



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

Sierra Club 2010 national awards

The Obama administration's new EPA administrator, a congressman who has a long record of advocating for environmental protection and a photographer who help helped raise awareness of overconsumption are among those receiving awards from the Sierra Club this year.

The Club's top award, the John Muir Award, went to Dick Fiddler of Shoreline, Wash., who has provided outstanding conservation leadership for the Sierra Club at the chapter, regional, and national levels for more than 40 years.

The Club's highest honor for administrative work, the William E. Colby Award, went to Doris Cellarius of Prescott, Ariz., who also has been an active Club leader for more than 40 years at the group, chapter, national and international levels.

Chris Jordan of Seattle, Wash., received the Ansel Adams Award, which honors excellence in conservation photography. His latest book, Running the Numbers: An American Self-Portrait, brings to life through photography some of the startling statistics related to American consumerism.

Jeff Biggers, author of the 2010 book, Please see 2010 CLUB NAT'L AWARDS, page 3.



Mountain yellow-legged frogs live in the Sierra and may spend the winter at the bottom of frozen lakes. They smell like garlic when handled! The photo of this handsome fellow was kindly provided by Gary Nafis of <www.CaliforniaHerps.com>. For the interesting story of this important species, come to the Range of Light's February program meeting. Details on page 4.

Chapter & group ExCom election results

BY JEAN STOESS

The 2010 Chapter and group election results are as follows:

Chapter ExCom

- Ann Brauer
Jane Feldman
Launce Rake
Mary Winston

Great Basin Group

- John Davis
Sue Jacox
David von Seggern

Range of Light Group

- Mauriça Anderson
Malcolm Clark
Jean Dillingham

S. Nevada Group

- No Candidates

Tahoe Area Group

- Separate election

Those elected will serve terms of two years.

A full report on the 2010 election process and details of the ballot count will be submitted to Chapter ExCom at the January 2011 meeting.

Update

Ruby Pipeline decision now in courts

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

The Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter, in partnership with Defenders of Wildlife and Great Basin Resource Watch, has now filed in both the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals (Sep. 2010) and in the Wash. D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals (Dec. 2010), challenging the Ruby Pipeline.

Recall that we, and our environmental partners, have exhausted all administrative appeals with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The 9th circuit suit is against the Bureau of Land Management for their acceptance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and their intent to permit the pipeline through federal agency land. The D.C. circuit suit is aimed at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and questions their order to accept the FEIS and move forward with the project.

We are pleased to have Adam Kron of Defenders of Wildlife as our lead attorney. Adam, along with a party of about 10 other interested people, took a three-day backcountry trip in

northwest Nevada to view critical parts of the actual route shown in the FEIS.

This trip convinced us that we are absolutely doing the right thing to oppose the official pipeline route, with its widespread impact on flora and fauna and on cultural resources. Meanwhile, construction reports as of early December show that the pipeline is well underway. The major parts of public lands in Nevada are already permitted, with construction now in progress on most of permitted lands.

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

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

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DEADLINE! MARCH 1 FOR APR-MAY-JUNE ISSUE

In Memoriam

Jim Stolz & Derham Giuliani

The world lost two wonderful environmental advocates in early September with the deaths of Jim Stolz and Derham Giuliani.

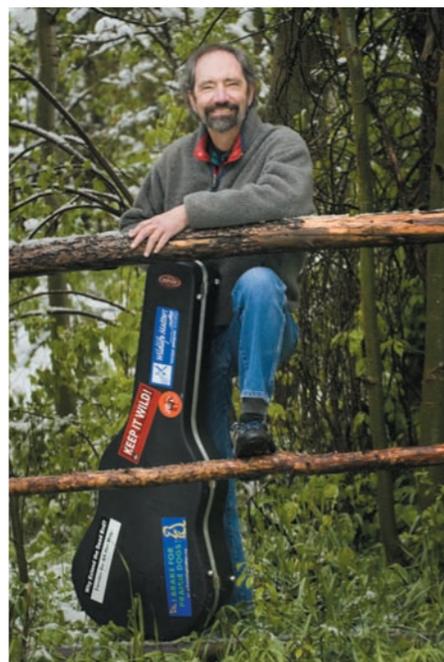
— Derham Giuliani —

Derham was a superb naturalist who lived for over 40 years in Big Pine, CA. He was an expert on the chipmunks of the Eastern Sierra and the White Mountains, studying and recording their behavior year after year. He was also an expert on insects and amphibians, contributing articles on butterflies and beetles to many journals. It was his work on a particular endemic beetle that was partly responsible for the Bureau of

Land Management closing Eureka Dunes to off-road vehicle travel in the 1970s. (The Dunes are now a part of Death Valley National Park.) Derham served for many years on the Eastern Sierra Task Force of the CA/NV Regional Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club. He will be remembered by all who relied on his knowledge and wisdom.

— Jim Stolz —

Walkin' Jim was a writer, singer, photographer, and beloved teacher who spent his summers walking in the wild places of our country and the rest of the year giving programs to children and adults which featured his beautiful pictures and



captivating songs. He particularly loved Nevada and wrote one of his most famous songs there, "Forever Wild." His last program, sponsored by Friends of Nevada Wilderness, was given in April in Reno before he became so ill. It was attended by a large, enthusiastic audience. Jim will be sorely missed by all of us who knew him.

CORRECTION. On page 1 of the Oct-Nov-Dec 2010 issue of the *Trails*, the In Memoriam article for Billie Jean James wrongly stated that she was born in Laramie, Wyoming. Actually, Billie Jean, née Hickey, was born in McCleansboro, IL, on December 2, 1942. Most of us were led to believe that she was born in Laramie, Wyoming, by her family, who at the time wanted to sever their ties to Illinois. This is the source of my error. I found her actual birth place from the archives of *Who's Who in Nevada*, UNLV Women's studies program.

— Norma Price

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 CHAPTER DIRECTORY

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At Large	Glenn Miller	775-786-0462

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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; <lfooster@schat.net>).

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, e-mail address, and group with all contributions. Please send your contributions by e-mail. If you don't have a computer, please ask a friend to help you. For photo 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! MARCH 1



FOR
APR-MAY-JUNE ISSUE

2010 NAT'L CLUB AWARDS . . .

continued from page 1

Reckoning at Eagle Creek, received the **David R. Brower Award**, which recognizes outstanding environmental reporting or editorial comment that contributes to a better understanding of environmental issues.

EPA Administrator **Lisa Jackson** received the Club's **Edgar Wayburn Award**, which honors outstanding service to the environment by a person in government. "In her first year, Administrator Jackson has established herself as the most consequential and effective EPA Administrator since William Ruckelshaus launched the agency," said Sierra Club President Robin Mann. "She has reversed in a little over a year the overwhelming majority of the anti-public health and environmental regulations left in place by eight years of Bush appointees.

Norman Dicks, a congressman from Bremerton, Wash., received the **Distinguished Service Award**, which recognizes individuals in public service for strong and consistent commitment to conservation. Dicks has represented Washington's 6th Congressional District since 1976 and has used his position on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to pass several key pieces of environmental legislation, including a landmark bill that created a new federal lands conservation trust.

Others honored with 2010 Sierra Club awards include the following (*in alphabetical order by award*):

EarthCare Award (honors an individual, organization, or agency that has made a unique contribution to international environmental protection and conservation): **Anna Rose** of Sydney, Australia.

Environmental Alliance Award (recognizes individuals or groups that have forged partnerships with non-Sierra Club entities): **Jose Menendez** of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Ida & Denny Wilcher Award (recognizes outstanding achievement in membership development and/or fundraising): The Sierra Club **Puerto Rico Chapter**, which has recruited 1300 new members since it was established in 2005.

Joseph Barbosa Earth Fund Award (recognizes a Club member under the age of 30): Members of the **Washington University Climate Justice Alliance**. This group has worked to educate their fellow students and the general public about the hidden costs of "clean coal."

Madelyn Pyeatt Award (recognizes work with youth): **Matt Nelson** of Tucson, Ariz., and Chris Bachman of Spokane Valley, Wash.

Oliver Kehrlin Award (for outstanding service to the Club's outings program): **Susan Estes** of Richmond, Calif. Estes is a national outings leader for the Sierra Club.

One Club Award (honors Club members who have used outings as a way to protect or improve public lands, instill an interest in conservation, increase membership in the Sierra Club, or increase awareness of the Sierra Club:

Please see 2010 CLUB NAT'L AWARDS, page 12.

Winter Desert Trips

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

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

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



Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

JANUARY 7-9 (FRI-SUN)

DEATH VALLEY NAT'L PARK SERVICE TRIP

Help with wilderness restoration in beautiful, remote Nat'l Park. Meet early Friday afternoon, work on erasing vehicle tracks in Gower Gulch in Death Valley. Saturday, work in Amargosa Valley on park's E side, installing park boundary signs, wilderness restoration signs, removing trash. Sunday work is TBD. Camp Friday, Saturday nights at Texas Springs campground. Appetizer/desert potluck Saturday evening. Bring camping gear, food for weekend, work gloves. Leader: Kate Allen (kj.allen@wildblue.net, 661-944-4056).

CNRCC Desert Committee

FEBRUARY 5-6 (SAT-SUN)

CARRIZO PLAIN NAT'L MONUMENT SERVICE TRIP

This outing combines day of assistance to Carrizo Nat'l Monument with day of sightseeing and/or hiking. Weather can be cold, gray, rainy, or warm, bright. We take our chances. Service is removing or modifying fences to give pronghorn greater mobility on Plain. Recreation determined by wishes of group. Opportunity to combine car camping, day hiking, exploring, service in relatively unknown wilderness. Leader: Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

FEBRUARY 26-27 (SAT-SUN)

DEATH VALLEY EXPLORATION

Sample wonders offered in this Nat'l Park. Meet 8 am Saturday in Shoshone. Day's tour will include stops at Badwater, Natural Bridge, Golden Canyon, with short hike at each. Camp at Texas Springs. Sunday's activities start with early morning drive to Zabriskie Point, then stop at Furnace Creek Visitors Center, museum, visit to Salt Creek (home to rare Salt Creek Pupfish), hike in sand dunes. Possibility for more camping, hiking for those who arrive early Friday afternoon and/or stay over Sunday night. Contact leader for reservations or more details. More details also on Outings page (www.

desertreport.org). Leader: Carol Wiley (desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

CNRCC Desert Committee

MARCH 20-25 (SUN-FRI)

WORK PARTY: WILDFLOWERS, FENCES IN CARRIZO

Three and a half days of service to Carrizo Plains Nat'l Monument removing, modifying fences to allow pronghorn to travel more widely. This is early spring wildflower season, so our schedule allows at least a day for exploring in monument, either hiking or driving backcountry roads. We are privileged to be staying at one of old ranch houses, so trip is limited to 14; \$30 covers five dinners. Contact leader: Craig Deutsche (310-477-6670, craig.deutsche@gmail.com).

CNRCC Desert Committee

MARCH 26-28 (SAT-MON)

WORK PARTY: WHIPPLE MTS. WILDERNESS

Join CA/NV Wilderness Committee, Mojave Group on annual joint outing to help BLM's Needles office enhance wilderness characteristics in desert. Rumor has it that there will be saguaro cactus involved. Central commissary. Contact leader: Vicky Hoover (415-977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org).

CNRCC Wilderness Committee

APRIL 2-3 (SAT-SUN)

MOJAVE NAT'L PRESERVE EXPLORATION

Meet Friday afternoon at Sunrise primitive campground on Cima Road, 11 mi from I-15 on L (just past Teutonia Peak Trailhead, which is on R). Saturday, hike to Teutonia Peak, about 4 mi RT. Sunday, go to Hole-in-the-Wall visitor center, hike about 6 mi on Barber Peak Loop Trail. For those spending another night, camp at Midhills Campground. Fees: \$12 per site (\$6 with Senior Access Pass). Bring warm clothes; evenings can be cold. Bring lots of water, food for entire weekend. For reservations, contact leader: Carol Wiley (Desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

CNRCC Desert Committee

A trip to the ancient bristlecones

Into the woods with Methuselah

BY JANET DAMEN

LATE AUGUST was a good time to escape our stifling urban areas. Luckily, our desert-loving leader, Lygeia Gerard, had scheduled* a great weekend in the White and Inyo Mountains, wonderful high desert ranges where we were able to indulge our love of wide open spaces at very bearable temperatures.

Friday evening about a dozen of us traveled along Highway 168 out of Big Pine to gather under an almost full moon at the spacious Grandview campground at an altitude of 8600 feet.

Our goal was the Forest of the Ancients, where magnificent bristlecone pines – older than any other trees on earth – are somehow able to survive the high, harsh and dry desert environment. On a clear, slightly breezy Saturday morning, we carpooled to Schulman Grove (about 10,100 ft.) on a road having the most incredible views west across Owens Valley to the Sierra Nevada, home to 12 of the highest peaks in the nation.



The beautiful contours of an ancient bristlecone Pine. Photo: Amy & Seth Colitz

In the parking lot at Schulman Grove (named after the man who devised the system for determining the age of the bristlecones), we saw ruins of the Visitor Center, destroyed a couple of years ago by a mentally ill arsonist. The fairly new center had been a beautifully designed wood structure that housed informative history and educational aids, which greatly enhanced visits to this unique area. Fortunately, generous contributions have made it possible to build another center. The arsonist is in a psychiatric institution, and the new Visitor Center is set to break ground in spring 2011.

There are two main trails through the grove: the Discovery Trail, a short path with great examples of the trees and their history, and the Methuselah Walk, a 4-mile loop through a larger area. Blessed with balmy weather, we opted for the longer path. At first the trail took us higher up the mountain, into dolomite and granite rocks, and past our first gnarly, twisted, awe-inspiring trees with their trunks in shades of brown, grey and gold. After a mile or so we began descending. Now there were magnificent views across Deep Springs Valley and way, way beyond.

Please see BRISTLECONES, page 5.

High Sierra Camp & Workshops

The historic Golden Trout Camp, at 10,000 ft, just south of Mt. Whitney, is a unique, 3-mile hike-in wilderness camp.

Natural history and B&W photography sessions start on 6/19, 6/26, & 7/3.

\$525 for a full week, meals included.

Contact Paul at 805-688-8344 or GoldenTroutWorkshops@Gmail.com

See www.GoldenTroutWorkshops.org

Range of Light Reflections

Range of Light Group



Group News

Letter from the Chair

BY MALCOLM CLARK (wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com)

ExCom: New members & first 2011 meeting. The next ExCom meeting is Tuesday, January 11, 1 pm, at Brigitte Berman's home. New ExCom members are *Jean Dillingham* and *Mauriça Anderson*. Many thanks to retiring ExCom members *Shalle Genevieve* and *Henning Jensen*.

New Conservation Committee. ROL now has a Conservation Committee. *Mary Kay Prentice is Chair* (mkp@npgcable.com). Other members are Malcolm Clark, Jean Dillingham, Shalle Genevieve, Rosemary Jarrett, and John Walter. Normal meeting time is 2nd Tuesday of each month at 11 am. Conservation issues should be brought to the Conservation Committee before being put on the ExCom's action agenda.

Monthly program meetings. In September, *Janet and David Carle* updated us on their project of circling the globe at the 38th parallel. In October, *Brad Henderson* (now with DFG in Bishop) regaled us with his

Group ExCom meetings

WE USUALLY MEET on the first Tuesdays of January, April, July, and October at 1 pm. All Sierra Club members are welcome. To confirm date, place, and time, contact the Chair, Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639). *Note the January meeting will be on January 11 rather than January 4.*

RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP

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At Large	Mauriça Anderson*	
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Hospitality	Wilma Wheeler	760-934-3764
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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

experiences instituting a wildlife-friendly native garden. In October, *Dr. Patricia Brown-Berry* talked about bats in the Eastern Sierra. She also talked about potential effects of mine shaft closures on western bats and the spread of White Nose Syndrome among eastern bats.

Winter outings. Winter ski and snow shoe outings begin in January. See schedule on this page.

Conservation. (1) ROLG has nominated *Bodie Hills* to the Chapter as a potential national monument. We hope BH will be included in Sierra Club efforts at convincing President Obama to create additional NM designations by next year. ROLG joined with other groups to successfully defeat a motion before the Mono County Board of Supervisors to release the Bodie WSA. The effort to release this WSA (and two other adjoining ones) will probably come before the Supervisors again in 2011.

(2) The *Owens Dry Lake* bed master planning process is should be completed in March or April. (Mark Bagley is our representative.)

(3) The Group has submitted comments on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of LADWP to build a *500 mw PV solar facility* in the southern Owens Valley.

(4) No formal hearings have been held on *Mammoth Pacific's proposal to drill new wells* and double the capacity of their geothermal facility in Mammoth. ROL will comment as appropriate when formal notice is made.

ROL Group Website

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

&

Chapter website

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

Range of Light Calendar

ALL OUTINGS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES!

All phone numbers are 760 unless otherwise noted.

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

Cross-country skiing, snowshoe conditioning, & exploration tours

BY JOHN WALTER, ROL WINTER OUTINGS LEADER

As of the end of November we've had three storms that dumped over five feet of the greatest powder I've seen in years. By the time we start skiing in January the base should be consolidated and more fluffy stuff is promised. The consensus seems to be that it's an *el niño* year. That puts us right between a wet north and a dry south, so come prepared for anything.



Winter outings info.

The winter outing schedule will be the same as the last few years. Short conditioning trips on Thursdays with everybody welcome regardless of skill level, then longer, more demanding trips on Sunday requiring at least strong beginner skills.

The plan is to start with most of the outings near Mammoth, venturing further afar as the season progresses. Last year we were fortunate enough to end the season with trips to Yosemite, Conway Summit, and up Rock Creek to Little Lakes Valley.

As the winter progresses, we'll pick the final itineraries and leaders depending on snow conditions and leader availability. The trips will

be published in the local media, in the ROL e-newsletter, on the ROL website, <<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/>>, and in the next *Trails* (April-May-June issue).

If you can't find a schedule or contact the leader listed in the to-be-published schedule, feel free to call or e-mail John Walter (salt1143@gmail.com, 760-934-1767) or Jean Dillingham (760-648-7109, jdill@qnet.com).

Trip itineraries. We'd like to further expand our itinerary of trips beyond the current favorites of Shady Rest, Obsidian Done, Red Fir Forest (part of the newly designated Owens River Headwaters wilderness addition), San Joaquin Ridge, Inyo Craters, and lower slopes of the Sherwins.

New, successful additions last year were the area behind Sunny Slopes leading over to the Owens Gorge and the slopes leading north through the Aspens from Conway Summit. If you have a favorite trip you'd like us to schedule, call Jean or me (see above) as



Please see ROL CALENDAR, page 5.

You're Invited!

Range of Light Group Monthly Meeting Everyone welcome!

Jan. 18 (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.

Program 7:30 pm

"Chinatown Revisited"

with Mark Bagley, Sierra Club's Rep for Owens Valley water issues & OVC President

Mark will show a documentary film produced for the 2009 DVD release of the Academy Award-winning movie *Chinatown*. The film examines the L.A. Aqueduct and the last 40 years of Owens Valley water issues. It includes interviews with OVC activists and local residents. Afterward, Mark will take questions and give us an update on recent water developments in Owens Valley.

Mar. 15 (Tues)

Potluck & Social 6:30 pm!

See above for details of place, food, and table settings.

Program 7:30 pm

Feb. 15 (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.

Program 7:30 pm

"The Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog" with Curtis Milliron, California Dept. of Fish & Game Senior Biologist

Curtis will discuss the state listing of the mountain yellow-legged frog as endangered and the agency's role in recovery of this important species in our nearby Sierra Nevada range.

"Geology & Mining History of Bodie Hills" with Brigitte Berman, Retired Engineering Geologist & Evanne Jardin, historian & teacher

Brigitte will discuss the unique geology of the gold-bearing rocks of Bodie Mining District and Evanne the history of the Bodie Hills mining towns. Both will give us an update on recent developments on new mineral exploration and related politics.

Range of Light Calendar

continued from page 4

soon as practical and we'll do our best to try and work it in, particularly if you've taken some of our leadership training and can help lead the outing. Note: The Thursday conditioning outings are a great chance to hone your leadership skills teaming up with one of our old timers.

Equipment. Most track or touring cross-country skis will do fine, but waxless pattern skis seem to be easiest. The new lightweight snowshoes are generally preferred. Rental equipment is available all over Mammoth if you can't find the pine tar for those old boards. Note: abominable weather cancels.

Conservation education. All trips will give participants a chance to familiarize themselves with the natural history of the area and with local conservation issues.

We can judge the impacts of global warming by the depth and duration of snow and mitigate the impacts by converting snowmobilers to the quiet sports. Because many of our local wild critters (like the elusive pine martin) are nocturnal, winter snow tracks are often the only evidence of their presence. The first set of weasel tracks spotted on a trip will earn the sighter a Sierra Club t-shirt.

Thursday morning snow shoe & cross-country ski. Both Thursday and Sunday trips meet at 10a at the parking lot behind Union Bank in Mammoth. There may be a secondary meeting area closer to the trailhead, so check your ROL

e-mail newsletter, the ROL website, or call a leader. Trips will run every Thursday, starting January 6th, and running through April.

We usually cover 3-5 miles and are out about 2.5 hours. However, we're flexible, depending on the strength and desires of the group. We concentrate on conditioning, technique, and learning about our local natural history and conservation issues. All skill levels welcome. We like to help beginners get started.

Bring water, snack, ski equipment or snowshoes, sunscreen, sun glasses, hat, gloves, and layered clothing.

Sunday ski & snowshoe tours. The tours are held every Sunday, starting January 9th, and running through April (if the snow lasts). Last year we switched to Saturdays in May, so watch your next Trails for details. We generally cover 5-7 miles and are back about 3 pm.

Intermediate or advanced beginner skill levels and endurance required. Snow shoers must be able to keep up. Based on past experience, this is usually not a problem -- particularly when going uphill. Most trips will spend some or most of their time off groomed trails.

If you're unsure of your abilities, try a Thursday morning trip first. Dress in layered clothing and be prepared for changeable weather. Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, gloves, lunch, water, and ski or snowshoe equipment.

royal, mountain mahogany, squaw currant and Mormon tea, among many others.

Our trail eventually took us even lower, down to a concentration of Bristlecone Pines where many of the trees are known to be 3000 to almost 5000 years

BRISTLECONES . . .

continued from page 3

The ground cover was more varied here, having many desert plants and bushes: sagebrush, Indian paintbrush, penny-

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

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

For more info on these programs, to receive a schedule of activities, or to make a reservation, please go to <www.sierraclub.org/outings/lodges/ctf> or call 800-679-6775.

E. Sierra Land Trust Events

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2010 ESLT Volunteer Orientation

The success of ESLT's work depends on community support and involvement. Join ESLT for a morning discussing how you can become involved in preserving vital lands in the Eastern Sierra. This orientation is for both existing and new volunteers. Come and become



Eastern Sierra Land Trust volunteers.

more informed about the work of the Land Trust and volunteer opportunities in 2011. ESLT will provide lunch. To sign up and for more information, please contact Hillary Behr (hillary@eslt.org, 760-873-4554).

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011 ESLT Birthday Bash



Join us as we kick off our 10th anniversary with a celebration of the people and partnerships dedicated to preserving our treasured lands and their scenic vistas. For more information, please contact mary@eslt.org or call 760-873-4554.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2010 Wildlife Migration Corridor Field Trip, Wheeler Ridge

Spend the afternoon exploring an important section of our local wildlife migration corridor that has been permanently preserved to provide safe passage and critical habitat for Sierra wildlife.

Timothy Taylor, a local wildlife biologist from the California Dept. of Fish & Game will share his knowledge and research on the Round Valley Mule Deer Herd and other wildlife that rely on this important area for successful migration and winter range habitat. Bring a lunch; ESLT will provide drinks and snacks. Fees: \$10 ESLT members/ \$15 non-members. For more information, please

contact Hillary Behr at hillary@eslt.org or call 760-873-4554.



Wheeler Ridge deer migration corridor.

— contributed by Sarah Spano, Education Coordinator & AmeriCorps Member, Eastern Sierra Land Trust

old. One tree is known as Methuselah because it's been dated as being 4767 years old and is therefore Earth's oldest living inhabitant! To save it from people helping themselves to souvenirs, the tree is no longer marked. Visitors have to guess which tree it might be.

Many trees, in their efforts to survive, have become beautifully contorted, natural sculptures. Some are more dead than alive, with perhaps a single strip of bark feeding the entire living part of the tree from its roots. A dead tree can remain standing for hundreds of years, and some of the relics on the forest floor may be up to 9000 years old. One tree has a sawn limb to expose its rings, and a mark showing when Jesus Christ is thought to have been born.

Lygeia carried a guidebook of the area, which some of us took turns reading in order to more fully understand and appreciate what we were seeing. [In between stops, she also kept a moderate pace for those that wanted a steady hike,

and our sweep, Dotty Sandford, hung back and acquiesced to those preferring to loiter to investigate and photograph the trees and the plants.] After hiking, we enjoyed a leisurely packed lunch at the picnic area at the end of the trail.

Those who hadn't yet had enough of this truly amazing desert range continued 12 miles further up the road to Patriarch Grove. There they enjoyed a ¼-mile mountaintop stroll through another grove of magnificent bristlecones. It's surprising how strong and healthy they look, considering the gale-force winds, snow depths and blistering sun they endure.

Then it was back to camp, where the group enjoyed a delicious potluck supper followed by a blazing campfire — a fitting end to an unforgettable day.

* This outing was sponsored by Sierra Club's Desert Committee, which is part of the California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee. The Desert Committee outings schedule appears on page 3 of each *Trails* issue.

CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

A country is known by the way it treats its animals.

— Jawaharlal Nehru

Conservation Briefs

BY MARGE SILL

Gold Butte NCA?

Passage of a bill by Congress establishing a National Conservation Area with Designated Wilderness at Gold Butte in Clark County has again been postponed until next year. This action was taken despite support from the Clark County Commission, the City of Mesquite, and many environmental organizations, including Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club and Friends of Gold Butte. It was hoped that this legislation would ensure the superb ecological and cultural values of the area would be saved from degradation by illegal off-road vehicles and vandals who destroy archeological values.

Vandals have spray-painted many of the priceless petroglyphs in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, just northwest of Las Vegas. The hikers who discovered this crime were appalled at the damage. The paint is scheduled to be removed but will cost a large sum of money that could be better spent on education and exhibits for the many visitors to the area.

Bodie Hills NM?

Range of Light Group and Toiyabe Chapter are recommending national monument status for Bodie Hills in Mono County, CA. The approximately 150,000 acre recommendation encompasses three BLM wilderness study areas. A proposal has been sent to Sierra Club Wildlands Committee outlining ecological and cultural values of the area and threats that could destroy these values. For further information, please contact Malcolm Clark, Chair of the Range of Light Group (wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com).

Nevada Wildlife Director fired

Ken Mayer, the excellent and hard-working Director of the Nevada Dept. of Wildlife, has been fired by the present Governor of Nevada

(who was not re-elected and will leave office Jan. 3) without any prior notice. Both sportsman and conservationists are appalled at this arbitrary action and are working together to ask the new Governor to reappoint Mayer to this position.

Wilderness for Nevada's Pine Forest Range?

The Humboldt County Commission has endorsed a proposal submit-



© Erik Holland 2010

ted by a working group of ranchers, off-road vehicle users, sportsmen, and environmentalists to grant wilderness status to an area in the Pine Forest Range in northern Nevada. The area includes two Wilderness Study Areas, Blue Lakes and Alder Creek, that have long been recommended by the Toiyabe Chapter after many field trips to the area. Legislation is expected to be written and submitted to Congress by early next year.

New Field Manager for Black Rock NCA

Rolando Mendez is the new Field Manager for the Black Rock National Conservation Area. He comes to Nevada from the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon and has degrees from Humboldt State and Yale University. He will be stationed in Winnemucca, Nevada.

Will BLM buy Winnemucca Ranch?

BY ERIK HOLLAND

There was a story in the *Reno Gazette's News & Review* section during this second week of December about the possibility of Winnemucca Ranch being acquired by the BLM. Yes, I'm quoted in it. The developers have always indicated a willingness to sell the ranch at fair market value. The exciting thing is the mayor of Reno seems to be supportive of the idea, and perhaps, just perhaps, a way can be found to get Winnemucca Ranch sold to the BLM.

Getting Winnemucca Ranch out of our regional plan saves billions in freeway construction costs, as well as critical sage grouse, mule deer, antelope, and big horn sheep habitat. A likely next step is to approach the Reno City Council with a resolution to that effect ... or ask a member of the Council to float the idea.

The lawsuit against Reno's upzoning of Winnemucca Ranch was thrown out on a technicality. Our attorney did not feel an appeal to the Nevada Supreme Court had a sufficient chance of success to warrant the expense.

After we challenged Sparks on ap-

peal in the Nevada Supreme Court they began the process of rolling back their non-contiguous annexations. Not, mind you, because it is against the law ... but because they can't make it pencil out. We alluded to that in the lawsuit, to support why we felt the non-contiguous annexations are a bad idea – in addition to the fact that they were against the law.

It seems the height of hubris to conclude that Sparks is rolling back because we had the courage to take them to the Nevada Supreme Court, despite the fact that they hit us with a large cost judgement. However, as they weighed their options, one thing that might have been part of their decision was a hearing at the Nevada Supreme Court, with clear violations of state law involved. Of course, the horrible economy played a part, too, and remains a historic opportunity to recalibrate inappropriate development schemes and to build a more diversified economy.

Thanks to the Toiyabe Chapter for its consistent support!

Carpe diem* in the "Water Wars"

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

Amazingly, we're entering the third decade of the battle to prevent the exportation of rural groundwater to fuel growth in southern Nevada. Now, opponents of water exports are moving from celebrating a series of court victories in 2010 to the hard work of being a part of critical water decisions affecting the lives and futures of both long-time and new residents in Nevada and Utah.

Currently, the Nevada State Engineer, Jason King, has taken a position against honoring the more than 2300 protests by citizens against "new" applications by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). Due to SNWA's confusion over the scope of the first Nevada Supreme Court ruling, it had filed new applications duplicating the original 1989 applications. Instead of acting on the previous 2300 protests, Engineer King has announced a new round of protests on SNWA's original applications in four of the many basins targeted by SNWA (Spring, Cave, Dry Lake, and Delamar in White Pine and Lincoln Counties). He has also scheduled six weeks of new water hearings in the fall of 2011.

The Great Basin Water Network and its allies are gearing up to recruit protesters and build their protest cases against the massive proposed water exportation project. The major arguments will be (1) whether there is any "excess" water in the remote rural valleys available for exportation without harming existing water uses and (2) whether the State Engineer can make the findings required by Nevada Water Law for proposed interbasin water projects. The water hearing in 2011 will focus

on answering many of the following critical questions:

- Is there an actual need to export rural groundwater to southern Nevada or are there more cost-effective alternatives?
- Is SNWA's water conservation plan effective or can SNWA obtain over 50% of the targeted water simply by improving its water conservation programs. See <http://greatbasinwater.org/pubs/PacificInstituteLV-WaterEfficiencyReport.pdf>.
- Is withdrawing thousands of acre-feet of groundwater environmentally sound for the targeted valleys or will it lead to significant air quality problems, especially for downwind areas such as the Wasatch Front in Utah? Will it harm water-dependent endangered species? Will it devastate wildlife habitats, wildlife refuges and parks? Will SNWA's project repeat the mistakes made by exporting surface and groundwater to Los Angeles from the eastern Sierra's Owens Valley?
- Will the loss of groundwater limit the future growth and development of targeted basins in eastern Nevada and western Utah?
- Is dependence on unreliable rural

Please see WATER WARS, page 7.

*Mono Basin
Bird Chautauqua
mark your calendar:
the 10th Annual
June 17-19, 2011
birdchautauqua.org*



*Aim above
morality. Be not
simply good, be
good for something.*
— Henry David Thoreau

On the chopping block: biodiversity programs

BY TINA NAPPE

ON-THE-GROUND STUDIES of the pika, sage grouse, amargosa toad, pygmy rabbit, and other species in Nevada are in jeopardy because of uncertainty about state matching funds.

In 2006 the Nevada Legislature provided \$1.6 million to the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). These funds were matched 65-75% (depending on the program) with federal funds which were used to underwrite work with the Lake Tahoe Environmental Program, the Geographical Information System (GIS) Section, and the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). Also, the funds have been used to help NDOW respond to energy development proposals and environmental education. Some funds were allocated to nuisance bear management. This year's tentative allocation for Nevada is \$649,000.

In these days of hard economic times, the nation's wildlife agencies and the general public are fortunate that sportsmen have been willing to underwrite the cost of managing the species they hunt. Sportsmen have invested in managing themselves through licenses, tags, restrictions on seasons, harvesting etc. Increasingly in Nevada, and I suspect in other states, they contribute additional fees to help with habitat acquisition and improvement. They sponsor fundraisers to supplement funds they contribute to NDOW. Deer habitat improvement, for instance, can help many other species.

Sportsmen, who are declining in numbers as a percentage of the population, are asking when the conservation community, for instance, will step in to help. Sportsmen are part of the general public who are paying for state bonds which underwrite acquisition and development of property. Bonds do not pay for wildlife management, research, law enforcement, or conservation education.

This is one of the issues that the Nevada Conservation League and the Sierra Club are addressing.

What you can do. If you're interested contact Tina Nappe (tnappe@nvbell.net) or Joe Johnson (jj935@juno.com).

WATER WARS . . .

continued from page 6

water (also affected by droughts and climate change) a bad idea for long-term municipal water supplies?

(f) Should SNWA become the water and land overlord of rural eastern Nevada and western Utah?

What you can do. For more information on the water wars, go to: <http://greatbasinwaternet.org/index.php>.

* "seize the day"

Feldman & von Seggern appointed to BLM RACs

BY TINA NAPPE

The Bureau of Land Management has three Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) in Nevada. Each RAC has 15 people who represent extractive industries, natural resources (including recreation, wild horses and archeology), and government. Jane Feldman was recently appointed to the Mohave RAC in southern Nevada and David Von Seggern was appointed to the Sierra Front-Northwestern Great Basin Resource RAC. Both represent environmental issues.

The RACs meet four times each year to learn about and comment on major issues facing BLM. Each of the three RACs has developed standards and guidelines for livestock grazing and wild horse management.

The Black Rock Committee established when the Black Rock High Rock Emigrant Trail National Conservation Area was approved by Congress, participated in the management plan, and continues today. Renewable energy projects in Nevada may headline their meetings. As leaders in the renewable energy program for the Sierra Club, Feldman and von Seggern will be able to contribute and learn.

Sierra Club California activists help defeat Texas oil companies

In June of 2010, Big Texas oil companies Valero and Tesoro helped bankroll a dirty energy proposition on the ballot, Proposition 23. The November ballot initiative would have halted clean energy efforts and pollution control standards aimed at cleaning up our air and atmosphere for future generations.

However, on November 2, Californians resoundingly voted against Proposition 23. Overall, 565 Sierra Club California volunteers took part in phone banking activities across California. We contacted more than 57,000 people and delivered 13,000 voters to the polls on Election Day.

On Election Day Prop 23 failed with 38.5% voting yes and 61.5% voting NO. Sierra Club California thanks all the activists who took part in defeat Proposition 23!

— excerpted from *Sierra Club California's Capitol Report, Winter 2010*,

Nevada Wildlife Commissioners approve black bear hunting

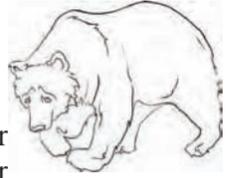
BY TINA NAPPE

Nevada, the only western state without a black bear hunt, may have one starting in 2011. On December 4, the State Board of Wildlife Commissioners voted to approve a bear hunt in Nevada. The details of the hunt have yet to be worked out.

According to Carl Lackey, the Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW) expert on Nevada bears, Nevada's bear population ranges from 200-300 bears. Bears migrate to and from California, where they are hunted, into Lake Tahoe Basin and occasionally into urban areas along the Sierra Front including Reno, Carson, and Genoa. They are also migrating to and from the Carson Range to the Wassuks, Sweetwaters, and Buckskins.

Lackey's recommendations include limiting the hunt to a total 40 bears per year with one hunt in the spring and a second in the fall. No sows with cubs could be hunted. A slight emphasis on hunting boars will be permitted. Any bear killed would have to be checked for biological data. One of the goals is to maintain the current bear population based on a three-year average.

Over the last 10 years "nuisance bears" have ravaged trash receptacles and even broken into homes. The urban food sup-



ply has been so good that some bears postpone their hibernation and increase in size. In spite of NDOW's urging, local government have been slow to approve regulations requiring bear proof trash containers.

As a result, NDOW is charged to respond to nuisance bear reports. Under the "three-strikes-you're-out" rule, some bears have been destroyed. Others get hit on the highways. Although responsible for managing Nevada's wildlife, NDOW does not have funding for nuisance bears. NDOW relies on general funds for bear management. With a \$1-3 billion dollar deficit projected, the Nevada Legislature is unlikely to continue the appropriation.

Drought, fire, and urbanization are all affecting bear survival. Lackey urges that income generated by the hunt should be returned for bear management. He also recommends protection of bear migration routes and preserving critical habitat.

Housing wild horses on private lands . . . at government expense

BY TINA NAPPE

Removing excess horses from Nevada's public lands seems a way of life for BLM. Every few weeks a notice of another roundup arrives. One wild horse removal proposal is in Elko County. There are currently an estimated 2705 wild horses within the Antelope Complex in Elko County; the appropriate management level is 427-788. Under the Capture Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) in Elko County, BLM proposes gathering 2278 wild horses.

Before returning some mares to the public lands, they will be treated with PZP, which provides a temporary fertility control. Based on public response, BLM is considering retaining a higher number of horses in the Spruce Mountain area. Photographs in the EA show thin horses, water sources stripped of

vegetation, and a spiderweb of trails leading to the water sources.

Madeline Pickens recently purchased Spruce Ranch, which has 14,000 acres of deeded land and 540,000 acres of public land grazing -- including the Spruce allotment. She plans to purchase other ranches, along with their grazing permits, to eventually house 10,000 horses.

Ms. Pickens, unlike other horse sanctuary owners who adopt and pay the full cost of horses, expects to be paid about \$500/horse/year. Cattle are generally permitted on public land only seasonally; private lands are used for pasture and hay during the off season and during droughts.

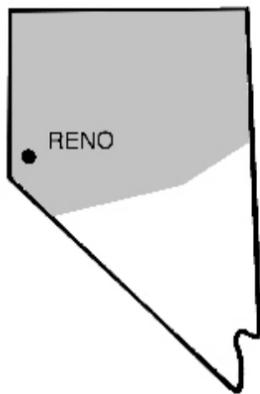
Will Pickens horses be subject to seasonal public lands grazing? What happens when wild and contract horses mix? Will BLM continue to slide on its goal of "maintaining a thriving ecological balance" and jeopardize wildlife resources as it is now doing in the Antelope Complex to accommodate Pickens?

Pickens has chosen the driest, most water-short state, and a drying climate for her project. BLM had to truck water in for horses earlier this year.

Kudos to Pickens for trying to find solutions to the growing population of fertile hungry horses. The challenge will be, as it always is for BLM, trying to meet all its obligations.



Great Basin Gatherings



Great Basin Group

Group News

Great Basin Peak Section News

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

The Great Basin Peak Section continues up the trail of progress. Our membership has increased, more members reached **Emblem** status, and *Bob Sumner* became our first member to achieve the **Silver Circle** level. Who will be first to achieve the Gold Circle level?

Dennis Ghiglieri, our webmaster, added a section for trip reports and pictures. Ed Corbett wrote the first report covering our GBPS hike to Virginia and Pah Rah Peaks in the Pah Rah Range near Pyramid Lake. We continue to welcome suggestions on improvements, corrections, and updates to our peak list and website.

Erik Holland has agreed to let us use his wonderful Wheeler Peak sketch for all our future awards and t-shirt. Our

Emblem patch is currently in production and the GBPS Committee approved the design for the Silver Circle pin and t-shirt.

Great trip! In September, the GBPS again joined the Desert Peak Section for an amazing outing up Mt. Jefferson and Arc Dome. Our skillful leaders -- Tina Bowman, Mary McMannes, and Jim Fleming -- organized an enjoyable weekend of camping, hiking, and camaraderie. In addition to bagging two peaks, we were fortunate to spot an immature golden eagle, bighorn sheep, antelope, and beautiful autumn colors.

Join us! For details on membership, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports check out Great Basin Peak Section at <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/GBPeaksSection.html>.



GREAT BASIN GROUP 2ND THURSDAY PROGRAM MEETINGS

BY GRAHAM STAFFORD, PROGRAM CHAIR

All programs open to the public

NEW LOCATION. Girl Scouts of Sierra Nevada, 605 Washington St., Reno, NV 89503 (next to I-80 on Washington St., ample lighted parking). **Time.** Programs start at 7:30 pm; social time, 7-7:30 pm. **Info.** Contact Graham Stafford (775-686-8478, graham@grahamstafford.com).

JANUARY 13, 2011 (THURSDAY)

Winter Safety in the Backcountry

Julie Woodard and the Great Basin Group of the Sierra Club welcomes David Book, Search & Rescue Volunteer, to discuss winter safety in the backcountry. David is a Sierra Club member in our group who has assisted on hundreds of search and

rescue calls in our local area. This is an informative discussion which will offer practical advice for backcountry safety and local resources for more training. An REI representative will have a display of winter gear to view and discuss. This event is open to the general public. Please join in the discussion and help us raise the awareness of winter safety in our local community.

FEBRUARY 10, 2011 (THURSDAY) Great Basin Institute

Chris Warner of the GBI will give a presentation on the wonderful work the Great Basin Institute is doing in Nevada. The Great Basin Institute is an interdisciplinary field studies organization promoting environmental research, education, and conservation throughout the west. The Institute advances ecological literacy and habitat restoration through educational outreach and direct service programs. They run the Nevada Conservation Corps.

MARCH 10, 2011 (THURSDAY)

To Be Announced

Great Basin Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 775 unless otherwise noted.
ALL events include conservation education activities.

CST Nevada Tour Operator – Registration Information, Nevada Tour Operator
Ref. No. 2008-0041 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

JANUARY 1 (SATURDAY) 10 AM

Annual New Year's Day Assault on Prison Hill. Meet at Silver Saddle Ranch in Carson City, then climb E side of Prison Hill. Then follow ridgeline S to highest point on Prison Hill, where we'll wish Carson City a Happy New Year. Drop back down near Mexican Dam, follow Mexican Ditch trail back to our cars. Bring any left over goodies you want to get rid of to share. About 6 mi RT, 1100 ft gain. Alternate hike available if there's heavy snow or ice. ND. Leader: Donna Inversin (315-6763, d_inversin@yahoo.com). Moderate.

JANUARY 1 (SATURDAY) 10 AM

Annual New Year's Day Hike. Here's an opportunity to start 2011 with a healthy regimen of outdoor activity. Hike in vicinity of Reno, as conditions allow. Start at 10 am to accommodate late-night revelers. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (303-8461, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Ileana Tibuleac (781-258-3619, imtseismic@yahoo.com). Mod. Easy.

JANUARY 1 (SATURDAY) 9 AM

Janus: Sawmill in the Desert. Janus, from which January was derived, was a Roman god who had two face: one looking to the past, one to the future. Let's contemplate both past and future on this first day of 2011. The PAST, a sawmill in the desert near Buckland Station, S of Silver Springs, along lower Carson River, going upstream. About 8 mi in loop, mostly flat. See, ponder remains of a sawmill in desert, then see current route of railroad, which services Hawthorn. Hike a portion of Carson, Colorado Railroad route, circa early 1880s. The FUTURE? Unknown . . . hopefully more hikes. ND. Leader: T A Taro (530-2935). Easy.

JANUARY 3 (MONDAY) 6:30 - 7:30 PM

ExCom Meeting. Join us at our monthly Ex Com meeting if you're interested in local issues, group decisions, plan-

You're invited to our Group Executive Committee Meetings

BY CATHERINE SCHMIDT

EVERYONE IS ALWAYS WELCOME to attend an ExCom meeting. If you are curious about what goes on or how you could become more involved, please join us for a meeting. We usually meet on the first Monday of the month to go over our Club budget, plan upcoming events and discuss local issues. Our next meetings are scheduled for Mondays, January 3rd, February 7th, and March 4th. Meetings begin at 6:30 pm and typically run until 8 pm. Please call or e-mail Cathy Schmidt (CathSch256@aol.com, 240-3785) for meeting location.

ning upcoming events. Call for meeting place, directions. ND. Leader: Cathy Schmidt (323-6316, cathsch256@aol.com). Easy.

JANUARY 8 (SATURDAY) 9 AM

Ophir Creek Overlook Snowshoe. Snowshoe across corner of Tahoe Meadows, then through forest for an hour or so, passing by Chickadee Ridge. Continue higher on open hillsides with great Lake Tahoe vistas. Reach overlook 600 ft above Ophir Creek. About 5-6 mi RT. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (kmtodd@gmail.com). Mod. Easy.

JANUARY 13 (THURSDAY)

GB Group Program Meeting. See details in lower left columns, this page.

JANUARY 15 (SATURDAY) 9:30 AM

Backcountry Skiing. Near Tahoe Meadows, but exact location depends on snow conditions. Some experience on skis necessary. Not for beginners. Snowshoes also welcome. Telemark instructions provided if desired. Contact leader for details. ND. Leader: Jackie Stroud (267-9522, jtbear33@gmail.com). Moderate.

JANUARY 15 (SATURDAY) 8:30 AM

El Dorado Canyon. Day hike near Dayton. About 12 mi in and out, under 600 ft gain. Riparian habitat with many crossings of small stream. Lunch at natural arch. Also small slot canyon to view on way out. Learn some history of area. High clearance vehicle needed or ride share. ND. Leader: T A Taro (530-2935). Moderate.

JANUARY 15 (SATURDAY) 10-2 PM

Snowshoe off Garson Rd.. Scenic snowshoe close to town offers opportunities to view mule deer in their winter habitat. About 4-5 mi RT, 800 ft gain. Lunch at turn-around point. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Co-Leader: Mike Sullens (331-7488). Moderate.

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

Don't forget to visit the Great Basin Group website

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

& the Chapter website

<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>

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

Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

JANUARY 16 (SUNDAY) 9 AM

Snowshoe to Tamarack Peak. This popular trip will slowly climb upward for 1000 ft to 9900 ft summit of Tamarack Peak within 2.5 mi. About 5 mi RT. Many views down all 22 mi to Lake Tahoe. Surrounded by Mt. Rose, Relay Ridge, Slide Mtn, this little snowshoe has memorable vistas. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Co-Leader: Riccardo Bulis (rbulissimo-sc@yahoo.com). Moderate.

JANUARY 23 (SUNDAY) 12 NOON

Coldstream Valley Cross-Country Ski. Mod. easy ski up u-shaped Coldstream Valley behind Donner Memorial State Park in Truckee. Most of route is fairly flat on roads. We expect to make it to Horseshoe Bend and beyond. Geared for "experienced" beginner and intermediate x-c skiers. About 4-6 mi RT, depending on conditions; 200 ft gain. Learn about Emigrant Trail and rigors of Donner Party. ND. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055, edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: Valerie Andersen (853-4769). Mod. Easy.

JANUARY 29 (SATURDAY) 8:30 AM

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

JANUARY 29 (SATURDAY) 8:30 AM

Snowshoe on TRT North from Spooner Summit. From near Spooner Lake on Rte 50, snowshoe N on Tahoe Rim Trail. Occasional stops at rocky high points to catch glimpses of Lake Tahoe. Lunch near 8500 ft. Return x-c, at times through uncharted. About 1300 ft total gain, 5-6 mi RT. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Moderate.

FEBRUARY 5 (SATURDAY) 9 AM - 4 PM

Sagehen Creek Snowshoe. Very scenic trip winding by Sagehen Creek to Stampede Lake. About 7 mi RT, 500 ft gain. Lunch overlooking Stampede Lake. Observe animal tracks in snow. Bad weather cancels. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Co-Leader: Mike Sullens (331-7488). Moderate.

FEBRUARY 7 (MONDAY) 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Ex Com Meeting. Join us for discussion of local issues, planning for upcoming events, topics pertinent to group. Call for meeting place, directions. ND. Leader: Cathy Schmidt (323-6316, cathsch256@aol.com). Easy.

**FEBRUARY 10 (THURSDAY)
GB Group Program Meeting.** See

details in lower left columns, page 8.

FEBRUARY 12 (SATURDAY) 9 AM

Beginners' Snowshoe. Close in, with place depending on snow conditions. About 3-4 mi, easy pace. Practice steep ups and downs. Learn about flora, fauna in winter conditions. Trip limit 10. DOK. Leader: Grace C. Caudill (233-6404, myoki@att.net). Co-Leader: Chuck Oliveira (786-2988). Mod. Easy.

FEBRUARY 12 (SATURDAY) 8:30 AM

Lahontan Shoreline Day Hike. Lahontan Reservoir near Silver Springs. Lincoln's Birthday hike of shoreline. Enjoy silence, stark beauty of this area. About 5 mi in and out, along "beach." See tufa formations. Optional extension after lunch to scale ridges. Fee: \$1/person CASH fee for State Park. ND. Leader: T A Taro (530-2935). Easy.

FEBRUARY 13 (SUNDAY) 8:30 AM

Relay Ridge Saddle Snowshoe. Follow old service road along SE flanks of Tamarack Peak past Mt. Rose junction. The road gets steeper here. Traverse upward to reach Relay Ridge's saddle at 10,000 ft, with its sudden, spectacular vista across northern California. Return x-c through forest and meadow to the road again. About 10 mi RT, 1300 ft total gain. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (336-7698, gphanneman@charter.net). Co-Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (851-9279). Moderate.

FEBRUARY 19 (SATURDAY) 8:30 AM

Martis Peak Snowshoe. Start trek at Hwy 267, just below Brockway Summit, climb about 2000 ft to Martis Peak fire lookout for lunch before heading back down. Awesome views of valley below, in addition to Boca and Stampede Reservoirs. About 9-10 mi RT. Experienced snowshoers only! DOK. Leader: Bill Myatt (233-3186, lovethesierras@yahoo.com). Co-Leader: Gail Montes (928-301-5977, montesg2@wnc.edu). Strenuous.

FEBRUARY 19 (SATURDAY) 8 AM

Rawe Peak Day Hike. At 8343 ft, this peak is at N end of Pine Nut Mountains, near Dayton. About 8 mi total in and out. Over 2430 ft gain for

day. High clearance 4 WD vehicles needed, or ride share. Mostly off trail. Rocky, with downed trees and THICK mountain mahogany. Steep hand-over-hand climb to summit. ND. Leader: T A Taro (530-2935). Strenuous.

FEBRUARY 26 (SATURDAY) 7:30 AM

Birding in Carson Valley. Enjoy a day of birding in Carson Valley (44 mi S of Reno). Car shuttle to several locations. View eagles that come to valleys during agricultural event. Bring warm clothes, blankets, chairs, binoculars, birding books. Patience needed to get perfect picture. Basque food an option for lunch (\$25 per person for family style). Limit 12. ND. Leader: Julie Woodard (530-1566, summitatempter@yahoo.com). Moderate.

FEBRUARY 27 (SUNDAY) 1 PM

Northwest Reno Canyon Walk.

This afternoon jaunt will take place in Chalk Creek drainage of NW Nevada. Learn how Reno has preserved some open areas of mostly high slopes throughout this drainage,

how some restoration work has progressed. About 3-4 mi, with optional final stop at local coffee house. Children welcome. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (303-8461, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Virginia Andres (787-1865, virginiaandres@charter.net). Easy.

**FEBRUARY 27 (SUNDAY) 8 AM
Pyramid Ramble.** Hike to a little known area of NE corner of Pyramid Lake. Scenic canyons, great rock formations, beautiful views of Virginia Mountains. About 8-10 mi. Back-up hike planned for Nightingale Mining area, NE of Nixon, in case roads are too muddy for Pyramid hike. DOK. Leader: Pat Kleames (359-5089, patkleames@charter.net). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (kmtodd@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

MARCH 5 (SATURDAY) 9 AM - 4 PM

Kyburz/Hennessey Pass Snowshoe. See a historic area that stagecoaches used as a stop. Also visit an old "beehive" style oven in back of valley where shepherders used to bake bread. About 5-6 mi RT, 500 ft gain. Lunch near oven. Trip depends on enough snow. DOK. Leader:

Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Co-Leader: Mike Sullens (331-7488). Moderate.

MARCH 6 (SUNDAY) 1 PM

Damonte Ranch Wetlands Walk. Walk along SE Reno's scenic wetlands, learn about our marshland birds. Bring your binoculars! Dogs with leashes OK. About 4 mi RT. DL. Leader: Valerie Andersen (853-4769, mtnval@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

MARCH 7 (MONDAY) 6:30 - 7:30 PM

ExCom Meeting. Join us for discussion of local issues, planning for upcoming events, topics pertinent to group. Call for meeting place, directions. ND. Leader: Cathy Schmidt (323-6316, cathsch256@aol.com). Easy.

MARCH 13 (SUNDAY) 8 AM

Jumbo Falls Day Hike. Daylight Saving Time returns! Jumbo Falls is near Washoe Lake. Visit elusive "Post Pile" rock formation. About 12 mi RT, 2700 ft gain with up and, downs. Mostly on jeep road with parts on historic Jumbo Grade. Learn some history of area. Long day of hiking. ND. Leader: T A Taro (530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

MARCH 16 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM

Spring Fling River Walk. Welcome spring with our first evening conditioning hike after work. Along Truckee River Walk. About 4 mi, 50 ft gain. See early-blooming cottonwoods, hawks, falcons, other wildlife, learn about riparian environment. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055, edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: Julie Woodard (530-1566). Easy.

MARCH 20 (SUNDAY) 12 AM

Climb Kumiva Peak (8237 ft). Celebrate first day of Spring by climbing a Great Basin Peak Section peak, 90 mi NE of Reno. Climb is all x-c on granitic, sandy terrain. About 3000 ft gain, 6 mi RT. Mod. strenuous due to steepness. Learn something about Basin-&-Range geology. If lucky, we might see some antelope. Come prepared for sagebrush, possible late snow. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055, edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: Sharon Marie Wilcox (852-5075). Mod. Strenuous.

MARCH 20 (SUNDAY) 7:30 AM

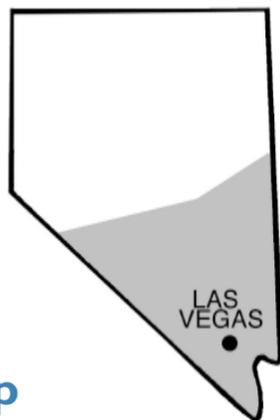
Wonderstones of Fallon. Rock hound expedition in search of Wonderstones. Trip depends on weather, no snow on ground. Wonderstones are created from colorful rhyolite that will please senses. Find them on ground. Bring light work gloves, wear sturdy boots, bring a bucket for collecting. About 2 hrs drive time to site. Be prepared with layers of clothes to keep warm, lunch, plenty of water. Trip limit 12. DOK. Leader: Julie Woodard (530-1566,

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 12.

It's not just
a good basin,
it's a
GREAT BASIN!

The Mojave Monitor

Southern Nevada Group



Group News

Monthly meetings

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS (if scheduled) precede the General Meeting in the same room from 6-7 pm. Info: Jane Feldman (janefeldman@cox.net).

GROUP EXCOM MEETINGS

are 6 - 8:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month (NEW), except August. Location: Sierra Club Office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass Ave.), Suite 220B (upstairs), Las Vegas. The next **ExCom meeting dates** are Wednesdays, **Jan. 5, Feb. 2, and Mar. 2**. All members welcome. Info: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832).

The next **NEW & PROSPECTIVE MEMBER ORIENTATION** is TBA. When scheduled, it precedes the general meeting in the same room at 7 pm. Info: please call Taj Ainlay (682-9361).

Gulf of Mexico oil spill field trip

BY KRIS CUNNINGHAM, S. NEVADA GROUP CHAIR

The S. Nevada Group, Harrah's Corporation, and private givers sponsored a group of volunteers go on a service trip to the Gulf of Mexico States affected by the oil spill. The volunteers were Kris Cunningham, Ian Pearson, and Gecko (his tribal name). We worked with four outstanding groups.

Our first group visit was at the Houma reservation. Through a network of people we were introduced to Anna. Anna and her volunteers are sponsors of a free counseling and herbal clinic for the Houma residents. Although 49 states consider oil and its waste hazardous, Louisiana is not one of them. Unfortunately, there are 19 oil "pits" on Houma land.

The Houmas' health is affected by these pits. We donated a new printer for them to print out their medical reports and clinical instructions for those that visit the clinic. We also visited with their clinic personnel and local residents who

shared their stories of fighting the oil companies and the state of Louisiana for their right to be healthy and live without danger.

Our second visit was with the Gulfport Mississippi Sierra Club Group. The group arranged for us to visit Ship Island in the Gulf Island National Seashore. We saw the workers cleaning the beaches, the boats that transport the workers, and the lunch area. We also met with the National Park Service rangers and a Unified Command Center officer.

After our boat ride, we visited the Gulfport Sierra Club office where the members had prepared a fabulous potluck dinner and invited other guests to meet us. We viewed the Sierra Club "Beyond Oil" video (some of the folks at the dinner were in the video). They shared with us the projects they were working on and how challenging it is to live in a politically corrupt state.

Our third visit was a boat ride with the Audubon Society where we learned about the bayous and the swamps. We also learned why 800 trained volunteers were not allowed to touch or clean the oil covered birds.

Our fourth and final project was with a volunteer organization that donates plants as "anchor" plants. We dug the

Please see OIL SPILL TRIP, page 12.

Southern Nevada Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 702 unless otherwise noted.

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

ALL EVENTS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

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

JANUARY 1 (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 or 875-4826) Level 2-3.

JANUARY 1 (SATURDAY)

Traditional Hangover Hike, RRN-CA. Start New Year right by joining your fellow hikers on our moderate but scenic hike in Red Rock, beginning late morning. Leaders: Geologists Gary Beckman (648-2983), Nick Saines (896-4049) Level 2.

JANUARY 2 (SUNDAY)

Snow trip to Lee Canyon. Bring snow shoes or x-c skis for beginners' trek. How do deer survive winter storms? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857) Level 1-2.

JANUARY 3 (MONDAY)

General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7:30 pm; NV Energy Bldg, 6226 W. Sahara (E entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: TBD. All members, general public are welcome. Announcements, free literature, too. Info: Eric King (677-4751).

JANUARY 8 (SATURDAY)

Red Stone: North End of Pinto Valley, LMNRA. Through petrified-wood in Chinle formation, past petroglyphs, chip sites. About 5 mi RT to Red Stone in this amazing Aztec sandstone. Look for evidence of old Arrowhead Highway (pioneered in 1910-11 as an all-weather road connecting Salt Lake City to Los Angeles). Leader: George McDonald (808-3855 or onecoolhike@yahoo.com) Level 2-3.

JANUARY 9 (SUNDAY)

Fortification Hill, Arizona, LMNRA. Climb one of most identifiable landmarks at Lake Mead, with its unique view of lake and "paint pots" below. When did volcano blow? About 5-6 mi RT. Strenuous, 1000 ft gain. High clearance vehicles needed. Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181) Level 4-5.

JANUARY 15 (SATURDAY)

Raven's Balcony: North Bowl of Fire, LMNRA. Let your imagination run wild in this maze of colored, petrified sand dunes. Pass "Anteater," cross "Little Grand

Canyon," look for "Darth Vader" on way to escarpment and majestic view of Lake Mead area. About 3.5 mi loop. High clearance vehicles needed. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855 or onecoolhike@yahoo.com) Level 3.

JANUARY 16 (SUNDAY)

Walk & Waffles. First in our winter program of monthly 2-hr Sunday walks along some of Valley's award-winning urban park trails, followed by brunch at local restaurant. What is an arroyo? For trail location, information, registration, please call leaders: Ann Cronin (737-5758), Nick Saines (896-4049) Level 1.

JANUARY 19 (WEDNESDAY)

Mid-week hike through railroad tunnels to new bridge. Great views of lake, dam. Why did Nevada pay for new dam in Arizona near Yuma? How will its use affect Lake Mead? About 7 mi RT, easy. Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181) Level 2.

JANUARY 22 (SATURDAY)

Echo Wash, Bitter Springs Bad Lands Exploratory, LMNRA. Great variety of colors across terrain. What makes these springs bitter? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743) Level 3-4.

JANUARY 22 (SATURDAY)

Boy Scout Overlook, Calico Tanks, RRCNCA. Adventure starts on Scenic Drive at second pullout. Bouldering, scrambling will have your heart singing with every step. Cross over to "Three Tanks" on top of Calico Hills for lunch. Then fun will start: scrambling down front side toward Sandstone Quarry, past pictographs, and to our cars. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855 or onecoolhike@yahoo.com) Level 3-4.

JANUARY 23 (SUNDAY)

Arizona Hot Springs Loop. About 6 mi, 1000 ft loss and gain. Start down White Rock Wash before we see emerald green river. Take time before lunch for soak. Why is spring

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

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
At Large	Scott Stevens*	702-561-1701
Compliance	Open	
Conservation	Jane Feldman	feldman.jane@gmail.com
Cool Cities	Open	
Editor	Open	
Hwy Cleanup	Sandee Herlands-Gogatz	702-248-4443
Membership	Matt Van Note*	702-348-5473
Outings	Jack Sawyer	702-228-3857
Parks, Refuges	Open	
Political	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361
Programs	Eric King	702-677-4751
Publicity	Desiree Saporito	702-875-2668
Social	Matt Van Note*	702-348-5473
Webmaster	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

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

S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 10

so hot, river so cold? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857) Level 3-4.

JANUARY 29 (SATURDAY)

North Peak via Rocky Gap Road, RRCNCA. From Rocky Gap Summit, hike to North Peak then down to breathtaking view overlooking Ice Box Canyon. After lunch, cross escarpment and overlook Pine Creek. Which is older, limestone or sandstone? About 6 mi RT, 1000+ ft gain. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855 or onecoolhike@yahoo.com) Level 3-4.

JANUARY 30 (SUNDAY)

China Ranch, CA. Hike in fun hills, narrow canyons, starting from China Ranch. Early wildflowers if there's been enough winter rain. Time for some shopping, date shakes, after hike. What kind of material are these hills made of? Leader: David Hardy (875-4549 or 875-4826, e-mail preferred: hardyhikers@embarqmail.com) Level 2.

JANUARY 31 (MONDAY)

Nevada Hot Springs. Bring suit for warm soak. Some rock scrambling. Can you name two hazards of natural hot springs? About 3-4 mi RT. Difficult. Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181) Level 3-4. (Cancelled by Roger)

FEBRUARY 5 (SATURDAY)

***Bridge Mountain via Rocky Gap Road Summit, RRCNCA.** One of best scrambling hikes at Red Rock. Hike to escarpment with great view overlooking Pine Creek. Here, the fun begins. Climb up chute to bridge, pass hidden forest, then up to summit, with awesome view of Red Rock, Las Vegas. Which is harder, limestone or sandstone? About 5 mi RT, 2000 ft gain. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855 or onecoolhike@yahoo.com) Level 5.

FEBRUARY 5 (SATURDAY)

Arrow Canyon, Moapa Valley. Rescheduled from Nov. Head N of dam in narrow slots with many petroglyphs. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743) Level 3-4.

FEBRUARY 6 (SUNDAY)

Fun on Eastside: Ring Around Lava Butte. How do harsh conditions here favor some plants? About 5-6 mi RT, rocky uneven terrain. Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181) Level 2-3.

FEBRUARY 7 (MONDAY)

General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7:30 pm; NV Energy Bldg, 6226 W. Sahara (E entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: TBD All members, general public welcome. Announcements, free literature, too.

Info: Eric King (677-4751).

FEBRUARY 12 (SATURDAY)

White Rock Loop, RRCNCA. This 6 mi is one of most enjoyable hikes at Red Rock Canyon. Great way to exercise; splendid views while we lunch. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855 or onecoolhike@yahoo.com) Level 2-3.

FEBRUARY 13 (SUNDAY)

Walk & Waffles. Second in winter program of monthly 2-hr Sunday walks along some of Valley's award-winning urban park trails, followed by brunch at local restaurant. Which of these plants can survive without irrigation? For trail location, information, to register please call leaders: Ann Cronin (737-5758), Nick Saines (896-4049) Level 1.

FEBRUARY 16 (WEDNESDAY)

River Mountains, Boulder City. Enjoy outdoors midweek. About 6 mi RT, easy. How much of Las Vegas's water comes from Lake Mead? Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181) Level 2.

FEBRUARY 18 - 21 (FRIDAY - MONDAY)

Escalante Grand Staircase Nat'l Monument. For Presidents' weekend (with full moon!), we've rented a cabin with bunk house for base camp. It even has a hot tub. Area is as beautiful as it is remote. All forces of nature have combined to carve these deep Navajo and Wingate sandstone canyons. Explore colorful slot canyons called Peekaboo and Spooky, see arches, maybe Indian ruins. Also use primitive camp site on canyon rim overlooking Escalante River, where you'll want to photograph sunrise, sunsets, stars. Pot luck dinners . . . so bring your favorite dishes. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855 or onecoolhike@yahoo.com) Level 3-4.

FEBRUARY 20 (SUNDAY)

Bowl of Fire to Anniversary Narrows, LMNRA. This very long hike will require very early start. Go through N end of Bowl of Fire, on to low pass into drainage of Anniversary Narrows. Beyond narrows is Anniversary Mine. Cover open ground, climb rock formations, pass narrows. How many varieties of saltbush will we see? About 15 mi. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549 or 875-4826, e-mail preferred: hardyhikers@embarqmail.com) Level 4.

FEBRUARY 24 - 27 (THURSDAY - SUNDAY)

Death Valley Nat'l Park Service Trip. Tentatively, we're scheduled to work in Gower Gulch, off Twenty

Mule Team Canyon Rd. Work may include obliterating old vehicle tracks leading to closed mine sites, limited vegetation management. Accommodations at Breakfast Canyon campground (tent sites, tables, port-a-potties). Sunday morning, a special hike. Transportation, food, on your own except for traditional Saturday evening potluck. Leader: Linda Nations (LLNations@cox.net or 994-7018).

FEBRUARY 26 (SATURDAY)

Brownstone Canyon, RRCNCA. I love exploring this area. From Sandstone Quarry, pass through "Gateway Pass" down to "Candy Cane Canyon," up and over to tinaja. Then pass through and down slot canyon, pop out at petroglyphs and pictographs for lunch. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855 or onecoolhike@yahoo.com) Level 3-4.

FEBRUARY 27 (SUNDAY)

Railroad Tunnels to Bypass Bridge. Great views of lake, dam. When was lake last full, running over its spillways? About 7 mi RT, easy. Leader: Ann Cronin (737-5758) Level 1-2.

MARCH 6 (SUNDAY)

Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup: SR 159, Southern Gateway to Red Rock. Meet at Pizza Hut on Charleston at Antelope, 8:30 am. Look for Easter Bunny as we do a little spring cleaning. How long does a discarded plastic bag last in the desert? Bring hat, sunscreen, water, be prepared to walk about 2 mi Leaders: Sandy Gogatz (248-4443), Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

MARCH 5 (SATURDAY)

Hidden Valley - Muddy Mountain Wilderness, LMNRA. On this 5-mi loop in majestic valley of Aztec sandstone, discover natural springs, petroglyphs, pictographs, an arrowhead chipping site, much more. High clearance vehicles needed. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855 or onecoolhike@yahoo.com) Level 3-4.

MARCH 7 (MONDAY)

General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7:30 pm; NV Energy Bldg, 6226 W. Sahara (E entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: TBD All members, general public welcome. Announcements, free literature, too. Info: Eric King (677-4751).

MARCH 12 (SATURDAY)

Liberty Bell Arch, LMNRA. Your camera will love this magnificent arch. Hike across volcanic rock, see old mining machinery, an old mine. Have lunch overlooking a "best

view" of Colorado River's emerald green waters. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855 or onecoolhike@yahoo.com) Level 3.

MARCH 12 (SATURDAY)

Blue Point Spring to Lower Firewash, LMNRA. In search of lost oasis. Why is stream from this spring called "Slim Creek?" Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743) Level 3-4.

MARCH 13 (SUNDAY)

Walk & Waffles. Third in winter program of monthly 2-hr Sunday walks along some of Valley's award-winning urban park trails, followed by brunch at local restaurant. What wildlife thrives in this park? For trail location, information, to register please call leaders: Ann Cronin (737-5758), Nick Saines (896-4049) Level 1.

MARCH 16 (WEDNESDAY)

Arches at Sunrise Mountain. Natural arches, wild flowers, what a great combo! Why do they call that flower "desert five spot"? About 4-5 mi loop, difficult. Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181) Level 2-3.

MARCH 19 (SATURDAY)

Full Moon Hike: River Mountain Trail System in Boulder City. Great family hike for everyone. About 5.5 mi RT. Great views of Las Vegas, Lake Mead, Mt. Charleston in distance. Bring snack, warm clothing. What happens when you breathe on a creosote branch? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855 or onecoolhike@yahoo.com) Level 2-3.

MARCH 20 (SUNDAY)

Bowl of Fire, LMNRA. This 10-mi hike takes us from N end, through middle part, by way of series of canyons which are quite narrow in places. Come out at S end of Bowl of Fire. Car shuttle of 3 mi required. What are "measles"? Leader: David Hardy (875-4549 or 875-4826, e-mail preferred: hardyhikers@embarqmail.com) Level 3.

MARCH 23 (WEDNESDAY)

Frenchman Mountain. Great views of lake, city. What's the Great Unconformity? About 1.5 mi loop, 1900 ft gain. Strenuous. Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181) Level 2-3.

MARCH 26 (SATURDAY)

Calico Red Cap Loop, RRCNCA. Short and challenging but, most of all, fun. From Gateway Pass scramble up to tinaja overlooking Calico Basin, then up to "Red Cap" for lunch at highest point in Calico Hills. Hike down to Calico Tank, back to Sandstone Quarry. Leader:

Please see SN CALENDAR, p. 12.

Bookshelf

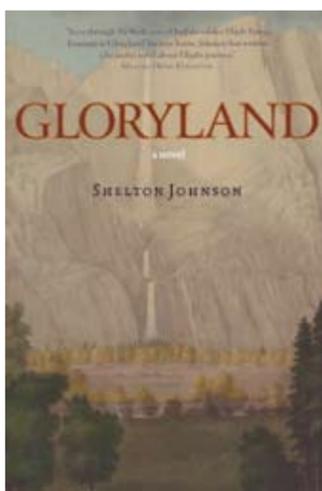
GLORYLAND

A NOVEL OF A BUFFALO SOLDIER IN YOSEMITE

BY SHELTON JOHNSON
Sierra Club Books, 2009

I JUST FINISHED reading Shelton Johnson's novel, *Gloryland*, and was both shaken and elated by the images he conjures of the destructiveness of prejudice, the poison of anger, and the joy of freedom found in the wilds of the Sierra Nevada.

Johnson takes the reader on a journey through the eyes of Elijah Yancy, from his growing up in post civil-war segregated South Carolina to his days in the newly created Yosemite National



Park as a "Buffalo Soldier" in the U.S. Calvary.

Johnson gives poetic voice to human pain and deprivation, introspection, and ultimately renewal. I found it hard to remember that *Gloryland* is a novel. The characters drag the reader back to the late 19th and early 20th century. You explore along with Elijah the truth he learns about living (but didn't always understand) from his grandmother, mother and father, and a long-dead brother. It's a journey well worth taking.

Author Shelton Johnson is a ranger in Yosemite National Park and has also worked in Nevada's Great Basin National Park. He has received awards for his original living-history program about a buffalo soldier and is featured in Ken Burns' documentary, "The National Parks: America's Best Idea."

— Dennis Ghiglieri

2010 NATIONAL CLUB AWARDS ...

continued from page 3

Norma McCallan of Santa Fe, N.M.

Raymond J. Sherwin International Award (honors extraordinary volunteer service toward international conservation): **Larry Williams** of Washington, D.C.

Special Achievement Awards (for a single act of importance dedicated to conservation or the Sierra Club): **Lisa Cox** of Beaufort, N.C., and **Lynn Ryan** of Arcata, Calif. Cox served as chair of the Club's Chapter Fundraising Task Force and Ryan helped secure passage of the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Act, which became law in 2006.

Special Service Awards (for strong and consistent commitment to conservation over an extended period of time):

David Dow of East Falmouth, Mass.; **Luis Jorge Rivera Herrera** of San Juan, Puerto Rico; **Barry Kohl** of New Orleans, La.; **Martin Mador** of Hamden, Conn.; and **James Rickard** of Afton, Minn.

Susan E. Miller Award (honors administrative contributions to Sierra Club groups, chapters and regional entities): The **Angeles Chapter GIS Committee** and **Betsy Grass** of Miami, Fla.

Most awards were presented Sept. 25 during the Sierra Club's Annual Dinner in San Francisco.

For more information on the Sierra Club awards program, visit <www.SierraClub.org/awards>.

For more details of the awards and the complete press release, go to <www.sierraclub.org/awards/downloads/2010-press-release.pdf>

— from September 24, 2010, Sierra Club press release

GB GROUP CALENDAR ...

continued from page 9

summitatempter@yahoo.com). Moderate.

MARCH 26 (SATURDAY) 8 AM

Logomarsino Petroglyphs Site. Hike high up a little-known canyon to Logomarsino site, where there are over 2000 petroglyphs. About 500 ft gain, 12 mi RT. Also, many creek crossings and slightly improved trail. Trip limit 15. DOK. Leader: Pat Kleames (359-5089, patkleames@charter.net). Co-Leader: Doug Cardwell (843-1230). Mod. Strenuous.

MARCH 26 (SATURDAY) 9 AM

Hike in Pine Nut Mountains. A springtime experience! Exact location (E of Carson City depends on ground and road conditions at time. About 5-7 mi. Contact leader for details. DOK. Leader: Jackie Stroud

(267-9522). Mod. Easy.

MARCH 26-27 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

Hot Springs, Cold Nights. Visit various Hot Springs in Black Rock. Learn about National Conservation Area, Black Rock Desert. Exact itinerary depends on local conditions. Car camping, expect cold temperatures. Snow or bad weather cancels. Leader very familiar with area! DL. Leader: David Book (843-6443). Mod. Easy.

MARCH 27 (SUNDAY) 9 AM

Gloria's Peak Day Hike. Pah Rah range S of Pyramid Lake to Gloria's Peak. About 5-6 mi, 1000 ft gain. Watch for antelope, deer. DOK. Leader: Lucrecia Balancio (851-9257, lucrecianature@gmail.com). Moderate.

SN GROUP CALENDAR ...

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George McDonald (808-3855 or onecoolhike@yahoo.com) Level 3-4.

MARCH 27 (SUNDAY)

Mt. Springs Summit to Sandstone Canyon Overlook. Begin above Mt. Springs, follow trail all way to overlook on top of Red Rock bluffs. What kinds of trees do we see along way? About 8 mi. Leader: David

Hardy (875-4549 or 875-4826, e-mail preferred: hardyhikers@earthlink.net) Level 3.

APRIL 2 (SATURDAY)

Beginners' Snow trip to Kyle Canyon. Bring snow shoes or x-c skis for beginners' trek. Do rabbits hibernate? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857) Level 1-2.



All Creatures Great and Small



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

- John Muir

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OIL SPILL TRIP ...

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plants out from the deserted movie set of "The Expendables." Most people don't think about what happens to the props or plants that are used for movie sets. Contrary to what most people assume, the answer is "nothing." Once the unions take out what's needed, the rest is abandoned, invasive species included.

The trip was a combination of community spirit, sadness for the victims, hope for the wildlife, political reality, and a fantastic network of new friends and alliances.



Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

Reno, NV
Jan. 22, 2011

For details, contact the Chair, David Hornbeck

davidhornbecklaw@msn.com

"BOOTS" MCFARLAND

