



TOIYABE

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2012

TRAILS

SUMMER
OUTINGS
Issue

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

From the Chair

BY ERIK HOLLAND

Steep learning curve?

I AM PROUD TO BE ENTRUSTED with the chairmanship of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club.

There will be a steep learning curve, but know I can lean on previous chairs David Hornbeck and Jean Stoess to guide me as I assume this responsibility.

My connection with the Sierra Club began when I became a member in Alaska in 1996, after becoming concerned about the threat of large scale clearcutting in Alaska's interior. Interior Alaska's boreal forest was and still is considered one of the last great intact forest ecosystems on the planet.

Through hard work, relentless letters to the editor, and even a single issue run for the state house, we scared the company that wanted to exploit the forest away. I have heard of no attempts since then to create a large scale timber industry in Interior Alaska.

I moved to Reno in 1996, to be closer to my then-11-year-old daughter. Because I had always wanted to live in the high desert, I joined the Toiyabe Chapter right away and beloved photographer Michael McCurry took me under his wing. He knew fresh blood when he saw it!

One place Mike took me was near Dogskin Mountain, where we promptly got stuck. Mike would drive until he just couldn't! Little did I know how "stuck" I would become on this area in the future.

In 2006, Reno revealed plans to leapfrog north to Winnemucca Ranch. I went beserk, worked with many others

Please see FROM THE CHAIR, page 2.



Your Toiyabe Chapter Leaders at work during the January ExCom Meeting in Las Vegas. There are many opportunities to volunteer at the Chapter and Group levels. Volunteers are always welcome! Join us to help explore, enjoy, and protect the planet on 2012! Taj Ainlay, Laurel Ames, Sarah Friedman (staff), Jane Feldman, David von Seggern, Rose Strickland, KC Brekken, Laura Cunningham, Mary Wilson, Gecko Benjamin, Vinny Spotleson (staff), Rob Smith (staff), Dennis Ghiglieri. Photo: Sharon Marie Wilcox.

Sierra Club draft policy on wildlife trapping

RECENTLY THE CLUB'S NATIONAL Board agreed to consider the issue of wildlife trapping and appointed a task force. The task made recommendations which they presented to the Board. The Board voted to approve a draft policy, and it available for view here: <<http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/conservation/policy/trapping-policy.aspx>>. The comment period ended on March 30, which unfortunately was not in sync with this issue of the *Toiyabe Trails*. Despite the

Please see CLUB POLICY ON TRAPPING, page 2.

Las Vegas Field Organizer moves on

BY JEAN STOEISS

VINNY SPOTLESON, who served as Associate Field Organizer for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign in Las Vegas, has joined the nonprofit, nonpartisan Western Clean Energy Campaign in Washington state. He will be based in Seattle and will work with many WCEC campaigns across the region.

At the Sierra Club, Vinny led campaigns to stop construction of the Toquop Power Project in Mesquite, NV, and led the coalition effort to secure an early transition of the Reid Gardner facility near the Moapa Band of Paiutes reservation.

Vinny's phone number is still 702-285-6588. He is expected to make a relatively painless transition from life in the high desert of Las Vegas to the emerald state amid the Huskies.

Thanks for all your hard work in Toiyabe Chapter, Vinny!

Sierra Club March fundraising window

BY TINA NAPPE

Once a year Sierra Club chapters and groups are allowed to appeal to all of you, our members and friends, to contribute to the Chapters campaigns. Why? For the ongoing and extra costs the Chapter to operate as an organization and be heard. Please respond generously when you receive our request.

Examples of our extra investment include the following:

TAHOE LAWSUIT on illegal buoys.

On February 29, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the Sierra Club allegation that the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency had erred in not examining the impact of all the illegal buoys at the same time approving 138 new piers, thousands of new buoys and new boating facilities. The Sierra Club allocated funds for this lawsuit several years ago.

PRESERVING WATER SOURCES for wildlife and habitat.

Toiyabe Chapter was an early investor in the Great Basin Water Network (GBWN), which has coordinated opposition to the Southern Nevada's proposed pipeline to ship water from eastern Nevada and deliver it to Las Vegas. Known as the "Water Grab," GBWN spent six weeks in water hearings last fall opposing southern Nevada water applications and many weeks more reviewing BLM's 4000-page EIS, which clearly

states the damage the water will cause to Nevada's wildlife, particularly its wetlands and endemic wildlife species.

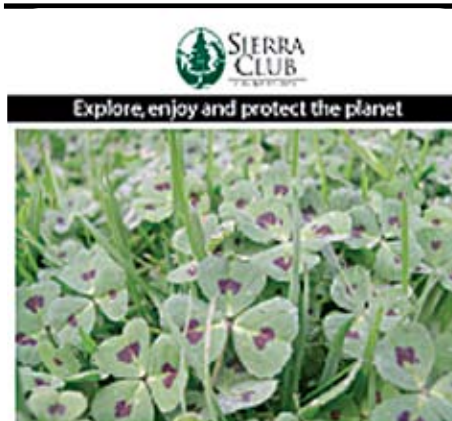
URBAN SPRAWL and leapfrog development.

The Toiyabe Chapter also invested in legal actions against the City of Reno, by opposing Reno's annexation of property 25 miles from Reno to sponsor a new community. Leapfrog development we called it. This development is now on hold and may never be come to fruition.

RUBY PIPELINE educational tour.

Last year, the Chapter underwrote a tour of the proposed Ruby pipeline route for members and friends including members of Tribes whose lands and religious sites were being impacted.

To be heard, the Sierra Club may have to invest in attorneys, specialists, or travel to back up its position. You are a key player in this process. Your contributions enable us to be heard.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting our Chapter you support Sierra Club's work in your own back yard. This makes you an important part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

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FROM THE CHAIR ...

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to pack meetings, get people to the legislature to block laws that would have allowed the leapfrog sprawl, and even ran for mayor of Reno, finishing with 25% of the vote.

I want to give the Toiyabe Chapter heartfelt thanks for their early and consistent support of the lawsuits, and the victorious WC3 ballot initiative that emerged from this struggle. Today, there are hopeful signs of a permanent and beneficial resolution to the Winnemucca Ranch struggle.

Thank you for your trust and I look forward to working with and for the Chapter in the future.

CLUB TRAPPING POLICY ...

continued from page 1

bad timing, we thought that readers would be interested in learning about this important issue.

Sierra ClubDraft Policy on Wildlife Trapping

Use of body-gripping devices – including leghold traps, snares, and Coni-bear® traps – are indiscriminate to age, sex and species and typically result in injury, pain, suffering, and/or death of target and non-target animals.

The Sierra Club considers body-gripping, restraining and killing traps and snares to be ecologically indiscriminate and unnecessarily inhumane and therefore opposes their use.

The Sierra Club promotes and supports humane, practical and effective methods of mitigating human-wildlife conflicts and actively discourages the use of inhumane and indiscriminate methods. Implementation and application of this policy should be based on the most recent and relevant science and should minimize harm to ecosystems.

Also, the Rio Grande NM Chapter, in affiliation with Trap Free New Mexico, has put together a FAQ on trapping which can be viewed here: http://nmsierraclub.org/sites/default/files/FAQ-ON-TRAPPING_1.pdf.

— contributed by Tina Nappe & Malcolm Clark

GMO RIGHT-TO-KNOW...

continued from page 12

Member (650-520-7954, labelgmos12@gmail.com). The campaign website is: www.carighttoknow.org/.

NOTE. "The California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act" was endorsed by the Sierra Club California on January 8, 2012. This endorsement gives full support for all Sierra Club chapters to petition and campaign throughout California.

This right-to-know labeling initiative complies with the 1993 Sierra Club policy calling for – among other things – the labeling of genetically engineered foods. The Sierra Club National Genetic Engineering Committee supports the initiative. The Sierra Club Policy is posted at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/biotech> * Genetic engineering" allows the transfer of genetic material from one organism into a host organism of an unrelated species . . . the altered characteristics will be passed on to future generations and continue to be reproduced in the environment.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create a Lasting Legacy

By creating a charitable bequest to benefit Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter, you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime and help protect the environment in years to come.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:
Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
85 Second Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

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).

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, Glenn Miller (775-846-4516) 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.

EASTERN SIERRA LAND TRUST CALENDAR

MARCH 10, 2012, 3-5PM

DEER MIGRATION FIELD TRIP

Spend dusk exploring an important section of local wildlife migration corridor providing critical passage for Round Valley mule deer herd. Local Wildlife Biologist, Timothy Taylor, from California Department of Fish & Game, will explain why this winter range and migration corridor habitat is so crucial for survival of deer herd. Bring binoculars. Hope to see you there! Information & signup: Victoria (760-873-4554, victoria@eslt.org).

SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 1-4PM

AUDUBON WILD AT HOME WORKSHOP

Join Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, Inyo & Mono Master Gardeners, Eastern Sierra Wildlife Care, and Eastern Sierra Land Trust to learn how native plants, garden features, and smart planning can make your yard a healthy habitat for birds, butterflies, and beneficial wildlife. Space is limited! Suggested donation of \$10 for ESLT or ESAS members and \$15 for non-members. Information & signup: Victoria (760-873-4554, victoria@eslt.org).

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 3:30-5:30PM

GAARDENFEST

Come celebrate beginning of 2012 garden season with ESLT! Get gardening tips from Master Gardeners and buy local farm products. Bring your extra seeds for our Seed Swap and purchase seedlings from 4-H to get going on your own garden. Get inspired and celebrate spring in Eastern Sierra! Snacks and free kid's activities. Location: ESLT Garden, 176 Home St., Bishop. Information: Victoria (760-873-4554, victoria@eslt.org).

JUNE 26 - AUGUST 6, 2012

ESLT ART FOR CONSERVATION SHOW AND SALE

Eastern Sierra Land Trust's fourth annual Art for Conservation Show & Sale will be held at G2 Gallery in Venice Beach, California. Visit them online at <www.theg2gallery.com>. G2 Gallery has been supporting art and environment since 2008 by showcasing the world's most celebrated nature and wildlife photographers and donating proceeds to environmental charities.



Last year, ESLT's AmeriCorps member taught environmental education to over 230 students through restoration projects, field trips, workshops and youth programs. All three photos: ESLT.

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 (kjallen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).



Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

APRIL 7-8 (SAT-SUN)

MOJAVE NAT'L PRESERVE TOUR

Meet Saturday morning at Teutonia Peak trailhead on Cima Road for hike to peak and out onto Cima Dome. Camp at Sunrise Rocks (primitive camping). Sunday, hike from Midhills to Hole-in-the-Wall. About 8 mi, downhill. If timing is right, there could be wonderful windflowers. For those arriving on Friday, we can go out to Rock Springs Loop Trail. For those staying overnight on Sunday, we can primitive camp near Kelso Dunes and hike dunes on Monday morning. Reservations: contact Carol Wiley (desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

CNRCC Desert Committee

APRIL 14-15 (SAT-SUN)

BIRDS, FLOWERS, & FENCES IN CARRIZO

Opportunity to visit and assist in Carrizo Plain National Monument. Saturday, help monument staff remove and/or modify fences to allow pronghorn antelope freer access to range. Sunday, sightseeing or hiking, as group decides. Views from Caliente Mountains are spectacular; spring flowers may be blooming; and monument is known for number and variety of raptors. Info & signup: contact leader, Craig Deutsche (310-477-6670, craig.deutsche@gmail.com).

CNRCC Desert Committee

APRIL 20-22 (FRI-SUN)

OWENS PEAK WILDERNESS

Work with Owens Peak Student Conservation Association crew, a group of college age interns who have been doing restoration work in this wilderness area for several months. Meet 8:30 in Ridgecrest and car caravan to work area. Work project not yet determined, but probably either building fences or camouflaging illegal roads. Work

Naylon Conservation Easement (104 acres) and Wilson Conservation Project (60 acres) preserve critical habitat in Round Valley mule deer migration corridor, ensuring safe passage for mule deer during their bi-annual migration through Swall Meadows.



Friday and Saturday. Potluck Saturday night with SCA crew. Sunday, crew will lead hike of area. Leader: Kate Allen (kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).

CNRCC Desert Committee/Antelope Valley Group

APRIL 29-MAY 5 (SUN-SAT)

ESCALANTE RIVER CANYON: SERVICE TRIP BACKPACK

Work with National Park Service Ranger Bill Wolverton on this ongoing Russian olive eradication program. So far, 42 mi of Escalante River have been cleared. This project will clear more, using loppers, small handsaws, and herbicide. Meet in Escalante Sunday morning, caravan to trailhead and hike in about 7 mi. Expect knee to thigh deep river crossings, and some bushwhacking. Work four days, day hike one day, hike out Saturday morning. Participants must follow work clothing requirements, provide own food and gear on trail, and travel expenses to trailhead. Info: contact leader, Paul Plathe (209-476-1498).

Delta-Sierra Group/Mother Lode Chapter

JULY 13-16 (FRI - MON)

HIGHLAND RANGE NEVADA SERVICE

Once again partner with ranger John from Ely, Nevada office of BLM for scintillating wilderness service project in Highland Ridge, just south of Great Basin National Park. Help find and mark old historic trail, clean up aspen grove to keep vehicles on designated cherry-stem route, inventory historic Arborglyph in aspen stand, maybe also put up small post and rail fence, route obliteration/rehab, etc. Good work at beautiful location. Central commissary offered. Reservations: Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, 415-977-5527).

CNRCC Wilderness Committee



Centennial Ranch Conservation Easement preserves an additional 718 acre easement next to an existing 6390-acre easement.

New Ansel Adams Wilderness Map released

In late February, 2012, the Forest Service released its new map of the popular Ansel Adams Wilderness, managed by the Inyo and Sierra National Forests. This topographic map replaces the older map which was last published in 1987. Included on the map is the Owens River Headwaters Wilderness, recently designated through President Obama's signing of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act on March 30, 2009.



Designed to help visitors to the Ansel Adams, the 32"x45" waterproof topographic map contains two different coordinate systems for users of global positioning systems (GPS), as well as the more traditional Public Land Survey System historically utilized by land managers and surveyors.

In addition to showing campsites and trailheads, locations for equestrian opportunities and resorts under special use permit are also illustrated [and] . . . permanent fire restriction areas are identified . . .

The map is available for purchase at local ranger stations and visitor centers, map retail outlets or at <www.nationalforeststore.com>.

—from National Forest Service
press release

Hiking the Web

SIERRA CLUB SOCKS! Parker Legwear, a family-owned company and a Sierra Club partner, produces men's, women's and kids' Sierra Club socks right here in the U.S. from recycled and organic materials. To order yours, go to <www.sierraclubsocks.com>.



LOCAL OUTINGS E-NEWS. To subscribe to the Sierra Club Local Outings E-News, go to <<http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/outings/local/news/staff/jan12.aspx>> for the latest helpful outings tips.

CALIFORNIA PIKA PROTECTION. To help protect pikas under California's Endangered Species Act and reverse their march to extinction, go to <<http://action.biologicaldiversity.org>>.

CNRCC DESERT REPORT. For all the latest news on the California desert, see the latest (and past) issues of the DESERT REPORT at <www.desertreport.org>.

CAPITOL VOICE. To receive all the Sierra Club legislative e-news from Sacramento, sign up for this excellent newsletter at <sierraclub.california@sierraclub.org>.

10 TOUGH TRIPS, 5 EASY-PEASIES. Get info on all kinds of trips at <www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/features/toughest-trips.aspx>. Also sign up for THE EXPLORER (outings e-news) at <http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageServer?pagenam=Signup_Outings>.

Range of Light Reflections

Range of Light Group



Group News

Letter from the Chair

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

ExCom. Next meeting: Monday, May 14, 5:15pm.

Conservation Committee actions. Contact Mary Kay Prentice to submit items for committee consideration and for information on next meeting (mkp@npgcable.com). Four members of the Conservation Committee met with Inyo National Forest Supervisor Ed Armenta (new in 2010) for 90 minutes on February 27. We had a useful sharing of issues of mutual concern.

Past monthly meetings. In December we had our very enjoyable annual holiday potluck at the home of John and Nancy Walter. In January the group screened the movie, "Earth Days," about the origins of the modern environmental movement leading to the first Earth Day in 1970 (April 22 is Earth Day this year). In February 25 people turned out to view the Sierra Club movie, "Ansel Adams." Mike and Mary Shore had old Sierra Club Bulletins on display with photos by Adams. Bulletins from 1893-1924 can be seen at <http://www.sierraclub.org/history/bulletin>.

Outings news. Outings are now handled by a committee of outing leaders. Due

Group ExCom meetings

WE USUALLY MEET on a Monday each quarter. Our next meeting is Monday, May 14, 5:15 pm, at Malcolm Clark's home. All are welcome but please confirm date, place and time (Malcolm Clark, 760-924-5639 or wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com), as meeting dates frequently are changed in order to assure a quorum at the meeting or because of weather.

RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP

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to lack of snow, the first winter outings in January were hikes. Winter outings are primarily led by Mary Kay Prentice, John Walter, and Jean Dillingham – each taking one Sunday each month and alternating for the 4th Sunday. Join us! (Also on Thursday mornings.)

Conservation news.

- Four information meetings were held by the **Bodie Hills** Partnership Coalition (including ROLG) in March and April. The meetings are part of our efforts to preserve the Bodie Hills.

- The **Owens Lake Bed** Master Plan draft and comments are currently under review, with a revised draft expected in March or April.

- **Tufa State Reserve** at Mono Lake is off the closure list. The reserve can continue to operate due to approval of the plan for the Bodie Foundation to collect a parking fee at the Old Marina.

- **Inyo National Forest** will be one of the first eight Forests to revise their land management plans using the new National Forest System Planning Rule (due to be finalized in early March). More on this later.

- The **Sierra red fox and American pika** are under consideration for endangered species listing by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and California Fish & Game, respectively.

HIGHWAY CLEANUP!

May 16, July 18, & Sept. 19, 2012

BY JOHN WALTER

Will Bud Light, designer water, or Red Bull win the "drink of slob" award this year?

Find out when you join Range of Light Group members in the Mammoth area to clean "our" section of Highway 395 north of Mammoth this summer.

The cleanups are on Wednesday morning after our third Tuesday eve monthly group meeting: May 16, July 18, and September 19. Meet at the Crestview rest area, about 5 miles north of town at 8 am. We provide required reflective vests, hard hats, and trash bags – along with picker-uppers and gloves.

When 10-12 people show up, we normally finish by 10:30 and then enjoy some light refreshments together. If the State is too broke to open the rest stop, we'll meet at the junction of Scenic Loop road and 395, about 2 miles south of rest stop.

Info. Contact John Walter (760-9321767, salt1143@gmail.com) or Malcolm Clark (wmalcolm.Clark@gmail.com).

Range of Light Calendar

SPRING SKIING, SNOWSHOE CONDITIONING, & EXPLORATION TOURS

BY RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP OUTINGS LEADERS

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.

APRIL

Thursday & Sunday outings. In April, as long as the snow lasts, there will be short conditioning trips on Thursdays with everybody welcome regardless of skill level, then longer, more demanding trips on Sunday requiring at least

Thursdays. We usually cover 3-5 miles strong beginner skills.

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 are welcome. We like to help beginners get started. Bring water, snack, ski equipment or snowshoes, sunscreen, sun glasses, hat, gloves, and layered clothing.

Trip info. Published in the local media, in the ROLG e-newsletter, and on the ROLG website: (<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolg>). Also, you can call or e-mail John Walter (salt1143@gmail.com, 934-1767), Mary Kay Prentice (mkp@npgcable.com, 934-0355) or Jean Dillingham (dillinghamjean@gmail.com, 648-7109, jdill@qnet.com). Call ahead of time if you want to bring a dog to find out if dogs are allowed.

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.

Sundays. Sunday ski & snowshoe tours. We generally cover 5-7 miles and are back about 3 pm.

Intermediate or advanced beginner skill levels and endurance required. Snowshoers 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.

Dress in layered clothing and be prepared for changeable weather. Bring sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, gloves, lunch, water, and ski or snowshoe equipment.

Special Sunday, April 15, Snowshoe Only Outing. Hilton Creek snowshoe adventure, 6 mi RT, 1500 ft gain. Mostly cross country over steep terrain. Slow to moderate pace. Bring water, lunch, snowshoes, sunscreen, sun glasses, hat, gloves, and layered clothing. Meet at 10 along Crowley Lake Drive in front of library/sheriffs' station. Leaders: Sandy & Keith Burnside (kburnsides@aol.com, 935-4004). Contact leaders for updates, questions, and to confirm trip status.

Please see ROL CALENDAR, page 5.

You're Invited!

Range of Light Group Monthly Meetings Everyone welcome!

For all potlucks bring a dish for 6-8 people and your own *non-disposable* table setting. For months with potluck and program, you are welcome to skip the potluck and come only for the program. NO food allowed when we meet at Mammoth Lakes Community Library.

April 17 (Tuesday)

Potluck & Social, 6:15 pm
New Crowley Lake Community Ctr
(next to Crowley Lake Store)

Program: 7 pm

"Virtual Tour of Panum Crater"

Rich Foye, Mono Lake Interpretive Guide, will take us on a virtual tour of Panum Crater, the most accessible of the 21 Mono Cones.

May 15 (Tuesday)

NO potluck or social

"Mighty Mammoth: Geological Insights into Eastern California's Most Majestic Volcano"

You are invited to attend the SNARL Lecture by Dr. Brandon Browne, Dept of Geological Sciences, CSU Fullerton. Program will begin at 7 pm at the Green Church, (Hwy 395 and Benton Crossing

Road). These programs are very popular, please arrive early. Admission is free.

June 19 (Tuesday)

Potluck & Social 6:15 p.m.
New Crowley Lake Community Ctr
(next to Crowley Lake Store)

Program: 7 pm

"Climate Science Updates"

Doug Grandt, trained to present Al-Gore's slide show, "**An Inconvenient Truth**," will refresh and update recent developments in climate science. He will also touch on entrepreneurial developments in alternative energy.

.....
Please submit suggestions for program topics and/or speakers to our program chair, Mary Shore (mary.shore@gte.net).
We always need fresh ideas!

Range of Light Calendar

continued from page 4

Thursday & Sunday time & meeting location. Meet at 10 am, in parking lot behind Union Bank, Mammoth (except April 15). There may be a secondary meeting area on Sundays closer to the trailhead, so check your ROLG e-mail newsletter, the ROLG website, or call one of the leaders mentioned above.

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

MAY

Higher altitude ski trips. These skis will be held on Saturdays so as not to conflict with the Sunday hikes (no Thursday skis). Meet at 9 am so we can travel further. The exact wheres and whens depend on the snow gods and the Cal Trans clearing schedule.

If you want to participate on a May outing, call one of the people listed above in "Trip info" or in the local papers at least a day ahead to find out details as to meeting location, destination, whether dogs are allowed, etc. -- and if conditions allow outing to happen.

Same equipment as in April but bring extra quart of water and pint of suntan lotion cuz of the sun and altitudes over 10,000 ft. Prepare for 8-10 mi.

SUMMER HIKES

MAY 6 (SUNDAY)

Lower Rock Creek. Start at 395 junction, lower Rock Creek at top. Follow creek 7 mi down, watch spring unfold before your eyes as you descend 1900 ft to Paradise. Beaver dams near top, Aspen sprouting new green, wildflowers beginning, then down to a magnificent Jeffery/Ponderosa hybrid forest. Geology is lava spilling over granite into deep canyon. Car shuttle back to 395. Shorter trip possible by driving midway down. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunblock, camera. Meet at Union Bank, 9 am, or junction Hwy 395, 930 am, S of Tom's Place. Leader: Mary K. Prentice (760-934-0355). Dogs OK.

MAY 13 (SUNDAY)

Spark Plug Mine & Geology Talk. Explore historic Jeffery Mine, located on W flank of White Mountain near Hammil Valley. Restored mining camp is 2 mi. in, 1600 ft above trailhead. Presentation on geology, history of camp, mine. After lunch hardy hikers can go an additional 1400 ft to see actual mine. Bring water, lunch, hat, sun-screen, hiking boots. Meet 8 am at Union Bank parking or 845 am at White Mt. Rd. off Hwy 395 in Bishop. Leader: Brigitte Berman (760 934-214).

MAY 20 (SUNDAY)

June Lake & Reverse Peak Snow Ponds. Easy but beautiful about 4 mi loop to tarns in shadow of Divide Peak between Silver and Gull Lakes. Birds, magnificent old Juniper trees. One steep uphill and one steep downhill. Bring lunch, water. Meet 9 am, Union Bank parking. Leader: Jean Dillingham (760-648-7109). Dogs OK.

MAY 27 (SUNDAY)

Bodie Hills & Rough Creek. Co-sponsored by Friends of Inyo. Loop of 6-8 mi mostly x-c. Gain about 1200 ft. Route depends on snow conditions. Start at Paramount Mine. This is sage grouse country. See a variety of wildflowers, birds, trees, perhaps mule deer fawns, even pronghorns. Bring lunch, water, hat, sunscreen, hiking boots, camera, layered clothing. Meet 8 am, Union Bank parking in Mammoth or 9am at Hwys 395

and 270 (Bodie turn). Leaders: Maurica Anderson (760-932-7175), Stacy Corless (FOI). Dogs OK.

JUNE 3 (SUNDAY)

McGee Canyon to Grass Lake. About 11 mi RT 2200 ft gain. Moderate pace with stream crossings. May see beautiful wildflowers beginning in canyon. Final destination will depend on trail, stream conditions. Bring 10 essentials, extra water. Meet at Union Bank parking, Mammoth, 9 am or trailhead at 930 at end of McGee Canyon Rd. Leaders: Sandy & Keith Burnside (760-935-4004). Dogs OK.

JUNE 10 (SUNDAY)

Kayak or Canoe Benton Crossing to Crowley Lake. Float, paddle, birdwatch down Owens River about 4 mi. See wide variety of waterfowl, spectacular views of E. Sierra. Bring boat, paddle, lunch, water, hat, sunscreen. Life vest mandatory. Waterproof bag for camera, binoculars advised. Some space in boats available. Call to reserve space. Meet 9 am, Union Bank in Mammoth or 930 am, Benton Crossing Rd Bridge. No Dogs. Leaders: John Walter (760-934-1767), Jean Dillingham (760-648-7109).

JUNE 15-17 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

Join us at the 11th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua. A sensational event filled with birds, science, field trips, art, music, food, and fun. Led by expert birders and other professional scientists. Registration opens online April 15. Register early to secure field trip of your choice. Go to <www.birdchautauqua.org>.

JUNE 24 (SUNDAY)

Barney Lake near Twin Lakes, from Bridgeport. Hike from Twin Lakes, 1300 ft gain, 8.6 mi RT. Ascend into Hoover Wilderness through many plant and bird species via good trail with spectacular views of Sawtooth Ridge, Matterhorn Peak (Little Switzerland). Meet 8 am, Union Bank in Mammoth, or 915 am, Hwys 395 and 182 (in Bridgeport). Bring water, lunch, hiking boots, layered clothes, camera, sunscreen. Leader: Maurica Anderson (760-932-7175). Dogs OK on leash for first 0.5 mi.

Wednesday is now Thursday!

New day for "Fun & Fitness" hikes from May thru August

OUR LONG-TIME LEADER of Wednesday summer evening hikes, Dick Baggett, has retired. It looks like we have found volunteers to continue this activity, but the new day is Thursday at 6 pm, instead of Wednesday. Meet at Union Bank parking lot in Mammoth.

Explore local trails, learn about our natural surroundings, geology, wildflower, trees. All hikes moderate to easy – beginners welcome. Back to trailhead by dark. Bring water, layered clothes, sturdy shoes.

As we are still finalizing our plans, call or email Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com) to confirm the hikes are a go. Or you can check our website and local media. Also check first if you want to bring your well-behaved dog(s).

DEADLINE!
JUNE 1
FOR JULY-AUG-SEPT ISSUE

Exploring the Bodie Hills

BY LESLEY BRUNS

The spectacular Sierra Crest can make the sage-covered mounds of the Bodie Hills look rather uninteresting. However, after a trip through what proved to be a unique and beautiful landscape, I changed my mind.



Summer flowers in the Bodie Hills! (Photo: John Dittli.)

Last July, I joined a hike sponsored by the Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership (www.bodiehills.org) – in which Range of Light Group participates. Our guide, Urs Willimann, teamed up with Friends of the Inyo and the Santa Clarita Community Hiking Club. Together, we set off in search of old mines and wildflowers.

Our caravan bounced up Aurora Canyon for fifteen minutes until we parked and clambered up to Chemung Mine. Here, there were a crumbling stamp mill, remnants of streamside shacks, and a few outbuildings. I was surprised there were no fences or "keep out" signs around the teetering structures.

Next, we headed higher up the dirt road, each curve bringing more spectacular vistas and bountiful blossoms. The extremely heavy and late winter spawned hillsides lush with fields of white and blue lupine.

As the Geiger Grade crested the spine of the hills, we stopped to get a closer look at the flora and a grand 360-degree view of this varied landscape. The craggy Sierra rose in one direction,

while opposite the terrain undulated away from us in gentle swells toward Nevada. At our feet were desert paintbrush, mule's ears and Mariposa lilies, set in beds of glinting obsidian chips.

Continuing, we jostled along to the site of the proposed Cougar Gold mine, where we picnicked at a spot that may one day become an open pit excavation, if we're not vigilant. The breezy hillside offered a gorgeous view of Beauty Peak and the Dry Lakes Plateau – just begging to be explored. Nearby, we scouted tailings left from previous mining activity.

As the day waned, we exited the hills via Cottonwood Canyon, keeping an eye out for pronghorn antelope along the way. More bumps on the road, more colorful blooms on the hillsides.

You can't know a place until you've been there. This spring, on Sunday, May 27, Range of Light Group and Friends of the Inyo are co-leading a hike along Rough Creek in the Bodie Hills. Once you've seen this wild and rugged landscape, I bet you'll agree that it's an American treasure, and worth saving.



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 has an extensive program of spring and summer activities. Quick, easy access to the backcountry!



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

CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

*In every walk
with nature
one receives far
more than is
sought.*

— John Muir

Conservation Briefs

BY MARGE SILL

Nevada wilderness news

A hearing on the **Pine Forest Wilderness Bill** (Humboldt County) was scheduled for March 8 before the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, & Public Lands. A Senate committee hearing has not yet been scheduled, but is expected shortly. This bill was introduced last fall by all of Nevada's Congressional delegation.

Wilderness designation for the **Burbank Canyon Wilderness Study Area** has been recommended to be included in the Douglas County Bill. More to follow as the process goes forward.

Friends of Gold Butte and many other organizations, including the Sierra Club, are working hard for a bill to designate Gold Butte in Clark County near Lake Mead as a National Conservation Area with wilderness. This is an area of magnificent scenic value and outstanding cultural resources. It is also the most threatened wild place in Nevada.

The **Wilderness Land Trust will hold a celebration** for their acquisition of land in East Fork of High Rock Canyon on April 5 at the Patagonia Outlet in Reno. All Sierra Club members who love wilderness are invited.

Agency planning & management

The **Lake Tahoe** Management Unit of the Forest Service is just completing its new management plan and **Draft Environmental Impact Statement**. This document should be available to the public in April.

Comments will be prepared by a joint committee of the Toiyabe and Mother Lode Chapters.

The U.S. Forest Service has just issued a **new planning rule** which will be used beginning in April. The first forests to be included under this rule include Inyo National Forest in the Range of Light Group. We'll keep you posted on the progress of this management plan.

Several Bureau of Land Management Plan Revisions are occurring in Nevada. The **Winnemucca draft plan** has been issued, but changes may be made in the final plan. The **Battle Mountain scoping** for the revision has occurred, but the Draft Plan is still to be issued. Scoping for the **Carson City revision** will occur this month.

What you can do. If you would like to participate in this process, please contact Graham Stafford or Marge Sill (see contact info on page 2). Because Nevada has the most BLM land outside of Alaska, it is important that our emphasis on preservation of resources and wild lands be made clear.

Drive for wildlife

BY TINA NAPPE

FOR THE FIRST TIME, Nevadans who don't hunt or fish can directly invest in Nevada wildlife programs we all utilize and enjoy – namely, workshops, tours, and presentations on Nevada's wildlife.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) is asked to give many programs every year. NDOW gives tours at the Verdi Nature Area and Oxbow Park, partners in Spring Wings and other bird festivals, and participates in Nature in the Classroom by providing programs to approximately 10-12,000 school children a year. If children and residents do not learn about wildlife, why should they care about protecting wildlife?

Very little funding is available for these programs. Like other natural resource agencies, the NDOW is dependent on fees – in this case, hunters, fishermen, and trappers for hunting and fishing. Sportsmen cannot provide enough money to invest in nature programs. How are we to tell Nevadans about their fabulous wildlife?



To apply for your license plate go to www.dmvnv.com/platescharitable.htm and select CONSERVE WILDLIFE.

Water grab decisions due in 2012

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

Will the Nevada State Engineer, Jason King, decide to grant water applications filed by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) for its groundwater mining project in eastern Nevada? The Engineer could approve all, some, or none of SNWA's applications. His decision is due sometime in March, 2012, after the TRAILS publication deadline. For the latest information on the ruling, check the Toiyabe Chapter Website, <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/>.

SNWA wants to pump and pipe billions of gallons of groundwater from four remote valleys in White Pine and Lincoln Counties over 300 miles away to southern Nevada at a cost conservatively estimated to be over \$15,000,000,000. Protesters presented evidence at the water hearing last fall that there was no need for the rural groundwater, nor was the project financially feasible.

Supporting the protesters' case, SNWA director, Pat Mulroy, told the State Engineer that even if SNWA applications were approved this year the agency would not build the pipeline possibly for years – until the economy recovered and there was an actual demand for additional water.

SNWA is already proposing substantial increases in its rates to pay for its other huge construction projects, including the "third straw" water intake pipe into Lake Mead. Ratepayers would also be on the hook for additional rate increases to pay for the water pipeline costs.

The decision by the Bureau of Land Management on SNWA's request for a Right-of-Way for the water pipeline is due out in the

summer of 2012. The BLM could ignore the findings of its Environmental Statement on the severe impacts of the SNWA project on over 4000 square miles in eastern Nevada and western Utah.

Impacts include drying up of springs, creeks, wetlands, and meadows and massive ground subsidence in the four valleys, caused by the proposed groundwater mining. This wholesale destruction and harm to public lands, to wildlife habitat, to wild horses, and to grazing, recreation, and invaluable cultural resources in the four valleys would violate BLM's Congressional mandates to protect and manage public lands and resources.

Sierra Club will work with Great Basin Water Network and our allies to support good decisions by both the Nevada State Engineer and BLM on this environmentally devastating project and to challenge bad decisions.

What you can do. Go to our website to learn how you can support our efforts to avoid another Owens Valley disaster from the last century's water grab in the Eastern Sierra, <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/>.

Snake Valley Festival

June 15-17, 2012 • Baker, NV

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

THE 4th ANNUAL Snake Valley Festival will be held in Baker, Nevada this year. Lots of family-friendly events will be happening throughout the weekend: an ice cream social, parade, yard and book sales, kids' games, booths, cowboy poetry, breakfast, barbeque dinner, karaoke, and a trail run/walk. Other events include a wine tasting party, silent and live auctions, and music.

The Snake Valley Festival coincides with the Astronomy Festival, June 14-16, at Great Basin National Park. Participants will be able to attend programs at both festivals.

The Snake Valley Festival is being held to build funds to protect rural Utah and Nevada's water and way of life. Proceeds will go to the Great Basin Water Network to cover legal expenses, expert witnesses, and studies about the Great Basin area.

Info. For details about the festival, please go to www.ProtectSnakeValley.org.



TRPA to allow commercial development of Tahoe state parks!

BY TINA NAPPE

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE ever more options for tourists in the crowded Tahoe area, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Planning Committee has changed the uses of Tahoe's state parks from open space to a new designation that will permit tourist accommodations (fancy rooms, not camping), hotels, commercial facilities and residential (as in condos). In the interests of obfuscation, they call the new park use – get this! – "Recreation."

Currently, Tahoe's two state park systems are zoned "Conservation." This is an open space zoning allowing camping, beaches, hiking, cross-country skiing, rock climbing, and other quiet uses.

Under the new use designation, the Nevada parks that will be allowed hotels, condos and recreation businesses include: Spooner Lake, Dreyfuss estate, and Nevada State Beach.

California parks slated for more development include: Washoe Meadows, Sugar Pine Point, and Burton Creek. Others may emerge in the plan before the final decision in December.

Parks that would remain as pure parks and be protected from the developers are: Emerald Bay and DL Bliss, the two iconic state parks in the Tahoe basin.

Nightmare or "great opportunity"? Say hello to the Spooner Lake Luxury Lodge and Spa! Fly down the Round Hill Zip Line! Play golf in Washoe Meadows State Park! Stay in the Flume Trail Hotel!

DEADLINE! JUNE 1
FOR JULY-AUG-SEPT ISSUE

Nature is an infinite sphere of which the center is everywhere and the circumference nowhere.

— Blaise Pascal

New Tahoe Forest Plan coming this year

BY LAUREN THORPE

DID YOU KNOW THAT nearly 80% of all the forests within the Lake Tahoe Basin are public lands that are slated for a new management plan this year?

It's true; the U.S. Forest Service oversees the vast amount of the beautiful greenery sounding Lake Tahoe, and for the first time since 1983, they will be redoing their plan on how to best manage these lands.



The Chapter worked hard to help create the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (1969). Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.

We know that Lake Tahoe's forests are not only important wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities; they also provide critical environments for maintaining snowpack and filtering the water that contributes to Lake Tahoe's unique blue color, as well as providing clean drinking water for thousands of people.

Not only will this plan decide what the future of the Lake Tahoe Basin will look like, but this management plan is the first of nearly a dozen for the public lands throughout the entire Sierra. So it's even more important to make sure the new plan for Lake Tahoe is as strong as possible in order to set a precedent for the rest of the management plans.

Sierra Club is ramping up a new campaign to call on the Forest Service to prioritize protecting Lake Tahoe's forest for future generations to enjoy. We have one chance to get this new forest plan right, and we need your help to make that happen.

What you can do. If you are interested in learning more or would like to get involved, contact Lauren Thorpe, the Sierra Club's newly hired Lake Tahoe Basin Campaign Coordinator (lauren.thorpe@sierraclub.org).

Eat. Pray. Sign here!

BY ANDREW CHRISTIE & CYNTHIA DENNY

CALIFORNIA IS ONE STEP CLOSER to voting on a ballot initiative requiring labeling of genetically engineered* foods. That's because the Committee for the Right to Know, a grassroots coalition of consumer, public health and environmental organizations and food companies in California filed a ballot initiative with the California Attorney General's office. Volunteers must collect at least 850,000 signatures **between February 18th and April 18th, 2012**

Please see *GMO RIGHT-TO-KNOW*, page 12.

Changing light bulbs in New Orleans

A Sierra Club Service Trip

BY TINA NAPPE

"If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound with mine, then let us work together."

— Aboriginal saying

The quote above is posted on a wall in the Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice (CEL)* CEL provided board, room, and welcoming space last December for 11 Sierra Club members on a service trip to New Orleans.

The 9th Ward, home to generations of primarily black families, bore the brunt of breached levees in the 2005 Katrina flood. Four thousand homes were lost and many residents who survived were forced to move to other states. Today the debris has been cleared but few houses have been rebuilt. We came belatedly, I will admit, to work together with the community.

Our first assignment was under the direction of Green Light New Orleans (GLNO**). GLNO recruits residents wanting to lower their energy costs and volunteers willing to visit people's homes to make a light bulb exchange. We enjoyed an unparalleled opportunity to meet residents inside their homes while changing light bulbs and sharing energy efficient tips. In two days, volunteers installed 573 energy efficient light bulbs. According to GLNO residents will save 225,762 KWH of energy and \$26,358 in energy costs. The carbon footprint will be reduced by 256,131 pounds of CO₂.



The painting team in front of Mrs. Bailey's home. Photo: Anon.

Another goal was painting the exterior of Mrs. Bailey's home. Mrs. Bailey had been a victim twice, first by the flood and then by a thief who walked off with all the copper wiring. Grandma Bailey wanted to move back into her home with her family by Christmas. The Sierra Club, one of several organizations helping her, provided paint and labor. On the day we completed our task, Mrs. Bailey received her occupancy permit.

We also volunteered at the Besthoff Sculpture Garden, raking leaves in the rain. A fabulous garden with 60 sculptures, the garden relies on volunteers for all its grounds work. On another day we headed into Bayou Segnette Waterway with the Coalition to Restore Coastal Wetlands***. There, we planted cypress trees whose roots hold the soil banks. We carried 5-20 pound trees in pots threading our way along the soil bank to find the perfect spot to plant.

Check out the Sierra Club service trips. You will enjoy the volunteering, other Sierra Club members, new country, and contributing!

* <http://www.celsjr.org/>

** <http://www.greenlightneworleans.org/>

*** <http://www.crcl.org/>

Sage grouse targeted for help

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

It's that time of year again in which sage grouse males are dancing and booming on their breeding areas (leks), to attract female grouse. Sage grouse cannot survive anywhere without sagebrush. Populations have been declining for decades, as their critical sagebrush habitat has been destroyed or damaged by natural and man-made disturbances. Destructive actions have included development, wildfires, overgrazing by livestock and wild horses, and motorized recreation.

There are court-ordered deadlines for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) to make a final decision on whether to list sage grouse as a threatened or endangered species by 2015. These pressures are driving renewed federal and state agency efforts to conserve sage grouse and its habitat on sagebrush-covered public and private lands in the West.

In 2004, when the bird was initially petitioned for listing, Nevada and many other states marshalled a huge effort, involving all stakeholders, including Sierra Club conservationists, to develop sage grouse Conservation plans. However, implementation of the plans slowed or stopped after the FWS non-listing decision.

State wildlife and federal land managers must convince the FWS (and the courts) that its renewed efforts, especially its actual management decisions, are reversing the losses of both sage grouse populations and its sagebrush habitat. State wildlife agencies are mapping critical habitat, including leks, nesting, broodrearing and winter areas. The BLM and the US Forest Service are developing an Environmental Impact Statement requiring effective sage grouse conservation measures on public lands and national forests.

Results of these mapping efforts will be used to incorporate the new requirements into federal land use plans. This process will take years, but the agencies plan to use interim guidance to halt its "business as usual" decisions on proposals to use public lands which are damaging sage grouse habitat. It's too late to stop development proposals such as the Ruby Gas Pipeline Project, which damaged and fragmented sage grouse habitat all across Northern Nevada. The federal and state agencies decided to accept

financial "mitigation" for the adverse habitat impacts, rather than preventing and avoiding project impacts.

But will BLM approve Right-of-Way applications for the water pipeline requested by the Southern Nevada Water Authority in eastern Nevada strongholds of sage grouse? That project's groundwater mining will directly and indirectly harm critical habitats for the sage grouse and other plants and animals already listed under the Endangered Species Act.

What you can do. If you're interested in participating in efforts to help conserve sage grouse and its sagebrush country, go to Toiyabe Chapter website to learn how you can help, <<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/>>.



Male sage grouse on Desert Creek lek, March 2006. Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.

TRPA* heroes update

BY JEAN STOESS

AFTER THE BATTLE over SB 271 (the bill to remove Nevada from TRPA), I wrote an article for the *Trails* about the two brave Senators and fourteen Assembly members who voted against the bill, and I called them heroes. Unfortunately, I didn't include all of the Assemblyfolk, so here are the heroes again – all of them:

Senators

Mo Denis
Sheila Leslie

Assembly members

Paul Aizley
Teresa Benitez-Thompson
David Bobzien
Steven Brooks

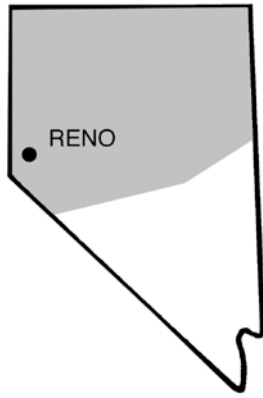
Maggie Carlton
Richard Carrillo
Richard Daly
Olivia Diaz
Joseph Hogan
April Mastroluca
James Ohrenschaal
Peggy Pierce
Tick Segerblom
Debbie Smith

And also, Toiyabe Chapter, which opposed SB 271, thanks to all of you.

* Tahoe Regional Planning Agency



Great Basin Gatherings



Great Basin Group

Chair's Report

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

The Great Basin Group is looking at a number of issues in 2012. The ongoing **Southeast Connector** is still on our radar, awaiting action on the permit application by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Recently, this issue is being impacted by UNR's request to rezone 104 acres of prime flood-control land to commercial status in order to get top value for the land.

The **Jungo Landfill** issue near Winnemucca is probably headed for the courts as the Nevada Division of Environment seems poised to grant it an operations permit.

We have been looking closely at the **single-stream recycling collection** proposal of Waste Management to the City of Reno. In generally supporting this proposal, we are

asking the city to consider certain points to make it less costly and more effective.

A **lands bill** is moving closer to reality for Douglas County, Nevada. Members of our group have examined the proposal carefully.

We are planning to do more to **get kids outdoors** (see article on next page), after successfully supporting one local school last fall.

As always, we have regular monthly **ExCom meetings** for our members and regular monthly **program meetings** for both members and the public (see our Calendar, which begins on this page, as well as the web, for details).

We are looking forward to the **summer hiking** season and probably some changes related to "Meet Up" opportunities.

Great Basin Peak Section News

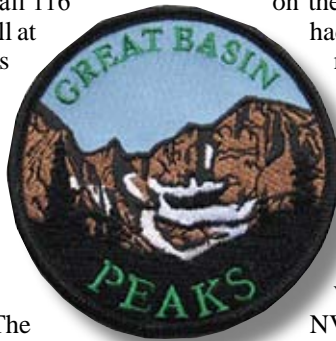
Who will find GOLD?

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

GOING FOR THE GOLD! Who will be the first to achieve Gold with all 116 peaks? Bob, Sue, and Vic are all at Silver with over half the peaks under their boots, so one of them could be first. However, a couple of hikers say they will apply to all levels at once with their completed list of all 116 Great Basin Peaks. The race to the first GBPS list completion is on!

E-mail problems fixed. The glitch in email communications concerning the Great Basin Peak Section has been solved, thanks to our webmaster, Dennis Ghiglieri. For a number of months, anything sent has not been received, so if you have not had your e-mails answered, please try again.

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



camp and get an early morning start on the trail. Our group of seven had dwindled to three hikers: myself, Larry Grant, Larry Dwyer, plus my dog Tioga. We followed the driving directions and hiking route from Bob Sumner's book, *Hiking Nevada's County High Points*.

Driving south from Wellington, the turnoff from NV SR 338 was not marked. The *Nevada Road & Recreation Atlas* enabled us to see that our right turn onto Riuse Road (#050) was shortly after the left-sided Nye Canyon sign.

I'd recommend high clearance vehicles on the last rough, rocky, dirt road heading up to the corral, even though Larry D. drove his Subaru Outback all the way without a problem. We arrived at the corral (7520 ft) at last light. Away from city lights, we enjoyed phenomenal stargazing.

In the morning, we started up the cold, frosty trail at 745 am. Pinyon and mountain mahogany surrounded us at the start of the canyon, but towards the saddle we rose to a brushy open area.

As we ascended we could see the valleys below filled with white puffy clouds and wispy clouds drifted around us. Precipitation had been forecast for that afternoon.

At the Northeast Ridge (Lyon County High Point, 10,560 ft), I mistakenly took us to the higher cairn that marks the Von Schmidt line. Here we signed this register, then later returned to the Lyon CoHP on the way down from

On the Trail to Middle Sister & Her Northeast Ridge

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

WE LEFT RENO AT 4 PM in late October, planning to arrive at the trailhead in the Sweetwater Mountains before dark to

GREAT BASIN GROUP

OFFICERS

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Vice-Chair	Valerie Andersen*	775-853-4769	mtnval@sbcglobal.net
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Energy	Jeff Hardcastle*	775-313-8442	jeff.hardcastle@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Graham Stafford*	775-686-8478	graham@grahamstafford.com
Outings	Holly Coughlin	775-331-7488	
Political	Open		
Programs	Valerie Andersen*	775-853-4769	mtnval@sbcglobal.net
Webmaster	Peter Johnson	775-250-2576	peter.johnson@charter.net

* ExCom member

Please see **ON THE TRAIL**, page 9.

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.

MARCH 30 - APRIL 1 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBA

Hot Springs in Winter. Meet Friday eve, head up to hot spring near Gerlach, camp, then Saturday camp at another, prettier hot spring in area. Exact itinerary depends on playa, area conditions. Also trying to set up access to another hot spring on private land. Leader very familiar with area. New moon week before will mean good stars. Bad weather cancels. High clearance vehicles, no trailers, 4WD nice but not necessary. Sign up 3/10 - 3/28. DOK. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

MARCH 30 - APRIL 1 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBA

Spring Kick-Off at Soldier Meadows. Come participate in our Northern season opener as we volunteer in variety of projects with Friends of Nevada Wilderness and Sierra Club. Opportunities for all ability levels. Family friendly event! Also, enjoy hot springs. All meals included except lunch. DL. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478; graham@grahamstafford.com). Co-Leader: Pat Bruce (775-815-5598). Easy.

APRIL 2 (MONDAY) 6 PM

Monthly ExCom Meeting. Great Basin Group members are welcome to attend our monthly ExCom meetings. Discuss business of group, review conservation issues, plan activities. Meet at Swill & Wine, 3366 Lakeside, Reno. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

APRIL 5 (THURSDAY) 530 PM

Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us for conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at mod. pace, gain under 800 ft Discover trails, learn about nature in, around Truckee Meadows. Information, including if dogs are permissible, will be posted on Hot Line Tuesday prior. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Mod. Easy.

APRIL 7 (SATURDAY) 9 AM

Fay-Luther Canyon. Day hike up this scenic Carson Valley trail, located in Douglas County. If conditions permit (not too much snow), we'll try to make it to crest where it overlooks Horthief Canyon. Learn about wildflowers, white fir, Jeffrey pines. About 10 mi RT, 2500 ft gain, if we make it to pass. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055; edc@unr.edu). Moderate.

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

GB GROUP 2ND THURSDAY PROGRAM MEETINGS

All programs open to the public

On the 2nd Thursday of each month (September - May), come and enjoy fun socialization and informative programs with the Great Basin Group. All programs are free and open to the public.

For details on program topics and location, go to the Sierra Club web site about a month before the scheduled date (<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/gb-group>). Also check our Calendar, which begins on this page of the Trails.

For more information, contact the program chair, Valerie Andersen (775-544-3061, mtnval@sbcglobal.net).

"The Mono Lake Story" & "The Las Vegas Water Grab"

Date: Thursday, April 12
Time: 7p social, 7:30p program

Location: Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada Building, 605 Washington St., Reno (S of Hwy 80). Contact: Valerie Andersen (775-544-3061, gbg-programs@toiyabe.sierraclub.org).

The Great Basin Group will screen the newly released inspirational and breathtaking film, *The Mono Lake Story*, which has brought many people to tears with its impact, beauty, and message. Preview the trailer at <http://vimeo.com/bristlecone/monolakestorytrailer>.

In 1941, the Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power began diverting Mono Lake's tributary streams 350 miles south to meet its growing water demands. Deprived of its freshwater sources, the volume of Mono Lake halved, while its salinity doubled. Unable to adapt to these changing conditions within such a short period of time, the ecosystem began to collapse. Witnessing this devastation, David Gaines formed the Mono Lake Committee (<http://www.monolake.org>) in 1978, fought for its survival, and won! Still the recovery and battles continue.

After the film, Rose Strickland will discuss the Sierra Club's campaign against the Las Vegas water grab, a chilling replay in Nevada of the LA/Mono Lake story. Come and find out who the villains and heroes are -- and help us prevent another equally disastrous occurrence in eastern Nevada.

"Energy Conservation for Business & Home"

Date: Thursday, May 10
Time: 7p social, 7:30p program

Location: Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada Building, 605 Washington St., Reno (S of Hwy 80). Contact: Valerie Andersen (775-544-3061, gbf-programs@toiyabe.sierraclub.org).

The newly formed Energy Conservation Committee presents "How to Conserve Energy-One Building at a Time." Peter Millar, UNR energy consultant and Mary Winston of Energy Masters (NV Energy is one of her clients), will share the results of their energy audit of the Girl Scout building, the current location of the Great Basin Group's monthly meetings. Hear and see the suggestions they

Please see GB PROGRAMS, page 9.

Don't forget to visit the

Great Basin Group website

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

& the Chapter website

<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>

GB PROGRAMS . . .

continued from page 8

have for saving money in this hands-on tour. Learn practical steps you can take to lower your bill and maintain your quality of life in your homes and offices. If you would like to participate in the energy conservation activities of this committee, please contact Charlotte Cox (322-7567, ccox@tmcc.edu) or Mary Winston (323-3078, marywinston@hotmail.com).

Getting kids outdoors!

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

"BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE OUTDOORS" is a national SC program. After a program at our general meeting on this theme last year, Great Basin Group ExCom took note of the need to get kids outdoors and contributed money to Sun Valley Elementary School to help children go to an outdoors school.

Two fifth grade classes traveled to Lake Tahoe in October to hike and learn local ecology with Great Basin Outdoor School, and we were thrilled to get a binder with nearly 20 thank-you notes from them.

One of the notes, for instance, said "Thanks for donating money for us to go to science camp. I had lots of fun for three days, but I wanted to stay longer." More student quotes from their last day at science camp: The most interesting thing I learned about myself is: "... that I can have lots of fun outside,"

... "how to make a difference,"

... "that I like to be in nature more than play video games,"

... "I can help the environment,"

... "that I can recycle and make a difference in a lot of ways,"

... "that I can do stuff that I did not know I could."

The Great Basin Group ExCom is planning



Sun Valley students studying science at Tahoe with Great Basin Outdoor School in October. Photo: Sue Jacox.

a fundraiser this summer to begin building a foundation fund to support getting kids outdoors. If successful, we intend to make this an annual event. Unless we enable more children to make contact with nature and learn about it, our pool of advocates to conserve and protect the planet will continue to shrink.

This is one of the most important actions we can undertake, but it usually gets downplayed by our continual efforts to protect our air, water, and lands today. Watch for further developments about this on our group's web page and Facebook page.

ON THE TRAIL . . .

continued from page 8

Middle Sister to sign its register. I had even been warned not to make this mistake!

On the summit of Middle Sister (10,854 ft), we had a nice 360-degree view, as most clouds had lifted. (See photo, this page.) We took pictures of the Sierra and Sweetwaters and then found shelter in the trees out of the cool breeze for lunch.

After lunch, we hiked back down to the Lyon CoHP to find and sign the register.

We descended a different route after Larry G. spotted a vague road that headed

Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

APRIL 7 (SATURDAY) 8 AM

Two Ladies, Two Gents. Come and meet them, three peaks in 6000-ft range: Rose, Kate, and Grosch brothers near Virginia City. About 1000 ft gain, about 3 mi in sort of loop. Mostly off trail, some rock scrambling. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

APRIL 12 (THURSDAY) 730 PM

General Membership Meeting. Join us at our monthly membership meeting. Refreshments served at 7 pm, followed by presentation at 730 pm on subject of interest to members. Meet: Girl Scout Bldg, 605 Washington St., Reno. ND. Leader: Valerie Andersen (775-853-4769; mtnaval@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

APRIL 12 (THURSDAY) 530 PM

Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 5 trip details. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: TBA (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

APRIL 13-15 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

Reseeding Native Plants for Fire Recovery. Please see April 13-15 trip details. Easy work and outing is family oriented! All meals provided except lunch. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478; graham@grahamstafford.com). Co-Leader: Brenna Archibald (brenna.archibald@nevadaoutdoorschool.org). Easy.

APRIL 15 (SUNDAY) TBA

Licken Peak. Hike from trailhead at Jumbo Grade Rd. Going E, hike mainly on roads until we reach peak. Great views of Sierra Nevada, hills toward Virginia City. Walk through and observe mature pinyon pines, riparian ecosystems. About 8 mi, gain 1000 ft DOK. Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (851-9279; lucrecianature@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Jim Gozar (851-9279; lucrecianature@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

APRIL 17 (TUESDAY) 530 PM

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please join us for weekly easy evening conditioning hikes of 2-3 mi, in valley, in foothills, minimal gain. Great way to learn about trails in our area, meet new people, discuss history, flora, fauna as we hike, get some great outdoor conditioning, all at same time! Please call our hotline number weekend before hike for meet-up directions, trail info. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Easy.

APRIL 18 (WEDNESDAY) 530 PM

Wednesday Conditioning Hike. These after-work hikes are geared to build up stamina for longer weekend outings. Faster paced, up to 1200 ft gain, 4-5 mi in 2 hours. Take time to observe different flora, fauna in hills surrounding Truckee Meadows. Bring water, trail shoes. Some trails require leashes for dogs. Call hot-line for meet-up details, directions. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Moderate.

APRIL 19 (THURSDAY) 530 PM

Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 5 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Mod. Easy.

APRIL 21 (SATURDAY) 10 AM

Earth Day Idlewild Park & Spring Inventory Training. Join Graham Stafford and Brian Beffort of Friends of Nevada Wilderness at Reno EARTH DAY in Idlewild Park. Besides having great time at event you can learn how to officially inventory springs in Black Rock

back down the canyon we had skirted above on the way up. The descent wove through sage and mahogany with no bushwhacking. However, it won't take long before this vague road gets totally overgrown.

We returned to the vehicles without the forecast precipitation and arrived back in Reno by 5 pm. On a day with more time and no worries of a possible storm, it would be easy to also summit East Sister.

NOTE: Here is the link to Bob Sumner's guidebook -- <<http://www.nevadahighpoints.com/>>. Be sure to check his Update Section for any recent information on the routes.

Desert High Rock Canyon Immigrant Trails National Conservation Area. We are helping BLM identify springs in conservation area that may need restoration to help preserve our beautiful native wildlife. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478; graham@grahamstafford.com). Co-Leader: Brian Beffort (324-7667; brian@nevadawilderness.org). Easy.

APRIL 21 (SATURDAY) 10 AM

River Walk. Celebrate Spring with stroll along Truckee River near Rock Park. Learn about local birds, riparian ecology. About 6 mi RT. DL. Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (851-9279). Co-Leader: Vicki Toy Smith (826-0932). Easy.

APRIL 22 (SUNDAY) 8 AM

Buckland Station: Downstream South of Silver Springs Day Hike. This nearly 10 mi loop hike on flat ground will start at historic Buckland Station, proceed downstream along Carson River. Enjoy riparian habitat, look for beaver activity. Return on segment of Pony Express Trail route. Learn some history of area. State Park walk-in fee: \$1/person. Option to tour remains of Fort Churchill on your own after hike (additional State Park fee). ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

APRIL 22 (SUNDAY) 8 AM

Lava Beds & Elephant Rock. Lava Beds is unique geologic landscape NW of Pyramid Lake. Hike through this landscape to Elephant Rock formation. What kind of rocks are these? (Hint: not in area name.) What are likely causes of these formations? Bring camera to record this interest-

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

ing and scenic area. DL. Leader: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Moderate.

APRIL 24 (TUESDAY) 530 PM

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Easy.

APRIL 25 (WEDNESDAY) 530 PM

Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Please see April 18 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Moderate.

APRIL 26 (THURSDAY) 530 PM

Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 5 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Mod. Easy.



Summit of Middle Sister 10,854 ft - Larry Dwyer, Larry Grant, Tioga, and Sharon Marie Wilcox. Photo: Sharon Marie Wilcox.

APRIL 27-29 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

Contact for info Reseeding Native Plants for Fire Recovery. Please see April 13-15 trip details. Easy work and outing is family oriented! All meals provided except lunch. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478; graham@grahamstafford.com). Co-Leader: Brenna Archibald (brenna.archibald@nevadaoutdoorschool.org). Easy.

APRIL 28 (SATURDAY) TBA

Map & Compass Class. For beginners. We'll talk about both hiking navigation with map, compass, navigating backroads, especially in Black Rock. We'll also talk about safety and survival from Search & Rescue point of view. About 1/2 day. Instructor is Desert Rat and Search & Rescue member. Classroom portion in parking lot, then brief hike to put it into practice. Sign up April 15 - April 27. Bad weather cancels. DOK. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

APRIL 28 (SATURDAY) 1030 AM

Kayak the Marina. Practice your kayak skills at Sparks Marina. Observe various water fowl as we paddle our way around marina. Must have own kayak, life vest. Lunch on shore afterward. Bad weather cancels. ND. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy.

APRIL 29 (SUNDAY) 830 AM

Incandescent Rocks Day Hike. Join us on favorite hike in Virginia Mountains near Pyramid Lake. Learn about flora, fauna, geology of this fascinating landscape. About 6 mi, 1600 ft gain. Some x-c makes this outing a bit more difficult. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Pat Kleames (359-5089). Moderate.

APRIL 29 (SUNDAY) 830 AM

Jumbo Falls. Visit fall and our own local post-pile on way back. Strenuous hike of about 12 mi with 2500 ft gain. Mainly on roads, but some parts are difficult because of road. Experience mature pinyon pines, junipers, birds. Worth work. DOK. Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (851-9279; lucrecianature@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Jim Gozar (851-9279; lucrecianature@gmail.com). Strenuous.

MAY 1 (TUESDAY) 530 PM

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 for details. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Easy.

MAY 2 (WEDNESDAY) 530 PM

Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Please see April 18 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Moderate.

MAY 3 (THURSDAY) 530 PM

Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 5 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Mod. Easy.

MAY 4-6 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBA

Black Rock NCA Spring Dam Restoration. Join Graham Stafford and Pat Bruce of Friends of Nevada Wilderness at Mustang Springs in Black Rock NCA. Repair catchment dam at spring. Fairly strenuous hike. High clearance vehicles required. Transportation can be provided. All meals except lunch are provided. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478; graham@grahamstafford.com). Co-Leader: Pat Bruce (815-5598). Strenuous.

MAY 5 (SATURDAY) 930 AM

Kayak at Little Washoe Lake. Get your kayak out of garage for leisurely trip around Little Washoe Lake, into tributaries to S end. Great bird watching! Must have life vest. Lunch on beach afterward. Bad weather cancels. Parking fee for day use: \$4. ND. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy.

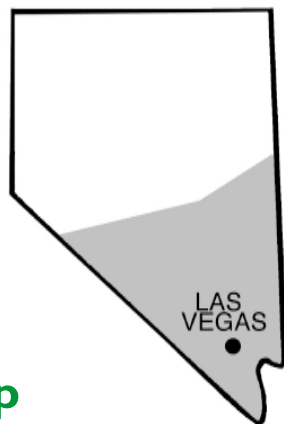
MAY 5 (SATURDAY) 8 AM

McClellan Peak/Flume. Historic Virginia City flume system on McClellan Peak near Carson City. Day hike. Hike

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 11.

The Mojave Monitor

Southern Nevada Group



Group News

ExCom meetings, new member orientation, & Spring Action Training

Our **Executive Committee Meetings** are typically held on the last Monday of each month, holidays notwithstanding, in the Sierra Club office at 708 S. 6th Street, Las Vegas 89101. ExCom meetings are open to all members. Please feel free to join us on **April 30, May 21** or **June 25** from 6 pm to 8:30 pm.

Our next **New Members Orientation** will be held at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, April 4, 2012, in the Sierra Club office at 708 S. 6th Street, Las Vegas 89101. Current and prospective members are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

99% Spring Action Training is an opportunity to learn how peaceful protest works. Sierra Club Southern Nevada Group will host a Nonviolent Direct Action Training as part of the nationwide 99% Spring Initiative in conjunction with MoveOn.org. The training will be held on **Saturday, April 14, 2 - 5 pm** at the Sierra Club Office, 708 S. 6th Street, Las Vegas 89101. To reserve your place, please register online at <http://tinyurl.com/743ew6w> or call Taj (702-682-9361) for details.

Please see SN PROGRAM MEETINGS, page 13.

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.

MARCH 29-APRIL 1 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

Ash Meadows Work Trip. Par Rasmussen parasmusson@gmail.com.

APRIL 7 (SATURDAY)

Lower Gateway Canyon from Calico Basin. This 3+ mi is through most beautiful red and white strip canyon in Red Rock National Conservation Area. It's like hiking through center of candy cane. What is source of red color? Of white? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3.

APRIL 8 (SUNDAY)

Sloan Canyon Exploratory. Hike newly made trails in Sloan Canyon NCA. What culture(s) left petroglyphs? Meet at Albertson's, Stephanie and Horizon Ridge, Henderson, 8 am. Leader: Eric Blumensaadt (370-1836). Level 3.

APRIL 14 (SATURDAY)

Brownstone Canyon, RRCNCA. I love to explore this area. From Sandstone Quarry, pass upper end of Gateway Canyon down to up-&-over to tinaja. Pass through and down slot canyon, pop out at petroglyphs and pictographs

for lunch. Do you recognize which of these petroglyphs are on Hwy 215 overpass? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

APRIL 14 (SATURDAY)

Historic Railroad Tunnels, L M N R A . Family hike. Friendly dogs welcome. Hike through interesting tunnels on old RR

S. Nevada Group Calendar

grade. Great views of Lake Mead. Learn some history, geology. About 4 mi RT. Leader: Gary Beckman (648-2983). Level 1.

APRIL 22 (SUNDAY)

Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up. Join us at Pizza Hut on Charleston at Antelope, 8:30 am, for trip to make Red Rock more pristine and inviting to visitors looking for spring flowers. Walk about 2 mi, past Cactus Joe's, along Blue Diamond Road, SR 159. Then back to Hut for lunch. What's pencil cholla? Bring hat, sunscreen, water. Leaders: Sandy Gogatz (248-4443), Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

APRIL 28 (SATURDAY)

Lovell Canyon Trails, SMNRA. Join us on these easy and little-used trails in shadow of Griffith and Harris Peaks. About 6 mi RT. In Spring Mountains, are eastern or western slopes greener with more rainfall? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

APRIL 29 (SUNDAY)

"Little Zion" (on back of Red Rock). Begin near Mountain Springs Summit, climb to limestone ridge overlooking city, canyons below. Route drops from there into sandstone valley resembling something like you may see in Zion National Park. After lunch, hike up fan then down to where we connect to trail and back to cars. About 8 mi, 1500 ft gain. Leader: David Hardy (email preferred, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; 875-4826). Level 3-4.

MAY 5 (SATURDAY)

Big Falls, Kyle Canyon, SMNRA. Let's look for a snow cave! Or at least a good sized pool at base of falls. Why does snow last longer on this side of mountain? About 5 mi RT, 7800 ft to almost 9000 ft. Rock scrambling in creek bed with avalanche debris. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

MAY 6 (SUNDAY)

Children's Discovery Trail, RRCNCA. Family hike and picnic. Friendly dogs welcome. Learn about rocks, plants, native American rock art. About 1 mi Leader: Gary Beckman (648-2983). Level 2.

MAY 12 (SATURDAY)

White Rock Loop, RRCNCA. These 6 mi comprise one of most enjoyable hikes at Red Rock Canyon. Great way to exercise; splendid views while we lunch. Is that broken down wall man-made or natural? From which strata? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

MAY 13 (SUNDAY)

Red Rock Escarpment from Mountain Springs, RRCNCA. Begin near Mountain Springs Summit, climb up to ridge overlooking Red Rock, then trek back down to cars. View of Spring Mountain Ranch. What kind of trees are in forest? About 8 mi, 1500 ft gain. Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, email preferred; 875-4826). Level 3.

MAY 19 (SATURDAY)

Fletcher Canyon to...?, SMNRA. We'll follow creek bed past springs, and up to Slide Rock. Who knows, maybe up to Trail Canyon Saddle? About 3-5 mi RT. What causes spring to emerge and then disappear? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 4-5.

MAY 20 (SUNDAY)

Horse Canyon Up & North Loop Down, SMNRA. Short but steep, says Grace. About 4 mi RT, 1200 ft gain. How does this lesser traveled canyon differ from heavily traveled North Loop? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 3-4

JUNE 2 (SATURDAY)

Almost Full Moon Hike: Rain Tree, SMNRA. Wear layered clothes, bring headlamp with extra batteries! About 6 mi RT, 2000 ft gain. How are sounds along trail different at night? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 4-5.

JUNE 9 (SATURDAY)

South Sister Peak, SMNRA. About 5 mi RT, 1500 ft gain. Begin in Mack's Canyon. At road's end, trek up and cross year-around spring, then go steep x-c route to ridgeline. On ridgeline, route turns back into path. Can you ID bristlecone pines

(some of oldest living things)? At summit you'll be blown away with 360 degree spectacular view: Sheep Range Mountains, Lee Canyon, Mack's Peak, McFarland Peak, and last but not least, Mt. Charleston. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

JUNE 10 (SUNDAY)

Mummy's Toe. Begin hike on North Loop. At Rain Tree, take another trail to Mummy Spring and continue on trail to top of Toe. What trees are on top? Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, email preferred; 875-4826). Level 4-5.

JUNE 16 (SATURDAY)

Trail Canyon, North Loop Trail, to Lee Canyon Overlook, SMNRA. About 6-7 mi, 2500 ft gain. What microbes are likely present in water dripping from pipe into horse trough at Cave Springs? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 4-5.

JUNE 17 (SUNDAY)

Old Bristlecone Loop, SMNRA. Let's find some snow and ancient bristlecone pines! About 6 mi, from 8600 ft to 10,000 ft and back. What other trees do we find? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

JUNE 23 (SATURDAY)

Fletcher Peak (10,319 ft) via North Loop Trail, SMNRA. About 6 mi RT, 2500+ ft gain. How can you distinguish limber pine from bristlecone pine? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 4.

JUNE 24 (SUNDAY)

Cave Spring: Up Trail Canyon, SMNRA. Leisurely pace, about 2.5 mi, 2000 ft gain and return. Look for aspen to be quaking. Lunch at horse trough. Which species of tree came back first after burn in this canyon? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857). Level 2-3.

JUNE 24-29 (SUNDAY-FRIDAY)

Backpack Coyote Gulch, Escalante Area. Drive to start of hike on June 24, hike in about 3-4 mi. Creek has water after first 1.5 mi (needs to be purified for drinking). Springs are found at two of our three campsites. Campsites are in cathedral-like alcoves/overhangs that never have sun, which makes them cool, even at this time of year. See brilliant red walls of this deep canyon and enjoy waterfalls. Trip will include side hikes to other canyons and Escalante River. What lights do we see after dark? Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, email preferred; 875-4826).

JUNE 30 (SATURDAY)

Griffith Peak via Harris Springs Road, SMNRA. Join my favorite hike in Mt. Charleston area! About 10 mi RT, 2700 ft gain. From summit on clear day you can see Mt. Whitney in California, Mt. Wilson in Arizona, and Lake Mead, Mt. Potosi, Las Vegas, and beauty of Red Rock Canyon. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 4-5.

JULY 13-16 (FRIDAY - MONDAY)

Highland Range (Lincoln County) Service Trip. Again partner with ranger John from Ely, Nevada office of BLM for scintillating wilderness service project in Highland Ridge, just S of Great Basin National Park. Help find and mark old historic trail, clean up aspen grove to keep vehicles on designated cherry stem route. Historic Arboglyph inventory in aspen stand, maybe also put up small post and rail fence. Possible route obliteration/rehab, etc. Good work at beautiful location. Central commissary. USGS topo: "Highland Peak, NV" (this is not Clark County Highland Range). Reservations: Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, 415-977-5527).

SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

OFFICERS

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Coal Power Plants	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
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Endangered Species & Wildlife	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
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Outings	Par Rasmusson	702-215-9119	par@mvdsl.com
Outings	Jack Sawyer	702-228-3857	lsawyer@hotmail.com
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Programs	Eric King*	702-436-9088	teamprosperitylv@yahoo.com
Publicity	Desiree Saporito	702-875-2668	
Transportation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Webmaster	Par Rasmusson*	702-215-9119	par@mvdsl.com

* ExCom member

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

Great Basin Group Calendar

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along portion of route of circa 1870 wooden box flume which brought water from Carson Range to Virginia City. About 10 mi, less than 800 ft gain. Some off trail. High clearance 4-wheel drive vehicle necessary, or possible ride share. Learn some history of area. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

MAY 5 (SATURDAY) 9 AM

Technician Class Ham Radio Review Class. One day "FastClass" as part of three-day Amateur Radio convention. Review questions on entry level Amateur Radio License test followed by immediate testing! Will help you earn your Technician Class amateur radio license for enhanced safety and communication in back country. Almost everybody who studies ahead of time passes! Learn about Amateur Radio, back-up communication system on International Space Station! Study info and much more event info is on website, www.emcommwest.org. We expect you to study ahead of time but test and material are at Middle School level. Instructor is Sierra Club trip leader, Black Rock Desert Rat, Search & Rescue member, who has been doing amateur radio since 2003. Rest of convention will include ham-oriented seminars, vendors, drawings, other events! For info and schedule, go to website (above). Additional fees apply. ND. Leader: David Book, KD7YIM (775-843-6443). Easy.

MAY 6 (SUNDAY) 830 AM

Needle Rock & Big Mama. Start by visiting Needle Rock and looking for Indian head. Next, summit Big Mama, make loop trail out. On way back, explore monkey condos. See desert flora, fauna. About 8 mi, 1500 ft gain. Great views of Pyramid lake. Bring layers. Poles helpful. DOK. Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (851-9279; lucrecianature@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Jim Gozar (851-9279; lucrecianature@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

MAY 6 (SUNDAY) 10 AM

Spanish Springs Peak: Day Hike & Peak Bag. Peak is 7406 ft. Expect lots of glorious wildflowers. If lucky, see a few antelope, golden eagles. About 5 mi, 1500 ft gain to summit. Half x-c across volcanic terrain. Learn local geology, wildlife. Moderate hike, not for beginners. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055; edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Moderate.

MAY 7 (MONDAY) 6 PM

Monthly ExCom Meeting. Great Basin Group members are welcome to attend our monthly ExCom meetings. Discuss business of group, review conservation issues, plan activities. Meet at Swill & Wine, 3366 Lakeside, Reno. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

MAY 8 (TUESDAY) 530 PM

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Easy.

MAY 9 (WEDNESDAY) 530 PM

Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Please see April 18 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Moderate.

MAY 10 (THURSDAY) 730 PM

General Membership Meeting. Join us at our monthly membership meeting. Refreshments served at 7 pm, followed by presentation at 730 pm on subject of interest to members. Meet: Girl Scout Building, 605 Washington St., Reno. DOK. Leader: Valerie Andersen (775-853-4769; mtval@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

MAY 10 (THURSDAY) 530 PM

Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 5 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Mod. Easy.

MAY 11-13 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBA

Reseeding Native Plants for Fire Recovery. Please see April 13-15 trip details. Easy work and outing is family oriented! All meals provided except lunch. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478; graham@grahamstafford.com). Co-Leader: Brenna Archibald (brenna.archibald@nevadaoutdoorschool.org). Easy.

MAY 13 (SUNDAY) 930 A.M.

Hunter Falls Day Hike. Celebrate Mother's Day with pleasant hike to Hunter Falls just outside Reno. About 6.5 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. See flora, fauna, geology of this unique canyon. Spring flowers should be fantastic. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Moderate.

MAY 15 (TUESDAY) 530 PM

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Easy.

MAY 16 (WEDNESDAY) 530 PM

Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Please see April 18 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Moderate.

MAY 17 (THURSDAY) 530 PM

Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 5 trip details. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Mod. Easy.

MAY 19 (SATURDAY) 830 AM

Lahontan Shoreline: Celebrating Armed Forces Day. Lahontan Reservoir is near Silver Springs. Hike shoreline, enjoy silence, stark beauty of area. About 5 mi total in-and-out hike along "beach." View tufa formations. Water, shore, land, air represent branches of U.S. Military. State Park fee: \$1 CASH/person. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Easy.

MAY 20 (SUNDAY) 12 NOON

Pah Rah Mountain Eclipse Hike. Ridge ramble to two of highest summits of Pah Rah Range: Virginia Peak (8366 ft), Pah Rah Mtn (8240 ft). Panoramic vistas of Pyramid Lake, points north. Mostly x-c over rolling volcanic terrain. Hope to see desert wildlife, including eagles and antelope. Late start is to coincide with annular solar eclipse ("Ring of Fire") which occurs late that afternoon. We expect to see it as we get back to our vehicles. About 10 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055; edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (225-2805). Moderate.

MAY 21 (MONDAY) 630 PM

Outings Meeting. Calling all Outings Leaders, others interested in learning about Outings! Join us for our meeting to put together outings for July, August, September. Bring potluck item to share; all beverages provided. I'll fire up BBQ, hope weather is good to sit out on deck. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy.

MAY 22 (TUESDAY) 530 PM

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Easy.

MAY 23 (WEDNESDAY) 530 PM

Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Please see April 18 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Moderate.

MAY 24 (THURSDAY) 530 PM

Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 5 trip details. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Mod. Easy.

MAY 25-28 (FRIDAY-MONDAY) TBA

Black Rock Rendezvous

. One of premier events in Black Rock NCA. Educational programs and tours will help you become familiar with special features of NCA and meet partner groups in area. We will be taking lead on restoration component of event, which will include route restoration, tamarisk removal, general clean-up. Graham Stafford will be doing a photography workshop. Family friendly event! All meals except lunch are provided. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478; graham@grahamstafford.com). Co-Leader: Pat Bruce (815-5598). Easy.

MAY 25-28 (FRIDAY-MONDAY) TBA

Black Rock Rendezvous. A long weekend of tours, visits to hot springs, speakers, raffles, dutch oven cook-off, similar events on edge of Black Rock Desert. Great "first trip to Black Rock," as you can learn your way around with people who already know the area! RVs, trailers OK. Most events happen on Saturday and Sunday. Additional fees apply. Visit www.blackrockrendezvous.com for more info, to purchase tickets. Dogs must be on leash. DOK. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

MAY 25-28 (FRIDAY-MONDAY)

Car Camp, Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. Located in NW Nevada, this refuge was created in 1930s to protect pronghorn habitat. One of largest blocks of ungrazed sagebrush-steppe and high desert habitat for wildlife. Rich in wildlife, solitude, primitive unconfined recreation. Average elevation is 6000 ft. This is an exploratory touring trip with car camping and easy day hikes. High clearance vehicles, no trailers, 4WD nice but not necessary. Bring all own drinking water, camping gear. Be ready for any weather (snow flurries to sun); lows in 40s. Bring warm hiking clothes, boots and food, binocs, spotting scopes, to view wildlife across great expanses. Enter refuge from Cedarville, CA. Exact itinerary (including Badge Camp and Catnip Reservoir) depends on area conditions. Leader: Marti Weidert (530-474-4300, martiweidert@frontier.com). Shasta Group, Motherlode California Chapter.

MAY 29 (TUESDAY) 530 PM

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Easy.

MAY 30 (WEDNESDAY) 530 PM

Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Please see April 18 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Moderate.

MAY 31 (THURSDAY) 530 PM

Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 5 trip details. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 1-2 (FRIDAY-SATURDAY) TBA

Backcountry Trail Maintenance Training. Join Graham Stafford and Wes Hoskins from Friends of Nevada Wilderness in Kingston Canyon outside of Austin. Wes and Forest Service will be training volunteers on all aspects of trail maintenance. All meals except lunch provided. ND. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478; graham@grahamstafford.com). Co-Leader: Wes Hoskins (762-6730; wes@nevadawilderness.org). Moderate.

JUNE 2 (SATURDAY) 8:15 AM

Lagomarsino Canyon Dayhike. See petroglyphs on this 11 mi RT hike with minimal 600 ft gain, but numerous stream crossings. Bring poles for rock hopping. Trip limit 12. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Pat Kleames (359-5089). Moderate.

JUNE 2 (SATURDAY) 8 AM

The John C Two Enigma Hike. This hike is near Dayton. Discover some history of area as we visit two features possibly associated with old mining operations. One-way hike of about 8 mi with vehicle shuttle; gain about 1200 ft. Scenic views. Return paralleling part of Carson River. Possible wildflower viewing. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 5 (TUESDAY) 530 PM

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net).

net). Easy.

JUNE 6 (WEDNESDAY) 530 PM

Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Please see April 18 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Moderate.

JUNE 7 (THURSDAY) 530 PM

Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 5 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 9 (SATURDAY) TBA

Mount Rose Wilderness Invasive Plant Pull. Join Graham Stafford and Wes Hoskins of Friends of Nevada Wilderness at Hunter Creek in Mount Rose Wilderness to pull invasive weeds. About 5-6 mi RT. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478; graham@grahamstafford.com). Co-Leader: Wes Hoskins (762-6730; wes@nevadawilderness.org). Moderate.

JUNE 9 (SATURDAY) 8 AM

South Yuba River. Hike along South Yuba River from North Bloomfield Road trailhead to Humbug Trail. About 8 mi RT. Minimal elevation change. The light winter will mean good swimming. DL. Leader: Craig Mastos (775-348-1862; maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

JUNE 10 (SUNDAY) 830 AM

Sunflower Peak Day Hike. Start near Thomas Creek in Mt. Rose Wilderness. Sunflower Peak is aka Snowflower Peak. There should be many wildflowers as we wind our way along trail. About 10 mi, 2400 ft gain. Trip limit 10. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 12 (TUESDAY) 530 PM

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Easy.

JUNE 13 (WEDNESDAY) 530 PM

Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Please see April 18 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Moderate.

JUNE 14 (THURSDAY) 530 PM

Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 5 trip details. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 15-17 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBA

Summit Lake ISA Fence-Exclosure Project. Join Graham Stafford and Pat Bruce of Friends of Nevada Wilderness. We'll build an exclosure on spring near Mahogany Creek, near Summit Lake Reservation. This is a family friendly event! All meals except lunch provided. DOK. Leader: Graham Stafford (775-686-8478; graham@grahamstafford.com). Co-Leader: Pat Bruce (815-5598). Easy.

JUNE 16 (SATURDAY) 9 AM

Riffle Peak. Start from Incline Lake to access Tahoe Rim Trail. At about 2 mi+, reach Rose Knob Peak section. We'll go west on trail, then at about 3.5 mi will go off trail, x-c, to peak. Great 360-degree views! Learn about flora, fauna. About 12 mi. DOK. Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (851-9279; lucrecianature@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Jim Gozar (851-9279; lucrecianature@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 19 (TUESDAY) 530 PM

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Easy.

JUNE 20 (WEDNESDAY) 530 PM

Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Please see April 18 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Moderate.

JUNE 21 (THURSDAY) 530 PM

Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Please see April 5 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 22-24 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBA

Santa Rosa Wilderness Trail Maintenance. Join Graham Stafford and Brenna Archibald of Nevada Outdoor School. This is general trail



Raking leaves at the Sculpture Garden in New Orleans. Photo: Anon.

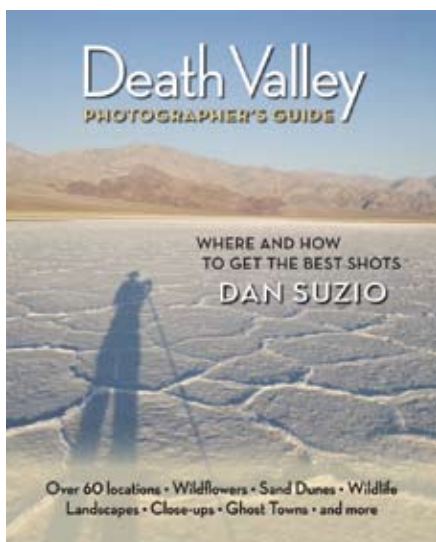
Please see GB GROUP CALENDAR, page 12.

Bookshelf

DEATH VALLEY PHOTOGRAPHER'S GUIDE WHERE AND HOW TO GET THE BEST SHOTS

By Dan Suzio
Nolina Press, 2011.

Dan Suzio shares his favorite places within Death Valley National Park for photographers who want to take photos that capture the beauty of the Park. Throughout the guide he offers up photographic hints and tips (and plenty of non-photographic tidbits, too) which make



and what access is like. Following that, a narrative gives more details such as “there are no trails here” or “use a telephoto lens” or “if you’re willing to walk a little farther, you’ll be rewarded with sweeping views”.

Every photographer can benefit from Suzio’s experience on how to

the reader want to plunge ahead to see how to shoot photos that make the park come alive.

In the first half of the book he orients the reader to the Park’s environment and specific challenges of photographing – for example, wildlife or wildflowers or sand dunes. In the last half of the guide Suzio gives critical details and narratives for 62 well-known and not-so-well-known Park locations.

These listings include highlights for the area, when flowers may be present, the approximate elevation,

best approach photographing places in the Park from dunes to springs to mining ruins to popular tourist spots like Zabriskie Point. He gives tips, too, for dealing with the Park’s extreme environment of intense sun, wind, sand, dust, and, of course, heat.

I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention the many Suzio photographs that capture the Park’s wildlife, history, and scenery in stunning images many of us wish we had taken. These photos help illustrate the tips and locales he writes about. This is a guide you’ll want to pack along for your next trip to Death Valley.

—Dennis Ghiglieri

GMO RIGHT-TO-KNOW...

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in order to place the initiative on the November 2012 state ballot.

If it passes, the initiative will allow voters to choose whether foods containing Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) should be labeled as such. Labeling food packaging would allow consumers to make informed decisions about the food they eat. GMOs are pervasive in the food system, and current state laws do not require labeling of GMO foods. Products containing GMOs will no longer be able to say the product is “natural.”

Polls show that more than 90% of the public want to know if their food was produced using genetic engineering — potatoes altered with bacteria genes, corn altered to produce pesticide, “super” pigs altered with human growth genes, tomatoes altered with fish genes, fish altered with cattle growth genes, etc.

Industry backed groups may argue against informing consumers. But this initiative simply seeks the labeling of genetically engineered foods. This is about your right to choose what you put in your body.

Some old arguments against the labeling initiative include that it would take away the right of farmers to plant genetically engineered corn or soybeans. It would not; the initiative only deals with labeling. In fact, in the last year, the USDA approved five new GMO crops from Monsanto. In December, the Obama administration quietly approved two brand new Monsanto GMO seeds.

Another argument against the labeling initiative has to do with the “burdensome costs” to industry of labeling (probably referred to as a “tax.”) Because consumer labeling is a well-established, non burdensome practice, this, too, won’t be much of an argument.

Another argument against the labeling initiative is that there is simply no need to label GMOs because they are perfectly safe. But 50 countries, including the entire European Union, require the labeling of genetically engineered food. The United States continues to allow GMOs to be sold unlabeled, with the determination of their safety left up to the manufacturer and no toxicology testing by the Food and Drug Administration required.

The U.S.’s head-in-the-sand way of doing things could be viewed as the largest ongoing science experiment in history – an experiment that’s being conducted without the consent of the experimental subjects. Also, some believe that pro-GMO industries are trying to suppress the mounting evidence of adverse environmental and health effects and to discredit scientists who report such effects.

The FDA’s position is that there is essentially no difference between GMOs and conventional crops and therefore no need for extensive testing — despite evidence to the contrary coming from the Union of Concerned Scientists, the UK Medical Research Council, the Royal Society of Canada, the American Academy of Environmental Medicine, and the FDA’s own scientists.

Action at the federal level on labeling genetically engineered food is unlikely. Federal labeling legislation has been before Congress since 1999. It has failed to pass. State governments have likewise failed. GMO labeling bills launched in Sacramento and in 14 other states have died, testimony to the power of the agriculture biotech industry and its lobbyists.

California’s ballot initiative was designed for situations just like this – to be used as a tool allowing voters to go around the entrenched money interests when those interests have paralyzed our Legislature.

What you can do. When you are approached by a person with a clipboard at a farmers market or outside a grocery store and asked if you would like to sign a petition to put the California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act on the ballot, you

Great Basin Group Calendar

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JUNE 23 (SATURDAY) 8 AM

Kings Canyon to Spooner Summit Day Hike. Begin near Carson City. About 18.2 mi, 2000 ft gain on this in-and-out on old stage route. Learn some history of area, enjoy views. Several springs along route, some wildflowers. Option to view scant remains of one-time logging railroad. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 23 (SATURDAY) 8 AM

Rubicon Trail. Hike along Lake Tahoe shore from D.L. Bliss Park to Emerald Bay. About 9 mi RT. See flora, fauna along way. Minimal elevation change. ND. Leader: Craig Mastos (775-348-1862; maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

JUNE 26 (TUESDAY) 530 PM

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Please see April 17 trip details. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445; sjerome@att.net). Easy.

JUNE 27 (WEDNESDAY) 530 PM

Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Please see April 18 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Moderate.

JUNE 28 (THURSDAY) 530 PM

Longest Day Evening Hike. Hike to top of “Road to Nowhere” Peak, highest one on skyline east of Reno. Discover this little-known locale, learn geology of surrounding terrain. About 6 mi RT, 1500 ft gain. Brisk pace, not for beginning hikers. We’ll take advantage of latest sunset, longest twilight of year, to march beyond sunset. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445; edc@unr.edu). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 29 - JULY 1 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBA

Emigrant Trails in Black Rock. Probably leave Friday evening, head up to meet group of Trails West people doing survey of Emigrant trail between Double Hot Springs and Mud Meadows (about 20 mi N). Some hiking, driving, time in hot springs. Probably visit ghost town site of Hardin Cit and Lassen-Clapper Murder site nearby. Sorry, no RVs or trailer; 4 WD strongly preferred. Sign up 6/15-6/27. ND. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

JUNE 30 (SATURDAY) 830 AM

Loch Leven Dayhike. Hike to middle lake for lunch, swimming. See flora, fauna along way. About 8 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. DL. Leader: Craig Mastos (7753481862; maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

should say YES.

To learn more about The California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act Initiative, see it at the Attorney Generals website: [http://ag.ca.gov/cms_attachments/initiatives/pdfs/i1044_110099_\(genetically_engineered_food_v2\).pdf](http://ag.ca.gov/cms_attachments/initiatives/pdfs/i1044_110099_(genetically_engineered_food_v2).pdf).

To join the Sierra Club’s effort to help collect signatures, e-mail your name, address, telephone, and email address, and the best time to reach you to: Cynthia A. Denny, Sierra Club California Executive Committee Member (650-520-7954, labelgmos12@

Please see *GMO RIGHT-TO-KNOW*, page 2.



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

YES! I would like to give a gift membership to

Gift Recipient _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!



Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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S. Nevada Group PROGRAM MEETINGS

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APRIL 9 (MONDAY)

General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7 pm; UNLV Student Union Bldg. Green Room (1st floor), 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas (SW Corner of Harmon and Maryland Pkwy). Program: "Wild Utah: Protecting Utah's Redrock Wildlands." Terri Martin, SW Regional Organizer of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, will share with us how to help protect the gorgeous Redrock Canyon country of southern Utah. Enjoy stunning images in a multimedia slide show narrated by Robert Redford and hear an insider's update about new opportunities to protect Utah's wild lands – including the campaign to convince President Obama to protect the Greater Canyonlands, the utterly magnificent wild region surrounding Canyonlands National Park. All members and general public are welcome. Announcements, refreshments, door prize, and free literature, too. Info: Eric King (677-4751).

MAY 14 (MONDAY)

General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7 pm; UNLV Student Recreation & Wellness Center, Room 1020, 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas (SE Corner of Thomas and Mack Arena (park in parking garage after 7pm). Program: TBD.

Please check SN Group website for updates. All members and general public are welcome. Announcements, refreshments, door prize, and free literature, too. Info: Eric King (677-4751).

JUNE 11 (MONDAY)

General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7 pm; UNLV Student Recreation & Wellness Center, Room 1020, 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas (SE Corner of Thomas and Mack Arena (park in parking garage after 7pm). Program: "Enjoying Mt. Charleston and the Spring Mountains Today In Many Ways!" Jascha Zeitlin, Recreation Specialist with the U.S. Forest Service, will offer us important-to-know, up to date info on the various kinds of trails, current and recent recreation projects openings/closures, and several volunteer opportunities to enhance our enjoyment of a true local gem, the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area surrounding Mt. Charleston. This event is a must for avid hikers to this beautiful area, as the summer hiking season comes on! There will be plenty of time for Q & A after the presentation. All members and general public are welcome. Announcements, refreshments, door prize, and free literature, too. Info: Eric King (677-4751).
