

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

### From the Chair

# 100% renewable by 2030!

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN (vonseg1@sbcglbobal.net)

THE ENERGY TASK FORCE (ETF) of the Toiyabe Chapter has been doing important work for years, getting our point of view heard at the legislature, moving Beyond Coal with the retirement of Reid-Gardner and other coal-generation plants in Nevada, pushing to set RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standards) goals, and most recently pushing for energy efficiency standards in Nevada. So, when national Sierra Club talks about mounting a campaign to address global warming, we feel we have been significantly active in that area for some time.

Recently, though, Michael Brune, Executive Director of Sierra Club, has voiced a visionary, yet sensible and achievable goal for the campaign: to get America on 100% renewable sources for electricity generation by the year 2030. Say goodbye to dirty coal power generation, with its devastated mountain tops, ravaged public lands, and polluted streams and lakes. Say goodbye to dirty natural gas power generation too. I say "dirty" because, although visibly clean, gas power generation still spews CO<sup>2</sup> into the atmosphere; and the Supreme Court has wisely ruled that CO<sup>2</sup> emissions are a pollutant that federal and state governments can curtail to various degrees.

Please see FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR, page  $\, 2. \,$ 

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Mono Lake from Bodie Mountain. Please see Bodie Hills article on page 5 for more about the Bodie Hills landscape. Photo: Joanne Hihn.

# INYO NF NEEDS ADVOCATES to monitor new planning process

BY FRAN HUNT, SIERRA CLUB EASTERN SIERRA ORGANIZER

The Inyo National Forest in CA and NV anchors the natural landscapes and local recreation-based economies of its neighboring counties and communities. Little wonder that the forest is the most visited in California – its beautiful, diverse wildlands are home to a rich array of plants and wildlife and offer a wealth of other attractions: iconic wilderness, beautiful mountain meadows, challenging hiking trails, and high mountain peaks. But the future health of the forest stands in the balance as the Forest Service rewrites the Inyo's management plan, with a critical upcoming *public input opportunity starting April 1 and continuing until May 1*.

The Inyo National Forest plan (and that of the Sierra and Sequoia National Forests) is being revised under the Obama Administration's new 2012 planning regulations. These three California national forests were picked by the Forest Service as "early adopters" to be among the first forests nationally to revise plans under the new rule. These three revised plans will not only shape the future of these great forests, they'll set an example – for better or worse for all national forests to follow. We must ensure these "early adopters" set a high bar for wilderness, environmental safeguards, sustainable recreation, watershed and water protection, and habitat restoration.

After a year-long process of assessing current forest conditions the agency is poised to start the formal planning process, as required by NEPA, by publishing a "Notice of Intent" (NOI) and launching a public comment period (beginning April 1). Unfortunately, the Forest Service's actions to date have sent alarming signals that the process will be rushed

to conclusion and won't protect critical recreation, forest, and water resources. The April comment period provides a critical opportunity to press for planning decisions that will improve recreational opportunities and the ecological health of the Inyo. For example, through improved trails management, additional wildland designations, and stronger habitat safeguards for key species such as bighorn sheep.

What you can do. The agency will hold a public meeting in Bishop at the Inyo Forest Supervisor's office sometime around April 10-12. We'll need strong turnout from Chapter members as well as many e-mailed comments, Letters to the Editor, etc. before the April comment period ends. You can help put the Inyo on the path of good science and strong protections to benefit recreation, water, wildlife and local communities for decades to come.

For more information and to get involved, please email me at *fran.hunt@ sierraclub.org*.

**EDITOR'S NOTE.** Please take time to welcome Fran to the Eastern Sierra! See her impressive resume and her photo on page 6.

### National Sierra Club elections VOTE!

BY LANE BOLDMAN

THE ANNUAL ELECTION for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot in early March. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's web site.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership

Please see CLUB ELECTIONS, page 2.

### Chapter ExCom meeting

### Saturday, April 26 Reno, Nevada

THE TOIYABE CHAPTER HOLDS its quarterly meeting in Reno NV. This meeting is a strategy session and is not a regular business meeting. As always, the ExCom welcomes member input, but this meeting will not be suitable for that. Please email ExCom members with concerns at any time (see masthead at beginning of the *Trails*).

Our meetings are quarterly and will always be announced in the *Trails*.

For details, contact the Chapter Chair, David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net).

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### TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTORY

### CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

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### ISSUES, OUTINGS, & COMMITTEES

133013	, OUTINGS, & COMMINI	IILLS
Chapter Delegate	Laurel Ames*	laurel@watershednetwork.org
Chapter Delegate Alternate	Open	
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CNRCC Toiyabe Chap. Del.	Laurel Ames*	laurel@watershednetwork.org
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* Chapter ExCom member		

### Sierra Club's Mr. Green says . . .

### Get your chocolate fix with these eco-sweets

HERE ARE SOME OF THE BEST, MOST SUSTAINABLE CHOCOLATE TREATS out there in the marketplace: Endangered Species Chocolate; Equal Exchange Chocolate; Divine Chocolate; and Madecasse Chocolate. Additions include: raspberries, sea salt, coconut, strawberries, cinnamon and chili pepper, citrus and pink pepper, espresso bean – and that's just the beginning. For more info, go to: <a href="http://sierraclub.typepad.com/greenlife/2014/02/sustainable-chocolate-sweets-taste-test.html?src=link&utm\_source=greenlife&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=newsletter">http://sierraclub.typepad.com/greenlife/2014/02/sustainable-chocolate-sweets-taste-test.html?src=link&utm\_source=greenlife&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=newsletter</a>.

### FROM THE CHAIR ...

continued from page 1

Several members and non-members of our ETF recently participated in a one-hour "climate dialog" as input to early strategic planning by the Sierra Club climate campaign staff. In the dialog, we brainstormed ideas for making the campaign more effective and for forging a stronger bond between national and chapters to carry out the campaign. Clearly, the national Sierra Club does want the grassroots ideas and opinions as they build a powerful climate campaign. Be advised that national is mounting this campaign in a very professional manner, with every intent of winning it. You will be kept informed of this here in the \*Trails\* and on our website.

We have science and common sense on our side, and this is a campaign that could be far more successful than anyone now thinks. The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign has been incredibly successful. We need to leverage that success into a broader campaign against fossil fuel. While we won't neglect our traditional Sierra Club missions related to public land, wildlife, wilderness, clean air and water, I want to have our Chapter engaged on the global warming issue because this problem will gravely impact all our traditional missions if we do not solve it. We must win this campaign for our children and their progeny and for those who cannot speak for themselves.

### **CLUB ELECTIONS ...**

continued from page 1

obligation.

Members often say they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Also, visit the Club's election web site at <a href="http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2014election/default.aspx">http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2014election/default.aspx</a>>.

This site provides links to additional information about candidates and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If you decide to mail your vote, you'll find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark.

### Deadline

Ballots must be received no later than election day, *April 16*, *2014*.



# Create an Environmental Legacy. Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years. Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter. For more info and confidential assistance, contact Ciff Planning Program 85 Second St. 2nd Floor San Francisco, CA 94105 (800) 932-4270 planned.giving@sicrraclub.org

### **Toiyabe Trails**



SERVING NEVADA & CALIFORNIA'S E. SIERRA

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

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

**Assoc. Editor** – Kathy Morey (760-938-2050). Kathy usually does one issue each year.

**Deadlines** – Contributions are due by the 1st of the month for publication in the following month's issue: December 1 for January-February-March; March 1 for April-May-June; June 1 for July-August-September; September 1 for October-November-December.

Submissions – Call or e-mail editor before deadline for late submissions. Submit news, story ideas, photos, and letters-to-the-editor to the editor (contact info above). Please include your name, phone, e-mail address, and group with all contributions. Please send your contributions by e-mail. If you don't have a computer, please ask a friend to help you. For photo return, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The *Toiyabe Trails* reserves the right to edit all contributions for reasons of space, clarity, slander, or libel.

**Subscriptions** – *Toiyabe Trails* is free to all Toiyabe Chapter members. Subscription cost for non-members is \$12 per year. To subscribe, send check for \$12, payable to "Toiyabe Chapter," to *Toiyabe Trails* Subscriptions, Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter, c/o Treasurer. Contact Treasurer, Glenn Miller (775-846-4516) for address.

Change of address – Postmaster & Members, please send address changes to Sierra Club, Change of Address, P. O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or <address.changes@sierraclub.org>.

**Membership information** – There is a membership coupon in each issue of *Toiyabe Trails*. You can also call the Chapter Membership Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) or the Sierra Club office in San Francisco (415-977-5663).

Other Sierra Club information. Call the Toiyabe Chapter Chair or Conservation Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) or the Sierra Club Information Center in San Francisco (415-977-5653). Also, see group pages for website addresses of groups.

# New Ward Hut for backcountry skiers & snowshoers

BY DICK SIMPSON

THE SIERRA CLUB announced February 25th that it is beginning a design study for a new backcountry ski and snowshoe hut. The Club will build the hut as a memorial



Peter Ward.
Photo: Kerri Antes.

to the late Paul Ward, who passed away in February 2013. Paul's family and friends are funding the project. This will be the fifth Sierra Club hut in the Donner Summit/Lake Tahoe area, but the first new one since 1957.



Bradley Hut was one of several inspirations for the new hut memorializing Paul Ward. Photo: Dick Simpson.

Finding a suitable location will be an early goal of the study. The four existing huts are on public land between Donner Pass and Desolation Wilderness and are managed under a Special Use Permit issued by the Truckee Ranger District of the U.S. Forest Service. The study will also consider environmental issues, hut design and engineering, and cost. Timing of construction will depend on results of the study.

Paul Ward grew up in San Francisco and Burlingame, settled in San Jose, and had a successful career in Silicon Valley technology, working for Eimac, Memorex, and Verbatim. He discovered skiing on his own; his parents did not ski. At age 17 he was at Squaw Valley, watching the 1960 Winter Olympics; a few years later he was working as a weekend ski patroller at Dodge Ridge.

Later, he was quick to put his own children on skis; daughter Kerri and son Bryan started when they were two. More recently he was taking his grandchildren to Peter Grubb and Bradley Huts, which inspired the memorial.

What you can do. People with suggestions for location or design should contact the Club's Hut Volunteer Coordinator, Dick Simpson, at hut.coord@yahoo.com.

## **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

**APRIL 12-13 (SAT-SUN)** 

### HOT SPRINGS & COLD NIGHTS IN BLACK ROCK DESERT

Visit Trego Hot Spring in Black Rock Desert about 100 mi, N of Reno. Exact itinerary depends on Playa conditions (it's drivable as of January but that can change). May end up at one spring with good all-weather access. Leader very familiar with area. Easy. Primitive camping; sorry, no RVs or trailers (see outing on 5/24-26). Dogs on leash OK. Bad weather cancels. Signup 3/29 - 4/8, David Book, 775-843-6443.

Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

### APRIL 19-20 (SAT-SUN)

### CARRIZO SERVICE & FLOWERS

Combine day of service in Carrizo Plain National Monument with day of sightseeing and/or hiking. If there are winter rains, wildflowers can be spectacular, although this is not promise that can be made far in advance. Weather will be cool evenings and comfortable days. Service is removing or modifying fences to give pronghorn greater mobility on Plain. Recreation determined by group. Opportunity to combine car camping, exploring, and service in relatively unknown wilderness. Contact leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670.

CNRCC Desert Committee

### **MAY 24-26, (SAT-MON)**

**BLACK ROCK RENDEZVOUS** 

Several hundred people will be meeting for variety of tours, activities, and speakers in Black Rock Desert about 100 mi N of Reno. Probably a Dutch Oven cook-off, kid's activities, tours to various areas, and expert speakers on history, geology, and activities of area. Leader very familiar with area. Camping location TBD; RVs & trailers OK, but there are NO facilities. Dogs on leash OK. Bring your HAM Radio, there will be lots of HAM activity. Contact David KD7YIM for area repeater info. Info: visit <www.blackrockdesert.org>. Sign up, David Book, 775-843-6443.

Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

### **JUNE 19-22, (THU-SUN)**

### ESCALANTE BACKPACK

Moderate 3 night/4 day backpack into one of desert southwest's unique places. Cottonwoods and some pines line river. Wading shoes needed; we'll be constantly in and out of river. Meet at BLM Visitor Center, noon Thursday, W end of Escalante, to get permit. Day 1, hike in about 6 mi. Day 2, explore scenic side canyon with nice narrows and swimming holes. Day 3, move a couple of miles and do some more side hiking. Day 4 (last day), hike out. Route requires car shuttle. Limit 12. David Hardy, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, 702 875-4826, email preferred.

S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Peter Grubb Hut, on the west edge of Round Valley north of Donner Summit, has withstood heavy snow loads since its construction in 1938-39. Rafter and joist repairs were completed in November and the hut has been re-opened. Photo: Dick Simpson.



# Peter Grubb Hut reopens

BY DICK SIMPSON

THE SIERRA CLUB RE-OPENED the Peter Grubb Hut in mid-December. The iconic building, which is three miles north of I-80 at Donner Summit, had been closed since March 2013, when concerns were raised about its structural integrity after being used as a rustic shelter for backcountry skiers and snowshoers for 75 years. The first round of a multi-year upgrade effort was completed in November 2013.

The Club retained a Truckee firm to assess the hut's condition and make recommendations for repair. 2013 work included adding 1/4-inch steel plates to floor joists and 3/16-inch plates to roof rafters to improve strength under heavy loads. Over a ton of steel was hand-carried to the hut during the first weekend in November.

Weekend "work parties" of volunteers then installed the plates and returned the hut to usable condition over the next three weeks. The work was supervised by Dave Rust, a retired builder, and Dick Simpson, who oversaw logistics and recruiting. Over 50 people from Reno to Santa Cruz participated; one volunteer from Eugene, OR, was also recruited.

Repairs will continue in 2014 with an emphasis on seismic issues. New flooring for the loft and a new roof are also likely. Retaining the historic feel of the building throughout the upgrade process is an important priority.

The Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation recently awarded a \$5000 matching grant as an incentive to find additional fundraising dollars to support the repairs. The Sierra Club Foundation, which is accepting tax-deductible contributions, has until November 2014 to find matching funds from individual donors. Details about the Peter Grubb repair fundraising campaign can be found at <www.savepetergrubbhut.org.>

Peter Grubb is one of four back-country huts owned and operated by the Sierra Club under a Special Use Permit from the U.S. Forest Service. Although Sierra Club members and work party volunteers receive priority in the initial allocation of winter reservations, the huts are available to the public. Reservations can be made by calling 800-867-6775. More information is available at <www.sierraclub.org/outings/lodges/huts>.



# eflections



Range of Light Group

### **Group News**

### Letter from the Chair

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

**ExCom.** Next meeting: Tuesday, April 22, 6 pm, Dick & Joanne Hihn's home.

Meetings. Our annual December Holiday Potluck was held at the Mammoth Community Church. Rock the Boat, a film about a boating expedition down the Los Angeles River, was shown at the January Meeting. In February, Jeff Hunter, the new Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership Organizer talked about efforts to protect the **Bodie Hills**.

Outings. Sunday outings continue, with most being snow outings (ski and snowshoe) when conditions allow. Short Thursday early evening outings begin on June 19.

### Group ExCom meetings

WE USUALLY MEET quarterly (January, April, July, October). The next meeting is Tuesday, April 22, 2014, 6 pm, at the home of Dick and Joanne Hihn. 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 prior to 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 between meetings only when a deadline (e.g., comment letter on BLM or Forest proposal) precludes waiting to next ExCom meeting.

**Submissions or more info.** Malcolm Clark, 760-924-5639 or wmalcolm. clark@gmail.com.

### Range of Light Group

### **OFFICERS** Malcolm Clark\* 760-924-5639 Mauriça Anderson\* Lesley Bruns\* lestravel@hotmail.com

rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com Dunigan 760-924-5982 Open rangeofli Mary Ann Dunigan Conservation Treasurer mary.shore@gte.net 760-648-7109 Mike Shore\* Jean Dillingham\* Mauriça Anderson\* At Large Leslev Bruns lestravel@hotmail.com At Large

Vice Chair

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mary.shore@gte/net

Voting ExCom member \*\* Owens River Watershed Conservation Chair

Mary Shore

**NEEDED.** More volunteers to lead Thursday outings (usually 5:30pm to shortly before dark).

STILL NEEDED. Volunteer to be Conservation Chair. In the meantime, submit conservation items to rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com.

"Tabling" Events. ROLG has people committed to staff our table at:

- Bishop Paiute Earth Day
- Banff Film Festival, for one night (Bishop, March 28-29)
- Alabama Hills Day (April 12)
- Mono Lake Bird Chautauqua (June 22) concluding picnic

We still need volunteers for tabling at other events. We have materials for you to use!

Conservation Updates. In December, Invo National Forest issued a Decision Notice on the Shady Rest OHV/OSV staging area proposal. They chose Alternative 3 (no snowmobile rideback trail to highway 201).

Together with the Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club and ROLG submitted extensive comments for the pre-scoping recommendation of *Inyo* County's Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment. The Planning Commission, despite strong opposition to elements of the plan, approved the plan by a 4-1 vote. County Board of Supervisors is due to act on the plan on March 18.

ROLG submitted comments in December on Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power's (LADWP) Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch Project. The project would produce 200 MW and

### Range of Light Group 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**

<a href="http://nevada.sierraclub.">http://nevada.sierraclub.</a> org/rolgroup/>

### &

### Chapter website

<a href="http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org">http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org</a>

### Range of Light **OUTINGS**

### **SPRING SUNDAY OUTINGS**

BY JOANNE HIHN & DICK HIHN

**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.

ll outings include conservation education activities! All Phone numbers Aare 760 unless otherwise noted. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

What to bring. Water, lunch and snacks, layered clothing, hats, gloves, sunglasses, appropriate footwear, skis/snowshoes if appropriate, and personal items of your choice such as cameras, binoculars, and hiking poles.

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 and sometimes the published information is not accurate.

### **APRIL 6 (SUNDAY)**

Destination determined by snow conditions. Contact: Jeff (423-322-7866, jeff@ bodiehills.org).

### **APRIL 13 (SUNDAY)**

Owens River Gorge Hike. About 6.6 mi RT, 1500 ft gain. Enjoy geologic formations created during Long Valley Caldera eruption 760,000 years ago. Meet 7:15a ML Union Bank or 8a Gorge Rd Plant off 395. No dogs. Contact: Sherry (909-709-2970, hikerlady@verizon.net ) or Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

would cover 1400 acres very close to Manzanar National Historical site.

As part of *Invo National Forest's Plan* **Revision**, a Notice of Intent – with proposed action and alternatives – will be published April 1. Tentatively, there will be a public scoping meeting in Bishop on April 10.

### **APRIL 20 (SUNDAY)**

Destination determined by snow conditions. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com).

### **APRIL 27 (SUNDAY)**

Destination determined by snow conditions. Contact: Mary K (760-934-0355, mkp@npgcable.com).

### **MAY 4 (SUNDAY)**

Ski. snowshoe. or hike. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140), jungberman@mac.com

### **MAY 11 (SUNDAY)**

Walker Lake Hike. Moderate, 8 mi RT, 500 ft gain, possible car shuttle. Dogs OK. Meet 8a ML Union Bank. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140), jungberman@mac.com.

### **MAY 18 (SUNDAY)**

Ski, snowshoe, or hike. Contact: Mary K (760-934-0355), mkp@npgcable.com.

Please see ROL OUTINGS, page 5.

### You're Invited! Range of Light Group Monthly Meetings **Everyone welcome!**

For all potlucks please 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 15 (Tuesday)

Potluck & Social, 6:15 pm **Crowley Lake Community Ctr** Program: 7 pm

"Inyo NF Management Plan"

Fran Hunt, the Eastern Sierra Organizer for the Sierra Club, will give an update on "The Forest Plan." She brings a wide range of knowledge of forest and wilderness management to the Eastern Sierra

### May 20 (Tuesday)

Social, 6:45 pm, **Green Church** Program: 7 pm

"Extreme Weather & Drought of 2013"

Please join the SNARL lecture series. Chris Smallcomb, of the National Weather Service in Reno, NV, will bring us up to date.

### June 17 (Tuesday)

Potluck & Social, 6:15 pm, **Crowley Lake Community Center** Program: 7 pm

> "Renewable Energy in the California Desert"

Sally Miller leads the work of The Wilderness Society to preserve special places on BLM and National Forest lands of the Eastern Sierra. She works with a coalition of partners in the protection of these lands.

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 OUTINGS

continued from page 4

### **MAY 25 (SUNDAY)**

**Ski, snowshoe, or hike.** Contact: Mary K (760-934-0355), mkp@npgcable.com

### **JUNE 1 (SUNDAY)**

Lower Rock Creek Hike. Car shuttle. Moderate 7.5m hike from Hwy 395 parking area to Paradise, 1900 ft descent, shorter option available with midway parking. See early wildflowers, enjoy fascinating geology. Great hiking season starter. Meet 8a ML Union Bank or 8:30a Hwy 395 and Lower Rock Creek Road. Dogs welcome. Contact: Mary K. (760-934-0355, mkp@npgcable.com).

### **MISC. OUTINGS**

### **JUNE 7 (SATURDAY)**

CARMA Tour: White Mountain Geology Hike & Lecture. Tour of Owens Valley Radio Observatory followed by lecture with Brigitte Berman: Geology of White Mountains and fossil collection. Easy walk, meet 8a ML Union Bank, or 9a Bishop City Park. No dogs. Overnight option at group campground at Westgard Pass. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com)

### **JUNE 8 (SUNDAY)**

Bristlecone Forest: Methuselah Loop Trail Hike. About 4.5mi RT, 200 ft gain, moderate. Leave from Schulman Grove Visitor Center, 9a. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com).

### **JUNE 15 (SUNDAY)**

Birding Outing. Local bird experts lead morning of birding in Mammoth area. Look for resident birds, migrants, and surprises. Location to be determined pending weather conditions and bird activity. Meet 7:45a ML Union Bank. Binoculars necessary. No dogs. Contact: Karen (949-240-3956, kmschlaep@cox.net) or Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

### JUNE 21-22 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

**Kayak/canoe Lower Owens River.** Day trip or overnight camping options. Day 1: meet 7a ML Union Bank or 8a West Line St. to Owens River Bridge (3.5 mi E of Hwy

395), park off road. About 6 hr float/paddle, exit Warm Springs Rd, end trip here or camp overnight at Four Jeffrey Campground. Day 2: Meet 8a Warm Springs Rd E of Hwy 395 (where we ended yesterday's trip). About 6 hr float/paddle, exit Stewart St., Big Pine. Kayak rentals available. No dogs. Contact: Sherry (909-709-2970, hikerlady@verizon. net) or Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

### JUNE 20-22 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

Mono Lake Bird Chautauqua Weekend.

### **JUNE 29 (SUNDAY)**

McGee Creek Trail Hike to Steelhead Lake. About 11.4 mi RT, 2300 ft gain, most in last 1.2 mi. Strenuous. Meet ML Union Bank 8a. Well behaved dogs OK. Alternate hike possible, depending on conditions. Contact: Dick& Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@gmail.com).

# THURSDAY EVENING OUTINGS

Short Mammoth Lakes area hikes; back before dark; emphasis on local history, natural history, conservation issues etc. Dependent on leader's interests; all skill levels welcome, including beginners. Meet 5:30p Mammoth Union Bank. Bring water, snacks, hat, sunscreen, camera. Wear substantial shoes or boots; dress in layers. Contact: leader for permission to bring your dog. Abominable weather cancels.

### **JUNE 19 (THURSDAY)**

Monte Cristo Mine Tour. About 1.5 mi RT, 300 ft gain, easy to moderate, wild flowers en route. Mine worked from 1890-1979. Contact: Mary & Mike (805-217-5563, marymikeshore@gmail.com).

### **JUNE 26 (THURSDAY)**

**The Knolls Hike.** Enjoy views of Mammoth Lakes. Contact: Dick & Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

### **In Memoriam**

### **Peter Bakuses**

PETER was just two months from his 90th birthday when he passed away. He was one of the local Sierra Club members who met in 1992 to form a structure for Sierra Club members in the Eastern Sierra. He suggested naming the new group "The Range of Light Group," based on John Muir's description of the Sierra Nevada as the Range of Light.

Peter traveled the world hiking and riding his bicycle in exotic places such as Bhutan. He rode his bicycle across the country twice and to Alaska and Canada. He presented Sierra Club programs on his travels and led hikes for the Group. He loved bicycling, hiking, fishing, hunting, and skiing.

### Dr. Suzanne A. M. Stokes

SUZANNE, 86, died of injuries suffered in a car accident near Bridgeport in January. She was a classical musician and performed with many symphony orchestras and also played hand bells at local churches. She earned her doctorate in English from UCLA.

Suzanne often attended Sierra Club programs and volunteered for many organizations, including the Mammoth Lakes Friends of the Library and the Mammoth Hospital, Hospital Auxiliary, and several music societies. She was always busy with her many volunteer activities and community involvements. She will be much missed by her family and friends.

— Wilma Wheeler

### Highway cleanup!

May 21, July 16, & Sept. 17, 2014

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.

The cleanups are on Wednesday morning after our third Tuesday eve monthly group meeting: May 21, July 16, and September 17. Meet at the **Crestview Rest Area**, about 5 miles north of town at 8a. 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 Rest Area is closed, we meet at the junction of Scenic Loop Road and 395, about 2 miles south of the Rest Area.

**Info**. Email RangeofLight@gmail.com, phone Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639), check our web site, or go to "Range of Light Group" on Facebook.

### **Bodie Hills**

BY JEFF HUNTER, BODIE HILLS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

THE Bodie Hills are a treasured and historic American landscape. Located in Mono County, California, on the edge of the Great Basin and the Eastern Sierra, this special place has become a focal point for cooperative conservation in the 21st century. The Sierra Club Range of Light Group is a member of Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership, which is a coalition seeking permanent protection for the many values found in this rugged and wild landscape.

Most people who are familiar with Bodie Hills know the area because they have visited Bodie State Historic Park. This State Park is reputed to be the most intact ghost town in California and is a remnant of California's mining history. Surrounding the state park are nearly 200,000 acres of lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. These lands are home to pronghorn antelope, mule deer, golden eagles, sage grouse, and much more, including some of the richest archaeological resources found anywhere in the Great Basin.

Following a protracted public debate (in 2011) about new gold mining in Bodie Hills, the Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership is looking beyond the boom and bust nature of mining, and is trying to forge a plan that protects this area while providing sustainable economic opportunities for the communities surrounding the Bodie Hills. According to Conservation Organizer Jeff Hunter,

"we're hoping to secure a National Monument or similar designation to protect the many values in the Bodie Hills." This includes recreational values, sacred values, wildlife values, and traditional western values, including ranching. "We're trying to work with the community to craft a conservation solution that respects and honors tradition while providing permanent protection," Hunter added.

In the months ahead, Hunter will be seeking volunteers to assist with stewardship projects that improve sage grouse habitat as well as the visitor experience. He also hopes to lead a series of outing in the second half of 2014.

What you can do. Individuals interested in helping with this effort can contact Hunter at jeff@bodiehills.org. For more information, please visit the Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership website at <www.bodiehills.org>.



Hikers in the Bodie Hills, January 12, 2014. Photo: Joanne Hihn

# CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

The Wilderness Act of 1964 turns 50

### **Celebrate Toiyabe Chapter wilderness!**

BY MARGE SILL

"A wilderness ... is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

THESE inspiring words come from the text of The Wilderness Act of 1964, the 50th anniversary of which we are celebrating this year. And the Toiyabe Chapter has much to celebrate. We now have over 8,000,000 acres of wilderness, the most of any Sierra Club chapter except Alaska.

Our protected wilderness includes areas next to cities -- Mt. Rose and Mt. Charleston, plus red rock canyons in southern Nevada. It also includes high desert peaks – King Lear, Boundary Peak, White Mt. Peak, and Mt. Moriah; the alpine beauty of the Rubies; and the magnificent expanse of the east side of the Sierra Nevada, from the Carson Iceberg south through

the Hoover, Ansel Adams, John Muir, and the Golden Trout wilderness areas. In addition, most of the huge wild area of Death Valley National Park lies in our Chapter.

These wilderness areas, plus many others, lie within the boundaries of the Toiyabe Chapter, but they belong to all Americans. In Sigurd Olson's words, "Wilderness to the people of America is a spiritual necessity, an antidote to the high pressure of modern life, a means of regaining serenity and equilibrum:" We are the caretakers of these precious places.

This year, 2014, the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, is a great time to visit or revisit, in person or in spirit, our wonderful wilderness areas!

# Truckee River flow decline shows western U.S. is drying

**BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI** 

DESPITE its critical importance to western Nevada, the Truckee River is often taken for granted.

That's not unique anywhere in the west where residents, farmers, and industrialists turn on the shower, open the irrigation gate, or pump water to a power plant expecting water will always be there. We operate under the assumption that what has been will always be. The rain and snow that we've always known will continue into the future. Sure, there are droughts. But aren't there also floods? Things will even out in the end, right?

But a warmer, and drier, west could be our future. How dry it will be is the question. If we can't rely on the past to predict the future, what will be the result? Most of our water allocations in the west are based on a continuation of average stream flows — some dry, some wet, some average. So far, the 21st century is not cooperating with our expectations.

Looking at the flow record for the Truckee River (Nevada's largest river by flow) offers a good example. The historical record for the Truckee River from 1899 to 2000 shows an average flow of 824 cubic-feet-per-second (CFS) or 597,005 acre-feet per year (AFA) (Vista river gauge just below Reno). Our longterm use of the river for municipal, agricultural, and industrial – and now recreational – activities really are dependent on maintaining that average.

Since 2000, the west, and the Truckee River watershed, have been far drier than the historical record averages. For the last 6.5 years, the Truckee River's average flow at the same location as above has decreased by 32%: to 558 CFS or 404,317 AFA. (The entire 14-year period from 2000 has been drier than average, but I couldn't get detailed information in time for the article.)

The consequences of drying out an already dry region will be profound. What will happen to spectacular Pyramid Lake, which largely depends on "excess water" in the system? While the recent focus has been on the drought in California, the effect of a drying climate will be hard to adapt to everywhere — including the environment and all the people dependent on the Truckee River's water.



Truckee River fly fishing. See more on the Truckee River at <wattruckeeriver.org>. Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.

### Sierra Club joins legal challenge to SNWA pipeline

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

STILL CELEBRATING THEIR big victory in December in a Nevada state court ruling that voided all previously granted water rights for the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) highly controversial groundwater development project, a broad coalition of citizens' groups filed a lawsuit in federal court on February 12, 2014. The suit challenges the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) approval and issuance of a right-of-way for the 265mile pipeline intended to take billions of gallons of groundwater from rural Eastern Nevada to SNWA's customers in S. Nevada.

White Pine County, the Great Basin Water Network, the Goshute and Shoshone Tribes, the Sierra Club, Utah groups, and the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority (representing 8 Nevada counties) joined together to seek judicial relief for failures to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements to protect the environment.

Though the BLM Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) documented many of the serious harmful effects of the proposal, it failed to meet NEPA requirements to consider reasonable alternatives. Those alternatives should have included preventing unnecessary and undue environmental degradation, requiring adequate mitigation for adverse impacts to public lands and resources, and properly consulting with Tribes to evaluate and mitigate impacts to Tribal resources.

The Center for Biological Diversity also filed a NEPA lawsuit challenging BLM's approval of the SNWA project.

The earth has music for those who listen.

— George Santayana

# A future for sage grouse BY TINA NAPPE

THE LONG HOURS OF REVIEWING the 1800-page "Nevada and Northeastern California Sub-Regional Greater Sage Grouse" BLM EIS are over. On behalf of the Toiyabe Chapter, Rose Strickland provided a 17-page response by the comment deadline on January 29.

BLM will sort out the conflicts and and release its proposal to "stop the bleeding" of sage grouse populations sometime this summer. What a challenge BLM faces. Open space beckons anyone who has an interest in using public land. We want space for cattle, sheep, mining, recreation (OHV, hiking, camping), wild horses and burros, transmission lines, pipelines, roads, urban expansion, solar and wind farms, water towers, landfills, and on and on. Who doesn't want to express their right to do something on their public land? That otherwise, useless, vacant empty land – so some believe.

Often ignored is our impact on the macrobiotic crust and native plants. We ignore the insects which rely on those plants. We forget about the birds which rely on insects for sustenance,

Please see SAGE GROUSE, page 7.

They noted that BLM did so despite acknowledging adverse and unmitigated impacts on wildlife in the region, including species supposedly protected under the Endangered Species Act as well as candidate species such as the sage grouse.

What you can do. For more information and a link to the actual lawsuit, go to the Great Basin Water Network's website at <a href="http://greatbasinwaternet-work.org">http://greatbasinwaternet-work.org</a>>.



# Introducing the Eastern Sierra's new Sierra Club organizer!

RAN HUNT is the Sierra Club's Eastern Sierra Organizing Representative, based in Bishop, CA, and working on the planning process for the Inyo National Forest. As one of the Obama Administration's "early adopter" forests doing planning under the new 2012 rule, the Inyo may set precedents both for how our national forests will be managed for decades to come and how the public is engaged in these decisions.

Some of you may know Fran from her work on the Sierra Club's Federal Policy team, as the senior federal

policy advocate on natural gas issues, or from her time as the Director of the Club's Resilient Habitats campaign. Prior to joining Sierra Club, she worked for 15 years at The Wilderness Society, initially advocating for the protection of Western public lands and wilderness, and later defending critical public and private forests and wildlands in the East; safeguarding Eastern national forests from poorly planned logging, energy development, and other threats. She has also worked for the National Wildlife Federation and on Capitol Hill.

A native of Roanoke, Virginia, Fran holds a Master's degree from Duke University School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, and a B.S. in Biology from the College of William & Mary.

**How to contact Fran.** If you'd like to help Fran work on the Inyo NF planning process, contact her at: fran.hunt@sierraclub.org, 760-873-6500, or 703-424-3143 (mobile).

This land was made for you and me.

- Woodie Guthrie

# The wild horse overpopulation dilemma

**BY TINA NAPPE** 

NEVADA IS ENTERING the 4<sup>th</sup> year of drought. Grass doesn't grow, shrubs just hang on; the numbers of insects, birds, reptiles, rabbits, squirrels, deer, cattle, and horses which depend on those plants take a hit. Ranchers haven't waited for BLM to force a cattle reduction; already devastated with wildfires and drought, they are operating at 60-70% of their grazing permits.



Wild horses. Photo courtesy of Bruce Thompson, BLM Wild Horse Specialist.

Nevada's wild horses continue to expand beyond their Herd Management Area boundaries and their high safe populations, called Appropriate Management Levels (AML). Today in Nevada there are 20,195 wild horses and burros on federal lands where the high AML is not supposed to exceed 12,789.

According to Joan Guilfoyle, Chief of BLM's Wild Horse & Burro program, horses are threatening to undo 20 years of range improvements. In a year like this one the number of animals should be at the low population level in order to ensure sufficient forage and water. BLM is trekking water to the horses; however, horses must eat and now forage for many miles around the water sources, spreading desertification and weeds, and indirectly destroying wildlife.

The wild horse controversy is often discussed as horses versus cattle, but wildlife is hardest hit. The Sierra Club policy is to support healthy habitats and biodiversity (see http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/wildlife.aspx). Overgrazing by cows and horses jeopardizes plants essential for biodiversity and for sustaining healthy populations of the animals we all care about, including horses.

BLM has a policy of not sending excess horses to slaughter, although the 1971 Wild Horse & Burro Act permits it. Fertilization control in the form of PZP for mares, one option for reducing horse numbers, requires roundups which are expensive to implement, must be stressful for horses, and is viable at the most for two years. The 47,000 horses in long-term care cost BLM \$46,200,000 a year out of its \$71,000,000 wild horse and burro budget.

Any suggestions? Maybe excess horses could be turned over to humane organizations as unwanted cats and dogs are today. Humane groups will be far more successful in finding homes for horses. (Under the present adoption program, in 2013 only 2671 horses were adopted.) Also, spaying mares, now common with domestic horses, can reduce wild horse populations, give

# The past speaks at Badger Camp

BY RICHARD COOK

BADGER CAMP ON THE SHELTON NWR in northwestern Nevada has been a special place for centuries. I've camped there and kept my horses in the run-down but very much appreciated horse corrals several times. Situated in a lovely, sheltered small valley it is an ideal horse or people camp with its huge spring gushing out of a mahogany covered hill feeding ponds and rich meadows. Included with the camp's natural amenities are a stone cabin from the CCC days, campfire rings, and a "Sweet Smelling Toilet."

Badger Camp is remote, though accessible by two-wheel drive vehicle, and outside of deer and antelope hunting season people are rare. I've camped there for up to a week exploring far and wide on horseback without seeing anyone. Wildlife is incredibly abundant: birds, deer, antelope, free-roaming horses, even badgers – so best keep an eye on Fido, as pet dogs are no match for a badger.

One evening a fourteen-year-old black powder hunter and shortstop standout from Sparks camped with his grandfather nearby, stopped to ask me about a "wall" he had come across while hunting the ridge behind the camp to the southwest. I told him that I didn't have a clue but I would check it out. Riding up the canyon the next morning I found a stone hunting blind so blended with the landscape that I had ridden right past it a dozen times without recognizing it. Cleverly constructed of huge stones and complete with spear or archer ports the blind could easily hide a dozen armed men. [ who could attack exposed underbellies as pursued animals jumped low points in the blind.] (insert close up photo)

My guess is that it was the work of people who lived there before the horse culture – water, wood, shelter, abundant game, what more did Stone Age people require? A strategically placed hunting blind might be a plus. Nearby grasslands feed into a steep, narrow box canyon and if deer or antelope could be driven into the rugged canyon they could be killed by throwing abundant large rocks down upon them from the cliffs above. Experience probably taught the hunters that wary animals would try to avoid the canyon by fleeing up the hill to the right so a blind was constructed in their path. (insert distance photo)

I reported back to my young co-camper that his discovery was a good one and the massive structure had been built a long, long time ago. [ for the same purpose he was there now – hunting deer, which we agreed was very cool indeed.] We speculated on how successful it had been, had it served the camp for many generations or had the game managed to avoid the blind. [with the person whose "bright idea" it was maybe getting tossed off the cliff by angry companions who had, obviously, expended much effort on the project?] I don't know but I do know that Badger Camp with its nearby ancient stoneworks is a special place.

mares a longer healthier life, and reduce the roundup stress. This, however, is nearly impossible given the statewide dispersion of wild horses.

Unfortunately, for now, with the 47,000 horses in long term holding and another 10,000 excess horses on the range, slaughter may be the only practical method for reducing the wild horse population.

It's no surprise, then, that at BLM's Tri-Resource Advisory BLM meeting in Elko in January, members voted to support slaughter as the only option available at this time.

# **Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Service Project: June 13-15, 2014**

BY TINA NAPPE



Photo courtesy of estate of Jim

Please bring

your own food (including potluck) and drink for the weekend; also pack your lunch for the field on Saturday. Bring gloves, pliers, boots, old work clothes, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Pack for hot and cold and wet and dry weather. Don't forget your sleeping gear, lots of water, and a chair. The weather is

V signs along the boundary of the western "Little Sheldon" portion of the Sheldon NWR. We'll camp out Friday and Saturday nights at the Virgin Valley campground. Vault toilets, picnic tables, drinking water, and hot springs are available at the campground. On Saturday, we'll work on the western side of the refuge and have a potluck dinner in the evening. Sunday, we'll tour the refuge or head out for home.

OLUNTEERS will install "No Hunting Zone"

se unpredictable.

The Sheldon NWR is the heart of the sagebrush steppe country. It's a most special place for seeing pronghorn antelope, sage grouse, and a variety of flowers, Sheldon is about 4-5 hours from Reno.

To sign up. RSVP to Tina Nappe (tinanappe@gmail.com), Rose Strickland (rosenreno@sbcglobal.net),

### SAGE GROUSE . . .

continued from page 6

the rabbits that rely on the grasses and shrubs; and the coyotes and golden eagles which rely on the rabbits. Sage grouse need sage brush with a healthy understory of native grasses, a rarity in Nevada, despite the the fact that it's called "the sage brush state."

Adding additional stress is what we hope is a temporary drought and



Male Sage Grouse on Desert Creek lek, March 2006. Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.

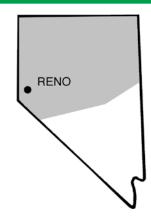
not permanent climate change. Grass withers in the drought, Nevada's scarce water sources run dry or are purchased and piped to cities. Horses and cows, at 1000-1200 pounds dominate forage consumption, with each animal requiring 6 pounds of forage a day; sage grouse at 3-5 pounds just can't compete. Fires consumed 600,000 acres last year; the 3,500,000 acres burned over the last 20 years is often replaced by the annual and highly flammable cheat grass.

No one will be happy with BLM's solution. Everyone will have to face some curtailment of use and/or increased costs. The funding for staffing, regulatory changes, or funding investment in habitat improvement, expected to cost billions, is unlikely to be available, given the nation's debt.

What you can do. In Nevada, Senators Reid and Heller are seeking solutions at the national level; the Governor is working on solutions at the state level through the Sage Brush Ecosystem Council, and nonprofit organizations comprised of sportsmen, conservationists, and land trusts have come together to assist. Want to join? Contact me at tinanappe@gmail.com.



# **Catherings**



### **Great Basin Group**

### **Group News**

### Lake Tahoe "Paint-In" art fundraiser



### **BY JANET CARTER**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club will be holding a unique event to raise money and awareness about conservation issues surrounding Lake Tahoe. This event is a "paint-in" scheduled for Sand Harbor State Park in Incline Village, Nevada on Sunday, June 15, 2014.

A number of local and regionally-known artists have been invited to spend the day at Lake Tahoe creating their special image of our favorite lake. The public is invited to come at any time to watch the painters and enjoy the lake.

The artwork will be displayed and then auctioned from 4 to 8 pm at the Group Picnic Ramada at Sand Harbor. Refreshments will be served, and there will be a raffle and other fun.

**Admission: FREE** 

Parking at Sand Harbor: \$10 (for NV residents; \$12 (for non-residents). Carpools are encouraged, of course. Parking Hints: Remember that during peak visitor hours the entrance to Sand Harbor can be temporarily closed if the main parking lot fills (even if the designated parking area for the Group Picnic Ramada is not full). The most common time for this to happen is between noon and two pm, although we understand that it is rare for the lot to fill that early in the season.

Come early and enjoy the day, or just come at 4 pm for the show. Either way we hope

### Wheeler Peak t-shirts for sale!

BY ERIK HOLLAND

WE HAVE BOTH MEN'S AND WOMEN'S t-shirts and tank tops in medium, large,



and extra large sizes. Colors: white and off white (a very light tan). The shirts are

\$10 each and are available through me or the Las Vegas office through Tazo. The artwork is my

painting of Wheeler Peak with a bighorn sheep. Christa is the model.

that you will join your fellow Sierra Club members and friends for this wonderful opportunity to take home a painting of the lake you love!

What you can do. We are also looking for a few volunteers the day of the event. If you can help us for an hour or two the day of the event, please contact Toiyabe Chapter Secretary, Janet Carter (775-772-9970, jkumar167@aol.com). Thank you!

Where: Group Picnic Ramada, Sand Harbor State Park, Incline Village, NV

When: Sunday, June 15th, 4 to 8 pm. What: "Paint-in" & Art Show

Why: To raise money for and awareness of Lake Tahoe conservation!

### **Great Basin Peak Section News** No couch potatoes this winter

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

SNOW AND MUDDY ROADS might make it difficult to hike many Great Basin Peaks during the winter season, but that didn't stop members from searching for the exceptions and engaging in other fun events. This winter GBPS members attended an avalanche safety workshop,

two winter hiking presentations, stayed in shape hiking numerous local peaks, sneaked in a couple of Great Basin List peaks, and plan to attend a wilderness first aid class.

The Avalanche Safety Workshop at REI featured a lecture and demonstration presented by Dick Penniman. This informative presentation provided both an introduction and refresher on avalanches.

Members met for two dinner and slide show presentations at Buenos Grill's Winter Slide Series. The first presentation, "Photography Routes up Nevada Peaks," was presented by local photographer, Mark Vollmer. His beautiful photos

> out of our seats and head up some beautiful Great Basin peaks. The second slide show featured climbing Denali and was presented by Anthony Frabbiele. It gave us an opportunity to discuss this climb with Vic Henney and Sue Wyman, two of our members

had us all ready to get

# 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 2 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 P

Wednesday Evening Conditioning Hike. Get in shape after work with an evening conditioning hike of 4-6 mi at brisk pace. Gain up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Hike info posted on Meet Up site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker. Co-Leader: Stephanie Lashuk.

### APRIL 3 (THURSDAY) 5:30 P

**Mod.** Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at 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 Meetup site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DL. Leader:

Yvonne Jerome. Co-Leader: Karen Todd. Mod. Easv.

### **APRIL 5 (SATURDAY) 8 A**

Two Ladies, Two Gents Day Hike. Come, meet three peaks in 6000 ft range: Rose, Kate, Grosch brothers. This quasi-loop hike is near Virginia City with about 1000 ft gain in 3 mi. Mostly off trail with some rock scrambling. Of course there is an enigma! ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935).

### APRIL 9 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 P

Wednesday Evening Conditioning Hike. Get in shape after work with an evening conditioning hike of 4-6 mi at brisk pace. Gain up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Hike info posted on Meetup

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

\*GB GROUP WEBSITE: <a href="http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/gbgroup/">http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/gbgroup/</a> **FACEBOOK:** <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/scgbg/"> (Sierra Club GBG)</a> MEETUP: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/">http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/</a>



### **Great Basin Group gets kids** outdoors in winter!

**BY SUE JACOX** 

In January, the Great Basin Group's "Get Kids Outdoors" grant helped 42 Sun Valley Elementary School fifth graders snowshoe and do winter science for three days at Lake Tahoe with Great Basin Outdoor School (see photos). Fresh snow fell the night before their snowshoe day and the children could barely contain their excitement in the winter wonderland.

Most of the students rarely get outside of Reno, so seeing Lake Tahoe and snowshoeing were first-time treats for many.

Students and teachers had fundraised for weeks, but the Sierra Club grant and scholarships from Great Basin Outdoor School were needed to cover expenses. Children learned about our Sierra snowpack as the source of our water, practiced winter safety, and heard how local plants and animals adapt to winter. Astronomy and the reason for the seasons was the first

who have previously climbed Denali.

This March a few members will participate in the Wilderness First Aid Class offered by the Tahoe Rim Trail Association. This class goes beyond what is learned in basic first aid, focusing on dealing with situations where help is not close or convenient.

Many conditioning hikes on snow-free peaks in the surrounding area kept members on the trail this winter. A few hikes included explorations to Tibbie Peak, Flowery Peak, Long Benchmark, Gin BM, Mt. Bullion, Churchill Butte, Emma Peak, Moses Rock, Monte Peak, Spanish Benchmark, Hungry Mountain, and the list goes on.

Various members reported trips to list peaks including Hays Canyon Peak, Little Hat Mountain, Quartzite Mountain, Disaster Peak, and Cinnabar Mountain.

Join us!! For details on membership, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports, check out Great Basin Peak Section at: <a href="http://nevada.sierra-">http://nevada.sierra-</a> club.org/GreatBasinPeaks.html>. We plan to see you for many new adventures in 2014!

night's program, and Winter Jeopardy challenged students on all their study topics the second night.

On reviewing the outing afterwards, students completed the phrase, "The

BEST thing about Great Basin Outdoor School is" - with "you get to learn cool things about animals and experience new things, snowshoeing, learning about the environment and being with



my friends, and in my opinion, EVERY-THING!:)'

Some completed "The MOST INTEREST-ING thing I learned about myself is" -- with "I love science, it is up to us to decide if we wanna keep our world clean or not, I work better with a team, and I love nature."



Please see GRANTS GET KIDS OUTDOORS, page 9.

### GREAT BASIN GROUP

### **OFFICERS** David von Seggern\* Ien Huntley

Martin Mace\* Conservation Jeff Hardcastle\* Membership

Chair

Vice-Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Outings

Political

Programs Webmaster

Open Holly Coughlin Open Caron Tayloe Peter Johnson

775-303-8461 vonseg1@sbcglobal.net 775-232-8847 drjenhs@gmail.com 775-849-1890 suejacox@nvbellnet 775-745-4703 mace.martin@gmail.com

jeff.hardcastle@sbcglobal.net 775-313-8442

775-331-7488

peter.j.johnson@charter.net 775-250-2576 \* ExCom member

site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker. Co-Leader: Stephanie Lashuk.

### APRIL 10 (THURSDAY) 7 P

General Program Meeting. "The Evolution of Sierra Club Photography, 1924-1961." Meet at Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Center off Lakeview Dr. in SW Reno. Social, 6:30, program, 7. Learn how Sierra Club grew from weekend hiking club in Bay Area into national activist organization and political lobby, how photography was essential to this transformation. Speaker: Kimberly Roberts is photograph curator in Special Collections of University Archives at UNR library. ND. Leader: Caron Tayloe (crntayloe@gmail.com). Easy.

### APRIL 10 (THURSDAY) 5:30 P

Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at 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 Meetup site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome. Co-Leader: Stephanie Lashuk. Mod. Easy.

### APRIL 13 (SUNDAY) 10 A

Spanish Springs Peak. Mod. day hike, with peak of 7406 ft. Expect lots of glorious wildflowers. If lucky we'll see a few antelope, golden eagles. About 5 mi, 1500 ft to summit; half x-c across volcanic terrain. Learn local geology, wildlife. Mod. hike, not for beginners. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker. (853-8055). Moderate.

### APRIL 15 (TUESDAY) 5:30 P

Tuesday evening conditioning hike. The start of our 2014 series of Tuesday easy conditioning hikes. The hikes are meant to be enjoyed by anyone, with easy pace over good trail. About 2-3 mi, 1-2 hours in Truckee Meadows area. Learn about natural features of our "backyard" while enjoying an exercise outing. Start at 5:30p, details announced on MeetUp two days before hike: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

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

Wednesday Evening Conditioning Hike. Get in shape after work with an evening conditioning hike of 4-6 mi at brisk pace. Gain up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Hike info posted on our Meetup site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DOK. Leader: Ridge Walker. Co-Leader: Stephanie Lashuk. Easy.

### APRIL 17 (THURSDAY) 5:30 P

Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi

### **GRANTS GET KIDS** OUTDOORS . . .

continued from page 8

Families and children were overjoyed to get the support, and pleased teachers are already scheduling an outing for their next year's class. One scholarship followup report said a boy "had an amazing time at camp. His family is poor, he has never been out of the Reno area, and to be in the mountains, snow, and lake was an experience he'll never forget." Teachers reported on another boy saying "He loved every minute and got to do things he wouldn't normally get to do."

We will continue raising funds to help more children. Contributions may be made payable to "Great Basin Group" and sent to Katy Christensen (1716 Clover Leaf Dr., Sparks, NV 89434).

### **Great Basin Group** Calendar

continued from page 8

at 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 Meetup site: www. meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/ events/calendar/. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome. Co-Leader:

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

David Von Seggern Mod. Easy.

### **APRIL 19 (SATURDAY) 8 A**

Buckland Station Day Hike. Join us for hike starting at historic Buckland Station, proceeding downstream along Carson river, returning on segment of Pony Express Trail. This is nearly 10 mi loop on flat ground. Enjoy riparian habitat, witness eruption of spring, learn some local history. Option to tour remains of Fort Churchill on your own after hike. A State Park walk-in fee of \$1 per person required. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

### **APRIL 19 (SATURDAY) 10 A**

Hidden Valley Loop Day Hike. Join us for 5 mi hike with about 1000 ft gain above Hidden Valley area. Desert flowers should be plentiful. Plan on lunch with beautiful view of Truckee Meadows. Bring lunch, plenty of water. Trail shoes are must. DOK. Leader: Jim Call (775-420-6363; freneticmarmot@ gmail.com). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Mod. Strenuous.

### APRIL 22 (TUESDAY) 5:30 P

**Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike.** Check notice for April 15 to see info on Tuesday evening hikes. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal. net). Easy.

**APRIL 23** (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 P.M.

Fawn Lane Wednesday Evening Conditioning Hike. Get in shape for summer hiking on mod. to faster paced outing with 500-800 ft gain, 3-4 mi RT. Learn about flora or fauna in area. Meeting lo-

cation: Take Hwy 395 S. to Mt. Rose exit, travel W 1.8 mi to Fawn Lane, turn left. Follow to where road ends at dirt; park on sides. Bring plenty of water, trail shoes. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call. Moderate.

### APRIL 24 (THURSDAY) 5:30 P

Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at 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 Meetup site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome. Mod. Easy.

### APRIL 26 (SATURDAY) 10 A.M.

Church's Pond Day Hike. Enjoy hike in Galena Park of about 4 mi with about 600 ft gain. Learn about flora, fauna in park. Bring plenty of water, trail shoes. Dogs must have leash. DOK. Leader: Bill Myatt (775-233-3186; lovethesierras@yahoo. com). Co-Leader: Gail Myatt (775-750; gailamontes@hotmail.com). Mod. Easy.

### APR 27 (SUNDAY) 5 PM

Mt. Rose Wilderness Evening Hike. This is the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness

water. DL. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). APRIL 29 (TUESDAY) 5:30 P **Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning** 

> **Hike.** Check notice for April 15 to see info on Tuesday evening hikes. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal. net). Easy.

Act. Have you ever entered our nearest

wilderness, the Mt. Rose Wilderness, just W

of Reno? What do you expect to find? How

does it relate to Earth Day? We'll discuss wilderness values, criteria, and benefits.

Hike about 3 mi, 2 hrs. Bring snack and

### APRIL 30 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 P.M.

Wednesday Conditioning Hike: Rattlesnake Mtn./Huffaker Hills. About 4 mi, 800-1000 ft gain. Meet at Huffaker Hills Park Trailhead. Take S. McCarren to Alexander Lake Rd near intersection of Longley, McCarren. Take Alexander Lake Rd to trailhead on R side. Learn about flora, fauna. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call. Mod. Strenuous.

### MAY 1 (THURSDAY) 5:30 P

Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at 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 Meetup site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DOK. Leader: Yvonne Jerome. Co-Leader: David VonSeggern Easy.

### MAY 3 (SATURDAY) 9:30 A.M.

Historic Hike in Virginia City Area. Join us on round-about hike from Virginia City Cemetery, into 6 Mile Canyon, around to E side of city. About 7 mi, 1000 ft gain. Trail shoes and plenty of water recommended. Lunch with view of Sun Mountain: see some rarely visited gravesides (far from cemetery). Leashes needed for dogs around mineshaft areas and in town as we walk up Main Street to get back to our cars. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Co-Leader: Jim Call (775-420-6363). Moderate.

### MAY 3 (SATURDAY) 8 A

Historic Virginia City/McClellan Peak Flume Hike. See how water was transported from Carson Range to Virginia City via circa 1870 wooden box flume! About 10 mi, less than 800 ft gain. Some off trail with steep but short descent. High clearance 4-wheel drive vehicle necessary; possibility of ride sharing. ND. Leader: TATaro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

### MAY 4 (SUNDAY) 9:30 A

Louse Peak Day Hike. This seldom-visited peak (6800 ft) is in Virginia Range, E of Truckee Meadows. Mostly on dirt roads in juniper, pinyon, sagebrush country, with little x-c to attain summit. Expect to see plenty of wildlife, mustangs, eagles, hawks, furry critters, and, unfortunately, ticks. (Hence name.) About 8 mi RT, 2200 ft gain. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker. (853-8055). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome. & Kim Glasgow (851-3043, 825-8604)). Moderate.

### MAY 6 (TUESDAY) 5:30 P

**Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike.** Check notice for April 15 to see info on Tuesday evening hikes. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal. net). Easy.

### MAY 7 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 P.M.

Wednesday Conditioning Hike: Cleanwater Parkway. Get in shape for summer hikes. About 4 mi, 800 ft gain. Bring plenty of water, trail shoes. Take I-80 East to Mc-Carren turnoff, go R (S). Go across Truckee River bridge, get in L lane to turn on Cleanwater Parkway (before Mill), go 1.9 mi. to dirt area on L. May see wild horses. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim

### **Great Basin Peak Section News** Capricorn celebration

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

LAST AUTUMN, Vic Henney and I discovered we shared the same birthday, so we decided to plan a joint celebration. What better celebration can two Great Basin Peaks Section Capricorn Goats plan than a climb up a peak? My affinity for Pyramid Lake directed us towards the Pah Rah Range knowing we would find great lake views. We had already hiked the two Great Basin list peaks in the range, Virginia Peak (range high point) and Pah Rah Mountain, so decided on two lower peaks, Moses Rock and Monte Benchmark. Fellow members Sue Wyman and Bob Ralston joined us

for this January 16th adventure.

Our initial route through Warm Springs Valley to Apian Way was blocked by private property, so we returned to a route suggested by Rich Wilson via Chieftain Road. This steep rocky road climbed to a wide spot to pull off as the road approached a steep



bend. We parked here Sharon Marie Wilcox, Vic Henney, and to start the hike. The Sue Wyman on the summit of Moses blue cloudless skies Rock. Photo: Bob Ralston.

and slightly cool temperature were perfect for the uphill trek.

We followed the road to a saddle between the two peaks and then headed cross-country up Moses Rock (7181 ft). On the summit we enjoyed views of surrounding peaks and Pyramid Lake, plus shared lunch, laughter, and birthday cake.

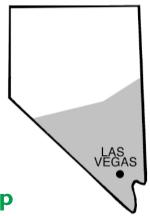
Descending Moses Rock, we backtracked to the road and headed up to Monte Benchmark (7486 ft). There were a number of snow patches in the area as we meandered around the juniper trees, but far less than in a normal snow year. Monte Benchmark

presented us with even better views of Pyramid Lake and Anaho Island (a National Wildlife Refuge supporting colonies of nesting American White Pelicans).

Our route down followed a rocky slope looping back to the road that took us to the car and the end of our pleasant 12-mile hike. We concluded another Great day of exploring and celebrating good times with friends in the Great Basin.

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 11.

# Monitor



Southern Nevada Group

### **Group News**

### Monthly ExCom Meetings April 16, May 21, & June 18, 2014

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee (ExCom) are being held on the third *Wednesday* of each month in 2014. 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. Please join us on the Wednesdays of April 16, May 21, & June 18, 2014.

### **Activities & Program Meetings**

Programs: April 7 & May 12 Activities: April 12, May 7, & June 3

OUR PROGRAMS HAVE THEMES and are typically held at 7 pm at the Sierra Club office, unless otherwise noted. Activities have various locations. Please join in our programs and activities on April 7, May 7, May 12 and June 3. Announcements just below and details in the Calendar.

APRIL 7: MOJAVE DESERT PROGRAM

### **APRIL 12: GREENFEST**

Celebrate Earth Day! Stop by UNLV North Fie for the festivities – and our booth.

MAY 7: NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

This one-hour gathering will be held at the Sierra Club office. Enjoy some light refreshments while getting to know likeminded people.

MAY 12: MOJAVE DESERT REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN PROGRAM JUNE 3: SUMMER MIXER

For fellowship and fun, this is the place to be! No themed program this month, but an informal get-together.

### **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 5 (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. Level 1-2. Leader: Gary Beckman and family (648-2983).

### **APRIL 7 (MONDAY)**

General Program Meeting. Meet Gail Collins-Ranadive, whose new book, Chewing Sand: An Eco-Spiritual Taste of the Mojave Desert, explores her adopted home landscape with a naturalist's thrill in detail and a spiritual person's reverence. The author will share with us her understanding of the dynamic vitality of the desert, our spiritual connection to the Earth, and the whimsical absurdity of living in Las Vegas. Meeting starts at 7pm at the Sierra Club Office. Copies of Gail's book will be available for sale and signing. Contact: feldman.jane@gmail.com.

### **APRIL 12 (SATURDAY)**

Come to GREENFest! In the heart of UNLV's campus, the 5th Annual GREENFest and 18th Annual Festival of Communities will join together once again to honor Earth Day and celebrate the rich cultural diversity of UNLV. Brought to you by GREEN Alliance and

Republic Services, GREENFest unites with UNLV's Festival of Communities to celebrate culture, sustainability, and our community. Look for the Sierra Club booth among the "Green Allies & Non-profits" between 11am and 6pm. Contact: tajainlay@aol.com.

### **APRIL 22 (TUESDAY)**

Celebrate EARTH DAY!! The entire month of April revolves around this day to honor our natural environment. You can find a whole host of local activities collected on our special Earth Day website. See all of the details at <www.earthdaylv.com>.

### **MAY 7 (WEDNESDAY)**

New Member Orientation. 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, the Toiyabe Chapter, and the Southern Nevada Group. We'll be meeting for one hour, starting from 6:30pm at the Sierra Club Office. Light refreshments will be served. Info: tajainlay@aol.com.

### **MAY 12 (MONDAY)**

General Program Meeting. Meet Josh Parker, author of the new book, Reptiles & Amphibians of the Mojave Desert. This very special event is being co-sponsored by Sierra Club and REI in

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

# Winter fun with Las Vegas Inner City Outings

### **BY BETTY GALLIFENT**

WHAT makes a slot canyon? How is the manzanita bush dependent upon the coyote to reproduce? These are just a few of the questions posed to Las Vegas youth during two day trips with Las Vegas Inner City Outings this past February.

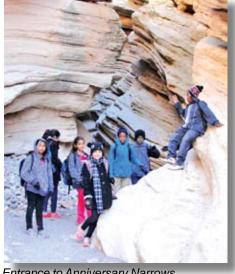
### **Anniversary Narrows**

The first outing took place on February

1, 2014, as 11 sixth graders from West Prep Middle School set out on a threemile desert excursion to visit Anniversary Narrows, southern Nevada's most scenic slot canyon, located a few miles west of Lake Mead. The young hikers, most of whom had no previous trekking experience, followed an old Borax mining road as it meandered through wide canyons of limestone and sandstone before com-

ing to the narrows themselves.

The shouts of excitement echoed through the slot canvon as students discovered the twists and turns of this half-milelong slot, with walls sometimes so close that they could touch them with both hands. Students climbed the sloping layers of the limestone and posed as if they were in the landscape of a lu-



Entrance to Anniversary Narrows

nar video game. They learned, however, that the rock was formed on the bottom of an ancient lake, then pushed up by earth's forces and eroded by water along a fault line to form the winding slot.

These sixth graders quickly adapted to their new environment and made it their Saturday morning playground. So, too, did they put into practice newly learned Leave No Trace Principles such as showing courtesy to fellow hikers when they helped each other over rocky inclines.

Lunch was enjoyed in the warm sun at the Narrows exit, but students welcomed the chance to do it all over again, as they headed back into the cool shadows of the serpentine canyon on their return trip, now dappled with filtered light from the rising



Student views the limestone layers at Anniversary Narrows.

mid-day sun. "It's the second best thing that's happened to me in my whole life. one student declared of the outing.

### Potato Knoll

A second outing to Potato Knoll in Red Rock Canyon took place on February 15, 2014 with eight juniors and seniors from Cheyenne High School. All are part of Nevada Partners youth program.

On the walk across the high desert, students got to compare the burned and non-burned areas of the landscape. As

Please see ICO WINTER OUTINGS, page 11.

### SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

### **OFFICERS** Taj Ainlay\* 702-682-9361 Chair Eric King\* Jane Feldman\* 702-265-2644 Vice-Chair Secretary 702-875-2668 Desiree Saporito Treasurer At Large Gecko Benjamin\* 702-505-0000 Open At Large At Large Open Jane Feldman\* Coal Power Plants Jane Feldman' Conservation Endangered Species Jane Feldman\* & Wildlife Energy Global Warming Iane Feldman\* Jane Feldman' Inner City Outings Charles Schneider 702-498-3224 Membership Taj Ainlay\* 702-682-9361 702-215-9119 Outings Par Rasmusson Outings Ed Rothfuss Parks, Refuges 406-756-0028 Political Teresa Crawford 702-526-8445 702-682-9361 Programs Taj Ainlay\* Publicity Jane Feldman\* Transportation

\* ExCom member

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feldman.jane@gmail.com

### S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 10

Henderson. The author's presentation will focus on the reptiles and amphibians of the Mojave, why they are unique, and what makes them special. Bring lots of questions and be sure to note the change in venue to REI Henderson, 2220 Village Walk Dr., #150, Henderson, NV 89052. Meeting starts at 7pm; copies of Josh Parker's book will be available for sale and signing. Contact: feldman.jane@gmail.com.

### **JUNE 3 (TUESDAY)**

General Program Meeting: SUM-MER MIXER! The meeting this month focuses on fellowship and fun! Please join us at 7pm at the Sierra Club Office for light refreshments, music, socializing, and getting set for a great summer ahead. More info to come. Contact: heidiplonski@yahoo.com.

### **JUNE 10 (TUESDAY)**

**Primary Election Day.** Here's your opportunity to vote for federal, state, and local candidates who support the environment. Polls will be open from 7am until 7pm at designated locations throughout all Nevada counties. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of the solution. Details at <*www.nvsos.gov*>.

### JUNE 19-22 (THURSDAY-SUNDAY)

Escalante Backpack. Meet at BLM visitor center in W end of Escalante around noon Mountain Daylight Time to acquire our free permit. From there, drive about 15 mi on Hwy 12 to a bridge to leave enough cars to accommodate everyone when we exit on last day of hike. Then drive to beginning of hike just N of town. This is a 3night and4-day backpack into one of the desert southwest's unique places. Cottonwoods and some pines line river. Wading shoes needed as we'll be constantly in and out of the river. Day 1: hike 6 mi or less. Day 2: we'll be 6 miles in and can do a very scenic side canyon with some nice narrows and inviting pools to swim in. Day 3: we'll move a few more miles and there will be some side hiking. Day 4 (last): we'll hike out to cars and pick up the ones left back at trailhead. Limit 12. Info: contact leader, David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail. com, 702 875-4826, e-mail preferred.) Moderate.

### WINTER OUTINGS WITH LAS VEGAS ICO ...

continued from page 10



Cheyenne High School students and Nevada Partners liaison on Potato Knoll outing.

they dropped down into the wash over the Shinarump ridge, "oh my goshes" could be heard coming from the group when they viewed the sudden change in flora.

The effect of the Oak Creek springs and wash on the vegetation was immediate and dramatic. The Joshua trees and burr sage on the plateau above had now turned to juniper pine, pinyon pine, velvet ash, and scrub oak -- with a mixture of cacti and banana yucca sprinkled in between.

On the 4.3-mile hike around Potato Knoll, the young hikers also observed the yellow and red layers of Aztec sandstone in the Wilson Cliffs which loomed 3000 feet above them. With the recent discovery of dinosaur footprints at Red Rock Canyon, students learned that they, too, could make the next footprint discovery by looking carefully for

a double-toed impression on bedding planes covered with desert varnish.

Aleisurely lunch break took place in a forested area. Some hikers decided to stretch out on a large flat rock, but others chose to explore the wash where water was running intermittently — a rare treat for these urban dwellers. Students became immersed in discussions about the interdependency of certain plants and animals such as the manzanita bush (which depends upon the coyote to pass the manzanita seeds through its digestive system in order to "scar" the seeds ano make them ready for germination). The mild winter temperatures and sapphire blue skies added to the pleasures of the day.

What you can do. For more information about Las Vegas Inner City Outings, please contact Betty Gallifent at

Three students explore the creek on Potato Knoll outing.



# Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 9

Call. Moderate.

### MAY 8 (THURSDAY) 7 P

General Program Meeting. Meet at Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Center off Lakeview Dr. in SW Reno. Social, 6:30, program, 7. Speaker TBA. Our monthly general program meetings are chance to get together with other Sierra Club members, learn about matters of interest to Club members. DOK. Leader: Caron Tayloe (crntayloe@gmail.com). Easy.

### MAY 8 (THURSDAY) 5:30 P

Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at 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 Meetup site: <a href="https://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/">www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/</a>. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome. Co-Leader: Kim Glasgow. Mod. Easy.

### **MAY 13 (TUESDAY) 5:30 P**

**Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike.** Check notice for April 15 to see info on Tuesday evening hikes. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal. net). Easy.

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

Wednesday Conditioning Hike: Canoe Hill. Get in shape for those summer hikes! Take I-80 E to Vista Blvd, turn left (N), go 2.7 mi (6 lights). Turn right (E) on Los Altos Parkway, go 1 mi. Turn right on Belmar Drive. Canyon Hills Park is to N. Park along street. About 3.4 mi, 840 ft gain. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call. Moderate.

### **MAY 15 (THURSDAY) 5:30 P**

Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at 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 Meetup site: www.meetup. com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome. Co-Leader: Kim Glasgow Mod. Easy.

### MAY 17 (SATURDAY) 8 A

Armed Forces Day: Lahontan Day Hike. Be sure to bring your American flag. About 6 mi out and back along shoreline of Lake Lahontan. Enjoy silence, stark beauty of area, see tufa formations. State Park fee: \$1/person. ND. Leader: TA Taro (775-530-2935). Easy.

### MAY 17-18 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY) 10 A

Washoe Valley Camp, Hike, & Kayak. Washoe Lake State Park is 15 mi S of Reno off of Eastlake Blvd. Set up camp Saturday morning, then take day hike up Deadman's Trail to gazebo overlooking valley, then beyond. Trail passes an oasis of vegetation, is home to Cooper's hawks, great horned owls, many other species of birds. Then travel dirt roads to lunch spot on smaller peak above. About 4 mi, 1000 ft gain. Gazebo hike is only 1 mi RT. Later, explore sand dunes in park. Sunday morning, kayak Washoe Lake. Many waterbirds! If you only want to come along and camp or hike, feel free to join us. Camping fee: \$17/vehicle, with \$2 discount for NV residents; day use fee only is \$7. We'll try to group up in sites near each other. Call for more info. Dogs must have leashes in park. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Co-Leader: Jim Call (775-420-6363; freneticmarmot@ gmail.com). Moderate.

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

**State Line Peak Hike.** This peak is in Ft. Sage Mountains N of Reno. So named

because it lies within about 100 m of state line, it is seldom visited, but has great views all around. Approach from E side. About 6 mi RT, 2600 ft gain, almost entirely x-c. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Mod. Strenuous.

### MAY 20 (TUESDAY) 5:30 P

**Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike.** Check notice for April 15 to see info on Tuesday evening hikes. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal. net). Easy.

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

Wednesday Conditioning Hike: Keystone Canyon. Take I-80 to N. Virginia St, go N 1.2 mi to McCarren Blvd. Turn left (W), go 1.3 mi to Victory Lane, turn right (N). Turn left at Y, go to paved parking lot for East Keystone Canyon which is less than 0.1 mi away. Learn about trail, flora, fauna, with info posted on kiosk. About 4 mi, 1000 ft gain DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call. Mod. Easy.

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

Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at 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 Meetup site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome. Co-Leader: Ridge Walker. Mod. Easy.

### MAY 27 (TUESDAY) 5:30 P

**Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike.** Check notice for April 15 to see info on Tuesday evening hikes. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal. net). Easy.

### MAY 28 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 P

Wednesday Conditioning Hike: Toll Road. Take I-580 S to Virginia City/Mt. Rose turnoff. Take Virginia City Hwy SR 431 for 0.7 mi, turn R onto Toll Road. Proceed for 2.7 mi to large dirt parking lot on R side. About 4 mi, steady 800-1000 ft gain. Learn about history of road. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call. Mod. Strenuous.

### **MAY 29 (THURSDAY) 5:30 P**

Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at 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 Meetup site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker. Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome. Mod. Easy.

### JUNE 3 (TUESDAY) 5:30 P

**Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike.** Check notice for April 15 to see info on Tuesday evening hikes. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal. net). Easy.

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

Wednesday Conditioning Hike: Peavine. About 4 mi RT, 800-1000 ft gain. Spring flowers should still be out. Take N. Virgina through N. McCarren past Bonanza Casino. Make left on Hogue Rd, go to end of paved street and dirt, radio towers. Bring plenty of water, trail shoes. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call. Mod. Strenuous.

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

Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 12.

### **Bookshelf**

### GROUNDWATER FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: A PRIMER FOR CITIZENS OF PLANET EARTH

By John A. Conners, Ph.D.

McDonald & Woodward Publishing Co., 2013.

HIS new book combines the science of groundwater (about 80% of the text) with a review of the present uses and challenges of using the resource (about 20% of the text), and it does so in clear, concise, accessible language with the assistance of some 280 figures.

The book is intended for a broad readership, ranging from interested lay readers with personal vested interests in this resource to professionals and citizen activists who need to understand the basic science of groundwater, the ways in which the resource is now being used and managed, and the implications of that use and management.

The book's structure, global in nature, allows any and all places on the planet to relate to the science of the resource and to place local use patterns and problems into a global context.

Groundwater is a very important and timely book, given the widespread and ever-increasing challenges facing this resource throughout the world. The book is further described at <www.mwpub*co.com/titles/groundwater.htm>*; the Table of Contents and Preface may be viewed by clicking the "Front Matter" button at the bottom of the book's description.

—from the Publisher

### Mojave National Preserve threatened by solar project

BY SID SILLIMAN

A PETITION TO PROTECT MOJAVE National Preserve from negative impacts of the Soda Mountain Solar project was posted on We The People mid-February and introduced at the 2014 meeting of the Club's CNRCC\* Desert Committee. More than 425 people from across the United States (east and west, north and south) have signed on and more will join in. The petition is addressed to the Obama administration, asking that it deny Bechtel's application for a right-of-way on public lands immediately adjacent to the Preserve. These BLM-administered lands are not suitable for solar development. The petition may be viewed at http:// wh.gov/lUxYt.

\*California & Nevada Regional Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club



### All Creatures Great and Small



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- John Muir

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Life	□ \$1000	□ \$1250
Senior	□ \$25	□ \$35
Student/Limited Income	□ \$25	□ \$35
Contributions, gifts and dues to Sit they support our effective, citizer efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters	<ul> <li>based advocacy a subscription to</li> </ul>	y and lobbyin

### **Great Basin Group Calendar**

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for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at 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 Meetup site: www.meetup. com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome. Co-Leader: Ridge Walker. Mod. Easy.

### **JUNE 7 (SATURDAY) 8 A**

Kings Canyon to Spooner Summit Day **Hike.** Enjoy views, learn local history on old stage route. About 9.1 mi, 2000 ft gain. See old railroad turntable, collapsed railroad tunnel portal. Vehicle shuttle required. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

### **JUNE 7 (SATURDAY) 9 A**

Petersen Mountain Day Hike. Visit this BLM wilderness study area located about 20 mi N of Reno. The 7-mile-long mountain range has a soft summit of 7857 feet, long linear valley down middle. Hope to see wildflowers (wishful thinking this year), plenty of other high-desert-montane flora. Also, plenty of bird life and, if lucky, deer. About 10 mi RT, 2000 ft gain, much of it in steep first mile. Mostly dirt roads, with x-c up through DG up to summit. Mod. difficulty. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker. (853-8055). Moderate.

### **JUNE 8 (SUNDAY) 8:30 A**

Amedee Ramble. Hike in Amedee Mountains NW of Honey Lake. The Amedee Canyon entrance has lots of interesting rock formations and wildflowers are usually profuse in a normal year. About 8 mi, 2000 ft. gain. No established trails. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Moderate.

### JUNE 10 (TUESDAY) 5:30 P

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Check notice for April 15 to see info on Tuesday evening hikes. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

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

Wednesday Conditioning Hike: Brown's Creek. About 4 mi RT, 1000 ft gain in forested terrain. Take Hwy. 395 to SR 431 Mt. Rose Hwy., go W about 4 mi to Joy Lake Rd, turn L. Follow for 1.5 mi to parking area on L. Learn about flora or fauna along way. Bring water, trail shoes. Leash for dogs near road. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call. Moderate.

### JUNE 12 (THURSDAY) 5:30 P

Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at 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 Meetup site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker. Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome. Mod. Easy.

### **JUNE 14 (SATURDAY) 8 A**

Rubicon Trail Day Hike. Along Lake Tahoe shore from D.L. Bliss Park to Emerald Bay and back. Possible views of osprey nests, good swimming opportunity during lunch hour. About 9 miRT, minimal gain. Parking fee. ND. Leader: Craig Mastos (7753481862; maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

### **JUNE 17 (TUESDAY) 5:30 P**

**Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike.** Check notice for April 15 to see info on Tuesday evening hikes. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal. net). Easy.

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

Wednesday Conditioning Hike: Ophir Creek. About 4 mi RT, 1000 ft gain, in forested terrain. Take Hwy. 395 S, stay on at I-580 into Washoe Valley. Take Davis

Creek Park exit, head W into park. Park in paved lot on R located before you get to T intersection that enters park. Bring plenty of water, trail shoes. Dogs must be leashed in park. DOK. Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin. Mod. Strenuous.

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

Mod. Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us for evening conditioning hikes of 3-5 mi at 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 Meetup site: www.meetup. com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome. Co-Leader: Ridge Walker. Mod. Easy.

### JUNE 24 (TUESDAY) 5:30 P

Tuesday Evening Easy Conditioning Hike. Check notice for April 15 to see info on Tuesday evening hikes. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

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

Wednesday Conditioning: Hike Hunter Falls Trail. About 4 mi RT, 800 ft gain, rocky terrain. Learn about flora and fauna along way. Take I-80 W to McCarren, turn left (S). Continue to Mayberry, turn right. Make left at Plateau Rd (Juniper Ridge), follow to Woodchuck. Drive to paved trailhead parking at end. Bring plenty of water, trail shoes for very rocky trail. Dogs need leash. DOK. Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin. Moderate.

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

Longest Day Evening Hike. Go to top of "Road to Nowhere" peak, highest one on skyline E of Reno. Discover this littleknown locale, learn geology of surrounding terrain. About 6 mi RT, 1500 ft gain. Brisk pace, not for beginning hikers. We'll take advantage of latest sunset, longest twilight of year, to march beyond sunset. Check Meetup site for details: www.meetup.com/ Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/. DOK. Leader: Ridge Walker. Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome. & Cathy Schmitt Easy.

### JUNE 28 (SATURDAY) 8:30 A

Loch Leven Hike. To middle Loch Leven, Big Bend area across Donner summit, for lunch, swimming. About 7mi RT, 1000 ft gain. DOK. Leader: Craig Mastos (7753481862; maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.



**April 26, 2014** 

Reno, Nevada

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.