



# TOIYABE OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2009 TRAILS

FALL  
OUTINGS  
Issue

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF NEVADA AND THE EASTERN SIERRA FROM THE TOIYABE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

## Bear Scat or Rice Krispies Treats?

BY SIERRA CLUB'S THE GREEN LIFE

WHEN WE SAT DOWN TO DO A BLIND taste-test of energy bars from 25 companies that work to preserve the environment, well, let's just say that the flavor comparisons were all over the map. We won't name names when it comes to which brand provoked the comparison to ursine calling cards (and what kind of person knows what that tastes like in the first place?), but we'll be happy to point you to our ranked listing of 28 different bars, as well as reviews of the five that our judges found most appetizing.

### The Taste of Power:

#### Top Ecofriendly Energy Bars

Energy bars have come a long way. When introduced more than two decades ago, they sacrificed taste for function and were "enjoyed" almost solely by hard-core athletes and hikers. Today, thanks to a boom in competing brands, some are actually worth savoring--while others are still harder to swallow than compressed wood shavings.

To determine the best and worst, 15 Sierra Club staffers blind-tasted and scored bars from 25 companies that work to preserve the environment. Our eaters didn't sugarcoat their opinions:

Please see ENERGY BARS, page 12.

**Don't forget to visit the Chapter website**  
<<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>>



The proposed Ruby Gas Pipeline route would traverse rugged, rocky plateaus and deep canyons leaving a permanent scar on the landscape. The route is proposed across northern Nevada including along the entire southern boundary of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. (Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.)

## Ruby Pipeline: Eco-disaster for Northern Nevada

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

What would cut through over 350 miles of mostly undisturbed sagebrush country on public lands in Northern Nevada? Sierra Club members were shocked to learn this summer of a proposal for a natural gas pipeline and right-of-way in Nevada's backcountry in order to get a glut of natural gas from the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming to possible markets in Pacific coast states.

The size and scope of the potential environmental impacts rivals those



The pipeline route would cut up to a 200-foot swath through prime sage grouse habitat both in and adjacent to the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. (Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.)

of the MX missile proposal for Great Basin valleys in the 1980s, except that it is a linear proposal from the Utah to the Oregon border.

Instead of following already disturbed road and utility corridors, the proposed pipeline route appears to have been drawn with a ruler on a map without knowledge of or appreciation for the fairly intact sagebrush steppe ecosystems on public lands in Nevada and three other Western states.

State and federal agencies as well as conservationists, sportsmen, and ranchers have developed and are implementing plans to protect the declining populations of sagebrush-dependent sage grouse and grouse habitat, so that it is unnecessary to

Please see NO COAL page 2.

## 2009 Chapter election ballots to be MAILED to members!

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

NOMINATING AND ELECTION committees of the Toiyabe Chapter and its groups are working to make this 2009 election have the highest turnout in recent memory. Chapter members will receive ballots by U.S. mail this year, in the first week of November. There is no election material in this *Toiyabe Trails*.

The election schedule was published in the July-August-September 2009 *Toiyabe Trails*, along with relevant contacts. One clarification is that ballot counting will take place at 6 pm on December 13 at the home of the Election Committee Chair. All candidates are welcome to view the process. Call David von Seggern (775-303-8461) for directions.

list the bird under the Endangered Species Act. Other sagebrush-dependent wildlife which would be impacted by this proposed industrial development include pygmy rabbits and a host of birds.

Toiyabe Chapter conservationists developed and submitted 28 pages of comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on the draft Environmental Impact Statement. The DEIS is missing dozens of critical studies, plans, and reports; it does not substantively study any alternatives to the proposed route; and it provides little documentation of the actual need for the natural gas in Nevada or elsewhere.

Please see RUBY PIPELINE, page 2.

## IN THIS ISSUE

LETTERS: Wild Horses . . . . .	2
Fall-Winter Desert Trips . . . . .	3
Americorps . . . . .	3
2010 W. Wilderness Conference . . . . .	3
Range of Light Group . . . . .	4-5
Motorized Travel Mgt . . . . .	5
Clair Tappaan Lodge Events. . . . .	5
Walker Lake: Water . . . . .	6
Nevada-Utah Water Split . . . . .	6-7
How Much Do Hoofed Animals Eat? . . . . .	7
Wild Nevada Calendar 2010 . . . . .	7
Great Basin Group . . . . .	8-9
S. Nevada Group . . . . .	10-11
Glacier Nat'l Park Service Trip . . . . .	12
Chapter ExCom . . . . .	12

**RUBY PIPELINE...**  
continued from page 1

The Sierra Club urged FERC to correct the many problems in the pipeline EIS and especially to include study of an alternative using the West-Wide Energy Corridor routes through Nevada. These routes were designed (finalized in 2008) by federal agencies to avoid sensitive resources and the proliferation of rights-of-way across Western public lands as well as to minimize the environmental footprint from development of energy corridors. The proposed Ruby pipeline appears to be exactly the type of project which the WWEC is supposed to prevent.

The Sierra Club comments on the FERC draft EIS are posted on the chapter website: <[www.toiyabesierraclub.org](http://www.toiyabesierraclub.org)>.

**DEADLINE!**



**DECEMBER 1**  
FOR JAN - FEB- MAR  
2010 ISSUE

**TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTORY**

<b>CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS &amp; MEMBERS</b>		
Chair	Dave Hornbeck*	775-323-6651
Vice-Chair	Dorothy Hudig*	775-323-4831
Secretary	Jane Feldman*	jane.feldman@cox.net
Treasurer (Apptd)	Kris Cunningham	702-285-6832
At Large	Eric Blumensadt*	702-566-9429
At Large	Ann Brauer*	702-879-3376
At Large	Charlotte Cox	charcox@charter.net
At Large	Jean Dillingham*	760-648-7109
At Large	Erik Holland*	775-322-3582
At Large	Sharon Marie Wilcox*	775-852-5075
<b>GROUP CHAIRS (EX-OFFICIO VOTING EXCOM MEMBERS)</b>		
Great Basin	David von Seggern	775-303-8461
Range of Light	Malcolm Clark	760-924-5639
Southern NV	Kris Cunningham	702-285-6832
Tahoe Area SC	Roger Rosenberger	775-588-8101
<b>DELEGATES &amp; REPRESENTATIVES</b>		
CA/NVRCC-Del.**	Wilma Wheeler	760-934-3764
-Delegate**	Eric Blumensadt*	702-566-9429
-Alternate	Michael Donahue	775-588-5466
-Alternate	Erik Holland*	775-322-3582
(** = Ex-Officio Non-Voting ExCom Members)		
<b>CA/NVRCC-CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES</b>		
-Nevada Vice-Chair	Lois Snedden	775-827-2353
-Desert Comm	John Hiatt	702-361-1171
-Wilderness Comm	Marge Sill	775-322-2867
PLAN Board	Ellen Pillard	epillard@nvbell.net
SC Council-Delegate	Jane Feldman*	702-648-0699
-Alternate	Sharon Marie Wilcox*	775-852-5075
<b>COMMITTEE, TASK FORCE &amp; ISSUE CHAIRS</b>		
Chapter Funding TF	Eric Blumensadt*	702-566-9429
Conservation Co-Chair	Dennis Ghiglieri	775-329-6118
Conservation-Co-Chair	Eric Blumensadt*	702-566-9429
Energy	Jane Feldman*	702-648-0699
Env. Education	Jean Dillingham*	760-648-7109
Financial Review	Kris Cunningham	702-285-6832
Fundraising	Charlotte Cox	charcox@charter.net
Legal Compliance	Burt Patterson	702-562-1571
Legislative-Co-Chair	Joe Johnson	775-348-7192
Legislative-Co-Chair	Lois Snedden	775-827-2353
Membership	Sharon Marie Wilcox*	775-852-5075
Mining-Co-Chair	Lois Snedden	775-827-2353
Mining-Co-Chair	Glenn Mille	glennm@unr.edu
Nominating	Jane Feldman*	702-648-0699
Outings	Eric Blumensadt*	702-566-9429
Political-Co-Chair	Erik Holland*	775-322-3582
Political-Co-Chair	Ellen Pillard	epillard@nvbell.net
Public Lands	Rose Strickland	775-329-6118
Public Rel./Outreach	Charlotte Cox	charcox@charter.net
Sierra Student Coalition	Trisha Mynster	530-680-4483
Staff Oversight	Emily Rhodenbaugh	emily.rhodenbaugh@sierraclub.org
Sustain. Consumption	Dave Hornbeck*	775-323-6651
Trails Editorial	Philip Moore	775-224-1877
Trails Redesign	Marge Sill	775-322-2867
Trails Redesign	Emily Rhodenbaugh	emily.rhodenbaugh@sierraclub.org
Video Conf. TF	Ann Brauer*	702-879-3376
Water Campaign	Rose Strickland	775-329-6118
Wilderness	Marge Sill	775-322-2867
Wildlife-Co-Chair	Tina Nappe	775-786-1178
Wildlife-Co-Chair	Rose Strickland	775-329-6118
<b>OTHER CONTACTS &amp; STAFF</b>		
SC Staff-Reno	Emily Rhodenbaugh	emily.rhodenbaugh@sierraclub.org
SC Staff-Las Vegas	Rob Disney	robert.disney@sierraclub.org
Foundation Liaison	(Vacant)	
Listserv Manager	Dennis Ghiglieri	775-329-6118
Chapter Webmaster	Dennis Ghiglieri	775-329-6118
<b>TRAILS STAFF</b>		
Trails Editor	Lynne Foster	760-387-2634
Assoc. Editor	Kathy Morey	760-938-2050
Distribution	Carol Tresner	775-786-0489
-Co-Coordin.	Bill Bowers	775-786-3259
-Co-Coordin.	Dennis Ghiglieri	775-329-6118
* = Elected ExCom Members		

Letters

**Wild horses**

*Dear Editor:*  
*America's last remaining wild horses and burros are being systematically eliminated or nearly so by the very agencies charged with their protection and management. . . . In BLM's eastern Nevada Ely District, 1.4 million legal acres are planned for zeroing out, in spite of . . . public outcry. Here, the sparsely distributed 620 stout wild horses that remain are in fact quite under-populated, and greatly outnumbered by livestock and game animals. In southern California, one of the last remaining burro herds (Owl Creek) is also slated for complete removal by BLM, though only about one dozen remain. Wyoming's historic Red Desert mustang herd is to be gutted, ca. 1000 horses*

*are to be removed. . . . In a vast area covering thousands of acres in BLM's Winnemucca District in northern Nevada, plans have been announced to take off all but 10 wild horses — the . . . "Appropriate Management Level" . . . . As I write these words, the famous Pryor Mountain mustang herd of Montana is being gutted, reduced to a non-viable population level by BLM roundup contractors. It bears mentioning that of Montana's seven original herd areas, only one still has any wild horses left and that in terms of acreage this represents an 83% reduction. And the list goes on. To claim there is an overpopulation of wild equids today on the public lands is in no way objective. . . .*

*Sincerely,*  
*Craig C. Downer, Wildlife Ecologist*

Range of Light Group

continued from page 5



*Bridgeport kids on first-ever ROL group ICO outing. Photo by outing leader Mauriça Anderson.*

**ESLT & AmeriCorps partnership**

ESLT IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE the renewal of their partnership with the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Partnership. For the past three years, ESLT along with other non-profit community groups or natural resource agencies working throughout the Sierra Nevada have hosted AmeriCorps members. In 2010, ESLT will continue to host an AmeriCorps member for a year of national service doing work throughout the Eastern Sierra.

This year, Serena Dennis joined the AmeriCorps program and ESLT team as the Education and Outreach Coordinator. "The AmeriCorps service gave me the opportunity to live in this beautiful place while gaining vital job skills," says Serena. "I am proud to know that my service made a difference for ESLT and the local community."



*Serena Dennis (center), current AmeriCorps Outreach and Education Coordinator at ESLT, and a Girl Scout crew restore habitat at Crowley Hilltop Preserve.*

"The AmeriCorps program is an excellent opportunity for the member and the host organization. It not only gets important projects done in our community, but it provides the member an amazing experience they can build on for the rest of her or his life," said Mary McGurke.

ESLT and AmeriCorps are currently recruiting members for 2010. The AmeriCorps member will receive skills and training, a monthly stipend, and an education award at the end of their year of service. If you know someone interested in conducting restoration, working with volunteers, coordinating community events, and providing education programs, please visit [www.easternsierralandtrust.org](http://www.easternsierralandtrust.org) to learn more.

This valuable work in our community is possible through the collaboration of many organizations. ESLT is a local non-profit organization based in Bishop that works with private landowners and the public to preserve working farms and ranches, natural areas and historical and biological resources in the Eastern Sierra. The Sierra Nevada Alliance is a non-profit organization that works to protect and restore Sierra lands, water, wildlife, and rural communities. AmeriCorps is a part of the Corporation for National and Community Service, whose mission is to build lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering.

— submitted by *Mary McGurke, Development & Outreach Director, Eastern Sierra Land Trust*

Create an Environmental Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact Gift Planning Program  
85 Second St, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(800) 932-4270  
[planned.giving@sierraclub.org](mailto:planned.giving@sierraclub.org)



Toiyabe Trails



SERVING NEVADA & CALIFORNIA'S E. SIERRA

*Toiyabe Trails* is published six times each year by the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 8096, Reno, NV 89507, to help keep our members well-informed and better able to protect the environment—for our families, for our future.

**Editor** – Lynne Foster (94 Mountain View Drive, Swall Meadows, Bishop, CA 93514-9207; 760-387-2634; <[lfoster@schat.net](mailto:lfoster@schat.net)>; fax available, call first.

**Assoc. Editor** – Kathy Morey (760-938-2050). Kathy does the July- August-September issue.

**Deadlines** – Contributions are due by the 1st of the month for publication in the following month's issue: December 1 for January-February-March; March 1 for April-May-June; June 1 for July-August-September; September 1 for October-November-December.

**Submissions** – Call or e-mail editor before deadline for late submissions. Submit news, story ideas, photos, and letters-to-the-editor to the editor (contact info above). Please include your name, phone/fax, e-mail address, and group with all contributions. You may send contributions by e-mail or on a PC-compatible disk (Word, text, or ascii). Please send hard copy by snail mail for all submissions on disk. For photo or disk return, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The *Toiyabe Trails* reserves the right to edit all contributions for reasons of space, clarity, slander, or libel.

**Subscriptions** – *Toiyabe Trails* is free to all Toiyabe Chapter members. Subscription cost for non-members is \$12 per year. To subscribe, send check for \$12, payable to "Toiyabe Chapter," to *Toiyabe Trails* Subscriptions, Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter, c/o Treasurer, 1621 Foster Dr., Reno, NV 89509-1111.

**Change of address** – Postmaster & Members, please send address changes to Sierra Club, Change of Address, P. O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or <[address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)>.

**Membership information** – There is a membership coupon in each issue of *Toiyabe Trails*. You can also call the Chapter Membership Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) or the Sierra Club office in San Francisco (415-977-5663).

**Other Sierra Club information** – Call the Toiyabe Chapter Chair or Conservation Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) or the Sierra Club Information Center in San Francisco (415-977-5653). Also, see group pages for website addresses of groups.

## Club activists swarm Capitol to boost clean energy & parks bills

BY BILL MAGAVERN, SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA

SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA'S 2009 LOBBY DAY was a smashing success! Dedicated volunteers from around the state travelled to Sacramento to urge their legislators to ramp up clean energy requirements and preserve our state parks.

On August 23, participants gathered in the Capitol for briefings on how to lobby on the four bills we focused on this year. Two of them — SB 14 (Simitian) and AB 64 (Krekorian) — would both require electric utilities to get 33% of their power from clean, renewable sources by 2020. Also, SB 372 (Kehoe) and SB 679 (Wolk), would both establish public processes to protect parks from inappropriate uses.

On August 24, the volunteer lobbyists kept



A group of activists paid close attention as Sierra Club California lobbyists (not pictured) provided talking points and tips on how to lobby the California Legislature.

a busy schedule of meetings with legislators and their staff, letting them know that their constituents support greening our electrical grid and protecting parks. Our participants reported very positive results from their meetings, with many saying they were impressed by how interested the legislators were in what Sierra Club California has to say.



Senator Fran Pavley accepted the Byron Sher award presented by Sierra Club California. (Photo: John Kokaska.)

We honored Senator Pavley and Chair Nichols for their pathbreaking work in passing and implementing California's major laws to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Senator Pavley addressed the very appreciative activist group.

It did not take long for our Lobby Day to bear fruit; on August 27 the Assembly Appropriations Committee passed SB 14 and SB 679. These bills can now join SB 372 on the Assembly floor. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved AB 64, which now moves to the Senate floor.

Sierra Club California staff thanks everyone who participated in this year's Lobby Day, and we hope to see you again next year.

## DESERT TRIPS . . .

continued from right column

(highly recommended), food, gear on trail. Info: contact leader, Paul Plathe (209-476-1498).

Delta-Sierra Group (Mother Lode Chapter)

## Fall-Winter Desert Trips

The CNRCC Desert Committee's purpose is to work for protection, preservation, and conservation of California/Nevada desert.

All Desert Committee activities, unless stated otherwise, are suitable for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. The average car or high clearance vehicle will be adequate for most trips. For a good guide to desert travel we recommend the Sierra Club book, *Adventuring in the California Desert*, by Lynne Foster.

For questions about, or to sign up for, a particular outing, please contact leader listed in write-up. For questions about Desert Committee outings in general, or to receive outings list by e-mail, please contact Kate Allen (kjallen@wildblue.com, 661-944-4056).



### California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

#### SEPTEMBER 25-27 (FRI-SUN)

##### SERVICE & HIKING IN CARRIZO PLAINS

Visit, assist in an outstanding, relatively unknown national monument. Optional, scenic hike high in Caliente Mountains on Friday. Others may join us for Nat'l Public Lands Day on Saturday when we participate with other volunteers working on improvements for Soda Lake Overlook. On Sunday, tour a number of historic, prehistoric, geologic sites in Monument. Leader: Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

#### OCTOBER 3-4 (SAT-SUN)

##### ANTELOPE PROTECTION WORK PARTY IN CARRIZO PLAIN NAT'L MONUMENT

Help remove fences to allow beautiful, endangered, pronghorn antelope unobstructed access to all areas of Plain. We succeeded in clearing American Ranch area; join us as we work on Panorama Ranch. Camp at Selby campground, bring food, water, heavy leather work gloves, camping gear for weekend. Potluck Saturday night. Meet at Goodwin Visitor Center, 9 am Saturday. Rain cancels. Resource specialist: Alice Koch. Info: contact leaders, Cal & Letty French, (805-239-7338; lettyfrench@gmail.com, e-mail preferred).

Santa Lucia Chapter/CNRCC Desert Committee

#### OCTOBER 5-6 (MON-TUE)

##### WILDERNESS RESTORATION IN DEATH VALLEY NAT'L PARK

Finish conversion to trail of N end of old Mesquite Flats/Death Valley crossover road, which used to join Scotty's Castle Rd near Red Wall Canyon. Meet Sunday eve or early Monday morning; work Monday-Tuesday. Potluck Monday night. Wednesday, ranger-led hike for those who stay over. (Project may change). Info: contact leader, Kate Allen (661-944-4056; kj.allen@wildblue.net, e-mail preferred). CNRCC Desert Committee

#### OCTOBER 17-18 (SAT EVE-SUN)

##### EXPLORING SODA MOUNTAINS - MOJAVE DESERT

Explore ridges, deep washes of this relatively unknown, rugged Wilderness Study Area (WSA), located E of Barstow, N of I-15. Arrive late Saturday afternoon at camping area in open flats near Cronese Lakes. Potluck Saturday night. Full day hike on Sunday will help us appreciate a unique place and comment on its future, which is uncertain. Hike mod. difficult. Info: contact leader, Craig Deutsche, (310-477-6670, craig.deutsche@gmail.com).

CNRCC Desert Committee

#### OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 1 (SAT-SUN)

##### GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA

What could be more appropriate this Halloween weekend than to visit ghosts and ruins of California's colorful past? Come with us to this eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp at historic ghost town of Ballarat (flush toilets, hot showers). On Saturday, a challenging hike to ghost town of Lookout City with expert Hal Fowler. Hal will regale us with tales of this wild west town. Saturday eve, Happy Hour and potluck feast, followed by midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. On Sunday, quick visit to infamous Riley town site before heading home. Group size strictly limited. Info: contact leader, Lygeia Gerard (760-868-2179).

CNRCC Desert Committee.

#### NOVEMBER 6-8 (FRI-SUN)

##### MOJAVE NAT'L PRESERVE SERVICE TRIP

Help Preserve clean up large, illegal dump built up over the years. Work all day Saturday and until noon on Sunday. Preserve staff will provide barbecue Saturday eve. Hike planned for those arriving in morning on Friday. Ranger talk about Preserve on Friday. Camping will be rustic, but portable restroom provided. High clearance vehicle recommended to access site, but we can shuttle people, gear if needed. Info: contact leader, Rich Juricich (rich.sac@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181).

CNRCC Desert Committee

#### NOVEMBER 7-8 (SAT-SUN)

##### "BOWLING ALLEY" CAR CAMP & HIKE, DEATH VALLEY PROPOSED WILDERNESS ADDITION

A narrow strip of land between Death Valley Nat'l Park, Fort Irwin is lovingly referred to as "Bowling Alley." It is also an ideal wilderness candidate. With unique, beautiful geology, several perennial springs, habitat for desert tortoise, bighorn sheep, we'll have lots to explore! Drive in on some rough routes, then day hike from car/tent campsite. Four wheel drive (4WD) recommended. Potluck dinner Saturday night. Leader: Carol Wiley (760-245-8734, desertlily1@verizon.net.) Reservationist: Kate Allen (kj.allen@wildblue.net, 661-944-4056).

CNRCC Desert Committee

#### DECEMBER 12-13 (SAT-SUN)

##### SERVICE & HIKING IN S. DESERT

This cooler season is a good time to visit southern deserts. Our project on Saturday will be on E side of N. Algodones Dunes Wilderness, approximately 20 miles E of Brawley, CA, where we will rebuild facilities at Watchable Wildlife Site. Saturday eve is a car camp with potluck dinner. Sunday,

## SAVE THE DATE!

### 2010 Western Wilderness Conference: New Aims, New Allies

BY VICKY HOOVER, CHAIR, SIERRA CLUB CA/NV WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

The 2010 Western Wilderness Conference will take place **April 8-11, 2010**, on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley, California. Please visit the conference website at [www.westernwilderness.org](http://www.westernwilderness.org).

Save the date now! For anyone who cares about the wild places of the West—this is one event not to miss!

Although the event will take place in the San Francisco Bay Area, wilderness organizations and advocates from all twelve western states, including Alaska, are invited to participate in this grand event. The Toiyabe Chapter and fifteen other Sierra Club western Chapters have already signed on as event sponsors.

Why attend? Western Wilderness Conference 2010 will:

- inspire interested new advocates, including students
- re-inspire longtime dedicated wilderness advocates
- focus on the role of wild lands in an era of global warming
- explore how to incorporate wildlands advocacy with Native American traditional land-ethics and cultural values
- promote getting children outside into Nature's wild places!
- train activists to advocate effectively for wild places

And we'll all have fun!

Speakers, plenary sessions, workshops, music, meals, outings! It's all part of the celebration of the West's wild places.

Sierra Club, California Wilderness Coalition, and Northwest Parks and Wilderness Conference are leading the planning.

recreational hike either from work site or in nearby Indian Pass Wilderness. Info: contact leader, Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

#### DECEMBER 28 - JANUARY 2, 2010 (MON-SAT) HOLIDAY SERVICE TRIP, CARRIZO PLAIN NAT'L MONUMENT

Celebrate end of one year, beginning of next in one of our new national monuments. Carrizo Plain, W of Bakersfield, is a vast grassland, home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, kit fox, a wide variety of birds. Welcome hike Dec. 28, 3.5 days of service modifying barbed wire fencing, and full day for hiking and exploring are planned. Use of accommodations at Goodwin Ranch included. Limited to 14 participants; \$30 covers five dinners. Info: contact leader, Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670) or co-leader Melinda Goodwater (mgoodwater@sbcglobal.net, 408-774-1257).

CNRCC Desert Committee

#### MARCH 14-20, 2010 (SUN-SAT)

##### GLEN CANYON NRA, ESCALANTE RIVER CANYON: SERVICE TRIP BACKPACK

Assist Nat'l Park Service in eradicating Russian Olive from Escalante River. With direction of Park Ranger Bill Wolverton, gather up slash from previous service trips and burn it. Since 2000, over half the river has been cleared. Meet in Escalante, Utah Sunday morning, March 14, caravan out to trailhead, hike in. Work four days, day hike one day, hike out Saturday morning, March 20. Expect knee to thigh deep river crossings, overnight lows near freezing, mild temperatures during day. Participants responsible for own leather work gloves

Please see left column, this page.

# Range of Light Reflections

## Range of Light Group



## Group News

### Letter from the Chair

BY MALCOLM CLARK

**Outings.** Summer outings are over. Ski outings begin in January.

**State Parks.** Some state parks (but not as many as originally anticipated) will be closed as a result of the budget compromise passed this summer. Also, the freeze on state bond funds that support environment projects in the Sierras remains in effect.

**Bristlecone Pine Forest visitor center.** Destroyed by arson last September, it will be rebuilt next year. The new center will include modern solar power and updated exhibits on the effect of global warming on the Bristlecones.

**ROL Group area projects moving forward.** (1) The first ICO (**Inner City Outing**) of kids from Bridgeport schools was led by Mauriça Anderson in July. (See photo on page 2.)

(2) Inyo National Forest approved (with modifications) Alternative 6 for the Forest's **Motorized Travel Management Plan**. Bryce Wheeler and other ROLG members participated extensively in the citizen group that produced Alternative 6. The Toiyabe-Humboldt National Forest is currently developing its Motorized Travel Management plan. (See article on next page.)

(3) The application of Inyo-Mono County IRWMP (**Integrated Regional Water Management Plan**) for recognition as a state-approved IRWMP will likely be approved. A ROL member nor-

mally attends the monthly meetings.

(4) The **Sherwin Working Group**, under sponsorship of the Forest Service, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and Mammoth Lakes Trails Public Access (MLTPA,) is moving towards October submission of a plan for management of forest service land between the south urban boundary of Mammoth Lakes and Sherwin Mountains Crest. Several ROLG members have actively participated along with many other community members in developing a plan for the use of this prime recreational asset. (See article on next page.)

**Four-wheel drive outing.** Finally, worthy of note was an outing this summer in which 11 vehicles of the Eastern Sierra 4-wheel Drive Club took 19 ROL hikers up to Coyote Ridge east of Bishop. We then hiked down to South Lake. We look forward to a repeat outing next summer which will hopefully improve our relations with people who have not been our traditional allies in environmental endeavors in Inyo County. (See photos in Calendar.)

### Help requested with programs!

FOR MANY YEARS THE ROL GROUP has organized and presented regular monthly programs for the enjoyment of our membership. We want to continue these very popular and well attended events, but we need your help to keep the effort going. If you, or some one you know, is interested in presenting to our group, please contact our Program Chairman Claus Engelhardt at engelhardt@cebridge.net or by phone (760-872-4596). He'd appreciate it very much. Sierra Club people have diverse interests — adventure travel, environmental subjects/local controversies and the arts among them. Take your pick!

### Group ExCom meetings

WE USUALLY MEET on the first Monday of the month. All Sierra Club members are welcome. Meeting dates and places are subject to change. Information: for date, time, and locations, please call the Chair, Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639).

#### RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP

##### OFFICERS

Chair	Malcolm Clark*	760-924-5639
Vice Chair	Open	
Secretary	Brigitte Berman*	760-924-2140
Conservation	Mary K. Prentice*	760-934-0355
Cons. Asst.	Henning Jensen*	805-564-8374
		760-934-7176
Treasurer	Lyle Gaston	760-387-2634
Chapter Del.	Jean Dillingham	760-648-7109
Editor	Lynne Foster	760-387-2634
Hway Cleanup	John Walter	760-934-1767
Hospitality	Wilma Wheeler	760-934-3764
LORP	Mark Bagley	760-873-5326
Membership	Shalle Genevieve*	760-934-9668
Outings	Bryce Wheeler	760-934-3764
Outings Asst.	Dick Baggett*	760-924-5749
Programs	Claus Engelhardt	760-872-4596
Publicity	Mary Ann Dunigan	760-924-5982
Webmaster	Owen Maloy	760-934-9511

\* ExCom member

**ROL Group Website**  
<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/>  
 &  
**Chapter website**  
<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>

## Range of Light Calendar

**ALL OUTINGS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES!**

**All phone numbers are 760 unless otherwise noted.**

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

### Summer summary & Winter outings

BY BRYCE WHEELER, ROL OUTINGS CHAIR

#### 2009 summer fun

ROL outings leaders have led many interesting and fun hikes this past summer, including 18 weekend hikes and 16 Wednesday evening fun and fitness hikes. During



October, November, and December we have no scheduled outings so leaders can enjoy a break. Most likely they will be out hiking, kayaking, backpacking, volunteering, and looking forward to the ski season.

Winter and spring outings will be published

and announced in local media. Info? Contact leaders: John Walter (760 934-1767, walter@qnet.com); Jean Dillingham (760 648-7109, jdill@qnet.com); or Bryce Wheeler (760 934-3764, telebry@verizon.net).

ROL members enjoyed a joint outing with E. Sierra 4-Wheel Drive Club. Participants had a fine view of South Lake from Coyote Ridge before hiking down to the lake. (Top group photo by Anon., bottom photo of South Lake from the ridge by C.D. Ritter.)



Please see ROL CALENDAR, page 5.

## You're Invited!

Range of Light Group Monthly Meeting  
 Everyone welcome!

<p>Oct. 20 (Tues)</p> <p>Refreshments &amp; Social 6:30 pm  <b>New Crowley Lake Community Ctr</b>                  (next to Crowley Lake Store)</p> <p>Please bring appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks or dessert to share.</p> <p>Program 7:00 pm  <b>"Virtual Field Trip to Owens Lake"</b>                  with Mike Prather, E. Sierra Environmentalist Extraordinaire</p> <p>Mike will discuss the changing situation with construction of 9 more sq. mi. of shallow flooding. Tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl are returning..</p>	<p>Nov. 17 (Tues)</p> <p>Refreshments &amp; Social 6:30 pm  <b>New Crowley Lake Community Ctr</b>                  (next to Crowley Lake Store)</p> <p>Please bring appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks or dessert to share.</p> <p>Program 7:00 pm  <b>"Mono Lake Update"</b>                  with Bartshe Miller, Education Director, Mono Lake Committee</p> <p>Mono Lake is on the rise. Learn how institutional amnesia threatens management of Mono Lake. Get a snapshot of what's happening at the other end of the LA Aqueduct.</p>
---	--

Dec. 15 (Tues)

Holiday Party & Potluck 6:30 pm!  
**Home of John & Nancy Walter (760-934-1767)**  
 (240 Mammoth Knolls Drive, Mammoth Lakes)

Please bring your own non-disposable table setting & a special dish to share for 6-8 people to share.

## Range of Light Calendar

continued from page 4

### Cross-Country Ski & Snowshoe Tours

On **January 7, 2010**, our winter outings will start with the **Thursday morning snow play event** and continue through winter and spring as long as snow conditions and weather permit. The **Sunday trips will begin January 10**. The meeting place and time for both Thursday and Sunday outings will be the Mammoth Lakes Union Bank parking lot at 10 am. Suitable rental equipment is available locally.

Thursday morning snow play and easy treks will last about two hours. We'll concentrate on conditioning, technique practice, and learning about our local landscape and critters. All skill levels welcome. We like to help newcomers get started. Bring water and lunch or a snack and skis or snowshoes. Wear sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, gloves, appropriate footwear, and layered clothing to be prepared for changeable weather.

Sunday trips will usually be easy tours (about 5 miles) and open to both snowshoers and skiers; however, snowshoers must be able to keep up. Occasionally, the trips will be longer. We are not usu-

ally on groomed trails.

Most Nordic track or touring skis will work, although waxless, patterned skis are preferred. Newer, lightweight snowshoes are preferable. Dress in layered clothing, wear sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, gloves. Bring water and lunch or hearty snack.

Weather and snow conditions determine where we go. If you have a favorite trip, let us know and we will try to add it to our list. We welcome new participants and qualified leaders. If you are interested in becoming a leader, call for more information. Until the snow arrives, enjoy fall colors and our spectacular mountains.

### MLTPA & Mammoth Trails: From Gate to Gateway

BY MARY K. PRENTICE

FOUR YEARS AGO I WAS DRIVING UP to a newly installed gate across Ranch Road in Mammoth. As the gates swung open I noticed three backcountry skiers sporting wide grins climbing over a mound after an exhilarating ski down the face of the Sherwins. This historic ski route has long been a favorite challenge for the best skiers & boarders.

I asked if I could hold the gates open for them. "Thanks, but I think we have made it", said one of the tall, tanned skiers who emerged. "My name is John Wentworth and it is kind of you to let three tired skier pass through your gate."

Now, four years later, John Wentworth has moved from the controversial "Gate" as an obstacle to creating "A Gateway" to "Mammoth Lakes Trails & Public Access" (MLTPA). John's passion for the backcountry and the right of public access, combined with his non-aggressive style, has forged an organization of public agencies, fund raising sources and user groups.

MLTPA's motto, "connecting people with nature," has garnered a wide range of public opinion about recreation, trails, public access, and opportunities in the Mammoth Lakes area. MLTPA has created a data base of existing winter and summer trails using GPS methods for accuracy.

MLTPA was largely responsible for the passage of Measure R with a 72% vote last June. These special tax funds can only be used on trails, parks, and recreation.

A major spin-off project, "Mammoth Trails," is a new confederation of recreation user groups like the Sierra Club which meets monthly to discuss common goals of stewardship, opportunities, and programs.

MLTPA has recently assisted the USFS and the town to form the "Sherwin Working Group." The Group has over 40 volunteers to help design a recreational plan for a landmark area, including the Sherwin Range and Mammoth Meadow.

As in many mountain towns, it takes a few passionate, dedicated nature lovers to turn obstacles, such as an exclusive gate, into an opportunity — a gateway to access public lands. Thank you, John.

## Deadline! DECEMBER 1 for Jan-Feb - Mar issue

### Tahoe Group

#### Clair Tappaan Lodge FALL EVENTS



**October 31, Saturday, Halloween.** We are planning a costume parade, games, pumpkin carving (bring your own pumpkin and tools) a piñata, and other fun ghoulish activities that are not just for kids. Bring kids for a safe, sane, and fun Halloween.

**November 1, Sunday, Day of the Dead (El Día de los Muertos).** This is an invitation to explore another cultural view of the passing of loved ones. You are invited to make and bring a remembrance of someone in your past you would like to honor. You can prepare it in advance or you can just bring a photo or some other reminder of your loved one to add to the "Ofrenda" (offering) that Olivia Diaz, co-Chair of the Clair Tappaan Lodge Committee, will prepare. This Mexican celebration offers a different way to view our ancestors, a joyous way, not at all macabre.

**Where is Clair Tappaan Lodge?** The Lodge is located at 19940 Donner Pass Road in Norden, CA. For information and reservations, contact the Lodge (800-679-

### TAHOE GROUP

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Roger Rosenberger*	305-298-6191
Vice-Chair	Carla Ennis	530-573-1834
Secretary	Bryan Holzbauer*	775-265-1586
Treasurer	Jerry Yeazell	530-588-8216
At Large	Grace Anderson*	
At Large	Bob Anderson*	
At Large	Patricia Hickson*	530-401-1397
Cons. S. Shore	Michael Donahoe*	775-588-5466
Cons. N. Shore	Ron Grassi	
Membership	Kay Edwards*	775-588-4565
Newsletter Ed	Josh Benin	530-541-1371
Outings	Glenn Polochko*	530-587-5906
Webmaster	Bryan Holzbauer*	775-265-1586

### Inyo NF releases Final EIS for Motorized Travel Management

BY WILMA WHEELER

INYO NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR, Jim Upchurch, has announced the release of the Motorized Travel Management Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision. Supervisor Upchurch signed a Record of Decision approving the selection of Modified Alternative 6. The project started five years ago with route inventory by volunteers/users, environmental analysis, and extensive public involvement and discussion.

Supervisor Upchurch said, "I believe my decision provides a transportation system for the future by providing a sustainable system of roads and trails while protecting important resource values."

The modified version of Alternative 6 was crafted by the Collaborative Alternative Team (CAT) at the end of 2008 after several years of work. CAT participants (see photo) included representatives of environmental groups (Sierra Club, Friends of the Inyo, Audubon Society, etc.) and members of the public representing off-highway users, gem collectors, Town of Mammoth Lakes, Inyo and Mono County Supervisors, motorcyclists, ATV users, climbers, business owners, etc. Bryce Wheeler represented the Sierra Club Range of Light Group in this effort. Paul McFarland and Bill Mitchell represented Friends of the Inyo. Other ma-

for environmental contributors were James Wilson (Audubon and Friends of the Inyo) and Frank Stewart (Friends of the Inyo), conservationists and business owners.

Under the Plan, public motorized use is restricted to National Forest Transportation System (NFTS) roads, trails and areas. The selection of Modified Alternative 6 does close

some dirt roads and adds others to the system.

Added to the existing system roads are 850 miles of high-clearance native surface road as roads open to all vehicles, 122 miles of motorized trails open

to all trail vehicles, 20 miles of ATV trails, and 15 miles of motorcycle trails. The Plan removes many duplicate routes, and provides interconnected loops and linkages into backcountry landscapes, including a key north/south connector between the White and the Inyo Mountains.

Public meetings to introduce the plan were held in September. This Forest Service will complete a Motor Vehicle Use Map depicting the designated system on the Inyo National Forest, which will be available to the public at no cost. The map will be revised and reissued as needed. Contact Marty Hornick (760-873-2461) or Susan Joyce (760-873-2516) for a CD of the Final EIS and Record of Decision or view the documents at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/projects/ohvroute5.shtml>.



Volunteer members of the CAT (Collaborative Alternative Team).

### Clair Tappaan Gala Weekend a slam-dunk success!

BY ERNIE MALAMUD, CHAIR, GALA CELEBRATION COMMITTEE,  
& OLIVIA DIAZ, CO-CHAIR, CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE COMMITTEE

What fun! The Gala Celebration of the Anniversaries of the two lodges at Donner Summit owned by the Sierra Club — Clair Tappaan Lodge (75 years) and Hutchinson Lodge (85 years) — was a great success. The weather was mild, as it usually is in August at Donner Summit in the Sierra Nevada, and there was music, music, and more music all weekend long.

There were many highlights to the August 14-16 weekend. Saturday afternoon, the wine and cheese reception was at Hutchinson Lodge. In the woods, the Lost Quartet, 16 and 17 year-old members of the Santa Rosa Youth Symphony, played beautifully and professionally. People sat around on tree stumps, benches, and chairs in the shade while the Sierra breezes caressed us. The afternoon felt magical and blessed. The 15 different hikes, all led by certified leaders and superbly organized by Rick Ramos, were highly popular.

Melissa Hutchinson was a special guest. She is a great-grandniece of the Hutchinson brothers, Lincoln and James, who built the Lodge. Another highlight was a reunion of old timers who built

Christa Baker\* of Nevada City and Kevin Brown from Reno. The program emphasized the importance of preserving the history and tradition that make the Sierra Club unique among environmental organizations.

Squads of Sierra Club volunteers ran the event. Participants came from all over the U.S. Donations will benefit the 501(c)3 CTL Sierra Club Foundation account to help bring students

to Clair Tappaan and Hutchinson lodges for environmental education programs. CTL's expanding program of environmental education is nurturing the next generation of activists!

CTL, the "Sierra Club at Donner Summit," is located at 19940 Donner Pass Road in Norden, CA.



Professor Milton Hildebrand, one of the builders of CTL, and Christa Baker.

the Warming Hut and used or operated the Signal Hill rope tow. Some of the stories were hair-raising since those were "pre OSHA" days.

Sierra Club President, Allison Chin, was our keynote speaker on Saturday night. Diana Vanderburg and her father George Homsey, the well-known San Francisco architect who designed the Warming Hut, set up a magnificent photo display. Other speakers were Milton Hildebrand, one of the builders of CTL (he was 17 then), and two young people,

\* Christa was part of a group of students from Nevada City who came to the Lodge with Synergia Learning Ventures to make a documentary DVD about the Lodge and the experience of being there. Synergia won a grant from our local group, the Sierra Nevada Group, to bring students to CTL for environmental education. In the DVD, Christa introduces viewers to the various rooms of the lodge. It will be used to encourage schools or other groups to bring their youth to the Lodge for environmental education.

# CONSERVATION ROUNDUP



## News briefs

BY MARGE SILL

**Bob Abbey confirmed as Head of the BLM.** Before the U.S. Senate adjourned for its August recess, it confirmed the appointment of Bob Abbey as Head of the Bureau of Land Management. Bob served as Nevada BLM state director for several years and was highly regarded by all the conservationists in the state for his intelligence, willingness to listen, and love of the land. Most believe that he will steer the BLM in the right direction for wilderness, national conservation areas, and alternative energy facilities.

**Forest Supervisor retires.** Ed Monning, Forest Supervisor for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National forest for the past three years, announced that he will retire Dec. 31, 2009. No successor has been named as yet. Ed has proved to be a fine supervisor in every way. He has worked hard to make sure the largest forest outside of Alaska is run well and has worked closely with conservationists to protect the lands. Ed has practiced an "open door" policy which assures that he listens to all points of view before making decisions. He will

be very much missed in Nevada and Eastern California.

**Celebrate the Wilderness Act!** September 3 marked the 45th anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act into law. In honor of this historic occasion, President Obama has proclaimed September as the month to celebrate wilderness and recognize the importance of wilderness to the country.

**Jon Jarvis confirmed as Head of National Parks.** The U.S. Senate has confirmed Jon Jarvis as the new head of the National Parks. This appointment has been hailed by park enthusiasts all over the country as setting a new direction for the management and funding of national parks, considered by many all over the world to be the great legacy of the United States. The Sierra Club has established a task force to make sure that national parks are fulfilling the purpose for which they were established. For further information, please contact Joe Fontaine (fontaine@wildblue.net) who is representing California and Nevada on the task force.

## WALKER LAKE:

### Water acquisitions coming soon

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

Nevadans welcomed the release of the long-awaited Environmental Impact Statement on acquiring water rights for Walker Lake. The lake is not only a local, national, and international treasure, but one of a few terminus lakes in the world. Falling lake levels and rising salt concentrations have been threatening the survival of the fragile lake ecosystem and fisheries in rural Mineral County, Nevada. The EIS had to be completed before already-appropriated federal funds set aside to aid terminus lakes could be used.

Thanking the Bureau of Reclamation for developing the EIS, many Lake enthusiasts testified in August in support of the acquisition program and Alternative 1 which best protects and restores Walker Lake. The Sierra Club, the Walker Lake Working Group, and many other Lake supporters will be submitting written comments to the Bureau to urge rejection of the No Action Alternative and to support acquisition from willing sellers. Several provisions should be included in Alternative 1 in the final EIS: ways of using funds for a crop con-

version program, ways of monitoring the effectiveness of the water delivery program, and ways of enforcing requirements for up-river water diversions.

The Bureau will be urged to include local conservationists and representatives of Mineral County as integral parts of the entity which is created to oversee the acquisition of water rights for the restoration of Walker Lake and the Walker River basin.

**Info.** For more information on Walker Lake, see the chapter website: [www.toiyabesierraclub.org](http://www.toiyabesierraclub.org).

## Keeping the birds from disappearing, Part II

(Part I appeared in the July-August-September *Toiyabe Trails*)

WHILE SOME BIRD SPECIES are holding their own, many once-common species are declining sharply in population. "Habitat availability and quality are the keys to healthy, thriving bird populations," said Dave Mehlman of The Nature Conservancy.

Surveys conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey, including the annual Breeding Bird Survey, combined with data gathered through volunteer citizen science program such as the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count, show once-abundant birds such as the northern bobwhite and marbled murrelet are declining significantly. The possibility of extinction also remains a cold reality for many endangered birds.

Citizen science plays a critical role in monitoring and understanding the threats to these birds and their habitats, and only citizen involvement



Greater sage grouse. (Photo: Ted Schroeder, © Cornell Lab of Ornithology.)

can help address them, said National Audubon Society's Bird Conservation Director, Greg Butcher.

Conservation action can only make a real difference when concerned people support the kind of vital habitat restoration and protection measures this report explores.

Birds are beautiful as well as economically important and a priceless part of America's natural heritage. Birds are also highly sensitive to environmental pollution and climate change, making them critical indicators of the health of the environment on which we all depend.

The United States is home to a tremendous diversity of native birds, with more than 800 species inhabiting terrestrial, coastal, and ocean habitats, including Hawaii. Among these species, 67 are Federally-listed

*National parks are the best idea we ever had. ... they reflect us at our best rather than our worst.*  
— Wallace Stegner

## WATER SPLIT: Bad deal for Utah

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

A lazy summer in the Nevada water wars was interrupted by a surprise announcement in August from Utah and Nevada negotiators. A draft split of shared groundwater has been ordered by Congress as a part of the 2004 Lincoln County Lands Act. Members of the Great Basin Water Network had been awaiting the long delayed (by hydrological model problems) release of the Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed 300+ mile pipeline from E. Nevada to S. Nevada.

The "deal" announced by state bureaucrats on August 13 is also a mandate to protect the many existing local water rights users and the health of the aquifer before any exportation of water from Snake Valley. Unfortunately, what is characterized as a "50-50" split, based on an overestimation of available groundwater from a single study with 67% reliability, actually provides more like 80% of unallocated water to Nevada.

The deal also includes a separate agreement between the state of Utah and the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) for "monitoring and mitigation" of SNWA pumping impacts in Nevada on Utah farmers who are down the flow system. No such protections are proposed for pumping impacts in Nevada, although the Agreement warns of many "changes" in the aquifer and native plants.

A few quick briefings were announced, along with a short comment period. A busload of local residents joined Las Vegas conservationists to testify against the proposed deal and. The residents also asked for

as endangered or threatened. In addition, more than 184 species are designated as species of conservation concern due to a small distribution, high-level of threats, or declining populations.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service coordinated creation of the new report as part of the U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative, which includes partners from American Bird Conservancy, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agen-

an "up or down vote" on the pipeline at a quickly called meeting of the SNWA Board of Directors on August 20. The vote was somehow mysteriously transformed into an unnecessary "continue pipeline studies" and passed 6-0, after Directors heard heartfelt statements by opponents and scripted support by the business community.

Sierra Club and Great Basin Water Network activists are studying the 11-page draft Agreement and will submit comments by the deadline of September 30. At this point, the Agreement appears not to comply with the Congressional mandates, as well as being based on an unrealistic estimate of available water. In addition, it does not provide an equitable share to Utah and fails to protect both existing water rights users and the environment on both sides of the state boundary. Stay tuned!

**Info.** For more details on the water wars, see the chapter website: [www.toiyabe.sierraclub.org](http://www.toiyabe.sierraclub.org), and the GBWN website: [www.greatbasinwaternet.org](http://www.greatbasinwaternet.org)

cies, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Klamath Bird Observatory, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The complete report is available at [www.stateofthebirds.org](http://www.stateofthebirds.org). Contact: Pat Leonard, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (607-254-2137, [pe127@cornell.edu](mailto:pe127@cornell.edu)). The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Lab's web site at [www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu).

— 2009 news release courtesy of Cornell Lab of Ornithology



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sierra Meadow Forum  
October 15, 2009 • Kings Beach, CA  
**FREE!**

THIS FORUM BRINGS TOGETHER experts and other interested stakeholders invested in meadow research and restoration from across the Sierra to share studies, information and advice on meadow science, meadow restoration approaches and building capacity and support for future meadow restoration. The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation . . .

- has made Sierra meadow restoration one of its keystone initiatives under climate change adaptation
- has recently come out with the Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration Business Plan
- is devoting funds in the form of grants to help achieve the goals outlined in the plan

**Date, time, & place.** Thursday, October 15, 2009; 9:30 am to 4 pm; North Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach, CA.

**Information.** To find out more, including agenda and Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration Business Plan, visit: [http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/news/calendar/profile.shtml?index=1251226153\\_28331&cat=&loc=&listpage=1](http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/news/calendar/profile.shtml?index=1251226153_28331&cat=&loc=&listpage=1).

16th Annual Sierra Nevada Alliance Conference & Sierra IRWMP Summit  
October 16-18, 2009  
Kings Beach, CA

JOIN US ONCE AGAIN along the shore of Lake Tahoe for a weekend full of informative workshops, speakers and terrific networking!

**Date & place.** Friday-Sunday, October 16-18, 2009; North Tahoe Conference Center, Kings Beach, CA.

**Theme.** "Celebrating the Nature of the Sierra"

**Registration.** Visit: <https://secure.twinwolf.net/sierranevadaalliance/registration/index.shtml>.

**Information.** Visit: [http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/conference/profile.shtml?index=1047408021\\_12424](http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org/conference/profile.shtml?index=1047408021_12424).

— contributed by Robert W. Collier, Americorps Member, Water & Climate Change Program Assistant, Sierra Nevada Alliance ([robert@sierranevadaalliance.org](mailto:robert@sierranevadaalliance.org))

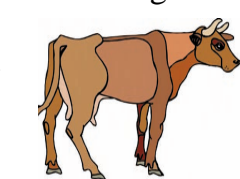
The Sierra Nevada Alliance's mission is to protect and restore the natural environment of the Sierra Nevada for future generations while ensuring healthy and sustainable communities.

**Don't forget to visit the Chapter website**  
<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>

## How much do they eat? Hoofed animals on public lands

BY TINA NAPPE

There is a tendency to argue "animal rights" to public lands based on numbers of ungulates (hooved animals). Nevada ungulates include livestock (cows, sheep, horses), free-roaming horses, burros, bighorn sheep, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and elk. Ungulates generally prefer Nevada's native grasses, forbs (flowers), and some shrubs, like bitterbrush. Ungulates generally cannot utilize sagebrush, which has an unpalatable alkaloid. As a result, sagebrush expands as the overgrazed grasses and forbs disappear.



Horses and cows can weigh 1000 pounds. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) uses 26 pounds of air-dry forage per day as the standard forage demand for a 1000-pound cow or horse. This is called an AUM (animal unit month).

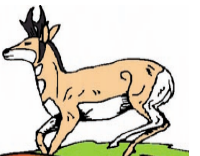
Free-roaming horses graze on public lands year round. In the spring, they graze on emerging grasses; they also graze during drought and winter, when no plant growth occurs. Under the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act, the "thriving natural ecological balance" population for horses in Nevada is 12,600. The BLM estimates that over 20,000 horses are now living in the driest state in the Union: Nevada.

Under public pressure, livestock use of public lands has been reduced to protect plants. Livestock use of public lands is generally limited to a few months. To protect new plant growth, livestock should be released late in spring. When not on public lands livestock go to market or live on private lands. A cow

consumes about 5 AUMs a year on public lands. In Nevada Livestock AUMs have dropped from 2,198,371 in 1971 to 963,417 in 2007.

By contrast, one of the ungulates sharing the same land as a cow or horse is the pronghorn antelope. A female (doe) pronghorn antelope weighs 75-105 pounds and a buck 85-130. A pronghorn antelope moving lightly on the land nibbles 0.2% AUM per month. No overgrazing has been documented.

Humankind has introduced its domestic animals all over the world. Cats, dogs, horses, pigs, goats, sheep, etc., have thrived at the expense of native plants and animals. Jared Diamond's book *Collapse* documents human (and domestic animals) destruction of native species. Let's ensure that the Great Basin and Mojave Deserts maintain their resiliency and ability to thrive — a Sierra Club priority — by managing how many cows and horses use public lands.



## Mt. Grafton Wilderness Service Trip

BY VICKY HOOVER

IN JULY 2009, THE SIERRA CLUB'S CA/NV Wilderness Committee sponsored a service trip with BLM's Ely, Nevada office in White Pine County's new Mt. Grafton Wilderness; eight volunteers worked hard to dig up, and carry out to the wilderness boundary, two sections of culvert that had been buried under a former road — no longer needed.



## 2010 Wild Nevada Calendar

Sierra Club Special!

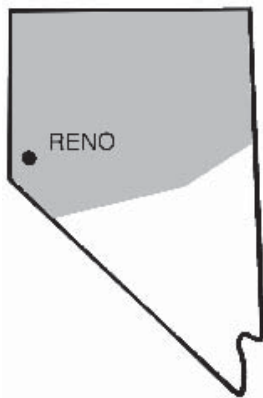


\$10/each, or buy two and get one FREE

Add \$3 shipping for 1 calendar, \$5 for 3

Send check to: Friends of Nevada Wilderness, PO Box 9754, Reno, NV 89523  
Or call (775) 324-7667

# Great Basin Gatherings



## Great Basin Group

### Group News

#### In Memoriam Catherine Smith & Amy Mazza

The conservation community is saddened by the untimely deaths of two wonderful women — Catherine Smith and Amy Mazza.

Catherine served for two years as the Chair of the Toiyabe Chapter, was active in advocating for Nevada wilderness legislation, and for protection of the land. Her most recent Sierra Club effort was participation in the Sheldon restoration effort in June of this year. As a life-long believer in the principle of the “web of life”, she worked tirelessly for the rights of women, children, and people of color, as well as for the environment. An accomplished musician and scholar, she introduced many young people to the importance of music in human history through her teaching. She loved the outdoors, and many of us had the opportunity to accompany her on the trail

or to hear her play the flute around the campfire at night.

Amy was a fine artist and expressed her love of the land in her beautiful paintings of Nevada’s wild places, most of which she explored tirelessly for many years. She illustrated books on wilderness and designed a logo for the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Amy dedicated her recent efforts to opposing sprawl and preserving scenic values in Northern Nevada.

Those of us who were privileged to know Catherine and Amy will attempt to carry on their magnificent work in their memory.

— Marge Sill

#### Earth Day is every day!

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

EACH YEAR, EARTH DAY PROVIDES US with many opportunities to think about the Earth and our responsibility for its care. However, Earth Day, is not just a one day event.

An easy way to commit to the Earth’s care is with our shopping habits. We can vote with our wallets and support responsible companies and products when we shop; making a difference every time we spend money.

The *Better World Shopping Guide* is a handy pocket guide that rates companies and products according to five key issues; human rights, the environment, animal protection, community involvement, and social justice. They use records from the past 20 years to analyze and rate companies for their social and environmental records.

Check out their website at [www.betterworldshopper.org](http://www.betterworldshopper.org) to find details on how they rate companies. This site provides a printer friendly list of the “Ten Best Companies” plus a list of small companies you may not be familiar with that also have exceptional records.

As you shop, support products and companies that have proven track records in their commitment to the Earth!

#### GREAT BASIN GROUP

##### OFFICERS

Chair	David von Seggern*	775-303-8461
Vice-Chair	Holly Coughlin*	775-331-7488
Secretary	Julie Woodard*	775-530-1566
Treasurer	Chip Latham*	775-824-4505
Conservation	David von Seggern	775-303-8461
Distribution	Carol Tresner	775-786-0489
Energy	Jeff Hardcastle	775-746-2443
Membership	Cathy Schmidt*	775-323-6316
Outings	Holly Coughlin*	775-331-7488
Political	Chip Latham*	775-824-4505
Programs	Valerie Andersen*	775-828-0302
Webmaster	Howard Goldbaum	775-772-8579

\* ExCom members

#### Great Basin Group Events

BY VALERIE ANDERSEN,  
MTNVAL@SBCGLOBAL.NET

##### Group program meetings

##### “Exploring Nevada in Virtual Reality”

Program Meeting: Oct. 8 (Thursday)

Time: 7 pm social, 7:30 Program.

Location: Bartley Ranch  
Regional Park, Reno.

University of Nevada at Reno professor, Howard Goldbaum, will demonstrate how modern digital media on the Internet can create “sense of place experiences” using virtual reality programming. From remote desert environments, to hidden caves, to restricted access government sites, we will explore various out-of-the way Nevada locations using virtual reality and 3-D visualization techniques. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Valerie Andersen at (775) 828-0302.

##### “Nevada’s Environmental Legacy”

Program Meeting: Nov. 12 (Thursday)

Time: 7 pm social, 7:30 Program.

Location: Bartley Ranch  
Regional Park, Reno.

James Hulse is a lifetime Nevadan and a professor emeritus of history at the University of Nevada, Reno. His newest book, *Nevada’s Environmental Legacy: Progress or Plunder* (published earlier this year by the university press), reflects his idea that we Nevadans have been neglecting the many environmental threats that have developed over the last century and a half. He will ask what we are doing about them and



## Great Basin Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 775 unless otherwise noted.

ALL events include conservation education activities.

CST Nevada Tour Operator – Registration Information, Nevada Tour Operator

Ref. No. 2008-0041 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

#### OCTOBER 3-4 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

**Black Rock Hot Springs Tour & Car Camp.** Visit at least three, maybe more, hot springs in Black Rock NCA. Learn where they are so you can revisit at your leisure! The weather is starting to cool off, there will be few visitors. Also check out Burning Man site’s cleanup efforts. Learn about this National Conservation Area. Call ahead for details. Trip limit 10. DL. Info: contact leader, David Book (843-6443, dbook@gbis.com). Easy.

#### OCTOBER 3 (SATURDAY)

**Snow Valley Peak.** Hike from Spooner Summit off Hwy. 50 to Snow Valley Peak. About 12 mi RT, 2000 ft gain, 8a-4p. Fast-paced outing. Views of Lake Tahoe, Sierra Crest, Marlette Lake, parts of Carson Valley. Learn some history of area. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. strenuous.

#### OCTOBER 4 (SUNDAY)

**Donner Peak, Mt. Judah Roller Pass.** This 8 mi loop-hike will take us to “window to east” at Donner Peak’s modest 8000-ft summit. Then over nearby Mt. Judah for unrestricted vistas. Dropping down to historic Roller Pass, return rapidly on Pacific Crest Trail. Total gain 1200 ft, 8 mi RT, 8:30a-3p. DOK. Leader: Gary Hanneman (336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Moderate.

#### OCTOBER 5-11 (SATURDAY-FRIDAY)

**Toiyabe Crest Through Backpack.** Multi-day backpack, 65 mi, on Toiyabe Crest National Recreation Trail, for experienced backpackers only. Join Friends of Nevada Wilderness, GBG, Austin/Tonopah Ranger District’s Wilderness Ranger to experience the work that FNW has completed over summer. This rugged, wild place is the ultimate Nevada hiking experience. Learn about land management and resources on Humboldt-Toiyabe. To minimize impact, trip limit of 6. Carpooling, shuttle required. FNW will provide transportation. ND. Leaders: Wes Hoskins (762-6730), David Kiell USFS Wilderness Ranger. Strenuous.

#### OCTOBER 10 (SATURDAY)

**Galena Park Service Outing.** Help your crippled Washoe County Parks with service day at Galena Park. Work under supervision of county parks staff person, doing what-



Great Basin Group members enjoy the deck overlooking Galena Creek at the summer “Keep Washoe Wild” party held July 19 at Galena Park’s Fish Hatchery. About 100 people attended.

ever is high on their list of unmet needs due to cutbacks in operational funds. Call for meeting time, details. ND. Leader: David von Seggern (303-8461).

#### OCTOBER 10 (SATURDAY)

**Lundy Canyon Day Hike.** Lots of color, waterfalls. A bit of drive, but worth it! About 6 mi with under 1000 ft gain, 8a-5p. DL. Leader: Kim Glasgow (kfcalo@att.net). Moderate.

#### OCTOBER 10 (SATURDAY)

**101 Mile Hiking Party! Celebrate an-**  
Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

#### 2009 Holiday Party Patagonia Service Center Saturday, December 5, 6 -10 pm

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN,  
VONSEG1@SBCGLOBAL.NET

MEMBERS AND GUESTS are all invited to attend the Great Basin Group holiday party at the Patagonia Outlet in northwest Reno (8550 White Fir St., Reno). Located next to the Truckee River, Patagonia has again donated their facility for our party which promises to be a lot of fun!



We will have live music, mixer games, door prizes, awards, and a slide show. Come meet your friends and celebrate our year. Parties are asked to bring a dish and their beverage of choice (alcoholic beverages are permitted).

For more information, call David von Seggern (303-8461) or Cathy Schmidt (323-6316).

what we intend to do. Dr. Hulse is the author of several books about Nevada history, including *The Silver State: Nevada’s Heritage Reinterpreted*, now in a third edition. All programs are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Valerie Andersen at (775) 828-0302.

#### Great Basin Group ExCom Meeting

We meet on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 pm, at the Cathexes Bldg, 2nd and Bell. For info, contact chair, David von Seggern (303-8461).

Don’t forget  
to visit the

Great Basin Group  
website

<<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/gbgroup>>

& the  
Chapter website

<<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>>

other great year of trips with Great Basin Group. Bring your card to show off your totals, even if you didn't quite make it, or perhaps you just were late starter (It's okay, we all began sometime). Photos of our outings would be greatly appreciated. We'll supply main course, all cutlery, water. Please bring appetizer, salad, or dessert, BYOB. Feel free to bring friend so they can see how much fun we have trekking all over this area. Chuck is graciously hosting this year's party at his home, 6-9p. Please call Chuck (786-2988) for details or Holly (331-7488) for questions. Fun!

### OCTOBER 11 (SUNDAY)

**Biz Johnson Mountain Bike Ride.** Terrific ride out of Susanville on old railroad bed. Ride about 20-22 mi on trail heading toward Westwood, 8:30a-5p. Helmet required. Fall colors should be fantastic. ND. Leaders: Holly, Mike (331-7488). Moderate.



Volunteers dig hard on the July 2009 service trip to the new Grafton Wilderness Area in White Pine County. (Photo: Vicky Hoover.)

### OCTOBER 17 (SATURDAY)

**Snow Valley Peak Day Hike.** All day hike up North Canyon from Spooner Lake, up toward Marlette Lake, but with right turn up ridge to bag Snow Valley Peak (9214 ft). Stroll up new trail through aspen-filled glens, expect to see great fall colors, plus fantastic views of Lake Tahoe. If lucky, we might see some ospreys and eagles. About 11 mi RT, 2200 ft gain, 8:30a-4p. DL. Leaders: Ridge Walker (853-8055; edc@unr.edu), Vesna Koracin (324-4092). Mod. strenuous.

### OCTOBER 18 (SUNDAY)

**Under Mt. Houghton's Shadow.** Cross Mt. Rose Meadow, then climb small canyon to reach Mt. Rose trail junction at 9600 ft. Then go off-trail to lunch at bottom of nearby Mt. Houghton's northerly moon-scape. Total gain 1200 ft, 8 mi RT, -3p. DOK. Leader: Gary Hanneman (336-7698; gphanneman@charter.net). Moderate.

### OCTOBER 18 (SUNDAY)

**Spooner to Marlette Lake Day Hike.** Lots of fall color. About 8 mi RT, 800-1000 ft gain, 9a-4p. Learn about flora. DL. Leader: Kim Glasgow (kcaloha@att.net). Moderate.

### OCTOBER 24 (SATURDAY)

**Buckland Station South of Silver Springs Day Hike.** Nearly 12 mi RT loop hike on flat ground starts at historic Buckland Station, proceeds downstream along Carson River, 8:30a-5p. Enjoy riparian habitat, fall leaves. Return on segment of Pony Express Trail route. Learn some history of area. Option to tour remains of Fort Churchill on your own after hike. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

### OCTOBER 25 (SUNDAY)

**Freel Peak Day Hike.** Fabulous trek offers spectacular vistas of Tahoe, Carson Valley. Fall colors should still be nice. Learn about

# Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

some flora, fauna. About 10-12 mi RT, over 2500 ft gain, 8:30a-5p. Take non-traditional off-trail route to return which involves scree (fun to ski). Good knees a must. DOK. Leaders: Holly, Mike (331-7488). Mod. strenuous.

### OCTOBER 30 (FRIDAY)

**Nevada Day Hike.** Celebrate our state holiday with traditional peak bag of our local landmark, Peavine Mtn (8300 ft). Find novel route up back side. About 10 mi RT, 3300 ft gain, 9a-4p. Learn a lot about diverse habitats we climb through. If lucky, see some migrating mule deer. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055; edc@unr.edu). Mod. strenuous.

### OCTOBER 31 (SATURDAY)

**Dayton to Silver City Day Hike.** Visit Rock Point Mill site, then head out to find support sites for aerial buckets that brought ore to mill from Silver City. Then follow old wagon road up to outskirts of Silver City to find lovely spot under pinyon pines for lunch. Optional strenuous climb up to ridge line with T A and return. Otherwise, trip is 6 mi RT, 800 ft gain, 9a-3p. ND. Leaders: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763), T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. easy.

### NOVEMBER 1 (SUNDAY)

**Castle, Basin Peaks Bag.** Loop hike, 12 mi RT, 2100 ft gain, 8a-4p. First stop is famous (triple) Castle Peak. Then follow cliffside saddle trail over to Basin Peak and drop down (off-trail) to nearby PCT for easy return. DOK. Leader: Gary Hanneman (336-7698; gphanneman@charter.net). Mod. strenuous.

### NOVEMBER 1 (SUNDAY)

**State Line Peak Day Hike.** Ascend State Line Peak in Ft. Sage Mountains N of Reno. About 3000 ft gain, 10 mi RT, 70% off-trail, 8a-4p. Learn about precarious rocks, enjoy splendid views, sign in at seldom visited peak. DL. Leaders: David von Seggern (303-8461), Ileana Tibuleac (781-258-3619). Mod. strenuous.

### NOVEMBER 7 (SATURDAY)

**Mt. Davidson Day Hike.** First in series of highest peaks in local mountain ranges; Mt. Davidson is in Virginia Range overlooking Virginia City. About 7 mi loop, 1000 ft gain, 8a-4p. Parts off-trail, steep, with brush. See segment of an old wooden flume which brought water to VC. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

### NOVEMBER 8 (SUNDAY)

**Horse Thief Canyon Day Hike.** Come out, enjoy last of fall season in area known for aspen bursting with color. Beginning of hike is steep, with water cascading nearby in creek. Lunch on rocks overlooking entire canyon. About 8 mi, 2000 ft gain, 8:30a-4p. Optional stop at Grover's Hot Springs afterward. DOK. Leaders: Holly, Mike (331-7488), Vesna Koracin (324-4092). Mod. strenuous.

### NOVEMBER 14 (SATURDAY)

**Lost Without a Leader? Map & Compass**

**class.** Would you literally be lost without a leader? Come on this beginning map, compass class, learn basic outdoor skills. Part "classroom," then easy, local hike to top of Rattlesnake Mountain to put skills into practice. Bad weather cancels. Trip limit 10. DOK. Leader: David Book (843-6443). Easy.

### NOVEMBER 15 (SUNDAY)

**North on TRT from Spooner Summit.** Follow TRT N (ascending 1000 ft from Spooner Summit) for several miles, taking advantage of interesting off-trail viewpoints, photo ops of Lake Tahoe. Trail is rather low, between 7000-8000 ft, so very little snow, if any. About 8-9 mi RT, 1000 ft gain, 8:30a-3p. DOK. Leader: Gary Hanneman (336-7698; gphanneman@charter.net). Moderate.

### NOVEMBER 21 (SATURDAY)

**Cleaver Peak Day Hike.** Second in series of highest peaks in local mountain ranges: Cleaver Peak is in Desert Mountains near Silver Springs. About 7 mi RT, 1500 ft gain, 8:30a-4pm. Learn some history of area. Cross country. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. strenuous.

### NOVEMBER 22 (SUNDAY)

**Fort Churchill Loop Day Hike.** Park at entrance to State Park, follow trail to fort. Spend some time exploring old Fort buildings before going down to Carson River. Follow trail along river, back to highway, cars. About 6 mi RT, no gain, 9a-3p. DOK on leash. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763). Easy.

### NOVEMBER 23 (MONDAY)

**OUTINGS MEETING.** Calling all Outings Leaders interested in learning about outings! Join us for fun social event that helps us generate all these great outings everyone enjoys. Bring dish to share. All beverages,



The Grafton group celebrates a successful culvert-removing service trip (Photo: Vicky Hoover.)

eating implements are supplied. Meet at Gracie's home off Vista Dr. in Sparks about 6:30pm. Plan for January, February, March. Call Gracie (233-6404) for directions or Holly (331-7488) for questions. Fun!

### NOVEMBER 29 (SUNDAY)

**Ophir Creek Overlook Day Hike.** Mod. easy 5 mi RT to seldom visited overlook, which is about 600 ft (total hike ascent) above where Ophir Creek starts to descend toward Washoe Lake 3200 ft below. Most of hike is on southbound TRT, 9:30-2p. DOK. Leader: Gary Hanneman (336-7698; gphanneman@charter.net). Mod. easy.

### DECEMBER 5 (SATURDAY)

**Waterfall in Winter Day Hike.** Many of you are familiar with waterfall on Mt. Rose Trail ... did you know that it freezes on outside, keeps flowing in winter? Learn about Mt. Rose area. No cotton clothing, bad weather will cancel. Trip limit 10, 9a-2p. DL. Leader: David Book (843-6443). Mod. easy.

### DECEMBER 5 (SATURDAY)

**Ridgeline to Tamarack Peak Day Hike.** For this popular destination, ascend 1000 ft mostly off-trail. Within 2.5 mi reach Tamarack Peak (9900 ft) summit for lunch, breath-taking views of whole 22 mi down Lake Tahoe. Shouldn't need snowshoes (yet). Total trip 5 mi RT, 1000 ft gain, 9:30-2p. DOK. Leader: Gary Hanneman (336-7698; gphanneman@charter.net). Moderate.

### DECEMBER 6 (SUNDAY)

**Churchill Butte Day Hike.** Third in series of highest peaks in local mountain ranges. Churchill Butte, near Silver Springs. Scale butte overlooking historic Fort Churchill, portions of emigrant wagon route, ancient, modern Lake Lahontan, Pony Express Trail, Lincoln Highway. Learn history of area. About 9.5 mi RT, at least 1800 ft gain, all in first 4 mi, 8:30a-4p. Parts of hike are off-trail with steep descents. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. strenuous.

### DECEMBER 6 (SUNDAY)

**Spanish Springs Peak Day Hike.** From Sparks to Dry Lake Basin near Spanish Springs Peak. This basin is unusual field of small rocks laid bare by erosion. See petroglyphs along way, enjoy autumn air. Gain about 1000 ft, 10 mi RT, mostly on dirt roads, some cross country, 9a-4p. DL. Leaders: David von Seggern (303-8461), Donna Inversin (775-315-6763). Moderate.

### DECEMBER 13 (SUNDAY)

**Virginia Mountains Desert Day Hike.** Trek in fabulous mountain range NE of Reno. Destination determined by weather conditions. Bad weather cancels. About 6-8 mi, 1200 ft possible gain, 9a-4p. Views of Pah Rah Range, Dog Skin Mountains, possibly Pyramid Lake. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Moderate.

### DECEMBER 21 (SATURDAY)

**Carson River Railroads near Moundhouse.** About 12 mi one way with vehicle shuttle. Gain under 1000 ft. Hike along scenic Carson River Canyon, learn about two railroads of Comstock era. Parts of hike are cross-country. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

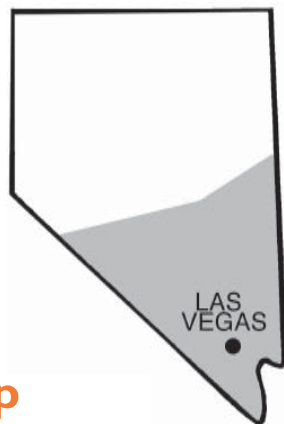
### JANUARY 1, 2010 (FRIDAY)

**Annual New Year's Day Assault on Prison Hill.** Climb Prison Hill in Carson City then follow ridge line S, dropping back down near Mexican Dam. Follow Mexican Ditch trail back to cars. Bring left over goodies you want to get rid of to share. Dogs not recommended. Alternate hike if there is heavy snow. About 6 mi RT, 1100 ft gain. DL. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763). Moderate.



# The Mojave Monitor

## Southern Nevada Group



### Group News

#### Monthly meetings

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for the second Wednesday of every month (except August and holidays) for the **MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING** at 7:30 pm. Come socialize, learn what's going on in the environmental community, and hear and see an interesting, educational slideshow program. See the **Calendar (pages 10-11)** for dates and details.

**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS** precede the General Meeting in the same room from 6-7 pm. The next **ConsCom meetings** are Wednesdays, **Oct. 14 and Nov. 11**. Contact: jane Feldman (janefeldman@cox.net).

**GROUP EXCOM MEETINGS** are 6 - 8:30 pm on the first Monday of each month, except August, when the first Monday is a holiday. Location: Sierra Club Office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass Ave.), Suite 220B (upstairs), Las Vegas.

The next **ExCom meeting dates** are Mondays, **Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7**. All members welcome. Info: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832).

The next **NEW & PROSPECTIVE MEMBER ORIENTATION** has not been scheduled at press time. It precedes the general meeting in the same room at 7 pm. Info: please call Taj Ainlay **MAKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT.** To put an announcement in our local monthly announcement sheet (available at the General Meeting), please send a brief e-mail to Rita (rita.ransom@hotmail.com) no later than Tuesday afternoon before the meeting. To make a brief announcement at the meeting, check with Rita, Gary, or another officer before the meeting.

### Meet our new Senior Regional Rep for S. Nevada Field Office

BY YUKI TAKAGI

The Southern Nevada Group is excited to introduce a new Sr. Regional Representative for the Southern Nevada Field Office to our members. His name is Rob Disney, and prior to joining the Sierra Club he worked in the Crisis Corps program for the Peace Corps and was active with its union. While with the Crisis Corps, he managed disaster assistance projects including Hurricane Katrina and the Tsunami of 2004.

Many of our local members got to know Rob during the 2008 general elections as he worked for the Obama and Titus campaigns at a field director level in Southern Nevada.



Rob Disney, our new Senior Regional Rep.

There is no doubt that Rob will bring his enthusiasm and organizational skills to the Club's Beyond Coal and Clean Energy Solutions campaigns. In fact, he's already made a big splash in the local conservation community since he began his venture with the Sierra Club in May.

He was successful in organizing a rally with various environmental and progressive organizations as well as local unions during Senator Harry Reid's National Clean Energy Summit 2.0. to show support for renewable energy development in Nevada.

Rob is absolutely committed that there will be no new coal-fired power plants in the Silver State. He looks forward to meeting everyone and encourages anyone who has questions or suggestions to give him a call (702-732-7750).

Please welcome Rob!

## Southern Nevada Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 702 unless otherwise noted.

(Please use email when leaders state that they prefer email, especially if you have a long distance telephone number.)

**ALL EVENTS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

Nevada Tour Operator – Registration Information, Nevada Tour Operator Ref. No. 2008-0041.

### OCTOBER (DATE-TBA)

**Tule Springs "Ice Age Park," North Las Vegas.** Join representatives from Protectors of Tule Springs in visiting largest late Pleistocene paleontology site in American southwest, located just stone's throw away from Las Vegas metropolitan area. Learn about endemic, endangered flora in area; why area needs protection; and how you can become steward of this unique place in our desert. Sierra Club members only. About 3 mi RT. Limit 25. Check SNG website for update. Contact: Yuki Takagi (263-7327, yuki.takagi@toiyabe.sierraclub.org). Level 1.

### OCTOBER 3 (SATURDAY)

**Cathedral Rock, Kyle Canyon, SMNRA.** Family hike: all ages (little kids, too!). Friendly dogs welcome. Cool fall temperatures, autumn colors (golden aspen trees), awesome view of canyon and surrounding mountains at top of "Rock." Learn some geology, too. About 2.8 mi RT, 1000 ft

gain. Leader: Gary Beckman (648-2983). Level 2.

### OCTOBER 5 (MONDAY)

**GROUPEXCOM MEETING.** Time & Place: 6-8:30p; local Sierra Club office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass Ave.), Ste. 200B. All members welcome. Contact: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832, krissysjake@gmail.com).

### OCTOBER 11 (SUNDAY)

**Pine Creek, RRCNCA.** After about 1.5 mi. on trail, start lots of rock scrambling in very deep sandstone canyon. Expect to see some fall color. Where did green go? About 6 mi RT. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

### OCTOBER 14 (WEDNESDAY)

**CONSERVATION MEETING.** Time & Place: 6-7p, before General Meeting; NV Energy Bldg. (see next). Program: TBA. Learn about many issues S. NV Group is

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

## Glacier National Park Service Trip improves historic ranger stations

BY LINDA NATIONS

More than 20 Sierra Club members traveled to Polebridge in the remote northwest corner of Glacier National Park, Montana, for volunteer work on August 24-28, 2009. Organized by Ed Rothfuss, former Chief Park Naturalist, Glacier National Park, and Brooke Linford, NPS Volunteer



Coordinator, the group included 18 from the Southern Nevada Group, one from the Great Basin Group, one from the Austin Group in Texas, and one field recruit

*Our Bridge in Polebridge. Dave Luttmann leans over guardrails of a 250-foot bridge to apply paint evenly. Paint crew not pictured: Marion Ammerman, Norma Biggar, Howard & Ursula Booth, Susan Call, Barbara Gerhardt, John Harrington, Billie Jean James, Linda Nations, Glennis Peterson, Stan Peyton, Cheryl Phillips & Rita Ransom. (Photo: John Harrington.)*

## A memorial for Fred Treat

BY GARY BECKMAN

IN MEMORY OF OUR recent Group chairman, Fred Treat, who passed away last January, the Southern Nevada Group will purchase an engraved tile for the memorial walkway at the Red Rock Canyon NCA visitors center. Fred loved Red Rock, as the rest of us do. A new Visitor Center is currently under construction and should be completed by the end of the year. If you'd like to donate to Fred's memorial, please contact Gary Beckman (648-2983, glbeckman@hotmail.com, or at our monthly program meeting) or a Group officer.

from Bowman Lake Campground, Polebridge. Over 400 hours of work were contributed.

At the historic Polebridge Ranger Station Complex the group painted five historic buildings and a 250-foot bridge over the North Fork of the Flathead River, as well as all sign posts, sheds,

Please see GLACIER NAT'L PARK, page 12.

### SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Kristine Cunningham*	702-285-6832
Vice-Chair	Par Rasmusson*	702-215-9119
Secretary	Par Rasmusson*	702-215-9119
Treasurer	Desiree Saporito	702-875-2668
At Large	Open	
At Large	Teresa Crawford*	702-526-8445
Compliance	Bart Patterson	702-349-1031
Conservation	Jane Feldman	janefeldman@cox.net
Cool Cities	Open	
Editor	Yuki Takagi	yuki.takagi@toiyabe.sierraclub.org
Hwy Cleanup	Sandee Herlands-Gogatz	702-248-4443
Membership	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361
Outings	Jack Sawyer	702-228-3857
Parks, Refuges	Ed Rothfuss	702-277-7098
Political	Open	
Programs	Gary Beckman	702-648-2983
Publicity	Maxine Miller	702-354-3638
Social	Matt Van Note*	702-348-5473
Webmaster	Par Rasmusson*	702-215-9119

Sierra Club National Representative in S. Nevada  
Regional Rep Rob Disney 702-732-7750  
robert.disney@sierraclub.org

\* ExCom member

**Don't forget to visit the Chapter website**  
<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>

# S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 10

involved in and how you can get involved. Light dinner, refreshments. All members, friends, guests, are welcome. Contact: Jane Feldman (janefeldman@cox.net).

## OCTOBER 14 (WEDNESDAY)

**GENERAL PROGRAM MEETING.** Time & Place: 7:30p; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: "Hiking Northern Arizona," by Bruce Grubbs, hiker, writer, and photographer from Flagstaff, Arizona. Bruce is author of subject title and many other hiking, backpacking, camping, and mountain biking guidebooks for Arizona, Nevada, Utah, California, and Oregon. Learn about wonderful places to explore, hike, camp, including Grand Canyon, Flagstaff, and Sedona areas, Hualapai Mtns., Havasu Falls. Hear tips on how to safely enjoy great outdoors. Bruce will have some of his books for sale at discount and to sign. All members and general public are welcome. Refreshments, announcements, free literature, too. Info: Gary Beckman (648-2983). Note: BLM program originally scheduled for Oct. meeting has been rescheduled for Nov. meeting.

## OCTOBER 17 (SATURDAY)

**Beginner Hike: Fall Color in Spring Mountains.** Are there any hibernators up in these mountains? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 1-2.

## OCTOBER 24 (SATURDAY)

**Far N. End Valley of Fire Exploratory, LMNRA.** Let's learn about and view petroglyphs, soak in some cool air and sunshine. About 6-8 mi. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

## OCTOBER 25 (SUNDAY)

**Valley of Fire, LMNRA.** One of many loops in this colorful sandstone area, walk through shaded canyon and among many rock formations. What are some common plants here and how do they survive the hot, dry summer? About 7-8 mi. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2.

## OCTOBER 31

### (SATURDAY-HALLOWEEN)

**Beginner Hike: RRCNCA.** Bring pumpkin cupcake or pumpkin colored clothes or your Halloween mask. What paints did local tribes use for their decorations? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 1-2.

## NOVEMBER 1 (SUNDAY)

**Blue Diamond Hill.** We will begin at horse station and end at Blue Diamond. This 8 mi hike rises to crest of mountain, then follows ridge. Good views of Las Vegas, Lake Mead, Red Rock along way. If you set your clocks back one hour last night (don't forget to do so) you will be on Pacific Standard Time. Does sun now come up later or earlier? Car Shuttle. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

## NOVEMBER 2 (MONDAY)

**GROUPEXCOM MEETING.** Time & Place: 6-8:30p; local Sierra Club office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass Ave.), Ste. 200B. All members welcome. Contact: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832, krissysjake@gmail.com).

## NOVEMBER 7 (SATURDAY)

**Bowl of Fire Loop, LMNRA.** Where in Utah do we see this same strata of red sandstone? About 7-8 mi. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

## NOVEMBER 11 (WEDNESDAY)

**Conservation Meeting.** Time & Place: 6-7p, before General Meeting; NV Energy Bldg. (see next). Program: TBA. Learn about many issues S. NV Group is involved in and how you can get involved. Light dinner, refreshments. All members, friends, guests, are welcome. Contact: Jane Feldman (janefeldman@cox.net).

## NOVEMBER 11 (WEDNESDAY)

**GENERAL PROGRAM MEETING.** Time & Place: 7:30p; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: "U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Southern Nevada: Changes & Challenges," with Mary Jo Rugwell, BLM District Manager, Southern Nevada. Learn about environmental issues and successes, current and future activities on more than three million acres of land managed by BLM in southern Nevada, including Red Rock Canyon NCA, Sloan Canyon NCA, Upper Las Vegas Wash, Rainbow Gardens, Gold Butte. Meet new local manager. All members and general public are welcome. Refreshments, announcements, free literature, too. Info: Gary Beckman (648-2983).

## NOVEMBER 14 (SATURDAY)

**Pinto Valley, LMNRA.** Keep an eye out for desert big horn. How many years will it take for old road to disappear? About 8-9 mi. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

## NOVEMBER 15 (SUNDAY)

**China Ranch, near Tecopa, CA.** About 1.25 hrs W from Blue Diamond to hike in fun hills and narrow canyons near China Ranch. This is an area similar to parts of Death Valley. Enjoy date shake or shopping for dates or date bread after hike. How did China Ranch get its name? About 7 mi. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2.

## NOVEMBER 15 (SUNDAY)

**Sunday Walk & Waffles: Springs Preserve Trail.** First in our winter program of monthly, 2-hr Sunday walks along valley's award-winning urban park trails, followed by brunch at local restaurant. Walk trail and check out historic signs. Early lunch at Wolfgang Puck's cafe. Leaders: Nick Saines (896-4049), Ann Cronin (737-5758). Level 1.

## NOVEMBER 21 (SATURDAY)

**Beginner Hike: RRCNCA.** What animals and insects do we find streamside? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 1-2.

## NOVEMBER 22 (SUNDAY)

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP, RED ROCK.** Come out for an early turkey trot down road at S entry to Red Rock. Meet at 8:30 am at Dunkin' Donuts (two lights W of I-215 on Charleston) for your eye-opener before we head out. We'll be back for pizza lunch. Bring water, hat, sunscreen, joke to tell. Leader: Sandee Herlands Gogatz (248-4443, hsandee@yahoo.com), co-leader Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

## NOVEMBER 26

### (THURSDAY-THANKSGIVING DAY)

**Wilson Tanks, RRCNCA.** Begin in S end of Red Rocks below hwy 160. Half mile of good dirt road; 10 mi loop. See water trough for wildlife and, if lucky, some fine horses. Return by way of Red Canyon. Were horses ever native here? Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com;

e-mail preferred).

## NOVEMBER 28 (SATURDAY)

**Valley of Fire.** Another one of many possible loop hikes. See brilliant colors, unusual rock formations, narrow canyons. Some rock scrambling. About 7-8 mi. What geology layer is represented here? Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

## NOVEMBER 28 (SATURDAY)

**The Best of Valley of Fire.** Valley of Fire is Nature's gift to hikers of Las Vegas. About 5 mi hike through strange, colorful landforms with geologist Nick Saines (896-4049) and Sasson Jahan (499-9218). Level 3.

## NOVEMBER 29 (SUNDAY)

**Blue Diamond Hill.** Walk trail part way towards top from horse station, cut over to an old road, then down deep canyon which finally leads to Wheeler Spring. What kind of trees are at Wheeler Spring? Some rock scrambling. Car Shuttle. About 7-8 mi. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

## DECEMBER 5 (SATURDAY)

**Bitter Springs Loop, LMNRA.** Rambling through badlands, we'll seek out source of spring. What chemicals might be present to make this spring "bitter"? About 7-8 mi. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

## DECEMBER 5-6 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

**Death Valley Car Camp.** Meet very early (around 6 a.m.) to make most of day at this time of early sunsets. About 8 mi of various routes both days. Camp at Texas Springs campground (first come, first served). However, we should nearly have it to ourselves since we will be after Thanksgiving but before Christmas crowd arrives. How cold can it get in Death Valley? Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

## DECEMBER 9 (WEDNESDAY)

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY.** Time & Place:



6:30p; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). Our annual holiday party will be potluck,

with Club providing main dish, we welcome ideas for entertainment, too. Volunteers needed to help organize festivities. Contact: Matt VanNote (348-5473, vansvan@hotmail.com).

## DECEMBER 12 (SATURDAY)

**Beyond Arrow Canyon Dam, Moapa Valley.** Extensive concentration of petroglyphs make this a fascinating stroll. Go up past dam to get greater grasp of surrounding topography. Who built this cache basin? About 7-8 mi. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

## DECEMBER 13 (SUNDAY)

**Sunday Walk & Waffles: Cottonwood Wash, Las Vegas.** Second in our winter program of monthly, 2-hr Sunday walks along Valley's award-winning urban trails, followed by brunch at local restaurant. Walk fabled and hidden Cottonwood Wash Trail, have brunch at Red Rock casino. Leaders: Ann Cronin (737-5758) and Nick Saines (896-4049). Level 2.

## DECEMBER 19 (SATURDAY)

**Beginner Hike: Winter in Spring Mountains.** Can you find secret entrance to Wild

Horse Canyon? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 1-2.

## DECEMBER 25 (FRIDAY)

**Hwy. 160 to Blue Diamond.** Begin at new parking lot off Hwy 160, continue along base of Red Rock cliffs, water tub, onto an open area, then along high ridgeline, finally into Blue Diamond. About 8 mi. What is main geology layer of Red Rock cliffs and how does it compare to Zion NP? Car Shuttle. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

## DECEMBER 26 (SATURDAY)

**Bowl of Fire, LMNRA.** Begin and end at Mile 18 of N. Shore Rd. Loop includes Ravens' Balconies. Some rock scrambling and Rabbit Hole. See Snow White. What is the difference between a raven and a crow? About 8-10 mi. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 3.

## DECEMBER 27 (SUNDAY)

**Calico-to-Calico Loop: RRCNCA.** Begin at Red Spring, walk along and through red sandstone formations, up over pass into Gateway Canyon, then up canyons to another side canyon that leads to Sandstone Quarry. After lunch, return by way of Grand Circle Trail, 3 mi back to Red Spring. How much rainfall normally falls in winter at Red Rock? About 7 mi. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

## JANUARY 1, 2010 (FRIDAY)

**Pinto Valley, LMNRA.** Begin this 8 mi loop at Mile 18 on N. Shore Rd. See spring, narrow canyons, rock formations. What makes various colors? Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

## JANUARY 1 (FRIDAY)

**Hangover Hike: Valley of Pillars in Rainbow Gardens.** Start New Year right by joining fellow hikers on moderate but scenic 4-mi RT hike in Rainbow Gardens. Trail has spectacular desert scenery with rugged sandstone buttes, volcanic mountains. Leave late morning. Leaders: geologists Gary Beckman (648-2983) and Nick Saines (896-4049). Level 2-3.

## JANUARY 2 (SATURDAY)

**Blue Diamond Trails & Velvet Canyon, RRCNCA.** Begin in Blue Diamond, go over ridge and to Velvet Canyon where we may see ice if it has been cold enough. Back by series of trails to Blue Diamond. What are main evergreen shrubs? About 10 mi. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 3.

## JANUARY 3 (SUNDAY)

**Horse Loop.** Begin near Mountain's Edge development, go across an open area and into rather narrow canyon which leads to high ridge. After lunch, follow ridge down to another canyon and back to cars. Are there fossils in rocks here? About 5 mi. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

## JANUARY 4 (MONDAY)

**GROUP EXCOM MEETING.** Time & Place: 6-8:30p; local Sierra Club office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass Ave.) Ste. 200B. All

Please see SN CALENDAR, p. 12.

## GLACIER NAT'L PARK . . .

continued from page 10



**Log Jam.** The Glacier National Park volunteer crews display their pride on a newly built log bridge made of fallen trees. From front to back: Liebling the k-9, Bill James, Yuki Takagi, Rita Wirtz (NPS), Dave Luttmann, Irving Norwood, Par Rasmusson, Mike Thorson, Sam Keifer & Ken Wirtz (NPS). (Photo: Harry W. McDaniel, NPS)

and fire hose boxes. In addition, they leared an overgrown fishing access trail, graveled the paths between staff ousing, and removed invasive plants. At Logging Creek, the group removed a mile of worn fencing and built log bridges over a creek crossing the trail between the historic Ranger Station and the river.

District Ranger Scott Emmerich provided insights into management challenges at Polebridge. With no paved roads, the area receives only 30,000 of the Park's 2 million annual visitors. Winters are long and brutal. Snow can fall in any month of the year. Wildfires are frequent. Periodic drought, general climate change, infestations of pine borer beetles and spruce bud worm, and proposed new mining operations in British Columbia and Alberta, Canada, pose serious threats to the area. Ranger Emmerich and his staff

worked shoulder to shoulder with us and greatly added to our knowledge of Glacier's backcountry.

Ed Rothfuss also organized opportunities for the group to meet and speak with Glacier National Park Superintendent Chas Cartwright, USGS bear researcher my MacLeod, and USGS climatologist/geologist Dr. Dan Fagre.

We are indebted to Ed for organizing this service trip, which he unfortunately could not attend. He encourages others to create similar service and stewardship opportunities in our public lands.



*Almost done! Dawn Lauritzen poses before painting the final section of unfinished guardrails. (Photo: John Harrington)*



## Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

# TBA

For details, contact the Chair, **David Hornbeck**

davidhornbecklaw@msn.com

## SN GROUP CALENDAR . . .

continued from page 11

members welcome. Contact: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832, krissysjake@gmail.com).

### JANUARY 9 (SATURDAY)

**China Ranch with Car Shuttle.** Amarogosa scenic and wild river, date shakes, optional soak. Where is source of this river? About 6 mi. Leader: Ann Cronin (737-5758). Level 2.

### JANUARY 13 (WEDNESDAY)

**General Program Meeting.** Time & Place: 7:30p; NV Energy Bldg., 6226

W. Sahara (E entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: TBA. All members and general public welcome. Refreshments, announcements, free literature, too. Info: Gary Beckman (648-2983).

# Deadline!

## DECEMBER 1

for Jan-Feb - Mar issue

## ENERGY BARS . . .

continued from page 1

Some bars garnered comments like "looks and tastes like bear scat," "I'd rather have a root canal," "should not be sold to the public," "like sticking your tongue in a mousetrap," and "kitty litter." But other brands pack as much flavor as they do nutrients. Here are Sierra's top five in order of how they ranked.

**1. LUNA, White Chocolate Macadamia, \$1.39, lunabar.com.**

Fans called it "simply delicious," "natural tasting," and "not too dense" and noted its "nice crunch" and "tempting" appearance. They detected vanilla, cinnamon, brown sugar, and a "sweet and salty combo," which inspired comparisons to Rice Krispies Treats and popcorn Jelly Bellies. But not everyone loved this bar. "Weird aftertaste," one complained. "A bit commercial," said another.

Luna bars, marketed to women by the makers of Clif Bars, are 70% organic. A portion of the company's proceeds goes toward eliminating environmental causes of breast cancer.

**2. OLYMPIC GRANOLA, Almond Chocolate Trail Bar, \$2.99, olympicgranola.com.**

Raves included "I'd get this for a hike, no doubt," "one of the best," and "I'd eat these every day." Our panel appreciated the "hearty, well-balanced mixture of nuts, oats, seeds, and chocolate"; the "chewy," "light and airy" texture; and that it "looks like food." One naysayer commented that there's "too much going on." Olympic Granola's corn-syrup-free bars are made of non-genetically-modified ingredients.

ents that are grown without chemical sprays.

**3. ONE LUCKY DUCK, Chewy Almond Crunch Bar, \$6.50, oneluckyduck.com.**

Despite being chided as an ugly duckling--one taster said it looked "terrible," and another found its green seeds "off-putting"--One Lucky Duck's taste soared. The "hearty" bar is "well executed" and has "a nice collection of nuts, seeds, honey, and oats accented with raisins," with "just the right amount of moisture, chewiness, and sweetness." "This could be served as a dessert at a nice restaurant," one taster opined. Handmade in small batches, this pricey bar is from a company that sells only raw, vegan, organic products.

**4. CLIF BAR, Cool Mint Chocolate, \$1.39, clifbar.com.**

"The icing pulls you in and the minty flavor finishes you off," summarized one taster. The bar was called "refreshing," "chewy but not too dense," and "like a Thin Mint." "Caffeine?" someone surmised. (Yes, actually--one of the ingredients is green tea.) Though a few found it "weird" and "too potent," most were "surprised to like this one so much."

Clif Bars are 70% organic, and the company engages in many sustainable actions, including diverting most of its waste and using biodiesel for its fleet.

**5. HONEY STINGER, Peanut Butter 'n Honey, \$1.49, honeystinger.com.**

This "crumbly," "simple-looking bar" was divisive. Those who gave it a thumbs-up said it "tastes almost like candy" with an "excellent flavor," "melt-in-your-mouth peanut butter," and a "nice crunch." But those who didn't like it commented on a "terrible chemical flavor." One taster wondered, "Will the chocolate base melt in the heat?"

Honey Stinger is 100% wind powered, and employees get time-off credit for carpooling, bicycling, or walking to work. The company recycles all paper, glass, and metal and maintains a community vegetable garden outside of its building.

For more ratings, go to: <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/green-life/2009/06/energy-bars-have-come-a-long-way>



**This Thanksgiving,**  
Show your true colors and help support Sierra Club.  
**Join now!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**YES!** I would like to give a Thanksgiving gift membership to

**Gift Recipient** \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.  
Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Join today and receive a **FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
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"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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)

F94Q W 1400 1

