

# Tehipite Topics

November 2011 ❧ Vol. 57, No. 9

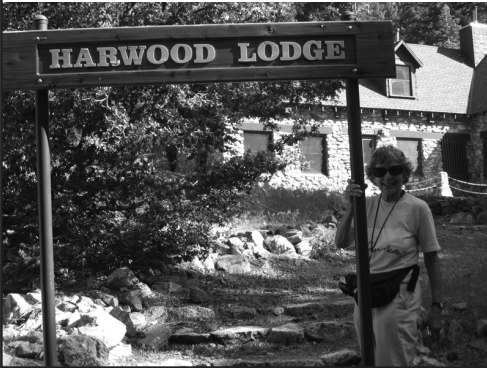
[www.tehipite.sierraclub.org](http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org)

## Tehipite Chapter Elections: Pages 6-8

### Sunday in the San Gabriels

by Heather Anderson

The Sierra Club California/Nevada Wilderness Committee meets in various parts of the state in order to become acquainted with issues and interested folks of these different areas. Recently, we met at Pasadena's Eaton Canyon Nature Center, a 90-acre Park of picnic areas, trails, and wildlife habitat, on



Sierran Vicki Hoover at Harwood Lodge

the southern edge of the rugged San Gabriel Mountains. Getting there, we drove the ten-lane 210 Freeway, directly through what had formerly been the suburban home of my childhood, an area now unrecognizable to me. We would attend the meeting Saturday, overnight at Sierra Club's Harwood Lodge, and hike on Sunday, before returning home..

Second only to California's Sierra Nevada Range in my love of mountains is the San Gabriel Range, which frames my Pasadena birthplace. It is a tranverse range, with an east-west rather than the north-south orientation of the Sierra. It lies between the Los Angeles Basin and the Mojave Desert and between Interstates 5 and 15. The southern flank rises to peaks like Mount Wilson (5,710'), famed for the Mount Wilson Observatory, and as high

continued at right

## TOPICS GOING QUARTERLY

Starting with the January, 2012 issue, Tehipite Topics will be issued quarterly, in January, April, July, and October. The newsletter is by far our biggest expense. We need to save money. We also want to reduce our carbon footprint.

We know that many of our subscribers are online, and they can get frequent updates on outings, environmental issues, and the outdoors at our web site, [tehipite.sierraclub.org](http://tehipite.sierraclub.org).

If this will cause a problem for you, we would like to hear from you.

We would like to hear what you think of all this. Please send us your comments to [wattsvalleypreservation@gmail.com](mailto:wattsvalleypreservation@gmail.com). or via the Postal Service to PO Box 5396, Fresno CA 93755-5396

as the more prominent Mount San Antonio, (10,068', called Mount Baldy). while the northern slope drops gently down to the desert floor. It is made up largely of broken sedimentary and conglomerate rock crushed throughout the millennia. It is broken because of its location between the action of the San Andreas and San Gabriel fault zones.

Even sharper in my mind than its geologic interest and wilderness importance, is my fond memory of the San Gabriel range, and my concern for its current environmental protection. As a youngster, I remember looking out from my front

See San Gabriels, page 6

### Please Help Occupy Fresno!

As you know, the Occupy Wall Street movement--that's right, it is a movement--now has groups occupying cities all across the U.S. and the world. As a part of this movement, a group of about 60 has occupied Courthouse Park in downtown Fresno, and they are protesting and having teach-ins just like the rest of the movement. They are turning the Arab Spring into a Planetary Spring.

The movement's goal is to wrest power from the big banks and corporations, to relocalize and put the power back into the hands of ordinary people--to establish true democracy.

Removing power from the banks and corporations that are destroying our planet can only be good for the environment. So please go down to the gazebo at the south end of Courthouse park and ask what you can do to help.

### Inside *Tehipite Topics*

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The Topics welcomes articles and photos from Tehipite members. Please submit material to [TehipiteTopics@gmail.com](mailto:TehipiteTopics@gmail.com). Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the 15th of each month.

# Chapter Meetings

## General Meeting

### No General Meeting in November

December Meeting: December 15th

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



### December Program:

Don't Miss Photographer Helen Gigliotti's digital slide show

Long-time Tehipite member Helen Gigliotti is an avid international traveler who enjoys exploring the far reaches of our world and capturing these memories in photographic images. The

main struggle has been to identify a focus for these adventures --- which is more interesting and engaging, the natural history, the exotic cultural mores, or the archaeological treasures? Ultimately, they are all worthy of experience. Consequently, the exhibitions and many digital slide shows which I have presented for the local community have been eclectic, ranging from the grandeur of Antarctica to the equally wondrous treasures of Tibet.

## Conservation & Executive Committee Meetings November 13th

The Conservation Committee meets at 7 PM

The Executive Committee meets at 8 PM

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



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## Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings

Usually the first Thursday of each month **BUT** a change this month: November meeting is moved forward a week to Thursday, October 27th. Time 7:00 PM, Location: Rod Webster's home- 345 E. 20th St., Merced. Conservation meeting is first and lasts around 30-40 min.

## General Meeting

**third Thursday, November 17th, at 7:00 PM.**

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

### Topic for November: "The San Joaquin Valley- Essential for Millions of Migrating Birds"

Speakers: Megan Hertel and Kyle Keiller of Audubon California. Megan is the San Joaquin River project manager for Audubon and Kyle is the Tricolored Blackbird Coordinator.

You don't need to travel 9,000 miles to Africa to see awe-inspiring animal migrations. We have it in our own backyard. The San Joaquin Valley is a critical stopover on the Pacific Flyway, a migration route for more than 7 million birds a year. Come learn about some of the amazing creatures that travel thousands of miles and rely on our farms, parks, and backyards for survival. We will discuss some of the challenges these birds face, as well as the efforts of Audubon California and people like you to ensure that these birds survive and continue their epic travels.

## Merced Sierra Club Annual Banquet, Saturday, December 3rd

**Meltdown: The Rise and Recent Fall of Sierra Nevada Glaciers**

**Presenter: Author and Yosemite Park Geologist Greg Stock**

Location: TBA (mailer to be sent in Nov will have info) If any questions phone Rod at 723-4747.

From the sheer cliffs of Yosemite Valley to the rounded domes of Tuolumne Meadows, glaciers are responsible for much of Yosemite National Park's iconic landforms. Glaciers have come and gone from the

Yosemite landscape for millions of years, but the present retreat of the park's few remaining glaciers is unique. Join Greg Stock, Yosemite National Park's first-ever Park Geologist, for a presentation on Yosemite's rich glacial history and how that history is being affected by modern-day climate change."

Greg Stock grew up in the Sierra Nevada just north of Yosemite. His interest in the local geology led him to pursue a bachelor's degree in geology at Humboldt State University and a PhD in earth science at the University of California at Santa Cruz, where he studied the uplift and erosion of the Sierra Nevada. Greg's interests are primarily in geomorphology (processes shaping the surface of the earth), and include glacial erosion, river dynamics, and hillslope processes such as landslides and rockfalls.

Greg is Yosemite National Park's first-ever park geologist, and co-author of the recent book "Geology Underfoot in Yosemite National Park." He lives in Yosemite Valley with his wife, Sarah, and daughter, Autumn."

### Banquet Details:

This year, once again, our "banquet" is a pot-luck. The only cost-something yummy to share around the table. The menu is guaranteed to be delicious and eclectic!

Doors open at 6:00. At 6:30 it's time to dine. Around 7:15 the program starts. The drawings for door prizes conclude the evening. Usually out the door around nine-ish.

No tickets required. No RSVP needed. Just come if you can. (The convenience of a pot-luck!)

In the interests of a balanced diet for the evening we are recommending: A to J - hot dish, K to Q salad, R to Z dessert.

Drawings for some great door prizes.

Sierra Club calendars will be for sale- a great holiday gift. Also holiday cards with Yosemite scenes.

**Questions? Contact Rod Webster, 723-4747**



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 (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
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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](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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# Clearing the Air

By Kevin Hall

## Valley air board's insensitivity

According to the Valley Air Board it was an orange flag day on a Thursday afternoon in late September, "unhealthy for sensitive groups," but as members of a girls' water polo team entered the pool, they knew the air pollution was much worse -- "in the purple" as one young athlete later told her mother. So when one of their teammates was stricken with an asthma attack halfway through the match, it came as little surprise. Despite the obvious risks, the game continued.

Across town at a high school in a low-income neighborhood, a pair of junior varsity football teams warmed up as the air pollution climbed high into the "red" zone. When they kicked off on schedule at 4:30 p.m. the air quality index stood at 200, "in the purple" as the kids across town put it.

The city and names of these schools really don't matter. It could have been anywhere in the valley, and the pollution causing the problems is created throughout the region. At issue is our valley air board's continuing failure to warn the public of high air pollution levels, health risks and impacts on people of every age.

On an orange flag day such as the one described above, there were three hours that afternoon in the red zone and two more in the purple when all outdoor activity should have stopped. While our air board members were saying, "Don't drive, we might have to pay that \$29 million fine," what they were not saying was, "Stay indoors. It's not safe to be outside."

As of mid-October, this year's 103 bad air days valley-wide had already topped the 93 violations seen in 2010 and the 98 of 2009, and this year's numbers would have been even higher if the air board had not agreed to removal of the Arvin-Bear Mountain Ave. monitor in Kern County.

### So, what's a public health agency to do? Why, change the numbers, of course!

The air board would like to throw out 16 days of violations recorded by two monitoring sta-

tions in Sequoia National Park in the Sierra Nevada claiming that the 6,000-acre Lion's fire in August is to blame. Their self-serving argument conveniently ignores the monitors' 14, 15 and 19 bad air days in the preceding years (with no fires).

If successful, this move would allow the air board to continue their public spin campaign of continued progress and decreased risk, rather than one of decreased progress and continued risk.

The air board's priorities were further reflected in its spokesperson's comment to a valley newspaper that "these sites are not generally representative of air quality" in the rest of the district. In other words, air pollution in the mountains just doesn't matter. News flash to the valley air board: the trees are dying, too, and a surprising number of people live, work and play in the Sierra.

"By every standard, this has been one of the unhealthiest Septembers in recent years," according to Kern County resident Tom Frantz of the Association of Irrigated Residents. "Unfortunately, we're also seeing high particulate pollution in the mornings. People's lungs are getting clogged in the mornings by particulates and burned in the afternoons by ozone. The air board should be considering these cumulative impacts during this especially dangerous time of year and calling for extra caution."

### Purple Haze

Follow the link below to watch Tom's video of air pollution monitor readings during the valley's "purple haze" of bad air days in September. The purple zone equates to 200+ on the air quality index. Get above 100 and you really don't want to be outside. Each square on the chart represents an hour. Count the hours above 100, 150 and 200 to see days with five or more hours in the red and purple zones.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ReEudSsL2M&feature=youtu.be>

(Kevin Hall is director of the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition based in Fresno, online at [www.calcleanair.org](http://www.calcleanair.org) and on Facebook. CVAQ is a partnership of more than 70 community, medical, public health, environmental and environmental justice organizations representing thousands of residents in the San Joaquin Valley unified in their commitment to improve the health of Californians. Kevin can be reached at [kevin@calcleanair.org](mailto:kevin@calcleanair.org).)

## Outing Ratings

Distance	Elevation Gain
1) up to 6 miles	A) under 1,000 feet
2) 6 to 10 miles	B) 1,000 to 2,000 feet
3) 10 to 15 miles	C) 2,000 to 3,000 feet
4) 15 to 20 miles	D) 3,000 to 4,000 feet
5) over 20 miles	E) over 4,000 feet

Our Tehipite Chapter Outings Chair is Marcia Rasmussen, Marcia@BigBaldy.com, 559-332-2419. Please contact Marcia with any questions concerning our outings program. Contact the trip leader directly if you are interested in one of the listed trips.

Tehipite Chapter outings are free and open to the public. All leaders are unpaid volunteers assuming responsibility for a good trip, and your cooperation is mandatory. Please review additional trip and participant requirements at [www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings](http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings).

Steve Cosner (559) 281-5983, email: [stevec@sfsu.edu](mailto:stevec@sfsu.edu) maintains this webpage.

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

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# Outings Schedule

## Required Liability Waiver

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

Saturday, November 12 ay hike (1A)

Tuolumne River Regional Park (Yokuts) 4-mile hike along the Tuolumne River. Meet at 9 AM at the American Legion Hall parking lot, 1001 S. Santa Cruz Avenue, Modesto. Dogs and children welcome. Info: Dorothy 209.549.9155, [dorothygriggs@att.net](mailto:dorothygriggs@att.net) or Elaine 209.586.9640, [vevado@yahoo.com](mailto:vevado@yahoo.com)

San Gabriels room window to see their ragged ridge line and purple tint through the slight distance. I especially loved looking at the mountains in winter, lightly tipped with snow.

My parents never went on outings. Although only a few miles away, I was never able to see the mountains up close, with their abundant firs, pines, and spring wildflowers. For me, the mountains were a beautiful backdrop to our community, and my compass for north as I grew up. I didn't know how they got there, how unique they were from other ranges, how high in comparison, or what their geology, botany, streams, or wildlife were like. I didn't know about wilderness, having never seen any. I think, however, the San Gabriels were imprinted in my circuitry so that years later, when I found myself on a honeymoon hike in the Sierra, I fell in love with mountains worldwide.

The San Gabriel Mountains Forever (SGMF) is a current campaign in which Sierra Club works with diverse partnerships to preserve this natural resource. The campaign presently working to expand wilderness and wild and scenic river designations, and seeking 36,000 acres as new additions to three existing wilderness areas, Sheep Mountain, Cucamonga, and San Gabriel Wildernesses. SGMF is also working to establish critical and wild scenic river protections for about 44 miles of three rivers: San Gabriel River, San Antonio Creek, and Middle Fork Lytle Creek. A major goal is to establish a new San Gabriel Mountains National Recreation Area (SGM NRA) which would preserve existing recreational opportunities while better protecting forest open space and adding much needed new recreational resources. There would be more rangers, law enforcement personnel, and improved interpretive

services, as well as more hiking trails, picnic and camp sites. A draft Watershed and Mountains Study would include proposals to improve water quality in the San Gabriel River and provide more trash cans, restrooms, safe river access, and a stewardship program.

Representative David Dreier's (R-Calif.) Wilderness Bill, H.R. 113, Angeles and San Bernadino National Forests Protection Act, is a start toward achieving the campaign's goals; it would protect roughly 18,000 acres of wilderness in the Angeles and San Bernardino national forests near Los Angeles. Located next to the nation's second largest urban population, the Angeles National Forest, which includes the San Gabriels, is one of the top three most heavily used recreational forests in the United States.

I had never hiked in these mountains until this summer's trip, a sixty-something reunion. Climbing Mt. Harwood (9,552', just short of Mt. Baldy) was a joyous homecoming. Being in the San Gabriels is vastly different from just looking at them. Now, these mountains are truly mine.

## Great

### San Joaquin River Clean-up

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

**Karen Laws**

I am prepared to pitch in and do whatever is needed. I hope you will give me this opportunity.

I am a retired art teacher, with 37 years in the Fresno public schools. Looking at a tree is an experience that nourishes my artistic soul.

I have lived in Fresno since I was 10 years old and my family vacationed each summer in the Sierra, at Huntington Lake. Dad insisted on going way upstream past Pine Flat Creek to where the trout ran wild. We got turtles and snakes, too.

I have been involved in Sierra Club Conservation work for the past year and my #1 priority is fighting the proposed Temperance Flat dam project and maintaining Congressional funding for the San Joaquin River restoration.

I have represented the Tehipite Chapter for the past year at our biannual meeting of the CNRCC, our statewide Conservation delegate meetings in San Luis Obispo. I reported to the chapter ExCom on a solar farm proposal and am eager to do more work in the future.

Please fill out and mail in your ballot for Karen Laws for the Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

**Heather Anderson**

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for over fifty years, beginning with Mother Lode and Loma Prieta Chapters. My passion for the natural environment, however, began much before. At first I participated mainly in outings: hikes, peaks, and x-c skiing, but after moving to the Tehipite Chapter, I was elected chair. Following that, I served as Conservation Chair, Awards Chair, and currently, Program Chair. By staffing our programs, I am able to fulfill my role as educator around conservation topics as well as colorful cultural and environmental interests. Attendance at CNRCC and Sierra Club California meetings has continued.

My professional work as artist and art educator centers around the natural environment, as is evidenced by my curriculum/book, *Art Education and Eco Awareness* (2010), and art exhibits of wilderness and landscapes, rivers and glaciers. I have enjoyed many Sierra

Club outings to Alaska, Montana, Idaho, and California, and many personal outings, hiking and climbing, to far-flung countries. Current interests and club work include Sierra Club committees of: Wilderness, Fifty Year Celebration of the Wilderness Act (2014), Resilient Habitats, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, with hopes to reestablish our Inner City Outings Committee.

**Gary Lasky**

My name is Gary Lasky and I request your vote for the Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee.

I now serve on the ExCom as Tehipite Chapter Vice-Chair. I am also a delegate to the Sierra Club California CNRCC, which sets our state-wide environmental priorities. I also serve on the statewide Political Committee and the national Council of Club Leaders.

My top goal is to expand our number of environmental activists available to work on our chapter environmental agenda.

My top issues are protecting our Valley farmland, rangeland, Sierra foothills and California's forests, our aquifers from overdraft, and our endangered salmon, steelhead and other fish in the San Joaquin River and the Delta. We also need to address the impact of sprawl on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

This past March, I organized our Tehipite chapter to file a lawsuit against the County of Fresno for approval of the Friant Ranch project, a proposed 2,400-home housing project with a city-block sized shopping center near Millerton Lake along Friant Road.

I look forward to listening to your concerns and hope again to represent the unique needs of our 2,000-plus members throughout Fresno, Madera, Merced and Mariposa counties. Thank you for your consideration.

**Bill Fjellbo**

Fellow Tehipite Chapter members, I am asking for your vote to re-elect me to the Executive Committee of our chapter. In addition to my current service I have previously served on the Executive Committee and have been Chapter Chair. I am currently the Political Chair for the Chapter.

Many challenges face Tehipite Chapter in the coming years. Our membership has declined in the last 3 years. I believe that this is the result of the prolonged recession. Notwithstanding the recession, we need to rebuild our numbers if we are to remain a healthily and effective chapter.

The chapter has fought for the integrity of our National Parks and Forests, and we will continue to do this. I am currently representing the Chapter on the Willow Creek Collaborative effort. This is an effort by the Forest Service to reach out to the Sierra Club and other stake holders to develop a plan for the Sierra National Forrest that meets our concerns.

I am an attorney specializing in child abuse and neglect cases and reside in Coarsegold with my wife, Janet, a fellow club member.

**Connie Peterson**

I have served as Secretary for the Tehipite ExCom for the past eight months, and now have a better understanding of how my skills and passions could be put to work to strengthen the visibility and effectiveness of our local Chapter.

Professionally, I am a Social Worker trainer for the Fresno County Department of Social Services, where I promote the core values of that profession, including social justice and the dignity and worth of each person. To that end, I have also been a long time progressive activist in the Clovis-Fresno area.

The protection of our environment and energy independence are essential to and underlie many issues I champion in my quest for a more just, generous and sane world.. I do still work full-time, so cannot commit to "everything," but when I say I will do something, trust it will be done.

It is important that more young people take up the mantle, and I will do what I can from a role on the ExCom to promote that outcome.

I am also a hiker and back country skier. It is "out there" that I maintain balance. Please vote for me for the Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee.

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**SIERRA CLUB** TEHIPITE CHAPTER  
FOUNDED 1892 OF THE SIERRA CLUB  
 P.O. Box 5396 • Fresno, California 93755-5396

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 U. S. Postage  
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 Fresno, Calif.  
 Permit No. 150

Member Address

including SC card #

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**VOTING INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Your ballot will be counted only if it has been received by Saturday, December 10, 2011.
2. No faxed or e-mailed ballots can be accepted. Please mail your ballot to: Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club P.O. Box 5396 Fresno, CA 93755-5396
3. Please fold your ballot so that the Chapter address on the reverse of this page is visible, and include your mailing label from the Topics so that we know it's a valid ballot. The label will be removed prior to counting.
4. The Sierra Club national office assigns a membership number to each member. Ballots not including this number will not be accepted or counted.
5. Households showing joint (i.e., husband and wife) memberships on the Topics mailing label may record both members' votes on the same ballot. Households having only one membership may vote only once.
6. Each member may vote for up to four candidates. Cumulative voting is not allowed.

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**BALLOT**

Vote for four or fewer

Candidate names are listed in alphabetical order

Single member or first joint member

Second joint member

Connie Peterson	.....	<input type="radio"/>	.....	<input type="radio"/>
Gary Lasky	.....	<input type="radio"/>	.....	<input type="radio"/>
William Fjellbo	.....	<input type="radio"/>	.....	<input type="radio"/>
Heather Anderson	.....	<input type="radio"/>	.....	<input type="radio"/>
Karen Laws	.....	<input type="radio"/>	.....	<input type="radio"/>