



# TRAILS

ELECTION  
Issue

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

## From the Chair

### Get out YOUR vote!

BY DAVID HORNBECK

One feature of the Sierra Club which has always impressed me is how truly democratic (small “d”) our Club is. Every member of the Club can vote in the election of the national Board of Directors – and you and every one of our more than 5000 Toiyabe Chapter members can vote to elect the members of your Chapter and Group Executive Committees.

For the second year, the annual election ballots will be mailed in November to every member of the Chapter. Mailing the ballots for the first time last year resulted in a new high of returned ballots: 11.7% (587 ballots). This was about a 3.5-fold increase over the previous year’s election (when the ballot was in the *Toiyabe Trails*). This increased return justifies the added cost of mailing.

The Chapter Election Committee is ably chaired this year by Chapter Vice-Chair, Jean Stoess. See her article on the election schedule on this page. Then, in November, you can participate in your Club’s democratic process by carefully considering and voting for your fellow members who have stepped up to volunteer their time and expertise on your Chapter and Group ExComs.

**What you can do.** Your Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club faces many challenges and opportunities in its mission to explore, enjoy and protect the wild places in Nevada, Eastern California, and Lake Tahoe. You can enjoy the fun and excitement of advancing that mission of your Club by becoming involved

Please see *FROM THE CHAIR*, page 2.



*This August, Range of Light Group traveled to Bridgeport Reservoir for a kayak/canoe outing. We paddled, bird watched, and explored for several hours. As this picture shows, the American pond weed was in full bloom and quite stunningly dressed the water surface in bright pink. It was a great trip and one that will probably be repeated next year. Photo: Shalle Genevieve.*

## RUBY PIPELINE EMBATTLED ON SEVERAL FRONTS

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Ruby Pipeline was signed on July 12 by BLM. This decision gave approval to Ruby Pipeline, LLC, to build its natural gas pipeline on federal lands in the states of Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon, along the route approved in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

This decision included several conditions which must be met before Ruby can commence construction on federal lands. These conditions are not expected to be met fully for weeks or perhaps months. Meanwhile, Ruby has sought and gained Federal Energy Regulatory commission (FERC) approval to commence construction on non-federal lands.

Toiyabe Chapter remains firmly op-

posed to the Nevada part of the route chosen in the FEIS due to its environmental and cultural impacts, which were inadequately analyzed in the EIS.

The legal and political climate around the Ruby pipeline project is complex and changing rapidly, and while this article goes to press there will undoubtedly be new developments changing that climate

Please see *RUBY PIPELINE*, page 2.

## ~ DEADLINES ~

### 2010 Toiyabe Chapter & Group Elections

BY JEAN STOESS, EXCOM VICE-CHAIR & ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIR

(775-322-5326, JSTOESS@AOL.COM)

For 2010, the Chapter ExCom has set the following dates and deadlines for both Chapter and Group ExCom elections:

**September 29.** Deadline for receipt by Chapter or Group Nominating Committee of names for consideration as candidates for the Chapter or respective Group ExCom. Each Nominating Committee will contact possible candidates, but any member can submit name(s) of any member, including his or her own, for consideration by the Chapter or Group Nominating Committee. Members interested in a Group ExCom

nomination should contact their respective Group Chair (listed elsewhere in Group directories in this edition of the *Trails*).

**October 1.** Each Nominating Committee reports its slate of willing nominees to the Chapter or Group ExCom and notifies any self-nominee if he or she has not been selected as a candidate.

**October 15.** Deadline for receipt at  
Please see *ELECTION DEADLINES*, page 2.

## In Memoriam

Billie Jean James  
1942 - 2010

Philanthropist of the Arts  
& Conservation Activist

Friends and family are sad to report the passing of Billie Jean James due to a tragic accident in her home near Las Vegas, NV.

Billie Jean James was born in Laramie, Wyoming on December 2, 1942. Billie Jean has numerous friends, relatives and extended family members that live in Nevada, Utah, Illinois, California, Wyoming, and New Mexico. They indicated that “Billie Jean loved life and did not waste time with talk. She actually went out and participated in the activities that she loved.”



A graduate of the University of Wyoming and UNLV with an MA in English, she was a professor at UNLV and at the College of Southern Nevada. She was an accomplished poet and was Nevada Council of the Arts poet in residence during the 1970s. Billie Jean was also a supporter of the Contemporary Dance Theatre, the CSN Dance program, and a number of other arts organizations.

Billie Jean loved the earth. A conservationist and a naturalist, she planted her own nature garden in front of her home. She could identify wildflowers, birds, and animals just as easily as if she had a Ph.D. in those areas. She was an activist for environmental causes and was often seen carrying a sign or wearing a t-shirt in support of an issue. She was a member of several hiking clubs as

Please see *IN MEMORIAM*, page 2.

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Chapter Post Office Box of any issue petition or any petition by a Chapter member seeking to be placed on the ballot for Chapter ExCom. To qualify for candidacy by petition, petitions must be signed by 1.5% (currently 77) of Chapter members on the eligible-voter list.

**November 2.** Election Committee orders production of a list of eligible voters for the elections.

**November 9.** Ballots and candidates' statements mailed to Toiyabe Chapter members on the list of eligible voters.

**No later than December 10.** Ballots must be received by the Toiyabe Chapter Election Committee. Ballots received after that date will not be counted.

**December 11 or 12.** Ballots counted,

winners notified. The exact date, time, and place of ballot counting to be determined by the Chapter ExCom at its October meeting.

## FROM THE CHAIR...

continued from page 1

in the many activities of your local Group or Chapter committees.

And, finally: this fall, don't forget to VOTE in the Chapter and Group ExCom election, as well as in your state election!



## In Memoriam

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well as the Sierra Club. She was also a peace activist.

A religious liberal, she took time out to renew her soul and spirit. She attended the Green Valley Methodist Church and regularly met with several Jungian organizations.

Billie Jean will be very much missed by her family, friends, and acquaintances.

— by Norma J. Price

## RUBY PIPELINE...

continued from page 1

significantly. [In July, Ruby signed agreements with Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) and Western Watersheds Project (WWP) to provide funding for mitigation and restoration projects desired by these groups, and the total funding could exceed \$20 million. These groups subsequently, as part of the deal, withdrew their petitions for rehearing FERC's order to go ahead with the project.

Remember that the Toiyabe Chapter, which also filed a petition for rehearing, is still awaiting FERC's decision on the merit of our petition, fully three months after filing it. In early August, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) also filed a petition on the basis of new information that has come out since the FERC order to proceed. CBD also filed a suit appealing the ROD in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.] Sierra Club, among others, is weighing its legal strategy at this time. A first foray was the filing of an IBLA (Interior Board of Land Appeals) appeal of the ROD by the Toiyabe Chapter.

Meanwhile, Toiyabe Chapter is issuing press releases, planning media events, and closely communicating with our partners in opposing the Ruby pipeline route. Interestingly, the Oregon natural Desert Assoc. (ONDA) and Western Watersheds Project (WWP) agreements have evoked the ire of ranching advocates who fear that grazing permits are under attack.

The media across Nevada and the U.S. have picked up the developments, and there is a lot of internet chatter on this issue. We expect this huge project, which FERC and Ruby Pipeline, LLC, had wished to quietly and rapidly push through, will become an open and contentious issue and that the concerns of the Sierra Club and our partners can still be addressed.

**What you can do.** Contact David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net), Ruby Pipeline Task Force, for further information or if you want to help in this very important Chapter issue.

## TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

### CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chair	Dave Hornbeck	775-323-6655
		DavidHornbeckLaw@msn.com
Vice-Chair	Jean Stoess	775-322-5326, jstoess@aol.com
Secretary	Jane Feldman	702-648-0699
Treasurer	Kristine Cunningham	702-285-6832
At Large	Eric Blumensaadt	702-566-9429
At Large	Ann Brauer	702-879-3376
At Large	Malcolm Clark	760-924-5639
At Large	Charlotte Cox	775-322-7567
At Large	Erik Holland	775-322-3582
At Large	Glenn Miller	775-786-0462

### GROUP CHAIRS (DELEGATES TO THE CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)

Great Basin Group	Catherine Schmidt	775-323-6316
Range of Light Group	Malcolm Clark	760-924-5639
S. Nevada Group	Kristine Cunningham	702-285-6832
Tahoe Area Group	Roger Rosenberger	775-588-8101

### ISSUES, OUTINGS, & COMMITTEES

Campaign Coordinator	Rose Strickland	775-329-6118
Chapter Delegate	Lois Snedden	775-827-2353
Chapter Delegate	Graham Stafford	graham@grahamstafford.com
Conservation Co-Chair	Yuki Takagi	702-263-7327
Conservation Co-Chair	Dennis Ghiglieri	776-329-6118
Elections Chair	Erik Holland	775-322-3582
Endangered Species Chair	Tina Nappe	775-786-1178
Energy Task Force Chair	Joe Johnson	775-348-7192
Environmental Ed. Chair	Jean Dillingham	760-648-7109
Fundraising Chair	Charlotte Cox	775-322-7567
Great Basin Peak Section	Sharon Marie Wilcox	775-852-5075
Legislative & Mining Co-Chair	Lois Snedden	775-827-2353
Legislative & Mining Co-Chair	Joe Johnson	775-348-7192
Membership Chair	Sharon Marie Wilcox	775-852-5075
Outings Chair	Eric Blumensaadt	702-566-9429
Outreach & Public Rel. Chair	Lance Rake	702-451-9363
Political Co-Chair	Taj Ainlay	702-682-9361
Political Co-Chair	Ellen Pillard	775-746-1726
Political Co-Chair	Erik Holland	775-322-3582
		775-324-7383, pjs-ferra@yahoo.com
Political Compliance Officer	Pete Sferrazza	775-329-6118
Public Lands Chair	Rose Strickland	775-329-6118
Ruby Pipeline Task Force Chair	David von Seggern	775-303-8461
Sierra Club Council Delegate	Jane Feldman	702-648-0699
Sierra Club Council Delegate	Jean Stoess	775-322-5326
Sierra Club Staff, Reno	Emily Rhodenbaugh	775-284-8695
Sierra Club W. Reg. Organizer	Vinny Spotleson	702-732-7750
Sierra Student Coalition	Vinny Spotleson	702-732-7750
Sierra Student Coalition	Glenn Miller	775-786-0462
Sustainable Consumption Chair	Phillip Moore	775-224-1877
Toiyabe Trails Editor	Lynne Foster	760-387-2634
Toiyabe Trails Ed. Comm. Chair	Jean Stoess	775-322-5326
Water Chair	Rose Strickland	775-329-6118
Webmaster	Dennis Ghiglieri	776-329-6118
Wild Lands Chair	Marge Sill	775-322-2867
Wilderness Chair	Marge Sill	775-322-2867
Wildlife Co-chair	Rose Strickland	775-329-6118
Wildlife Co-Chair	Tina Nappe	775-786-1178

## 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 four 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 usually does one issue each year.

**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. Contact Treasurer, Kris Cunningham (702-285-6832) for address.

**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.

**DEADLINE!**  
**DECEMBER 1**  
**FOR JAN-FEB-MAR ISSUE**



## Fall 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

#### SEPTEMBER 24-26 (FRI-SUN) SERVICE & HIKING IN CARRIZO PLAINS

Opportunity to visit and help an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. Friday, optional scenic hike high in Caliente Mountains. Others may join us for National Public Lands Day on Saturday, when we'll work with other volunteers restoring a historic homestead in center of Plain. Sunday, tour several historic, prehistoric, geologic sites. Leader: Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

#### OCTOBER 1-3 (FRI-SUN) DEATH VALLEY NAT'L PARK SERVICE TRIP

Wilderness restoration work party in Butte Valley, a beautiful and remote area of park in S Panamint Range. Meet Friday afternoon, drive to work site. High clearance vehicle required. May start work on Friday if time permits. Saturday, workday followed by a potluck supper. Sunday, work half-day; project and location may change. Bring work gloves, camping equipment, food and water for weekend. Leader: Kate Allen (kj.allen@wildblue.net, 661-944-4056).

CNRCC Desert Committee

#### OCTOBER 9-13 (SAT-WED) DEATH VALLEY DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY CAR CAMP

See page 9 for details.

CNRCC Wilderness Committee

#### OCTOBER 23-24 (SAT-SUN) CARRIZO PLAINS SERVICE & EXPLORATION (CAR CAMP)

Pronghorn antelope don't jump fences to escape predators but attempt to crawl under. Saturday, either remove or modify several sections of fence to give pronghorns more mobility. Sunday, either hike in Caliente Range or tour popular viewing areas. Leader: Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

#### OCTOBER 30-31 (SAT-SUN) GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA

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

CNRCC Desert Committee

#### NOVEMBER 20-21 (SAT-SUN) CARRIZO PLAINS SERVICE & EXPLORATION (CAR CAMP)

See October 23-24 for details.

CNRCC Desert Committee

#### DECEMBER 4-5 (SAT-SUN)

**CARRIZO PLAINS FENCE REMOVAL**  
Removing barbed wire fences on Carrizo Plain Nat'l Monument opens it up for pronghorn antelope and other wildlife. Here is another chance to destroy fences! Meet 9a Saturday, Goodwin Visitor Center or Friday night, Selby campground. Potluck dinner, campfire, on Saturday. Bring fence tools if you can, heavy leather work gloves, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, clothing appropriate for weather. Bring everything you need, including water. There are no stores in Carrizo. Resource specialists: Alice & Bob Koch. To sign up, contact leaders: Cal & Letty French (lettyfrench@gmail.com, 805-239-7338).

CNRCC Desert Com/Santa Lucia Chapter

#### DECEMBER 28, 2010 - JANUARY 2, 2011 (TUE-SUN)

##### HOLIDAY SERVICE IN CARRIZO PLAIN

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

## Sierra Club Local Outings policies

AS A HIKE LEADER OR HIKER, you've probably occasionally wondered what the Club's policies are on various subjects – say, pets, complaints, fundraising on outings, transportation, contact info, etc., etc. Well, wonder no more. Go to <http://club-house.sierraclub.org/outings/GCO/policy.asp> for information on the Club's policies and procedures for local outings.

Please note that "Local Outings" refers to all outings sponsored by local entities (chapters, groups & sections), with the exception of Inner City Outings.

– Sierra Club Local Outings  
Support Committee

## ESLT News

### Conservation Real Estate Program

BY SARAH SPANO, EDUCATION  
COORDINATOR, AMERICORPS MEMBER,  
EASTERN SIERRA LAND TRUST

Eastern Sierra Land Trust has begun an exciting collaboration with local real estate professionals and conservation-oriented buyers. Known as the Eastern Sierra Conservation Real Estate Program, this initiative aims to connect real estate buyers who are interested in land preservation in Eastern California and Nevada with properties that contain beautiful and important conservation values. Properties are listed online at [www.eastsidelands.com](http://www.eastsidelands.com) with links to both the real estate agent representing the property and Eastern Sierra Land Trust.

When a match is made between an interested buyer and a suitable property, Eastern Sierra Land Trust works with the landowner to develop a conservation easement designed to permanently preserve the specific resources of the site. This arrangement ensures that the land will be preserved for future generations and potentially provides the buyer with significant federal tax benefits from the donation of the conservation easement.

Eastern Sierra Land Trust does not seek a commission from these real estate transactions, but has developed this program as a way to further its conservation mission and assist private landowners in our region.



View over historic Swall family orchard and homestead in Swall Meadows, north of Bishop, California.



Along DeChambeau Creek, which drains into Mono Lake, 135 acres were permanently preserved with a donated conservation easement by landowner Jan Simis.

## Mono Basin traditions preserved

BY SERENA DENNIS, ESLT

In late spring, Mono County landowner Jan Simis permanently preserved 135 acres for future generations. Her land, which sits at the very western edge of the Mono Basin, has now been preserved with a conservation easement, a voluntary binding land protection agreement between the landowner and Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT).

Simis' property has a rich history, with evidence of human use spanning hundreds of years. It contains portions of the original Silvester and DeChambeau homesteads from the late 1800s, one of which has been maintained and restored. Agriculture also continues, with a small-scale farm and garden.

Interestingly, the property was used as a base camp for the Mono Basin Research Group, while they were conducting the original Ecological Study of Mono Lake in 1976. Local lore has it that following

completion of the study, the Mono Lake Committee organization was conceived around the embers of a campfire on this property.

The DeChambeau Creek Conservation Easement, named after DeChambeau Creek, which runs through the property, is within the boundaries of Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, and is surrounded by public lands. More than 150 species of birds have been identified on the property, as well as mule deer, black bear, mountain lion, coyotes, bobcats, skunk, gray fox, and long-tailed weasel. Animals use the property and the associated waterway as habitat and a corridor between adjacent public lands and the lake basin below.

To learn more about this newly preserved property, please visit ESLT's website at [www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org) or call 760-873-4554.



# Range of Light Reflections

## Range of Light Group



### Group News

#### Letter from the Chair

BY MALCOLM CLARK (WMALCOLM.CLARK@GMAIL.COM)

**ExCom Meetings.** We have switched to a quarterly meeting schedule: 2 pm on the first Tuesday of January, April, July, and October. The next meeting is on October 5. Your ExCom held a very productive planning retreat in June. (See page 5 for article.)

**Program Meetings.** In June, member Sue Barak, updated us on her research into flow patterns and water chemistry at Big Springs (Owens River Headwaters). Our summer cookouts for July and August were held at Hayden Cabin in Mammoth and at Rock Creek Lake. On September 21, club members and former California state park rangers Janet and David Carle will update us on their project of circling the globe at the 38th parallel.

**Outings.** Last highway cleanup: 8 am, Sept 22 (see details in Outings, this page). Wednesday evening summer hikes ended on August 25 (many thanks to leader Dick Baggett). Sunday outings will end on September 26 (see Outings for details of last few). Thanks to Summer Outings Chair Henning Jensen for expanded outings in the more northern and southern portions of our area. New this year were four Saturday special interest outings: birding, wildflowers, kayaking, and photography.

**Conservation.** The Group was involved in several important and interesting area issues:

- Group members were interviewed during the "pre-scoping" stage of the planned doubling of **Mammoth Pacific's geothermal facility.**

- We are participating in a group seeking federal protective designation for the **Bodie** area, and another group is seeking federal protective designation for the **Alabama Hills** area.

- A number of Group members are also participating in the renewed Friends of the Inyo **water quality monitoring**

**project.** The Owens dry lake bed master planning process group (Mark Bagley is our representative) intends to produce a plan by the end of 2010.

- We continue to participate with other groups monitoring Los Angeles DWP **solar plans for Owens Valley** (they now speak of renewable energy plans).

- To the south of the ROLG area, Club activists are alarmed at the approval of the **Ivanpah Solar Project**, despite non-mitigable environmental consequences. Watch for propositions on the November ballot with environmental impacts (e.g., Prop. 23). For details, see <[www.sierraclubcalifornia.org](http://www.sierraclubcalifornia.org)>.

Please see *GROUP NEWS*, page 5.

## Holiday Party & Potluck

Tuesday  
December 21  
6:30 pm

Home of John  
& Nancy Walter  
240 Mammoth Knolls Drive



THE WALTERS ONCE AGAIN graciously invite you to their home for our annual Holiday celebration. Join your Sierra Club friends and enjoy an evening of food, conversation, and cheer.

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

Call the Walters at 760-934-1767 for directions or more information.

ROL Group Website  
<<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/>>

&  
ROL Group E-mail  
<[RangeofLight.sc@gmail.com](mailto:RangeofLight.sc@gmail.com)>

## 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.

### Fall - Winter Outings News

**Summer outings.** These conclude September 26. Because this issue is coming out early, the last three September outings are included below. Also included on page 5 are several good photos of recent Group outings.

**Fall outings.** Several Sierra Club Desert Committee Fall outings are in or near the ROL area. See page 3 of this issue for details.

**Winter outings.** Snow outings begin in January and will be announced in the Jan-Feb-Mar 2011 issue of the Trails.

#### SEPTEMBER 19 (SUNDAY)

**Tuolumne Cascades.** Lovely day trip along fishermen's trail with white heather and huckleberries along route. Opportunities for swimming. Easy hike, 6 mi RT. Bring lunch, plenty of water, hat, sunscreen, hiking boots, etc. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank parking lot or 8:45, Lee Vining Ranger Station on Hwy 120. Leaders: Jean Dillingham (760 648 7109), John Walter (760 934 1767) No dogs.

#### SEPTEMBER 22 (WEDNESDAY)

**Highway Cleanup.** This is the final cleanup of the year. If Crestview Rest Area is still closed, meet at 8a on E side of intersection of Hwy 395 and Mammoth Scenic Loop. We usually finish in 2-3 hours.

#### SEPTEMBER 25-26 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

**Big Pine Campout or Day Hike near Third Lake.** About 12 mi, 3000

ft gain in first 5 mi. Option for alternate 8-mi day hike to Third Lake and back. South of this lake basin are imposing Temple Craig, Mt. Sill, North Palisade (the latter two both 14,000-ft peaks). North Palisade Glacier S of Third Lake is nearly 2 mi long and several hundred feet thick. Parking limited at road's end, which is about 10 mi up the canyon. Meet Saturday, 8a, ML Union Bank parking lot for drive. Owens Valley hikers meet in Big Pine by 9a, Hwy 395/Crocker Ave.(Glacier Lodge Road). Begin hike around 10a. Day hikers and campers need raingear, hiking boots, warm clothes. Also needed are food, sunglasses, sunscreen, water purifiers (or plenty of water for day hikers). Bring camera if you wish. Those with fishing gear are welcome. Leaders: Monica & Ron Stormo (760 876 5401), Grethe & Henning Jensen (760 934 7176). Dogs limited.

## You're Invited!

Range of Light Group Monthly Meeting  
Everyone welcome!

September 21 (Tues)

**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.

**"Traveling the World Along the 38th Parallel"**  
with David and Janet Carle,  
former CA State Park Rangers

David and Janet will present photos and stories gathered during their ongoing world travels along the 38th Parallel in quest of water-related environmental and cultural connections. To date they have driven the USA, Europe, and Turkey – and in June 2010 visited the demilitarized zone in Korea! And much more . . .

October 19 (Tues)

**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.

**"Hendersons' Habitat: How to Bring in Birds, Beat the Lawn Police, & Have a Great Time Doing It"**  
with Brad Henderson, Environmental Scientist, Calif Dept of Fish & Game  
Brad and Amy's wildlife-friendly native landscape was very popular with the birds, toads, and bees – but not so appreciated by code enforcement staff in Lawndale. See how they built their habitat garden and prevailed over the Lawn Police.

November 16 (Tues)

See above for time, place, & what to bring.

**"Bats of the Eastern Sierra"**

with Dr. Patricia Brown-Berry, research biologist, environmental consultant, & bat researcher for 40 years. Please see *YOU'RE INVITED*, page 5.

### RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Malcolm Clark*	760-924-5639
Vice Chair	Shalle Genevieve*	760-934-9668
Secretary	Brigitte Berman*	760-924-2140
Conservation	Mary K. Prentice*	760-934-0355
Treasurer	Lyle Gaston	760-387-2634
At Large	Rosemary Jarrett*	rosemaryjarrett@gmail.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
Winter Outings	John Walter	760-934-1767
Summer Outings	Henning Jensen*	760-934-7176
Outings Asst.	Dick Baggett	760-924-5749
Programs	Claus Engelhardt	760-872-4596
Publicity	Rosemary Jarrett*	see At Large, above
Webmaster	Jo Bacon	jbacon22@verizon.net
Webmaster Emeritus	Owen Maloy	760-934-9511

\* Voting ExCom member



## ROL Group News

continued from page 4

### Group ExCom meetings

BY MALCOLM CLARK



PLEASE NOTE that we have changed our meeting schedule will now meet at 2 pm on the first Tuesday of each quarter (January, April, July, October). The next meeting is at **2 pm, October 5**, at Malcolm Clark's home (637 John Muir, Mammoth Lakes).

All Sierra Club members are welcome. To confirm date, place, and time, contact the Chair, Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com). If you have an item requiring group ExCom approval, please note our meeting schedule and plan accordingly.

Additional meetings by phone, e-mail, or in person may be called when necessary (e.g., to meet deadlines for commenting on CEQA, etc. documents). If you have an item concerning conservation, outings, or other activities or programs, please contact the relevant group officer who will make a recommendation to the ExCom for action (if appropriate).

**DEADLINE!**  
**DECEMBER 1**  
FOR JAN-FEB-MAR ISSUE

### Who is running for Range of Light Group Executive Committee?

BY MARY K. PRENTICE

THE GROUP NOMINATING Committee announces the following nominees for the ROL Excom:

**Malcolm Clark**  
**Mauriça Anderson**  
**Jean Dillingham**

**Questions?** Contact any of the NomCom members: Wilma Wheeler, Rosemary Jarrett, or Mary K. Prentice. (See ROL Group Directory, this page, for contact numbers.) Also see article on Page 1 for the 2010 Chapter and Group election schedule.

### YOU'RE INVITED!...

continued from page 4

Dr. Brown-Berry will speak about the history of our native bats. Also, she'll discuss potential impacts to bat populations in the West by developments such as wind energy and mine closures, and the White Nose Syndrome that is devastating bat populations in the eastern USA.



## Eastern Sierra Land Trust coming events

BY SARAH SPANO, EDUCATION COORDINATOR

AT PRESS TIME, ESLT is in the midst of finalizing fall events – stay tuned at [www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org) for specific dates, or e-mail [sarah@eslt.org](mailto:sarah@eslt.org). In the meantime, read about what is being planned.

### SEPTEMBER 25

**Great Sierra River Cleanup.** Eastern Sierra Land Trust is proud to be part of the larger Great Sierra River Cleanup and Coastal Cleanup Day 2010. Come join the efforts to clean up our precious water system! Every piece of trash eventually ends up downstream, so help clean a waterway that leads into the recreational areas we all enjoy – from the Owens River to the Pacific Ocean. For more detailed information, please contact Sarah Spano ([sarah@eslt.org](mailto:sarah@eslt.org), 760-873-4554).

**TBA BEFORE THE LEAVES TURN! Workshop: Preparing for Fall Foliage Photography.** In anticipation of another awesome autumn, we're hosting this short workshop with founding ESLT board member, Rick Kattelman. Rick will lead the discussion and offer ideas about photographing the colors of autumn.

### TBA SOMETIME IN LATE FALL

**Workshop: The World of GPS.** Back by popular demand, we're hosting our second GPS Field Workshop of the season. Join ESLT's Lands Program Coordinator for a day learning the basics of Global Positioning System (GPS) includ-

ing basic use, a cross-country geography walk, and a discussion of applications and uses. Please bring your own GPS unit. Drinks and snacks provided.

**TBA SOMETIME IN LATE FALL 2nd Stargazing Party of the Year.** Star expert Dave Hardin will lead this event, pointing out star constellations and a giving us a closeup look at the crescent moon. His enthusiastic and learned demeanor helps participants understand our sky. While observing amazing views of the night sky, enjoy an evening on lands in the Wheeler Ridge Migration Corridor that have been permanently protected by an ESLT conservation easement. Drinks and snacks provided.

**TBA NEAR THANKSGIVING Volunteer Training & Appreciation Potluck.** ESLT will be hosting this event around Thanksgiving, recognizing the crucial work undertaken by ESLT volunteers in the office and out on the land. Staff members will be unveiling several enhancement and monitoring projects, highlighting ways in which volunteers can stay active in the ESLT community. Come to the potluck if you've volunteered before, or are interested in learning more. Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish along to share.

Please see ESLT NEWS, page 3.

## ROL Summer Scrapbook



Although final congressional approval is still to come, observant visitors to Minaret Vista in mid-July would have noted a newly identified mountain in the view scope: **Mt. Andrea Lawrence**. ROLG submitted a letter earlier in the year supporting the naming of a Sierra peak after Winter Olympic icon and Eastern Sierra environmental activist, **Andrea Mead Lawrence**. The peak is near Tioga Pass entrance to Yosemite National Park. (Photo: Malcolm Clark)



Range of Light members enjoy June cookout at Hayden Cabin in Mammoth Lakes. (Photo: Malcolm Clark)

Jean Dillingham identifies plants for ROLG members on July wildflower hike down to Devil's Postpile National Monument. (Photo: Malcolm Clark)



ROLG Members on Deer Lakes Hike. (Photo: Lloyd Stevens)



ROL kayakers enjoy Crowley Lake after floating down the Owens River (Photo: Malcolm Clark)





# CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

## Conservation Briefs

BY MARGE SILL

**Snowmobiles invade Ruby Wilderness.** Snowmobile tracks have been photographed this June in the Ruby Wilderness in Elko County, near Liberty Lake. This illegal entry into wilderness has occurred in spite of signing on the wilderness boundary.

Unfortunately, this is not the only area where snowmobile use has occurred in Wilderness Areas within Toiyabe Chapter boundaries. Several snowmobile intrusions into Mt. Rose Wilderness and into Eastern Sierra wilderness have been documented over the past few years.

The Forest Service does not have funds to hire rangers to catch these criminals. With more powerful machines that can go almost anywhere, those people who deliberately break the law are difficult to stop.

**Mining exploration in roadless areas.** Several companies have applied for permits to do mining exploration, including road building, in several roadless areas of Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Nevada. The companies have the right to do this under the 1872 Mining Law, but either an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared for each area according to stipulations governing Forest Service roadless areas. Many environmental organizations, including the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Society, and Friends of

Nevada Wilderness, are concerned that adequate studies be completed before permits are issued.

**Draft Winnemucca District Resource Management Plan.** The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released this plan for public comment. Among the issues covered are management of wild horses, management of new areas with wilderness potential not included as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), and management of wildlife areas.

Comments must be submitted to BLM by Sept. 15. For more information or to obtain a copy of this document, contact Bob Edwards, RMP Team lead (robert\_edwards@blm.gov).

**Draft Travel Management Plans for Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest.** These draft plans have been released for public review and comment. Controversy has occurred about which roads and ways are open and which are not open for OHV use, particularly among some off-road vehicle (ORV) enthusiasts.

Nye County has designated four roads as RS 2477 roads, three of which were closed under the draft management plan. Nye County claims have not been substantiated as yet. (RS 2477 roads are roads that were used to reach mining properties.)

Elko County has asked for a six months extension on comments.

## Ruby Pipeline embattled on several fronts

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the Ruby Pipeline was signed on July 12 by BLM. This decision gave approval to Ruby Pipeline, LLC, to build its natural gas pipeline on federal lands in the states of Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon, along the route approved in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

This decision included several conditions which must be met before Ruby can commence construction on federal lands. These conditions are not expected to be met fully for weeks or perhaps months. Meanwhile, Ruby has sought and gained Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approval to commence construction on non-federal lands.

Toiyabe Chapter remains firmly opposed to the Nevada part of the route chosen in the FEIS due to its environmental and cultural impacts, which were inadequately analyzed in the EIS.

The legal and political climate around the Ruby pipeline project is complex and changing rapidly, and while this article goes to press there will undoubtedly be new developments changing that climate significantly. [In July, Ruby signed agreements with Oregon Natu-

*Nature is always lovely, invincible, glad. . . . All scars she heals, whether in rocks or water or sky or hearts.*

— John Muir

ral Desert Association (ONDA) and Western Watersheds Project (WWP) to provide funding for mitigation and restoration projects desired by these groups, and the total funding could exceed \$20 million. These groups subsequently, as part of the deal, withdrew their petitions for rehearing of FERC's order to go ahead with the project. Remember that the Toiyabe Chapter, who also filed a petition for rehearing, is still awaiting FERC's decision on the merit of our petition, fully 3 months after filing it. In early August, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) also filed a petition on the basis of new information that has come out since the FERC order to proceed. CBD also filed a suit appealing the ROD in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Sierra Club, among others, is weighing its legal strategy at this time. A first foray was the filing of an IBLA (Interior Board of Land Appeals) appeal of the ROD by the Toiyabe Chapter.

Meanwhile, Toiyabe Chapter is issuing press releases, planning media events, and closely communicating with our partners in opposing the Ruby pipeline route. Interestingly, the Oregon natural Desert Assoc. (ONDA) and Western Watersheds Project (WWP) agreements have evoked the ire of ranching advocates who fear that grazing permits are under attack.

The media across Nevada and the U.S. have picked up the developments, and there is a lot of internet chatter on this issue. We expect this huge project, which FERC and Ruby Pipeline, LLC, had wished to quietly and rapidly push through, will become an open and contentious issue and that the concerns of the Sierra Club and our partners can still be addressed.

**What you can do.** Contact David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net), Ruby Pipeline Task Force, for further information or if you want to help in this very important Chapter issue.

## Snake Valley Festival: Fundraising for a good cause

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

Sierra Club conservationists joined hundreds of local residents and visitors to celebrate Snake Valley and raise funds to fight the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) water grab in eastern Nevada. Snake Valley, like many other eastern Nevada valleys, is targeted by SNWA, which plans to pipe remote rural carbonate aquifer groundwater to support growth and development in Clark County. The water campaign seems to be evolving into a legal battle for which funds must be raised again and again.

The 2nd Annual Snake Valley Festival in and around Baker, Nevada, provided fun and interesting activities, including a pancake breakfast, a 10-block parade

with fire engines, tractors, horses, a band, and floats. The festivities also included book, yard, and cookie sales;

silent auctions; as well as a BBQ and live auction. In addition there was a water roundtable with writer/activist Linda Husa, entertainment in the town hall, a star show, games for kids, a Dutch oven potluck, and a raffle with donated elk tags and beautiful turquoise jewelry. Photos capture some of the fun all enjoyed.

Hikes provided a cool high elevation respite from the



One of the many booths at the Snake Valley Festival featuring books of all kinds and even a kids table! (All photos: Dennis Ghiglieri.)

hot valley temperatures below -- on trails to Mt. Wheeler, Nevada's second highest peak, to a grove of ancient bristlecone pines, and to a rock glacier and mountain lakes at adjacent Great Basin National Park.



Kids from all around Snake Valley got to be part of the Festival parade with their own float.



The 2010 Snake Valley Festival featured an innovative parade right in downtown Baker in the shadow of Great Basin National Park. There was music, political candidates, kids from all around, and here'd floats with political satire, "David vs. Goliath" dramatization, "no water grab" bucket, fire engines, and a bevy of interesting farm machinery.

## Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs

78th Conference • October 1-3, 2010

The FWOC will hold its annual conference at the California Alpine Lodge in Mill Valley, CA. The conference theme is "Partnerships for the West: Protecting Public Lands in an Era of Climate Change."

Speakers will include Bruce Hamilton, former Conservation Director of Sierra Club, on "Resilient habitats." Christy Harris, California Wilderness Coalition Executive Director, and Shaaron Netherton, Executive Director of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, on "What environmental groups can do to help agencies protect public lands."

The Toiyabe Chapter is an active group in FWOC; all Chapter members are invited to attend this exciting conference.

**Questions?** Please contact Marge Sill (msill@juno.com).



*A culture is no better than its woods.*

— W.H. Auden

## Snowlands Network's "Quiet Quadrant" Campaign

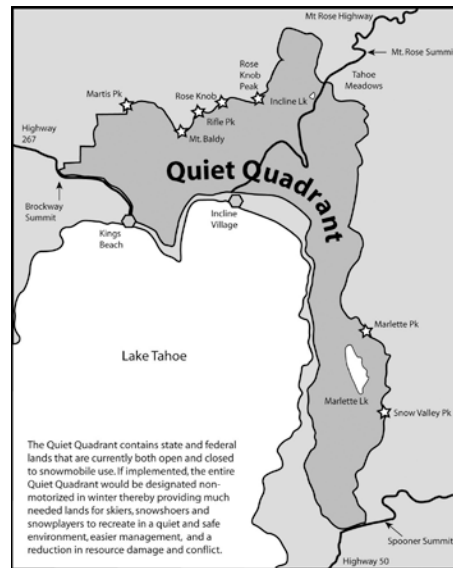
BY GAIL FERRELL, PRESIDENT, SNOWLANDS NETWORK

FINALLY, THIS FALL, the Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Service will

publish their ideas on how the Lake Tahoe Basin will be managed for the NEXT 20 YEARS! This is your first opportunity in 22 years to have a voice in how the Lake Tahoe Forest Service manages public lands in the Lake Tahoe Basin. You will have the chance to give constructive comments to the Forest Service on their ideas. These ideas will be published in the Draft Revision of the Land & Resource Management Plan.

Snowlands Network has already been very busy providing the Forest Service with valuable information on human powered winter recreation in the Lake Tahoe Basin in anticipation of their published DRAFT. The science is very clear that snowmobiles pollute the environment, damage natural resources, and disturb wintering wildlife. In areas where skiers and snowshoers dominate, snowmobiles create user conflicts and danger to those on foot. Also, snowmobiles create noise and air pollution.

The Quiet Quadrant Campaign by Snowlands Network is asking the Forest Service to mitigate some of these problems of winter recreation within the Lake Tahoe Basin. Currently, 53% of federal lands within Lake Tahoe Basin are open to snowmobiles. The Quiet Quadrant brings this into a balance



closer to 50%.

**What is the Quiet Quadrant?** It is

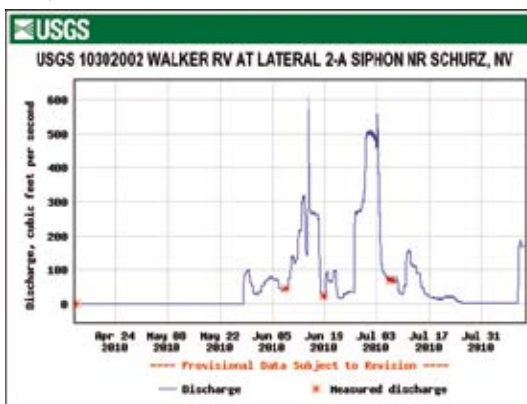
Please see QUIET QUADRANT, page 12.

## History made at Walker Lake

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

In early June, at the request of the Walker Lake Working Group, the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) made its first "call" on its flood water rights for Walker Lake to the Walker River federal Water Master. NDOW has had over 575,000 acre-feet of surplus flood Walker River flows since 1983. (See Walker River Chronology for excellent information about the river/lake system at <http://water.nv.gov/WaterPlanning/walker/wrchronology.cfm>.) However, NDOW had never called for these rights before.

Two days later, flood flows reached Walker Lake, causing a spike in the river gage below Schurz, NV from essentially a dry river. This was during the time the West Walker River was flooding



Walker, CA, after heavy rainstorms and snowmelt. One can look at the river flows from the river gage on a USGS website: [http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nv/nwis/uv?cb\\_00065=on&cb\\_00060=on&format=gif\\_default&period=120&site\\_no=10302002](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nv/nwis/uv?cb_00065=on&cb_00060=on&format=gif_default&period=120&site_no=10302002). Type in "120 days" to get a graph and actual every-15-minute gage readings.

Calculating the actual amount of river water reaching the lake is difficult, as accurately measuring losses in the river channel between Schurz and the lake is almost impossible. However, Glenn Bunch of the Walker Lake Working Group said, "I measured a 3-inch gain in the lake level after the flood flow releases."

A second spike in river flows occurred in late June and early July, pos-

sibly because the Walker River Paiute Tribe released water from Weber Reservoir when farmers were contracted to fallow their fields temporarily.

**How more water helps Walker Lake.** These flows were still

small compared to the amounts of water needed to restore Walker Lake's famous Lahontan cutthroat trout fishery and lake ecosystem -- about 80,000 acre feet/year on average. The releases did, however, benefit the Lake's tui chub.

Local residents and those traveling on Hwy 95 observed large numbers of American white pelicans gathered at the Walker river delta on the north end of the lake, attracted by the spawning tui chub. NDOW biologists are researching the spawning run to determine if the river flows were sufficient to permit successful spawning.

**What conservationists have done.** Sierra Club has participated in lake res-

Please see WALKER LAKE, page 12.

## Background on Washoe County sprawl fight

BY ERIK HOLLAND, PRESIDENT, VOTERS FOR SENSIBLE GROWTH

Voters for Sensible Growth formed in response to the 2006 changes to the Regional Plan put through by Mayor Cashell, Dave Aiuzzi, Dwight Dortch and their very close associates. One of the most egregious examples of our new regional "plan" is the new city envisioned just west of Pyramid Lake: "Spring Mountain." This newest neighborhood of Reno will be 15 miles from the nearest existing city border of Cold Springs, which is already far flung sprawl!

One of our greatest victories was prevailing in the 2007 state legislature when the local governments lobbied the state legislature to change state annexation law to allow non-contiguous annexation and they LOST.

Despite this, Sparks is currently doing leapfrog annexations along the east Truckee River Canyon, in blatant violation of state law. We have challenged Sparks in court, and have also challenged Reno's up-zoning of the Winnemucca Ranch in court. There are some hopeful feelers out to buy Winnemucca Ranch from the developers.

Recently, we have begun work on Mt. Rose Highway issues, including overbuilding of this scenic area and wells

going dry due to new development in the area. The Sierra Club, Scenic Nevada, PLAN, and Save Mt. Rose have been allies. Toiyabe Chapter has been a solid partner in this work.

**What you can do.** We're having a fundraiser at Polly Peacock's home, 1420 Mt. Rose St., on August 26.. We'll be auctioning off paintings, jewelry, genetic counseling, and all kinds of stuff! We are the ONLY group in Northern Nevada working specifically with growth issues.

Or . . . you can mail your donation to Voters for Sensible Growth, 4430 Fairview Road, Reno, NV 89511.

Thank you! Working together, we can make a difference!

## BLM tries to resolve wild horse overpopulation problem

BY TINA NAPPE

IN OCTOBER 2009, the Secretary of the Interior proposed a national initiative intended to create a cost-efficient and sustainable wild horse and burro management program: "Working Toward Sustainable Management of America's Wild Horses."

On June 13, 2010, I attended a workshop in Denver on BLM's proposal. The Toiyabe Chapter has endorsed the Secretary's Initiative in principle if implementation helps maintain healthy horse herds and healthy public lands. Currently, BLM is allowing horse herds to exceed carrying capacity, damaging wildlife habitat and requiring roundups of more horses in poor condition.

The proposals are:

- Balance annual herd growth rates with adoption demand. Create "geldings only" Herd Management Areas,



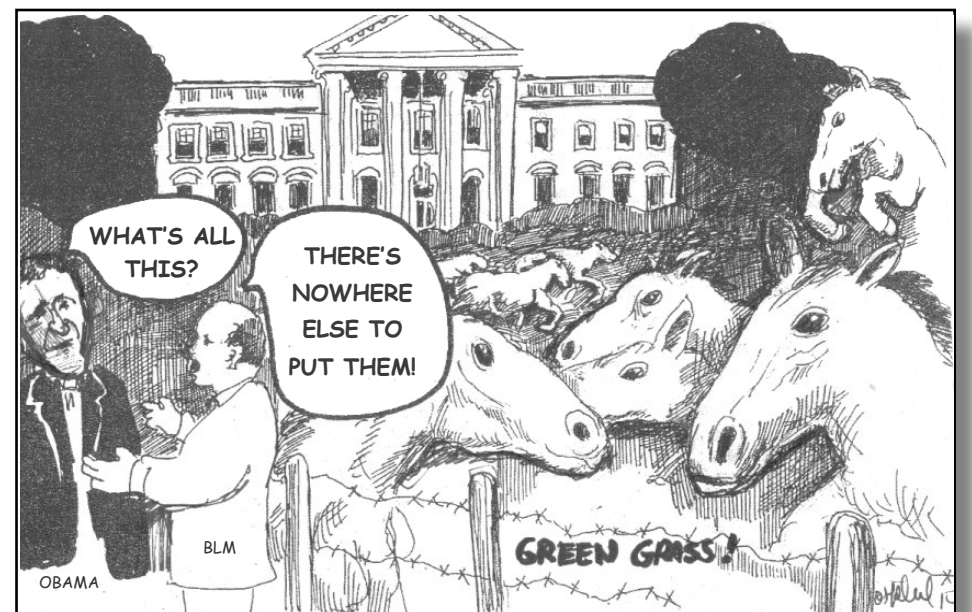
Calico Horses Feeding at the Public Trough in Fallon, July, 2010. BLM removed 1,900 excess horses. BLM says, "In Fiscal Year 2008, holding costs exceeded \$27 million, accounting for three-fourths of the FY 2008 enacted funding level of \$36.2 million for the BLM's total wild horse and burro program."

adjust sex ratios (that is, have fewer mares), and use PZP, a fertility control drug which retards reproduction for several years.

- Establish preserves in productive grasslands of the Midwest and East, with lifetime healthy conditions for about 3000 horses per preserve and visitor access. Midwest preserves provide year round grass, whereas the western states have a short grass season as well as increasing drought/limited water problems. Some preserves would be partnerships. Cost: around \$96 million.
- Showcase treasured

herds in the West with special designations. Pryor Mountain, Little Bookcliffs, and Kiger Mountain horses are well known herds attracting tourists

Please see OVERPOPULATION, page 12.





# Great Basin Gatherings

## Great Basin Group

### Group News

#### On the Trail with the Great Basin Peak Section

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

THE GREAT BASIN PEAK SECTION is gradually spreading the word about our new group, hiking peaks, and building membership. Dennis, our webmaster, has created a membership page and is working on a format to post trip reports and pictures.

#### List completion celebration!

During July, GBPS members joined the Desert Peak Section (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/dps/>) for their summer list completion celebration trip on Mt. Patterson, the high point in the Sweetwater Mountains.

Three members had completed the DPS list including a first, second, and third list completion. The list finishers were acknowledged in style on the summit with champagne and snacks.

The weekend then continued with a campout and potluck near Mono Mills. The next morning concluded with a hike to the Mono

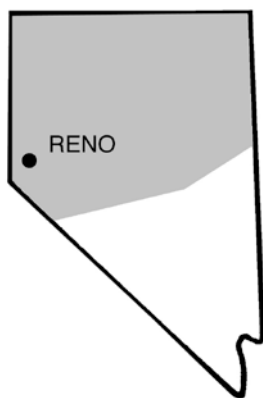
Craters high point, Crater Mountain.

The DPS has been very supportive in helping to promote our peak section. They have included an article on GBPS and listed some of our peak outings in their newsletter, *The Desert Sage*.

**Peaks!** In August, the GBPS did a Pah Rah Peak Ramble summiting Virginia and Pah Rah Peaks while enjoying a herd of antelope, colorful wildflower displays, and a birds-eye view of Pyramid Lake.

Other list peaks that GBPS members have summited this summer include: Mt. Davidson, Snow Valley Peak, Stateline Peak, Mt. Siegel, Galena, Oreana, Mt Rose, Jobs Peak, and East Peak.

**Join us!** For details on membership, recognition categories, and peak list, check out the Great Basin Peak Section at <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/GB-PeaksSection.html>.



## GB Energy Committee to meet again

BY JEFF HARDCASTLE

WITH THE COMING OF FALL, the Great Basin Group's Energy Committee will be starting to meet again. If you are an energy expert or just someone who wants to do more to promote and implement sound energy policy and practices at the local level or beyond, please come and help to shape our program for the rest of 2010 and for 2011.

**Questions?** Please contact Jeff Hardcastle (775-746-2443, [jeff.hardcastle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeff.hardcastle@sbcglobal.net)). Meeting notices will also be posted on the Group's website.

## "Hands Across the Sands" event for Gulf oil disaster

BY KRIS CUNNINGHAM

The Southern Nevada Group participated in the worldwide "Hands Across the Sands" event on June 26. Our event was held at Harrah's Rio resort in Las Vegas. We had 85 participants, three TV stations and the *Reno Journal* present for our event.

All participants held hands by our "beach" and each gave a heartfelt sentence on how the disastrous oil spill in the Gulf affected them. We also had a tabling event for petition writing, protesting offshore drilling, resources for anyone to give support, vegan food, and public transportation (Dept. of Transportation). Our group collected over 100 bottles of Dawn detergent and

Please see *HANDS ACROSS THE SANDS*, page 9.

## Toiyabe Chapter Staff updates

### Vinny Spotleson

Vinny, a staff member in the Southern Nevada office, has moved into a position on the Sierra Club's "Beyond Coal" campaign in Las Vegas. He currently works on cleaning up Nevada's electricity portfolio to get our state off coal while promoting energy efficiency and environmentally sound, labor-conscious generation of wind, solar, and geothermal resources.

Vinny will continue to spend half his time in the Sierra Club's Federal and International Climate Campaign. He is working towards federal climate legislation and defending the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases before the world meets in Cancun this November to discuss global warming.

### Emily Rhodenbaugh

A Sierra Club staff member in Reno and lead organizer of the successful "No Blackstone" campaign, Emily has left the Sierra Club staff to attend law school in Oregon.

Emily's long list of achievements include efforts to stop three new coal-fired power plants from being built in Nevada (Mesquite), New Mexico, and Pennsylvania. Emily continues to assist the Sierra Club's "Beyond Coal" campaign as a volunteer. She can be reached at [rhodenea@gmail.com](mailto:rhodenea@gmail.com).



## GBG "Second Thursday" Monthly Programs

BY GRAHAM STAFFORD, PROGRAM CHAIR

**NEW LOCATION.** Girl Scouts of Sierra Nevada, 605 Washington St., Reno, NV 89503 (next to 80 on Washington St., with ample lighted parking). Time. All programs start at 7:30 pm. Social time, 7 - 7:30 pm.

### SEPTEMBER 10 (THURSDAY)

**Friends of Nevada Wilderness.** Brian Beffort, Associate Director of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, will give a multi-media presentation on some of the great conservation opportunities and accomplishments Friends is enjoying this year in the Silver State. Don't miss the beautiful slide show of the wilderness and

proposed wilderness in Nevada.

### OCTOBER 14 (THURSDAY)

**Local Candidate Forum.** Erik Holland will facilitate a panel of local candidates for the upcoming November election. A list of questions for the candidates is being put together. Also, there will be time for the audience to question the candidates. This is an important program to attend. Find out how these candidates stand on your favorite issues.

### NOVEMBER 11 (THURSDAY)

**Friends of the Black Rock/High Rock.** Matthew "Metric" Ebert, Executive Director of the Friends of the Black Rock/High Rock, will give a presentation on early Emigrant history of the Black Rock Desert. He'll describe John C. Fremont's 2nd expedition past the Black Rock and Great Boiling Spring in 1843/1844, using some of his diary entries. He'll then explain why Levi Scott and Jesse Applegate forged the Southern Road to Oregon. In addition, you'll find out how the discovery of gold brought thousands of emigrants through Lassen's cutoff - and hear diary entries from various emigrants. Finally, you'll hear about the events leading up to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Battles in 1860.

### Great Basin Group ExCom

We meet on the first Monday of the month. Info: David von Seggern 775-303-8461.

#### GREAT BASIN GROUP

##### OFFICERS

Chair	Catherine Schmidt+	775-240-3785
Vice-Chair	Holly Coughlin*	775-331-7488
Secretary	Julie Woodard*	775-240-3785
Treasurer	Martin Mace+	775-745-4703
Conservation	David von Seggern*	775-303-8461
Distribution	Open	
Energy	Jeff Hardcastle	775-313-8442
Membership	Julie Woodard*	775-240-3785
Outings	Holly Coughlin*	775-331-7488
Political	Open	
Programs	Graham Stafford+	775-686-8478
Webmaster	Peter Johnson	775-826-1901

ExCom members: \*, 2009-10; +, 2010-11

## Deck the Halls (& Hills!)

Saturday, December 4, 2010

BY CATHY SCHMIDT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and plan to attend the Great Basin Group's Annual Holiday Party to be held Saturday, December 4th. Patagonia has graciously agreed to host the evening, which begins at 6:30 pm with an always delicious potluck dinner.

A slide show, awards, music and dancing will round out the evening, concluding at 9:30 pm. Along with your dancing shoes, bring a dish to share. We also ask that in order to keep our impact minima, please bring a place setting and glass to

take home at the end of the night. The Club will provide soft beverages and water. BYOB if desired.

**Directions.** To reach Patagonia from the I-80 westbound, take the West McCarran exit and turn left on McCarran. Make a right on West 4th Street and travel 2 miles. Turn left on Woodland Street, cross the railroad tracks, and continue to the Patagonia parking lot entrance just before the bridge on the left. Please try to car pool if possible!

**Questions?** If you have questions, please call or email Cathy Schmidt ([CathSch256@aol.com](mailto:CathSch256@aol.com)) at 323-6316.

## You're invited to our GBG Executive Committee Meetings

BY CATHERINE SCHMIDT

IF YOU'VE EVER BEEN CURIOUS about what goes on at an ExCom meeting or perhaps you want to get more involved in the local Sierra Club, please join us this fall. We usually meet on the first Monday of the month to go over our Group budget, plan upcoming events and discuss local issues.

Our next meetings are scheduled for Mondays **October 4th, November 1st and November 29th**. Meetings begin at 6:30 pm and typically run until 8 pm.

Meeting location. Please call or e-mail Cathy Schmidt ([CathSch256@aol.com](mailto:CathSch256@aol.com)) at 240-3785 for meeting location.

**Don't forget to visit the**

**Great Basin Group website**

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

**& the Chapter website**

<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>



## OCTOBER 1-3 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBA

**Black Rock Hot Springs Tour.** Meet Friday evening, head up to Black Rock Desert for easy car camp. Exact route depends on playa conditions. Probably check out location of Burning Man on way. Learn about Black Rock Desert. Fall means cooler temps, fewer people. High clearance vehicles, 4WD not required. Sign up after 9/15. DL. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

## OCTOBER 2 (SATURDAY) 9A

**Mount Rose Summit.** Hike on northbound Tahoe Rim Trail. See nice waterfall within an hour. Take spur trail (another 1.5 hr or so) rising 700 ft up steep ravine, then turns R and goes up another 1100 ft to top of Mt. Rose. Way below will be various meadows, lower mountains, several lakes, including Tahoe. DOK. Leader: Gary



Mt. Elwell day hike group, July 31. Holly and Bill were the leaders. Photo: Holly Coughlin.

P Hanneman (775-336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Co-Leader: Vesna Koracin (775-324-4092). Mod. Strenuous.

## OCTOBER 6 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Evening Conditioning Hike.** Short, brisk hike into what remains of waning twilight in Reno-Sparks foothills. About 1-2 mi RT, 500 ft gain. Expect to see wildlife, fall colors. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445, edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (473-1445). Easy.

## OCTOBER 9-13 (SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY)

**Death Valley digital photography & exploration.** Join retired photographer Graham Stafford on digital photographic, exploratory journey into Death Valley. Visit Eureka, Mesquite, Ibex Dunes, Dante's View, Race Track. High clearance 4WD encouraged, but 2WD vehicles with good tires OK. All levels of photographers accepted. Beginners encouraged. Graham will cover basic and advanced areas of digital photography, with individual attention to all. View his work at <www.grahamstafford.com>. ND. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478, graham@grahamstafford.com). Easy.

## OCTOBER 9 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Pine Nut Peaks.** The Little Three - three peaks in mid-9000-ft range in one day in Pine Nut

## HANDS ACROSS THE SANDS ...

continued from page 8

two barrels of towels as well that we are bringing to the Gulf in a few weeks.

Through this event, another team has scheduled a tripto Biloxi, MS, on September 13-18 to help with their clean up. We are in the process of fundraising for our event. Our goal is to "ADOPT A BEACH FOR A WEEK," by assisting the wildlife, monitoring how the oil is affecting their beaches, documenting and photographing, and donating funds to the animal shelters.

**What you can do.** If anyone is interested in participating, please give Kris Cunningham or Vinny Spotleson a call or e-mail. (See Group Directory on page 8 for numbers/e-mails.)

# 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.

Mountains: Galena Peak, Mt. Siegel, Oreana Peak. All are on Great Basin Peak Group list and toward far end of range. Part of hike is off-trail with boulder scrambling. High clearance 4WD vehicles necessary, or ride share. Yes, there may be some Nevada Pin Stripping hazard to vehicles. Great views. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

## OCTOBER 16 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Molybdenite Creek Canyon.** Past Sonora Pass Junction of Hwy 395 S, this hike has 2-hr drive time to trailhead from Reno. Enjoy mod. strenuous hike (due to distance) near creek, large juniper trees, to wide open canyon with numerous aspen trees, mountain views. About 9 mi RT with gradual gain. Trip limit 12. DOK. Leader: Julie Woodard (775-530-1566, summitatempter@yahoo.com). Co-Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763, d\_inversin@yahoo.com). Mod. Strenuous.

## OCTOBER 16 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Spoooner Summit - Marlette Lake on TRT.** First, hike N about 4 mi on Tahoe Rim Trail, rising 1500 ft through forests E of Lake Tahoe. After breaking clear of trees, hike another 2 mi along mountainside granite trail with fabulous panoramas of Tahoe. Lunch break at viewpoint high above Marlette Lake before returning. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (775-336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Co-Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (775-851-9279). Mod. Strenuous.

## OCTOBER 17 (SUNDAY) 8:30A

**Kumiva Peak Day Hike.** Out toward Gerlach, to peak that "peaked" our interest. Expect over 3000 ft gain, 7 mi RT. Kumiva Peak is Great Basin Peaks Section Outing. Must be well conditioned. DL. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Co-Leader: John Ide (321-525-2050). Mod. Strenuous.

## OCTOBER 20 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Penultimate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Short but brisk hike into what remains of waning twilight in Reno-Sparks foothills. About 1-2 mi RT, 500 ft gain. Expect to see wildlife, fall colors. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445, edc@unr.edu). Easy.

## OCTOBER 23 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Autumn Leaves Along Lower Carson River.** Hike to Buckland Station S of Silver Springs. Almost 10-mi-loop hike on flat ground. Start at historic Buckland Station, proceed downstream along Carson River, enjoying riparian habitat, fall leaves. Return on segment of Pony Express Trail route.

Learn some history of area. State Parkwalk-in fee: \$1/person. Option to tour remains of Fort Churchill on your own after hike. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

## OCTOBER 24 (SUNDAY) 9A

**Duane Bliss Peak (8658 ft).** Bag this medium-sized peak, off beaten path, overlooking Carson City. Hike S from Spooner Summit along TRT for approach. Final mile is 900 ft ascent x-c over granitic terrain. Great vistas, lots of trees. About 8 mi RT, 1500 ft gain. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055, edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (851-9279). Moderate.

## OCTOBER 30 (SATURDAY) 9A

**Dayton to Silver City.** Visit Rock Point Mill site, then head out to find support sites for aerial buckets that brought ore to mill from Silver City. Next, follow old wagon road up to outskirts of Silver City to lovely spot under pinyon pines for lunch. Option to break off with T A for strenuous climb up to ridge line, then return to cars. Otherwise, 6 mi RT, 800 ft gain. ND. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763, d\_inversin@yahoo.com). Co-Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Easy.

## NOVEMBER 6 - OCTOBER 16 (SATURDAY) 9A

**Relay Ridge Summit.** After 0.5 mi of trail, join old service road, reaching frog pond (frozen over?) within 1 hr. There, road rises rapidly, going up 1000 ft in 1.5 hr. Vista is worth it, unlimited at 10,000 ft. From here, follow famous Tahoe Rim Trail upward, S for 0.5 mi, to reach summit and added vista of Lake Tahoe. Possible need for snowshoes. Will know 2-4 days before hike. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (775-336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Co-Leader: Vesna Koracin (775-324-4092). Moderate.

## NOVEMBER 3 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Ultimate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Short but brisk hike into what remains of waning twilight in Reno-Sparks foothills. About 1-2 mi, 500 ft gain. Expect to see wildlife, fall colors. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445, edc@unr.edu). Easy.

## NOVEMBER 6 (SATURDAY) 8A

**El Dorado Canyon Near Dayton.** Last day of Daylight Savings Time. Hike in El Dorado Canyon near Dayton along riparian habitat with fall leaves, if lucky. Many crossings of small stream. Varied



We had a fabulous weekend of hiking both Mt. Elwell and the Sierra Buttes, along with a great dinner on Saturday evening at the campsite in the Lakes Basin on July 31. Leaders were Holly, Gail, and Bill. Photo: Holly Coughlin.

rock formations, lunch at natural arch, explore slot canyon on way out. About 13 mi on in-and-out, mostly on jeep road, under 800 ft gain. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

## NOVEMBER 6 - OCTOBER 16 (SATURDAY) 9A

**Relay Ridge Summit.** After 0.5 mi of trail, join old service road, reaching frog pond (frozen over?) within 1 hr. Road then rises rapidly, going up 1000 ft within 1.5 hr. The vista is worth it as we top-over for unlimited vistas at 10,000 ft. From here follow famous Tahoe Rim Trail upward and S for 0.5 mi to reach summit, with added vista of Lake Tahoe. We should know whether we need snowshoes 2-4 days prior to hike. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (775-336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Co-Leader: Vesna Koracin (775-324-4092). Moderate.

## NOVEMBER 11 (THURSDAY) 8A

**Lahontan Reservoir Veteran's Day Hike.** Lahontan Reservoir near Silver Springs. Bring your U.S. Flag. Hike along shoreline. Enjoy silence, stark beauty of area. About 5 mi total on in-&-out hike along beach. View tufa formations. Optional extension after lunch to scale ridges. Learn some cadence without going through rigors of Boot Camp! ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Easy.

## NOVEMBER 20 (SATURDAY) 10A

**Hidden Valley Loop Day Hike.** This is a very special day for me and I would like to spend it doing what I love most, hiking on one of my favorite trails. This is a tough, short hike with about 1200 ft of gain, over half of it in first mile. About 6 mi RT, but vistas at top both W and E are terrific. I will not do this at quite my conditioning hike pace. Enjoy lunch along crest of mountain. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Co-Leader: Mike Sullens (331-7488). Moderate.

## NOVEMBER 20 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Mt. Davidson Overlooking Virginia City.** First in series of highest peaks in local mountain ranges: Mt. Davidson, 7664 ft, in Virginia Range overlooking Virginia City. About 7 mi loop, 1000 ft gain. Parts off-trail, steep, with brush. See section of a wooden flume which brought water to VC around 1870. Learn some history of area. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

## NOVEMBER 21 (SUNDAY) 9A

**Ash Canyon.** A surprising hike right in Carson City. Park on W side of town, access V&T Rail-to-Trail, head W up into hills. Then, round hill, meet up with Ash Canyon jeep road. Shortly, leave that to drop into hidden canyon to hike along year round stream before returning to cars. About 6 mi RT. ND. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763, d\_inversin@yahoo.com). Co-Leader: Julie Woodard (775-530-1566, Julie Woodard). Mod. Easy.

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 11.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Sierra Club 2011 Calendars

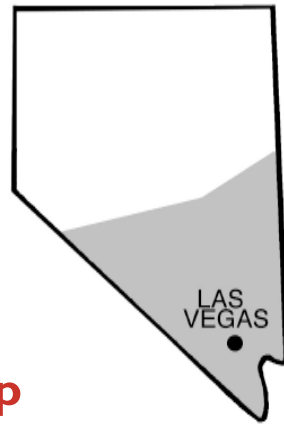


Our Great Basin Group will be selling calendars at the monthly program meetings. They make great holiday gifts!

Buy from us and support local conservation work!



# The Mojave Monitor



## Southern Nevada Group

### Group News

#### Monthly meetings

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for the second Wednesday of every month (except August OR when the first Monday is a holiday) 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.

**GROUP EXCOM MEETINGS.** Usually held on the first Monday of each month 6 - 8:30 pm (except August OR the if the first Monday is a holiday).

Location: Sierra Club Office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass Ave.), Suite 200B (upstairs), Las Vegas. All members welcome. Info: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832). **DATES: Mondays – October 4, November 1, December 6.**

**ORIENTATION FOR NEW & PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS.** Join us on Wednesday, November 10, 6-7 pm, just before the monthly program meeting (in the same room). All members, friends, and guests are welcome. RSVP to Taj Ainlay (tajainlay@aol.com).

## “HIKERS’ ETIQUETTE” Rules of the Trail

BY ERIC BLUMENSAADT



Most of us in the Sierra Club have been on many outings of some type – hiking, backpacking, skiing, climbing, snowshoeing, boating, etc. Most of us think we know the way to conduct ourselves on these outings – or DO we?

Probably most of us too have, over the years, seen some behavior on the part of outings participants that raised a few eyebrows. With that in mind it may be helpful to review some basic “Trail Etiquette.”

1. Show up at the designated meeting place on time. Better yet, come 15 minutes early to sign waivers, arrange car pools, etc.

2. Be sure you bring the “10 ESSENTIALS,” including clothing for the worst weather that could possibly happen that day at the location where you plan to hike

3. Listen closely to the leader’s talk at the trailhead or meeting place. It will likely have essential information you

must know.

4. Try to stay together in a car caravan. One or more vehicles could have mechanical problems and need your help.

5. **When on the trail STAY WITH THE GROUP!** The hike/backpack leader will appoint a “sweep” person who must not let any participant lag behind them. NEVER go ahead of the leader unless directed to do so by the leader. This point is essential. The group must stay together for many reasons, all having to do with safety. ANY participants leaving the group must then consider themselves on their own and no longer part of the group. If you have paid a fee to a park authority and the group is signed in with that authority you are very likely breaking the law if you separate from the group and fines could be levied against you for not being with the permitted group.

6. Group leader decisions are made first and always with safety in mind. Please, no matter how disgruntled you are, **follow the leader’s decision.** This does not mean you cannot present your objections to the leader, but once the decision is made it must be followed for the good of the group.

7. Assist any people having problems and bring any serious problems to the leader’s attention if you feel it is necessary. This could be anything from donating items of clothing to food or water if the situation warrants it.

8. Watch your hiking companions for signs of physical distress such as

## Southern Nevada Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 702 unless otherwise noted.

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

*ALL EVENTS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES*

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

### OCTOBER 2 (SATURDAY)

**Cathedral Rock, Kyle Canyon, SMNRA.** Family hike: all ages (babies, too!). Friendly dogs welcome. Cool fall temperatures, autumn colors (golden aspen trees), awesome view of canyon, surrounding mountains at top of “Rock.” Learn a little geology, too. About 2.8 mi RT. 1000 ft gain. Leader: Gary Beckman (648-2983). Level 2.

### OCTOBER 3 (SUNDAY)

**Around Potato Knoll to Oak Creek, RRCNCA.** About 4 mi, 500 ft gain, tramping old road into riparian area, up into streambed, then back by other side of Knoll past cholla garden. Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857) Level 2-3.

### OCTOBER 4 (MONDAY)

**SN Group ExCom Meeting.** Sierra Club Office, Las Vegas, 6-9p. All members invited. Chapter officers, committee chairs, Executive Committee members discuss, vote on our SNG business.

### OCTOBER 9 (SATURDAY)

**Raven’s Balcony – N. Bowl of Fire, LMNRA.** One of best hikes in N Bowl of Fire. Along these 3.3 mi, see “Ant Eater Rock,” pass under “Darth Vader,” then hike on to “Raven’s Balcony,” with an awesome overlook of Lake Mead. After lunch, go through “Rabbits Hole,” cross “Little Grand Canyon,” then stop at 15,000-year-old camel and bird tracks. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

### OCTOBER 10 (SUNDAY)

**Pine Creek.** The N. Fork of Main Fork requires usual rock scrambling of canyons in Red Rock. Some water will be flowing here and there in canyon bottom. Why is it so cool in this canyon compared to where we start hike? About 6 mi. Leader: David Hardy (email preferred: hardyhik-ers@embarqmail.com or 875-4549) Level 3.

### OCTOBER 13 (WEDNESDAY)

**General Program Meeting.** Time & Place: 7:30 pm; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: “Permaculture Basics Here in Las Vegas!” Learn how to protect our environment while creating a truly eco-sustainable and ‘permanent culture’ from the ground up, and at the community level, right here in our home! Peter Frigeri is owner of Gaia Flowers Gifts, & Art, and organizer of Southern Nevada Permaculture Meetup. He will show us some some beautiful photos, as

## Fred Treat memorial

BY GARY BECKMAN

THE MEMORIAL TILE for Fred Treat, our former Chairman of the Southern Nevada Group, who passed away on January 13, 2009, was recently installed on the Dedication Walkway near the new visitor center at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Thanks to all those who contributed to the memorial fund.

unusual fatigue, illness, hypo- or hyperthermia, injuries, etc. and again, bring it to the leader’s attention.

9. Report to the leader immediately any abusive behavior by a participant.

10. Remember to thank your leader at the end of the trip.

Following these steps will help ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable trip. Not following them could lead to real problems. Now get out there and enjoy the trails and scenery that so many of us have worked long and hard to preserve!

he shares the best of what ancient cultures and modern sciences offer us in evolving how we live together – in harmony with modernity and our natural earth! All members and general public welcome. Refreshments, announcements, free literature, too. Info: Eric King (677-4751).

### OCTOBER 16 (SATURDAY)

**Pinto Valley, LMNRA.** Valley has remote feel as soon you leave N. Shore Rd behind. May see desert bighorn sheep, petroglyphs. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743) Level 3-4.

### OCTOBER 17 (SUNDAY)

**Fall Color at Big Falls, Kyle Canyon.** About 4 mi, 1000 ft gain, rock scrambling amid avalanche debris in streambed. What chemical in leaves is yellow? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857) Level 2-3.

### OCTOBER 23 (SATURDAY)

**Natural Arches at Sunrise Mountain.** About 5 mi loop, 800 ft gain, rock scrambling, ridge walking. Were these arches formed by wind or water? Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181) Level 2-3.

### OCTOBER 24 (SUNDAY)

**Mummy Springs & Rain Tree.** About 6 mi, 1600 ft gain. Start from beginning of N. Loop on Deer Creek Rd. How many biozones can you see from higher trail viewpoints? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857) Level 3-4.

### OCTOBER 30 (SATURDAY)

**Bowl of Fire Exploratory, LMNRA.** Take a look at N end, a landscape of rich sandstone colors in weathered shapes, including Indian marbles. How do they form? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743) Level 3-4.

### OCTOBER 30 (SATURDAY)

**Fossil Ridge: Great Beginners’ Hike.** Easy 3-mi RT hike with great view of Red Rock Escarpment. Why is Fossil Ridge gray, not as colorful as sandstone across road? What desert is Red Rock Canyon in? Hike up Fossil Ridge, down Fossil Canyon. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855) Level 1-2.

### OCTOBER 31 (SUNDAY)

**Frenchman Mountain.** Strenuous, 1900 ft gain, 1.5 mi loop. Incredible city and desert views from top. Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181) Level 3-4.

### NOVEMBER 6 (SATURDAY)

**Arrow Canyon Exploratory.** Little-visited area with petroglyphs, slot canyons. How best can petroglyphs be preserved for delight of future generations? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743) Level 3-4.

### NOVEMBER 6 (SATURDAY)

**White Rock Loop.** Enjoyable 6-mi hike around White Rock Mountain. A must for all levels of hikers. Great way to exercise and features breathtaking views. Have lunch overlooking valley. Leave cars at White Rock Spring to make hike about 5 mi, not 6 mi. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855) Level 2.

### NOVEMBER 10 (WEDNESDAY)

**General Program Meeting.** Time & Place: 7:30 pm; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: “Get to Know Our Native Plants & Know Better

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

**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	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361
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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	Matt Van Note*	702-348-5473
Outings	Jack Sawyer	702-228-3857
Parks, Refuges	Yuki Takagi	yuki.takagi@toiyabe.sierraclub.org
Political Programs	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361
Publicity	Eric King	702-677-4751
Social	Desiree Saporito	702-875-2668
Webmaster	Matt Van Note*	702-348-5473
	Par Rasmusson*	702-215-9119

Sierra Club National Representative in S. Nevada  
Regional Rep Vacant  
W. Regional Organizer Vinny Spotleson 702-732-7750  
vinny.spotleson@sierraclub.org

\* ExCom member



## S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 10

Health,” with James Sloan, owner of Mountain Mist Botanicals. As a local Master Herbalist and Nutritionist, James will walk us through a photo journey of how to identify native plants and their amazing benefits. Learn which plant has 300 times the Vitamin C potency of an orange, etc.! And we walk right by them everyday on our travels and trails here in Las Vegas and Southern Nevada! All members and general public welcome. Refreshments, announcements, free literature, too. Info: Eric King (677-4751).

### NOVEMBER 13 (SATURDAY)

**Sunrise Mountain & Peak.** Strenuous, 1800 ft gain, 7-8 mi loop. Great vistas, beautiful rugged desert landscape. What is the “Great Unconformity”? Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181) Level 3-4.

### NOVEMBER 14 (SUNDAY)

**Sandstone Quarry Loop, RRCNCA.** Up, around, through washes, slots, sandstone outcrops, past ancient fire pits, black bush, pinyon, petroglyphs, to expansive views of our desert jewel. Which liquor is flavored with juniper berries? Leader: Ann Cronin (737-5758) Level 2-3.

### NOVEMBER 20 (SATURDAY)

**Hamblin Peak, LMNRA.** Wonderful views of lake, Pinto Valley. Find an interesting article in Wikipedia on peak namesake Jacob Hamblin. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743) Level 3.

### NOVEMBER 20 (SATURDAY)

**Cave Canyon.** A little spelunking and cave exploring in Cave Canyon. Features a large cavern, three levels. Only explore main cavern. Moderate hike, 300 ft gain. Entrance to cave is hard to see from trail. Trail ends at dry falls. From there,

scramble upslope to entrance. After exploring cave, have lunch outside, enjoy awesome views of Red Rock Canyon. (Bring a flashlight.) Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

### NOVEMBER 21 (SUNDAY)

**Arizona Hot Springs.** About 6 mi, lose/gain 1000 ft along White Rock Wash before seeing emerald green river. Take time before lunch for a soak. Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 3-4.

### NOVEMBER 25 (THURSDAY)

**Cottonwood Valley.** Start from parking area with restroom on Hwy 160 – end at Blue Diamond. Car shuttle needed. See some petroglyphs, watering tanks, along way. Where are cottonwood trees? About 10 mi. Leader: David Hardy (email preferred: hardyhikers@embarqmail.com or 875-4549) Level 3.

Rest stop – Dave, Jen, Holly, Eric, Par. Photo: Eric Blumensaadt.



Ledge camp, second day. Photo: Eric Blumensaadt.

### NOVEMBER 27 (SATURDAY)

**Rainbow Gardens Exploratory.** This 6-7 mi loop includes some moderate rock scrambling. See why they call it rainbow gardens. What minerals might cause green deposits? Very rugged, colorful, desert landscape. Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181) Level 2-3.

### NOVEMBER 28 (SUNDAY)

**Blue Diamond Hill.** Good views of Red Rock, Las Vegas, on this 10-mi loop trail. There are many fossils to see along way. Is there a cave system under this hill? About 1600 ft gain. Leader: David Hardy (email preferred: hardyhikers@embarqmail.com or 875-4549) Level 3.

### DECEMBER 4 (SATURDAY)

**Valley of Fire, North End.** As we cross landscape, look for signs of petrified wood, petroglyphs, hidden springs. Why does a spring emerge? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743) Level 3-4.

### DECEMBER 4 (SATURDAY)

**Exploring Red Cap - One of my favorite hikes in Calico Hills.** It's short, challenging and, most of all, it's fun. From Sandstone Quarry, trek to E side of Red Cap, then scramble up to tinaja, onward to peak overlooking Calico Tank, Calico Basin.

Leader George McDonald (808-3855) Level 3-4.

### DECEMBER 5 (SUNDAY)

**Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up.** After we meet at Pizza Hut on Charleston at Antelope at 8:30a, head out to S approach to Red Rock to ‘undecorate’ roadside. Bring hat, sunscreen, water. Be prepared to walk about 2 mi as we help our local treasure look a little more pristine. Leaders: Sandy Gogatz (248-4443), Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

### DECEMBER 8 (WEDNESDAY)

**“Christmas Party - Potluck and Pure Fun!” So, no General Program meeting.** Come meet, befriend and trade stories with your fellow Sierra Club Members. Heck, bring a friend or two with you! With our heads and hearts together, we will heal our Earth, as one! Music, merriment and entertainment too...! Won't you join us?! Time & Place: 7:30 pm; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). All members and general public welcome. Info: Eric King (677-4751).

### DECEMBER 11 (SATURDAY)

**Rainbow Gardens.** Fun on E side of town. Moderate 6-7 mi loop. Beautiful, rugged, colorful desert landscape. What is gypsum used for? Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181) Level 2-3.

### DECEMBER 12 (SUNDAY)

**Amargosa River from Tecopa to China Ranch.** As river emerges from its underground channels to make a small cascade, hike this “area of critical environmental concern”

## Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 9

### NOVEMBER 21 (SUNDAY) 9:30A

**Ophir Creek Overlook.** Hike S about 1 hr from Rte 431 at Tahoe Meadow, following Tahoe Rim Trail past several good viewpoints for Lake Tahoe. Then, slowly rise OFF-trail to reach eastward-looking steep overlook 700 ft above where Ophir Creek descends toward Washoe Valley, 3000 ft below. Know within 1-3 days before hike whether snowshoes needed. DOK. Leader: Riccardo B. (775-345-2770). Co-Leader: Gary P. Hanneman (775-336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Mod. Easy.

### NOVEMBER 22 (MONDAY) 6:30P

**Outings Meeting.** Please join us as we plan outings for New Year. Months include January, February, March. Outings can be snowshoeing, desert hiking, biking, or easy in-town or near-town treks. If you've ever thought about becoming a leader yourself, this is the meeting to attend. We have a nice, social get-together with potluck dinner. All beverages provided. Meet at Chuck's home; call for directions. DOK. Leader: Chuck Oliveira (775-527-3807). Co-Leader: Grace C. Caudill (775-233-6404). Easy.

### NOVEMBER 27 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Buckland Station/Pony Express.** Bring your turkey sandwich, enjoy lower Carson River area. Buckland Station is S of Silver Springs. This nearly 10 mi loop hike on flat ground starts at historic Buckland Station, proceeds downstream along Carson River. Enjoy riparian habitat. Return on segment of Pony Express Trail route. Learn some history of area. Walk-in fee for State Park: \$1/person. Option to tour remains of Fort Churchill on your own after hike. Learn some history of area. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Easy.

### DECEMBER 4 (SATURDAY) 8:30A

**Churchill Butte.** Near Silver Springs. Scale butte, overlooking historic Ft. Churchill, part of emigrant wagon route, as well as ancient and modern Lake Lahontan, Pony Express Trail, Lincoln Hwy. Learn some history of area. About 9.5 mi, at least 1800 ft of gain for day, all in first 4 mi. Parts of hike are off-trail, with steep descents. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

through about 6 mi that uniquely combines Mojave desert, riparian jungle, mud flats, a railroad bed, gypsum-veined badlands, up to oasis at China Ranch for their fabled “date shakes.” Some may want to add a post-hike soak at Tecopa Hot Springs. Leader: Ann Cronin (737-5758). Level 2.

### DECEMBER 12 (SUNDAY)

**Bowl of Fire.** Begin and end at Mile 18 on N. Shore Rd for this 10-mi loop. It includes a scramble through Rabbit Hole, past Snow White, to top of bluffs, back down wash. Narrow canyons, rock formations. What minerals make up various colors? Some scrambling. Leader: David Hardy (email preferred: hardyhikers@embarqmail.com or 875-4549) Level 3.

### DECEMBER 18 (SATURDAY)

**Hole 33 to Geode Field, LMNRA.** About 7-10 mi in hills near lake. How does a geode form? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743) Level 3-4.

### DECEMBER 25 (SATURDAY)

**Blue Diamond Hill.** A different hike, this time going over top, down a narrows for about 3 mi, coming out at Wheeler Spring. Hike through trees along creek and up to Blue Diamond. What kind of minerals are in Blue Diamond Hill? About 8 mi. Leader: David Hardy (email preferred: hardyhikers@embarqmail.com or 875-4549) Level 2-3.

### DECEMBER 26 (SUNDAY)

**River Mountains.** Start near entry station, end at Hole 33. Along way, go through narrow canyon where we may see owls. What controls level of lake? About 6 mi. Leader: David Hardy (email preferred: hardyhikers@embarqmail.com or 875-4549) Level 2.

### JANUARY 1, 2011 (SATURDAY)

**Pinto Valley, LMNRA.** Celebrate new year with hike in colors, narrow canyons, of Pinto valley. Walk on mostly easy ground for about 10 mi. Some short sections of scrambling. Leader: David Hardy (email preferred: hardyhikers@embarqmail.com or 875-4549) Level 2-3.

### DECEMBER 5 (SUNDAY) 9:30A

**Granite Wall Snowshoe.** Slowly snowshoe off-trail up through forest, rising 700 ft within 1.5 mi. Last several hundred yards is snowshoe-traverse up very steep hill. Top-over to find ourselves atop backside of 300-400-ft-high white granite wall, with great views of both Tamarack Peak, Mt. Rose. DOK. Leader: Riccardo B. (775-345-2770). Co-Leader: Gary P. Hanneman (775-336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Mod. Easy.

### DECEMBER 5 (SUNDAY) 11:30A

**White Creek to Dry Pond Dayhike.** Nice afternoon hike in forested slopes on W side of Truckee Meadows. Learn about flora, fauna. Geared for folks who would like to get out a little later in the day. Lunch around 1p, with vista of slopes of Slide Mountain. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Co-Leader: Jessica (wink4tink@sbcglobal.net). Moderate.

### DECEMBER 11 (SATURDAY) 9:30A

**Snowshoe to Tamarack Peak.** Leaving mountainside snow-trail within 0.5 mi, snowshoe off-trail up through forest, staying close to eastern fall-away ridgeline (cirque) of Tamarack Peak. After slowly climbing 1000 ft with greater and greater vistas, summit at 9900 ft. Lunch break with grand 22-mi vista of Lake Tahoe way below us. Return same route. DOK. Leader: Gary P. Hanneman (775-336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Co-Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763, d\_inversin@yahoo.com). Mod. Strenuous.

### DECEMBER 18 (SATURDAY) 8:30A

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

### DECEMBER 19 (SUNDAY) 9A

**Fort Churchill.** Park at entrance to Fort Churchill State Park, follow trail to fort. Spend a little time exploring old Fort buildings before going down to Carson River to follow trail along there and back to highway, cars. About 6 mi RT, no gain. DL. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763, d\_inversin@yahoo.com). Easy.

## CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS IN DANGER...

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of California's coast has been preserved in its native state because of the state's 64 state beaches. Home to more than 160 rare, threatened, and endangered species, state parks are among the best places where we can enjoy nature and outdoor recreation.

Unfortunately, chronic underfunding has forced state parks to amass a \$1.3 billion backlog in needed maintenance and repairs.

Prop. 21, on the Nov. 2 statewide ballot, would establish a dedicated funding stream for state parks and wildlife areas. In exchange for free year-round day-use admission to California's state parks, Californians would pay an \$18 fee as part of the annual vehicle license fee (except for larger commercial vehicles, mobile homes and permanent trailers). Funds from the fee would be placed in a trust fund dedicated to state parks and wildlife conservation.

Sierra Club California is part of the coalition supporting Prop 21. The range of other supporters is especially impressive, including the California Teachers Association, National Trust for Historic Preservation, California Travel Industry Association, Sierra Business Council, and many others.

Learn more about Prop. 21 at <[www.YesForStateParks.com](http://www.YesForStateParks.com)>.



## OVERPOPULATION...

continued from page 7

and horse adoptions. Kiger horses were developed by BLM. They are distinctive, having a black dorsal stripe and leg banding.

The goal is to increase adoptions and bring the excess horse population in line with adoptions. The Denver workshop audience may have been 60-70% horse advocates, with the balance being state and local government agencies, sportsmen, and conservationists. Horse advocates generally wanted horse herds left as is, no manipulation of sex ratios, no eastern preserves, no treasured herds, and no horse roundups.

Their concern was that eastern preserves would result in fewer horses in the West; treasured herds could lead to elimination of horse herds elsewhere. Ranchers don't think government should buy up more ranch land; treasured herds could impact their use of lands.

As usual, under BLM's multiple use mandate, no one is happy.

**What you can do.** The deadline for comments is September 3. For more information go to [http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/wild\\_horse\\_and\\_burro.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/wild_horse_and_burro.html), Strategy Development Document.

## California State Parks in danger

BY JERRY MERAL, NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CALIFORNIA'S 278 STATE PARKS and beaches comprise 1.5 million acres of outdoor space, offering vital protection to unique ecosystems and recreation areas throughout our state. Nearly a third

Please see CA STATE PARKS IN DANGER, page 11.

# CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

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## Protecting our wilderness in winter

BY GAIL FERRELL, PRESIDENT, SNOWLANDS NETWORK

DO YOU SKI OR SNOWSHOE? If so, you can help protect and preserve a Wilderness Area by signing up for Snowlands Network's Winter Monitoring Program this snow season.

Snowlands Network is teaming up with other conservation groups and the U.S. Forest Service this winter. We'll be monitoring Mt. Rose Wilderness, and, depending on the size of our team, other Wilderness Areas too.

Why monitor Wilderness in winter? Motor vehicles are prohibited in any Wilderness. This is because motorized vehicles change the landscape, can pollute the environment, damage natural resources, and intrude on the quiet of the natural environment.

Wilderness is our guaranteed place to be with nature on her terms. Wilderness is for now and for our future generations to know Mother Earth.

Keeping motorized vehicles out of Wilderness is one of the tasks of the U.S. Forest Service. Accurate data on the numbers of snowmobiles trespassing into the Wilderness helps the Forest Service make important decisions affecting Wilderness preservation. A monitoring program provides such data.

**What you can do.** Can you help? If you like to get out in winter, you can volunteer to help monitor a Wilderness Area. For more information, contact Gail Ferrell (gail@snowlands.org) at Snowlands Network.

## The Nevada Curly

BY TINA NAPPE

OF THE 1900 HORSES removed from the Calico complex this year, a number of them were "curlies" with distinctive curly-haired coats; they otherwise demonstrate the variability of size, color, and conformation of other horses.

Curlies exist worldwide, but Nevada mustangs include many curlies. The International Curly Horse Organization (ICHO) is attempting to identify the key curly genes. The BLM internet auction which ended July 28 listed curlies in a separate category. They appear to have sold around the minimum price of \$125-\$250.

One of the issues debated within horse advocate groups is whether to impact natural breeding of wild horses with selective breeding. Would selective breeding and one or two easy access special viewing sites encourage more Nevada curly adoptions? Wild horse adoptions dropped to 3474 in FY 2009 from 5701 in FY 2005.

The ICHO has established the Curly Mustang Association. Their mission is to preserve, place, and promote the BLM curly mustangs. Among their goals is to work with BLM during the roundups to identify curlies, assist with monitoring, and find foster or temporary homes. Ideally, curlies will be adopted and be registered with ICHO.

NOTE: The International Curly Horse Organization (ICHO) meets in Eureka, September 23-26, 2010. Info at <http://www.curlyhorses.org/index.php>.

## Black Rock Desert springs inventory needed

BY GRAHAM STAFFORD

THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF SPRINGS in and around the the Black Rock Desert - High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area. These springs need to be assessed and inventoried. Sierra Club, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and Friends of Black Rock/High Rock are going to assist the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in this very large and important task.

BLM does not know the condition of most of these springs. They feel many have been shut down due to wild horse abuse and natural causes. After the inventory, BLM will assess which springs should be protected or reopened.

**What you can do.** Please become a volunteer in this project and receive the training. Contact Graham Stafford (775-686-8478, [graham@grahamstafford.com](mailto:graham@grahamstafford.com)). These springs are of the utmost importance to the environment and wild-life of the area. Especially pronghorn antelope and sage grouse.

## QUIET QUADRANT...

continued from page 7

the area between Hways 267 and 50, including Mt. Rose Hwy 431. This area contains state and federal lands, some of which are open and some closed to snowmobiling. If implemented, the federal lands in the Quiet Quadrant would be closed to snowmobiling. This would mean much-needed lands for skiers, snowshoers, and snowplayers to recreate in a quiet and safe environment, ease management, and reduce resource damage and user conflict.

**What you can do.** Your comments will be needed this Fall of 2010. To find out when and where to write, contact Snowlands Network at [www.snowlands.org](http://www.snowlands.org) and go to the "Projects" link. Click on the Quiet Quadrant Campaign. You can also contact me ([gail@snowlands.org](mailto:gail@snowlands.org)).

## WALKER LAKE...

continued from page 7

toration efforts led by the Walker Lake Working Group since the early 1990s. Sierra Club conservationists have led field trips, participated in workshops commented on environmental documents, tabled at April's Loon Day celebrations, produced the 1999 Walker Lake Art Festival, and generally supported the efforts of local residents and Senator Harry Reid to obtain sufficient water to reduce levels of salts (TDS) which are destroying the lake's fisheries.

## Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

October 16, 2010

Tahoe Area

For details, contact the Chair,

David Hornbeck

[davidhornbecklaw@msn.com](mailto:davidhornbecklaw@msn.com)



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

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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

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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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