



# TRAILS

**FALL  
ELECTION  
& HOLIDAY  
Issue**

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

## From the Chair

BY ERIK HOLLAND

### Making choices

In the Sierra Club we try to be aware of our carbon and ecological footprints... global warming is real and worse than we thought! Recent news articles have shown a record melt of the Arctic ice cap. The long-storied Northwest Passage is close to reality!

#### A choice from the past

As for many others, today's pressing environmental problems have created a sharp learning curve for me, your current Chair. Back in the 1990s, I was fighting clearcutting in the Alaskan boreal forest and was on an Alaska State Ferry after lobbying the Alaska state legislature and Governor Tony Knowle's office opposing a bill I believed could lead to large-scale clearcutting of Interior Alaska's forests.

On the way back, on the ferry, I met a young woman who wanted to hear about the issue. I talked her ear off about it, on and on. Meanwhile, I was chowing down on a sloppy hot dog and was using lots of napkins. The pile of napkins grew very large, and finally, the young woman said, rather tartly, "You should start with yourself!"

That ended that conversation rather abruptly, as I looked ruefully at the large pile of napkins that I had created. They were probably indeed manufactured by one of the paper companies that were and are tearing up Canada's boreal forest, and looking greedily at Alaska's part of the boreal forest. I started looking for

Please see FROM THE CHAIR, page 2.



*Big-headed clover (Trifolium macrocephalum) from Osgood Swamp, Lake Tahoe Area. Photo: Bonnie Larsen. See Bookshelf, page 12 for details.*

## What's wrong with Alternative "F"?

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

*Water Gab*, the Great Basin Water Network's (GBWN) occasional newsletter, is targeting the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Despite 460+ sets of comments and 20,000+ form letters and emails to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the final EIS remains substantially the same.

BLM has, however, added a "new" alternative ("F") which denies a pipeline into Snake Valley, but includes a new monitoring/mitigation/management plan for impacts from both pipeline construction and pumping drawdowns, subsidence, and drying up springs and streams.

There are already two alternatives with no pipeline in Snake Valley and BLM's Alternative F provides too little too late to ameliorate the massive environmental damages of this groundwater mining project. The following is from the GBWN's latest *Water Gab*.

#### Alternative F is a Failure & a Farce

**Why Failure?** BLM is OK with massive destruction in eastern Nevada. Alternative F avoids Snake Valley (for now) and defers the

messy issue of interstate struggle over a common resource, water.

**Why Farce?** Alternative F is short-sighted sleight of hand enabling Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) to get its foot in the door by getting approval of an unaffordable pipeline now and postponing the real decisions and destruction to a later time. And, Alternative F does nothing to protect Utah from the SNWA water grab.

Alternative F fails to consider public comments on this alternative, which was created after publication of the draft EIS and close of the public comment period. The water applications for Snake Valley are still active, and SNWA will pursue a Right of Way (ROW) into Snake Valley in the future.

Please see ALTERNATIVE "F", page 6.

## Chapter and Group Elections 2012

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN, ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR, TOIYABE CHAPTER

EACH YEAR the Toiyabe Chapter and the separate groups elect members to their Executive Committees (ExCom). We are always looking for people who are willing to step into these leadership roles. Please contact someone on either the Chapter or your Group ExCom if you are interested. The election cycle for 2012 has the following important dates.

**October 10.** Deadline for receipt by Chapter or Group Nominating Committee of names for consideration as candidates for the Chapter and all Group ExComs. Each Nominating Committee will contact possible candidates, but any member can submit name(s) of any member, including his or her own, for consideration by the Chapter or Group Nominating Committee. Members interested in a Group ExCom nomination should contact their Group Chair. Chapter Nominating Committee members are Taj Ainley and Laura Cunningham.

**October 15.** Each Nominating Committee reports its slate of willing nominees to the relevant ExCom and to the Election Committee and notifies any self-nominee if he or she has or has not been selected as a candidate.

**October 29.** Deadline for receipt at Chapter Post Office Box of any issue petition or any petition by a Chapter member seeking to be placed on the ballot for Chapter ExCom. To qualify for candidacy by petition, petitions must be signed by 1.5% of chapter members on the prior year's eligible-voter list of members (72 of 4770 members).

**November 26.** Ballots and candidate

Please see CHAPTER EXCOM ELECTION, page 2.

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**DEADLINE!**

**DECEMBER 1**

**FOR JAN - FEB - MAR ISSUE**



## TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chair	Erik Holland*	775-322-3582, erikreno@aol.com
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Treasurer	Glenn Miller	775-846-4516, gcmiller@unr.edu
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At Large	Laura Cunningham*	775-553-2806, bluerockiguana@hughes.net
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At Large	Mary Winston*	775-250-9796, marywinston@hotmail.com

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

Great Basin Group	David von Seggern	vonseg1@sbcglobal.net
Range of Light Group	Malcolm Clark	760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com
S. Nevada Group	Taj Ainlay	702-682-9361, tajainlay@aol.com
Tahoe Area Group	Bob Anderson	530-577-2000, bob-a@sbcglobal.net

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Wildlife Co-Chair	Tina Nappe	tnappe@nvcbell.net

\* Chapter ExCom member

## EXCOM ELECTION...

continued from page 1

statements will be sent to Toiyabe Chapter members in a separate mailout.

**January 2.** Date by which ballots must be received by the Toiyabe Chapter Election Committee. Ballots received after that date will not be counted.

**January 2.** Ballots will be counted at the home of David von Seggern, 2585 Sunline Dr., Reno, at 6 pm. Results will be communicated to the ExCom Chairs and the winning candidates the next day.

## FROM THE CHAIR...

continued from page 1

recycled paper products after that day.

By the way, we ran the company that wanted to clearcut Interior Alaska's forest out of the state, and back to Oregon!

## A present-day choice

A wise person once said to me, "Every moment, we make a choice." With the choices we make daily, we affect the environment. Locally speaking, we here in downtown Reno have recently been given the opportunity to make better choices when we buy our food. The Great Basin Community Food Co-op has recently relocated to a large space next to the current site of the Lake Mansion in downtown Reno. It is rapidly becoming a one-stop place to shop for fresh, organic produce and meats that is locally grown or raised. There is a map of the "foodshed" on the wall, which depicts the areas of Northern Nevada and neighboring California where the food is grown.

One choice I particularly appreciate is the opportunity to purchase "cage free" eggs. The conditions in which the majority of our farm animals are housed are, frankly, obscene. Many animals spend their entire lives in cages too small for them to even turn around. I am glad to pay an extra dollar for a package of eggs to not support "factory farming." And of course I love being able to buy organic produce, that is largely pesticide free! I like supporting the small local farmers, from whom the Co-op buys.

## Ongoing choices

Other personal choices we can make include utilizing alternative transportation, living in a smaller rather than a larger space, and eating lower on the food chain. Like most Chapter members, I'm still working on many of those choices. So, although I ride a bike to work, am largely buying my groceries from the Food Co-op, and live in a small loft in downtown Reno, I still sometimes find myself in the drive-thru at In-&-Out Burger, in Sparks or wherever else they may be! I'm sure those choking on the exhaust of my old truck have a laugh at the Sierra Club bumper stickers on my tailgate!

Toiyabe Chapter is of course doing its best to continue making more good choices for the environment – please join in and help out!

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

## Create an Environmental Legacy.

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

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

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



## Toiyabe Trails



SERVING NEVADA  
& CALIFORNIA'S E. SIERRA

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

**Editor** – Lynne Foster (94 Mountain View Drive, Swall Meadows, Bishop, CA 93514-9207; 760-387-2634; lfoster@schat.net).

**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.

## New Bristlecone Visitor Center opened Sept. 1



THIS NEW, STATE-OF-THE-ART facility in the White Mountains above Bishop, California, is entirely solar powered and includes a small theatre, beautiful exhibits, stunning architecture and a wonderful new bookstore run by the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association.

The visitor center is in the same location as the previous facility and is fully handicapped accessible. For more information, go to the Inyo National Forest website ([www.fs.usda.gov/inyo](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo)).

Shortly before the Grand Opening on September 1, the winning image for the Bristlecone Art Competition was selected: a watercolor image by Bishop resident, MaryAnn Thomas.

Over 60 images were submitted so the competition was formidable, but the winning image was a unanimous choice by the four-judge panel. The "Bristlecones on a Hillside" image will eventually find its way into prints and a poster which will be available next season in the bookstore in the new visitor center.

— from USFS press releases (August 16 & 28, 2012)

## BOOKSHELF

continued from page 12

### SAVING NEVADA WILDLIFE HABITAT . . .

wildlife. The scope of the book is wide, starting with the pre-European invasion and including a discussion on today's management or lack of management of wildlife habitat.

By the time range managers and research arrived in the Great Basin, major changes in the ecosystem had already occurred. Part of the job of research was to: identify the original habitat, primarily through historical records; to understand the changes that are occurring; and then to recommend policies.

As we know, a drying climate, fires, weeds, decadent (very thick) sagebrush and other shrubs, along with pinyon-juniper expansion have vastly altered the Great Basin's original habitat. The policy of constraining or eliminating fires has been contrary to the historical value of fire and is leading to hotter and more deadly fires in lower elevations. Gruell argues for more human intervention with vegetation treatments to restore healthy vegetation complexes for wildlife while reducing the impact of fires. Gruell references the Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Plan for Nevada (2004) and Habitat Guidelines for Mule Deer: Intermountain West Ecoregion (2009) as examples of managing for wildlife.

Funding for restoring habitat is always a problem. Environmental and cultural clearances take time and resources. In the meantime, fire marches on – this year burning thousands of acres. The Rush fire, for instance, near Susanville, California, started August 12, 2012, and by August 30 had burned 315,577 acres.

Sierra Club could help facilitate range protection by supporting protection of healthy landscapes and range improvements. Gruell's subheading in Chapter 12 entitled "Management Choices" states "We Cannot Do Nothing." Unfortunately, we often do nothing or too little, too late.

— by Tina Nappe

## Fall Desert Trips

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

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

For questions about, or to sign up for, a particular outing, please contact leader listed in write-up. For questions about Desert Committee outings in general, or to receive outings list by e-mail, please contact Kate Allen ([kjallen96@gmail.com](mailto:kjallen96@gmail.com), 661-944-4056).



### Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

**OCT 13-14 (SAT-SUN)**

#### EXPLORE & SERVE IN CARRIZO PLAINS

Pronghorn antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but attempt to crawl under. This trip is to either remove or modify several sections of fence to facilitate this mobility. Saturday is a work day. Camp and have potluck dinner that evening in a campground. Sunday, group can choose either to hike in Caliente Range or tour popular areas in Plains. Leader: Craig Deutsche, ([craig.deutsche@gmail.com](mailto:craig.deutsche@gmail.com), 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

**OCT 27-28 (SAT-SUN)**

#### GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA

Spend weekend before Halloween with ghosts of California's colorful past in eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp at historic ghost town of Ballarat (flush toilets). Saturday, take a challenging hike to ghost town of Lookout City with historian Hal Fowler, who will regale us with tales of the wild west town. Later, return to camp for Happy Hour and potluck feast, followed by midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. Sunday, make quick visit to infamous Riley townsite before heading home. Group size strictly limited. Info & reservations: contact leader, Lygeia Gerard (760-868-2179).

CNRCC Desert Committee

**NOV 2-4 (FRI-SUN)**

#### DEATH VALLEY SERVICE TRIP

Work with Death Valley National Park Wilderness Coordinator, Charlie Callagan, on restoration activities in Park. Projects to be determined, but will probably include fence removal. Camp at Mesquite Springs campground, N of Stovepipe Wells. Arrive Friday afternoon, work for part of afternoon. Continue work on Saturday. Potluck Saturday night. Sunday may be either work day or recreational. Leader: Kate Allen ([kj.allen96@gmail.com](mailto:kj.allen96@gmail.com), 661-944-4056).

CNRCC Desert Committee

**DEC 1-2 (SAT-SUN)**

#### EXPLORE & SERVE IN CARRIZO PLAINS

Pronghorn antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but attempt to crawl under. This trip is to either remove or modify several sections of fence to facilitate this mobility. Saturday is a work day. Camp and have potluck dinner that evening in a campground. Sunday, group can choose either to hike in Caliente Range or tour popular areas in Plains. Leader: Craig Deutsche, ([craig.deutsche@gmail.com](mailto:craig.deutsche@gmail.com), 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

## Birthday of Wilderness: Get ready for the "BIG 5-0"

BY VICKY HOOVER, CO-CHAIR  
WILDERNESS50 NAT'L PLANNING TEAM

THIS YEAR WAS THE 48<sup>TH</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Wilderness activists raised their glasses and gave three cheers to the Wild Places. But even as they did so, they were thinking ahead: "Only two more years till THE BIG ONE!"

Yes, when the Wilderness Act turns 50 on September 3, 2014, celebrations around the country will mark this major American cultural and environmental achievement. Put 2014 on your calendar for a big birthday celebration.

Already, Sierra Club, other wilderness groups, and the federal agencies are getting ready for the 50th anniversary. A "Wilderness50" national planning team, composed of representatives from national environmental organizations with a wilderness focus and the four federal wilderness managing agencies, has organized to assure activities around the country.

The overarching goal for the anniversary celebration is to make the concept and benefits of wilderness better known to the American public. Toward this end, local events to publicize and promote wilderness are planned in as many states as possible.

The Sierra Club's national Wildlands and Wilderness Team has set up a sub-team to organize efforts in Chapters across the country. Two of the four team members are from California – Vicky Hoover and Alan Carlton. They're joined by Sharon Stephens, MN, and Jeff Clay, UT. So far, 42 out of the Club's 64 Chapters have identified 50th anniversary coordinators.

We need more Chapters in California and Nevada to participate! Chapters in our region that already have anniversary coordinators are:

- Kern-Kaweah – Joe Fontaine
- Los Padres: Jerry Connor and Jim Hines
- Redwood: Victoria Brandon
- Santa Lucia: Cal French
- Toiyabe Marge Sill (north) and Par Rasmusson (south).

That leaves a lot of other Chapters where we are seeking volunteers.

**Why is Wilderness significant?** Signed into law in 1964, the Wilderness Act established America's National Wilderness Preservation System. There are now over 100 million acres nationwide in the system--added by Congress over the years -- with more to come. Wilderness designation is the strongest and most permanent protection from development that our laws offer for wild Federal public lands.

This uniquely American landmark is both an environmental and a cultural achievement. The Wilderness Golden Anniversary will celebrate our country's historic agreement to forego in certain special places the prevailing trend toward development and let nature dominate – forever.

**Can you help?** Examples of specific activities to promote wilderness that can be planned locally include displays in

Please see WILDERNESS BIG 50, page 5.



**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/cl](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/lodges/cl) or call 800-679-6775.

# Range of Light Reflections

## Range of Light Group



### Group News

#### Letter from the Chair

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

**ExCom.** Oct 10 is the deadline for submitting nominees for ROL Group ExCom (send to Shalle (marshalle@earthlink.net) or Lesley (lestravel@hotmail.com). Next meeting probably in October.

**20th Anniversary of Range of Light Group, 1992-2012.** Happy Anniversary to us! (See article on ROL's history on this page.)

**Conservation Committee.** Contact Mary Kay Prentice with items for committee consideration and for information on next meeting (mkp@npgcable.com).

**Meetings.** In June, Doug Grandt presented a program based on Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth," plus updates and developments in alternative energy. July and August meetings were cookouts.

**Outings.** Summer outings concluded at the end of September. Winter outings begin in January. We need Outings Chair(s) for winter, summer Sunday, and summer fun and fitness outings. After a successful group session on June 30, we now have about 21 members

#### Group ExCom meetings

WE USUALLY MEET quarterly (January, April, July, October). Due to recent changes in ExCom members' schedules we need to find a new meeting time and reschedule our October meeting. All are welcome but please confirm date, place, and time (Malcolm Clark, 760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com). Meeting dates frequently are changed in order to assure a quorum at the meeting or because of weather.

#### RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP

##### OFFICERS

Chair	Malcolm Clark*	760-924-5639
Vice Chair	Sandy Burnside*	kburnside@aol.com
Secretary	Lesley Bruns*	lestravel@hotmail.com
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Treasurer	Mary Ann Dunigan	760-924-5982
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Hospitality	Wilma Wheeler	760-934-3764
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Summer Outg	rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com	
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Webmaster	Jo Bacon	jbacon22@verizon.net
Webmaster Emeritus	Owen Maloy	760-934-9511

\* Voting ExCom member

with current OLT 101 certification - but only 10 members with current (within last 4 years) First Aid certification.

##### Conservation.

(a) A hearing on the Big Pine Regreening Project lawsuit against LADWP is scheduled for Nov 15.

(b) A number of other issues relate to (excessive) ground water pumping by LADWP in Inyo County.

(c) Finalization of Owens Lake Bed Master plan (mainly completed) is on hold pending resolution of several outstanding issues and concerns.

(d) We continue to hear that release of the environmental analysis for Mammoth Pacific's geothermal expansion should happen soon.

(e) Bodie Partnership Coalition (ROLG is a member) held an all-day planning retreat on June 11 and has developed a detailed short and long term plans to secure protection of Bodie Hills.

(f) Next Sierra Cascades Dialog session [planning for National Forest Region 5] is on Sept 27 (with a satellite location in Bishop). Topic: "Recreation: Social & Economic Benefits & Impacts."

(g) BLM is expected to release in October the EA for its vegetation treatment plan for part of the Bodie Hills. There is much local opposition due in part to sage grouse habitat concerns.

**Facebook Page.** Thanks to our secretary, Lesley Bruns, for setting up a Range of Light Group Facebook page! Go to: <<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Range-of-Light-Group/464737966890277>>.

#### Range of Light Group now on Facebook!

TO CHECK US OUT, search "Range of Light Group" on Facebook and "Like" us. (Be sure to include "Group.") Check Facebook for updates for group outings, group events, and area conservation news.



#### ROL Group Website

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

&

#### Chapter website

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

## Summer outings a success!

BY MALCOLM CLARK

Summer outings ended at the end of September. Thanks to all our hike leaders – especially Shannon Clark, André Wallis, and Mary Ann Dunigan – for leading many of the Thursday hikes after the "retirement" of our long time Fun & Fitness hike leader, Dick Baggett.

You may be interested in two fall Desert Committee outings in or near Death Valley in Inyo County. See page 3 of this issue for details.

Winter outings (cross-country and snowshoe) begin in January, snow permitting. See the next *Trails* issue, our web site, Facebook page, and e-newsletter for more information when available. (Info for website and Facebook page below.)

### Summer Photo Gallery



On our Rock Creek to Hilton Creek hike, weather greets us as we descend to Crowley Lake. (July 22, 2012)

Please see SUMMER PHOTO GALLERY, page 5.

#### Leaders needed for ROL Group positions

Please see article on Page 1 for details of running for Chapter ExCom. In addition, nominations are welcome under same deadline for ROL group ExCom. We also need volunteers to chair winter and summer outings and summer Fun & Fitness outings. For these volunteer positions, please contact Malcolm Clark (wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com).

## 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.

#### Oct 8 (Monday)

Potluck & Social, 615 pm  
New Crowley Lake Community Ctr  
(next to Crowley Lake Store)

Program: 7 pm  
"Fire & Ice"

Bill Maloney, MD, will present this program, which focuses on the geology and natural wonders behind what you see when you ski Mammoth Mountain.

#### November 20 (Tuesday)

Social & Announcements, 6 pm  
Mammoth Lakes Community Library

Program: 630 pm  
"The Mono Lake Story" (film)

See the recent production of "The Mono Lake Story" produced by the Mono Lake Committee. After the movie there will be an update on the status of Mono Lake.

#### Dec. 11 (Tuesday)

Holiday Party & Potluck, 6 pm  
Home of John & Nancy Walter,  
240 Mammoth Knolls Drive.

Limited parking. At the front door, pick up a parking permit to put on your car's dashboard if parking in the street. The Walters graciously invite you to their home for our annual Holiday celebration. Join your Sierra Club friends and enjoy an evening of food, conversation and cheer. Please bring your own non-disposable table setting and a special dish to share for 6-8 people.

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 Group celebrates 20 years!

It was the summer of 1992. The "Dream Team" was wowing the world at the Barcelona Olympics and the Landers earthquake hit Southern California. In Mammoth Lakes, a few Sierra Club members were getting together to organize a new group.

It all started with a casual July potluck in a park to assess interest. Two weeks later, Bette Goodrich, Owen Maloy, Cy Walker, and Shalle Wells held the first official meeting. They decided to draft bylaws to submit to the Toiyabe Chapter Executive Committee, hoping the new "Range of Light Group" would be authorized. Membership would be drawn from all of Inyo and Mono Counties, and possibly Fish Lake Valley in Nevada. It took less than a month to complete all the necessary paperwork



Range of Light Group 1996 ExCom. Front row from left: Paul Kluth, Bryce Wheeler, Bette Goodrich, Wilma Wheeler. Back row from left: Kathy Morey, Shalle Wells (now Genevieve), Lynne Foster.

and gain formal accreditation.

In the words of founding Secretary, Owen Maloy "I think we have taken on a big job here. We are nothing less than caretakers of the most significant part of the Range of Light, not to mention Death Valley, the White and Inyo Mountains, Mono Lake, Bodie and everything in between. We have almost every problem the Club has ever dealt with: grazing, water resources, resource misuse, wetlands, and endangered species. We probably cover the largest geographical extent, with fewer members of any group in the Club. We need all the help we can get."

From the outset, ROLG embarked on twice-weekly outings, enjoyed monthly dinner programs, published a newsletter (edited by Lynne Foster from 1994) and engaged in environmental activism. Under the leadership of its first chair, Shalle Wells, the group immediately began researching the effects of new wells and ground water pumping on the local aquifer as well as effects on magma in the area and possible volcanic hazards.

Twenty years later, Range of Light Group is going strong. It's proud of many major successes, including helping to re-water the Lower Owens River; preserving 1900 acres of wild, riparian lands in a Forest Service exchange; and helping to add over 400,000 acres of new wilderness to the Eastern Sierra and Southern California. The outings and potlucks continue and many of the original founders are still active.

If your travels bring you up or down Highway 395, check out the ROLG outings schedule at <http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/text/Outings.html> and join us as we hike into the next 20 years.

— contributed by Wilma Wheeler (wilma.bryce@verizon.net)

## Summer Photo Gallery



Lunch at Davis Lake on Rock Creek to Hilton Creek hike, July 22, 2012.



Duck Pass views on July 8, 2012.



View of North Dome from one of the "bumps." (July 15, 2012)



On the way to Dorothy Lake, July 29, 2012.

### WILDERNESS BIG 50 . . .

continued from page 3

museums and art galleries, a wilderness booth at the county fair, urban walks for wilderness in the city park, longer outings to wild places, an essay or photo contest in the local paper, a concert with music on a nature theme, etc. Ideas are being solicited! Please join the Sierra Club Wilderness50 team at [http://connect.sierraclub.org/project/Wilderness\\_Act\\_50th\\_Anniversary](http://connect.sierraclub.org/project/Wilderness_Act_50th_Anniversary).

**And put 2014 on your calendar for a BIG birthday celebration!**

# CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

*The idea of wilderness needs no defense, it only needs defenders.*  
— Edward Abbey

## Conservation Briefs

BY MARGE SILL

### Sheldon National Wildlife Plan Available

The Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan & Environmental Impact Statement for Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge has been released by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Alternative 2 has been selected as the Preferred Alternative, and a Record of Decision will be issued at the end of September, 2012.

The preferred alternative will:

- improve native habitat conditions by removing wild horses and burros within five years
- stock and maintain indigenous trout species such as Lahontan cutthroat trout
- increase control of nonnative and invasive plants
- emphasize and protect sagebrush habitats for sagegrouse and other native species
- manage 414,360 acres for wilderness character
- designate and sign routes open to vehicles

And, very importantly, because of

work done by Sierra Club and Friends of Nevada Wilderness volunteers and crew, almost all barbed wire fences in the Refuge have been removed so that pronghorn can roam freely.

**What you can do.** The final plan is available from the Refuge. Please contact Aaron Collins, Planning Team leader, Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 111, Lakeview, OR 97630 (email Sheldon CCP@fws.gov). Printed copies are also available at Humboldt County Library and Washoe County Library. The planning documents are available online at <[www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/main/docs/NV/docsseldon.htm](http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning/main/docs/NV/docsseldon.htm)>.

### Conservationists deliver public comments to U.S. Forest Service

CONSERVATION, SCIENTIFIC, recreation and business organizations delivered more than 12,000 public comments, letters and petitions to



the U.S. Forest Service on August 29 in support of strong protections for the forests and watersheds of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The comments were delivered as the USFS finished a public comment period for a new plan to manage the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, which includes more than 78% of the land around the lake.

The forests, mountains, meadows, lakes and rivers in the Tahoe area are some of the most beautiful and

Please see COMMENTS DELIVERED, page 7.

### Wet season closures for Rubicon OHV Trail

BY LAUREL HARKNESS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SNOWLANDS NETWORK

YEARS OF EFFORT by Snowlands Network, other environmental organizations and concerned individuals has resulted in an agreement between the U.S. Forest Service and diverse interests that will close the Rubicon (Off-Road) Trail at times to protect water quality and prevent erosion.

Five conservation organizations jointly worked together on this deal: Snowlands Network, Winter Wildlands Alliance, Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation (based in Georgetown where the Rubicon Trail originates), Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, and the Center for Biological Diversity. The primary concern of these groups was erosion and water quality issues resulting from winter and early spring use of the trail, especially by so-called "extreme off-roaders."

"This agreement is a win for everyone", said Karen Schambach of Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation and California Field Director for Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. "It allows the County to proceed with bridges and erosion control, and includes a winter closure that ensures those improvements will not be destroyed by irresponsible use."

"The trail improvements along with agreed to procedures for needed closures will significantly increase protections to water resources and many riparian and aquatic species that live depend on these waters, including the California red-legged frog and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog." said Lisa Belenky, senior attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity.

NOTE. Snowlands Network is a 501(c)(3) Organization in Nevada and California dedicated to preserving our public lands for human-powered winter recreation and protecting our winter wildlands: sustainable winter recreation for a clean environment.

### Alternative F is for Failure!

**What you can do.** For the latest information about the water grab, contact Rose Strickland, Chapter Water Campaign Coordinator (775 329-6118) or go to <[www.great-basinwaternet.org](http://www.great-basinwaternet.org)> to learn how you can make a difference in stopping the water grab.

## Energy Conservation: It Starts at Home

BY CHARLOTTE COX

**PROBLEM:** When I was renting a 1940s house in the southwest Reno area I was paying \$300/month utilities in the winter -- and still felt cold! I could feel the heat leaving the windows -- what's up with that? So, when I decided to buy my own house, built in 1951, I got an energy audit on it to assess how I could be comfortable and spend the least possible.

For less than \$2000 I was able to do nine different things: like sealing and insulating ducts and rim joists, and sealing up my attic access. Not sexy stuff that gets attention at cocktail parties. As a result, I pay less than \$90/month in the winter and I'm soooo comfortable. And my contractor turned me on to a 6-month interest-free loan to pay for the work. **Solution:** Nevada has a cool system, a green non-profit designed to improve the environment and provide jobs for energy contractors in our state. When you contact [www.energyfitnevada.org](http://www.energyfitnevada.org) (775-230-7133 or 702-997-4367), the website explains what is involved in an audit, provides names of contractors, and gives info on rebates and financing. For example, NV Energy in northern Nevada is offering heating rebates when you replace your gas furnace.

This is the only non-utility company in Nevada. Check it out!



**What you can do.** If you have a story of energy conservation in your home or office, send it to the Energy Con-

servation Committee (Great Basin Group) at [ccox@tmcc.edu](mailto:ccox@tmcc.edu). We are committed to increasing awareness of conservation to protect the climate and prevent the need for coal-fired power plants in Nevada.

More info can be found at <[www.sierraclub.org/energy/efficiency/](http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/efficiency/)> and <[www.beyondcoal.org](http://www.beyondcoal.org)>.

### ALTERNATIVE "F" . . .

continued from page 1

The need to fill the pipeline to its full capacity will drive SNWA to pursue Snake Valley applications (and applications in other Nevada basins). If they build it, they will fill it! Where is the rest of the water coming from?

SNWA's own documents, submitted in the water hearing in autumn 2011, reveal their intent to pump between 251,035 and 313,914 acre-feet of groundwater annually. To reach those totals, SNWA must obtain ROWs in Snake Valley and other basins.

Alternative F allows for more pumping in Spring Valley than the other draft EIS alternatives (D and E), which deny a ROW into Snake Valley. This additional pumping will cause even greater impacts in Snake Valley by withdrawing even more interbasin flow from Spring into Snake Valley.

The additional pumping allowed under Alternative F may accelerate

impacts on seeps and springs in north Snake Valley and in Deep Creek Valley in Tooele County. Denying the ROW into Snake Valley does not eliminate the negative impacts on air quality or the environment.

Alternative F harms tribal sacred and cultural sites, and largely ignores tribal water rights issues. Alternative F will adversely affect Great Basin National Park, and will threaten sensitive and endangered species. The draft EIS is deficient on a great many levels. Alternative F does not overcome those inadequacies, and is a de facto admission of a failed process.

Alternative F is deceptive, sets a bad precedent by enabling environmentally destructive and illegal groundwater mining, and is contrary to multiple use principles of the BLM lands in the four valleys.

*Nature is painting for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty.*  
— John Ruskin

## Protecting winter wildlands

BY LAUREL HARKNESS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SNOWLANDS NETWORK

**U.S. Forest Service forest Plan revisions.** Over the next several years, almost all National Forests in Regions 4 and 5 of the US Forest Service will initiate and complete Forest Plan revisions. The goal of USFS is to develop Forest Plans responsive to the interests of the forest, agencies, and public.

Public participation is an important component of the Forest Plan revision process. Your comments are very important. These Forest Plans are the foundation for the management of these forests for the next two decades or more. Currently, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is reviewing public comments received on its draft Forest Plan, and the final plan is due out by the end of 2012.

Snowlands Network is working to ensure that these Forest Plans adequately consider these public lands in winter. The USFS needs to consider the impact of winter recreation on the health of the forest and work toward designating more lands for non-motorized winter recreation. The science is very clear that snowmobiles pollute the environment, damage natural resources, and disturb wintering wildlife.

**What you can do.** Your comments will be needed as part of the USFS Forest Planning process. You can stay informed by subscribing to notices from Snowlands Network. To receive notices, send your email to [alerts@snowlands.org](mailto:alerts@snowlands.org).

Right now, the Plumas National Forest is creating a winter Recreation Management Plan for motorized and non-motorized recreation in the Lake Davis Area. This is home of many pairs of nesting bald eagles, and a popular area for snowmobiles. A proposal has been put forth by USFS biologist to protect the most sensitive habitat by creating a non-motorized area. USFS would appreciate comments from the public on this issue.

Comments may be mailed to Lisa Sedlacek, Project Manager, Plumas National Forest, Beckwourth Ranger District, P.O. Box 7, Blairsden, CA 96103; dropped off at the ranger station at 23 Mohawk Road in Blairsden; faxed to 836-0493; or emailed to [lsedlacek@fs.fed.us](mailto:lsedlacek@fs.fed.us).

## The Desert Report: California desert news for conservationists

BY TINA NAPPE

Desert tortoises in a disturbed California desert, Las Vegas Ice Age fossils, saving the greater sage grouse, and ORV misuse of public lands are some of the articles in the most recent issue of the Desert Report (September 2012), published quarterly by the Sierra Club's California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee (CNRCC).



Well-written articles for the general reader who wants more than a 60-second blurb, Desert Report offers Sierra Club members and friends working in the field important and useful background information.

For example, in the latest issue, frustration is expressed by a resident of 29 Palms about the “up yours” attitude of OHV users who know they cannot be identified as they violate “No Trespassing” signs. (Visible license plates are not required in California, but they should be.)

**What you can do.** Don't miss out on the latest California desert news! You can be alerted to new issues by going to [www.desertreport.org/](http://www.desertreport.org/) and asking to be added to

SUBSCRIBE CONS-CNRCC-DESERT-FORUM. The CNRCC also has an outing program and is leading trips to ghost towns in Death Valley and fence removal in Carrizo Plain or Death Valley this fall (see page 3 for details of desert outings).

## COMMENTS DELIVERED...

continued from page 6

spectacular places in the world. “The Lake Tahoe basin forest plan is one of the best opportunities to protect some of the last wilderness and ancient forests in the Tahoe area, and indeed the whole Sierra Nevada,” Lauren Thorpe of the Sierra Club stated in a press release. “These comments show that people throughout the country care about Tahoe’s forests, wilderness and wild and scenic rivers and want to see them permanently protected.”

About 5 million people visit Lake Tahoe every year, bringing in more than \$1 billion to the local economy. The natural beauty of the landscape including forests, rivers, and extensive trail systems, is a key economic driver for the area.

In addition, Ron Hunter of Patagonia stated, “As a company with over 200 employees living in northern Nevada and California, we have a vested interest in making sure that our public lands in the Lake Tahoe basin get the protection they deserve. Our employees enjoy many different outdoor pursuits and forms of recreation in the Lake Tahoe area and understand the importance of sound management decisions.”

In addition to the public comments from concerned citizens, the groups delivered in-depth, science-based policy comments by a coalition of organizations that represents more than 5 million members in the U.S.

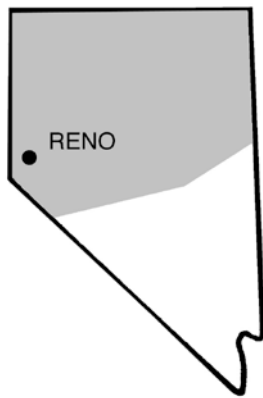
The Lake Tahoe plan will be the first forest plan revised in the Sierra Nevada and the first to seriously consider the impacts of climate change on the forest. For more information about the plan, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lbmu/ForestPlanRevision](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lbmu/ForestPlanRevision).

— Sierra Club news release (Aug. 30, 2012)

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



# Great Basin Gatherings



## Great Basin Group

### Chair's Report

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

**Great Basin Group ExCom.** We usually do not hold meetings during the months of June, July, and August; but we were thoroughly engaged, nevertheless. This summer we turned our attention to several important activities.

**Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit forest plan revision.** We worked with Lauren Thorpe, Sierra Club organizer, to get GBG people to submit comments on this plan. In pursuit of this goal, we had a successful letter-writing event on July 12.

**Fundraising.** We staged a fundraising event for "Get Kids Outdoors" at Galena Park on July 26, raising \$634 for this cause.

**Club Outing Award.** Outings leaders

congratulated Holly Coughlin on her receipt of the Oliver Kehrlein national award on August 6. The group also planned the last quarter 2012 outings schedule at our outings meeting on August 26.

**Hikes.** Evening hikes on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday continued throughout the summer months, and participation has been bolstered by our using MeetUp to list these hikes.

**Elections.** Our group Political Committee, chaired by Jean Stoess, reviewed the candidates for city, county, and state offices and recommended endorsements of several. Great Basin Group members will have a chance to meet the endorsed candidates at our October regular membership meeting (see our schedule in this issue).

### Great Basin Peak Section News

#### On the trail with the GBPS, Summer 2012

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

Members of the GBPS have shared many trail memories and checked off numerous peaks from their lists this hiking season. Trips covered the Great Basin from north to south, so this short summary only recounts a few of many adventures.

Early season trips explored the Humboldt Range, to hike **Star Peak**, the Pershing County high point; the Desatoya Range, to hike **Desatoya Peak**, the Churchill County high point; and the Toiyabe Range, to hike Lander County's high point, **Bunker Hill**.

**Bonanza, Griffith, and Charleston Peaks** were climbed in the Spring Mountains as we explored the Mount Charleston Wilderness. What a contrast to sit on the summits of a beautiful mountain range and look out to the distant sprawl of Las Vegas.

Rich Wilson planned a number of fine outings. In June, he took us up two GB peaks: **Donnelly Peak**, the Calico Mountains high point and **Division Peak**, the Division Range high point. We explored the Calico

Mountains Wilderness – and verified that it was a good year for rattlesnakes.



In July, Rich introduced us to the Pine Forest Range and Blue Lakes Wilderness Study area. Onion Valley Reservoir provided an excellent base camp for hikers to climb **Duffer and South Duffer Peaks**.

August started with an exploration of the Granite Range, where we hiked **Granite Peak** and enjoyed great views of the Black Rock Desert.

Later in August, Rich led us to Great Basin National Park, where everyone scattered to work on their different peak climbing agendas. Quoted from Rich's trip recap: "Our team put one or more hikers on the summits of **Wheeler, Jeff Davis, Pyramid, Washington, Lincoln, Granite, and Bald** – we surely tamed the Snake -- as well as **Diamond, Grafton, and South Schell** (11,768 and 11,368). Twenty-six total ascents!" A productive outing even though challenged by the afternoon rainstorms.

A big "Congratulations!" to John Ide, who completed the Nevada County Highpoints on Mt. Grafton in Lincoln County!

**Join us!** For details on member-

#### GREAT BASIN GROUP

##### OFFICERS

Chair	David von Seggern*	775-303-8461	vonseg1@sbcglobal.net
Vice-Chair	Valerie Andersen*	775-853-4769	mtnval@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Sue Jacox*	775-849-1890	suejacox@nvbell.net
Treasurer	Martin Mace*	775-745-4703	mace.martin@gmail.com
Conservation	Jen Huntley*	775-232-8847	drjenhs@gmail.com
Distribution	Craig Mastos	775-348-1862	
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 GBPS News, 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.

#### OCTOBER 1 (MONDAY) 6P

**Great Basin Group ExCom.** Meet 6p, Swill Wine & Coffee (Lakeside and Moana), to plan events and discuss conservation issues. All Great Basin Group members welcome to attend these meetings. Info: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net or 775-303-8461).

#### OCTOBER 6 (SATURDAY) 9A

**Burt Canyon Day Hike.** Expect fall colors, view of Flat Iron Butte. About 9 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. Observe flora, fauna, especially aspen groves. DL. Leader: Bill Myatt (233-3186). Co-Leader: Gail Myatt (750-1293). Moderate.

#### OCTOBER 7 (SUNDAY)

**Genoa Peak Day Hike.** Try the new Genoa trail to Genoa Peak. Challenging hike with many rewards – climb the Sierra Front to the peak. Recent renovation of trail should make hike more enjoyable. Seasoned hikers only. Learn about Snowshoe Thompson at his gravesite. About 12 mi RT, 4000 ft gain. Strenuous. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (303-8461, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net).

#### OCTOBER 12-14 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

**Fall Hot Springs Tour.** October is great

time to visit Black Rock Desert! Days are cooling off but nights aren't freezing! Number of visitors is also starting to drop off! Meet in Reno Friday night, head up to Gerlach. Depending on area conditions, probably camp at Black Rock Hot Spring, visit another nearby hot spring, then stop at third on way out Sunday. Probably potluck Saturday night. Primitive car camping. High clearance 2WD/AWD required, some carpooling possible. No RVs or trailers! Call for information. Sign up 10/1-10/10. DL, on leash, be prepared to pick up dog waste. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Easy. LNT (Leave No Trace).

#### OCTOBER 14 (SUNDAY) 9A

**Spooner Summit Fall Colors Hike.** Route goes through aspen groves around Spooner Summit. Either head N toward Marlette Lake, or S along TRT, depending on weather/trail conditions. Expect to see turning trees, busy squirrels, Clark's nutcrackers preparing for winter. About 10 mi RT, up to 1500 ft gain. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055). Co-Leader: Karen Todd (225-2805). Moderate.

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

### Service Trip to John Muir Wilderness

DAVID VON SEGGERN (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net)

I WAS FORTUNATE enough to participate in a national service trip to John Muir Wilderness in August. Due to its name, this particular wilderness area must hold a special place in the minds of Sierra Club members. But I wish to report that it seems to hold a special place in the framework of its land manager, the U.S. Forest Service.

I was impressed by the clear respect for the integrity of this area from the three U.S.F.S. people we worked with for a week on a trail renovation project. These outstanding representatives showed a deep regard for wilderness values and for the people that came to view this wilderness. They were skilled and dedicated to their roles, and surely many visitors come away with a new sense of wilderness protection by their contact with these U.S.F.S. representatives.

They especially espoused the principles of Leave No Trace. Somewhat to our embarrassment, we needed some remedial education on the seven principles. I suggest that all Toiyabe Chapter members who habitually visit the backcountry review these principles regularly and follow them comprehensively. Just Google "leave no trace" to find them.

And keep those service trips in mind -- Sierra Club makes a great impression on the land managers by working to improve trails and taking part in other service activities. Also, we made sure backpackers traversing our work area knew this was a Sierra Club project.

### Group Holiday Party



Saturday, December 8, 6:30 pm

VALERIE ANDERSEN (mtnval@sbcglobal.net)

MEMBERS, GUESTS, AND WANNABES are all invited to attend the Great Basin Group's Holiday Party on Saturday, December 8, from 6:30–9:30 at Horseman's Park (2799 Pioneer Drive) in Reno.

We'll have music, dancing, mixer games, door prizes, awards, and a slide show – all intermingled with good food and conversation.

Members may want to dress up a bit to add to the festive mood, but conservation casual is okay. Partiers are asked to bring a dish and their beverage of choice (alcoholic beverages are permitted).

Attendees are also asked to bring their own reusable dinnerware to reduce waste in our environment.

**Info or to help.** Please contact Valerie Andersen (775-544-3061, mtnval@sbcglobal.net).

**Don't forget to visit the Great Basin Group website**

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

**& the Chapter website**

<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>



## Outrageously good gourmet food

BY HOLLY COUGHLIN

THE GOURMET HIKE on August 25th was a huge success, with delectable delights enjoyed by nine fortunate day hikers. We had homemade cheese with a hint of



*Gourmet Day Hike at Loch Leven Lake on August 25. From left: Mary Ellen, Stephanie, Gail, Craig, Jim, and Don. Photo: Holly Coughlin.*

jalapeño and pineapple, smoked salmon, a medley of fruit salad, pasta in a pesto sauce with artichoke hearts and pine nuts, a shrimp appetizer, mozzarella cheese and tomato, and even more!

The day was perfect for a swim in the middle Loch Leven Lake and for stretching out on sun-warmed granite. We all look forward to next year's gourmet event and the surprising concoctions that will surely entice us. If this piques your interest, plan to attend next year!



*Whitney grins with satisfaction in a superb day. Photo: Holly Coughlin.*

## Great Basin Peak Section News

continued from page 8

### A Day in the Desatoyas

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

LEAVING RENO on May 3 at 7 am, Dave Porter and I were excited about hiking another peak on the Great Basin Peak Section list. Desatoya Peak (9973 ft) is the high point of Churchill County and the tallest peak in the Desatoya Mountains. A quick caffeine refuel, then we headed to Fallon to meet John Ide at the Churchill County fairgrounds.

Following the driving directions in Bob Sumner's book, *Hiking Nevada County High Points*, we drove up the canyon along Edwards Creek. Signs along the road explained that the Edwards Creek Riparian Restoration Project is a joint project between the landowner of Smith Valley Ranch and other organizations. This explained the cattle sauntering along the creek through the restoration area.

A herd of wild horses paced us as we continued up the road through notably large pinyon and Jeffrey pine trees.

We reached Basque Summit then continued driving 0.4 miles to park at the fence line that divides Lander and Churchill Counties. The road had a couple of rocky eroded areas prior to the summit that would be difficult without high clearance.

The route follows a road and cattle trails, so this was an easy hike to the peak, with no bushwhacking. We encountered a few lingering snow patches after we left the road, but nothing that wasn't easy to skirt around or cross.

The day was windy, with a few strong gusts. However, once we reached the summit we had a pleasant stop to eat, sign the register, and absorb the phenomenal 360° view. It's difficult to describe the sea of mountain ranges and peaks viewed from the summit of most Great Basin Peaks and this was no exception. (See photo above.)

We descended Desatoya Peak along the ridgeline to walk up its North Twin at 9965 ft, then retraced our route back to the car.

Another enjoyable day spent in the beauty and solitude of the Great Basin!

## ON THE TRAIL . . .

continued from page 8

ship, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports check out Great Basin Peak Section at <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/GreatBasinPeaks.html>.

# Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

### OCTOBER 20 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Buckland Station Day Hike.** South of Silver Springs. About 10 mi loop hike on flat ground will start at historic Buckland Station, proceed downstream along Carson River enjoying riparian habitat, fall leaves. Return on segment of Pony Express Trail route. Learn some history of area. Fee: \$1/person State Park walk-in fee. Option to tour remains of Fort Churchill on your own after. Learn some history of area. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderately Easy.

### OCTOBER 21 (SUNDAY) 8:45A

**Spoooner Lake to Marlett Lake Day Hike.** Fall colors hike to beautiful Marlette Lake via hiker's trail from Spooner Lake. About 8 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. Trail winds through aspen groves, pines. Learn about some flora, fauna we observe. Lunch somewhere near lake, enjoy views. Bring plenty of water, lunch, trail shoes, clothing for weather. Dogs welcome, on leash. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Terry Meredith (830-8875). Moderate.

### OCTOBER 26 (FRIDAY) 8:30A

**Nevada Day Hike.** Celebrate State and ourselves making it through one more year, with traditional peak bag of local landmark, Peavine Mt. (8300 ft). Try to find good route up "backside." About 10 mi, 3300 ft gain. Expect to learn a lot about diverse habitats we'll climb through. If lucky, see some of migrating mule deer. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Moderately Strenuous.

### OCTOBER 27 (SATURDAY) 8A

**El Dorado Canyon Day Hike near Dayton.** About 12 mi in and out, less than 600 ft

gain. Riparian habitat with many crossings of small stream. Lunch at natural arch. Also small slot canyon to view on way out. Learn some history of area. High clearance vehicle needed or ride share. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

### OCTOBER 28 (SUNDAY) 8:30A

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

**Slaughter House Canyon/Skunk Harbor Fall Color Hike.** Descend from parking area on Hwy 28 to Slaughter House Canyon Road, then follow it S. Hope to



*Dave Porter and John Ide on the Desatoya hike. (See article below.)*

see some nice fall color. Return to Skunk Harbor Road, continue descent to lake for lunch and visit to this historic site. About 7

mi, 800 ft gain at end. ND. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763; donnanv1@gmail.com). Easy.

### NOVEMBER 3 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Mt. Davidson Day Hike.** Highest peaks in Virginia Range, 7664 ft, overlooking Virginia City. About 7 mi in loop, 1000 ft gain. Parts off trail, steep, with brush. See segment of one of wooden flumes which brought water to VC. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderately Strenuous.

### NOVEMBER 4 (SUNDAY) 9A

**Mt. Davidson Day Hike** (totally different from Saturday). Meet in S Reno, then go to starting point on Geyger Grade, after setting up car shuttle to Virginia City. Hike follows spine of Virginia Range to where we head east to Mt. Davidson. Plan on lunch atop or near peak. About 8 mi, 1000 ft gain. What makes hike difficult is very steep descent (over 1000 ft) down face of Mt. Davidson into lively Virginia City. Good knees are a must. Observe flora, fauna along way (usually wild horses are in this area). Take break in VC before heading back to cars. Bad weather cancels, but alternate desert hike at lower elevation possible. DL. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Pat Kleames (359-5089). Moderately Strenuous.

### NOVEMBER 5 (MONDAY) 6P

**Great Basin Group ExCom.** Meet 6p, Swill Wine & Coffee (Lakeside and Moana), to plan events and discuss conservation issues. All Great Basin Group members welcome to attend these meetings. Info: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net or 775-303-8461).

### NOVEMBER 11 (SUNDAY) 8A

**Lahontan Shoreline Day Hike.** Veterans' Day hike at Lahontan Reservoir near Silver Springs, on shoreline. Enjoy silence, stark beauty of area. About 5 mi, in-&-out hike along "beach." See tufa formations. Honor veterans of all branches of service. Learn

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 11.

## GB GROUP 2<sup>ND</sup> THURSDAY PROGRAM MEETINGS

All programs open to the public

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month (September - May), come and enjoy fun socializing 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, [gbg-programs@toiyabe.sierraclub.org](mailto:gbg-programs@toiyabe.sierraclub.org)).

### "Meet Sierra Club's endorsed local candidates"

Date: Thursday, October 11

Time: 7p, social

7:30p, candidate interaction

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](mailto:gbg-programs@toiyabe.sierraclub.org)).

The Sierra Club is hosting the state and local (Reno, Sparks, Washoe Co.) candidates, whom we have officially endorsed, at our regular meeting place. Come and meet these candidates who support our mission in an informal format where you can talk one-on-one with them. This is not a fundraiser. Please invite interested members

and non-members. Info: Valerie Andersen (775-544-3061, [gbg-programs@toiyabe.sierraclub.org](mailto:gbg-programs@toiyabe.sierraclub.org)).

### "Art & Environment at Nevada Museum of Art"

Date: Thursday, November 11

Time: 7p, social

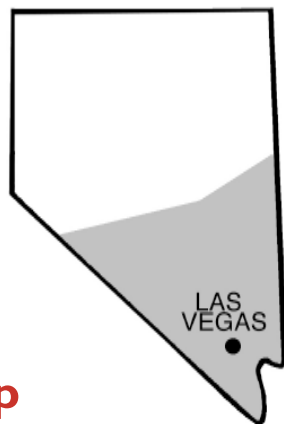
7:30p, program

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](mailto:gbg-programs@toiyabe.sierraclub.org)).

Nevada Museum of Art is 80 years old this year, and has had art and environment as a

Please see GB PROGRAM MEETINGS, page 12.

# The Mojave Monitor



## Southern Nevada Group

### Group News

#### Leadership recommendations needed!

Deadline October 10

BY TAJ AINLAY, NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER

AS THE RECENT CONVENTIONS of the top two political parties remind us, there is an election coming up . . . and not just for government office. The Toiyabe Chapter and all of our groups will also be holding elections the end of this year for Executive Committee positions.

If you or a Club member you know would like to participate in the leadership process as an ExCom member, please send me an email at tajainlay@aol.com with contact details. We are

looking for new ideas, fresh energy and a strong commitment to the local environment. This is an opportunity to be part of the solution, so please don't hesitate to submit a name and make a difference.

According to our election schedule, the absolute deadline for receipt of potential candidate names is October 10. In order to avoid a last minute rush, I encourage those who are interested to please respond no later than October 5. Thank you.

#### Monthly ExCom meetings Oct. 29 & Nov. 26, 2012

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, our Executive Committee meets on the last Monday of the month from 6-8:30p at the Sierra Club Office. We are conveniently located downtown inside the PLAN Building between Garces and Gass at 708 South Sixth Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101. There is plenty of free parking on the street and in the rear. Join us on October 29 and November 26. No meeting in December.

#### General Program Meetings Oct. 3, Nov. 12, & Dec. 10, 2012

THESE INTERESTING AND entertaining meetings are typically held on the second Monday of each month. They are also at the Sierra Club office (see above for details of location), unless otherwise noted on the accompanying calendar of events. Please join us on October 3, November 12 and December 10. See our Calendar for program details and times.

#### Las Vegas ICO takes kids to the top

BY ROSEMARY VITAVEC

THE LAS VEGAS INNER CITY OUTINGS group took 13 Burk High School students to Cathedral Rock on Mt. Charleston for their second outing on June 18. For many of the students, it was their first trip to the Mt. Charleston

area and their first experience in high altitude alpine areas. The three-mile hike challenged many of the students with its 1000 foot elevation gain. The rewards were experiencing avalanche zones, seeing coral biota from 300 million years ago

and, of course, the great views from the top.

The next outing planned for the group will be a picnic and ranger-guided tour of Spring Mountain Ranch on September 11, with emphasis on the history and impact of water in the area. ICO leaders and volunteers have enjoyed building rap-

port and relationships with many of the students and seeing their environmental awareness grow.

As the ICO group continues to make contacts with other agencies and plan for more outings -- including stargazing and snowshoeing -- they are also focused on raising funds. Las Vegas ICO invites you to join them for their Fall Friendraiser on October 17, which will include a light supper and speaker presentation. The event will be held at the Sierra Club Office, beginning at 6p.

In addition, the LV ICO group is partnering with Wranglers Hockey team for a November 30 game. (A portion of the ticket proceeds goes to ICO.) You may also support ICO's cause with a tax deductible donation to the Las Vegas ICO c/o Sierra Club Foundation.

Las Vegas ICO expresses their gratitude to you for your help in bringing what they love about nature and wilderness to those who yearn for the same. For more information, please



Burk High School ICO group conquers Cathedral Rock on Mt. Charleston.

contact ICO Chair, Charles Schneider (charlie\_nancy@cox.net).

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

## 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.

### Outings & meetings for Oct - Nov - Dec 2012

#### OCTOBER 3 (WEDNESDAY)

**General Program Meeting: TBA.** These interesting and fun meetings are typically held on the second Monday of each month. (This one, however, is on the first Wednesday.) The meetings are held at the Sierra Club office, unless otherwise noted. For details of location, see Oct. 29.

#### OCTOBER 3 (WEDNESDAY)

**New Members' Orientation.** Our second orientation of year is open not only to new and prospective members but also current members with an interest in learning more about Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter, and Southern Nevada Group. We'll meet for an hour, starting 630p at Sierra Club Office. Light refreshments will be served. Info: Taj Ainlay (682-9361).

#### OCTOBER 6 (SATURDAY)

**Southern Nevada Trails Day.** For second year in a row, Sierra Club will be a Silver Sponsor at this celebratory outdoor event. Stop by our table and visit Henderson's newest recreational facility, CornerstonePark, which features a lake, walking paths and unique outdoor amenities. Hours: 9a-1p. Park located at 1600 Wigwam Parkway, W of Stephanie Street, with easy access from 215 beltway. Info: Taj Ainlay (682-9361).

#### OCTOBER 6 (SATURDAY)

**Bristlecone Loop, SMNRA.** We'll be looking for those yellow aspens. What chemical causes yellow color? About 5 mi, 300 ft gain. Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857) Level 1-2.

#### OCTOBER 6 (SATURDAY)

**Calico Tanks Overlook at RRCNCA.** Start this 3-mi RT trek at second pullout on Scenic Drive. Boulder up chute over

saddle up to Boy Scout overlook, then scramble to Tanks for lunch. After lunch, scramble down back side to trail by arch, pass pictographs, head home. How can you tell a pictograph from a petroglyph? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

#### OCTOBER 7 (SUNDAY)

**Cathedral Rock, Kyle Canyon, SMNRA.** Family hike: all ages. Friendly dogs welcome. Cool Fall temperatures, autumn colors (golden aspen trees, etc.), awesome view of canyon and surrounding mountains at top of "Rock." Learn some geology. About 3 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. Leader: Gary Beckman (648-2983). Level 2-3.

#### OCTOBER 20 (SATURDAY)

**Valley of Fire.** Explore NE end of this state park. Walk through slot canyons looking for fossils, petroglyphs. Moderate-paced hike that will have us stopping often to explore and enjoy surroundings. About 7-8 mi RT. A full day's hike. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

#### OCTOBER 20 (SATURDAY)

**Red Cap RRCNCA.** A favorite 3-mi RT hike at Red Rock Canyon. Short, challenging and, most of all, fun. From Sandstone Quarry, trek up to E side of Calico Hills. Scramble up to Three Tanks, then to overlook into Calico Basin. Fun begins with scrambling to summit of Red Cap. After lunch, descend N side, then back to parking lot. What aquatic beast lies hidden in mud of these tanks? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

#### OCTOBER 21 (SUNDAY)

**Bonnie Springs Overlook.** Begin near

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

### SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361	tajainlay@aol.com
Vice-Chair	Eric King*	702-436-9088	teamprosperitylv@yahoo.com
Secretary	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer	Desiree Saporito	702-875-2668	
At Large	Gecko Benjamin*	702-505-0000	
At Large	Scott Stevens*	702-252-3223	sOs@mac.com
At Large	Roxanne San Jose*	702-505-1168	
Coal Power Plants	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Conservation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Endangered Species & Wildlife	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Energy	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Global Warming	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Inner City Outings	Charles Schneider	702-498-3224	charlie_nancy@cox.net
Membership	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361	tajainlay@aol.com
Outings	Par Rasmusson	702-215-9119	par@mvdsl.com
Outings	Jack Sawyer	702-228-3857	lvsawyer@hotmail.com
Parks, Refuges	Ed Rothfuss	406-756-0028	mroth9827@aol.com
Political	Teresa Crawford	702-526-8445	tailspinterry@hotmail.com
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

## S. Nevada Group Calendar

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Mountain Springs summit, mostly follow a trail to crest overlooking Red Rock area, 3000 ft below. Bring water, lunch, jacket. What are animals likely seen here? Contact: David Hardy (875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

### OCTOBER 27 (SATURDAY)

**Nevada Hot Springs.** Beautiful rock formations. About 5 mi RT, boulder hopping, using ropes to ascend and descend. Plan to sit in hot springs. Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181, mhaehn@cox.net). Level 4, Difficult.

### OCTOBER 29 (MONDAY)

**Executive Committee Meeting.** Sierra Club Office, 6p. Open to all members, our Executive Committee meets on the last Monday of the month from 6-8:30p at the Sierra Club Office. We are conveniently located downtown inside the PLAN Building between Garces and Gass at 708 South Sixth Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101. There is plenty of free parking on the street and in the rear. Learn about work of our committees and hear reports on issues important to Sierra Club in Southern Nevada. If you have an interest in joining local leadership team or have a project you would like to see undertaken, this is the place to be. Info: Taj Ainlay (682-9361). No meeting in December.

### NOVEMBER 3 (SATURDAY)

**Pine Creek: South Fork, RRCNCA.** More fall color and cooler temps amid fabulous cliffs of Aztec sandstone framing stream. Why do ponderosa pines grow here at 4500 ft instead of their normal zone at 8000 ft? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857) Level 1-2.

### NOVEMBER 3 (SATURDAY)

**The Best of Valley of Fire.** Nature's gift to hikers of Las Vegas. About 5 mi RT hike through strange and colorful landforms. Let's keep our eyes open for tracks in Jurassic rocks. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (896-4049). Level 3.

### NOVEMBER 3 (SATURDAY)

**Brownstone Canyon, RRCNCA.** On this 6-mi RT hike, we'll discover pictographs and petroglyphs. A great hike to enjoy great outdoors. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3

### NOVEMBER 6 (TUESDAY)

**Election Day.** Don't miss the opportunity to vote at your local polling station. Candidates who support the environment are running for office at all levels of government. Info: Taj Ainlay (682-9361).

### NOVEMBER 10 (SATURDAY)

**Arrow Canyon: NW of Dam in Moapa Valley.** Walk through narrow canyons full of fascinating geological formations and archeological sites. There are plans for 160,000-homes near here, so come see what may be impacted by Coyote Springs Development. Hike at a moderate pace that allows for exploring and frequent stops. About 6-8 mi. This is 60 mi north of Las Vegas, so expect a long day. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

### NOVEMBER 11 (SUNDAY)

**River Mountains.** Hike requires car shuttle. Start near fee station out of Henderson and end up at Hole 33. Chance of seeing owls as we go through a slot canyon. Also may see bighorn sheep. What is the geology of these mountains? Contact: David Hardy (875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, e-mail preferred).

### NOVEMBER 10 (SATURDAY)

**Aviation Nation Hike.** About 4-5 mi RT. Watch air show at Nellis A.F.B. from shoulder below Sunrise Mt. Leader: Roger

Olsen, 526-2181, mhaehn@cox.net. Level 2/3, Moderate.

### NOVEMBER 11 (SUNDAY)

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

### NOVEMBER 12 (MONDAY)

**"Drive Electric!"** General Program Meeting, 7p, Sierra Club Office. For details of location, see Oct. 29. Our member, Stan Hanel, is also southern Nevada outreach coordinator for Nevada Electric Vehicle Accelerator (NEVA) and a member of the Electric Auto Association. Stan will talk about highlights from National Plug-in Day 2012 event in Las Vegas, including electric cars, where to find them, what it feels like to drive an electric vehicle, and how to recharge their battery packs. Learn about ongoing electrification of automotive industry as manufacturers strive to meet increasing CAFE standards that can help mitigate country's addiction to imported crude oil. Info: Taj Ainlay (682-9361).

### NOVEMBER 17 (SATURDAY)

**Adopt-a-Highway Red Rock Clean-up.** Join us at Dunkin' Donuts on Charleston (in Albertson's Plaza, W of I-215) for trip to make Red Rock a little more pristine and inviting. Walk about 2 mi, past Cactus Joe's. Lunch afterwards at Panda Express at Red Rock Casino. What's a pencil cholla? Bring a hat, sunscreen, water. Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

### NOVEMBER 17 (SATURDAY)

**Bridge Mountain via Rocky Gap Road Summit, RRCNCA.** One of best scrambling hikes at Red Rock. About 5 mi RT, 2000 ft gain. From Rocky Gap Summit, hike to escarpment with great view overlooking Pine Creek. Here's where fun begins. Climb up chute to bridge then pass by hidden forest and on to summit. At summit of Bridge Mtn the view of Red Rock and Las Vegas is breathtaking. You'll never forget this hike. Which are older: limestone or sandstone formations? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855) Level 5.

### NOVEMBER 22 (THURSDAY)

**Thanksgiving Day Hike.** Don't have anything to do today? This hike follows network of trails to top of Blue Diamond Hill with 360-degree view. About 1600 ft gain. Are there any springs on this hill or in its deep canyons? Leader: David Hardy (875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

### NOVEMBER 24 (SATURDAY)

**Cottonwood Valley.** Hike up to high ridgeline for views all around as well as a chance to see wild horses. Start on trails, go x-c to top, then back on another trail. When was fire here? Leader: David Hardy (875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

### NOVEMBER 25 (SUNDAY)

**Arches at Sunrise Mt.** Three natural arches in a 5-milloop hike. Ridge walking, some rock climbing. Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181, mhaehn@cox.net). Level 3/4, Difficult.

### NOVEMBER 26 (MONDAY)

**Executive Committee Meeting.** Sierra Club

## Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 9

about cadence. Bring your flags. Fee: \$1 CASH/person State Park fee. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderately Easy.

### NOVEMBER 11 (SUNDAY) 9A

**Prison Hill North to South.** Meet at first parking area in Silver Saddle Ranch off Carson River Road. Take half of cars back to Carson River Road, Fifth Street, to start hike. Go up N side of Prison Hill, then follow trails S along ridge line to S end of Prison Hill. Descend to Mexican Dam, return to cars via Mexican Ditch Trail. This is an opportunity to learn about the historic water diversion project. About 7 mi, 1000 ft gain. ND. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763; donnnav1@gmail.com). Moderately Easy.

### NOVEMBER 17 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Cleaver Peak (6711 ft).** High point in desert mountains, near Buckland Station. OFF TRAIL, rock scrambling, some brush. About 8 mi RT, 2400 ft gain on in-&-out. Great views from summit. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Strenuous.

### NOVEMBER 18 (SUNDAY) 9:30A

**Hidden Valley Loop Day Hike.** Fabulous vistas of Truckee Meadows from ridge above Hidden Valley. Beginning is very steep, but we'll loop down a different trail that is more forgiving. About 7 mi, 1200 ft gain. Lunch on ridge. Learn about various flora, fauna, we'll observe. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Moderate.

### NOVEMBER 18 (SUNDAY)

**Lava Beds Ramble.** Visit one of Nevada's most interesting areas for rock formations. What is this type of rock, really? Learn about how rock weathers and erodes. See amazing elephant trunk arch. Bring cameras. About 8 mi RT, 800 ft gain. Leader: David von Seggern (303-8461, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net).

### DECEMBER 31 - JANUARY 1 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY) TBA

**New Year in Gerlach.** Totally informal New Year in Gerlach involving walking between three bars in Gerlach. Unless you are really hardy, stay at Bruno's Motel, check in, reservations at bar, 775-557-2220. May have other activities: hot springs if playa permits, local art gallery, scenic drive, etc. Dogs limited, prepare to clean up after your dog. Sign-up 12/15-12/28. DL. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

### DECEMBER 1 (SATURDAY) 8A

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

### DECEMBER 3 (MONDAY) 6P

**Great Basin Group ExCom.** Meet 6p, Swill Wine & Coffee (Lakeside and Moana), to plan events and discuss conservation issues. All Great Basin Group members welcome to attend these meetings. Info: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net or 775-303-8461).

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

**Juniper Basin Day Hike.** Great overlook from top of Honey Lake Valley, views of Pyramid Lake. About 12 mi for RT loop, 1500 ft gain. Learn about flora, fauna (possible big horn sheep sighting). DL. Leader: Pat Kleames (359-5089). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Moderately Strenuous.

### DECEMBER 15 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Carson River Railroads near Moundhouse Day Hike.** About 13 mi 1-way, with vehicle shuttl, less than 1000 ft gain. Hike along scenic Carson River Canyon, learn about two railroads of Comstock era. Parts of hike are x-c. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

### DECEMBER 16 (SUNDAY) 9A

**Beginners' Snowshoe.** Cross your fingers that we actually have snow this year. Level meadow perfect for beginners and families. Head out to Nevada Beach where, if we're lucky, we may get to see a bald eagle that sometimes hangs out there in winter. About 2-4 mi, depending on return route. Off Hways 50 and 395, Carson City Park & Ride. ND. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763; donnnav1@gmail.com). Easy.

### DECEMBER 22 (SATURDAY) 9A

**Martis Peak Snowshoe.** Vistas of Tahoe and Truckee area. About 10 mi, 2000 ft gain. Possible chickadees to observe. Learn about peaks surrounding area from fire hut that sits on top of peak. DL. Leader: Bill Myatt (233-3186). Co-Leader: Gail Myatt (750-1293). Moderately Strenuous.

Office, 6p. Open to all members, our Executive Committee meets on the last Monday of the month from 6-8:30p at the Sierra Club Office. We are conveniently located downtown inside the PLAN Building between Garces and Gass at 708 South Sixth Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101. There is plenty of free parking on the street and in the rear. Learn about work of our committees and hear reports on issues important to Sierra Club in Southern Nevada. If you have an interest in joining local leadership team or have a project you would like to see undertaken, this is the place to be. Info: Taj Ainlay (682-9361). No meeting in December.

### DECEMBER 1 (SATURDAY)

**Valley of Fire.** Hike through Jurassic sandstone terrain with beautiful colors and textures. As always, watch for fossilized tracks. About 4 mi RT. Leaders: geologist Nick Saines (896-4049); Sasson Jahan (499-9218). Level 3.

### DECEMBER 8 (SATURDAY)

**Bitter Springs Badlands in Echo Wash.**

Explore these colorful formations and look for saline springs and fossils. Area is north across road from Pinto Valley. If there is time we may climb back side of large cliff that stands out so prominently from North Shore Drive at Lake Mead. About 7-9 mi, so expect full day at moderate pace. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 4.

### DECEMBER 8 (SATURDAY)

**Arizona Hot Springs, LMNRA.** Loop route with bathing suit (don't forget). Why is spring so hot and river so cold here? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857) Level 2-3.

### DECEMBER 8 (SATURDAY)

**Raven Balcony: North Bowl of Fire, LMNRA.** One of best hikes in this area. About 3.3 mi. Hike by Anteater Rock, pass under Darth Vader, then on to Raven Balcony and awesome overlook of Lake Mead. After lunch, go through Rabbit's Hole, cross little Grand Canyon, then on to 15,000-year-old camel and bird tracks. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855) Level 3-4.

Please see SN GROUP CALENDAR, page 12.

# Bookshelf

## MOUNT WHITNEY

By Mike Prather & Chris Langley  
Waterford Press, 2012.

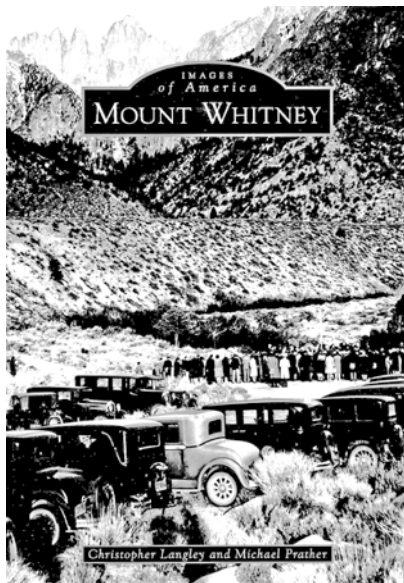
Arcaia Publishing's Images of America series has added *Mt. Whitney* to its list of popular illustrated history titles. Written by long-time Lone Piners and long time friends and teachers, Mike Prather and Chris Langley, this book includes not only the human history, but also the natural history of the Mt. Whitney region. Both authors have lived in Inyo County since 1972.

Langley, Inyo County's Film Commissioner, wrote on the topics of exploration, the early Paiute people, trail building, literature, painters, photographers and the history of motion pictures in the area. Prather, a local naturalist, focused on the geologic origin of the Sierra, the over 100 years of recreation in the Mt. Whitney region, water history and the natural history along the Mt. Whitney Trail.

"Mt. Whitney" contains over 200 photos, many of them vintage, as well as extensive text, making it a unique and informative book about the highest mountain in the lower 48 states.

You'll meet individuals as varied as John Muir, Gus Marsh, Norman Clyde, Father Crowley, and Humphrey Bogart. You'll also encounter plants and animals that will accompany you along the trail to the summit.

Included in the text are stories from local communities like Lone Pine, tales of



packers and ranchers, movie actors, explorers, and recreationists.

For novices to the Sierra this book will provide a wealth of information and will very likely cause readers to return again and again to the Mt. Whitney region.

For the reader with more knowledge there is sure to be much history that is fresh and new. The book is an excellent keepsake from visits to Mt. Whitney and the Owens Valley as well as being a nice gift for friends and family. Add

it to your pack for the hike!

— contributed by Mike Prather

## WILDFLOWERS OF THE NORTHERN NEVADA COLD DESERT

Nevada Native Plant Society, 2012

In the early spring and late into the summer, the Great Basin Desert, if not exactly a blaze of color, is home to a rich variety of flowers if you know when and where to look for them. Luckily, help is at hand. The Nevada Native Plant Society (NNPS), displaying the photography skills and knowledge of its volunteer members, has recently published a color booklet, *Wildflowers of the Northern Nevada Cold Desert*.

The photographs show both closeups of each flower and the entire plant. The text is brief and easy to read. You can order the publication from the NNPS website ([www.nvnps.org/](http://www.nvnps.org/)) or in Reno from Sundance Bookstore.

## GB PROGRAM MEETINGS...

continued from page 9

theme since its founding. The Center for Art + Environment at the Museum is the only research institute in the world devoted to the topic, and collects works from all seven continents that reflect how humans have creative interactions with natural, built, and virtual environments. Bill Fox, director of the program, will discuss the rise of environmental art since the 1790s, and show how works by contemporary artists prove why it is not enough to have a technology of sustainability, but is also necessary to have a culture of sustainability.

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

## S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 10

### DECEMBER 9 (SUNDAY)

**Kingman Wash.** Beautiful rock formations, incredible views of river. About 5-6 mi RT. Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181, [mhaehn@cox.net](mailto:mhaehn@cox.net)). Level 3, Moderate.

### DECEMBER 10 (MONDAY)

**HOLIDAY POTLUCK!**  
Gather at 7p, Sierra Club Office. For details of location, see Oct. 29.

This is the season to be jolly. Bring dish to share with fellow members as we celebrate end of 2012 and look forward to 2013. No program, just perfect opportunity to socialize, with music, food, drink, laughter, and fun. Info: Taj Ainlay (682-9361).

### DECEMBER 15 (SATURDAY)

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

### DECEMBER 21 (FRIDAY)

**Mayan Calendar: End of the World Hike.** Railroad tunnels, about 7 mi RT. Snacks at dam end, lunch at the end, in the Hacienda. Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181, [mhaehn@cox.net](mailto:mhaehn@cox.net)). Level 2, Easy.

### DECEMBER 29 (SATURDAY)

**Rainbow Gardens.** After end of the World Hike, take a hike on the East Side. About 4-5 mi RT. See why it's called, Rainbow Garden. Great views on East Side. Leader: Roger Olsen (526-2181, [mhaehn@cox.net](mailto:mhaehn@cox.net)). Level 3, Moderate.

### JANUARY 1, 2013 (TUESDAY)

**Hangover Hike: Calico Tanks, Red Rock Canyon.** Start New Year right by joining your fellow hikers on our traditional late morning hike to Calico Tanks in Red Rock Canyon. Interesting geology, great views. About 3 mi RT. Leaders: geologists Nick Saines (896-4049) and Gary Beckman (648-2983). Level 3.

### JANUARY 12 (SATURDAY)

**Owl Canyon, 33 Hole.** To geode field and back. No taking geodes on this hike. Hike in and out of small canyons checking out geology and seeing some wildlife (we hope). Hike starts off South Shore Drive and is a big loop. About 7-8 mi. Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

NNPS was founded more than 30 years ago by Margaret and Loring Williams, both amateur botanists, who learned the names of plants



*Paddle-tailed damer on Osgood Swamp outing, Lake Tahoe.* Photo: D. Ghiglieri.

and grew many of them in their own garden. In addition to their newsletter, they also sponsored special publications, such as one on plants of Peavine Mountain.

NNPS also offers trips into wildflower country. A recent one was to Osgood Swamp. The rare marsh cinquefoil photo accompanying this article is from that trip. Please join us on future trips!

— by Tina Nappe

## NEVADA'S CHANGING WILDLIFE HABITAT: AN ECOLOGICAL HISTORY

by George E. Gruell with Dr. Sherman Swanson  
U. Nevada Press, 2012

In this new book, the authors – a retired U.S. Forest Service biologist and a range riparian specialist at UNR, respectively – track the history of Nevada's Great Basin ecosystem and its

Please see NEVADA WILDLIFE HABITAT, page 3.



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## Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

Saturday, Oct. 13, 2012  
Lake Tahoe area

For details, contact the Chair,  
**ERIK HOLLAND**  
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