



Loo Wit Rumblings



Environment, Education, Conservation & Events for Southwest Washington

May 11 Member Program Features Hands-On Fun

Lehman Holder, Loo Wit Executive Committee

You're invited to join us on Thursday, May 11 for a special kind of member program. Rather than sitting, watching and listening, this one will focus on actively participating.

Time is 6:30 p.m., location is the Clark PUD Community Room, Mill Plain and Ft. Vancouver Way, exit 1C off I-5. Rich Fein (pronounced "Fine"), owner of Cynergy Bicycles in Portland, will kick off the fun with a presentation on electric bikes ("e-bikes"), then the program will move outside (barring rain), where those attending will have the opportunity to ride an e-bike with Rich and Lehman (if it's raining, the program will continue inside).

Ready for some educational fun? See you on May 11!



Rich Fein, with Cynergy E-Bikes.

Cynergy is an electric bike specialty store in SE Portland. Rich, with his wife Ruthellen, opened Cynergy in March 2014 and have been growing the business ever since, starting with 3 e-bike brands and now carrying 12 brands along with conversion kits for transforming traditional bikes to e-bikes. They moved to Portland from Akron, Ohio specifically to open Cynergy.

Rich previously owned a couple of small businesses in Ohio, and has most recently been employed in the solar industry.

He was also involved in the sustainability movement in Ohio, fighting climate change through educational programs and public awareness for practicing

energy efficiency, and served on the executive committee of Sierra Club's Portage Trail Group (serving the Akron and Canton OH metropolitan area).

In Ohio, Rich and Ruthellen were recreational cyclists, taking frequent 20-30 mile trips through the Cuyahoga Valley. Since moving to Portland, they have ditched one of their cars and rarely use the other, depending on their bikes for their main form of transportation.



LOO WIT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, May 6th: Hike Dog Mountain. Sign up on [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) to join.

Sunday, May 7th: First sea-kayak outing of the season! Sign up on [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) to join.

Wednesday, May 10th: Beyond Coal & Oil Task Force Meeting. 5:30 for pizza and meet & greet followed by meeting at 6:00 pm. St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Vancouver.

Thursday, May 11th: E-Bike Program. 6:30 pm Clark Public Utilities Community Room. *(read the article about it on the previous page!)*

Saturday, May 13th: Sea kayaking (intermediate paddlers). Sign up on [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) to join.

Saturday, May 20th: Cycling. Sign up on [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) to join

Thursday, May 25th: Book Discussion—*Democratic by Design* at Whole Foods Market in Portland. Sign up on [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) to join.

Tuesday, June 6th: Loo Wit Executive Committee Meeting. 6:30 pm Felida Fire Station.

We're on Facebook!

If you haven't already, please give us a "like" on Facebook! We share information about upcoming events, photos from outings and the latest Loo Wit news. You can even share our posts with your own Facebook friends, helping to spread the word about Loo Wit! We'd love to interact with more of you online! You can also find all of our upcoming outings on MeetUp, and archives of our monthly newsletters on our website.

www.facebook.com/loowit.group

www.meetup.com/Portland-Vancouver-Sierra-Club-Outings-Events

www.sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit



Loo- Wit Executive Committee Members

Mark Leed—Chair

Don Steinke—Vice Chair/Oil & Coal

Steve Foster—Treasurer/Sales

Mike Newsham— Outings Liaison

Alona Steinke—Oil & Coal/at large

Lehman Holder—At large

Fred Suter — Legislative Liaison

Meetings are normally held on the first Tuesday of the month and open to the public

Legislative Committee Report

Fred Suter, Legislative Liaison

April 23rd was the last day of the regular session of the Washington State legislative season. Because the State Senate is controlled by Republicans and the House is controlled by the Democrats, most environmental policy bills will never see the Governor's desk for signature due to those conflicting priorities.

Likewise, the House and Senate versions of the budget have not been reconciled. In response, Governor Inslee called both legislative houses back in for special session on April 24th. Expect both political parties to continue to work to resolve differences in order to pass the budget in special session that could last until June.

One of the policy exceptions that did pass is Senator Dean Takko's bill, SB 5128 which amends the Energy Independence Act (also known as I-937). I-937 was approved by voters in 2006 and it requires an electric utility with more than 25,000 customers to meet targets for energy conservation and to meet a certain percent of its annual load with eligible renewable resources. The bill is on the Governor's desk for signature. Senator Takko represents the 19th Legislative District: Kelso-Longview-Raymond-Long Beach.

Other environmental policy bills that are still in play as part of budget discussions include Hirst decision legislation, Model Toxics Control Act surcharge bill, oil transportation safety, and a carbon tax. The elephant in the room as far as budget discussions go is the McCleary decision which requires the state to fully fund K-12 education. McCleary is likely to influence the final outcome of the budget and also these environmental policy bills.

Also of special note, Senator Annette Cleveland's bill, SB 5806 concerning preliminary work to develop a process for planning for a new Interstate 5 bridge spanning the Columbia river passed both houses and is on the Governor's desk for signature. Senator Cleveland represents Vancouver in the 49th Legislative district.





**SIERRA
CLUB**

Explore—Enjoy—Protect

Sierra Club and SUWA Partner on Public Lands

Lehman Holder, Executive Committee

Recognizing that there is strength in numbers, Sierra Club and Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) have partnered to resist attacks on Utah public lands by the Trump administration.

Although Trump's attacks are focused on newly-designated Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante (designated in 2001) National Monuments, there are broad implications for public lands everywhere. In late April, Trump issued an executive order calling for a rollback of boundaries for both monuments, and a review of every national monument designated since 1996. Since its passage in 1906, a national monument has never been de-listed or had boundaries changed.

Fortunately, there is an ongoing effort by SUWA, Sierra Club and other partners to prevent this – known as the Red Rock Wilderness Act, which has been again introduced in the U.S. Senate. To assist in this effort, Jenny Holmes, SUWA Oregon-Washington field organizer and Lehman Holder, Loo Wit and Washington State Chapter Sierra Club, have met with Bryan Stebbins, SW Washington representative for U.S. Senator Patty Murray, to brief him on the bill, and ask for Senator Murray's help through signing on as a co-sponsor. The Act would add qualifying BLM public lands to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The proposed law also includes work on decreasing the effects of climate change and creating more resilient ecosystems for public lands.

You can help. Call the office of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and ask him to resist Trump's call to roll back protections for national monuments and weaken the Antiquities Act. The number is (202) 601-3839.

Learn more about the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

and the Red Rock Wilderness Act at suwa.org



LOO WIT OUTINGS

Spring/Summer Cycling, Sea Kayak Outings Underway

by Lehman Holder

Time to dust off your bike for fun rides and get on the water for sea kayaking! Loo Wit's season of bike and kayak outings has begun.

All of these outings are posted on Meetup, and so far the response has been tremendous. Bike outings have been full with a wait list. The first sea kayak outing will be held on May 7th.

Don't miss out on the fun with friendly, like-minded people. Any bike will do for a bike outing, but please be sure it's in good condition. Helmets are required. Sea kayak outings are divided between beginner/novice instructional outings and those for intermediate paddlers. Rentals are available on most sea kayak outings.

To RSVP for an outing, visit our [meetup page](#). Outings are posted 7-8 days in advance of the scheduled outing date. If you have specific questions email outings leader Lehman Holder at tripsguy@aol.com



Participants at a Loo Wit cycling event! Photo credit Steve Foster



Sierra Club Political Endorsement process

by Lehman Holder, Executive Committee

If you're confused by Sierra Club's political endorsement process, here's a primer: There are always two steps that must occur, along with some other guidelines.

First, a candidate must express interest in the Club's endorsement. Sometimes, a Group (local) or Chapter (statewide) will inquire if a candidate has an interest. If so, then the appropriate local or statewide entity will send the candidate a questionnaire specific to the position they're running for.

The candidate then returns the completed questionnaire and an interview is arranged to discuss the candidate's views and campaign plan. If the candidate has been previously endorsed, an interview may not be necessary. Following the interview, the Group or Chapter political committee (polcom) vote on whether to offer an endorsement.

Second, if the vote is "yes," the endorsement goes to the Chapter polcom for its consideration. If Chapter polcom concurs, the candidate is notified that they've been granted the Club's endorsement. Endorsed candidates can receive help in fundraising, doorbelling, phone banking and signwaving.

Note that candidates for federal offices (U.S. House, U.S. Senate, President) cannot be endorsed by groups, only by Chapter and national Sierra Club.

Members who would like to assist Loo Wit in the endorsement process should contact Mark Leed, Loo Wit Chair, at: markleed02@gmail.com, or Lehman Holder, Loo Wit ExCom, at: tripsguy@aol.com



SIERRA CLUB

Explore—Enjoy—Protect

Vancouver, Kalama Host Climate Change Marches

Don & Alona Steinke Loo Wit Executive Committee

On April 29, Climate Marches were held across the nation. Locally, Sierra Club sponsored a rally and Climate Boat Parade at the Port of Kalama, followed by workshops for those who wished to be more involved in local issues.

A sister-rally and march was held in Vancouver. Speakers at this event included Lehman Holder, Don and Alona Steinke, and Don Orange. Don Orange is a local businessman who is a candidate for Vancouver Port Commissioner. He is adamantly opposed to the proposed oil terminal. He believes that it would be very detrimental to businesses in downtown Vancouver.

Mr. Orange has great support among the environmental and small business communities. He currently has been endorsed by the local ILWU, Longshore workers. For more information about him, go to donorange.com.

Regarding coal: The Final EIS was released on April 28. This can be viewed at: www.milleniumbulkeiswa.gov/sepa-eis.html

Regarding methanol: The DOE temporarily rejected the Shoreline Permit for the proposed methanol refinery because the application was incomplete. (Yes!) The applicant has until May 19 to resubmit the application.

Regarding oil: EFSEC is expected to have issued an

air permit for Tesoro/Savage on May 2. A hearing will be held about 2 weeks following that. The date and location is to be announced. You can google EFSEC for this information.



Photos from the Vancouver Climate March. Photo credit Alona Steinke.



Loo Wit Members Speak, Walk in Climate March

Mark Leed, chair, Loo Wit

Loo Wit members joined hundreds of local residents on April 29 for a rally and march in Vancouver to raise awareness about climate change and the urgency of dealing with its consequences. The Vancouver Climate March was one of hundreds of People's Climate Marches held across the United States and beyond to coincide with the 100th day of the Donald Trump administration. President Trump has proposed drastic budget cuts that threaten to weaken or eliminate vital research on climate change, its impacts and potential solutions.

Speakers encouraged marchers to carry on the climate change battle by advocating for renewable energy, and fighting fossil fuel projects like the Tesoro-Savage oil terminal and a methanol plant proposed for the Port of Kalama. Although things look dim at the federal level, there is much we can accomplish locally and regionally to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and limit greenhouse gas emissions. The Sierra Club has launched the "Ready for 100" campaign to encourage mayors across America to commit to 100% clean energy. For more information, please visit

www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100.





Don't Get Left Out in the Cold... Join Us!



Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group give you the lay of the land. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization offering the most enjoyable outings.

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YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:

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Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club,
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