



**SIERRA  
CLUB**



## **RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP**

Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club  
Inyo and Mono Counties  
P. O. Box 1973, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
Email: [rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com](mailto:rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light>

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/>

 Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Range-of-Light-Group/464737966890277>

## **February 2020**

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### ***TO RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,***

*You are receiving this message because you are a member of the Range of Light Group, have recently attended one of our activities, or have requested our e-newsletter. If you wish to be removed from the list, click reply, and put "remove me from the ROLG list" in the subject line. Please ignore the spam block message you may receive - your message will get through. Thanks!*

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**\*\*\*\*MONTHLY MEETINGS/EVENTS** – *"If by some fiat I had to restrict all this writing to one sentence, this is the one I would choose: The summit of Mt. Everest is marine limestone."* [\*John McPhee\*](#)

**ROLG is still looking for a Programs Chair.** If you would like to help out, please contact Lynn, [chairrolg@gmail.com](mailto:chairrolg@gmail.com).

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**\*\*\*\*OUTINGS, ACTIVITIES** – *"In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous."* Aristotle

**Become an outings leader and share your love of those special places!** New leader? It only requires taking a short online training and a CPR/First Aid certificate. Let Dick know if you can lead a winter outing: [rhihn@skidmore.edu](mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu).

**WHAT TO BRING ON WINTER OUTINGS:** Prepare for a variety of conditions. Bring water, lunch and snacks, layered clothing, hats, gloves, sunglasses, sun-block, appropriate ski or snowshoe equipment.

***Watch for information*** on ROLG WEBSITE <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light>, FACEBOOK <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Range-of-Light-Group/464737966890277>, OUTINGS MEETUP <http://www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/>, and LOCAL MEDIA (not always accurate.).

***IMPORTANT: WINTER OUTINGS DESTINATIONS ARE DEPENDENT UPON WEATHER CONDITIONS. ABOMINABLE WEATHER CANCELS. PLEASE CONTACT LEADER AHEAD OF TIME. ALL OUTINGS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION.***

- **Sunday, February 2, Snowshoe Blue Diamond Cross-Country Nordic Ski/Snowshoe Route.** Given recent snow conditions and the prospect of a warming trend this week, our destination is uncertain. Exact route will be determined as we get closer to the date and assess snow conditions. Check with the leader beforehand for any updates. Well-behaved dogs allowed. Skiers are welcome, but we will travel at a leisurely snowshoe pace. Meet 9am, ML Union Bank parking lot. Leader: Dick [rhihn@skidmore.edu](mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu), 760-709-5050. PLEASE RSVP!
- **Sunday, February 9, Ski/Snowshoe Mammoth Lakes Basin.** Join us on either snowshoes or skis on a trip to the Mammoth Lakes Basin. Dogs welcome on leash only. Take the groomed outside trail to Horseshoe Lake, then break trail around the lake, up to Lake George, then back down to Lake Mary, across the lake, then back to the end of the road on the groomed trail. Meet 8:30am, ML Union Bank parking lot. Leader: Brigitte [jungberman@mac.com](mailto:jungberman@mac.com), 760-924-2140.
- **Next Highway Cleanup:** Thank you to all those who helped last year. See you next May!

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\*\*\*\***TAKE ACTION** – “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act but a habit.” Aristotle



**Attention LORP and Owens River Trail Supporters!** Help work out solutions. Come to the Lower Owens River Project (LORP) annual review meeting, February 10, 1pm, LADWP Office, 300 Mandich St., Bishop. The 2019 Draft LORP Annual Report is out and this year it includes an overview of the project after 13 years of re-watering the lower part of the Owens River. The LORP needs high flushing flows to reduce the tules, but a high flow creates other problems described in more detail in the 2018 Annual Report. (See [all annual reports here](#).) If you can't come to the meeting, but are interested in solutions for the river, send an email to Lynn, [chairrolg@gmail.com](mailto:chairrolg@gmail.com).

- **Letters Needed! 8 USFS Road Segment Transfers to Inyo County?** Inyo County is asking for an easement or a 5-year conditional use permit for 8 segments of roads managed by the USFS. These are all existing roads that are maintained by Inyo County. This transfer would allow the County to expand the Adventure Trails Pilot Program to include routes that would include these segments. Concerns are the prevention of OHV and dirt bike abuses, containment of staging areas and dispersed camping sites, increased risk of wildfires, and increased activity in the foothills of Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep country. Enforcement is insufficient now. Three roads are being considered for easements. An easement requires an act of Congress and is basically permanent. Since this is a pilot program and effective enforcement still needs to be worked out, only conditional use permits should be considered at this time. Also, it would be inappropriate to encourage OHV activity down the 13-mile stretch of the Death Valley Road, a road that only leads to the Piper Wilderness and DV Nat'l Park. **Please send in your comments**, but keep them focused on this proposal for action. [For more information and where to write](#). **Comments are due February 18** on the USFS Notice of Proposed Action on Mixed Use for 8 USFS Roads. More: Lynn, [chairrolg@gmail.com](mailto:chairrolg@gmail.com).
- **CA/NV Desert and Wilderness Committee meeting** Feb. 8, 8am-4pm and Feb. 9, 8am-noon, Shoshone Flower Bldg., Shoshone. Open to all who are interested in learning about threats to desert and wilderness environments. More: Lynn, [chairrolg@gmail.com](mailto:chairrolg@gmail.com).

- **Open house for USFS and BLM OHV grants scheduled.**



The BLM and INF will hold an open house at the BLM/Forest Service office, 351 Pacu Lane, Bishop, 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 6, to gather public input for potential off-highway vehicle grant funding requests. More: [BLM news release](#), or Sara Manley, 760-872-5000, [BLM CA Web BI@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_CA_Web_BI@blm.gov)., or Tony Papa, 760-873-2561, [tony.papa@usda.gov](mailto:tony.papa@usda.gov).

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\*\*\*\***CONSERVATION** – “The power of imagination makes us infinite.” John Muir

For more information on any of the following items, contact Malcolm, ROLG Conservation Chair, [wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com](mailto:wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com), or Lynn, [chairrolg@gmail.com](mailto:chairrolg@gmail.com).

#### Quick updates on current issues:

- **Haiwee Geothermal Project:** The BLM just released its Notice of Availability January 24, which begins a 30-day protest period. The notice announces its intention to proceed with the project.
- **Haiwee Pumped Storage:** FERC just sent Premium Energy a letter requesting more information by February 14. See the letter [here](#).
- **Groundwater pumping at 5-Bridges:** LADWP’s 62-day pump test at Well385 started December 16 and will end February 18. The purpose of the test is to see how pumping at the deeper aquifer affects the shallow aquifer and Fish Slough. This is a controlled test with monitoring wells surrounding Well385. Data from this test will increase our understanding of the aquifers, flow of groundwater, and more. More: <https://www.sierrawave.net/ladwp-inyo-agree-to-test-run-on-well-385/>.
- **IWVGA Sustainability Plan:** The Inyo County Board of Supervisors voted to reject the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority’s (IWVGA) sustainability plan, but the IWVGA voted to accept it. Their groundwater basin is in critical overdraft and they have proposed buying water from the LA Aqueduct as one of the solutions to the problem.
- **Panamint Valley Lithium Exploration:** Drilling at the four sites may start at any time once a bond is submitted to the BLM by the company. If you see any activity out there, please let us know at [chairrolg@gmail.com](mailto:chairrolg@gmail.com).
- **Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP):** The next gateway workshop will be March 26 in Mammoth. Our participation is important to emphasize the importance of *eco*-sustainable projects and to get infrastructure projects in the hopper. Details and more: <https://www.essrp.org>.

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Following is a list of environment issues that ROLG has been active in since the beginning of the year. ROLG is looking for members to become involved in one or more of these issues to help those currently addressing these issues. For more information contact Malcolm [wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com](mailto:wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com), or Lynn [chairrolg@gmail.com](mailto:chairrolg@gmail.com).

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- **Keep Long Valley Green**
- **Bi-state Sage Grouse**
- **Haiwee Geothermal Expansion**
- **Radius Gold for exploration activity in the Bodie Hills**
- **Gold mining on Conglomerate Mesa**

- **Exploratory wells in the Panamint Valley (Inyo County)**
- **Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Group**
- **Tangle Free Waters project**
- **Pumped Storage projects**
- **Owens Valley Ground Water Authority**
- **USFS cattle grazing leases in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest near Bridgeport**
- **Renewable energy and fighting climate change in Mono County**
- **Campaign to protect the Bodie Hills from mining**

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\*\*\*\***OF INTEREST** – “*The difference between genius and stupidity - genius has its limits.*” *Albert Einstein*

- Mono and Inyo Counties are in Congressional District 08 along with most of San Bernardino County. Paul Cook is currently our Congressman, but he is not running again. Sierra Club endorsements for Federal legislative offices [can be found here](#).



- Hike in the Alabama Hills, Saturday, February 22, 10-1. Explore the mysteries hidden within the eroded granite rock while walking through the passageways and along the ridge lines that make up the maze of this amazing setting. Learn about the many secretive creatures and flora hidden within the rocks. This is a moderately strenuous hike with occasional steep sections of trail. Free Community Program open to the public. More: [BLM CA Facebook](#)
- **Public archeology projects at Manzanar - March 12-16, and March 19-23.** Assist the [National Park Service](#) in uncovering and stabilizing Manzanar’s historic Children’s Village area. For more information: [manz\\_information\\_request@nps.gov](mailto:manz_information_request@nps.gov), 760-878-2194, ext. 3313, <https://www.nps.gov/manz>.

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\*\*\*\***YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** – “*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.*” *John Quincy Adams*

- **Volunteers Needed: *One person can make a big difference!*** The ROLG needs Executive Committee (ExCom) members, an Outings chair, and a Programs chair. The ExCom meets 6 times a year and can conference-in members from remote locations. Requirements? Be a current Sierra Club member, support the group’s activities when possible, and have a good heart for the environment. ***If interested in helping out in any of these positions, contact Lynn at 760-914-9016, [chairrolg@gmail.com](mailto:chairrolg@gmail.com).***
- **Next ROLG ExCom meeting:** Monday, Feb 3, 11am at Vivian’s house. Open to all members. More: Vivian, [barrontoo@gmail.com](mailto:barrontoo@gmail.com)
- **Next Toiyabe Chapter meeting:** Feb 8, Las Vegas, 8:30am-4:30pm. All members are welcome to attend. Conference call option available. More information: Lynn [chairrolg@gmail.com](mailto:chairrolg@gmail.com), 760-914-9016.
- **Next deadline** for submissions to the Chapter newsletter, *Toiyabe Trails*, March 1. More: Lynne, [lfoster@schat.net](mailto:lfoster@schat.net).
- ***Join Our Conservation Team and help save your favorite Sierra places!*** More: Malcolm, [wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com](mailto:wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com), 760-924-5639.
- ***ROLG now has a donate button up and running on the website.*** Tax deductible donations go to the ROLG Foundation account, non-deductible donations go directly to the ROLG as unrestricted funds. Check it out!