



Tehipite Topics

November 2007 ❧ Vol. 53, No. 9

www.tehipite.sierraclub.org



Dusk, Kings River, Kings Canyon National Park, California, 2007

photo © Mikko Kangas (www.mikkokangas.smugmug.com)

Get in the Loop!

by Karen Hammer

Do you have a favorite hike that you wish an outings leader would plan? Or perhaps there's a conservation issue requiring urgent action. Let's use our Tehipite Chapter website to network! Many members do not realize there are six different lists that one can join in order to exchange information. One such list is the Conservation Forum. This is a great place to

share sample conservation letters with the addresses of intended recipients, encouraging other members to write. Do you have an awesome presentation planned for the next general meeting and want to get the word out with plenty of lead time? Send an alert through the Announcements and Alerts list. Do you have a busy life and need to know the hike schedule well

in advance? Get your favorite leader to send out his/her trip schedule for the coming months through the Outings Forum. These are only a few suggestions. By signing up for one or more of the lists and encouraging other people to do so, we can improve communication and involvement in club activities and environmental action.

*See **Get in the Loop!** page 2*

No General Meeting in November

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Chapter will not hold a general meeting during November. We look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on December 19th at 7:00 p.m.

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

Below is our tentative schedule for upcoming months.

December 19th, 2007 Movie Night.

January 26th, 2008 Tehipite Chapter Awards Banquet at the Old Spaghetti Factory. Ron Stork will speak on Central Valley Rivers.

February 20th, 2008 Barbara Boxer's office on California's Environment in Politics.

April 16th, 2008 Helen Gigliotti on Tibet. Don't miss this!

June 18th, 2008 To be announced.

Get in the Loop! from page 2

Now let's get started. Go to our home page at <http://tehipite.sierraclub.org>. Click on "Contact Us" in the upper left-hand corner, then click on "Email Lists." Now make your choice and subscribe. And don't forget to tell a friend! ☞

Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, November 14th at 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 12th at 7:00 P.M.

University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



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Merced Group

Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings

Thursday, December 6th at 7:00 P.M.
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.

Merced Group General Meetings

Third Thursday of each month
Sierra Presbyterian Church
3603 M St., Merced
Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. and are finished by 9:00 P.M.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Below is a listing of our proposed future meetings. Since planning is still in progress, there may be changes in this schedule.

Thursday, November 15th

General Meeting

Chad Kister
Global Warming/Climate Change

Saturday, December 1st

**Annual Banquet
at Sierra Presbyterian Church**
Program by photographer Sam Roberts.

Sam Roberts is an award-winning photographer and writer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. To date, Sam has shot on four continents, usually while pursuing his other passions—mountain climbing, skiing and backcountry travel.

In his 15 years of business, Sam's files have grown to more than 50,000 images, ranging from 1970s Afghanistan to current projects here in California.

Sam's mission is that his photography evoke an emotional response from viewers and, thus, inspire them to seek out, enjoy and protect the places his photographs represent. Consistent with his mission, Sam is a business sponsor of the California Wilderness Coalition, a member of One Percent for the Environment and a supporter of the Friends of Joshua Tree, where he is on the Board of Directors. You can check out his photos at www.srobertsphoto.com. The estimated price for the banquet is \$20. Reservation details will follow in future *Topics* issues.

Thursday, January 17th

General Meeting

Nick Robinson, Melissa Kelly Ortega (Asthma Coalition), David Lighthall
Forum on the proposed Wal-Mart and air quality
This may possibly be a Special Meeting depending on the timing of the EIR.

Thursday, February 21st

General Meeting

Bill Nicholson and Kim Espinoza
General Plan update for the City and County of Merced

Please see the Tehipite and Yokuts (Modesto area) chapter listings for outings. You can phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 to coordinate carpooling.

Calendars, note and Christmas cards, and planners will soon be available. We are looking for a volunteer willing to sell these items. Contact Rod Webster or Annette Allsup if you are able to help us out.

We are in need of a laptop to use with our newly acquired projector. It doesn't have to be fancy. If you are upgrading, please consider donating your old laptop to us for our programs.



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.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

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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Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee Candidate Statements

We had hoped to include statements from all of the Executive Committee candidates. Unfortunately, the request for statements was made at the last minute, and we were able to obtain a statement from only one of the candidates before the publication deadline. We would like to publish that candidate's statement. However, the absence of other statements should in no way reflect badly upon those candidates. They may not have received the request in time.

Ron Mackie

My name is Ron Mackie and I am a candidate for election to the Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee. My background includes 37 years as a National Park Service ranger serving in three of our premiere areas—Grand Canyon, Yellowstone and Yosemite. I have been a member of our chapter for over ten years. My Sierra Club service includes delegate at large for the Sierra Club California Conservation Committee, member of the California Desert, California/Nevada Wilderness, Yosemite, and Rural Scholarship committees. I also serve on the Sierra Club National Parks Committee, along with two other members of our chapter. I have enjoyed my service with the Sierra Club as the Club shares so many of the goals of our Public Land Management agencies, particularly our National Parks. Public land management issues are my primary focus, as I also serve with other conservation groups including the Coalition Of Retired National Park Service Employees (CRNPR). CRNPR is extremely helpful in keeping me informed on National Park issues throughout the United States. I support the Sierra Club national leadership priority on the global warming/climate change debate. I would be delighted to serve on the chapter Executive Committee and will, if elected, continue my efforts in the broad spectrum of Sierra Club activities. 🌲



Thanks to Chris and Bill for Recent Presentations

by Heather Anderson

I am sorry that many of you missed Chris Acree's interesting and well-researched talk on water and our San Joaquin River in September. He is one of our new water (and air quality) activists, and Executive Director of Revive the San Joaquin. Aside from global warming, I can think of nothing more important for us in this state, especially after a warmer summer and drought in some places. History tells us that water in California runs uphill toward money and power, and the San Joaquin is running dry. It will be up to us to prove otherwise.

At the October meeting, Bill Fjellbo let us in on his adventure to the "Unknown France." He and his wife, Jan, traveled to many out-of-the-way areas, from Roman ruins to D-Day invasion sites. Along the way, we saw flamingos, cave paintings, the last home of Leonardo da Vinci, French cathedrals, and the French Alps in his beautiful digital presentation. I was impressed with his preparation in sharing history and little-known facts about these far-flung places. Thanks, Chris and Bill! ❧

California/Nevada Wilderness Committee

by Heather Anderson

The weekend of October 13th, I traveled to the James Preserve, a Southern California mountain retreat just east of Idyllwild, to meet with the Wilderness Committee. The Wilderness Committee is an interesting group of wilderness and forest advocates getting together quarterly to discuss California and Nevada wilderness issues. The new Bono bill was high on our list, along with the Boxer bill for Sequoia National Park, a potential Feinstein bill for desert areas, the San Gabriel Mountains campaign, and a Tejon Tehachapi proposal, all in California. Vicky Hoover, Chair, always provides lunch, dinner and breakfast for us.

Sunday included a hike in one of the regions we have discussed for wilderness. The day turned bright and sunny, after a fogged-in Saturday, and the hike to Cahuilla Mountain gave us a good view of these desert mountains in the proposed wilderness of the same name.

The next meeting will be February 10-11, 2008 in Shoshone (southeast of Death Valley National Park). Anyone interested? You are invited. ❧

New Wilderness Bill

In September, Senator Barbara Boxer and Congresswoman Mary Bono introduced the California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. (HR 3682 in the House.) The new bill is an expanded version of the Bono bill introduced just at the end of the last Congress. The California Desert and Mountain Heritage Act will protect over 202,000 acres in four new wilderness areas. Six additions to existing wilderness areas, and four additions to the San Jacinto-Santa Rosa Mountains National Monument. The bill will also add 31.5 miles to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by protecting four important streams. The bill includes a wide range of ecosystems of Joshua tree forests, groves of cedar and pine, oak woodlands, steep river canyons, chaparral thickets, and cactus gardens.

It would be great if you would call and thank Senator Boxer, (202) 224-3553 or (559) 497-5109, and Congresswoman Bono, (202) 225-5330 or (760) 320-1076. ❧

Oppose Initiative Effort to Skew Presidential Elections for Partisan Advantage

Sierra Club opposes an initiative proposal currently in circulation that would change California's method of apportioning its electoral votes in presidential elections. The Golden State, like 47 other states, awards all of its electoral votes to the winner of the state's popular vote. The initiative would award one electoral vote to the leading vote-getter in each congressional district, as is currently done in Maine and Nebraska.

While reforming the electoral college is a very legitimate topic for debate at the national level, this particular initiative is a transparently partisan ploy undertaken by Republican political operatives who are trying to offset the Democratic advantage in California without doing anything to address the Republican advantage in other big winner-take-all states, like Texas. As an environmental advocacy group that engages in the electoral process, we urge our members to decline to sign petitions for the measure, which is entitled "Presidential Electors. Political Party Nomination and Election by Congressional District." ❧



Ron Stork at Forester Pass

Tehipite Chapter Annual Awards Banquet

Saturday, January 26th, 2008

Ron Stork, formerly of our chapter, is now Senior Policy Advocate for Friends of the River in Sacramento. At our Awards Banquet on January 26th, he will share some of his experiences and expertise about rivers in our Central Valley.

Friends of the River is the oldest and largest river conservation organization in California and has played a key role in designating almost all of our wild and scenic rivers. But sadly, our rivers are in grave danger today. Not only are our rivers endangered, but one third of freshwater amphibian and fish species are at risk of extinction. Mark January 26th on your calendar.

Banquet tickets are \$25.

Checks should be made out to "Tehipite Chapter, Sierra Club."

Mail to

Ron Mackie

1617 Highway 49 South
Ahwahnee, CA 93601

For more information, call Ron at (559) 683-0293 or email rmackie@sierratel.com. ☞

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 Co-Chairs are Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 or jbord606@yahoo.com and Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971 or RiverRich1509@aol.com. Please contact them 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.

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.

November 17th - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing—Intermediate
Location to be determined.
Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

November 18th - Sunday

Day Hike (2A) Moderate
San Joaquin River Gorge loop.
Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272

November 28th - December 2nd

Wednesday - Sunday

Evening 28 November to late 2 December. Car camp in NW or SW Death Valley area. 4wd, stock high clearance and chains needed. Wash-

board dirt road. No off trail/road. Multiple 2B hikes to historic cabins and geologic sites. Weather determines route. Call for more information.

Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

December 1st - Saturday

Cross Country Skiing—Beginners
Lesson

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

December 8th - Saturday

Day Hike (2B) Moderate
San Joaquin River Gorge
Expect to do some climbing. Enjoy an expansive view from the Lunch Rocks on top of the bluff (1800 ft.)

The trail makes a loop back over the bridge to the parking lot.

Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

December 8th - Saturday

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

Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818

December 16th - Sunday

Snowshoeing
Five mile round trip to a beautiful vista at Panoramic Point in Kings Canyon National Park. This trip can be easy or strenuous depending upon snow conditions.

Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272



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.

The Lodge grooms its own cross country ski and snowshoe trails, rents equipment for these activities and offers cross country ski lessons. The unbeatable location of the Lodge provides quick and easy access to the legendary Donner Summit backcountry ski terrain or any of its downhill or cross country ski resorts.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere.

See you on Donner Summit...



For more information about the Lodge 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.



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Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the second Friday of each month—November 12th for the December issue. Submit material to Topics@BigBaldy.com.

Protecting Ursa Minor

The weekend of October 6-7, John and Marcia Rasmussen joined a volunteer work party in Sequoia National Park. The project involved carrying—by hand—hundreds of pounds of concrete mix along a steep, slippery trail to the mouth of Ursa Minor Cave. The volunteers spent the weekend constructing a carefully-engineered cave gate, which will protect the cave from curious tourists and deliberate vandals. Ursa Minor is a cave of world class beauty, discovered in August, 2006. It is currently open only for scientific study. 🌲

