



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

From the Chair

BY DAVID HORNBECK

FIRST, CONGRATULATIONS to those elected to the Chapter and Group ExComs. Thank you all for stepping forward as leaders in the Club to undertake important work for the environment and our planet. (See article on this page for details.)

Votes received up 350%! David von Seggern deserves our special thanks and accolades for the tremendous job he did as Chair of the Election Committee. He was responsible for the difficult task of implementing the new individually mailed ballot procedure. The result was a new high for the Toiyabe Chapter with 587 ballots returned, for an 11.7% return. The 11.7% return was about a 350% fold increase over the response of 167 ballots in last year's election conducted through the Toiyabe Trails. In addition, Jane Feldman did an outstanding job as Chair of the Chapter Nominations Committee. The NomCom nominated 10

Please see CHAIR'S COLUMN, page 2.



Spring Mountains Acastus Checkerspot butterfly basking in the sun on a rock. (Photo: Courtesy G.T. Austin & Data Smith LLC.) Please see page 10 article, "Mt. Charleston's butterflies: On the way to extinction?"

Eastern Sierra update

Motorized vs. non-motorized winter recreation

Sherwin Working Group's consensus overturned by outside groups

BY MARY K PRENTICE

The Sherwin Working Group* and the USFS held a seven-month planning process to recommend summer and winter recreation uses for Mammoth Meadows and the Sherwin range to the USFS. The goal was to deliver a negotiated consensus on competing recreational uses and to be a model for future recreation planning around Mammoth Lakes and beyond.

Last April the group quickly came to consensus that there should be a separation of motorized and non-motorized use in the winter. The approximate boundaries were to extend from the town boundaries.

Please see OVERTURNED, page 5.

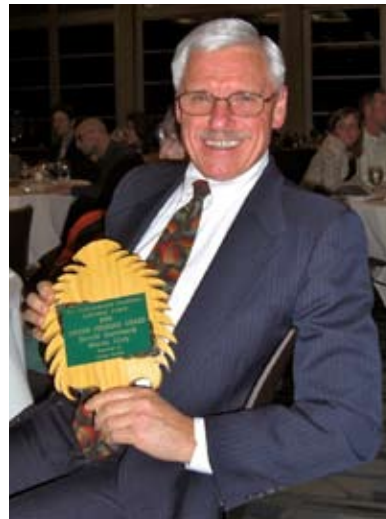
Kudos to David Hornbeck

BY TINA NAPPE

David Hornbeck, Chair of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club for the past three years, received the annual Pinecone award in November. Hornbeck was chosen as the outstanding individual in the field of conservation. For the past 22 years, five Pinecone awards have been offered annually at a dinner sponsored by EcoNet.

Dave Hornbeck first served on the Toiyabe Chapter Excom in the 1980s. He joined the opposition to the proposed MX missile racetrack, which was designed to utilize 45,000 acres in Nevada and Utah. A number of Sierra Club members, along with ranchers, miners, rural communities, and ultimately the Catholic Church, worked together to oppose the project.

During his second term of service on the Toiyabe Chapter ExCom, Hornbeck, in addition to administrative duties, has



Please see GOLDEN PINECONE AWARD page 2.

Chapter & group ExCom election results

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

The 2009 election ballot count was conducted the evening of December 10. Six counters and two observers, including Toiyabe Chapter Chair David Hornbeck, were present. About 460 ballots were counted, representing about 11.7% of the members of the Toiyabe Chapter. This 9% is more than triple the typical return rate in recent chapter elections.

For the chapter ExCom, in the order of number of votes received, from highest to lowest, the candidates' rankings are:

1. David Hornbeck
2. Glenn Miller
3. Erik Holland
4. Jean Stoess
5. Kris Cunningham
6. Mary Winston
7. Launce Rake
8. Pat Mulcahy
9. Lisa Stiller
10. Michael Garabedian

The top five candidates have been provisionally elected to Toiyabe Chapter ExCom for a term of two years. Formal acceptance of the results will be at the January 2010 ExCom meeting.

None of the groups had contested ExCom elections (only as many candidates ran as were seats available), and so all candidates for all groups were automatically elected. For the groups, the following members will be serving.

- Great Basin Group ExCom: Bob Tregilus, Jeff Harcastle, Cathy Schmidt, and Graham Stafford.
- Southern Nevada Group ExCom: Maxine Miller, Kristine Cunningham, Scott Stevens, and Thomas Ainley, Jr.
- Range of Light Group ExCom: Rosemary Jarrett, Mary Kay Prentice, and Brigitte Berman.

Please see EXCOM ELECTION, page 2.

IN THIS ISSUE

Motorsports Racetrack.	2
Winter Desert Trips	3
2010 W. Wilderness Conference.	3
Range of Light Group	4-5
E. Sierra Land Trust Events	5
Channel Islands Fundraiser	5
Court Victory in Water Wars.	6
Disabled to Lose F5 Benefits	6
Ruby Gas Pipeline	6
Horse Talk	7
New Nat'l Monument?	7
Carson Valley Trails Assoc.	8
Trash Mountain	8
Protect Gold Butte	8
Great Basin Group	8-9
S. Nevada Group	10-11

Don't forget
to visit the

Chapter website

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 356
Reno, Nevada

From the Chair

continued from page 12

members for five Chapter ExCom positions!

New election procedure. This very effective election procedure resulted from budget constraints on national Sierra Club revenues due to the current economy. These constraints meant it was necessary to reduce the *Toiyabe Trails* publication schedule from six to four issues this year.



A paperless Trails? With coming changes to Chapter funding by the national Sierra Club, your

Chapter leaders have been discussing whether someday there will need to be a conversion to a digital, paperless *Toiyabe Trails*. The Chapter ExCom will be discussing this further in 2010, but rest assured, if this happens, consideration will be given to our members who prefer a paper *Trails*.

TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS & MEMBERS

Chair	Dave Hornbeck*	775-323-6651
Vice-Chair	Dorothy Hudig*	775-323-4831 janefclm@cox.net
Secretary	Jane Feldman*	702-285-6832
Treasurer (Apptd)	Kris Cunningham	702-566-9429
At Large	Eric Blumensadt*	702-879-3376
At Large	Ann Brauer*	760-648-7109
At Large	Charlotte Cox	775-322-3582
At Large	Jean Dillingham*	775-852-5075
At Large	Erik Holland*	
At Large	Sharon Marie Wilcox*	

GROUP CHAIRS (EX-OFFICIO VOTING EXCOM MEMBERS)

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

DELEGATES & REPRESENTATIVES

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)

CA/NVRCC-CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES

-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

COMMITTEE, TASK FORCE & ISSUE CHAIRS

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	775-322-3582
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	775-322-3582
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
Video Conf. TF	Emily Rhodenbaugh	emily.rhodenbaugh@sierraclub.org
Water Campaign	Ann Brauer*	702-879-3376
Wilderness	Rose Strickland	775-329-6118
Wildlife-Co-Chair	Marge Sill	775-322-2867
Wildlife-Co-Chair	Tina Nappé	775-786-1178
Wildlife-Co-Chair	Rose Strickland	775-329-6118

OTHER CONTACTS & STAFF

SC Staff-Reno	Emily Rhodenbaugh	emily.rhodenbaugh@sierraclub.org
SC Staff-Las Vegas	Rob Disney	robert.disney@sierraclub.org
Foundation Liaison	(Vacant)	
Listserve Manager	Dennis Ghiglieri	775-329-6118
Chapter Webmaster	Dennis Ghiglieri	775-329-6118
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

In Memoriam

DONALD HUBER, 81, of Truckee and Carson City, passed away on October 30. He joined and became a lifetime member of the Sierra Club in the 1950s, often staying at the Clair Tappaan Lodge on Donner Summit. During his early tenure with the Sierra Club, he assisted in the construction of some of the Sierra Club huts lining the crest of the Sierra Nevada. He was also involved with the design and creation of the Pacific Crest Trail around Lake Tahoe. To see his full obituary, go to <http://www.sierrasun.com/article/20091105/NEWS/911059997/1039&parentprofile=1056>.



CONSERVATION...

continued from page 7

Motorsports racetrack near Poppy Reserve?

BY KATHERINE ALLEN

The staff of the Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission has recommended approval of a plan to build a motorsports racetrack next to Fairmont Butte, 1.5 miles north of California State Poppy Reserve in Antelope Valley. There will be at least one more Commission hearing on the subject and, if approved, it will go to the LA County Board of Supervisors for approval of the required zoning change.

The racetrack could host high performance race vehicles 365 days a year. The noise would affect visitors to the Poppy Reserve, who come there to experience nature. A survey taken during the height of the poppy season indicated that many people would not return to the Reserve if there were a motor vehicle racetrack nearby. Even more said that their visits would significantly decrease. Fewer visitors mean decreased revenue for the reserve, funds that are crucial during this time of budget cuts in California.

There are also other problems with this project. It requires a zone change from residential/agricultural to industrial/commercial, which would open the door to more development -- development which is incompatible with the rural nature of the area. Development would have a negative impact on the property values of nearby residents, and would draw additional illegal off-road activity to the area.

Both this development activity and the racetrack itself would destroy prime areas for wildflowers, negatively impact

Please see *POPPY RESERVE*, page 5.

EXCOM ELECTION...

continued from page 1

- Tahoe Group ExCom: The Group ran their own election, and ExCom officer results will be announced separately.

A full report on the 2009 election process and the details of the ballot count will be submitted to the chapter ExCom at the January 2010 meeting.

GOLDEN PINECONE AWARD...

continued from page 1

dealt with key issues facing the Chapter. These include suggesting changes incorporated in the White Pine County Lands Bill, providing ongoing support to the Great Basin Water Network (which is opposing Southern Nevada's efforts to strip eastern Nevada of water), strengthening the recently approved Carson public lands bill, opposing the route of the Ruby pipeline in northern Nevada, and addressing the problem of excess wild horses.

A native Nevadan, Hornbeck practices law in Reno and enjoys skiing, hiking, and bicycling. He believes "we have to stop abusing the environment and preserve what we have if we want it to remain a stable and healthy environment."

DESERT TRIPS...

continued from page 3

Dome. Primitive car camp at Sunrise Rock. Sunday morning, visit museum/visitor center at Kelso Depot then hike Kelso Dunes. These dunes have various nicknames including "singing dunes" and "moaning dunes" due to sounds that they often make. Whatever you call them, they're impressive. Option to spend another night camping at Granite Mountains. Reservatilons: contact leader, Carol Wiley (desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734). CNRCC Desert Committee

APRIL 24-25 (SAT-SUN)

ROCK ART IN EASTERN CALIFORNIA

Comfortable spring weather is ideal time to go exploring. Saturday, visit three rock art sites in S Owens Valley area bordering Coso Mountains. Sunday, we'll be escorted to (the astonishing) Little Petroglyph Canyon on China Lake Naval Weapons Station. As government restrictions apply here, all arrangements and confirmations must be completed by April 1 (no joking). High clearance 2WD sufficient. Day hiking; Saturday eve potluck. Group limit, 14. Reservations: contact leader, Craig Deutsche (310-477-6670, craig.deutsche@gmail.com).

CNRCC Desert Committee

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

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>; 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>.

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.

DECEMBER 28 - JANUARY 2, 2010
(MON-SAT)

**HOLIDAY SERVICE IN 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 vast grassland, home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, kit fox, wide variety of birds. Welcome hike Dec. 28, 3.5 days of service modifying barbed wire fencing, full day for hiking 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

JANUARY 22-24 (FRI-SUN)

**WILDERNESS RESTORATION:
DEATH VALLEY NAT'L PARK**

Help protect Death Valley NP from abuse by illegal off-road traffic. This wilderness restoration project along park's scenic E boundary in Amargosa Valley involves installation of signs, raking out of vehicle tracks moving rocks. Meet late Friday afternoon, or early Saturday morning, work Saturday, part of day on Sunday. Camp Friday-Saturday night in Park Service camping area (no water, portable toilets). Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen@wildblue.net, (661-944-4056).

CNRCC Desert Committee

JANUARY 30-31 (SAT-SUN)

**FENCING WILDERNESS:
GOLDEN VALLEY WILDERNESS**

During past year, a long fence has been constructed along N boundary of Golden Valley Wilderness to prevent illegal motorized vehicle entry. Where this fence is still high above ground, we'll assist Marty Dickes of Ridgecrest BLM office in placing reinforcements. Our reward will be in knowing that intrusions have become more difficult. Option to stay over on Monday, when there will be hike up nearby peak. Car camping; potluck Saturday evening. Contact leader: Craig Deutsche, (310-477-6670), craig.deutsche@gmail.com.

CNRCC Desert Committee

FEBRUARY 15-17 (MON-WED)

GOLD BUTTE INTRODUCTORY TOUR

Explore this proposed Nat'l Conservation Area in SE Nevada. See many beautiful and interesting sights, including petroglyphs, Joshua trees. Climb a peak, enjoy splendid views. Central commissary. Leader: Vicky Hoover, (415-977-5527), vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org.

CNRCC Wilderness & Desert Committees

FEBRUARY 27-28 (SAT-SUN)

MECCA HILLS CAR CAMP

Explore Mecca Hills Wilderness Area east of Indio, CA. Hike through gravel washes, rocky hills, to several well-known spectacular sites. Saturday, visit Hidden Springs Grottos, Sunday, explore Painted Canyon. Car camping includes civilized amenities, potluck supper, campfire Saturday night. Limit 12 participants. Ldr: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com (310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

MARCH 6-7 (SAT-SUN)

DEATH VALLEY NAT'L PARK

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).



Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

EXPLORATORY TOUR

Sample some of many wonders offered in this NP. Beginning in Shoshone on Saturday morning, travel N on Hwy 178 with stop at Badwater, easy 2-mi hikes at Natural Bridge and Golden Canyon. Camp at Texas Springs (\$14/site). If time allows, drive to Zambriskie Point Dante's View. Sunday morning, visit museum visitor center in Furnace Creek, see rare pupfish at Salt Creek, take 2-mi hike to highest sand dune. Possible hike into Mosaic Canyon. Want to stay Sunday night? Camp at Stovepipe Wells (\$12/site). Option of primitive camping on Friday night. Reservations: contact leader, Carol Wiley (desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

CNRCC Desert Committee

MARCH 13-14 (SAT-SUN)

**FENCE REMOVAL, HIKING:
CARRIZO PLAIN CAR CAMP**

Help remove fences on Cal Dept. of Fish & Game Reserve. At this time of year, Carrizo may be turning green, if winter has been wet, there should be wildflowers. Work Saturday, potluck dinner that evening. Hike Sunday. Bring leather gloves, warm clothes with long sleeves and legs, dish for potluck on Saturday night. Leaders will be at Selby Camp on Friday night for those who want to arrive early. Leaders: Cal & Letty French (805-239-7338; prefer e-mail, lettyfrench@gmail.com).

Santa Lucia Chapter / CNRCC Desert Committee

MARCH 13-14 (SAT-SUN)

GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA

Visit this spectacular landscape near Death Valley to see desert leprechauns, explore ruins of California's colorful past. Camp at historic ghost town of Ballarat (flush toilets & hot showers). On Saturday, very challenging hike to ghost town, Lookout City, with expert Hal Fowler, who will regale us with tales of this Wild West town. Later, return to camp for Happy Hour, St. Patty's Day potluck feast, campfire. On Sunday, quick visit to infamous Riley town site before heading home. Group size strictly limited. Contact leader: Lygeia Gerard (760-868-2179).

CNRCC Desert Committee.

MARCH 14-20 (SUN-SAT)

**GLEN CANYON NRA, ESCALANTE
RIVER CANYON: SERVICE TRIP/
BACKPACK**

Assist Nat'l Park Service in eradicating Russian olive from Escalante River. Work under direction of Park Ranger Bill Wolverton, gathering up slash from previous service trips and burning it. Since 2000, over half of river has been cleared. Meet in Escalante, Utah Sunday morning, March 14, caravan to trailhead, then 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 their own leather work gloves (highly recommended), food, gear on trail. Contact Leader Paul Plathe: (209-476-1498).

Delta-Sierra Group (Mother Lode Chapter)

MARCH 20-21 (SAT-SUN)

**OVERNIGHT BACKPACK:
PANAMINT MOUNTAINS**

In N of Surprise Canyon on W side of Panamints, Hall Canyon and Jail Canyon descend into Panamint Valley from slopes of Telescope Peak. Loop trip taking in lower reaches of these canyons. On Saturday, hike to Hall Canyon camp. On Sunday, hike across dividing ridge between Hall Canyon and Jail Canyon, descend 4WD route to road. The canyon mouths are short enough car shuttle not needed. Info: contact leader John Wilkinson (408-876-8295, johnfw1@mac.com).

CNRCC Desert Committee

APRIL 5-10 (MON-SAT)

**WILDFLOWERS FENCE REMOVAL:
CARRIZO PLAIN NAT'L MONUMENT**

Three half-days of service to monument, removing modifying fences to allow resident pronghorn to travel more widely. This is spring wildflower season, so our schedule allows at least a day for exploring, either hiking or driving backcountry roads. With longer daylight hours there may also be time to visit sights in monument after work. Because we are privileged to be staying at one of old ranch houses, our trip is limited to 14 participants; \$30 covers five dinners. Contact leader: Craig Deutsche, (310-477-6670, craig.deutsche@gmail.com).

CNRCC Desert Committee

APRIL 16-18 (FRI-SUN)

**MOJAVE NAT'L PRESERVE
SERVICE TRIP**

Help restore historic water feature to provide water for wildlife. Work in-

Western Wilderness Conference 2010 "New Aims, New Allies"

BY VICKY HOOVER

DON'T MISS THE WESTERN Wilderness Conference 2010, which will take place April 8-11, 2010, on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley, California. Visit the conference website: <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! This is your opportunity to give back, to make a difference and to help secure the grand wild places of the American West for future generations. Dynamic speakers, workshops, music, meals, outings! It's all part of the celebration of the West's wild places.

Although the event takes place in the San Francisco Bay Area, wilderness organizations and advocates from around the West are invited to participate in this grand event. Some 600 to 800 participants from all western states will gather to focus on the role of wild lands in an era of global climate change.

Plenary sessions, dynamic speakers and intensive workshops will help connect wild places with climate change and give lessons on how to advocate more effectively. Music, films and fun.

The Toiyabe Chapter is one of 22 Sierra Club western chapters which are already conference sponsors. Other sponsors nearby are Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Nevada Wilderness Project, and Friends of the Inyo.

What you can do. Register online at <www.westernwilderness.org>. "Early bird" registration fee is \$100. Some scholarships available; contact Vicky Hoover, Planning Committee Co-chair, for info (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, 425-977-5527).

involves protecting several springs by earth work, stabilization work, putting up fence and some infrastructure in and around a qanat. We'll be directed by staff from Mojave Nat'l Preserve. Hike planned for Friday for those arriving in morning. If rains are good this year, there may be plenty of wildflowers. Work all day Saturday until noon on Sunday. Ranger talk about Preserve on Saturday eve. Camping is rustic. Reservations: contact leader, Rich Juricich (rich.sac@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181).

CNRCC Desert Committee

APRIL 17-18 (SAT-SUN)

OWENS VALLEY WORK PROJECT

Maybe bash tamarisk along Owens River, but this could change. Work on Saturday, enjoy extensive birding opportunities on Sunday. Camp at Diaz Lake just S of Lone Pine. Group potluck Saturday night. Bring all camping gear, or stay in motel in nearby Lone Pine. Info: contact leaders, Cal & Letty French (805-239-7338; prefer e-mail, lettyfrench@gmail.com).

Santa Lucia Chapter / CNRCC Desert Committee

APRIL 24-25 (SAT-SUN)

**EXPLORING MOJAVE
NAT'L PRESERVE**

Meet Saturday morning, 9 am, on Cima Rd. Hike to Teutonia Peak on Cima

Please see DESERT TRIPS, page 2.

Range of Light Reflections

Range of Light Group



Group News

Letter from the Chair

BY MALCOLM CLARK

Officer changes. Rosemary Jarrett is our new ExCom member. We thank retiring ExCom member Dick Baggett for his service to the group. Dick continues to lead our Wednesday evening hikes. Also note that CD Ritter has replaced Mary Ann Dunigan as our Publicity Chair. Thanks to Mary Ann for her service and also to retiring Chapter ExCom (and ROLG) member Jean Dillingham.

Schedule changes. ROL ExCom continues to meet on the first Monday of each month, but the time has switched back to 3 pm from 3:30 p.m. We rotate meetings among ExCom members' homes so check with me (wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com, 760-924-5639) regarding location and also to confirm that the monthly meeting has not been canceled. In January, we meet on the 2nd Monday, January 11, rather than on January 4.

Potlucks return. We'll again be having potlucks before the monthly meetings held at the Crowley Community Center (no potlucks allowed at the Mammoth Lakes library). A poll of members indicated overwhelming support for the potlucks. People also said they were willing to share the work for organizing the potlucks so the burden does not always fall on the same person. The schedule remains the same:

third Tuesdays, potluck at 6:30, announcements followed by program at 7 pm. You are welcome to skip the potluck and come at 7 pm.

Conservation. In separate articles or in future newsletters we'll report on current conservation issues: Sherwin Working Group's plan for recreation in the area adjoining Mammoth Lakes on the south; proposed expansion by the Mammoth Lakes Geothermal plant (topic of our January 19 monthly meeting); the Inyo-Mono County water management plan; and DWP proposals for significant solar facilities in the Eastern Sierra.

Outings. See this page for information on our Thursday morning and Sunday snowshoe and cross-country ski outings which begin in January, snow permitting. If you live near Mammoth, you'll be glad to know that Mammoth Nordic is resuming grooming cross-country ski trails in the Shady Rest area.

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
At Large	Rosemary Jarrett*	kaljar@qnet.com
Chapter Del.	Jean Dillingham	760-648-7109
Editor	Lynne Foster	760-387-2634
Hwy 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	CD Ritter	cdritter@mono.ca.gov
Webmaster	Owen Maloy	760-934-9511

* ExCom member

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.

Snow play, cross-country skiing, & snowshoe tours



BY BRYCE WHEELER, ROL OUTINGS CHAIR

ARE YOU READY FOR FUN IN THE SNOW? Come out with us and work off holiday feasting calories. We're going to have a varied winter outings program of cross-country ski and snowshoe tours. For more info, call or email leaders: John Walter (760 934-1767; salt1143@gmail.com); Jean Dillingham (760 6487109; jdill@qnet.com); or Bryce Wheeler (760 934-3764; telebry@verizon.net).

January-April 2010: Thursday and Sunday cross-country ski trips. First RoL 2010 x-c ski outing will be Thursday, Jan. 7. Meet at ML Union Bank parking lot, 10 am. Sunday x-c ski trips will start Jan. 10. Meeting time and place are same for both Thursday and Sunday trips. Winter tours will continue through April or until the snow runs out.

Thursday morning snow play. We concentrate on conditioning, technique practice, and learning about our local landscape and critters. All skill levels welcome. We like to help beginners get started. Bring water, lunch or snack, ski equipment or snowshoes; wear sunscreen, hat, gloves and layered clothing. Thursday treks will last about two hours.

Sunday trips. These will be easy tours (about 5 miles) and are open to both snowshoers and skiers; however, snowshoers must be able to keep up. Sunday outings will usually be longer and could be described as snow hiking, as we won't usually be on groomed trails. Most Nordic track or touring skis will

do, although waxless, patterned skis are preferred. The new, lightweight snowshoes are preferable. Rental equipment is available locally if needed. Dress in layered clothing to be prepared for changeable weather. Wear sunscreen, hat, and gloves and bring water and lunch or snacks.

Weather and snow conditions determine where we go. If you have a favorite trip, let us know and will try to put it on the list. We would like to have more trips scheduled out of Bishop and involve more local people there. We would welcome more winter outings leaders. Getting out in the forest in the winter offers opportunities to see tracks of animals seldom seen, such as pine martin and other elusive critters, and enjoy the serenity and spectacular beauty of our public lands.

Unfortunately, sometimes we encounter snowmobile tracks in wilderness areas where such intrusion is illegal. We hope to educate the public by assisting the Forest Service in putting up signs to discourage illegal entry.

You're Invited!

Range of Light Group Monthly Meeting

Everyone welcome!

Jan. 19 (Tues)

Full Potluck & Social 6:30 pm!
New Crowley Lake Community Ctr
(next to Crowley Lake Store)

Please bring your own non-disposable table setting and a dish for 6-8 people.

Program 7:30 pm

"What's New at the Geothermal Plant"
with Ron Leiken, Environmental & Regulatory Affairs Mgr. at Ormat

Ron will present the basics of geothermal energy, describe operations at the Mammoth Lakes geothermal plant, compare geothermal energy plants with other types of non-renewable and renewable energy plants, and discuss possible expansion plans at the facility.

Mar. 16 (Tues)

Full Potluck & Social 6:30 pm!
New Crowley Lake Community Ctr
(next to Crowley Lake Store)

Please bring your own non-disposable table setting and a dish for 6-8 people.

Feb. 16 (Tues)

Full Potluck & Social 6:30 pm!
New Crowley Lake Community Ctr
(next to Crowley Lake Store)

Please bring your own non-disposable table setting and a dish for 6-8 people.

Program 7:30 pm

"Roof Pendants of the E. Sierra"
with Brigitte Berman, ROL ExCom Officer & Resident Geologist

Roof pendants are remnants of ancient sedimentary and volcanic rocks into which Sierra Nevada granite was emplaced. Brigitte will focus on the Mt. Morrison and Mt. Ritter pendants: their distribution, structure, age, lithology, and paleontology.

Program 7:30 pm

"Devils Postpile: Challenges"
with Deanna Dulen, Supt., Devils Postpile NM

The Postpile is known for its striking basaltic columns, but there is much more to this small jewel. Surveys of the park's resources reveal it is situated at a significant crossroad of ecological diversity. Deanna will discuss these findings.

DEADLINE!
MARCH 1



FOR APR-MAY-JUNE ISSUE

ROL Group Website

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

&

Chapter website

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

Eastern Sierra Land Trust coming events

BY MARY MCGURKE, ESLT DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH DIRECTOR

For a close up look at the Eastern Sierra's winter landscape and how we are preserving it, please come to one of our upcoming events. Visit our new website at <www.eslt.org> for more information.

In **January**, ESLT will host a **Volunteer Orientation Evening**. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved with the amazing community of ESLT volunteers! Learn more about how as an ESLT volunteer you can contribute to preserving exceptional lands in the Eastern Sierra.



In **February**, join ESLT for a **Moonlight Ski Tour** on lands that have been

permanently preserved by an ESLT conservation easement. We will quietly swish through beautiful meadows and end the evening with warm drinks and dessert. This is an exclusive opportunity to see first hand the beauty and value of preserving the Eastern Sierra's working and wild lands.

In **March**, join ESLT for a **Wildlife Migration Corridor Field Trip**. Local biologists will share their knowledge and research on Eastern Sierra wildlife

Wheeler Ridge Wildlife Migration Corridor: 72 acres of ESLT conservation easements permanently protect the migration habitat for the Round Valley mule deer herd, and other wildlife and plant communities. Photo: Stephen Ingram

and migration corridor habitats. Experience first hand the importance of the migration corridor and wildlife habitat that has been permanently protected for plant communities and wildlife.

What you can do. Visit ESLT's new website (address above) for more information, event details, and other opportunities to connect with our treasured lands. Also, please join our e-mail mailing list for monthly updates (info@eslt.org) or give us a call (760-873-4554).

POPPY RESERVE ...

continued from page 2

important prehistoric sites on Fairmont Butte, and disrupt a sensitive ecological area for birds of prey.

What you can do. The next hearing

is scheduled for February 6, 11 -5 pm at the Regional Public Library, 601 W. Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster, CA. For more information and to find out where to write to support a NO vote on this project, visit the Save the Poppy Reserve website at <www.sio2.com/savethepoppyreserve>.

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

* ExCom member

DEADLINE!
MARCH 1
FOR APR-MAY-JUNE ISSUE



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, less than an hour from Reno, an hour and a half from Lee Vining, two hours from Mammoth Lakes, and two and a half hours from Bishop. Expect convenient access to all mountain activities, excellent family style meals, friendly staff, and a casual atmosphere.

The Lodge grooms its own cross-country ski and snowshoe trails, rents equipment for these activities, and offers cross-country ski lessons. Quick, easy access to the backcountry!



For more information about the Lodge or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.ctl.sierraclub.org or call (800) 672-6775.

SHERWIN WORKING GROUP CONSENSUS OVERTURNED...

continued from page 1

ary (UGB) to the top of the Sherwin Range, with motorized use to the east and non-motorized use to the west.

On Oct 13, a furious winter storm blew into Mammoth and turned away many regular participants. As a result, the six-month consensus was negated. For some reason, no minutes of the meeting were sent as in the past. In an e-mail a few days later, the facilitator said the final draft would be put into subcommittee to work out some changes and final details.

Facilitators violate proper procedure. The full committee received the "final draft" via e-mail on a Friday, October 30, just 3 days before the final committee meeting on Tuesday, November 3. No new substantive changes were allowed. Rather, a celebratory party was planned, to approve the subcommittee consensus and end our work.

In the final draft, the subcommittee had deleted the heart of the winter plan: the boundary separation of motorized use to the east and non-motorized use to the west.

The reason for this was calls from the snowmobile community. To appease those who had come to the original consensus, the subcommittee enlarged a section to include a non-motorized "developed" zone only in the meadow and only after a ski trail system could be developed sometime in the future.

Those who had agreed on the original

consensus believe proper procedure was violated. The subcommittee did not report back to the full committee, but simply asked the facilitator to explain its rationale at the final meeting. The committee consensus was altered at the 11th hour by outside phone calls and e-mails from the snowmobile community.

Non-members overturn consensus. Thus, the consensus was altered by people who did not participate in the open committee. Why did the facilitators allow this to happen? An official public comment period by the USFS was always to be a part of the process.

Note that *the committee had always been completely open to all user groups*. The nearly 70 of us who volunteered believed we would forge a difficult consensus by the presence and participation of all user groups. The committee recommendations would then go to the USFS for the open public comment period.

What you can do. We'll keep you alerted! The plan is called SHARP (Sherwin Area Recreational Plan). When you get our alert please tell the Forest Service to "reinstate the original committee consensus to separate motorized and non-motorized winter use in Mammoth Meadow and the Sherwin Range." This is urgent!

*a volunteer citizens' committee, convened by the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Lakes Trails & Public Access (MLTPA)

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

May 7-9; Jul 16-19; Aug 6-9; Sep 10-12, 2010

California's Channel Islands are Galapagos USA! Marvel at the sight of whales, seals, sea lions, rare birds, and blazing wildflowers. Hike the wild, windswept trails. Kayak the rugged coastline. Snorkel in pristine waters. Discover remnants of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. These 3 and 4-day, live-aboard fundraiser cruises are sponsored by the Angeles Chapter Political Committee and Sierra Club California Political Committee.

Depart from Santa Barbara aboard the Truth. Fee (\$590 for May and Sep; \$785 for July & August) includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and point out interesting features.

To make a reservation, mail a \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to leaders: Joan Jones Holtz & Don Holtz, 11826 The Wye St, El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leaders for more information (626-443-0706; jholtzln@aol.com).



Getting ready to hike Nidever Canyon, San Miguel Island. (Photo: Joan Jones Holtz.)

Announcement: Golden Trout Wilderness Camp 2010

High Sierra Camp & Workshops
Golden Trout Camp, just so. of Mt. Whitney, 3 mi. hike-in wilderness camp at 10,000 ft. Natural history & B&W photo sessions start 6/20, 6/27, & 7/4.
\$495 for a full week, meals included.
Contact Paul at 805-688-8344 or GoldenTroutWorkshops@gmail.com
www.GoldenTroutWorkshops.org

The nonprofit Golden Trout Wilderness Camp is a rustic walk-in camp located in the southern Sierra in Golden Trout Wilderness near Mt. Whitney. Three one-week natural history sessions will be held this summer. The \$495 tuition includes all meals, canvas tent cabins with cots, and daily guided naturalist-led hikes. Please go to <www.goldentroutworkshops.org> for detailed information.

CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

20th anniversary celebration of Nevada wilderness

BY MARGE SILL

On December 5, 1989, the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act designating 733,400 acres of forest service wilderness was signed into law. This marked the end of a 25-year effort to achieve wilderness in Nevada which previously had only one small wilderness area: the Jarbidge in northeast Elko County.

Hearings were held in nearly every Nevada community and in Washington, D.C. This legislation was introduced by Jim Bilbray in the House and Harry Reid and Dick Bryan in the Senate; it was signed by President Ronald Reagan.

Areas designated were Alta Toquima, Arc Dome, Boundary Peak, Currant Mountain, East Humboldt, Grant Range, Mount Charleston, Mount Moriah, Mount Rose, Quinn Canyon, Ruby Mountains, Santa Rosa, Table Mountain, and the Jarbidge Extension.

Many Sierra Club members worked tirelessly to achieve this victory. Among these were Roger Scholl, Karen Boeger, Dennis Ghiglieri, Rose Strickland, Glenn Miller, Kirk Peterson, Bert Young, Ann and Greg Ebner, Ross Smith, Don Molde, Pete Sferrazza, and particularly Lois Sagel and her wonderful Soroptimist group in Las Vegas. Sadly, many of the key players in the effort are no longer with us, including Sally Kabisch, Jean Ford (first Executive Director of Friends of Nevada Wilderness), Catherine Smith, and Amy Mazza.

What you can do. Anyone who worked

on this bill is invited to submit memories to Marge Sill (msill@juno.com) who is compiling a short history of Nevada wilderness and its heroes.

Seniors & disabled to lose Forest Service benefits

BY MARGE SILL

The U.S. Forest Service has announced in the December 1 Federal Register that it will no longer give a 50% discount on camping fees to holders of the Golden Age, Senior Pass, and Access (disability) passes. This will apply to all concession-operated Forest Service Campgrounds.

Free day use of sites will also no longer be available to holders of these lifetime passes. Comments on this change (which evidently has been brought about by lobbying from large concession companies) will be accepted by the Forest Service until Feb. 1.

If the Forest Service makes this change, the Bureau of Land Management and the Park Service may follow suit. If many of us had to pay the full fee to enter a national park or monument, we'd no longer have access to the national treasures we helped create.

What you can do. For further information, please contact Kitty Benzar (wsnofee@gmail.com). Those of us who will be affected by this change should also contact our Senators and Representatives.

International Symposium on Terminus Lakes

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

FOR THREE DAYS in October, 2009, over 150 scientists, government agency officials, tribes, lawyers, and conservationists listened to presentations on research done on Walker Lake and other rare lakes all over the planet which have no outlet. Walker Lake is now on the world map as scientists compared our Nevada lake (which is threatened with declining lake levels and rising levels of salts) with similar lakes in Antarctica, Uzbekistan, the middle east and China. Most of the research done in Nevada was conducted as a part of the Walker Basin Project, a federally funded project, with Senator Harry Reid's assistance.

Participants learned that Walker Lake waters originate in the East and West Walker Rivers in California. These rivers then flow into Nevada, combine to form the Walker River in Mason Valley, and ultimately flow into Walker Lake near Hawthorne, in central Nevada. These waters support agriculture, recreation, fish and wildlife. Walker Lake is one of only three desert closed lakes with a freshwater fishery in all of North America.

Some questions addressed by the researchers included: What are the best ways to deliver water, purchased from willing sellers, to Walker Lake? How can water deliveries be managed to sustain both the economies of local communities and the river-lake ecosystem? Are alternative crops feasible agriculturally? How best can water conserved by switching to alternative crops be delivered to Walker Lake under existing federal and state water laws?

What you can do. Find more information on these and other research questions at Toiyabe Chapter website, <www.toiyabe.sierraclub.org>.

Wildlife damage management: What does it mean?

BY DON MOLDE

A FEW YEARS AGO, the Nevada legislature passed a law which assesses sportsmen a special \$3 fee when a license/tag is purchased. That fee goes to the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to be used for predator management. The theory, espoused by some sportsmen, is that predators (coyotes, cougars) are the direct cause of Nevada's "low" mule deer population (100,000 instead of twice that, last seen about 30 years ago). Therefore, they argue, killing predators will enhance deer population for hunters, and increase NDOW revenue through license/tag sales.

Although NDOW biologists published a definitive study in 2004, looking at 100 years of history with the animal, showing that degraded habitat conditions/drought/fire are the primary reasons for current population levels, some sportsmen and politically appointed Wildlife Commissioners were not persuaded. They have spent about \$2,000,000 since FY 2000 to kill coyotes, cougars and ravens (thought to be a threat

I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.

— John Muir

Ruby Gas Pipeline would scar landscape & habitat

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

THE PROPOSED RUBY GAS PIPELINE would cross spectacular 12 Mile Creek Canyon on the Nevada-Oregon Border. The proposed pipeline would cut a swath of up to 192 feet across northern Nevada from Utah to Oregon. This action would leave a permanent scar (and road) over hundreds of miles of prime sage grouse habitat.

No utility corridor or road now exists where Ruby wants to go. The draft EIS, which studied only Ruby's selected route in detail, should be redone to study less environmentally damaging routes.



Twelve-mile Creek Canyon. Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.

The Sierra Club is not necessarily opposed to building a gas pipeline but wants several alternatives studied in detail, including ones which would follow existing road, rail, power and gas utility corridors.

A final EIS is scheduled to be released in January 2010. See the latest at <<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/RubyPipeline.html>>.

Huge court victory in water wars

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

On October 19, 2009, Judge Norman Robison overturned the Nevada State Engineer's granting of water rights to the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) in three remote dry valleys in eastern Nevada. The judge bluntly ruled that the state official "abused his discretion" and "acted arbitrarily, capriciously and oppressively."

Attorneys for the Great Basin Water Network had appealed the decision on behalf of local farmers, ranchers, residents, and conservationists. These groups feared removal of 6 billion gallons of groundwater per year from Cave, Delamar, and Dry Lake Valleys would significantly diminish their water rights and also harm the threatened and endangered species dependent on rare desert springs supported by the groundwater aquifer.

The judge found that the state engineer had arbitrarily increased the estimate of water available in the valleys without specific empirical data. The judge also noted that the engineer "is simply hoping for the best while committing to undo his decision if the worst occurs."

According to testimony at the water hearing, the state engineer had cut the amount of water to be reserved for future growth as required by the interbasin water transfer requirements in state water law. The engineer also decided that no specific protection of existing water rights was needed since pumping impacts would not likely impact the downflow basins for at least 75 years.

Although the Nevada state water law

requires the state engineer to protect senior water rights, his vacated ruling would have meant that local residents whose livelihoods are based on access to scarce water resources would have to sue the SNWA each time its pumping adversely affected their wells and springs. This court "remedy" would repeatedly pit rural residents against the apparently unlimited financial and legal resources of the water authority.

An SNWA spokesperson quickly attacked the court ruling, claiming it was biased and "flat wrong" and threatening an appeal to the Nevada Supreme Court. In a press release from the Great Basin Water Network, Susan Lynn responded to SNWA's attack on the Judge by saying "Such a response is consistent with SNWA management's inability to engage in self-critical reflection about its astronomically expensive, utterly misguided, and environmentally catastrophic pipeline project."

What you can do. For more details on the water wars, see the Chapter website at <www.toiyabe.sierraclub.org>, and the GBWN website at <www.greatbasinwater-network.org>.



A September 25, 2009 Ely Court hearing by Judge Robison to hear oral arguments on the GBWN lawsuit against the State Engineer's 3-basin ruling was crowded by local farmers and residents, tribal representatives, a county commissioner, and conservationists. Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.

The richest values of wilderness lie not in the days of Daniel Boone nor even in the present, but rather in the future.

— Aldo Leopold

Wild horse preserves in the Midwest

BY TINA NAPPE

SECRETARY OF INTERIOR KEN SALAZAR proposes creating two wild horse preserves in the Midwest to maintain approximately 6000 horses. The cost of acquiring and developing these preserves will be \$93-96 million. Salazar proposes five additional horse preserves in partnership with non-profit organizations.

Wild horse advocates have wanted up to 2500 horses in discrete herds, but capable of mixing gene pools. However, the Great Basin Desert is unlike the Great Plains grasslands, which are adapted to multitudes of grass grazing animals like horses or bison. In the Great Basin Desert, the highly nutritious bunch grasses are not adapted to sustaining large numbers of hoofed animals like sheep, cattle, or horses all year. Instead, Great Basin grasses evolved in the absence of heavy grazing.

Grass in the Great Basin doesn't grow year round. After being cropped once or twice, a bunch grass dies and is replaced with sage brush (which is virtually unpalatable) or annual grasses like cheat grass (which is minimally nutritious and highly flammable).

Salazar is also proposing that some Herd Management Areas (HMAs) be for geldings only. When horse roundups occur, horses returned to public lands might have sex ratios adjusted with proportionately more stallions or geldings than mares. Or PZP, the fertility drug, will be used on mares to retard pregnancy for several years. The goal is to eventually maintain horses within their HMAs, with the excess horses -- ideally, young animals -- equaling the current adoption rate of about 3500 animals annually. If implemented, the need for roundups will decrease.

Like many other efforts at compromise, no one is happy. The horse advocates don't want any horses removed from public lands. Horses are wild and "natural" and the land will eventually "adjust" to their grazing. Ranchers, sportsmen, and conservationists, meanwhile, recognize that Congress is unlikely to adequately fund the proposal and remove excess horses, as well as maintain the 30,000 already in long-term care.

Horses (now 37,000 in number) on BLM lands are reproducing at 20% per year and expanding out of their HMAs as they overgraze their current lands. Conservationists fear the loss of biological diversity and eventually the end of the Great Basin Desert.

2000 National Conservation Area Act: Hope encounters reality

BY TINA NAPPE

IN 2000 SENATOR RICHARD BRYAN created a legacy for Nevada with passage of the Black Rock Desert - High Rock Canyon - Emigrant Trail National Conservation Area Act. In 2004 an ambitious management plan was approved. Two years later, BLM convened a group of people interested in the Black Rock and laid out a list of projects totaling \$20,000,000. BLM had virtually no money to invest in the NCA. Could we help?

Two organizations provide some assistance. These are Nevada Outdoor School and Friends of the Black Rock. Their websites provide information on their activities. Sierra Club member David Book serves on the Friends board and also leads a number of Sierra Club outings to the Black Rock.

The Black Rock Committee, on which I serve as a Sierra Club representative, originally established by the Sierra Front - Northwestern Great Basin Resource Advisory Committee, continues and meets several times a year. This year, for instance, BLM hosted a three-day meeting on how to evaluate and prioritize water sources in the NCA. What is their condition now? What are the impacts on them? Which springs have priority for management? The Committee has reviewed a travel management plan, signage, the growing OHV use, and horse impact.

In 2005 the Committee viewed a spring in High Rock Canyon where the Nevada Department of Wildlife proposed a water development (guzzler) nearby. A small seep, previously used by bighorn sheep, was dominated by growing numbers of horses. BLM assured the group that horse numbers would be reduced. The Committee did not endorse the guzzler.

This month the Committee drafted a letter of support for the Calico herd horse removal planned for December but now placed on hold by horse advocates. Approximately 2500 horses were to be removed leaving 200-400 horses as per the Herd Management plan. The Committee has established a horse subcommittee and may review the guzzler issue.

What you can do. If you are interested in helping with the Black Rock Desert, please contact me (tnappe@nvcbell.net) or Friends of the Black Rock Desert.

New National Monument proposal in Las Vegas Valley

BY YUKI TAKAGI

NESTLED BETWEEN RED ROCK National Conservation Area and Desert National Wildlife Refuge, just a stone's throw away from the Las Vegas metropolitan area, late Pleistocene paleontological sites in Upper Las Vegas Wash (also known as Tule Springs), await increased federal protection.



This particular Columbian mammoth tooth was excavated from a pluvial spring deposit on a private property nearby the proposed National Monument area. Photo courtesy: Dr. Stephen Rowland of the Dept. of Geoscience at Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Ice Age mammalian fossils identified include the Columbian mammoth, ground sloth, North American lion, camels, bison, and ancient species of horses.

The area, with nearly 600 identified fossil sites, is scientifically noted as one of the largest and most significant in the Southwestern United States. The time period extends from 200,000 years ago until about 7000 years ago. As no other fos-

Conservation news of Northern Nevada

BY ERIK HOLLAND, CHAPTER EXCOM MEMBER & PRESIDENT OF VOTERS FOR SENSIBLE GROWTH

Sustainable water supplies. Here in Northern Nevada, we successfully passed WC3, an initiative that ties growth to known and sustainable water supplies. We are now working on getting that language into our regional plan. Unfortunately, officials continue to insert language allowing the region to "find more water." Translation: import water from nearby counties. The latest attempt is to incorporate the language of WC3 into the regional plan, but include a "decision tree" in which one decision could be to "find more available water". The initiative was silent on water import, so the regional plan should also be silent.

Leapfrog annexations. Sparks has recently begun a series of illegal leapfrog annexations, which Voters for Sensible Growth has been challenging through the administrative process. Legal action may follow.

Up-zoning in Winnemucca

Ranch. Our lawsuit on Reno's up-zoning on the distant Winnemucca Ranch will be heard in District Court by Judge Brent Adams on January 28. Meanwhile, we have learned the developer will consider selling the ranch at "fair market appraised value". The payoff to spending \$10-50 million to buy this ranch will be huge. Savings to our region include: not spending \$1.5 billion on LA style freeways; saving at least 27,000

Northern Nevada local government idea of "growth within limits"



daily trips along the Pyramid Highway (and their carbon emissions); and perhaps returning to a more sensible regional plan.

Spring Mountain green community location. We would be interested in working with the developer to find alternatives to his plans for building a green community. They say Spring Mountain will be the world's first totally alternative energy powered community. As we build a new green economy that can begin to put people back to work, we want to harness this positive part of the Spring Mountain developer's plans. Our issue is not the development, but where it is located. We want to direct growth towards our traditional urban cores.

Horse talk

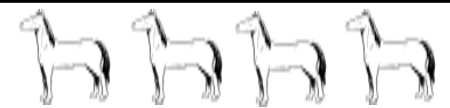
BY ROSE STRICKLAND

RANGE CONS, WILD HORSE enthusiasts, academics, tribal and animal rights representatives, scientists, hunters, ranchers, state and federal agency managers, politicians and conservationists gathered in early November to discuss management and public policy on wild and feral horses and burros in the U.S. The conference was organized by the Society for Range Management and co-sponsored by the Sierra Club; it was held in Sparks and included a tour of wild horse facilities north of Reno.

The purpose of the conference was to search for (1) practical solutions to the current wild horse and burro dilemma on public rangelands and to (2) address the issue of domestic horse disposal and release on public and private lands. The downturn in the economy and closure of all horse slaughter facilities in the U.S. has made this a problem.

The conference panels covered the issues of increasing wild horse and burro populations (resulting in negative impacts on wildlife and other multiple uses of public lands), declining adoption demand, increasing costs for BLM holding facilities, and destroying of the domestic wild horse market due to feral horse disposition.

Discussions were difficult, due to differing opinions. Much support was expressed for keeping wild horses and burros on public rangelands in "thriving natural ecological



balance" as mandated by the 1971 Wild Horse & Burro law, but there was little agreement on what constituted "thriving ecological balance."

Tribal representatives told the conference that over 20,000 wild horses on reservations were not counted in the Dept. of Interior population estimates, but were causing the same adverse impacts evident on public lands.

Domestic horse breeders explained some unintended consequences of a recent ban on horse slaughter in the U.S. People are abandoning pet horses and dumping horse carcasses, because no "legal" and affordable disposal options are available.

All agreed there is a need to educate people about wild horses, their management, impacts upon rangeland ecosystems, population numbers and dynamics, fertility control and alternative management options.

What you can do. For more information on how a non-profit organization is facilitating wild horse adoptions, go to: <www.mustangheritagefoundation.org>. If you're interested in feral horse problems and domestic horse issues, you can find out more at: <www.unitedorgsofthehorse.org>.

For tips on what Sierra Club members can do on the wild horse issue, check out the chapter website at: <www.toyabe.sierraclub.org>.

sil-bearing site in the American southwest tracks this critical time period, this area is uniquely qualified for designation as a National Monument.

In addition to its paleontological treasures, the Upper Las Vegas Wash area provides habitat for rare plants and animals, many of them listed as sensitive by the State of Nevada. These sensitive species include the Las Vegas bearpoppy, Merriam's bearpoppy, Las Vegas buckwheat, kit fox, and many others. The desert tortoise, Nevada's State Reptile (currently a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act), is also found there.

Unfortunately, the fossil beds and surrounding fragile desert ecosystem are threatened by urban sprawl, ongoing or

increased illicit recreation demand, and illegal dumping of residential and industrial waste, as well as ongoing vandalism and possible looting of irreplaceable paleontological resources.

What you can do. Please contact your U.S. Senators and Representative now and ask them to move swiftly to ensure the permanent protection of the Upper Las Vegas Wash/Tule Springs area. You can also take action by visiting Southern Nevada Group's website at: <<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/sngroup/index.html>>.

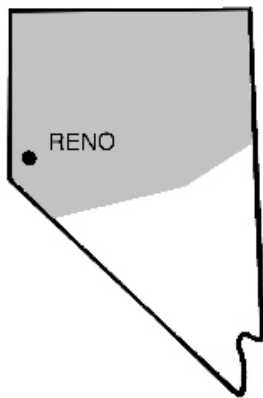
NOTE: Paleontological information courtesy of Kathleen Springer, Senior Curator of Geological Sciences, and Eric Scott, Curator of Paleontology, of the San Bernardino County Museum.

CONSERVATION continued on page 2.

Don't forget to visit the Chapter website

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

Great Basin Gatherings



Great Basin Group

Group News

Mountain of trash may come to the most mountainous state

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

In the high desert 28 miles west of Winnemucca, Nevada, is a site now named as the proposed Jungo Landfill. A California company called Reology (formally NorCal) is attempting to develop the landfill. It has been discussed for several years but is only now receiving intense attention by local activists and civic-minded citizens of Humboldt County.

The landfill, if permitted, will bring in 8 million pounds (4000 tons) of non-recyclable trash (including hazardous waste) from the Bay area of California five days a week, via train, for 95 years. The project now encompasses one full section of land, but the company has options on three adjacent sections. This would undoubtedly become Nevada's largest landfill.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection has expressed their intent to issue an air-quality permit for the site. As

an indication of how inadequate Nevada law is with respect to air quality, the developer is not required to have any permanent air monitoring equipment at the site.

The merits of this site are doubtful. Local residents have pictures of the proposed site being underwater in years with wet spring weather. The dominant west winds would certainly carry the odors to the nearest town of Winnemucca. In all, it's one more attempt by out-

Please see TRASH MOUNTAIN, page 9.

Carson Valley Trails Association Receives National Park Service Grant

BY BARB WILSON, CVTA TRAILS AWARENESS VICE PRESIDENT

The Carson Valley Trails Association (CVTA) has been awarded a technical assistance grant from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance program. The grant will provide the assistance and expertise of a National Park Service (NPS) outdoor recreation planner to work with CVTA for one to two years.

The NPS planner will help CVTA create strategies for working together with both the private and public sectors to reach the organization's goal of establishing the Carson Valley Trail, a continuous, non-motorized recreational trail system circling the Carson Valley. When completed, this trail will implement most of Douglas County's Comprehensive Trails Plan.

In 2008, CVTA received a \$396,378 Nevada Division of State Lands Question 1 Grant for the Genoa Foothill Trail System project to fund two-thirds of the approximately 24-mile trail system near Genoa, Nevada. This project proposes two general loop trails, a connecting

trail up Sierra Canyon to the Tahoe Rim Trail, and a connecting trail to the Kingsbury Grade in Pine Basin area. Environmental studies for this trail system have begun and are expected to continue through most of 2010. Trail construction is expected to begin during spring of 2011.

CVTA's annual meeting will be held on Monday, January 18, 2010, at the Genoa Town Hall. The meeting is open to the public. In addition, CVTA is planning the 4th annual "Hike for Health" to raise funds for the cash match for the Question 1 grant. There will be two events: (1) a silent and live auction event on Thursday, April 22, 2010, at the Genoa Town Hall in Genoa and (2) a month-long "Hike for Health" Challenge beginning on April 22 and ending on May 23, 2010. Complete details about both events will be posted on the CVTA website early in 2010.

The Carson Valley Trails Association is a nonprofit volunteer-based organization working with partners to provide access to public lands through a recreational trail system for present and future generations to enjoy. More information about the organization is available online at <www.carsonvalleytrails.org>.

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 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.

JANUARY 1 (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. Meet 9 am. Follow Mexican Ditch trail back to cars. Bring those left over goodies you want to get rid of to share. Dogs not recommended. Alternate hike available if there's heavy snow. About 6 mi, 1100 ft gain. DL. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763). Easy.

JANUARY 1 (FRIDAY)

Leader's Choice New Year's Day Recovery Hike. Meet 10 am to accommodate late-night revelers. Truckee Meadows vicinity. Mod. easy hike for healthy start to the new year. Leader: David von Seggern (303-8461). DL. Mod. easy.

JANUARY 2 (SATURDAY)

El Dorado Canyon near Dayton. Day hike. Meet 8:30 am. About 13 mi on an in and out, under 1000 ft gain. Riparian habitat with many crossings of small stream. Lunch at natural arch. Also small slot canyon to view on way out. Learn some history of area. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

JANUARY 2 (SATURDAY)

Beginner's Cross-Country Ski. In Mt. Rose Meadows. Learn basics from other Sierra Club x-c skiers: How to fall down; how to get up; hot to ski on flats. Must provide own equipment. Half-day trip; bring lunch, water, sunscreen, warm clothing. ND. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055; edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: Gracie Caudill (233-6404; myoki@att.net). Easy.

JANUARY 4 (MONDAY)

Great Basin Group ExCom. We meet on the first Monday of the month. Info: David von Seggern (303-8461).

JANUARY 9 (SATURDAY)

Carson Pass Cross-Country Ski. Meet 9 am. Intermediate-level x-c ski trip to Carson Pass. Somewhere in sight of Elephant's Back. About 5-6 mi on rolling terrain. Not too steep, but with a few hills. Moderate difficulty. ND. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055; edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: Valerie Anderson (828-0302). Moderate.

JANUARY 10 (SUNDAY)

Tamarack Palisades Snowshoe. Meet

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

GREAT BASIN GROUP PROGRAM MEETINGS

BY VALERIE ANDERSEN

For more information on any program, contact Valerie Andersen (828-0302, mtval@sbcglobal.net). All programs are open to the public

"River of Hope:

The Truckee River Chronicles"

Jan. 14, 2010 (Thursday)

Time: 7 pm social, 7:30 pm program

Location: Bartley Ranch Park, Reno

Frank X. Mullen, Jr., author and an investigative reporter for the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, will explore the geologic and environmental history of the Truckee River with an audiovisual look at his book-in-progress, *River of Hope: The Truckee River Chronicles*. The Truckee River created our valley and has nurtured life from time immemorial. Only a few decades after emigrant pioneers began using it as a highway in 1844, the once-pristine stream had become an open sewer—an odorous "Reno chowder"—depleted of fish and bird species. If considered at all, the Truckee was often seen as blight on the community and a flood hazard, to be walled off in concrete and ignored. Today, things have changed. Slowly, the insults to our river are being corrected. Anyone who has enjoyed Frank Mullen's performances as a Chautauqua character knows this talk promises to be dynamic! Mullen is also the author of *The Donner Party Chronicles: A Day-by-Day Account of a Doomed Wagon Train, 1846-47*.



was featured in a National Geographic Channel program titled "The Animal Extractors" in 2006. Lackey will offer a brief overview of the natural history of bears in our state, including basic biological information. He will then discuss bear management issues, threats, and opportunities. With wildfires, drought, and human encroachment into their habitat, bear encounters are no longer uncommon. For a preview of the information to be covered, check out the Wildlife & Habitat section of the NDOW web site, <<http://www.ndow.org/>>. Carl has produced and posted many fascinating reports, including a 46-page booklet, "Ecology & Conservation of Nevada's Black Bears," as well as historical and current statistics on black



Photo: Jim Nelson.

Please see GB PROGRAMS, page 9.

Don't forget to visit the

Great Basin Group website

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

& the Chapter website

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

9am, return 3pm. Ascend off-trail 600-700 ft through forest from just N of little Tamarack Lake. A little steep in places. Coming up rounded backside of promontory we'll be on top of large granite wall 300ft above valley, halfway between Mt Rose & Tamarack Peak. About 3 mi. Expecting to need snowshoes. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (775-336-7698; gphanneman@charter.net). Mod. easy.

JANUARY 16 (SATURDAY)

Relay Ridge Snowshoe. Meet 8:45 am. This is fantastic outing for views of Lake Tahoe and Tahoe Meadows from top of ridge. About 5 mi, 1400 ft gain. Learn about unique plants along way. Trip limit 12. DL. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Co-Leader: Vesna Koracin (324-4092). Mod. Strenuous.

JANUARY 23 (SATURDAY)

Buckland's Station (S of Silver Springs) Day Hike. Meet 8:30 am. Loop of about 10 mi on flat ground. Start at historic Buckland's Station, proceed downstream along Carson River, enjoy riparian habitat. Some recent beaver activity visible. Return on segment of Pony Express Trail route. Learn some history of area. State Park walk-in fee is \$1/person. Option to tour remains of Fort Churchill on your own after hike. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

JANUARY 24 (SUNDAY)

Beginners Snowshoe. Meet 9 am. Learn basics for using your own snowshoes, then go on short outing in local area with skilled leaders. Must bring snowshoes, clothing for weather, lunch. About 2-4 mi depending on group; little gain. Trip limit 15. DL. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763). Co-Leader: Grace Blaylock (846-2758). Mod. easy.

JANUARY 31 (SUNDAY)

Jumbo Grade Shuttle. meet 9 am. An easier Jumbo Grade hike with great views of Washoe Valley and Slide Mountain. About 10 mi one way with shuttle; about 950 ft gain. DL. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763; dinversin@yahoo.com). Moderate.

JANUARY 31 (SUNDAY)

GB GROUP PROGRAMS . . .

continued from page 8

bear mortalities and complaints.

"Renewable Energy Projects in Northern Nevada"

March 11, 2010 (Thursday)

Time: 7 pm social, 7:30 pm program

Location: Bartley Ranch Park, Reno

Where is Northern Nevada when it comes to renewable energy? Hear answers and ideas from Dr. Jason Geddes, Reno's first Environmental Services administrator and the former Environmental Affairs manager for the University of Nevada, Reno. Dr. Geddes will describe the city's latest energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, including solar photovoltaic systems, wind turbine demonstration programs, solar thermal heating systems and lighting retrofits. He will also detail the current status of recycling in Reno, where he leads the Green Team, implements action plans, and communicates with the public. In 2002, Dr. Geddes served in the Nevada Legislature on the Education, Judiciary, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining committees, and sponsored legislation dealing with sustainability. He is also a member of the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, where he currently serves as Vice Chair.



Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

Spooner Summit North on TRT. Meet 8:30am, return 4pm. Starting at 7200 ft Spooner Summit, steadily ascend N through high forests on Tahoe Rim Trail. In about 4 mi, reach 8500-9000-ft level; good vistas of Lake Tahoe along way. Likely to need snowshoes along most of trail. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (775-336-7698; gphanneman@charter.net). Moderate.

FEBRUARY 1 (MONDAY)

Great Basin Group ExCom. We meet on the first Monday of the month. Info: David von Seggern (303-8461).

FEBRUARY 13 (SATURDAY)

Churchill Butte Day Hike (near Silver Springs). Meet 8:30 am. Scale butte overlooking historic Ft Churchill, parts of emigrant wagon route, ancient and modern Lake Lahontan, Pony Express Trail and Lincoln Hwy. Learn some history of area. About 9.5 mi, at least 1800 ft gain, all in first 4 mi. Parts of hike are off-trail with steep descents. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Strenuous.

FEBRUARY 20 (SATURDAY)

Sawmill in Desert Day Hike. Meet 8:30 am. About 12 mi loop; mostly flat, near Buckland's Station, S of Silver Springs along lower Carson River. See and ponder remains of sawmill in desert, then see current route of railroad which services Hawthorn, hike on route of Carson and Colorado Railroad, early 1880's. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. easy.

FEBRUARY 20 (SATURDAY)

Tamarack Peak Ridgeline Snowshoe. Meet 9am, return 3pm. Slowly snowshoe up 1000 ft to reach Tamarack Peak's fabulous vistas, including all 22 mi down Lake Tahoe. Occasionally encounter skiers jumping off north side. Beautiful, deep snow banks on way up. About 5-6 mi. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (775-336-7698; gphanneman@charter.net). Co-Leader: Chuck Oliveira (775-786-2988; coliveira55@yahoo.com). Moderate.

FEBRUARY 22 (MONDAY)

Outings Meeting & Potluck. Meet 6:30

pm at home of Yvonne Jerome. All members welcome to join us to help plan outings for April-May-June. Bring potluck dish to share. All beverages provided. Call Yvonne for directions; leaders will receive e-mail with directions. ND. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (851-3043; why@clearwire.net). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Easy.

FEBRUARY 27 (SATURDAY)

Spooner Summit North on TRT. Meet 9 am. Snowshoe N along Tahoe Rim Trail starting from Spooner Summit. Spectacular views of Tahoe in winter; cozy place for lunch. About 1000 ft gain, 5-6 mi. Hint: This is equivalent to 8-9 mi hiking. Learn about TRT. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Co-Leader: Vesna Koracin (324-4092). Moderate.

FEBRUARY 28 (SUNDAY)

Centennial Park Carson City to Mound House Loop. Meet 9 am. Follow trail from east side of Carson City up to ridge line overlooking Mound House and new V & T Railroad Line. If no one has destroyed it we'll get to view an interesting piece of 'folk art' along way. About 5 mi, 500 ft gain. DL. Leader: Donna Inversin (775.315.6763; dinversin@yahoo.com). Mod. easy.

MARCH 1 (MONDAY)

Great Basin Group ExCom. We meet on the first Monday of the month. Info: David von Seggern (303-8461).

MARCH 6 (SATURDAY)

Washoe Co. Parks Service Trip. Meet 8:30

am. Help Washoe Co. Parks Department by working in one of regional parks. Due to reduction of budgets for parks, volunteers are filling in to do routine cleanup and improvements. Please join in and show Sierra Club supports our parks. Work most of day, depending on exact needs. ND. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461). Mod. easy.

MARCH 6 (SATURDAY)

Lahontan Reservoir near Silver Springs. Meet 8:30 am. Explore shoreline. Enjoy silence and stark beauty of area. About 5 mi, in-and-out hike along "beach." View tufa formations. Learn some history of

TRASH MOUNTAIN . . .

continued from page 8

siders to flush their problems in Nevada, as with the nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain.

Local activists have recently used an opinion poll mailed to an unbiased sample of 198 registered voters. The results were: favor the landfill = 14%, oppose the landfill = 78%, undecided = 8%. The next step will be to use whatever legal means possible to override the county commission's approval of the site.

An independent petition committee of concerned citizens has recently been formed. The committee's purpose is to place an initiative on the 2010 general election ballot to block the project. The board

of county commissioners (Humboldt Co.) paved the way for this project two years ago by making two minor changes to the County Code allowing for a second landfill and the import of toxic waste.

Nevadans Against Garbage (NAG) leaders became aware of the true scope of the project in August 2008 and began sounding the alarm. Those in opposition have been heartened by a recent rider attached to an appropriations bill by Senator Reid in October. This rider directs the U.S. Geological Survey to do a thorough hydrological study of the proposed site. View more information at <http://nolandfill.wordpress.com>.

area. Optional extension after lunch to scale ridge. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Easy.

MARCH 6 (SATURDAY)

Pig Rock to Monkey Condos. Meet 9 am. Fun trip to see and learn about amazing geological rock formations. About 5-6 mi, 900 ft gain, optional peak bag after lunch. DL. Leader: Valerie Andersen (828-0302; mtval@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Sharon Marie Wilcox (852-5075). Mod. easy.

MARCH 7 (SUNDAY)

Ophir Creek Overlook Snowshoe. Meet 9am, return 3pm. Start at 8600 ft in Tahoe Meadows, snowshoe into snow-draped forest and head S. Many fine vistas of Lake Tahoe while gently ascending below and past Chickadee Ridge; veer off-trail to overlook about 600 ft above Ophir Creek. About 5 mi. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (775-336-7698; gphanneman@charter.net). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-851-3043; sjerome@att.net). Mod. easy.

MARCH 13-17 (SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY)

Death Valley Digital Photography & Exploration. Join retired photographer and teacher Graham Stafford on car camp trip into Death Valley's photographers' wonderland. Visit Eureka Dunes, dunes at Stove Pipe Wells, and dunes at Saratoga Springs, Racetrack and Artist Drive. All levels of photography experience happily accepted -- beginners strongly encouraged. Graham will cover all aspects of digital camera and general photography with class handouts. See examples of Graham's work on his website (www.grahamstafford.com). ND. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478; graham@grahamstafford.com). Mod. easy.

MARCH 14 (SUNDAY)

Sagehen Creek Snowshoe. Meet 9 am. Snowshoe in Sagehen Creek area. Observe and try to identify wildlife tracks in snow. About 6 mi, 800 ft gain. Trip limit 14. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Co-Leader: Vesna Koracin (324-4092). Moderate.

MARCH 14 (SUNDAY)

Historic Virginia City Flume System. Meet 8:30 am. Welcome back Daylight Savings Time! See part of historic Virginia City flume system on McClellan Peak near Carson City. See part of 1870 wooden box flume route. Flume brought water from Carson Range to Virginia City. About 10 mi, under 800 ft gain. Some off trail. High clearance 4-wheel drive vehicle necessary, or possible ride share. Learn some history of area. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

MARCH 20 (SATURDAY)

First Day of Spring Service Clean-up Trip. Meet 9:30 am. Today is first day of Spring and perfect time to join us in clean-up near Hidden Valley which we call Clean Water Parkway Trail. Last year we hauled out truckloads of trash. Our efforts have paid off as there is minimal new trash, but still enough to warrant another trip. Work from 9:30-11, then take optional hike up to rock pinnacle. Top provides some fantastic scenery and exercise for those inclined. Bring gardening type gloves and desire to make Truckee Meadows more beautiful. Leaders: Holly, Pat, Doug, Julie, Mike. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Co-Leader: Pat Kleames (359-5089). Easy.

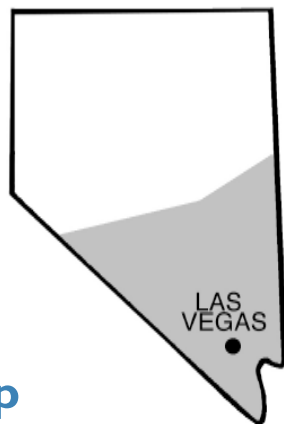
MARCH 27 (SATURDAY)

Hot Springs & Cold Nights. 7 am Meet 7 am. Join an experienced Black Rock traveler for weekend hot springs tour. Exact

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 12.

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, **Jan. 12 and Mar. 10**. 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, **Jan. 4, Feb. 1, and Mar. 1**. All members welcome. Info: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832).

The next **NEW & PROSPECTIVE MEMBER ORIENTATION** will be on **Feb. 10**. It precedes the general meeting in the same room at 7 pm. Info: please call Taj Ainlay (682-9361).

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.

Mt. Charleston's butterflies: On the way to extinction?

BY LAUNCE RAKE*

As the weather turns colder and the winter snows blanket the Spring Mountains west of Las Vegas, visitors to the National Recreation Area can take comfort in the explosion of flowers and butterflies that the mountain meadows will bring in the spring. Unfortunately, there will likely be fewer butterflies next spring than the last. The latest trend has seen the likely extinction of at least one subspecies in the mountains (the Mount Charleston blue butterfly) and could see extinction in others.

I first wrote about the threats to the tiny butterflies on the mountain four years ago while a reporter for the Las Vegas Sun. In 2005, conservationists with the Urban Wildlands Group petitioned the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for emergency protections for the Mount

Charleston Blue butterfly, a pastel blue denizen of the range's alpine meadows. The federal agency ultimately refused to provide endangered species protections to the Mount Charleston Blue.

One of the major researchers of Lepidoptera in the Springs Mountains fears that the Blue is now extinct, and others are in real jeopardy.

All nine major species in the mountains are now at risk, says Bruce Boyd, a researcher who has studied butterflies and their habitats in the Spring Range for three decades. This fall, Boyd filed an emergency petition to list the Chlosyne acastus robusta (Spring Mountains Acastus Checkerspot butterfly) as an endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The last confirmed reports of sightings of the Mount Charleston Blue were two years ago. The Mount Charleston Blue was found only in alpine meadows at elevations of 5000 - 11,000 feet, and was heavily dependent on one type of plant (the Torrey's mikvetch) as host

Please see **BUTTERFLIES**, page 11.

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.

JANUARY 1, 2010 (FRIDAY)

***Pinto Valley, LMNRA.** Begin this 8 mi loop at Mile 18 on North Shore Rd. See a 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 your fellow hikers on a moderate but scenic 4-mi RT hike in Rainbow Gardens. Spectacular desert scenery with rugged sandstone buttes and volcanic mountains. Leave late morning. Leader: Geologist Nick Saines (896-4049).

JANUARY 2 (SATURDAY)

***Blue Diamond Trails and Velvet Canyon, RRCNCA.** Hike begins in Blue Diamond, over a ridge and to Velvet Canyon where we may see ice. Then back by a 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 Mountains Edge development, then across an open area and into a rather narrow canyon which leads to a 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 members welcome. Contact: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832, krissysjake@gmail.com).

JANUARY 9 (SATURDAY)

***China Ranch Car Shuttle.** Amargosa Wild & Scenic River, date shakes, optional soak. Where is river's source? About 6 mi. Leader: Ann Cronin (737-5758). Level 2.

JANUARY 9 (SATURDAY)

***South Bowl of Fire, LMNRA.** About 5-7 mi RT through colorful formations. What two organisms work together to form cryptobiotic crusts on surface? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

JANUARY 13 (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 welcome. Contact: Jane Feldman (feldman.jane@gmail.com).

JANUARY 13 (WEDNESDAY)

General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7:30p; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: "Artist in Antarctica: Walking Among Emperor Penguins," with award-winning artist and naturalist Sharon K. Schafer.

Please see **SN CALENDAR**, page 11.

Help protect Gold Butte

BY TERRI ROBERTSON, FRIENDS OF GOLD BUTTE

GOLD BUTTE, SOUTHERN Nevada's piece of the Grand Canyon puzzle, has yet to achieve the designation it deserves. Sandwiched between the Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument and Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Gold Butte is recognized for critical desert tortoise habitat, unique botanical and scenic resources, and stories of our history and prehistory.

The City of Mesquite recently passed a resolution in support of designating Gold Butte as a National Conservation Area with Wilderness. Our next step is to acquire a resolution of support from the Clark County Commission.

What you can do. Please take a moment of your time to join/assist our group as we work to protect and preserve the beautiful Gold Butte Area. All of us have a responsibility to care for our public lands for themselves and for future generations. Stewardship, writing letters, and volunteering: all of these actions are ways that you can help and are essential to protecting Gold Butte.

You can call the Board of County Commissioners in support of a Gold Butte resolution (702-455-3500). In addition, you can call or write Congresswoman Dina Titus and ask her to protect Gold Butte by designating it a National

Conservation Area with Wilderness. Congresswoman Titus can be reached at 8215 S. Eastern Ave., Suite 205, Las Vegas, NV 89123 or 202-225-3252.

For information on Friends of Gold Butte, contact Terri Robertson, Las Vegas Outreach Coordinator (702-459-7613), Nancy Hall, President (702-346-3723), or e-mail us at friendsofgoldbutte@gmail.com. You can also check our blog at <<http://friendsofgoldbutte.blogspot.com/>>.

Just think about those beautiful places we all enjoy, like the Grand Canyon, Red Rock NCA, Wee Thump Wilderness Area, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and how much they enrich our lives. Our work on Gold Butte will result in our having another beautiful place to enjoy for generations.

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

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	Scott Stevens*	702-561-1701
At Large	Teresa Crawford*	702-526-8445
At Large	Open	
Compliance	Bart Patterson	702-349-1031
Conservation	Jane Feldman	feldman.jane@gmail.com
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 702-518-0188
robert.disney@sierraclub.org
W. Regional Organizer Vinny Spotleson 702-732-7750
vinny.spotleson@sierraclub.org

* ExCom member

S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 10

Boulder City. Sharon recently served as artist-in-residence for prestigious Antarctic Polar Arts Program. Join Sharon in this multimedia presentation as she shares her sketches, photographs, memories of her extraordinary experience with penguins in icy Antarctic wilderness. She will have some of her artwork for sale. All members and general public are welcome. Refreshments, announcements, free literature, too. Info: Gary Beckman (648-2983).

JANUARY 16 (SATURDAY)

***New Year's Resolution Hike: Around Blue Diamond Town.** Join us for a walk and some talk about how to make 2010 your best year ever. Is Blue Diamond on Old Spanish Trail? Leader: Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548). Level 3.

JANUARY 17 (SUNDAY)

***Blue Diamond Hill Loop, RRCNCA.** We begin at horse station and end there, going up a series of trails to top, then down Bomb Voyage Trail. About 7 mi. Do elk live here? Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

JANUARY 17 (SUNDAY)

Sunday Walk & Waffles: Henderson Trail System. Third in our winter program of monthly 2-hr Sunday walks along Valley's award-winning urban park trails, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. We'll choose an excellent Henderson trail. Leaders: Ann Cronin (737-5758) and Nick Saines (896-4049). Level 2.

JANUARY 23 (SATURDAY)

***Fire Wash, LMNRA.** About 6-8 mi RT in Bowl of Fire area. How can you tell a fresh

BUTTERFLIES . . .

continued from page 10

for its larvae.

Boyd says more must be done if the Checkerspot, and potentially dozens of other undocumented species of moths and other insects, are going to survive in the mountains. Boyd says he last saw the Acastus Checkerspot more than two years ago. It has been at least two years since hikers last spotted a species they believed was the Mount Charleston Blue.

For me, the tragedy of any extinction of the butterflies is compounded by the fact that all the federal and Clark County officials I talked to four years ago assured me that the Mount Charleston Blue would be protected. Extinction wasn't a possibility, they told me then.

I hope it isn't too late for the Acastus Checkerspot. (Please see photo on Page 1.)

What you can do. Those who want to speak for the butterflies have a couple of options: (1) write to federal officials at Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Supervisor's Office (1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431) and (2) write to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Southern Nevada Field Office (4701 North Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89130). Letting them know that you support the emergency petition for federal protection is a good first step.

*Launce was an environmental reporter for almost two decades before joining the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada in 2007 as communications director. When he has time, he likes to go hiking in the Spring Range.

footprint from an old one? How long does a footprint last in desert? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

JANUARY 24 (SUNDAY)

***North Peak, RRCNCA.** Start at Willow Spring about 10 mi RT, 2000 ft+ gain. Beautiful views on trip that feels remote even though so close to city. What evidence do you see of Red Rock's microclimates on this trip? Leader: Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548). Level 4.



Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up Volunteers. (l-r) Jack Borden, Rosie, Shomari, Susan, Billy Jean, Sandee, Irving and Bob. Missing from the shot were 13-year old Sam, his dad Randy, and Jack Sawyer. Join the next Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up on March 14! (Photo: Jack Sawyer.)

JANUARY 31 (SUNDAY)

***North Wind Wash.** Begin near Mile 10 of N. Shore Rd.. The wide open area gradually narrows. After a series of narrow canyons, end up in a bowl of red sandstone formations. Where did sandstone come from? About 8 mi. David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

FEBRUARY 1 (MONDAY)

Group ExCom 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).

FEBRUARY 6 (SATURDAY)

***Cross-country Skiing & Snowshoeing on Bristlecone Trail, Lee Canyon.** Bring own equipment. Come to play in snow. Time and distance will be adjusted to abilities of participants. Whose paw prints can we identify: rabbits, deer, ground squirrels? Leaders: Jack Sawyer (228-3857), Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548, Eric Blumensaadt (7speeder@cox.net). Level 1-2.

FEBRUARY 10 (WEDNESDAY)

New & Prospective Member Orientation. Time & Place: 6-7p before General Program Meeting; NV Energy Bldg. (see next). All welcome. Contact: Taj Ainlay (682-9361).

FEBRUARY 10 (WEDNESDAY)

General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7:30p; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: "National Wildlife Refuges," by a representative of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Las Vegas. Learn about National Wildlife Refuge system and, in particular, four refuges near Las Vegas: Desert, Pahrnagat, Ash Meadows, Moapa Valley

NWRs. Also hear about flora, fauna, ecosystems, endangered species, environmental issues, as well as recreational, educational, volunteering opportunities. All members, general public are welcome. Refreshments, announcements, free literature, too. Info: Gary Beckman (648-2983).

FEBRUARY 13 (SATURDAY)

***North Muddy Mountains Exploratory.** About 5-6 mi RT. Come enjoy solitude so close yet so far from city buzz. What hap-

pens when you breathe on a creosote branch? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

FEBRUARY 15-17 (MONDAY-WEDNESDAY)

Gold Butte Introductory Tour. What's this mysterious region of southeast Nevada being proposed for a National Conservation Area, with wilderness? Find out by joining Vicky Hoover in a car camping trip right after the Shoshone desert wilderness meeting. Central commissary, petroglyphs, Joshua trees, a peak scramble. Info: contact Vicky (415-977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org).

FEBRUARY 20 (SATURDAY)

***Snowshoeing on Bristlecone Trail, Lee Canyon.** Bring own equipment. Snow day (hopefully)! Time and distance will be adjusted to abilities of participants. Why does Lee Canyon have more snow? Leaders: Jack Sawyer (228-3857), Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548) and Eric Blumensaadt (7speeder@cox.net). Level 1-2.

FEBRUARY 20 (SATURDAY)

***Arrow Canyon Exploratory.** About 6-7 mi RT. Up past retention dam to see what we find. Are these pictographs or petroglyphs? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

FEBRUARY 21 (SUNDAY)

***Bowl of Fire to Anniversary Narrows.** Go past N end of Bowl of Fire, over a low pass into a large wash, over another pass into drainage that leads to narrows. Long hike, about 14 mi, requires unusually early start. How did narrows form? Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 4.

FEBRUARY 26-28 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

***Death Valley NP Service Trip.** Join us

for our annual service project in largest National Park in lower 48. Work with park personnel on a variety of projects Friday and Saturday. Park staff has a lot we can do. Check SNG website for updates. Stay as guests of park in beautiful Breakfast Canyon campground. Park staff also promises some great hiking, including Sunday morning hike before heading back that afternoon. Come for all or part of weekend. Dogs not encouraged as they must be on leash and cannot go on hikes. Be ready for a great time--doing a good project for park, getting to know more about Park's resources, Park employees, issues facing Park. Carpooling encouraged. Leader: Par Rasmusson (215-9119, Par@mvdsl.com).

FEBRUARY 28 (SUNDAY)

Sunday Walk & Waffles. Another Sunday walk along one of Valley's award-winning urban trails, followed by brunch at local restaurant. Leaders: Ann Cronin (737-5758) and Nick Saines (896-4049). Level 2.

MARCH 1 (MONDAY)

Group ExCom 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).

MARCH 6 (SATURDAY)

***Rogers Spring Exploratory.** About 5-6 mi RT. Where does heat in hot spring come from? What lives in spring? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

MARCH 7 (SUNDAY)

***Wildflower Hike.** If rains have been good, find one of best areas for about a 7 mile hike in Lake Mead area. Otherwise, hike in Cottonwood Valley section of Red Rock. What plants come up with winter rains? Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2.

MARCH 10 (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 (feldman.jane@gmail.com).

MARCH 10 (WEDNESDAY)

General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7:30p; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: "Wildflowers of Mojave Desert," by Bob Peloquin, retired Biology professor, Red Rock interpretative naturalist, Master Gardener. Learn about general wildflower features of Mojave Desert and comparisons with other deserts, between north and south Mojave. Local Spring Mountain Range, one of most biologically diverse of more than 90 mountain ranges of Mojave, will also be discussed. All members and general public are welcome. Refreshments, announcements, free literature, too. Info: Gary Beckman (648-2983).

MARCH 13 (SATURDAY)

***La Madre Spring-La Madre Peak, RRCNCA.** Start together, but at Spring some can choose to go up, some to go down. Why does spring emerge here? Leaders: Jack Sawyer (228-3857) for Level 1-2; and Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548) for Level 4-5.

Please see SN CALENDAR, p. 12.

Bookshelf

WALK THE SKY: FOLLOWING THE JOHN MUIR TRAIL BY JOHN DITTLI & MARK SCHLENZ Companion Press, 2009

This new full-color celebration of the John Muir Trail presents the most comprehensive photographic essay treatment of the Trail since Ansel Adams' treatment in 1938. Over the course of three decades mountaineer-photographer John Dittli has captured the stunning scenery and spirit of wilderness along the summit of the Pacific Crest.

Walk the Sky features 85 spectacular large format color plates (including 18 double-page panoramas) and four thoughtful essays by Eastern Sierra writer Mark Schlenz on the history of the trail, John Muir's early 20th century wilderness advocacy, the joy of walking the watersheds and passes the trail traverses, and wilderness ethics of High Sierra hiking.



Photography by John Dittli
Essay by Mark A. Schlenz

traverses more than 200 roadless miles through Yosemite National Park, the Ansel Adams Wilderness, the John Muir Wilderness, and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

In *Walk the Sky*, the reader journeys with John Dittli's spectacular images north to south – from Yosemite Valley to Mount Whitney – along

John Muir's 221-mile namesake route through the wilderness areas at the heart of the Sierra Nevada. This is an extraordinary walk: each hiker encounters high passes, stream crossings, mountain meadows and lakes, thunderstorms, and daunting physical challenges along with awesome beauty and the camaraderie of the trail.

Those who hike the JMT (or take it on as part of a Pacific Crest Trail journey) devote months to advance planning and weeks to walk these mountain miles. The experience inspires passionate enthusiasm for the John Muir Trail – and precious wilderness preserved in the High Sierra – among hikers around the world. John Muir inspired countless others to share his passions for walking and wilderness conservation. A century later, no person who has walked his trail remains unchanged.

The stunning collection of photographs by a Sierra mountaineer who knows this country intimately throughout the seasons will appeal to all who have walked the John Muir Trail (and anyone who hopes to walk it) as they follow Muir's trail and "walk the sky."

A hardcover coffee table book, *Walk the Sky: Following the John Muir Trail*, retails for \$49.95 and is available at Spellbinder Books in Bishop and The Booky Joint in Mammoth Lakes, as well as National Park and Forest Service Visitor Centers in the Sierra region. A limited edition slipcased, signed, and numbered edition of 300 is available only from photographer John Dittli at <www.johndittli.com>.

DEADLINE! MARCH 1

FOR APR-MAY-JUNE ISSUE



Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

TBA

For details,
contact the Chair,
David Hornbeck
davidhornbecklaw@msn.com

GB GROUP CALENDAR . . .

continued from page 9

destination depends on Playa conditions. Camp at hot spring on Saturday night under full moon. Learn about Black Rock region. Bad weather cancels. Sign up March 1 to March 24. DL. Leader: David Book (843-6443). Easy.

MARCH 28 (SUNDAY)

Climb to "C" in Carson City. Meet 9 am. Climb up to visit "C" and flag that overlook Carson City and capture some great views of city and eastern mountains. About 5 mi, 1000 ft gain. ND. Leader: Donna Inversin (775.315.6763; dinversin@yahoo.com). Moderate.

MARCH 27 (SATURDAY)

Relay Ridge Snowshoe. Meet 8:30am, return 3:30pm. Starting at 8800 ft, take snowshoe shortcut up to snow-buried service road. Then, high above Tahoe Mead-

ows, pass frozen-over pond and join Tahoe Rim Trail. Following TRT, top 10,000 ft at ridgeline near Relay Station. If conditions permit, continue snowshoeing up to summit of Relay Peak for even more spectacular vistas. About 12 mi. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (775-336-7698; gphanneman@charter.net). Co-Leader: John Ide (321-525-2050; johndel@yahoo.com). Mod. Strenuous.

MARCH 27 (SATURDAY)

Tibbie Peak. Meet 8 am. Peak is in Flowery Range near Dayton. Day hike to top (7277 ft). About 6 mi on an in and out with about 2400 ft gain. Parts are off trail with steep ascents and descents. Learn some history of area. Great overviews. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. strenuous.

SN GROUP CALENDAR . . .

continued from page 11

MARCH 14 (SUNDAY)

Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up. Walk and talk while sprucing up southern approach to Red Rock. Lots of people were honking their thank-yous to us last time. Meet at Dunkin' Donuts (W of I-215 in Albertson shopping center), 8:30a. Leaders: Sandee Gogatz (248-4443), Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

MARCH 20 (SATURDAY)

Valley of Fire Exploratory. Follow a beautiful sandstone arroyo for 5-6 mi. Leader: Eric Blumensaadt (370-1836, 7speeder@cox.net). Level 2-3.

MARCH 27 (SATURDAY)

***Arizona Hot Springs, LMNRA.** Bring suit, sandwich, to romp to emerald green river for lunch, pause for soak at top of ladder. Why is rock in bottom of wash different from that of walls? Leaders: Jack Sawyer (228-3857) and Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548). Level 3-4.

MARCH 27 (SATURDAY)

***Historic Railroad Tunnels, LMNRA.** Family hike. Friendly dogs welcome. Hike through interesting tunnels on old RR grade. Great views of Lake Mead. Learn some history, geology. About 4 mi. Level 1. Leader: Gary Beckman (648-2983).

APRIL 3 (SATURDAY)

***Grand Circle, RRCNCA.** Do bunny hop through part of this long, 12-mi walk. Connect dots with new views of RR escarpment, maybe some early wildflowers. Leaders: Jack Sawyer (228-3857) and Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548). Level 3-4.

APRIL 5 (MONDAY)

Group ExCom 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).

APRIL 17-18 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

***Bonanza Peak Trail Backpack.** Start at Cold Creek, go up to beautiful views from ridge, camp at Wood Springs, meet up with drive-around party on Bristlecone Trail. The drive-arounds will day hike from or back to Cold Creek Saturday and from or to Bristlecone on Sunday. Join in either or both with Gracie if you don't backpack! North two-thirds of trail offers fresh wilderness experience over 15 mi, also feeling of alpine remoteness much like Sierra. Can you see Telescope Peak from this ridge? Leaders: Eric Blumensaadt (7speeder@cox.net) or Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 4-5.

MAY (DATE-TBA)

***In works: Service trip to Kalaupapa National Historic Park.** On island of Molokai, Hawaii (5 days), to work with National Park Service on natural and cultural resource projects. A rare opportunity to live for a week in isolated area serving as a settlement for people afflicted with Hansen's disease (leprosy) since 1866. Google to learn more about Kalaupapa. Trip limited to 12 participants; moderate. Leader: Linda Nations (LLNations@pbsj.com).

JUNE 29-JULY 5 (TUESDAY-MONDAY)

***Coyote Gulch, Escalante UT.** Leave Las Vegas about 6 am, June 29. Each day we'll be in awe as we hike along Coyote Creek. Easy to moderate over mostly flat canyon bottom; total about 30 mi with backpack. Limit 12. Info: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred).



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"

- John Muir

Join Sierra Club and help protect all creatures, great and small.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
Email _____



Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

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

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<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

F94Q W 1400 1

"BOOTS" MCFARLAND

