate your interest in the conservation issue that involves your passion in life. To do so, please call or email the super committee chair. When emailing, please show the committee name in caps in the subject (for example – ENERGY SUPER COMMITTEE)

Energy Super Committee – Clark Buchner, 901/327-2545, coyotem@usit.net

Wild Legacy Super Committee – Axel Ringe, 865/397-1840, onyxfarm@bellsouth.net

Safe & Healthy Communities – Gary Bowers (until chair is found), 615/361-7572, gb1nature@aol.com

ENERGY

- Air Quality
- Cool Cities
- Global Warming/Energy Conservation
- Transportation
- TVA

WILD LEGACY

- Big South Fork
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- National Forests
- State Parks
- TN Forests & Natural Areas
- Biodiversity
- Wilderness

SAFE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- Container Deposit Legislation
- Genetic Engineering
- Fair Trade
- Nuclear & Toxics
- Water Quality
- Confined Animal Feeding Operation
- Population
- Environmental Justice
- Environmental Education
- Smart Growth/Land Use Planning



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You don't need a resolution to make a big change.
This New Year, say goodbye to old habits, and hello to new beginnings.
Join Sierra Club now.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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11th Annual Campaign

Defenders of Tennessee

The Sierra Club's Defenders of Tennessee campaign began 11 years ago as a means of funding our legislative program. Because the Sierra Club is a volunteer organization with no paid staff in Tennessee, we would not have a strong voice in the state legislature without this program. Our advocacy program consists of three vital activities: contacts from our members to our lawmakers; volunteer lobbying; and the work of our professional lobbyist, Mike Murphy. Mike has been a state Representative and is a longtime conservation activist. As such, Mike is uniquely qualified because of his contacts within the legislature and his knowledge of the issues.

We have a large number of faithful contributors, for whom we are very grateful. Through normal attrition, however, we have lost some of our longtime supporters. We ask you to become a Defender so that we can continue with this critical work.

Some of last year's successes included important legislation passed in the areas of water quality, public lands, and transportation. For example:

- * TDEC is now empowered to issue a stop work order when coal mining operations violate water quality standards.
PASSED!
- * The Commissioner of TDEC is now required to determine and report on the actions necessary to protect forested watersheds.
PASSED!
- * Money set aside in the local parks acquisition fund may be used only toward purchase of land for parks, natural areas, green ways, and recreation areas. **PASSED!**
- * Rugby, Stillhouse Hollow Falls, Walls of Jericho, and a number of other important areas received important protections
PASSED!
- * TDOT is urged to study the feasibility of allowing alternative fuel or hybrid vehicles to be driven in the HOV lanes.
PASSED!

THE SIERRA CLUB LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2007 INCLUDE:

- * Reintroduction of a bill to require Tennessee to adopt the more stringent California automobile standards when 50% of the population of the U.S. is covered by those requirements;
- * Introduction of the national Sierra Club's model bill on appliance & equipment efficiency;
- * Authorization of up to a \$500 million bond issue for purchase of land for parks, greenways and preservation;
- * Introduction of a new container deposit bill.

We need your help to continue the Defender program. PLEASE support the Defender program by donating to this once-a-year solicitation. Your contribution is not tax-deductible, but it is critical in enabling us to continue to have an advocate on "the hill". We urge you to fill out the form below and send a check made out to Sierra Club Defenders, c/o Adelle Wood, 4641 Villa Green Drive, Nashville, TN 37215. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Bill Terry, Legislative Co-Chair
Penny Brooks, Legislative Co-Chair

takeACTION

Yes! I'd like to help!

Amount of donation: \$75 \$150 \$250 \$500 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

May we publish your name in the Sierra Club newsletter as a donor?
Yes _____ No _____

(OPTIONAL) Your e-mail address: _____
Sending our letter of appreciation to you electronically will allow us to conserve paper and save money. We will not divulge the address nor use it for other purposes.

No letter of acknowledgement is requested _____

many, many
thanks
to our donors

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Russell Yttri
Several anonymous contributors

Outings

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

All HBG outings may be accessed at this website:
<http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/broome/>

January 19-21, 2007, Chapter Meeting. Cedars of Lebanon State Park, hosted by the Upper Cumberland Group, Chair: Peggy Evans, maevans@twlakes.net.

January 27-28, 2007 (Sat-Sun). Winter backpack, Grassy Ridge. This is a short hike trip to a 6,000' elevation bald near Roane Mountain. A great high-elevation site where we can test our winter backpacking skills. The campsite is a short hike (under 2 miles) to a fantastic view, best when there's snow. We'll drive to Carver's Gap on the AT. Driving time about 3 hours. (If weather conditions make access to Carver's Gap difficult, we'll wimp out and opt for a lower elevation destination.) Pre-register with Ron Shrieves at 865-922-3518 or rshrieve@utk.edu (email is preferred).

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

Saturday, Sunday, January 13-14, 2007 Winter Backpack-Walls of Jericho. We will backpack to the primitive campsite, descending 1000 feet over 2.5 miles. The hike in is moderate and the hike out is moderate to strenuous. Walls of Jericho is a landtrust between on land in Tennessee and Alabama. Participants must provide their own gear and food. Trip not suitable for beginners. For additional information and to register for the trip please contact Katherine Pendleton by January 10 at 615-943-6877 or Katibug1959@aol.com.

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

TELEVISION PROGRAM: WPYL - Channel 18, Memphis, Tennessee: "The Nature of Conservation" is the Sierra Club's Chickasaw Group TV Program hosted by Judith Rutschman. The January TV show is an interview with a staff member of Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division who will talk about how to save energy and money. A different program is aired, usually each month. For the schedule, please see the website: www.memphislibrary.org/tlc18/18SCHD.htm If any groups or individuals in the community have a special problem or concern, or would like to see a program on a special issue or subject, please contact Judith Rutschman at (901) 767-5916 or rutschman@rhodes.edu.

CHEROKEE GROUP (Chattanooga)

For information on upcoming outings, contact Chris O'Connor at chris_o77@yahoo.com or visit our web site at <http://www.tennessee.sierraclub.org/cherokee/index.htm>.

All participants in Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before you participate, please refer to:
<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/SignInWaiver.PDF>,
or call 415-977-5630,
for a printed version.

Transportation to the outing including carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.



10 Essentials for Hiking

Sierra Club Outings offer a variety of wilderness and near-wilderness experiences. It is important to realize that while all trips are guided by a leader, it is ultimately the responsibility of the individual to operate in a safe manner. To this end, the following is a list of essential items, which should be modified according to the particular type of outing.

1. Adequate map
2. First aid kit
3. Compass
4. Rain gear
5. Extra clothing
(it is a good idea to always have a wool hat)
6. Matches
7. Knife
8. Flashlight
9. Extra food, water
10. The tenth essential.
You decide what is the most important thing to bring!



Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe. ©2006 Shanna Petersen

PLAN NOW!

CHAPTER OUTING FOR FEBRUARY

CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE WINTER SKI AND SNOWSHOE ADVENTURE FEBRUARY 17-FEBRUARY 24, 2007

Experience winter like never before! Snow lovers of the Tennessee Chapter are invited to join Cumberland Chapter (Kentucky) members on an outing to the Sierra Club's own rustic Clair Tappaan Lodge. Located on Donner Summit, the area receives the highest average snowfall of the entire Sierra Nevada range, making the Lodge a favorite with winter sports enthusiasts. We'll fly into Reno, Nevada, on Saturday morning and shuttle to the lodge. After some lessons, we'll glide into action in the Tahoe National Forest and Royal Gorge, the world's largest cross-country ski resort. Several other resorts for downhill skiing or snowboarding are easily accessible from the lodge. We will have the option of a three-mile guided trek along the Pacific Crest Trail past Castle Peak to a backcountry hut for an overnight stay. We'll also have ample time to learn about the enchanting history of the Sierra Nevadas and current conservation issues. On our last night, we'll enjoy an evening in South Lake Tahoe. Participants must be age 16 or over. Minimum number of participants is 7 and the maximum is 14. Reservation deadline: February 1, 2007. Cost is \$499 per person and includes lodging, meals, ground transportation from the airport to the lodge and day trips. The leader will provide free snowshoe lessons. Not included: airfare, equipment rental and cross-country ski lessons. Discounted ski resort trail passes and lift tickets will be available through Clair Tappaan Lodge. Rating: While this trip is suitable for beginners, Clair Tappaan Lodge is at 7,000 feet elevation making activity feel slightly more difficult. Some activities may involve up to 9,000 feet altitude, but individuals will have options for less strenuous activity like sledding, building a snowman or simply enjoying a cozy day by the fire or reading in the library at the lodge. For additional information, contact Katherine Pendleton at 615-943-6877 or email Katibug1959@aol.com

Meetings

CHICKASAW GROUP (Memphis)

MONTHLY FIRST THURSDAY MEMBERS GATHERING: Thursday, January 4, 2007, 5:30-7:00pm - Otherlands, 641 South Cooper, Memphis, Tennessee: Join us for Chickasaw Group's "First Thursday" monthly gathering where Sierra Club members, activists and friends can meet in a casual setting to talk about issues and interests. Contact Karen Prosser - Membership Chair at (901) 327-9820 or kprosser@bellsouth.net for more information.

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, January 8, 2007, 6:30pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, Tennessee: This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Allan Lummus - vice-Chair by January 5 to place items on the agenda at (901) 722-9545 or allan.lummus@gmail.com.

PROGRAM MEETING: Wednesday, January 24, 2007, 7:00pm - Memphis Public Library and Information Center, 3030 Poplar, Memphis, TN. At this program, MLGW will inform us about issues related to energy usage. We will learn about solar power, the Green Power Switch program, and energy conservation around the home. Come prepared to learn about the energy options available and what we can all do to help use energy more wisely. For more information, contact Tom Lawrence at (901) 237-4819 or tomlawrence@bellsouth.net.

GREENING GREATER MEMPHIS WITH ALEX GARVIN: Thursday, February 8, 2007, 5:00pm - Memphis Botanic Garden, Hayden Hall, Memphis, Tennessee. Start the year off by working with the Wolf River Conservancy and its partners by starting a new movement to "Green Greater Memphis." The Wolf River Conservancy, along with many major partners including the Sierra Club, will host a meeting with nationally known park planner Alex Garvin. The goal is to create a new movement within the Greater Memphis community that will demonstrate grass roots support to our political and business leaders to implement and enhance Greenways, Greenlines, and parks. If you or your group would like to participate, please contact Greg

Maxted at greg@maxlineinc.com. For more information, phone the Conservancy at (901) 452-6500 or go to <http://www.wolfriver.org/>.

REVITALIZING OUR PARKS & RESTORING OUR CITIES WITH CHARLES JORDAN:

Saturday, February 10, 2007, 10:30am - Memphis College of Art Auditorium in Overton Park. Charles Jordan will speak on the theme "Revitalizing Our Parks, Restoring Our Cities". He will be introduced by Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton, who is a catalyst for parks and greenways in the Memphis community. Mr. Jordan is currently Chairman of the Conservation Fund, America's land trust which has protected 5.4 million acres of public spaces across America. He rose to prominence as City Commissioner and then Director of Parks and Recreation of Portland, Oregon. This program is part of Black History Month. It is part of a series, "A Visionary Speaks," presented by Friends for Our Riverfront and sponsored by the Crawford-Howard Family Foundation. Admission is free, and everyone concerned about the urban environment is invited. For more information, call (901) 458-4061 or go to <http://www.friendsforourriverfront.org/>.



Charles Jordan

STRATEGY MEETING: Monday, February 12, 2007, 6:30pm - Prescott Memorial Baptist Church, 961 Getwell, Memphis, Tennessee: This meeting of the Executive Committee is open also to all members of the Sierra Club. Contact Allan Lummus - vice-Chair by February 9 to place items on the agenda at (901) 722-9545 or allan.lummus@gmail.com.

UPPER CUMBERLAND GROUP (Cookeville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Peggy Evans at maevans@twlakes.net or (931)432-6680

HARVEY BROOME GROUP (Knoxville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Tuesday, January 9, 2007, 7:30pm, at Tennessee Valley Unitarian-Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville. Duane Simmons will present an illustrated talk on "Living and Working in a Disaster Area: Hurricane Katrina." Duane is a free-lance insurance appraiser who spent three months working on the Mississippi Gulf Coast immediately after Katrina hit. Besides relating his experiences, he will address and clarify many of the issues raised by a sometimes slanted news media regarding the responses of FEMA and the insurance industry, the matter of liability, water versus wind damage, etc. HBG members may recall that Duane is also an avid outdoorsman who has given excellent programs on climbing Africa's Mt. Kilimanjaro and Europe's highest peak, Mt. Elbrus. Everyone welcome! For more information call John Finger (865) 573-5908.

WATAUGA GROUP

PROGRAM MEETING: Every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please contact Gloria Griffith, (gl4797627@aol.com), (423) 727-4797 for more information.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE GROUP (Nashville)

PROGRAM MEETING: Thursday, January 11, 7:00 p.m. at Radnor Lake Visitor Center, 1160 Otter Creek Road, Nashville. Do you have concerns about what's happening on our own Cumberland Plateau? Are you concerned about clearcutting, sale of forest industry land, and subdivision development in this biologically rich ecosystem? If so, come and join us for Dwight Barnett's PowerPoint presentation, which will focus on the Division of Forestry and will review the status of the Plateau: sale of all forest industry land; clearcutting and pine planting continuing under timber industry management organizations (TIMOs); subdivision development; the reasons for the massive clearcut in the South Cumberlands; and additions to preserved lands. Dwight is an Area Forester with the Department of Agriculture and has a degree in forestry science. Brave the elements and wrap up warmly....we promise to challenge your thinking on these areas of interest. For more information on this program, contact Martha Wilson at 376-2535. Enter the Radnor Lake area on Otter Creek Road, accessible only from Granny White Pike. Non-members are always welcome!

STRATEGY MEETING: Tuesday, January 23 at 6:30 p.m. Conservation issues are first on the agenda! Come and get the news on what's happening in our Middle Tennessee Group. All members are invited to attend our conservation and administrative meeting on the 4th floor at 2021 21st Avenue South (the old St. Bernard Academy Building). We welcome you to be with us to learn about the group's conservation initiatives and community activities. For conservation issues or additions to the conservation agenda, contact Diane Perschbacher at 615-895-1236 or email Diane@Propson.com. For additions to the administrative agenda or for more information regarding the meetings, send a message to David Bordenkircher at dabordenkircher@mindspring.com or call 333-3377.

Clair Tappaan Lodge

Reprinted from Sierra Club Outings online

Clair Tappaan Lodge is a rustic mountain lodge nestled in the Sierra Nevada of California at the top of Donner Pass. Built by Sierra Club volunteers in the 1930s, the lodge is an excellent home base for year-round recreation. The friendly, casual atmosphere and affordable nightly rates (including family-style meals) make the Lodge the perfect rustic getaway to the Tahoe/Donner area.

Clair Tappaan is the Sierra Club's flagship lodge, with a wide-variety of programs that support sustainable practices and the Sierra Club's mission to "explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the Earth." At the Lodge, we strive to increase awareness of the environment, foster a sense of community, increase the spirit of volunteerism, and nurture ecoconscious conduct.

The Lodge is a charming spot from which to explore the riches of the Sierra Nevada. Nestled at an elevation of 7000 feet at Donner Summit, not far from Lake Tahoe, the area receives the highest average snowfall of the entire Sierra Nevada range, making the Lodge a favorite with cross-country ski and snowshoe enthusiasts. For those who are really adventurous, the lodge is a great starting point for a multi-day trek to the Sierra Club's backcountry huts. If you want to explore the Sierra Nevada in the winter but don't want to build an igloo or dig a snow cave, the four Sierra Club huts near Lake Tahoe may be just perfect.

In summer, the recreational opportunities are unlimited. A network of nearby trails offers miles of hiking and provides access to fishing streams, remote meadows and peaks, and crystal clear lakes. The well-known Pacific Crest Trail is only a mile away and can be reached right out the back door of the lodge. The Donner Summit area is great for both road and mountain biking and is also widely known as a rock climbers' mecca. The Lodge is on the edge of the Lake Tahoe Basin, with Tahoe itself only 25 miles away.

Announcing the January Quarterly Meeting of the Tennessee Chapter of Sierra Club

Please notify Peggy Evans at <maevans@twlakes.net> if you plan to attend.

Please include: 1)number of people attending, 2)omnivore or vegetarian, 3) paying in advance or paying at the meeting.
If paying in advance please mail checks to Ralph Bowden, 505 Denton Ave., Cookeville TN 38501.

Directions:

Cedars of Lebanon State Park is located approximately 31 miles east of Nashville in Wilson County. It is 6 miles south of I-40 on U.S. Highway 231 (State Route 10). The park sign is on the ride side of the road, entrance is on the other side of Hwy 231, directly across from the sign.

WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!!

**CEDARS OF LEBANON STATE PARK
JANUARY 19-21 2007**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Commitment has its rewards



Since 1892, Sierra Club has been committed to preserving the American wilderness; and the rewards are all around us. From our mountains to our forests to our rivers - and the wildlife that inhabit them all - Sierra Club has successfully campaigned to protect Earth's natural beauty for decades.

The need for vigilance continues in many of our wild places. You can carry on the fight by becoming a Sierra Club Life Member. Your dues go right to work in a special Life Member Fund that supports vital Sierra Club conservation programs.

So enroll today, and become a Sierra Club Life Member. And make a commitment that will have an impact today and tomorrow!

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (optional) _____
 Email _____

I am pleased to enroll as a Life Member of the Sierra Club.

Please enroll me as an individual Life Member.

- Full payment of \$1000 is enclosed.
- \$350 first annual installment is enclosed.

We are enrolling as joint Life Members.

- Full payment of \$1250 is enclosed.
- \$450 first annual installment is enclosed.

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
 P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Planet Makes Way for New Grassroots Pages on Web

After a run of more than a dozen years, the Planet, the Sierra Club's activist newsletter, ceased publication with its Nov/Dec 2006 issue. Stories about the Club's grassroots campaigns, a Sierra Club Scrapbook, and activist profiles can now be found on our new Grassroots pages on the Sierra Club's Web site at www.sierraclub.org/grassroots. The stories comprising the Nov/Dec Planet, including a 2006 Victory Roundup and a 4-page Smart Energy Solutions primer, will be posted online.

You can continue to access the Planet archives at <http://www.sierraclub.org/planet>.

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