



# TOIYABE TRAILS

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2013

SPRING  
OUTINGS  
Issue

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

## From the Chair

### Big issues on the table

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

It's with reserved pleasure that I have taken on the chair of the Toiyabe Chapter, effective January 26, 2013. In many ways I have prepared myself for this role. I have been extremely active with the Great Basin Group since about 1995 and must say that I have always preferred a role at the local group level where I can meet and interact with my other ExCom people on a regular basis. A 6-year term (2001-2006) on the Chapter ExCom only convinced me to return to group-level activities during 2006-2012. But here we are in 2013, and I felt as though it is my time for Chapter leadership.

**TRPA lawsuit.** Why Toiyabe & Mother Lode Chapters are supporting it. So, what's about the "reserved"? I came into this role at the time of a crucial vote to support a lawsuit against the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency over the regional plan update. This was a contentious issue, but the Chapter ExCom finally voted 10-1 to support the lawsuit at the January ExCom meeting. The lawsuit was filed by our legal representatives, Earth Justice, on February 11, 2013.

We are committed to this course, and I have personally taken ownership of it. The January "meeting" at which this was decided was marred by a cancellation of flights from Reno to Las Vegas due to fog and an awkward 5 hours of hiatus before we could actually call a meeting to order. Hereafter, in Chapter history, we will refer to this as "Black Saturday." But the vote was finally clear on the lawsuit; and the Chapter, along

Please see FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR, page 3.



Please see article, "Wild sheep in the Range of Light," page 5. Photo: Dennis Jensen.

## Desert Southwest: Latest studies say it's getting drier

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

Recent scientific studies are confirming earlier research that the West and especially the southwest are likely to see warmer temperatures and less precipitation – a combination that will seriously reduce water supplies. Global climate change will likely make the historically dry west much drier.

Westerners know they live in a beautiful yet water-short land, but they've been lulled to complacency by federal and state projects that have used public money to store and move surface water and pump groundwater to farms and cities throughout the western U.S.

For example, in the Colorado River Basin 10 million city dwellers and thousands of farmers irrigating millions of acres are dependent on a complex system of federal and state dams, canals, pipelines, and massive pumping stations to supply their water. But scientists are finding that the system is unlikely to be a match for climate change.

A multi-year study, The Colorado River Basin Water Supply & Demand Study, by the Bureau of Reclamation, projects that by 2060 there will be a 3.2 million acre-foot deficit of demand over supply. By 2060, you ask? "Aren't we

already experiencing a significant deficit right now?"

Yes, indeed. During the last 13 years the Colorado River system's two largest reservoirs – Powell and Mead -- have lost more than 20 million acre-feet of storage. That's a 1.6-million-acre-foot average annual deficit. Drier-than-historical-average conditions have prevailed west-wide for much of that period. Slowly, water managers west-wide are learning they are no longer able to use the past as a predictor of future precipitation.

The Bureau's Colorado River Basin study includes options to increase supply – including hugely expensive projects like taking water from the Mississippi River system and pumping it uphill thousands of vertical feet and piping it hundreds of miles. This and other

Please see GETTING DRIER, page 7.

## Toiyabe Chapter & Group election results

For the 2012 Chapter and Group election, 438 ballot envelopes were returned by the deadline of January 2, 2013.

**Chapter ExCom.** Four of four candidates were elected: Brauer, Feldman, Rake, and Velazquez.

**Great Basin ExCom.** Three of three candidates were elected: Coughlin, Jaccox, von Seggern.

**Southern Nevada ExCom.** Two of two candidates were elected: Polonsky, Benjamin.

**Range of Light.** Three of three candidates were elected: Clark, Anderson, Dillingham.

– contributed by Malcolm Clark

## 2013 National Club Election

BY BRUCE HAMILTON, SIERRA CLUB DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,

THIS YEAR WE HAVE seven candidates on the ballot.

### Nominating Committee candidates

Donna Buell  
Jim Dougherty  
Chuck Frank  
Becky Gillette  
Robin Mann  
Susanna Reyes  
Matt Urban

### Announced petition candidates

None

Members had until the end of November to notify the Club of his or her intention to collect petitions. No such notice was received.

## IN THIS ISSUE

In Memoriam: Nancy Peterson Walter . . .	2
Spring Desert Trips . . . . .	3
Wilderness Committee News . . . . .	3
Range of Light Group . . . . .	4-5
ROL Volunteers Needed: Outings, Conservation . . .	5
Snake Valley vs. Massive Water Export . . .	6
Conservation Briefs . . . . .	6
Sage Grouse in Nevada . . . . .	6
Wild Sheep in the Range of Light . . . . .	7
Winter Recreation Collaboration . . .	7
Great Basin Group . . . . .	8-9
Great Basin Peak Section News . . . . .	8
Great Basin Outings . . . . .	8
Kids Snowshoe with Help from GB Group . . .	8
S. Nevada Group . . . . .	10-11
S. Nevada Group Outings . . . . .	11
ICO Field Trip with 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Graders . . .	10-11
Bookshelf: The Spotting Scope . . . . .	11
Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meetings . . . . .	12

# DEADLINE! JUNE 1

FOR JULY - AUG - SEPT ISSUE



## TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chair	David von Seggern*	775-303-8461, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net.com
Vice-Chair	David Hornbeck*	DavidHornbeckLaw@msn.com, 775-323-6655
Secretary	Jane Feldman*	feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer	Christa Velasquez*	christa-sg@yahoo.com
At Large	Laurel Ames*	530-541-5752, laurel@watershednetwork.org
At Large	Ann Brauer*	702-879-3376, bluelupine@gmail.com
At Large	Sharon Marie Wilcox*	775-852-5075, kaweah7@gmail.com
At Large	Erik Holland*	775-322-3582, erikreno@att.net
At Large	Jean Stoess*	775-322-5326, jstoess@aol.com
At Large	Sharon Marie Wilcox	775-852-5075, kaweah7@gmail.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	775-588-8740, bob-a@sbcglobal.net.com

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Chapter Delegate	Laurel Ames*	530-541-5752, laurel@watershednetwork.org
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Elections Chair	Open	
Endangered Species Liaison	Tina Nappe	tnappe@nvgbell.net
Energy Task Force Chair	Joe Johnson	775-348-7192, jj935@juno.com
Environmental Ed. Chair	Jean Dillingham	760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com
Fundraising Chair	Tina Nappe	tnappe@nvgbell.net
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Mining Comm. Co-Chair	Malcolm Clark	760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com
National Parks Chair	Marge Sill	msill@juno.com
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Wildlife Co-Chair	Rose Strickland	775-329-6118, rosenreno@sbcglobal.net
Wildlife Co-Chair	Tina Nappe	tnappe@nvgbell.net

\* Chapter ExCom member

## In Memoriam

Nancy Peterson  
Walter, Ph.D.  
1935-2013

On February 5, 2013, the Range of Light Group lost part of its family with the passing of Nancy Peterson Walter, 77, resident of Mammoth Lakes for the past 19 years, and long-time supporter of the Sierra Club.

Nancy, along with husband John, hosted the ROLG Holiday Party for many years, opening their home to all. Throughout their 55-year-long marriage, Nancy and John traveled the world, with favorite destinations being Kyrgyzstan and China. Their home is a showcase of memories collected in far-away countries.



Nancy at Iskender's wedding (former Mammoth HS student, "Alex").

Born in Rockford, Illinois on December 3, 1935, Nancy achieved her childhood dream of becoming an anthropologist and earned her Ph.D. in 1986, with a focus on the Native Americans of the Owens Valley and the peoples of Central Asia.

It was in the field of education that Nancy undoubtedly made her most lasting impact, as reflected in the inspiration, support, encouragement, and guidance she provided to thousands of students of all ages. Her formal teaching career spanned over 30 years and included Cerro Coso Community College, Xinjiang University, and three different Universities in Kyrgyzstan.

Both in the U.S. and abroad, Nancy's home was always filled with students from around the world. She was particularly effective in assisting in the development of disadvantaged women students that wouldn't normally set their sight on higher education. She would find ways to help them achieve their aspirations.

John described her as "a teacher supreme, defender of women's rights, strong supporter of equal rights and social justice for all, but particularly for minorities and the disadvantaged, and an explorer of world cultures, forming a

Please see NANCY, page 5.

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.

## FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR...

continued from page 1

with the Mother Lode Chapter of Sacramento, is supporting our local activists at Lake Tahoe.

This action was not done lightly, but there are large impacts for this decision. Because most of the conservation community had reached an accommodation on the updated plan, we were left in the "spoiler" role, and it will take some intense effort on our part to repair the damaged relations with our friends. However, I am convinced that our course is right -- putting the protection of Lake Tahoe above all other considerations. The plan update is simply deficient in this.

Please pay attention as we try to get our message out on why we favored the lawsuit. We are presently engaging professional public relations help, and we are intent on changing the public perception of the plan update, regardless of the outcome of the lawsuit.

**SB271 & Nevada's bi-state compact with California.** Many of you know about the notorious SB 271 which was passed in 2011 and would have the effect of withdrawing Nevada from the bi-state compact (with California) which is the basis for the TRPA and for many positive things that have happened at Lake Tahoe over several decades. We do not wish to see the compact dissolved. You may be asked soon to contact your Nevada legislators to support legislation which would repeal the 2011 SB 271 bill. Please respond positively.

**D.C. climate rally draws young people.** Aside from the TRPA lawsuit, the highlight of my first quarter as Chapter chair was attending the climate rally in Washington, DC, on February 17. I do "walk the talk." I joined two old friends and about 40,000 other people on a cold day just north of the Washington Monument in the staging area to listen to several speeches before the actual march. Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune appeared in a grey stocking hat and gave a great, but short, speech.

We turned to the White House after an hour or so of speeches and marched along the designated route perhaps 10 to 12 abreast forming a nearly mile-long procession. As you may know, President Obama was away in Florida and did not come out to personally greet me. The whole event was over at about 3 pm as we broke up and hurried to the nearest soup kitchen.

What can 40,000 people on a Sunday afternoon in Washington, DC accomplish? The event only made page 5 of the Washington Post on Monday. My friends noted that this was a small DC rally in comparison to many. However, it is part of the building process for a movement. I was especially warmed (no pun intended) by the presence of so many young people, who made up the majority of the crowd and who often came long distances to participate. This is really their fight, as the effects of global warming will fall heavily on them.

We all anxiously await seeing how the President and his new Secretary of State, John Kerry, will come down on the Keystone XL pipeline. However, this rally was about much more than that particular issue and everyone there was, I believe, fully aware of that.

## Spring 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

#### MAR 29-31 (FRI-SUN)

##### WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY WITH NEEDLES BLM

Join our annual Sierra Club service trip with Needles BLM Field Office. This season's task will be to document wilderness characteristics of area adjacent to wilderness that has not been recently studied -- exact location still to be determined. We enjoyed similar work last spring just W of Old Woman Mountains. Car camping with optional central commissary, usual exorbitant fee. Contact: Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, 415-977-5527).

CNRCC Wilderness Committee

#### APR 13-14 (SAT-SUN)

##### SERVE & EXPLORE IN CARRIZO PLAIN

An opportunity to visit and assist in Carrizo Plain Nat'l Monument. Saturday, assist monument staff in removing and/or modifying of fences to allow pronghorn antelope freer access to range. Sunday reserved for sightseeing or hiking as group decides. Views from Caliente Mountains are spectacular; spring flowers may be blooming (if rainfall sufficient). Monument is known for number and variety of raptors. Contact leader to reserve: Craig Deutsche (310-477-6670, craig.deutsche@gmail.com).

CNRCC Desert Committee

#### APR 13-14 (SAT-SUN, FRI OPTIONAL)

##### JUNIPER FLATS AREA TOUR: SAN BERNARDINO MTNS

Explore this beautiful area, camp at Rock Springs Ranch (private). Friday (optional),

3-mi RT hike to boulder gardens. Saturday, driving and hiking tour of area (4WD or high clearance vehicle recommended), including springs, waterfall, Cottonwood Spring ACEC, oak glen area. Saturday eve, campfire and dinner provided by Friends of Juniper Flats. Sunday, 6-mi hike to Deep Creek, a proposed Wild & Scenic River. Contact: Carol Wiley to reserve (desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734). More info: contact co-leader Jenny Wilder (JensOasis@aol.com, 760-220-0730).

Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

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

##### BIRDS, FENCES, HISTORY IN CARRIZO

An opportunity to visit and assist outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. Saturday, assist monument staff in removing fence wires to allow pronghorn antelope freer access to range. Sunday, reserved for sightseeing. Views from Caliente Mountains are spectacular; spring flowers may still be blooming. Monument known for number and variety of raptors. Contact leader: Craig Deutsche (310-477-6670, craig.deutsche@gmail.com).

CNRCC Desert Committee

#### MAY 25-27 (SAT-MON)

##### BLACK ROCK RENDEZVOUS: MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

A great way to experience Black Rock for first time. This well-attended event has lots of activities to choose from, including speakers, guided tours, kids' activities, visits to hot springs, potluck dinner, raffles, and

## Eastern Sierra Land Trust wants you!

EASTERN SIERRA LAND TRUST IS launching a Spring Membership Drive and we invite all Sierra Club members to join together with us to protect our local vital lands east of the Sierra crest.

ESLT recognizes that the land we share has long been used in a variety of ways. We work to preserve a healthy balance of uses -- from ranching to hiking, wildlife habitats to favorite fishing spots -- that can be sustained forever, ensuring a strong local economy and healthy environment for generations to come.

Sierra Club members may be particularly interested in our Critical Habitats program. The wildlife of the Eastern Sierra can be crowded out of migration corridors, wetlands, and breeding grounds by poorly planned development. From mule deer to songbirds, ESLT is working to maintain the viability of our region's wild inhabitants, through public education and land protection agreements with willing landowners.

The land we preserve is preserved forever. With the power of our legal agreements in perpetuity, ESLT provides the solution to many different threats. Please help us continue these important efforts to preserve your beloved Eastern Sierra in perpetuity.

It's easy to become a member: visit our website at <[www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org)> or call ESLT's Outreach and Development Director, Lesley Bruns, at 760 873-4554.

— Lesley Bruns

more. Trailers and RVs OK, but no hook-ups. Dry camping only. Signup starts on 5/16. Info: David Book (775-843-6443).

Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

#### JULY 4-7 (THU-SUN)

##### BLACK ROCK DESERT: JULY 4 WEEKEND

This will be a very busy weekend in Black Rock. No specific activities yet planned, but it's a shame to waste such a long weekend so it'll probably be a carcamp. Possible amateur radio class on Sunday! Info: after 6/15, David Book (775-843-6443). Leader very familiar w/ area and can find plenty to do up there. Sorry, no RVs or trailers. Dogs on leash. LNT.

Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

## ROL HIGHWAY CLEANUP ...

continued from page 5

The cleanups are on Wednesday morning after our third Tuesday eve monthly group meeting: May 22, July 17, and September 18. Meet at 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. Sometimes there is still too much snow on the roadside and we have to skip May, but that doesn't seem likely this year.

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 the rest stop.

**Info.** E-mail RangeofLight@gmail.com, contact Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639), check ROL's web site, or go to Range of Light Group on Facebook.



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 WINTER 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](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/lodges/ctl)> 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.** Next meeting is Sunday, April 21, 2013, 3pm, at Malcolm Clark's home.

**Monthly Program Meetings.** December was our Holiday potluck at the Walter's. In January we watched the movie "Blue Gold: World Water Wars," an alarmist view of privatization of water in various parts of the world. In February, snowboarder & Peace Corps volunteer Brandon Sheaffer told 25 attendees about his 2 years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kyrgyzstan and about educational needs in Kyrgyzstan.

**Outings.** Joanne and Dick Hihn have volunteered to be Outings Co-chairs & have organized their first set of outings. Thanks, Joanne and Dick!

#### Group ExCom meetings

WE USUALLY MEET QUARTERLY (January, April, July, October). The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 21, 2013, 3 pm, at the home of Malcolm Clark. All are welcome, but please confirm date, place and time, as meeting date may change in order to assure a quorum at the meeting or because of weather.

Any action items should be submitted to the chair (Malcolm Clark) in time for consideration before the meeting by ExCom members. On items requiring a vote, please include text of proposed resolution (subject to revision by ExCom).

Normally, ExCom acts on proposals in between meetings only when a deadline (e.g., comment letter on BLM or Forest proposal) makes waiting to next ExCom meeting impossible. Submissions or more information: Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com).

#### RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP

##### OFFICERS

Chair	Malcolm Clark*	760-924-5639
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Webmaster Emeritus	Owen Maloy	760-934-9511

\* Voting ExCom member



## Range of Light OUTINGS

### SPRING & SUMMER WEEKLY OUTINGS

BY JOANNE HIHN, DICK HIHN, & MALCOLM CLARK

**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.

#### SUNDAY OUTINGS

**What to bring.** For ALL Sunday outings, winter and summer, bring water, lunch and snacks, layered clothing, appropriate hiking footwear/skis, snowshoes, sunscreen, bug spray in summer, and any desired personal items such as cameras, binoculars, and hiking poles.

**More outings info.** In addition to contact information listed for individual outings, for updates and more information, check our web page <<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup>>, Facebook (search "Range of Light Group"), and local media. We submit outings information to local media but it does not always get included in their calendar of events. Also, sometimes the published information is not accurate, so it's a good idea to double-check.

#### SUNDAY WINTER OUTINGS

##### APRIL 7 (SUNDAY)

**Mystery Destination I (to be determined by snow conditions).** Contact leader: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com) for more info.

##### APRIL 14 (SUNDAY)

**Mystery Destination II (to be determined by snow conditions).** Contact leader: Mary K. (760-934-0355, mkp@npgcable.com) for more info.

##### APRIL 21 (SUNDAY)

**Mystery Destination III (to be determined by snow conditions).** Contact leader: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com) for more info.

##### APRIL 28 (SUNDAY)

**Mystery Destination IV (to be determined by snow conditions).** Dogs welcome. Contact leader: Melissa (760-937-0499, melissas1@verizon.net) for more info.

#### SUNDAY SUMMER OUTINGS

##### MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 (SUNDAY)

**Ski/Snowshoe or Hike** (depending upon conditions). Info: contact Mary K (760-934-0355, mkp@npgcable.com), Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com), or Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com).

##### JUNE 2 (SUNDAY)

**Lower Rock Creek.** Car shuttle required. Moderate 7.5 mi hike from 395 parking area to Paradise, 1900 ft loss. Shorter option available with parking mid-way. See early wildflowers, enjoy fascinating geology. Great hiking season starter. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, hat; dress in layers for changing weather. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank parking lot, or 8:30a Hwy 395 and Lower Rock Creek Road. Leader: Mary K. (760-934-0355, mkp@npgcable.com). Dogs welcome. More info: ROLG website <http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup>.

##### JUNE 8 (SATURDAY)

**CARMA Tour, White Mountain Geology Hike & Lecture.** Tour of Owens Valley Radio Observatory followed by lecture with Brigitte Berman, "Geology of the White Mountains & fossil collection." Easy walk.

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 16 (Tuesday)

**Social & Announcements, 615 pm**  
Crowley Lake Community Center  
(no food, please)

**Program: 7 pm**

#### Movie: "Eastern Sierra Land Trust"

Learn about the Trust, hear about past history, present activities, and future plans.

#### May 21 (Tuesday)

**Social & Announcements, 615 pm**  
Crowley Lake Community Center  
(no food, please)

**Program: 7 pm**

#### "Preview of Summer Outings"

New Outing Co-Chairs, Joanne and Dick Hihn, will give a preview of 2013 summer outings and introduce the Outing Leaders" A select few photos from the previous season will be a highlight of the program.



#### June 18 (Tuesday)

**Potluck & Social, 615 pm**  
Crowley Lake Community Center  
**Program: 7 pm**

#### "Paiute Tribal Issues: Water & Environment"

Harry Williams, from the Bishop Paiute Tribe will speak about Tribal issues concerning water and the environment from a cultural viewpoint.

.....  
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 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>>

## Range of Light OUTINGS

continued from page 4

Meet 8am, ML Union Bank parking lot, or 9am Bishop City Park. Leaders: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com), or Wilma (760-934-3764 wilma.bryce@verizon.net). Dogs restricted, have to be in car during tour. More info: ROLG website



This eager ROLG met on a sunny morning (Feb. 16, 2013) to search for old blue diamond markers to aid BLM in recreating a ski trail around Obsidian Dome. Photo: Joanne Hihn.

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

### JUNE 14-16 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

**12th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua Weekend.** Visit <[www.birdchautauqua.org](http://www.birdchautauqua.org)> for details. Don't miss it!

### JUNE 16 (SUNDAY)

**Canoe or Kayak from Benton Crossing to Crowley Lake.** Float, paddle, and bird watch about 5 mi along the Owens River. See and learn about a wide variety of birds, particularly

waterfowl. Bring boat, paddle, mandatory personal flotation device, lunch, water, hat, gloves, sunscreen. Recommended: long-sleeved shirt and pants, waterproof bag for



Double Eagle-Silver Lake snowshoe (Jan. 20, 2013). Photo: Joanne Hihn.

### JUNE 23 (SUNDAY)

**Walker Lake Hike.** Moderate, 8 mi RT, 500 ft gain, possible car shuttle. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank parking lot. Leaders: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com), Mary K (760-934-0355, mkp@npg-cable.com). Dogs OK. ROLG website <<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup>>.

### JUNE 30 (SUNDAY)

**Bristlecone Methuselah Trail, Schulman Grove.** Moderate hike over 4mi

of undulating trails at 10,000 ft. Find the Methuselah tree, the oldest bristlecone in a grove of "ancients." Learn about birds, unusual wildflowers that grow in dolomite soils, and tree distribution in the Schulman

Grove. Bring plenty of water, good hiking shoes, lunch, dress in layers, and be prepared for all kinds of weather; binoculars recommended. Meet 8a ML Union Bank parking lot, 9a Bishop City Park, or 10a Schulman Grove. Leaders: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com), or Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com). No dogs. More info: ROLG website <<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup>>.

### WEEKDAY SUMMER OUTINGS (tentative)

**Possible Thursday outings.** We're still working on continuing our week-

day late afternoon-early evening outings. Tentatively, we are scheduling these for Thursdays, meeting at the Union Bank parking lot in Mammoth Lakes at 5:30p, and back by dark.

Because of restricted time, these will all take place in the greater Mammoth area. The nature of the outing will vary according to the

## NANCY PETERSON WALTER...

continued from page 2

global family unfettered by geographical boundaries."

Nancy served many years as the ROLG Program Chair and as a member of the Mono County Democratic Central Committee.

Nancy is survived by her husband John, children Jon Walter and Sandra Legallet, two grandchildren, and three brothers. A celebration of Nancy's life will be held on March 25, 3-5 pm, at the Walter residence, 240 Mammoth Knolls Drive, Mammoth Lakes. Bring your memories of Nancy and some food to share.

For several options on donations to continue Nancy's legacy of helping the students of Kyrgyzstan, contact John at salt1143@gmail.com, or you may make a gift in her memory to the Range of Light Group, P. O. Box 1973, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

— Shalle Genevieve



Nancy in Kyrgyzstan, at Jailoo (Summer Pasture), with Bakai, former Mammoth HS Student.

## Range of Light Volunteers Needed

### Leaders for Thursday FUN & FITNESS summer outings

WE NEED A LIST OF PEOPLE we can call upon to lead our Thursday late afternoon hikes. We can provide a list of suggested destinations/routes if you are uncertain where to go. We especially need certified leaders. To be certified, you need to have successfully completed (1) the Sierra Club Leader Training Course (free on internet – it takes about 3 hours) and (2) first aid certification (which must be current).

If you are not certified but have a great outing you would like to lead, we may be able to pair you up with someone who is certified. You may schedule for any Thursday (May through August) or volunteer to be put on a list to be called upon as needed one to two weeks prior to a specific Thursday.

If interested, please contact Dick & Joanne Hihn (518-222-0640; rhihn@skidmore.edu) to volunteer or for more information about outings leader and first aid certification. Of course, additional leaders for Sunday outings, summer or winter, are always welcome.

— Malcolm Clark

interest of the leader: standard hike, historical hike, bird hike, photography hike, etc. All should be appropriate for all levels including children.

Wear appropriate shoes, layered clothing for rain or evening chill, and bring water. Well-behaved dogs OK on most of these, but double check (no dogs on birding hikes for obvious reasons).

Starting date uncertain at present (we hope in May or early June). Some weeks there may be no Thursday hike due to lack of a volunteer leader (see this page for how to volunteer).

Info & updates. Contact Dick & Joanne Hihn (518-222-0640; rhihn@skidmore.edu). If they are not available, contact Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639; wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com). We will also post updates on our website and Facebook, and submit to local media.

### Conservation Chair

THANKS TO THE HIHNS FOR responding to our plea in the last issue for an Outings Chair. NOW we have an equal need for a CONSERVATION CHAIR to co-ordinate conservation activities and our conservation committee. This includes:

- (1) Maintaining relations with BLM, the Inyo National Forest, and various cooperating groups such as the Bodie Partnership Coalition and the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group.
- (2) Commenting on scoping proposals, environmental assessments and the like (see From the Chair in this issue).
- (3) Facilitating conservation work days and projects.
- (4) Convening and chairing meetings of our Conservation Committee.

The chair works with the Conservation Committee, which ideally meets monthly or bi-monthly as needed to assess current issues, divide responsibility for response, and forward proposals for suggested action to the ExCom for approval.

Also, let us know if you cannot assume the responsibility of "Chair" but want to be involved in our conservation work (e.g., take responsibility for a particular issue in our area such as renewable energy proposals, sage grouse or other endangered species, OHV issues, etc.), and serve on our Conservation Committee.

**What can you do.** For more information or to volunteer, contact rangeofflight.sc@gmail.com or 760-924-5639.

— Malcolm Clark

### Highway cleanup

May 22, July 17, & Sept. 18

Who will find the most EXOTIC, UNUSUAL or OUTRAGEOUS trash during this summer's Range of Light Group (ROLG) highway cleanups?

Find out when you join range of Light group members in the Mammoth area to clean "our" section of Highway 395 north of Mammoth in May, July, and September.

Please see HIGHWAY CLEANUP, page 3



ROLG Group on Blue Diamond hunt at Obsidian Dome (Feb. 16, 2013). Photo: Joanne Hihn.

camera, binoculars. Car shuttle required. Some space in boats may be available; call to reserve. Meet 9a, ML Union Bank parking lot, or 9:30a Benton Crossing bridge. Leaders: Sandy and Keith (760-935-4004, kburnsides@aol.com). No dogs. More info: ROLG website <<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup>>.

# CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

*This land was  
made for you  
and me.*

— Woodie Guthrie

## Conservation Briefs

BY MARGE SILL

**New Federal contacts.** Neil Kornze has been appointed interim director of the Bureau of Land Management, replacing retiring Mike Pool. Neil is from Elko and served for several years in Nevada as wilderness and land use staff person for Senator Reid. Sally Jewell, CEO of REI, has been nominated to replace Ken Salazar as Secretary of the Interior when he retires.

**Nevada Dept. of Wildlife news.** George Tsukamoto will be acting director of NDO, replacing Director Ken Mayer, whose resignation was requested by Governor Sandoval. Two new wildlife commissioners have been appointed to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners: Bill Young, former Sheriff of Clark County, and Dr. Karen Layne, retired Professor of Public Administration at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

**Nevada Wilderness news.** Bills establishing a Pine Forest wilderness have been reintroduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. This wilderness has been endorsed by the entire Nevada delegation and the Humboldt County Commissioners. The Lyon County lands bill, which includes a 48,000-acre Wovoka Wilderness, has been introduced in both the House and the Senate.

Again, this bill is endorsed by the entire Nevada delegation and by the Lyon County Commissioners. Both these bills should be passed in this session of Congress since they have no opposition. A bill establishing a Gold Butte National Conservation Area with wilderness may be introduced this spring, because it has strong support from both Senator Reid and Representative Horsford.

**Sierra Club Board of Directors.** The BOD has replaced the former Resilient Habitats campaign with Our Wild America. The first focus of the campaign will be on national monuments and outdoor activities, with the second focus on national forest planning. The Sierra Nevada campaign, under the leadership of Sarah Matsumoto, includes much of the Toiyabe Chapter, particularly the Range of Light Group, the Tahoe Group, and the Great Basin Group. The campaign has been active in forest and national park planning.

**Mining News.** The Environmental Protection Agency has fined three gold mining companies, all subsidiaries of Barick Gold Corp., for failure to report toxic chemical releases and waste management activities at Cortez Gold Mine near Crescent Valley, Ruby Hill Gold Mine near Eureka, and Bald Mtn Gold Mine near Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The companies will pay \$278,000 in penalties and spend an additional \$340,000 for an environmentally beneficial project.

At the same time, concerns are being raised about the huge pit lakes which result when a deposit of ore occurs at least partly below the water table. These lakes can be extremely contaminated and have the potential of affecting both the quantity and the quality of water, particularly in the Humboldt Basin.

For further information, please see the article by John Hadder, Executive Director of Great Basin Research Watch, entitled "Nevada's Pit Lakes: Wasted Water" in the December 2012 issue of *DESERT REPORT* (see [www.DesertReport.org](http://www.DesertReport.org)).

## Sage grouse in Nevada

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

On February 21, a small group of Nevadans gathered at the State Capitol in Carson City to launch the State's latest sage grouse conservation effort. The State hopes to convince the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service it should *not* list sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act. The court-ordered deadline of September 30, 2015, for listing is rapidly approaching. (Note: Management of sage grouse habitat on public lands is the responsibility of federal agencies as governed by federal laws.)

Last year, the State developed an alternative for the federal Environmental Impact Statement, which is being conducted by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. The State's alternative is meant to amend its land use plans to incorporate regulatory measures for sage grouse conservation in all of their

programs. See <http://sagegrouse.nv.gov/references/> for more info.

This year, the Governor of Nevada appointed a Sagebrush Ecosystem Council. The Council has nine members -- four involved in agriculture and one member each representing mining, energy, and sportsmen and women. The conservation representative is Toiyabe Chapter member, Tina Nappe.

The purpose of the new Council and its staff, according to the Governor's Executive Order, is to "develop state-specific regulatory



Tina Nappe is third from the left at the table of Sagebrush Ecosystem Council members, meeting in the Kenny Guinn room of the Nevada State Capitol in Carson City on February 21, 2013. Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.

mechanisms to conserve sage grouse." How this would be accomplished is not defined.

Management of sage grouse is by state law

Please see *SAGE GROUSING*, page 7.

## Beautiful Snake Valley vs. massive water exportation

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

Have you ever visited Great Basin National Park? If you have, then you've been to Snake Valley on the far eastern side of Nevada, a valley shaped by scarce Great Basin desert waters. The striking stalactites and stalagmites in Lehman Caves were created, one drop at a time, by eons of water dripping through the carbonate rocks. Glaciers, one still active in the park, carved the peaks and canyons.

Except during unpredictable droughts, winter snows and summer rains provide much-



Dean Baker, on right in blue shirt and ball cap, giving a tour of Snake Valley, with the mountainous Great Basin National Park in the background. Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.

needed precipitation. Streams rushing from the surrounding mountains and groundwater discharging from ancient and more recent aquifers into springs and wet meadows keep the valley green, provide critical habitat to

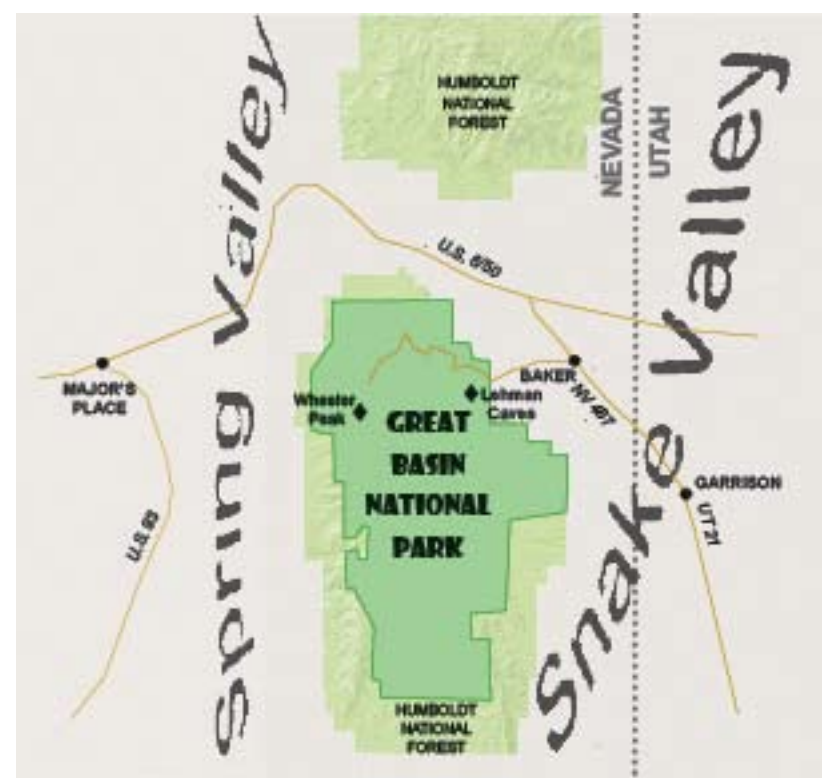
very rare fish and snail survivors from ancient Lake Bonnevill, and are the living waters on which wildlife, livestock, wild horses, sagebrush, wildflowers, and the people who make their homes in this remote area all depend.

**History.** People have long lived in Snake Valley. You may also have visited a GBNP archaeological site -- a village once inhabited by the Fremont people who farmed crops and hunted buffalo, elk, antelope, deer, and sage grouse. The Goshute Tribe now lives in the northern part of the valley and Shoshones lived in Snake and surrounding valleys. White explorers and wagon trains passed through, and settlers came to stay in the 1800s. Miners came and went, as did small religious and utopian communities.

The champion of Snake Valley, Dean Baker, patriarch of Baker Ranch, tells the complex story of Snake Valley. The valley's springs and inhabitants, both wild and human, are totally dependent on the scarce desert waters. All of this is now being threatened by a massive water exportation project proposed by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA).

Governors, federal, state and local government officials, international media from Germany, France, Italy, the Middle East and Japan, Nevada and Utah citizens, tribes, conservationists, scientists, hunters and fishermen, businesspeople, city folks -- all have come to listen to Baker's story of the devastating threats to Snake Valley from SNWA's groundwater mining project.

Baker has led tours for hundreds, if not thousands, of visitors since 2004. He shows them springs that have already been depleted or have disappeared just from the impacts of pump-



ing groundwater for local farms, ranches and small communities.

A dewatering disaster in the making. Pumping and exporting 16 billion gallons of groundwater per year through SNWA's 94-inch pipeline will disrupt fragile ecosystems and the ancient balance of life in eastern Nevada. According to the Bureau of Land Management's EIS on the pipeline project, over 4000 square miles in 40 basins will suffer dewatering to a lesser or greater extent.

A DVD of Dean Baker's story is now being developed. Check [www.great-basinwaternet.org](http://www.great-basinwaternet.org) for availability.

*Love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.*  
— Frank Lloyd Wright

## SAGE GROUSING . . .

*continued from page 6*

the responsibility of the Nevada Department of Wildlife. However, the Governor has just fired the director of NDOW, Ken Mayer, a nationally recognized expert on sage grouse. In addition, NDOW has been effectively excluded from the State's current conservation planning. The provisions of the 2004 Sage Grouse Conservation Plan – which was developed in a large broad-based local, state, and federal effort over three years – is largely absent from the new State alternative. See <http://www.ndow.org/wild/conservation/sg/plan/> for info on this plan.

Therefore, it remains a mystery what regulatory mechanisms are available to the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. Also, Nevada long ago privatized the great majority of state lands and prides itself on not regulating private lands.

Conservationists await the sorting out of the federal, state, local, and private roles in conservation of both sage grouse species and the protection and restoration of critical habitat in Nevada.

**What you can do.** For more information on Sage Grouse conservation in Nevada, go to Toiyabe Chapter website, <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/>. You may also contact Rose Strickland (775-329-6118).

## Conservationists' input to Sagebrush Ecosystem Council during public comments

*Rose Strickland* referred Council members to the State's 2004 Conservation Plan and how it addressed threats to sage grouse populations and habitat, most of which still exist, saying the Plan should be updated to address new threats -- climate change, oil and gas exploration, energy and transmission developments, and dewatering projects in eastern Nevada.

*Dennis Ghiglieri* told of hunting with his father and uncles in northern Nevada in the 1950s and always seeing many large flocks of sage grouse. He asked the Council to restore sage grouse populations and habitat to their former abundance, not to just do the minimum in order to avoid listing.

*Karen Boeger* of the Backcountry Hunters & Fishers urged the Council to use the best available peer-reviewed science on which to base its work and not be afraid to make the hard decisions about what changes needed to be made to help stop the loss of sage grouse habitat.

## Winter Recreation Collaboration in Lake Tahoe

BY LAUREL HARKNESS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SNOWLANDS NETWORK

THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE (USFS) Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) has been hosting a series of "Winter Recreation Collaboration" sessions over the last couple of years. Snowlands Network has been an active participant representing the interests of human-powered winter recreation.

The range of topics includes wilderness trespass, noise and pollution, environmental impact, parking, and education. The group is not addressing the highly contentious topic of designating additional areas for non-motorized use. The goal of the Winter Recreation Collaboration Group is to bring together all sides to work together to find common ground and sustainable solutions.

The USFS LTBMU is due to release the final version of the revised Forest Plan in the next couple of months. Snowlands Network, as part of the public review process, submitted very detailed comments calling for the Forest Plan to address winter travel management and more tightly restrict motorized travel.

The draft of the Forest Plan failed to address winter travel management, which, from our standpoint, is an inexcusable omission. Snowlands Network continues to keep the pressure on the LTBMU to designate additional areas as non-motorized to meet the demand for human-powered winter recreation.

**What you can do.** Your comments are an important part of the planning process. Please stay informed and subscribe to notices from Snowlands Network by sending e-mail to [alerts@snowlands.org](mailto:alerts@snowlands.org). If you would like to attend and participate in one of the Winter Recreation Collaboration meetings in the Lake Tahoe Basin, please send e-mail to [gail@snowlands.org](mailto:gail@snowlands.org).

## Wild sheep in the Range of Light

BY JULIA RUNCIE

THE WILDERNESS MEANS something different for every explorer. Since the early days of the American West, the Sierra Nevada has served as a haven and a destination for



Bighorn photo: Tim Glenner.

those who seek wild places, whether for adventure, scientific study, or simple peace and quiet. Yet nature does not consist of rocks and sky alone: the living things that inhabit the wilderness are essential to our experience there.

Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep are found only in their namesake mountains. Genetically distinct from all other wild sheep on the continent, these elusive creatures form an irreplaceable part of the landscape they inhabit. But like so many icons of California wildlife, the subspecies was almost lost, landing on the federal endangered species list in 1999 at a low of about one hundred animals. Since that time, the California Department of Fish & Wildlife has directed

## DESERT SOUTHWEST GETTING DRIER . . .

*continued from page 1*

increasing water supply options seem to be pie-in-the-sky, but have serious supporters such as the outspoken head of the water agencies for Las Vegas, Patricia Mulroy.

The myth of water abundance is a key

ing 450,000 acre-feet of water annually from Lake Mead. And, regardless of the dismal outlook for water users, it is likely worse for the survival of fish and wildlife.

Even now, the serious drought of 2012

has extended into 2013. There is a slow realization that the west has always been dry and all uses of water must be reduced. Both municipal and agricultural users need to embrace conservation to preserve our storage capacities under drier and warmer conditions. And, water needs to be left at its source to protect the fish and wildlife that have already suffered enormous loss.

**Will we do it?** The future of the environment

of the entire west may depend on it.

### RESOURCES

#### *Vulnerability of U.S. Water Supply to Shortage (2012)*

[www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs\\_gtr295.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr295.pdf)

#### *The Colorado River Basin Water Supply & Demand Study*

[www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy.html](http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/crbstudy.html)

#### *U.S. Drought Monitor*

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>

#### *How Much Water Is There on, in, & Above the Earth?*

<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/earthhowmuch.html>



Las Vegas water intake at Lake Mead seen in 2009. Photo: D. Ghiglieri.

selling point to attract people to the driest region in the country. Just published research, *Vulnerability of U.S. Water Supply to Shortage (2012)*, finds that "climate change can increase water demand and decrease water supply to the extent that, barring major adaptation efforts, substantial future water shortages are likely, especially in the southwest."

Warnings that the already dry region will become even drier are emphasized by findings that "...Lakes Powell and Mead are projected to drop to zero and only occasionally thereafter add rather small amounts of storage before emptying again."

That should give folks planning a move to Las Vegas pause, because the metropolitan area is nearly completely dependent on tak-

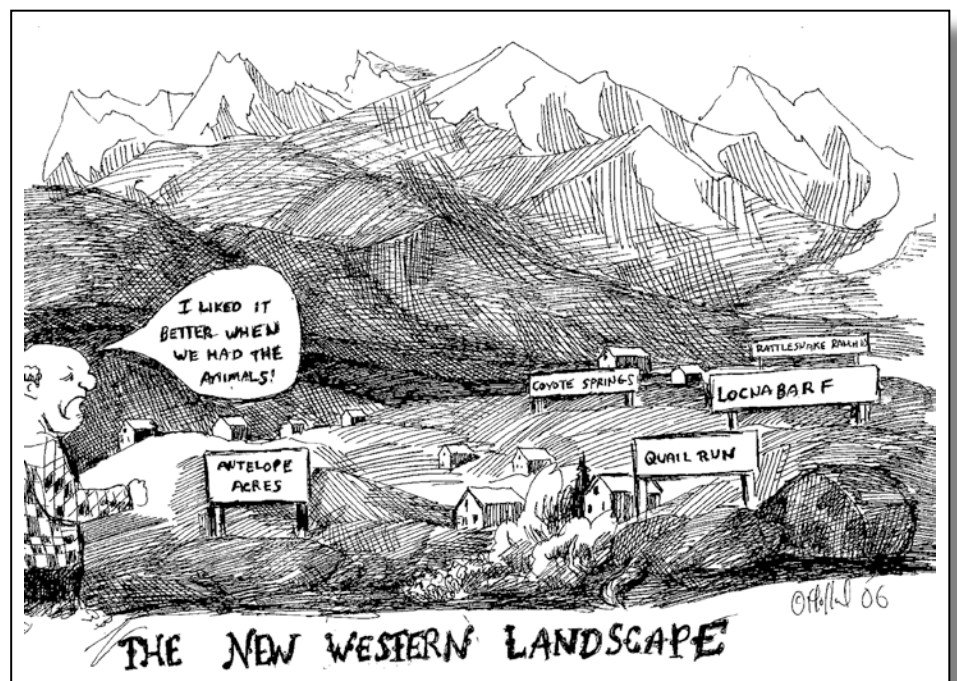
efforts to restore and monitor the population. Recent surveys and the discovery of newly-occupied habitat have led us to estimate that there are now as many as five hundred bighorn in the Sierra. The goal of complete recovery suddenly seems within reach.

It's an exciting time for this fragile population. Sierra bighorn have garnered national attention thanks to artist and science illustrator Jane Kim, whose innovative Migrating Mural project features life-size murals of bighorn in sites along Highway 395. The Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation is working to encourage more community involvement in the recovery process through educational outreach and fundraising. The California Department of Fish & Wildlife will lead a series of free bighorn tracking field trips in 2013, the next two to be held on March 16 and April 22. We hope that

public awareness and enthusiasm will continue to keep pace with the growing bighorn population.

But the fight to bring the bighorn back is about more than just numbers. We are working to preserve the fabric of this landscape: the delicate interplay of plant and rock and weather, of human adventurer and animal mountaineer, that makes up the singular identity of the Sierra Nevada. A decade ago, Sierra bighorn were on the brink of extinction. A decade from now, with your help, we may be celebrating the recovery of a healthy, stable population of wild sheep in the Range of Light.

**What you can do.** To learn more, make a donation, or register for a field trip, email [asksnbs@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:asksnbs@wildlife.ca.gov) or visit [www.dfg.ca.gov/snbs](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/snbs) or [www.sierrabighorn.org](http://www.sierrabighorn.org).

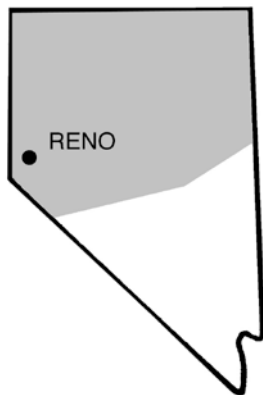


**DEADLINE!**  
**JUNE 1**



**FOR**  
**JULY - AUG - SEPT ISSUE**

# Great Basin Gatherings



## Great Basin Group

### Chair's Report

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

#### What's new?

You may have seen my name on the front page as Toiyabe Chapter Chair. What is going on here? True, I have taken on the Chapter Chair, but am still officially the Great Basin Group Chair and will do my best to serve both entities. But not forever. Someone else should move into the Group Chair position by 2014. We invite interested members to first become involved with the ExCom and to aspire to take leadership roles within the group. Please talk to us if you have any interest.

**Southeast Connector (SEC) is underway.** Construction began in January on the Phase I bridge over the

Truckee River to join it to Sparks Blvd. The design period for Phase II, which is the stretch between Truckee River and S. Meadows Pkwy. is underway, and the Group is participating in the stakeholder committee. Please contact our representative, Valerie Andersen (mtnval@sbcglobal.net), if you have any questions or input on this process. We are still trying to steer the planning to accommodate environmental and recreational needs.

**BLM Resource Management Plan for Carson Ranger District.** The plan will be out for public comment in

Please see CHAIR'S REPORT, page 9.

### Great Basin Peak Section News

#### New Year's Day celebration with friends

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

THE PEAK SECTION AND friends found the mountains blanketed with snow on New Year's Day so out came the snowshoes in order to continue our year around enjoyment of the outdoors. We headed up White's Creek Canyon into a winter wonderland. This snowshoe outing contrasted with last year's



celebration of a snow-free hike up Clark Mountain on New Year's Day.

After a couple of hours of fluffy snow underfoot and blue sky overhead, we gathered for a potluck (or is that a feeding frenzy?) and a white elephant gift exchange. All enjoyed a fun time of filling bellies and laughing over interesting gifts.

*Great Basin Peaks Section and Friends at White's Creek Trailhead.*  
Photo: Sharon Marie Wilcox.



A slideshow of past outings helped us reminisce over many great adventures. Patrick gave a demo of his Spotter,\* a useful safety tool for many of our out-of-the-way adventures. Carol shared some ideas on winter traction footwear.

We have our sights on many new peaks and fun times this year.

**Join us!** For details on membership, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports

## 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.

#### APRIL 1 (MONDAY)

**Great Basin Group ExCom.** We meet monthly to plan events and discuss conservation issues. All Great Basin Group members are welcome to attend our monthly ExCom meetings. Time: 6p. Location: TBD. Info: call David von Seggern (775-303-8461).

#### APRIL 4 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for 3-5 mi, mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs are allowed, posted on hotline Tuesday before. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

#### APRIL 11 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for hikes of 3-5 mi, mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs are allowed, posted on hotline Tuesday before. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

#### APRIL 11 (THURSDAY)

**Monthly program meeting.** Join your fellow members for our monthly program

and socializing. Speaker TBD. Info: check our web site at <<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/gbgroup/>>. We meet at Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Interpretive Center, 6000 Bartley Ranch Rd. Social, 6:30p; program, 7p. Refreshments, too!

#### APRIL 13 (SATURDAY) 10A

**Hole-in-the-Wall.** Easier hike near Reno. About 5 mi, 500 ft gain. Great views of Reno, likely see magpies. Discuss erosion, wildlife, in area. Trail mainly hard dirt surface with few sandy areas, loose rocks. Please bring plenty of water, wear hiking shoes. Some picnic tables nearby to enjoy after hike. Dogs welcome on leash; this is a popular dog walking trail. DL. Leader: Bill Myatt (775-233-3186, lovethesierras@yahoo.com). Co-Leader: Gail Myatt (755-750-1293, gailamontes@hotmail.com). Easy.

#### APRIL 16 (TUESDAY) 5:30P

**Tuesday evening conditioning hike.** These will run until October. Easy, 2-3 miles RT, less than 300ft gain, 1-2 hrs. We'll meet at various trailheads around Truckee Meadows. See our Meetup site <[www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/](http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/)> for details on each week's hike, appearing 2-3 days

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

### Kids snowshoe with help from Great Basin Group

BY SUE JACOX, SUEJACOX@NVBELL.NET

“The kids had a fantastic time and loved looking for tracks,” wrote Holly Coughlin, teacher and Sierra Club Great Basin outings chair. Third grade classes from Rita Cannan Elementary School in Reno went snowshoeing at Galena Creek and learned about winter safety and winter adaptations. Funds raised at the Great Basin Group's “Get Kids Outdoors!” event last summer helped with expenses.

These are children who rarely get this kind of experience and who were introduced to snowshoeing for the first time. Great Basin Outdoor School partnered with the Galena Creek Visitor Center and Snowlands Network to develop and offer Snow School the past two winters to help children enjoy our winter wonderland safely and responsibly.

Great Basin Outdoor School shares snowshoes and lends boots, gloves,

check out Great Basin Peak Section at: <<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/Great-BasinPeaks.html>>.

\* The Spot is a satellite GPS messenger that sends your location and calls for help to a service that requires a yearly fee. A great safety device, because it picks up satellites in areas that don't get cell service.

snow pants, and other warm gear. This winter, over 200 local children participated. Most were from very low income neighborhoods and were helped by various community contributions.



Kids show their “predator” faces during SnowSchool at Galena Creek.

**What you can do.** Have fun & help kids! Save the date for the Great Basin group's next summer social supporting student outings. Saturday, July 20, we'll be back at beautiful Galena Creek Park for an Italian night of dining and dancing in the old stone lodge. Promote your business or a friend's.

Don't forget to visit the

Great Basin Group website

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

& the Chapter website

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

#### GREAT BASIN GROUP

##### OFFICERS

Chair	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
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Outings	Holly Coughlin	775-331-7488	
Political	Open		
Programs	Valerie Andersen*	775-853-4769	mtnval@sbcglobal.net
Webmaster	Peter Johnson	775-250-2576	peter.j.johnson@charter.net

\* ExCom member



ahead of date. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

#### APRIL 18 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for hikes of 3-5 mi, mod. pace, with gain of 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs are allowed, posted on hotline Tuesday before. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

#### APRIL 20 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Earth Day Volunteer Clean-Up in Virginia Mountains.** Looking for volunteers to help us with clean-up at base of Virginia Mountains. This is a beautiful area SW of Pyramid Lake. All you need to bring is heavy gloves, possibly rake or shovel, and a desire to make a difference. Truck to help carry trash is helpful, if you have one. We supply trash bags. Great activity for kids, too! DL. Leader: Pat Kleames (359-5089). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Easy.

#### APRIL 20 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Rock Point Mill Tramway Day Hike.** Aerial Tram route between Rock Point Mill in Dayton and Comstock. Mostly off trail through brush, tracing route of former overhead tram that transported ore from Comstock to Rock Point Mill at Dayton. About 7 mi, over 2000 ft gain. Learn some mining history of area. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

#### APRIL 21 (SUNDAY) 11A

**Earth Day Festival.** Enjoy this Earth Day by visiting celebration at Idewilde Park in Reno. Festivities include music, a variety of booths, drum circles, and food. There will be raffle drawings and all kinds of fun things for children to participate in. Be sure to leave dogs at home. Be sure to drop by GBG booth and say "Hi." Fun! ND. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Easy.

#### APRIL 23 (TUESDAY) 5:30P

**Tuesday evening conditioning hike.** See 4-16 writeup for general info and go to our Meetup site ([www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/](http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/)) for details on this week's hike. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

#### APRIL 25 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for hikes of 3-5 mi, mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs are allowed, posted on hotline Tuesday before. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

#### APRIL 27 (SATURDAY) TBA

**Reno Map & Compass Class.** Are you LOST without leader? Get ready for your desert, mountain trips! Learn Map & Compass or brush up on your skills. About 1/2 day, includes "classroom", practical during brief hike. You don't need compass, but feel free to bring yours! We'll give you some suggestions on what to buy. We'll talk briefly about GPS, but this Map & Compass class is the foundation under your GPS! We'll finish in early afternoon. Sign up after 4/10. Call for time, location. In Reno! DOK on leash. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

#### APRIL 27 (SATURDAY) 8A

**V & T Railroad Day Hike.** Virginia & Truckee Rail bed between Gold Hill and Mound House. About 7 mi, downhill, paralleling tracks. Learn some history of area, of railroads. Vehicle shuttle necessary. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

#### APRIL 30 (TUESDAY) 5:30P

**Tuesday evening conditioning hike.** See 4-16 writeup for general info and go to our Meetup site ([www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/](http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/)) for details on this week's hike. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461;

# Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

#### MAY 2 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for hikes of 3-5 mi, mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs are allowed, posted on hotline Tuesday before. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

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

**Big Daddy AKA: Gin Peak.** Hike up to saddle of Needle, then follow an animal trail with small amount of rock scrambling. Gain about 2000 ft, RT about 9 mi. Wonderful views of Pyramid Lake from 6600 ft. Discuss flora, fauna of area; very picturesque hike. Please bring plenty of water, sturdy hiking shoes. High profile vehicles needed to get to trailhead. DL. Leader: Bill Myatt (775-233-3186, lovethesierras@yahoo.com). Co-Leader: Gail Myatt (775-750-1293, gailamontes@hotmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

#### MAY 4 (SATURDAY) 7:30A

**One day Amateur Radio Class.** Earn your Technician Class Amateur Radio license in just one day! No Morse code required! This class is Review, not complete class, so you must study on your own!

For people who have studied on their own, pass rate is about 95% but it's much lower if you haven't done your part! The test is at 7th-8th grade level so adults don't really need to worry if they've studied little ahead of time. We'll test immediately after class so info will be fresh in your mind! This license will enable you to communicate in back country even if there is no cell service. Ideal for leaders, sweeps! Cost: \$15 for materials, \$15 exam fee, cash only. PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY 5/1. For study info (some free!), practice tests, additional info, visit [www.renohamswap.com/one-day-ham-class/](http://www.renohamswap.com/one-day-ham-class/). ND. Leader: David Book (KD7YIM, 775-843-6443). Easy.

#### MAY 7 (TUESDAY) 5:30P

**Tuesday evening conditioning hike.** See 4-16 writeup for general info and go to our Meetup site ([www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/](http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/)) for details on this week's hike. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

#### MAY 9 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for hikes of 3-5 mi, mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs are allowed, posted on hotline Tuesday before. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Co-Leader: Ridge

Walker (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

Walker (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

#### MAY 6 (MONDAY)

**Great Basin Group ExCom.** We meet monthly to plan events and discuss conservation issues. All Great Basin Group members are welcome to attend our monthly ExCom meetings. 6p. Location: TBD. Info: call David von Seggern (775-303-8461).

#### MAY 9 (THURSDAY)

**Monthly program meeting.** Come join Karin McCollum, "professional tourist", in her 90-minute slide presentation, "A Sampling of our Seven Continents." Whether you have traveled extensively or only via National Geographic, you're sure to see some places you've never visited! Karin contracted "travivirus" at the age of 19 and has never recovered - traveling to 100 countries and territories, including places like Easter Island, Komodo Island, fabulous underwater realms, Africa (including

Madagascar), and various other destinations in her quest to see the world. We meet at Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Interpretive Center, 6000 Bartley Ranch Rd. Social, 6:30p; program, 7p. Refreshments, too!

#### MAY 11-12 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY) TBA

**Black Rock Hot Springs Tour.** In Black Rock Desert, about 100 mi N of Reno. Backup tour in case weather is bad for March 9-10 trip, but may happen anyway! Learn about history, geography of area. Good first trip to Black Rock. Exact itinerary depends on playa conditions. Weather may be cool, so be prepared! Probably a potluck dinner Saturday! May meet up in Reno Friday eve. Call David for details of meeting time, location. Sorry, no RVs or trailers, need high clearance vehicles. Leader very familiar with area. Primitive camping! Dogs OK with leash; be prepared to pick up after them! LNT. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

#### MAY 11 (SATURDAY) 8A

**McClellan Peak Day Hike.** Near historic Virginia City flume system on McClellan Peak near Carson City. Hike along part of route, 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 4WD vehicle necessary,

or possible ride share. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

#### MAY 14 (TUESDAY) 5:30P

**Tuesday evening conditioning hike.** See 4-16 writeup for general info and go to our Meetup site ([www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-](http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-)

Hiking-Reno/) for details on this week's hike. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

#### MAY 16 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for hikes of 3-5 mi, mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs are allowed, posted on hotline Tuesday before. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

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

**Kayak Lahontan Reservoir.** Learn about Lahontan's history, observe bird life along shore. Visit petroglyphs, if water not too choppy to cross safely. Must have own kayak, be familiar with how to paddle. Bring life vest, clothing for weather that day. ND. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net). Moderate.

#### MAY 18 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Lahontan Shoreline Day Hike.** At Lahontan Reservoir near Silver Springs. Hike shoreline to celebrate Armed Forces Day, bring your U.S. Flag, learn about cadence. Enjoy stark beauty of area. About 5 mi on in-and-out hike along 'beach'. View, learn about tufa formations. Optional extension after lunch to scale ridges. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

#### MAY 19 (SUNDAY) 9:30A

**Hunter Creek Falls Day Hike.** Great hike close to Reno. About 6 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. There should be some wildflowers to view along trail. Lunch at waterfall. Trail is rocky, so boots highly recommended. Dog OK with leash. Pace moderate. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Stephanie Lashuk (347-429-2016). Moderate.

#### MAY 19 (SUNDAY) 8A

**Sagehen Creek Camas Lilies Day Hike.** Witness one of best flower displays in Sierra. Spring brings carpet of camas lily blooms to Sage Hen Creek every year in late May. Learn about how native Americans used them. This date is only placeholder as we will need to gauge when flowers are at full bloom. Please check our Meetup site at <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/> to find out exact date. May be evening hike. About 4 mi RT, 200 ft gain. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Katy Christensen (mabelnv@hotmail.com). Mod. Easy.

#### MAY 21 (TUESDAY) 5:30P

**Tuesday evening conditioning hike.** See *Please see GB CALENDAR, page 11.*

## GB CHAIR'S REPORT...

continued from page 8

**perhaps June of this year.** This district covers the Reno and Carson City areas and comprises much of the land we often hike in. There is an EIS involved with this plan, which will extend over the next couple of decades. It's important that the BLM gets it right with environmental protection in this plan, so please keep watch for the opportunity to comment on it.

#### Single-stream recycling for Reno.

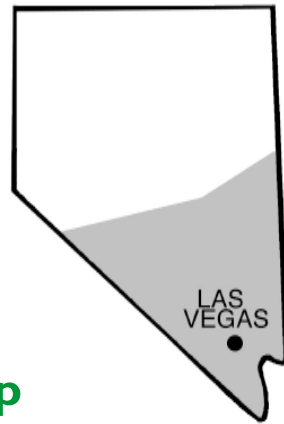
Late last year, the Reno Council, with our urging, passed an ordinance which will bring single-stream recycling to Reno. We should begin to see the roll-out of that plan by summer. Look forward to those big blue recycle bins and fill them up! More importantly, preach what you practice as we increase the volume of recycled materials in Reno greatly. Next - Sparks and Washoe County need to adopt single-stream!

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



Summit of Bunker Hill: Ron Moe, Mary Brooks, Dave Porter, and Larry Dwyer. Photo: Sharon Marie Wilcox.

# The Mojave Monitor



## Southern Nevada Group

### Group News

#### Monthly ExCom meetings April 24, May 22, and June 19, 2013

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee have moved to **Wednesdays** for the 2nd quarter. Meeting time is 6-8:30 pm at the Sierra Club Office, 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 April 24, May 22, and June 19!

#### General Program Meetings April 8, May 13, & June 10, 2013

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 April 8, May 13, and June 10 at 7 pm. See below for program details and times. All welcome!

All phone numbers indicated below are within the 702 area code unless otherwise noted.

#### APRIL 8 (MONDAY)

**Program meeting: "New Member Orientation."** Time & place: 7-8 pm, Sierra Club Office. Our first orientation of the year is open not only to new and prospective members but also to current members with an interest in learning more about the Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapte, and Southern Nevada Group. Light refreshments will be served. Info: Taj Ainlay (682-9361). All welcome.

#### MAY 13 (MONDAY)

**Program meeting: "An Evening with Tom Moulin."** Time & place: 7 pm, Sierra Club Office. Tom Moulin, author of the Red Rock Canyon Visitor Guide, meticulously researched Red Rock Canyon to create "an extensive chronicle of the region's past and a thorough field guide to the plants and animals." His program includes information on the flora and fauna in that region as well as some of the more popular trails. Hosted by Las Vegas ICO. Info: Tom Moulin (tom@snellpress.com). All welcome.

#### JUNE 10 (MONDAY)

**Program meeting: "They did what?!"** (How the courts are the last line of defense against bad environmental policy.) Time & place: 7 pm, Sierra Club

Office. From the Clean Air Act to the Clean Water Act to federal land use policies, polluters and profiteers have been trying to tear down environmental protections any way they can. The courts have often been the environment's last line of defense, but now the courts themselves are under attack. Learn

## Southern Nevada Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 702 unless otherwise noted.

**All hikes and service projects are led by certified outings leaders.**

(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.

#### APRIL 7 (SUNDAY)

**Mc Cullough Hills Trail.** Begin in Anthem, hike 8.2 mi E to eastern Henderson. This is a brand new trail completed last fall. Easy terrain and wide trail compensates for 8.2 mi distance. Short 10-mi car shuttle. Leader: Eric Blumensaadt (702-370-1836, 7speeder@cox.net). Level 2-3.

#### APRIL 13 (SATURDAY)

**Brownstone Canyon, RRCNCA.** I love to explore this area. From Sandstone Quarry, pass upper end of Gateway Canyon down to an up-&-over to a tinaja. Pass through and down a slot canyon and pop out at petroglyphs and pictographs for lunch. Do you recognize which of these petroglyphs are on 215 overpass? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

#### APRIL 13-14 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

**Bonanza /Spring Mountain Divide Trail OVERNIGHT BACKPACK.** Begin at Cold Creek trailhead off US 95 and end at LVSSR ski resort at Bristlecone trailhead parking lot. Short shuttle involved both days. Leader: Eric Blumensaadt (702-370-1836). Phone call REQUIRED. Level 4-5.

#### APRIL 14 (SUNDAY)

**Morning hike in Red Rock/Blue Diamond/Cottonwood Valley area.** Moderately fast-paced hike covering 6-8 mi, will be done by noon. Bring water, snacks, first aid kit. Level 3. Leader: David Hardy (875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, e-mail preferred).

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

### Inner City Outings ventures out with 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders

BY BETTY GALLIFENT



CAN CHILDREN AGES SIX AND SEVEN learn to explore, enjoy, and protect our outdoor recreation areas? In fact they can, as was proven in early December when eight 1st and 2nd grade students from Rex Bell Elementary School participated in an Inner City Outings trip to the Red Springs Boardwalk Trail in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area just west of Las Vegas.

For many of the students, this was their first venture into a recreation area outside of the city. The trip exposed them to a world of nature where they observed spring-fed meadows, signs of animal life such as lizard tracks in the sand, native

grasses, a close-up view of the Aztec Sandstone, and Native American petroglyphs.

Numerous questions and comments came quickly as these 1st and 2nd graders got involved in the new surroundings.

Please see ICO FIELD TRIP, page 11.



### SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361	tajainlay@aol.com
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Secretary	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer	Desiree Saporito	702-875-2668	
At Large	Gecko Benjamin*	702-505-0000	
At Large	Open		
At Large	Open		
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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
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Outings	Par Rasmusson	702-215-9119	par@mvdsl.com
Outings	Open		
Parks, Refuges	Ed Rothfuss	406-756-0028	mroth9827@aol.com
Political	Teresa Crawford	702-526-8445	tailspinterry@hotmail.com
Programs	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361	tajainlay@aol.com
Publicity	Open		
Transportation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com

\* ExCom member

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

## S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 10

### APRIL 20 (SATURDAY)

**Historic Railroad Tunnels, LMNRA.** Family hike. Friendly dogs welcome. Hike through five interesting tunnels on old railroad grade. Great views of Lake Mead. Spring wildflowers. Learn some history and geology. About 4 mi. Leader: Gary Beckman and family (648-2983). Level 1-2.

### APRIL 20 (SATURDAY)

**Red Rock Canyon Overlook, RRCNCA.** From Willow Spring, boulder up North Peak Canyon then up "Canadian Canyon" to ridge line overlooking Red Rock Canyon. When we get to Over Look you'll feel richer than any king hoarding his gold. About 1200 ft gain is worth all the sweat for majestic view. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 4-5.

### APRIL 20 (SATURDAY)

**Bristlecone Loop, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area.** About 6 mi through newly green aspen, we'll soak in mountain air. How's Mt. Charleston blue butterfly doing? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

### MAY 4 (SATURDAY)

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

### MAY 11 (SATURDAY)

**Red Rocks: La Madre Spring - White Rock Loop.** About 2.5 mi out-&-back OR 6.5 mi loop. Loop takes us to La Madre Spring OR around past White Rock. Group decision determines hike length. If we have two hike leaders, both hikes can be done separately. (TBD as interest dictates.) Leader: Eric Blumensaadt (702-370-1836, 7speeder@cox.net). Both hikes about Level 2-3.

### MAY 11 (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 from 7800 ft to almost 9000 ft. Rock scrambling in creek bed with avalanche debris. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

### MAY 11 (SATURDAY)

**Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up.** Catch some sunshine on our 2-mi walk full of comaraderie and good feelings about making Red Rock a little more beautiful. Bring hat, sunscreen, water. Meet 8:30, Dunkin' Donuts, on Charleston W of 215. Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

### MAY 12 (SUNDAY)

**Morning hike in Red Rock/Blue Diamond/Cottonwood Valley area.** Moderately fast-paced hike covering 6-8 mi, will be done by noon. Bring water, snacks, first aid kit. Leader: David Hardy (875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, e-mail preferred). Level 3.

### MAY 26 (SUNDAY)

**Morning hike in Red Rock/Blue Diamond/Cottonwood Valley area.** Moderately fast paced hike covering 6-8 mi, will be done by noon. Bring water, snacks, first aid kit. Leader: David Hardy (875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, e-mail preferred). Level 3.

### MAY 27 (MONDAY)

**Morning hike in Red Rock/Blue Diamond/Cottonwood Valley area.** Moderately fast paced hike covering 6-8 mi, will be done by noon. Bring water, snacks, first aid kit. Leader: David Hardy (875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, e-mail preferred). Level 3.

### JUNE 1 (SATURDAY)

**Stanley B. Spring, SMNRA.** About 4 mi

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 12.

## ICO FIELD TRIP WITH 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADERS . . .

continued from page 9



At one point, students left the ease of the boardwalk trail to scramble up a rocky dirt trail to a high ridge that overlooked Calico Basin and, in the distance, the city of Las Vegas. From that vantage point, they could see where they came from and how far they had traveled to get to this recreation area.

After lunch in the Red Springs picnic area, students did leaf rubbings with newly fallen ash leaves and participated in a game in which they looked for colors on the trail that matched the colors of paint swatches. The trailhead talk and modeled practice by ICO leaders included the Leave No Trace principles of staying on durable surfaces, and packing out your trash. These young

nature hikers were very responsive to adult guidance on these environmental issues.

Red Rock Canyon personnel loaned the ICO leaders some artifacts from the Red Rock collection, including a big horn sheep horn, a tortoise shell, and the fur from a bobcat and a fox. The Rex Bell students first observed, handled, and discussed these artifacts in an ICO pre-trip visit to the classroom and these discussions continued during the outing.

In the pre-trip classroom visit, ICO leaders also included a poster board full of pictures and key vocabulary words from the Red Springs Boardwalk Trail to help familiarize students with the area and to raise their anticipation levels for the outing.

In only a single trip, students' eyes and ears were opened to a whole new world. ICO is grateful to Red Rock Interpretive Association for sponsoring this outing.

What you can do. For more information about Las Vegas Inner City Outings contact Charlie Schneider, Chair (charlie\_nancy@cox.net).

## Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 9

### JUNE 2 (SUNDAY) 8A

**MGL Mine Volunteer Clean-Up & Day Hike.** Come on out, help us with cleaning up near old mine site in Nightingale Range N of Nixon. Most cleaning up is cans, bottles. Bring work gloves, we supply trash bags and haul out in back of truck. Hike afterward, about 6 mi RT, 500 ft gain. See some beautiful country most people don't even know exists! DOK. Leader: Pat Kleames (359-5089). Mod. Easy.

### JUNE 3 (MONDAY)

**Great Basin Group ExCom.** We meet monthly to plan events and discuss conservation issues. All Great Basin Group members are welcome to attend our monthly ExCom meetings. 6p. Location: TBD. Info: call David von Seggern (775-303-8461).

### JUNE 4 (TUESDAY) 5:30P

**Tuesday evening conditioning hike.** See 4-16 writeup for general info and go to our Meetup site (www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/) for details on this week's hike. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

### JUNE 5 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Wednesday Conditioning Hike.** Please refer to 5-22 details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Co-Leader: Jim Call (473-1445). Moderate.

### JUNE 6 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for hikes of 3-5 mi, mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs are allowed, posted on hotline Tuesday before. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### JUNE 9 (SUNDAY) 8A

**Largomarsino Canyon Day Hike.** Through scenic canyon filled with riparian habitat. Numerous stream crossings possible along creek that flows year-round. Halfway point is real treat - a petroglyph site where we can view many examples of ancient rock art. Many wild horses frequent this area, so sightings are almost guaranteed. A difficult hike at times because of uneven, rocky surfaces. About 12 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. Poles highly recommended for stream crossings. Pace will be moderate to moderately fast. Trip limit 15. DL. Leader: Pat Kleames (359-5089). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Mod. Strenuous.

### JUNE 11 (TUESDAY) 5:30P

**Tuesday evening conditioning hike.** See 4-16 writeup for general info and go to our Meetup site <www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/> for details on this week's hike. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

### JUNE 13 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for hikes of 3-5 mi, mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs are allowed, posted on hotline Tuesday before. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### JUNE 15 (SATURDAY) 7:30A

**Kings Canyon Day Hike.** Kings Canyon (near Carson City) to Spooner Summit. About 9.1 mi, 2000 ft + gain. Vehicle shuttle. On old stage route, is 9.1 mi. Learn some history of area, enjoy views. See remains of railroad turntable, summit tunnel in Spooner Summit area. ND. Leader: T A

Please see GB GROUP CALENDAR, page 12.

4-16 writeup for general info and go to our Meetup site (www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/) for details on this week's hike. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

### MAY 22 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Moderate Conditioning Hike.** The beginning of my get-into-shape for summer, after-work hikes. All hikes are 3-4 mi, 800-1800 ft gain. Details posted on Sierra Club Hotline or our Meet-up site. Learn about new places to hike in Truckee Meadows, observe flora, fauna. Pace moderate, may get swifter as summer progresses. Bring plenty of water, clothing for temperatures. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Co-Leader: Jim Call (473-1445). Moderate.

### MAY 23 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for hikes of 3-5 mi, mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs are allowed, posted on hotline Tuesday before. DOK. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Easy.

**MAY 25-27 (SATURDAY-MONDAY) TBD**  
**Black Rock Rendezvous.** A great first trip to Black Rock! Expect several hundred people for weekend of speakers, guided tours, kids' activities, visits to hot springs, potluck dinner, raffles, etc. Learn about history, geology, flora, fauna of area. Trailers, RVs OK, but no hook-ups. Dry camping only. LNT. Sign up after 5/15. DOK. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy.

### MAY 26 (SUNDAY) 8A

**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, erodes. See amazing elephant trunk arch. Bring your camera for great photo opportunities. About 8 mi RT, 800 ft gain. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Moderate.

### MAY 28 (TUESDAY) 6:30 P.M.

**Outings Meeting.** All members welcome to join us and find out what goes into planning for outings. We'll be submitting trips for July, August, and September. Bring a potluck dish to share. All beverages provided. If weather is nice, we'll enjoy deck and backyard at Chuck and Gracie's home. Followup directions week before meeting. DOK. Leader: Chuck Oliveria (786-2988). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Easy.

### MAY 29 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Please refer to 5-22 details posted. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Co-Leader: Jim Call (473-1445). Moderate.

### MAY 30 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for hikes of 3-5 mi, mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs are allowed, posted on hotline Tuesday before. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### JUNE 1 (SATURDAY) 8:30A

**Martis Peak Fire Tower Hike.** Vistas of Tahoe, Truckee area. About 10 mi RT, 2000 ft gain. Through meadow with bright wildflowers. Discuss flora, fauna. Great views of surrounding peaks from tower. Trip limit: 15. DL. Leader: Bill Myatt (775-233-3186, lovethesierras@yahoo.com). Co-Leader: Gail Myatt (775-750-1293, gailamontes@hotmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

# Bookshelf

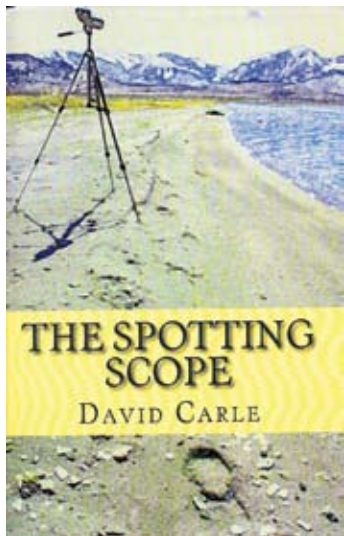
## THE SPOTTING SCOPE

By David Carle  
Phalarope Press, 2012.

David Carle spins a nice tale in his latest novel, the Spotting Scope, keeping the reader on edge page after page. The story, set in contemporary eastern California, finds the environment under political attack in fictitious eastern Sierra "Toiyabe County" and its renowned "Saline Lake."

The tension escalates to more than threats when a local anti-environmental activist is bludgeoned with – of all things – a birder's spotting scope. Then a visiting birder with local connections goes missing and townspeople who hail from a group called "People First" want to join in the search. Things turn deadly for our unemployed former park ranger, Jack Morgan, who was turned out of a job when the local congressman had the National Park he headed reclassified as a County park.

Carle's previous novel, Mono, was based on historical events woven around a wonderful set of fictional characters. In this latest work the reader is thrust into typical western politics where bashing the environment is a local sport and conservationists are



viewed with suspicion at best. Former ranger Jack chooses to live among the people who helped get him out of a job. He loves the mountains and desert and can't imagine living anywhere else. As a search and rescue leader he is a respected member of the community nonetheless, and counts as friends from many in the town.

The book doesn't lack for action. I found myself fully engaged in

the hunt for our missing "person of interest" high in the Sierra and worrying about who was going to be found on the shoreline of ancient "Saline Lake." The story goes beyond stereotypes of rural America, however, showing the complex motives of people and their view of the lands they love and also use to make a living.

The book is well paced -- you won't want to put it down until the end. You can find this and other books by Carle – including his non-fiction book Water & the California Dream: Choices for the New Millennium, published by Sierra Club Books in 2003 at <http://users.qnet.com/~carle>.

— Dennis Ghiglieri

# Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 11

Taro (775-530-2935). Strenuous.

### JUNE 18 (TUESDAY) 5:30P

**Tuesday evening conditioning hike.** See 4-16 writeup for general info and go to our Meetup site (www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/) for details on this week's hike. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

### JUNE 19 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Wednesday Conditioning Hike.** Please refer to 5-22 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Co-Leader: Jim Call (473-1445). Moderate.

### JUNE 20 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Join us for hikes of 3-5 mi, mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs are allowed, posted on hotline Tuesday before. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Co-Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Mod. Easy.

### JUNE 21-23 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TBD

**Black Rock Archaeology Survey.** Meet up with Trails West group, BLM archaeologist, to look for traces of Emigrant Trail between Quinn River and Black Rock Hot Springs. Primitive camping (but we'll have portapottie!), potluck dinner Saturday night. Bring water, other meals, etc., for weekend. Probably camp near Black Rock Hot Springs, notable stopping spot on Emigrant Trail. Possible side trips to other neat places! High clearance 2WD OK to camping area; 4WD probably needed to survey area; carpooling a possibility. FRS/CB radio helpful but not necessary. Likely to be hot, but probably not dusty! We'll most likely meet up Friday evening, head on up. Sign up after 6/1. Leader is very familiar with area. DOK. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

### JUNE 22 (SATURDAY) 8A

**John C. Two Enigma Day Hike.** Discover some history of area, visit two features associated with old mining operations. One-way hike, about 8 mi, 1200 ft gain, with vehicle shuttle. Scenic views. Return paralleling part of Carson River. Hiking poles recommended; long steep descent on loose rock. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

### JUNE 25 (TUESDAY) 5:30P

**Tuesday evening conditioning hike.** See 4-16 writeup for general info and go to our Meetup site (www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/) for details on this week's hike. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

### JUNE 26 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P

**Wednesday Conditioning Hike.** Please refer to 5-22 trip details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (473-1445). Co-Leader: Jim Call (473-1445). Moderate.

### JUNE 27 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

**Longest Day Evening Hike to Top of "Road to Nowhere" Peak.** Highest peak 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. Take advantage of latest sunset, longest twilight of year, to march beyond sunset. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (473-1445). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (473-1445). Mod. Strenuous.

### JUNE 29 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Rubicon Trail Hike.** Along Lake Tahoe shore from D.L. Bliss Park to Emerald Bay and back. Learn about ospreys, logging, old lighthouse. Anticipate good swimming opportunity during lunch at Emerald Bay. Parking fee. About 9.2 mi RT, minimal gain. ND. Leader: Craig Mastos (775-348-1862, maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

# S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 11

with up-&-over along creek and through firs and pines. What wildflower species flourish at springs? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

### JUNE 8 (SATURDAY)

**Cathedral Rock Trail.** About 2.8 mi RT. Trailhead near South Loop Trail, off SR 157. Two hours to and back to trailhead. Leader: Eric Blumensaadt (702-370-1836, 7speeder@cox.net). Level 3.

### JUNE 8 (SATURDAY)

**South Sister Peak, SMNRA.** About 5 mi RT, 1500 ft gain. Begin in Mack's Canyon. At roads end, trek up and cross year-around spring. After this, it's a steep cross-county route to ridgeline. On ridgeline, route turns back into a path. Can you ID bristlecone pines (some of the oldest living things)? At summit you'll be blown away with a 360-degree spectacular view: Sheep Range Mountains, Lee Canyon, Mack's Peak, McFarland Peak, and, last but not less, Mt. Charleston. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855) Level 3-4.

### JUNE 15 (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 a 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.

### JUNE 15-16 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

**Onion Valley to Golden Trout Lake (CA).** This trip is on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, About 4 mi each way, gradual 1000 ft gain. For beginning backpackers or families this is an easy way to do a backpack trip in beautiful country. Level 2-3 (3 hiking in, 2 hiking out). Leader: Harry Weldon (702-363-6811). Call REQUIRED.

### JUNE 22 (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.



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meetings

Saturday, April 27, 2013  
Reno, NV

Saturday, July 27, 2013  
Mammoth Lakes, CA

Saturday, October 19, 2013  
Lake Tahoe

For details, contact the Chair,  
DAVID VON SEGGERN  
vonseg1@sbcglobal.net  
775-303-8461

All Toiyabe Chapter members are welcome to attend these meetings, which usually begin at 9 am. We reserve a time slot for input from members; if you have an issue on which you want to address the ExCom, please attend. For ExCom members' contact info, see the Chapter Directory on page 2.