



Tehipite Topics

September 2006 ☞ Vol. 52, No. 6

www.tehipite.sierraclub.org

A Family Affair



by *Aimee Leyva*

On August 5, the Sierra Club Outings Program ventured out yet again on what has become the annual “Half Dome by Moonlight” trip. This trip, which entails hiking Half Dome at night during a full or nearly full moon, has been done every summer for the past several years. This year was our second largest group, with nineteen hikers, all of whom completed the hike with flying colors.

The question many people ask is, “Why?” And the answer is normally the experience of hiking Half Dome with no crowds and no summer heat. However, the real treat occurs around 5:30 A.M., when the hikers see the sun rise over the horizon from the top of the dome. This is a unique experience that few can claim. After the sun is up, the hike down is pleasant, as the air is cool and the crowds are still minimal.

This year several new hikers joined our group. One was Tom Callahan of Fresno, who brought his 14-year-old grandson, Owen. Tom reported that he had never hiked with our club before, despite being a long-time member. His grandson ascended to the top first, naturally, but the reunion at the top, as seen in this photo, is priceless. It is also a reminder that our precious National Parks are a wonderful experience not only for us, but for our families. Our outings program offers a variety of hikes, ranging from easy day hikes to more difficult hikes such as this one. So please remember next time you are thinking of a family outing, a way to escape our rising temperatures, or a just a day of exercise and healthy living; consider taking a hike with us or even on your own. And remember we are one of the few areas that can claim a less than two hour drive to three separate National Parks. ☞

September General Meeting

Wednesday, September 20th at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno
(across from Fashion Fair)

“Holland, Germany and Austria, Off the Beaten Path”

presented by Jan & Bill Fjellbo

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage sites at Kinderdijk (where the Dutch perfected the windmill), the North Sea Barrier, the cave paintings at Maastricht in Holland and the salt mines of Halstadt, Austria and the beautiful lakes of the Alps. Along the way, see what once was the largest castle in Europe and another castle that was the model for Cinderella Castle at Disneyland. Finally, you will learn what surprising character from a classic novel (one that we have all read or seen as several movies) was actually a real person. Come join us!

Tree Fresno's Walk Along the Trees

Tree Fresno is again offering a series of three Walk Along the Trees events this fall. These are guided walks with an expert along tree-lined trails, parks or ponding basins at 10:00 A.M. on specific Saturdays. The September 30th expert from Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District will speak on their water system and water conservation at a local ponding basin/park. On October 11th a tree expert will discuss the CSUF Arboretum as we follow the Arboretum Trail through the campus. The November 11th expert from PG&E will stroll through Woodward Park speaking about energy conservation. Come get a fun education while you enjoy nature's magnificence amid the trees—right here in Fresno! There is no cost for Tree Fresno members; fee for non-members is \$3.00. For further details or to make a reservation, call Tree Fresno at (559) 221-5556 x100. ☞

Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, September 13th at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



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) 438-867
 aimee_leyva@yahoo.com

Chapter Treasurer

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

Executive Committee Members

William Fjellbo (559) 642-4511
 jbfjellbo@sierratel.com

Don Gaede (559) 434-5138
 gaede80@sbcglobal.net

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

John Flaherty(209) 742-4668
 kjohnflaherty@yahoo.com

Chapter Committee Chairs

Council of Club Leaders Delegate

JoAnne Armstrong . .(209) 726-0636

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/Hospitality

Rae Marx (559) 641-7589

Membership/Newsletter Distribution

Marian Orvis (559) 226-0145

Outings and Outings Leader Training

Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971
 RiverRich1509@aol.com

Political Committee

William Fjellbo (559) 642-4511

Programs

Heather Anderson . . (559) 434-2510

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

Water

Chris Acree (559) 709-4913
 chris.acree@comcast.net

San Joaquin River

Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971
 RiverRich1509@aol.com

Wilderness/Desert

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

Yosemite National Park

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

CNCC Delegate

Heather Anderson . . (559) 434-2510

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) 384-1354

Group Secretary

Annette Allsup (209) 723-5152

Member-at-Large

Jule Biesiada. juleb13@msn.com

Conservation Chair

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

Publications

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747

Agriculture

Charlie Magnuson . . (209) 394-7045

Membership

Linda Lagace (209) 384-1354

Publicity

Rod Webster (209) 723-4747

Population

Tammy Johnson . . . (559) 665-5507

Merced Group

Conservation and Executive Committee Meeting

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

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. Come just to get informed or get as involved as you wish.

September General Meeting

Thursday, September 21st at 7:30 P.M.
Sierra Presbyterian Church, 3603 M St., Merced

"The Ferguson Rock Slide— Merced River Canyon near El Portal"

presented by Alan Gallegos

Alan J. Gallegos is the Assistant Province Geologist for the Southern Sierra Province (Sierra, Sequoia and Stanislaus National Forests) and the Sierra National Forest Soils Program Manager, located in Clovis, CA. Alan has worked for the Forest Service, since 1980, with prior experience in Central Utah and Northern California. Alan has a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Southern Colorado. His area of expertise is geomorphology and Engineering Geology, with special emphasis on fluvial and mass wasting processes. Alan has worked on several multidisciplinary teams, including Timber Sale Planning Teams, the President's Ecosystem Management Assessment Team, and Disaster or Burn Area Emergency Response Assessment Teams for Fire and Floods, and the Kings River Adaptive Management Project. Alan is a member of the Geologic Society of America, the Association of Engineering Geologists and the National Speleological Society.

Annual December Banquet Thursday, December 7th P.M.

Our banquet will be at the Branding Iron in Merced. We are just starting to plan the event and our silent auction. If you have any ideas for programs you would like, or any suggestions for speakers, please let us know. Also, please start putting aside those pieces of art, pottery, jewelry and whatever valuables you can donate to the auction. Finally, let us know how you liked last year's food selection.

Volunteers Needed

Our local group needs someone who can volunteer to be in charge of our calendar and card sales. Contact Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 if you are willing to help.



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento. Expect convenient access to all mountain activities, excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual atmosphere.

FEATURED PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER 8-10, OCTOBER 6-8 Yoga Workshop Price: \$145 members, \$170 non-members (includes lodging, meals and workshop)

SEPTEMBER 15-17 Donner Lake Rim Trail Work Party Participants receive a 50% discount on their second night of lodging.

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1 Lodge Workparty Volunteers receive free lodging and meals. Call for Hutchinson Lodge work party dates.

OCTOBER 7 Full Moon Hike Free for paying guests of the Lodge. \$15 for guided hike and dinner (call for a reservation).

OCTOBER 20-22 World Dance Weekend Sponsored by the Sacramento Folk Dance & Arts Council. Dance parties and hikes are free for paying guests of the Lodge.



For more information about these programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.ctl.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.

Great Coastal Places Campaign

Conservation Hike in Marin County

by Owen Bailey, Great Coastal Places staff

On Saturday, October 28th, Sierra Club's Coastal Director, Mark Massara will lead activists from throughout the state of California on a easy and informative hike through one of California's great coastal places: the Tomales Dunes. This magnificent and relatively isolated spot lies in Marin County, across from the Point Reyes National Seashore, and represents one of the largest unprotected stretches of dunes in the state. Sierra Club activists



have been working for years to protect the dunes from the threats posed by the un-permitted RV campground, Lawson's Landing—the largest RV campground in all of California.

This hike will be the second in the series of statewide coastal hikes, the first taking place in March, when more than 70 Sierra Club members from San Francisco, San Jose, Los Angeles and Monterey joined Mark to hike in Pebble Beach, through the threatened Del Monte Forest. That hike and the commitment by Sierra Club activists throughout the state helped the Sierra Club's Great Coastal Places campaign win a major victory in protecting the magnificent coastal forest.

The Great Coastal Places hike series is designed to bring people together to experience our fragile, threatened coastline and to show people the simple things that they can do to make a difference in protecting the coast for future generations. On October 28th, Mark will lead Sierra Club members and coastal advocates into Marin County to a spot with sensitive dune wetlands, multiple endangered species and a future in doubt.

Join Mark and your fellow Sierra Club members from all parts of California to experience the beauty of the Tomales Dunes and to learn how much you can do with very little time commitment. ☘

Mission: Possible

Join Whole Foods Market for their 6th Anniversary Celebration

Whole Foods Market Fresno, located in the Fig Garden Village, will be celebrating our 6th year anniversary on Saturday, September 16th from 11:00 to 3:00 P.M. Our theme is Mission: Possible to go along with our Green Mission Project. Fresno Co-Housing, Fresno Recycles, Solahart, and Valley Air District are just some of the organizations that will be joining us. We will have a coloring contest for kids and The Discovery Center will do a "Musical Trash" demonstration (they turn recycled products into music!) I am also working on other activities, raffles, and prizes. If you'd like to send any literature our way, we'd be happy to display it for you.

Leading into our celebration we will have a 5% Day to benefit The Discovery Center. On Tuesday, September 12th,

Whole Foods Market will donate 5% of their entire day's sales to support this organization.

Thanks for all of your support and please let me know if you have any questions.

Anne Driscoll

Marketing and Community Relations

650 West Shaw Avenue

Fresno, CA 93704

(559) 241-0300

(559) 241-7040 (fax)

anne.driscoll@wholefoods.com

www.wholefoods.com/stores/fresno/index.html ☘

Voters Must Make Critical Decisions on November 7th

by *Bill Allayaud, State Legislative Director, Sierra Club California*

In what has become the norm, the November 7th ballot will be filled with a wide range of issues placed there by the Legislature and by advocates pushing initiatives. Sierra Club California has taken positions on a number of these measures because they directly relate to the issues we care about. Some of these measures are very controversial and the stakes are high, so we strongly encourage you to read up and vote! A summary of each measure with the position adopted by the statewide Conservation Committee and Sierra Club California Executive Committee follows.

Proposition 1b—Transportation Bond: NO POSITION, YET. This is a \$19.675 billion bond measure that will fund new lanes and other improvements on congested highways; new bridges; more mass transit, including rail; and improvements to port operations. At the time of this writing, the Sierra Club is still debating their position. Among other arguments, some laud the over \$4 billion for mass transit, while others point out that highways should be paid for by user fees rather than general obligation bonds. The legislation that authorized this bond measure did not include waivers from environmental review for any projects. Please check www.sierraclubcalifornia.org after mid-September for our recommendation.

Proposition 1c—Housing Bond: SUPPORT. This is a \$2.85 billion bond measure that will facilitate affordable housing of several types. It will also provide money to local governments to provide infrastructure for transit-oriented development and money for planning infill development. Both of these, affordable housing and money for smart growth planning, are consistent with our statewide growth management guidelines.

Proposition 1d—Schools Bond: SUPPORT. This is a \$10.4 billion bond measure for school modernization and to reduce school overcrowding. Like the housing bond, this is consistent with our growth management guidelines, as the schools that need this money the most are in urban areas and older suburban areas.

Proposition 1e—Levees and Flooding Bond: NEUTRAL. This is a \$4 billion bond measure that would allow deteriorating levees in the Sacramento River system, including the Delta, to be fixed. The legislation that authorized this measure provides for a streamlined permitting process, but not an exemption for any environmental review or permitting process. Also, the footprint of the levees cannot be expanded.

Proposition 84—Water Supply/Quality and Parks Bond: SUPPORT. This is a \$5.3 billion bond that would allow for improvements to quality of local drinking water supplies; conservation of open space, streams, and forests through increased purchase of parks and conservation easement; and water quality work, including clean beaches. This omnibus measure seems to have something for everybody, hence a diverse group of entities support it. ♻️



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.

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

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 Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____
 Exp. Date ____/____/____

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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The "Inyo Fest"

by Richard Sloan

The "Inyo Fest" turned out to be a very good time for all involved. Originally there were supposed to be five people from Fresno, from the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club, but only two could make it. Seven showed up from San Luis Obispo, two from the Adopt-A-Cabin group, and six from a group of ghost town book writers. We set up camp in the forest one mile from the crest of the mountains off the Swansea Road in a large flat area with lots of space for parking, tents and a large bonfire. Teki torches set the mood around camp and helped to drive away bugs.

Temperatures were in the low 50s at night and low 80s during the day. One day the temperature in Death Valley was 125 and 106 in Fresno. Camp was at the 8,600 elevation in a juniper/pinon pine forest, so we were spared the high heat. We could look directly across at Mount Whitney with snow still on it, and down at Lone Pine from our lofty camp.

Hors d'oeuvres were served every evening, with R1 arriving late with his guacamole (the group having already consumed Tim's). There is an ongoing competition for serving the best Hors d'oeuvres in the wilderness. The Venezuela contingent brought Venezuelan rum for mixed drinks. Tri-tip was served the first night after a hike of about eight miles to New York Butte and the Goat Springs area. On the hike, we found an interesting three-burner kerosene stove in the middle of nowhere. Flakes of obsidian everywhere hinted at earlier man's presence.

Saturday we hiked to the Trepier Cabin, about a three mile hike and a 1,600-foot drop in elevation. There were seven in our group. After bushwhacking awhile, we did find parts of a trail to the historic site. Timbers were still on the roof of the small cabin. It had a double bunk inside, a stone fireplace, and remains of a cast iron stove. The cabin was dug back into the side of the mountain and had stone retaining walls. The fact that it was set back and nestled in trees made it very easy to miss. The view across Daisy Canyon and the Saline Valley was incredible! Our Venezuelan contingent did not accompany us, as there was an important World Cup soccer game. They drove down to Lone Pine in a brand new FJ40 and rented a motel room to watch the game. The ghost town group hiked the 13.6-mile Salt Tram line down to one of the control stations built about 1910.

On Sunday, the ghost town people hiked New York Butte. We hiked to a mine and collapsed cabin visible from the Dozer Road and found a spring and a collapsed tank house

not on the map. We left on Monday, after a cool weekend, dreading the valley heat. Usually I lose weight on these trips. I gained three pounds.

Getting to the crest of the Inyo Mountains can be very difficult. This trip should not be taken lightly. A passenger car can make it to the privately owned ghost town of Cerro Gordo. From there, four wheel drive is needed. Vegetation grows close to the road, and all the vehicles on our trip had scratches in their paint.

This trip is offered to Sierra Club members twice a year. Please don't reserve a spot only to bail out. Others want to make the trip too. The next trip(s) will be in October. For hard core back packers, another organization will be offering a three day backpack, following the Salt Tram line from the Owens Valley, over the Inyo Mountains, and ending in the Saline Valley. Feel free to contact me about this wonderful area and opportunities to explore it. 🌲



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Outings Schedule

September 4th - Monday

North Dome in Yosemite.
Paul Weiss (209) 966-6605

September 16th - Saturday

Day Hike (2A)
Pincushion Ridge in the Millerton Lake area.
Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

September 23rd - Saturday

(A Yokuts Group, Mother Load Chapter Outing.)
Day Hike (2B)
Cathedral Lakes, YNP
Meet at The Fruit Yard east of Modesto at 8:00 A.M. to carpool. The hike begins at 8,500 ft. elevation from the Tioga Road. Used since the time of the Indians, this trail takes you past two of Tuolumne Meadows' famed granite domes, Fairview and Medicott, to two charming lakes below the area's foremost landmark, Cathedral Peak. About 8 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, etc.
Monica Casey (209) 632-2051
hikerlady1955@aol.com

September 24th - Sunday

Day Hike (3B)
We will climb three peaks—Mt. Givens, Ian McCampbell and King's Castle—approximately 12 miles. Spectacular views of Edison & Florence Lakes. Meet at Krispy Kreme, River Park at 6:00 A.M. Please call by Thursday evening. Rain cancels.
Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

September 30th - Saturday

National Public Lands Day
Canoe cleanup of San Joaquin River from Lost Lake to Fort Washington Beach.
Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

September 30th - October 1st

Saturday - Sunday

(A Yokuts Group, Mother Load Chapter Outing.)

Weekend at Clair Tappaan Lodge. Early Saturday departure will bring us to hiking areas near highway 80. Saturday evening we will enjoy a delicious dinner at the lodge. On Sunday we will hike in the Donner Pass area. The \$41 fee includes bunk-style lodging and three meals. Non-refundable \$20 deposit reserves your spot, due by September 15th. Limited to 12, kids welcome. Visit ctl.sierraclub.org for Lodge information.
Elaine Gorman (209) 524-7630
goford@sbcglobal.net, or
Dorothy Griggs (209) 549-9155
dgriggs3@cs.com

October 14th - Saturday

Day Hike (2B)
Three trails in Grant Grove.
Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

October 19th - Thursday

(A Yokuts Group, Mother Load Chapter Outing.)
Hike (1B)
Early Fall Walk. Meet at 5:15 P.M. near the tennis courts at La Loma/Dry Creek Park, Modesto. We will walk east along the creek to Claus Road and return (about 4 miles round trip). Possible dinner at nearby restaurant. Wear comfortable walking shoes, bring water & light snack. Bring binos for possible early migrating birds and the local residents.
Elaine Gorman (209) 524-7630
goford@sbcglobal.net

October 25th-29th

Wednesday-Sunday

Day hikes (3D)(1A)(1A)
4 wheel drive needed.
Panamint City Ghost Town/
Saline Valley/Eureka Dunes
Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

Additional outings at
<http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org>

Trip 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 Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971 RiverRich1509@aol.com. Please contact him 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.

Would you like to be an Outings Leader?

Being an Outings Leader can be very rewarding. Basic qualifications include a desire to lead outings, basic first aid or the ability to devote a day to getting qualified in first aid, and reading the Sierra Club Outings Leader Handbook. The Tehipite Chapter would like to offer outings to people of all abilities and ages. If you are interested, phone Richard Sloan at (559) 696-2971 or email RiverRich1509@aol.com.

Current Outings Leaders please contact Richard with your proposed hikes.



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Sierra Club Hut Work Parties Meet Public Lands Day

Weekends in September and October have traditionally been a time when backcountry skiers and snowshoers make their way to Donner Summit to resupply the Club's backcountry huts with firewood and tender loving care for another winter season. This year we will combine the Ludlow Hut work party with the Club's celebration of Public Lands Day (PLD) on the weekend of September 30th.

In addition to stocking and repairing the hut, volunteers for PLD will help rehabilitate the surrounding National Forest which, in the 50 years since Ludlow was built, has become a center of off-road vehicle use and *ad hoc* camping. The Club's Wild Legacy Conservation Initiative Committee has established PLD to demonstrate our support for continued ownership, protection, and restoration of our public lands.

Volunteers for PLD or any other weekend need only simple overnight backpacking gear, clothes that don't mind getting dirty, and a healthy attitude toward manual labor. The Club provides tools and supplies (including food) as well as a no-cost overnight and breakfast at historic Clair Tappaan Lodge before the work party begins.

Enjoy the camaraderie of working with other volunteers in the crisp fall air of the mountains. No experience is necessary. For more information or to sign up, contact one of the coordinators below. These are two-day outings starting on the Saturday shown.

September 9th—Benson Hut.

Jim Gannon (707) 525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net

September 23rd—Peter Grubb Hut.

Tim Keenan (916) 369-7608 iamtnr@comcast.net

September 30th—Ludlow Hut/PLD.

Joel Brody (510) 531-6566 jrbrody@sbcglobal.net

October 7th—Bradley Hut.

Harvey Ceaser (925) 937-1406 ceaser3@juno.com

October 21st—Peter Grubb Hut.

Joan Marshall (650) 364-8603
marshall_joan1234@yahoo.com

For information about using the huts during winter, or for reservations, visit

ctl.sierraclub.org/outings/lodges/huts/map.asp
or phone (800) 679-6775.