

SIERRA CLUB CHRONICLES

“The Day the Water Died” House Party Guide: the Night of Your Party

Thank you very much for hosting a house (or campus, church or other group) party to screen this half-hour film, *The Day the Water Died*. This guide is meant to help you easily facilitate the screening and provide meaningful ways to take action with your group. Together we can make a difference by sending a strong signal to ExxonMobil that it is time to pay the Alaska fisherman, and finding additional ways that we can create energy savings in our own homes and communities. Thanks again for being a leader in this effort!

More information on the episode and news on the issue are at:
www.sierraclub.org/tv/episode-exxon.asp.

Step 1: Welcome and Introductions (5-10 minutes)

As your guests arrive, welcome them to your party and ask them to sign-in on the sheets provided (*print out the last page of this document*). In you have decided to use name tags, you can also ask people to put on their name tag. If you have a group of people that do not know each other very well, it is a good idea to go around the room and have everyone introduce themselves and share a little bit about why they wanted to come to the house party.

Step 2: Presenting the Issue (10 minutes)

Once everyone is comfortable, you will want to introduce the reasons why you are having the house party. What inspired you to do this?

Here is some background on the issue:

March 24, 1989 will forever plague history as the day of one of the worst environmental disasters of our time. Eleven million gallons of oil spilled into the Prince William Sound killing thousands of sea birds and ocean animals, destroying a complex and delicate ecosystem. Exxon assured the country it would clean up the spill and promised that those affected would get their lives back. Seventeen years later, the people are still waiting for their lives to become whole again.

Cashing in on record-high oil prices, ExxonMobil recently announced unprecedented profits. The world's richest corporation cleared nearly \$11 billion in the fourth-quarter of 2005 and more than \$36 billion for the year.

Despite its enormous profits, ExxonMobil still refuses to invest in developing cleaner, safer energy solutions or to pay the money it owes to fishermen and communities hurt by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

In a class-action ruling, a federal court ordered Exxon to pay of \$5 billion to 32,000 plaintiffs. But in the years since that ruling, Exxon has pursued endless appeals. The case is now back in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals with a decision pending from a January 27th hearing. Meanwhile, 2,000 plaintiffs have died since the first court ruling.

Step 3: Screening the Film (30 minutes)

It's time to watch the movie. Kick back, fire up the popcorn, and you are ready to go.

Step 4: Discussion and Action (15-30 minutes)

After the movie is over, see if people are interested in discussing the film and sharing their thoughts about the issues.

If you are taking pictures, don't forget to have everyone sign a release – the form is at the end of this document. Be sure to make copies for everyone to sign. You can let us know you have photos in the feedback form online:

www.sierraclub.org/houseparty/feedbackhost/ and mail the releases to *Sierra Club*, attn: Jenny Coyle, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Here are some sample discussion questions:

- Do you think Exxon should pay the Alaska fisherman?
- Do you think the United States should try to reduce its reliance on foreign oil supplies?
- If so, should drilling for oil in wild areas like the Arctic Refuge be a part of that?
- How safe do you feel the oil extraction and production process is, especially now with news of the biggest oil spill on the North Slope just this past month?
- More fuel-efficient cars would help reduce both America's fuel consumption and the need for oil drilling in places like the Arctic Refuge in Alaska. What should our government do about that? What should automakers do? Ordinary citizens? Should investments in alternative modes of transportation play a part in our energy strategy and how important do you feel public transit improvements are to slowing down global warming?
- How could you reduce energy consumption in your home? In your town?

If your group is interested in taking action – and we hope you will – there are several things you can do.

1. Dial in to a recorded teleconference hosted by Alaska Regional Representative Betsy Goll, and two of the film participants, biologist Riki Ott and Native Eyak fisherman Dune Lankard. They will have the latest on the appeals case, and some of their own perspective and will explain some of the actions that will make a difference.

Preferably on a speakerphone so your whole group can hear, dial into the conference line and codes that will be posted on Friday March 24th at:

www.sierraclubtv.org/episode-exxon/teleconference.asp

2. Tell ExxonMobil CEO to Change Course! If you have internet access at your screening location, go online to www.sierraclub.org/exxposeexxon and have your guests take turns signing the statement of support asking ExxonMobil's new CEO to change the company's course and act responsibly. Let CEO Rex Tillerson that you will not purchase ExxonMobil's gas or products, invest in ExxonMobil stock, or work for the company.

You can also sign another online petition on the Take Action page of the website for the book, “Sound Truth and Corporate Myth\$: The Legacy of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.” by Riki Ott, Ph.D. www.soundtruth.info/takeaction.htm has a petition to reopen the United States and State of Alaska to reopen the 1991 civil settlement and claim the entire \$100 million to restore populations, species, or habitats that suffered significant losses or declines as a result of the spill, and that suffer injuries now that could not have been known or anticipated at the time of the settlement.

3. In the group setting, provide papers and pens to write a letter to the editor. It works best to use your own language rather than a form, and some tips and talking points can be found on the ExxposeExxon campaign site: www.exxposeexxon.com/action/lte.html
4. Commit to ways you can reduce your own dependence on oil and gas.
5. Learn more. There is more information online at: www.sierraclubtv.org/episode-exxon.asp, or, visit one of these sites:
 - www.sierraclub.org/exxposeexxon The Exxpose Exxon campaign home on Sierra Club’s website (watch the flash video “Toast the Earth”)
 - www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming Sierra Club’s global warming and energy homepage – find great information on clean energy, and read a recent Mother Jones article on global warming that talks about how Exxon has pumped more than \$8 million into attacking global warming science
 - www.redzone.org The website of Dune Lankard’s organization, The Eyak Preservation Council
 - www.payupexxon.org A site created on the 15th anniversary of the spill, with powerful testimonials from the local community

6. Sign up to receive the Alaska Report newsletter. The March 2006 issue is now available on the Sierra Club website and features an article written by Riki Ott:

www.sierraclub.org/wildlands/alaska_report/0603.pdf

If you would like to have the electronic version, email vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, and she'll put you on a list for notification of future electronic issues. You can also join our email alert list for updates and action in between newsletters. Just send her your email address and state of residence. Your help for Alaska's magnificent public lands is very valuable and much appreciated!

7. Interested in other film and video resources?

- Host a house party for one of the other six *Sierra Club Chronicles* episodes, read about them all at: www.sierraclubtv.org.
- Watch the flash video "Toast the Earth" a sad but humorous satire on Exxon. www.sierraclubplus.org/exxposeexxon/
- Host a house party with the Sierra Club presented DVD and activist toolkit of *Oil on Ice*, an award-winning documentary film about the battle over the Arctic Refuge. www.oilonice.org.
- Take action at the Oil Change campaign site: www.participate.net/oilchange. This is the outreach campaign for the George Clooney and Matt Damon film *Syriana*, which the Sierra Club is helping to promote. There is an online community discussion board and many activities and tools. Look for the DVD in home video early summer.

Step 4: Feedback (5 minutes)

Please take a few moments, either right after your event or the next day to let us know how it went. We want to hear from you so we've made it easy. Just fill out the form at: www.sierraclub.org/houseparty/feedbackhost/.

Thanks for hosting your house party!

Personal Model Release Agreement

Grant

I grant to The Sierra Club ("The Club") and The Club's assigns, licensees and successors, the right to use my image for use in support of its mission to promote enjoyment and protection of the wild places of the earth, to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources, to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment, and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives. I grant the right to use my name and image for the purposes listed above in all forms and media including composite or modified representations and waive the right to inspect or approve versions of my image used for publication or the written copy that may be used in connection with the images.

Release

I release The Club and The Club's assigns, licensees and successors from any claims that may arise regarding the use of my image including any claims of defamation, invasion of privacy, or infringement of moral rights, rights of publicity or copyright. The Club is permitted, although not obligated, to include my name as a credit in connection with the image.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Witness Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Consent [include if the person is under 18]

I am the parent or guardian of the minor named above. I have the legal right to consent to and do consent to the terms and conditions of this model release.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Address: _____

Witness Signature: _____

