



From the Chair

A dangerous proposal: federal lands being handed over to the State of Nevada

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN (vonseg1@sbcglboba.net)

Do you value your public lands in Nevada and the type of management of them by our public agencies? Do you recreate on public lands in Nevada? As a Sierra Club member, the answer is probably "yes" to these questions. But be aware that there are motivated people and entities who seek to disrupt our long enjoyment of abundant public lands.

One of the recurrent proposals over the years is to turn over the federal lands in Nevada to the state. This issue of complete disposal of federal public lands has again become prominent in Nevada with the passage of AB227 in the 2013 legislative session. This law created a Nevada Land Management Task Force (NLMTF) to study how federal lands could be turned over to the state in 2015. (AB227 requires "...a study by the State of Nevada, in contemplation of Congress turning over the management and control of public lands in Nevada to the State of Nevada on or before June 30, 2015....")

The NLMTF is comprised of one representative from each Nevada county and is basically coordinated by the Nevada Association of Counties. The NLMTF must complete their work by September 1, 2014 and report to the legislative committee handling the bill. The

Please see FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR, page 2.



West Prep students and staff, along with Inner City Outings volunteers, on a Colorado River raft trip. Please see trip writeup on pages 10-11. Photo: Chris Justus.

RUBY PIPELINE EFFORT IS OVER: What was gained & what was lost?

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

The Ruby Pipeline cut a swath through northern Nevada in 2010-2011, and the final EIS was challenged in court by our Chapter along with other groups. As Chair of the Chapter's Ruby Pipeline Task Force, I have tried to keep you informed on this issue over the past four years.

I need to report now that the formal case is closed with the issuing of the final Supplemental EIS, which met the 9th Circuit Court's ruling that the EIS needed to be revisited on two important matters: (1) procedural mistakes in the Biological Opinion, and (2) insufficient cumulative effects analysis. The SEIS has addressed these two concerns.

The BLM followed with a new Record of Decision (ROD) from which I quote: "The BLM's decision is to reissue the July 12, 2010 right-of-way, as previously amended, for the Project. The BLM will not require additional post-construction mitigation or changes to the right-of-way grant. All elements of the July 12, 2010 ROD and subsequent BLM decisions ... remain in full force and effect, including all stipulations, monitoring, and mitigation measures."

What we need to do now. At this point, our remaining charge is to monitor how well the long-term mitigation efforts and the restoration plan is implemented. Ruby Pipeline has committed to a 5-year restoration plan, with an extension beyond that time frame if certain criteria are not met. We have met with the BLM staff person responsible for enforcing the restoration plan this past summer and intend to get briefed on it once a year and, in addition, to make our

own observations.

In addition to restoration of the pipeline ROW itself, Ruby Pipeline has funded over \$20 million in mitigation measures to be directed by federal, state, and county agencies in the four states the pipeline crosses. We intend to seek an accounting of how this money is actually spent.

Pipeline proposals yesterday & today. With the keen focus on sage grouse habitat in 2013, we can only imagine that the route of this pipeline, if proposed today, would not likely be granted as proposed. Early in the process, we attempted to have a full analysis of an alternate route through more developed lands; but that was dismissed on a cost basis.

Gains & losses with the Ruby Pipeline. We believe that the litigation resulted not just in a more compliant EIS but also put the agencies on the alert that they cannot rush this important step in public-land actions. Our oversight of the entire process, along with that of other groups, was probably a factor in Ruby's offers of mitigation funds beyond what is legally required.

On the other hand, the originally proposed route was the one actually completed and we feel that this route impacts northern Nevada in many undesirable ways - and that is the loss.

Late breaking news

Nevada water rights court victory!

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

JUDGE ROBERT ESTES issued a ruling on December 10, 2013, in favor of appellants in the Great Basin Water Network/White Pine County lawsuit challenging the State Engineer's rulings on water right applications to the Southern Nevada Water Authority in four valleys in Eastern Nevada.

The Nevada State District Court Judge remanded the four rulings back to the State Engineer to:

- add Utah Counties in the mitigation plan for pumping impacts

Please see WATER VICTORY, page 7.

Chapter ExCom meeting

January 25, 2014

All members welcome!

WE'LL BE MEETING IN the Las Vegas area on January 25 to install new members of the ExCom and to discuss the administrative and conservation agenda of the Toiyabe Chapter. All members are welcome to give brief comments at this meeting.

Members are encouraged to contact the ExCom and issue chairs at any time using the contact info in the Chapter Directory on page 2 of the Trails. Contact Taj Ainlay for exact time and place of the ExCom meeting on January 25 (tajainlay@aol.com).

IN THIS ISSUE

In Memoriam: Anderson, Berry, Garrett, Kilberg, Pierce, Puchert, Rosen . . . 3
Range of Light Group . . . . . 4-5
Rebirth of Blue Diamonds . . . . . 5
Lower Owens River Fish Kill . . . . . 6
Pricey Tahoe Plan . . . . . 6
Pro-Wolf Testimony . . . . . 6
Inyo NF Plan Update . . . . . 6
Island Hopping in Channel Is. . . . . 7
Crystal Geyser Lawsuit Settled . . . . . 6
Mono Basin Stream Restoration . . . . . 7
Great Basin Group. . . . . 8-9
Great Basin Peak Section News . . . . . 8
Getting Kids Outdoors . . . . . 8
NV Day Weekend Adventure . . . . . 9
S. Nevada Group . . . . . 10-11
ICO Ventures Down Colorado . . . . . 10
Membership Mixers . . . . . 10
Winter Desert Trips . . . . . 12

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\* Chapter ExCom member

## FROM THE CHAIR . . .

continued from page 1

NLMTF has already held open hearings in Reno and Las Vegas; please be aware of hearings in your county if you live outside those counties and be prepared to make public comment.

On invitation from the NLMTF, I presented the Sierra Club perspective on public lands at the November 1 hearing in Reno. Several other organization leads and private individuals spoke in favor of public lands there. My presentation (in PDF) can be found on the web at [http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/pdfs/Sierra\\_Club\\_NACO\\_preso\\_20131101.pdf](http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/pdfs/Sierra_Club_NACO_preso_20131101.pdf).

As an understatement, the NLMTF has considerable work to do to justify a complete transfer of federal public lands to the state. Opponents such as environmentalists begin with the matter of trust. Do you know the fate of the federal school lands that were given to Nevada at statehood? Of the four million acres decreed in trust for the benefit of Nevada schools, only three thousand remain, and there is little evidence of the benefit to the schools of those trust lands that have disappeared!

Once massive land areas move out of the federal public domain, they become an easy target for sale to private interests and for insufficiently regulated activities. Fiscally, the case for a takeover of federal public lands by the state is extremely difficult to make. The cost of managing these acres by the federal land agencies approaches \$500 million/year. The actual revenue on these lands is a tiny fraction of this. Where would the state get the funds to:

- fight catastrophic wildfires
- maintain roads and trails • restore habitats
- manage wild horses and grazing
- issue and enforce permits and much more? Clearly, Nevada gets an attractive deal with the current management of federal public lands.

Toiyabe Chapter believes the state should continue to work within the current system to improve management, enhance multi-user experiences, protect our wildlife and scenic wonders and, yes, to occasionally dispose of lands to local or county governments when there is a clear case for economic need or other compelling reasons.

The percent of Nevada managed by federal agencies has actually declined from about 87% in 1980 to 81% in 2010 (see article by Dennis Myers in Reno News & Review, 4/1/2010). In that time, the GDP and the population of Nevada have more than doubled, surpassing every other state in the rate of increase. One certainly cannot argue that Nevada has been constrained in growth because of all this federal land.

**DEADLINE!**  
**MARCH 1**  
**FOR**  
**APR - MAY - JUNE ISSUE**

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## 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:

Sierra Club  
Gift Planning Program  
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San Francisco, CA 94105  
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270



## Toiyabe Trails



SERVING NEVADA  
& CALIFORNIA'S E. SIERRA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Elyssa Rosen 1965-2013

**“Our work together  
is what has meaning”**

THE UNEXPECTED DEATH in October of our dear friend and fellow conservation activist Elyssa Rosen has left a cavernous void in our hearts and in the Great Basin environmental community. Elyssa drowned while scuba diving in Tasmania, where she was representing the Pew Charitable Trust Environment Group at an international conference to create a marine reserve for Antarctica.

Elyssa moved to Reno in 1993 to run a mining accountability campaign for the Sierra Club. Over the next eight years, she rose in the ranks to Senior Regional Representative for the Club. She became increasingly concerned with the pollution caused by the Nevada mining industry, and wanted to increase local awareness regarding this issue. In 1994 she worked with other environmental and tribal leaders to found the Great Basin Mine Watch (now Great Basin Resource Watch). In 2005 Elyssa became the Executive Director of that organization. In that position she worked to help establish the state's first mercury regulations and a Superfund site in Yerington, and was instrumental in changing state law that prohibited challenges to corporate polluters.

Elyssa was a brilliant strategist regarding mining and other environmental issues. She understood the science and the politics involved. But she was also well-grounded in her connection to the mystery and magic of the earth. Her mentor, Reno's Marge Sill, said of her: “Elyssa loved to explore the wild places of Nevada, such as the Black Rock desert or the Jarbidge wilderness, either alone or with friends. She cared about all creatures and worked hard to preserve their habitat. Those of us who knew and loved this beautiful woman will always remember the joy of being with her on these expeditions.”

Perhaps I can best describe Elyssa's spirit through her own words (written in an email after a hard-fought political campaign loss): “Bleak as this day is, it's the people, and the work that this team represents, that sustains me... Our work together is what has meaning.” Elyssa's life and spirit will endure in the work that we do together every day to make our Great Basin communities and the Earth better.

— contributed by Bob Fulkerson



## Peggy Pierce Sierra Club Hero

PEGGY HAS BEEN CALLED the ‘staunch liberal conscience’ of the Nevada legislature. Many of us call her colleague, friend, inspiration.

Much has been written in the past few weeks since Peggy passed away about her legislative work. Let me take you back to 1997, when Peggy started digging into land use planning, transportation and air quality issues in burgeoning Las Vegas.

Peggy, with typical courageous brashness, attended hearings on the proposal to widen US 95. At the meetings, she was on her way home from her job as a banquet server at the Desert Inn, and she wore her black and white serving uniform. She studied the maps and asked incisive, hard questions. What about better public transportation instead? Can express lanes and HOV lanes help? This is right on top of my home- - and several schools -- what kind of pollution is going to settle on the elementary school kids, and the high school football team? What about indoor air?

I can just see in my mind's eye the reactions of all those engineers to this tiny package of spit and vinegar!

After the hearings, Peggy wrote comments, and signed them in her capacity as the Air Quality Chair of the Southern Nevada Group of the Sierra Club.

It was her letter that gave the Sierra Club standing for a legal action against the decision to widen the highway without adequately addressing the health risk of additional air pollution.

The Club settled the lawsuit in 2005, with a \$7 million settlement to the Clark County School District, plus a nation-wide science protocol to look at the characteristics of highway pollution in a variety of situations. The School District received upgrades to air handling systems in four schools, low-pollution retrofits to many of the school buses, and moved a kindergarten playground away from the highway berm. The settlement set a nation-wide and international precedent in highway planning.

That's the real-life, everyday legacy that Peggy left for the children in her neighborhood.

I can't imagine remembering her, or anyone, for anything more important.

— contributed by Jane Feldman



## In Memoriam

## James Kilberg 1944 - 2013

A PASSIONATE PHOTOGRAPHER, Jim was an active member of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter and Sierra Club California's Desert Committee for many years, working to preserve desert lands in California and Nevada.

He lived in Los Angeles, California, but was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He attended Anderson School and Rochester Institute of Technology in New York before moving to California.

— contributed by Terry Frewin

## Jo Anne Garrett 1925-2013

### The fall of a bristlecone pine

NEVADANS MOURNED THE PASSING of Jo Anne Garrett, long-time Sierra Club member. Jo Anne, who lived in the tiny town of Baker at the foot of the Great Basin National Park, was the center of conservation activities in far Eastern Nevada.

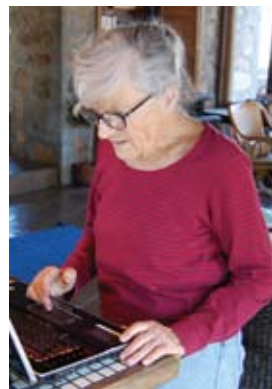
In the early 1980s, Jo Anne and her husband, Joe Griggs, took time off from building their beautiful house from natural materials among the pinyon pines below Mt. Wheeler to fight a military proposal to build railroad tracks in many Great Basin Valleys on which to run trains randomly carrying the MX missile. This was one of many Cold War ideas meant to confuse our foreign enemies.

Jo Anne and Joe joined a huge coalition of Great Basin protectors -- including ranchers, miners, environmentalists, scientists, Native Americans, the Mormon Church, and city folks -- to eventually defeat this nightmarish proposal (with the help of President Ronald Reagan). Jo Anne was in the middle of many conservation campaigns which became necessary as developers continued to propose environmentally unsustainable projects in her beloved desert. She was always an anchor of friendship and a consummate hostess from her rock and timber mountain home.

With Jo Anne's enthusiastic support, the old MX coalition was re-ignited in 1989 when the Las Vegas Valley Water District filed applications with the State Engineer for 800,000 acre feet of groundwater in Eastern Nevada. After furious state-wide opposition, this proposal went on a back burner for many years. Unfortunately, it re-emerged in 2004 when the Southern Nevada Water Authority managed to successfully insert a provision for a Right-of-Way across public lands for a water pipeline into the Lincoln County lands bill.

Soon, Jo Anne was elected the President of the Board of the Great Basin Water Network, another broad-based coalition which formed to protect Great Basin valleys in Eastern Nevada and Western Utah from the proposed draining of priceless desert aquifers. In 2005, she was awarded

Please see IN MEMORIAM, page 5.



## Phillip Berry 1937-2013

### A Sierra Club icon

A PIONEER IN THE FIELD OF Environmental Law and a member of the Sierra Club for over 60 years, Phil Berry passed away in September 2013. He was one of the co-founders of the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, now EarthJustice. He also served as President of the Sierra Club during time of significant upheaval, and helped our organization to evolve into the effective national environmental voice that it is today.

Phil was born Berkeley, California. His first Sierra Club trip (at age 13) was one of the famous High Trips to the Sierra Nevada led by David Brower, who would become the Sierra Club's first Executive Director two years later. Berry graduated from Stanford University and went on to get a law degree from the same institution. He was known as a fearless litigator who was always willing to help those suffering from injustice.

In 1966 Berry became Chair of the Sierra Club's Legal Committee, and helped our

Please see IN MEMORIAM, page 5.

## Robert Anderson 1943 - 2013

### Chair, Tahoe Area Sierra Club

BOB DIED IN A TRAGIC VAN accident in Tanzania, Africa, two days after summiting 19,342-foot Mount Kilimanjaro to celebrate his 70th birthday. His wife, Grace, summited with him. Grace, a member of the TASC ExCom, was injured in the van accident, but has returned to Tahoe.



Bob was born in Livingstone, Montana, and became a noted Montana conservationist, leaving a large imprint on the state through his efforts to successfully

stop a 380-foot dam on the Yellowstone River, convince Congress to create a new wilderness -- the Bear -- and later the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. He also founded and served as the first Director of the three-state Greater Yellowstone Coalition to protect wild places in that area.

At Tahoe, Bob formed a Wilderness Committee and organized comments on Wilderness for the new Forest Plan, just released. Bob was elected Chair of the Tahoe Area Sierra Club group, was appointed to the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee to TRPA, worked to protect Washoe Meadows State Park from intrusion by a large golf course into the State Park, and founded and served on the board of the Tahoe Institute of Nature Studies. Bob attended Toiyabe Chapter ExCom meetings on behalf of TASC.

Bob contributed greatly to Tahoe, as he had to Montana, bringing his extensive organizational experience, his gentlemanly manner, and his love of nature.

— contributed by Laurel Ames,

## Serge Puchert 1928-2013

FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS, Serge led trips as far as Alaska and the Himalayas, and all over the Sierra and the Tahoe Basin. For nearly 20 years, Serge assisted in building the Tahoe Rim Trail and volunteered often with that group.

A life member of the Sierra Club, Serge passed away in October 2013. He was born in Vladivostok, Russia and grew up in Shanghai, China. He immigrated with his family to America after World War II. He and his family eventually settled in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he worked as a merchant marine, attended SF State University, and became a school teacher.

Leading the Sierra Club trips is how he eventually met my mother whose own experiences abroad gave them similar interests. Many of my summers growing up were spent with them on Sierra Club trips (luckily for me on horseback) where I developed my own appreciation of the outdoors.

Donations can be made in his name to the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, P.O. Box 3267, Stalene, NV 89447.

— contributed by William Puchert

# Range of Light Reflections

Range of Light Group



## Group News

### Letter from the Chair

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

**ExCom.** Next meeting is Tuesday, Jan 28, 6 pm, Malcolm Clark's home. See details below

**Program meetings.** In September, Mark Bagley spoke about past and present activities of Sierra Club and Owens Valley Committee in addressing water issues in the Owens Valley.

In October, Laura Beardsley, Executive Director of Friends of the Inyo, updated us on FOI history & current activities.

For November's meeting, about 27 people came to hear Jon Wehausen talk on the history of efforts to preserve bighorn sheep populations in California. Jon emphasized the need to focus

### Group ExCom meetings

WE USUALLY MEET quarterly (January, April, July, October). The next meeting is Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 6 pm, at the home of Malcolm Clark. All are welcome but please confirm date, place and time, as meeting date may change in order to assure a quorum at the meeting or because of weather.

Any action items should be submitted to the chair (Malcolm Clark) in time for consideration 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

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

on meta-populations of sheep rather than on separate individual fragment populations.

Outings. Snow outings begin Jan 5, snow permitting. See the ROL Calendar, beginning on this page, for more info.

**NEEDED!** We're searching for a volunteer to be Conservation Chair. Our ROL Group presently has no organized way to respond to many important conservation items. In the meantime submit conservation items to [rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com](mailto:rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com).

#### Conservation Updates.

- ROLG submitted **comment letters** on both the Shady Rest OHV/OSV staging area proposal and on the Adventure Trails System in Inyo County. The latter would allow OHVs on designated county and city streets.
- ROLG and the Owens Valley Committee reached a settlement with **Crystal Geyser Bottling Plant** regarding their expansion proposal. The settlement includes additional environmental safeguards and monitoring procedures.
- Bishop is redoing its Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment (REGPA). This is in conjunction with BLM's (and other agencies') Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). This plan includes much of Inyo County. Public info meetings were held recently. Both plans are intended to designate areas "most suitable" and "least suitable" for renewable energy projects.
- Multiple concerns have been voiced by various groups about Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power's (LADWP's)

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

&  
Chapter website  
<<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>>

## Range of Light OUTINGS

### WINTER 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.

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. What to Bring: Water, lunch and snacks, layered clothing, hats, gloves, sunglasses, appropriate footwear, skis/snowshoes if appropriate.

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.

#### JANUARY 5 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBA (depends on snow conditions).** Cross-country skiers and snowshoers welcome. Meet 10a, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140, [jungberman@mac.com](mailto:jungberman@mac.com)).

**Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch Project.** The comment period was scheduled to close on Nov 26. The project would produce 200 MW and covers 1400 acres.

• Proposed **endangered listings** for the yellow-legged mountain frog and greater sage grouse Bi-State Distinct Population Segment are still under consideration.

• **Inyo National Forest** has released the Draft Assessment Report for the Inyo National Forest management plan and held public meetings. This is part of the revision process. See short article on page 7 for more information.

#### JANUARY 12 (SUNDAY)

**Beautiful Bodie Hills Snowshoe.** Opportunity to view wildlife, including raptors. Tracks should be abundant. Strenuous, 8-10 mi RT. Meet 8am, Mammoth Union Bank or 9:15a, Forest Service Bridgeport Ranger District Office on Hwy 395. Then to Aurora Canyon Rd to Potato Peak. Pre-registration required, limit is 12 participants. Dress appropriately for cold weather in warm layers. Contact: Jeff (760-935-3960, [jeff@bodiehills.org](mailto:jeff@bodiehills.org) or Dick 760-709-5050, [rhihn@skidmore.edu](mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu)).

#### JANUARY 19 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBA (depends on snow conditions).** Cross-country skiers and snowshoers welcome. Meet 10a, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Mary K (760-934-035, [kp@npgcable.com](mailto:kp@npgcable.com)).

#### JANUARY 26 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBA (depends on snow conditions).** Cross-country skiers and

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.

#### January 21 (Tuesday)

### "ROCK THE BOAT!"

Social, 6:15 pm  
Mammoth Lakes Library  
Movie: 6:30 pm

This informative and funny film tells about a boating expedition down the Los Angeles River that has led to a discussion of allowing recreation on a stretch of the River that has been closed to the public.

#### February 18 (Tuesday)

Social, 6:15 pm,  
Mammoth Lakes Library  
Program: 6:30 pm

"Bodie Hills:  
An American Treasure"

Meet Jeff Hunter and hear about his work with the Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership.

#### March 18 (Tuesday)

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



"Climate change prospects for streams of the Sierra Nevada"

David Herbst, Ph.D., will present results of his work done with the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory.

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

## Range of Light OUTINGS

continued from page 4

snowshoers welcome. Meet 10a, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com).

### FEBRUARY 2 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBA (depends on snow conditions).** Cross-country skiers and snowshoers welcome. Meet 10a, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com) or Ron (310-666-8902, glendon3@aol.com).

### FEBRUARY 8 (SATURDAY)

**ExploreFish Slough.** Visit archaeology sites, pupfish springs, and learn about different plant communities. Meet 7:45a, Mammoth Union Bank or 9a at kiosk, corner Fish Slough Rd and Five Bridges Rd. Contact: Katie (760-873-8023, kquinlan2@verizon.net or Dick 760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

### FEBRUARY 9 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBA (depends on snow conditions).** Cross-country skiers and snowshoers welcome. Meet 10a, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Mary K (760-934-0355, mkp@npgcable.com).

### FEBRUARY 16 (SUNDAY)

TBA.

### FEBRUARY 23 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBA (depends on snow conditions).** Cross-country skiers and snowshoers welcome. Meet 10a, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-

2140, jungberman@mac.com).

### MARCH 2 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBA (depends on snow conditions).** Cross-country skiers and snowshoers welcome. Meet 10a, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com).

### MARCH 9 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBA (depends on snow conditions).** Cross-country skiers and snowshoers welcome. Meet 10a, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Mary K (760-934-035, kp@npgcable.com).

### MARCH 16 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBA (depends on snow conditions).** Cross-country skiers and snowshoers welcome. Meet 10a, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com).

### MARCH 23 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBA (depends on snow conditions).** Cross-country skiers and snowshoers welcome. Meet 10a, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Ron (310-666-8902, glendon3@aol.com).

### MARCH 30 (SUNDAY)

**Snowshoe Outing, Destination TBA (depends on snow conditions).** Cross-country skiers welcome. Meet 10a, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Dick (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

## In Memoriam

continued from page 3

### Phillip Berry . . .

organization through the difficult period when we lost our non-profit status. Berry was elected to the Club's Board of Directors in 1968, and became its youngest President to date the following year.

His first term as President (1968-74) was a turbulent one, as it included the resignation of his early mentor David Brower (the Sierra Club's first Executive Director). But he also oversaw the Club's participation in the first Earth Day and led the Club during a time of significant environmental victories, including the establishment of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. His second and third terms as president were 1975-81 and 1982-88. Phil was elected to 10 terms (for a total of 30 years!) on the Sierra Club Board of Directors, and was also elected President again for 1991-97. He was awarded the Club's highest honor, the John Muir Award, in 1978, when only 41 years old.

In addition, he served as the Club's vice president for legal affairs and as chair of the Litigation Committee until his death. In the latter role, he worked tirelessly, helping to oversee the tremendous expansion of the Club's climate litigation efforts, including landmark cases such as Sierra Club v. Cheney, Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency, and the phenomenally successful Beyond Coal campaign.

As Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund cofounder, Frederic Fisher, said of his long-time friend, "Phil reminds me of the bulldozers he has fought against over the years. In his case, however, the world that we live in is a lot better for his being there."

— contributed by Janet Carter, with help from Tom Valtin and the Sierra Club Board of Directors

### Jo Anne Garrett . . .

the Golden Pinecone in Reno by her fellow environmental activists in appreciation for her decades of environmental work on behalf of Nevada and the Great Basin.

From Jo Anne's obituary, we learned why she insisted her name was 3 words, the first two being Josephine Anne. Our friend was born in Montana on a dairy farm and moved to Southern California, supporting herself as a skilled seamstress. She married Donald Garrett, graduated from UCLA, and had 4 children while working with her husband at the Garrett Research and Development Company and then heading the Planned Parenthood Office in Claremont.

A new life started for Jo Anne when she moved to Baker, Nevada, where she served on the White Pine County advisory committees for water and nuclear waste. Fighting the MX proposal with Joe, she became a board member of Citizen Alert, remaining very active in Nevada's successful opposition to the proposed Yucca Mountain nuke dump.

In her obituary a few lines come close to capturing the essence of our friend: Jo Anne steadfastly appreciated the inner beauty of her friends and the rugged beauty of her environment. Over the years, she became a beloved fixture of the community and an extension of the landscape she inhabited. Losing Jo Anne is like the fall of a bristlecone pine.

— contributed by Rose Strickland

NOTE. In Memoriam entries are in reverse alphabetical order.

## Range of Light FALL PHOTO GALLERY

Photos by Joanne Hihn

*Following the Blue Diamond Cross-Country Ski Trail in The Knolls, Mammoth Lakes, CA. (November 9, 2013)*



*Glorious Fall Day in McGee Canyon. (October 13, 2013)*

## Rebirth of the Blue Diamonds

BY MARY K. PRENTICE

HOW DO YOU PICK a project that everyone loves? Lots of years in the making! Lots of persistent volunteers! Lots of passion for winter exploring! Lots of luck with timing and community backing and USFS sponsorship and of course, just plain fun.

In 2003 when I moved to Mammoth I transferred to the Range of Light Sierra Club and met a hearty bunch of cross country skiers. John Walter and other leaders took us deep into the winter forests where the Blue Diamonds lived.

Some 40 years ago these winter route markers were put up by the Forest Service. Now many had fallen off trees or lost their sky blue paint. We tracked them anyway and a plan was hatched.

In 2007 when Ed Armanta became USFS Inyo



Forest Supervisor, John, Malcolm, Jean, and I made a visit to share SC priorities. One was restoration of the historic Blue Diamond routes.

In 2009 MLTPA at our request sent their crew to GPS and map all the old blue diamonds for town recreation planning. The town has record of all that we and they could find.

Last winter by chance encounter Jon Regelbrugge, Mammoth District Ranger, and I were riding the same bus to the Mountain. "Are you guys (SC) still interested in restoring the old blue diamond routes?" he asked.

Fast forward, this September Mike & Mary Shore and other enthusiasts spearheaded the project, making, painting, mounting blue diamonds on trees along the original routes.

By mid October the first leg of the project was completed.



All volunteers worked in teams and loved it. See the picture of our field party celebration. We can't wait for the first snow to follow our routes.

Next summer many more miles of restoration of BD routes are planned. Come and join the fun.



# CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

*Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience.*  
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Lower Owens River Project fish kill

BY MARK BAGLEY, ROL GROUP OWENS RIVER WATERSHED CONSERVATION CHAIR

A major fish kill occurred in the Lower Owens River Project Area (LORP) in late July. At that time, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) diverted large amounts of water from the Los Angeles Aqueduct through the Alabama Gates, a few miles north of Lone Pine, to the Lower Owens River. This water release stirred up river bottom sediments, resulting in an increase in biological oxygen demand and increased turbidity. This then resulted in extremely low dissolved oxygen levels and the death of thousands of fish in the Lower Owens River.

Why would DWP release water from the Alabama Gates to the river in late July when the resulting major

DWP claims that unexpected thunderstorms on July 21-23 resulted in flash flooding that caused sediment



Dead largemouth bass at the LORP pump station. Countless fish died in the oxygen-depleted water in the river south of the Alabama Gates. Photos: Anon.



fish kill was highly predictable? It turns out that DWP had scheduled maintenance to repair the walls of the aqueduct about one mile south of the Alabama Gates for the week of July 22. This work required the draining of the Aqueduct between Alabama Gates and Lone Pine Creek. According to DWP they reduced aqueduct flows and anticipated only a small flow from the Alabama Gates to the river in order to drain the aqueduct.

laden waters to flow into the aqueduct north of the Alabama Gates. DWP released high flows from the Alabama Gates July 22nd through the 25th. However, flow data does not show a significant increase in river flows upstream of the Alabama Gates and no dead fish were reported north of the Alabama Gates.

Thunderstorms are not exactly unexpected in July and August in the Owens Valley. In fact, a local forecast on July 18 stated, "The Southern California deserts as well as Southern Nevada could really get walloped with some heavy rain and flash flooding in some areas by the end of the weekend or early next week." So much for the thunderstorms and flash flooding being unexpected.

**Bad decisions.** Clearly, what caused the fish kill, which will likely set back the fishery for 4-6 years, is the poor decision by DWP to schedule the aqueduct work in July. This decision was compounded when thunderstorms and flash flooding were forecast for the area and DWP declined to postpone their work on the aqueduct.

## NEVADA WATER RIGHTS COURT VICTORY...

continued from page 1

in Nevada

- recalculate water available for appropriation in Spring Valley, assuring the basin will reach equilibrium in a reasonable time
- define standards, thresholds or triggers so that mitigation of unreasonable effects from pumping of water are neither arbitrary nor capricious in Spring, Cave, Dry Lake and Delamar Valleys
- recalculate appropriations from Cave, Dry Lake, and Delamar Valleys to avoid over-appropriations or conflicts with down-gradient, existing water rights

Congratulations and thanks to our attorneys (Simeon Herskovits and Iris Thornton), our co-appellants (White Pine County, Ely Shoshone and Duckwater Shoshone Tribes, Confederated Tribe of the Goshute Reservation, the Presiding Bishop of the Church of Latter-Day Saints on behalf of the Cleveland Ranch and Millard and Juab Counties, Utah), and to every one of our members and allies who are working so hard to oppose this water grab.

A PDF file of the full court decision is on Toiyabe Chapter website at <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/>. For more information, contact Rose Strickland, Chapter Water Campaign coordinator.

## Club's legal challenge to pricey Tahoe Regional Plan

BY JANET CARTER

SIERRA CLUB HAS CHALLENGED a new Regional Plan for Tahoe that focuses on luxury lodging and five-star resorts, while throwing the decades-old environmental standards under the bus. It is a deceptive plan riddled with PR and lacking science.

The Club filed the opening brief at the end of October. The TRPA replied late Wednesday night before Thanksgiving. The reply is replete with propaganda for the plan. There is one more round of briefs, then we go to federal court on March 5 in Sacramento.

## Inyo National Forest Plan update

BY ROBERT ROWAN

INYO NATIONAL Forest is one of three National Forests in California revising its Forest Plan using the new 2012 planning rule. (The others are Sierra and Sequoia.) The Inyo started the plan revision process last year with a series of public meetings and expects to complete the process over the next two and half years.

In November 2013 the Inyo released an assessment of forest resource conditions and trends (available for comment until December 16, 2013). The Inyo will hold another round of public meetings before, or in connection with, release of a draft plan revision.

This plan will shape management direction of the Inyo for the next 15-20 years. It's important that our voices be heard in this process. Snowlands Network and Clean Quiet Recreation, among other organizations, are asking the Inyo to review its management of snowmobiles in the plan revision.

**What you can do.** The draft assessment, and information on future meetings and how to participate in the planning process can be found on the Inyo's website ([www.fs.usda.gov/inyo/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/inyo/)), by clicking "Land & Resources Management" and then "Planning."

## Roaring applause for pro-wolf testimony

BY EDWARD MORENO, SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA

EARLIER THIS YEAR, California had the wonderful opportunity to witness and track the first wolf, dubbed OR7, to enter the state since 1924. Unfortunately, he has since traveled back to his home state of Oregon leaving many in the state pondering what could have been.

Now the state is once again absent of one of its most majestic keystone species to roam these lands. However that did not hinder Californian's outrage over the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) proposal to remove the gray wolf from Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections.

On the evening of November 22, 2013, USFWS hosted a hearing in Sacramento to collect public opinion about the proposed delisting. It was one of only a few hearings being

**DEADLINE! MARCH 1**  
**FOR APR - MAY - JUNE ISSUE**

Please see PRO-WOLF, page 7.

## Island hopping in Channel Islands National Park

3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruises

### 2014 schedule

April 12-14 • May 4-6 • June 8-10

July 22-24 • August 24-26 • September 14-16

Join us as we explore these enchanting islands!

Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines. Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea.



A ranger/naturalist will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and present evening programs. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara, California. The cost, \$590, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages, plus the services

of a ranger/naturalist.

To reserve space, send a \$100 check, made out to "Sierra Club," to leader, Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information, contact leader (626-443-0706, [jholtzhln@aol.com](mailto:jholtzhln@aol.com)).

\* Proceeds benefit the Sierra Club's Global Population & Environment Program.

— Bonnie Tillery



## PRO-WOLF TESTIMONY...

continued from page 6

held on the issue in the country.

Emotions stirred as pro- and anti-wolf stakeholders were forced to rub elbows in a tightly packed conference room reserved for the event at a local hotel. Wolf supporters from across the state, include Sierra Club members, spoke against the delisting, arguing that the wolf needs federal protections when the threat

from anti-wolf stakeholders is still very real.

Impassioned pro-wolf testimony was routinely followed by roaring applause. Wolf supporters demanded that the fate of the wolf and other wildlife not be dictated by the financial and economic motives of a single or small group of industries, but by sound science.

— December 6, 2013

## Crystal Geyser lawsuit settlement

BY MARK BAGLEY, ROL GROUP OWENS RIVER WATERSHED CONSERVATION CHAIR

Sierra Club, the Owens Valley Committee (OVC), and Crystal Geyser Roxanne have settled a legal challenge to the County of Inyo's approval of Crystal Geyser's Cabin Bar Ranch Water Bottling Plant Project and project EIR.

The company proposed to take 360 more acre-feet of water/year and construct a new bottling facility, doubling their production of bottled spring water in the Cartago-Olancho area near Owens Lake. OVC and Sierra Club were concerned about the scope of the biological and hydrological surveys and the potential impacts the project might have on neighbors' wells, springs, wetland vegetation, rare plants, and aquatic species.

After long negotiations, a settlement of the lawsuit filed earlier this year was reached this fall. In the settlement, Crystal Geyser agrees to monitor off-site wells in Cartago and expand the scope of the biological



and hydrological surveys and impact analyses. The results of these studies will be provided to OVC and Sierra Club and will be submitted to the County of Inyo to assist Crystal Geyser and the County in developing and approving the Groundwater Monitoring, Mitigation, and Reporting Plan.

This plan, which must be approved by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors at a public hearing prior to project pumping, will govern Crystal Geyser's mitigation requirements while operating the water bottling project. Thanks to the Range of Light Group and Toiyabe Chapter for supporting this legal action.

## The Mono Basin Stream Restoration Agreement is signed... what's next?

AUGUST 27, 2013 SIMULTANEOUSLY MARKED THE END of one era and the beginning of another in the history of stream restoration in the Mono Basin. On the top floor of its downtown Los Angeles building, the DWP Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the Stream Restoration Agreement – the final stamp of approval needed among partners California Trout, the Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the Mono Lake Committee.

Finalization of the Agreement marked the end of intensive negotiations that have dominated the last three years of work by the Mono Lake Committee policy team. But Mono Lake history has taught us an enduring lesson: eternal vigilance.

With the Agreement complete, we now turn to implementation. There's a lot to do, including significant new mandated duties for the Committee. Just as in the past, we have critical work ahead to turn the words of the

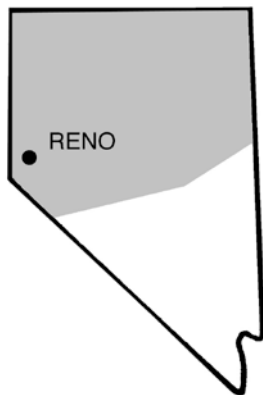
Agreement into a series of on-the-ground, science-based restoration actions. 2014 will be a busy year. The Agreement lays out an ambitious roadmap to achieve the long-awaited restoration of Mono Lake's tributary streams. Like all journeys, there's a lot of work needed to reach the destination.

The Committee is already enthusiastically at work on the key next

Please see MONO LAKE AGREEMENT, page 11.



# Great Basin Gatherings



## Great Basin Group

### Message from the Chair

#### Quarterly review

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN ([vonseg1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vonseg1@sbcglobal.net))

**Program meetings.** The Great Basin Group hosted Dennis Myers in October for our monthly program meeting. **Dennis Myers, a longtime leading journalist** in the Reno area, presented his views on putting together stories that often expose matters not given sufficient attention elsewhere. He also spoke about culling the enormous amount of information on the web for the facts.

In November, we hosted our own ExCom Treasurer, *Martin Mace*, as he recounted his journey along the entire *Appalachian Trail* in 2013. Martin carried only a smartphone for photography, but the images were clear and illustrative of the trek.

On December 6, we had our Annual Holiday Party, with our annual "Tin Cup" award going this year to *T A Taro* who has been our consistent and dedicated outings leader in the Carson City area for many years.

**Group environmental actions.** This quarter we have commented on the U.S.

*Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit application* by the Regional Transportation Commission. This is intended to allow them to construct the last portion of the Southeast Connector roadway on the east side of the Truckee Meadows. There are serious issues with mercury pollution of soils along the route and with building a six-lane roadway in a designated flood plain.

The Great Basin Group has also engaged with the *draft EIS for the greater sage grouse*, a lengthy document covering several states. A related issue we are addressing is proposed legislation by our Senators, under the guise of sage-grouse protection, to take a number of actions regarding public lands. Some examples of the proposed actions have to do with disposals, wilderness designation, and increased habitat restoration.

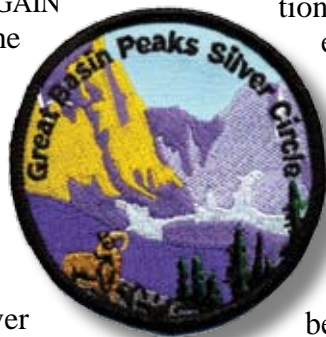
We are also looking at a *Douglas County lands bill* and the final EIS for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit's forest plan revision.

### Great Basin Peak Section News Silver Circle patches available

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

ERIK HOLLAND HAS AGAIN donated his artwork to the Great Basin Peaks Section. The Silver Circle Patch displays part of his newest painting of Wheeler Peak including our Nevada state mammal, the desert bighorn sheep. The Silver Circle Level is achieved after a member hikes half of the 116 peaks on the GBPS list. Dennis Ghiglieri, our webmaster, will soon have ordering information on our website.

Smoky skies from numerous fires and unusual weather condi-



tions didn't stop peak climbers from taking summer trips. Peak section members altered an Eastern Nevada trip because of rain, but still topped North Schell Peak, Cave, and Spruce Mountains. The weekend before the first real snow of the season, another trip took us to the top of Grapevine Peak and Mummy Mountain. We hope to see you on the trail in 2014!

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

Basin Peak Section at: <http://nevada.sierraclub.org/GreatBasinPeaks.html>.



## 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.

#### JAN 1 (WEDNESDAY) 10A

**New Year's Day Hike.** The annual New Year's Day Hike is an occasion to put all excesses of holiday season behind and start off your new year with a plan for healthy living. Meet at 10a to accommodate late-night revelers and hike until about dusk. Location subject to weather and ground conditions, but will be close to Truckee Meadows. Dress for weather (warm layers). DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461, [vonseg1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vonseg1@sbcglobal.net)). Co-Leader: Stephanie Lashuk (775-410-5562). Moderately Easy.

#### JAN 4 (SATURDAY) 10A

**Beginners' Cross-Country Ski.** Beginner's x-c ski trip in Mt. Rose Meadows. Learn basics from other Sierra Club x-c skiers: how to fall down, how to get up, how to ski on flats. Must provide own equipment. Half-day trip. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, warm clothing. ND. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055). Co-Leader: Valerie Andersen (853-4769). Moderately Easy.

#### JAN 5 (SUNDAY) 10:15A

**Loop Hike North of Spanish Springs Peak.** About 8 mi moderately strenuous loop hike in Pah Rah Range north

of Spanish Springs Peak. Mostly x-c with maybe 1,400 total elevation gain. Meet at Burger King at 10:15a, corner of Pyramid Highway and La Posada for about 10-minute drive to trailhead. DOK. Leader: Martin Mace (775-742-2085, [mace.martin@gmail.com](mailto:mace.martin@gmail.com)). Moderately Strenuous.

#### JAN 6 (MONDAY)

**GB Group ExCom Meeting.** Great Basin Group Executive Committee meets to discuss conservation issues, general meeting programs, and other administrative items. All members are welcome to attend and bring issues to the attention of the ExCom. Contact David von Seggern for info on time and location ([vonseg1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vonseg1@sbcglobal.net), 775-303-8461).

#### JAN 9 (THURSDAY) 6:30P

**General Program Meeting.** Meet at Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Center off Lakeview Dr. in SW Reno. Social at 6:30, program at 7. Lynell Garfield-Qualls, hydrologist for the City of Reno and children's author, will share stories of river protection and storm water management program elements, as well as Truckee River inputs and demands.

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

\*GB GROUP WEBSITE: <<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/gbgroup/>>

FACEBOOK: <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/scgbg/>> (Sierra Club GBG)

MEETUP: <<http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/>>

### Tasting at Ben's to help get kids outdoors

Friday • February 21

BY SUE JACOX ([suejacox@nvbell.net](mailto:suejacox@nvbell.net))

TASTE A SPECIAL SELECTION of beers, wines, and spirits at Ben's Fine Wine & Spirits at Lakeside and Moana in Reno, with all proceeds supporting outdoor activities for kids. Enjoy appetizers, live music, and bid for bargain treasures in the silent auction.

This is a Great Basin Outdoor School Annual Fundraiser for outdoor program scholarships for local children in need. Sierra Club friends are invited. Entry donation is a modest \$10 for an enjoyable and delicious evening. To help even more, provide a silent auction item in advance, bring a plate of finger food, or make a tax-deductible donation. The fun starts at 4:30p and drinks will be served through 7p.

Great Basin Outdoor School has been

Please see BEN'S KIDS' FUNDRAISER, page 9.

### Grants to get kids outdoors

BY SUE JACOX ([suejacox@nvbell.net](mailto:suejacox@nvbell.net))

RECOGNIZING THAT OUR KIDS are our future earth stewards and Sierra Club members, our Great Basin Group has committed to helping support outdoor excursions for local children. Many children have few opportunities to leave the pavement and explore natural areas. We are helping with annual fundraisers and mini-grants to offset some school field trip expenses, and are giving selection priority where the need is greatest. The grant application will be posted on our website.

Classes with the majority of the children living in poverty have already traveled to the Sierra Nevada with past support from our group. Children from Sun Valley Elementary School in Sparks reported that: "The most interesting thing I learned about myself is . . . that I can have lots of fun outside," ". . . how important my life is," ". . . how to make a difference," ". . . that

Please see GRANTS GET KIDS OUTDOORS, page 9.

Girls from Alice Maxwell Elementary School in Sparks benefited from community contributions enabling them to attend the Great Basin Outdoor School program at Lake Tahoe. Here, they're putting on a nature-oriented skit.



#### GREAT BASIN GROUP

##### OFFICERS

Chair	David von Seggern*	775-303-8461	<a href="mailto:vonseg1@sbcglobal.net">vonseg1@sbcglobal.net</a>
Vice-Chair	Jen Huntley	775-232-8847	<a href="mailto:drjenhs@gmail.com">drjenhs@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Sue Jacox*	775-849-1890	<a href="mailto:suejacox@nvbell.net">suejacox@nvbell.net</a>
Treasurer	Martin Mace*	775-745-4703	<a href="mailto:mace.martin@gmail.com">mace.martin@gmail.com</a>
Conservation	Open		
Energy	Jeff Hardcastle*	775-313-8442	<a href="mailto:jeff.hardcastle@sbcglobal.net">jeff.hardcastle@sbcglobal.net</a>
Membership	Open		
Outings	Holly Coughlin	775-331-7488	
Political	Open		
Programs	Caron Tayloe		
Webmaster	Peter Johnson	775-250-2576	<a href="mailto:peter.j.johnson@charter.net">peter.j.johnson@charter.net</a>

\* ExCom member



local demonstration projects designed to offset the impacts of development on the Truckee River system, educational tools for residents to use, pollution prevention for Sierra Club. She will finish up with her new book, *The Secret Life of Streams* (an EcoLiteracy project). ND. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy. Check our website, MeetUp, or Facebook pages for details.\*

#### JAN 11 (SATURDAY) 9:30A

**Chickadee Ridge Snowshoe.** Start at Tahoe Meadows, then to ridge commonly known as Chickadee Ridge because of chickadees that frequent area. Observe and learn about this amazing little bird. About 5 mi, 1000 ft gain to ridge. Must have some experience snowshoeing. Dress for weather (warm layers), bring lunch, plenty of water. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (420-6363). Moderate.

#### JAN 11 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Sawmill in Desert Day Hike.** Near Buckland Station, S of Silver Springs, along lower Carson River. About a 9 mi loop, mostly flat. See and ponder remains of sawmill in desert, then see current route of railroad which serves Hawthorn. Hike on part of route of Carson and Colorado RR, circa early 1880s. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

#### JAN 19 (SUNDAY) 9A

**Pah Rah Petroglyph Hike.** Day hike in Dry Lakes basin of Pah Rah Range east of Sparks. Hoping to find prehistoric petroglyphs and galloping antelopes as on trips gone by. Bring lunch, water, wear layered clothing. About 10 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055). Moderate.

### BEN'S KIDS' FUNDRAISER...

*continued from page 8*

a Nevada nonprofit since 1998 and offers science and nature camps during the school year in spectacular Sierra and Tahoe settings. Community contributions including past support from the Sierra Club's Great Basin Group reduce program fees and provide scholarships to include children in poverty who would otherwise miss the opportunity.

For more information or to offer a silent auction item in advance, please contact Sue Jacox at 775-849-1890 or suejacox@nvbell.net.

### GRANTS GET KIDS OUTDOORS...

*continued from page 8*

I like to be in nature more than play video games," "... I can help the environment," "... that I can recycle and make a difference in a lot of ways," "and "... that I can do stuff that I did not know I could".

Your support will help more kids connect with nature. Members and friends are encouraged to make donations via checks to "Great Basin Group Sierra Club" with "Get Kids Outdoors" noted at the bottom. Please mail your donations to Great Basin Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 8096, Reno,

## Great Basin Group Calendar

*continued from page 8*

#### JAN 25 (SATURDAY) 8A

#### El Dorado Canyon Day Hike.

Hike outside of Dayton. About 12 mi RT, under 600 ft gain. Riparian habitat with many crossings of small stream. Lunch at a natural arch. Also, a small slot canyon to view on way out. View remains of a Comstock era lodgings – a sign painted on a boulder. Learn some history of area. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderately Strenuous.

#### FEB 3 (MONDAY)

#### GB Group ExCom Meeting.

The Great Basin Group Executive Committee meets to discuss conservation issues, general meeting programs, and other administrative items. All members are welcome to attend and bring issues to the attention of the ExCom. Contact David von Seggern for info on time and location (vonsegl@

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



Sharon Marie, Larry Dwyer, and Mary Brooks in Trail Canyon. Photo: Larry Grant.

sbcglobal.net, 775-303-8461).

#### FEB 8 (SATURDAY) 8A

#### Churchill Butte Day Hike.

Hike near Silver Springs. Scale butte overlooking historic Ft. Churchill, parts

of Emigrant Wagon route, ancient Lake Lahontan, Pony Express Trail, Lincoln Highway. Learn some history of area. About 9.5 mi RT, 2200 ft gain, all in first 4 mi. Parts of hike are off trail with steep descents. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Strenuous.

#### FEB 9 (SUNDAY) 9A

#### Boca Springs Ski.

Cross-country ski to Boca Springs above Boca Reservoir, off I-80. This 6-mi RT ski outing is for skiers with some experience. Relatively easy, with no major grades. Boca Springs runs year-round, providing a little oasis in midst of winter snow-

### Great Basin Peak Section News

## Nevada Day weekend adventure

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

TO CELEBRATE THE THREE-DAY weekend in warmer weather, Mary Brooks, Larry Dwyer, Larry Grant, and myself migrated south. We drove the 20-mile dirt road north of Beatty heading for Grapevine Peak. The road up Phinney Canyon became too rough to drive to the saddle (7520 ft), so we parked by the fenced mineshaft, then hiked to the saddle following the Desert Peak Section route. We enjoyed a pleasant walk along the ridgeline through pinyon pines following numerous use trails on the ridge and skirting the rock outcrops along the way.

Though the morning was cool, when we reached the summit it was shorts and t-shirt weather. Grapevine Peak, the high point of the Grapevine Range at 8738 ft, presented great views as we ate

lunch and enjoyed sunny weather. Our next destination was Hilltop Campground in the Spring Mountains, where we arrived after dark.

We rose early and set off to hike Mummy Mountain (11,528 ft), the second highest in the Spring Mountains. Mummy was named for the profile viewed from the highway that looks like an Egyptian Mummy. We started at Trail Canyon Trailhead and then followed the DPS route from the junction at the northern end of Cockscomb Ridge. Trail Canyon weaves through aspen and pine with views of the limestone cliffs.

A wooden water trough at Cave Springs provided another photo opportunity. Past the last switchback, we scrambled to the ridge then followed the



Larry Grant, Mary Brooks, Sharon Marie Wilcox, and Larry Dwyer on Mummy Mountain.

Please see NEVADA DAY, page 11.

pack. DL. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Moderately Easy.

#### FEB 13 (THURSDAY) 6:30P

**General Program Meeting.** Meet at Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Center off Lakeview Dr. in SW Reno. Time: 6:30-7 social; 7, program. ND. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy. Check our website, MeetUp, or Facebook pages for details of program TBA.\*

#### FEB 15 (SATURDAY) 8A

**Virginia & Truckee Railroad Bed Day Hike.** Join us on a hike between Gold Hill and Mound House, near Virginia City. About 9 mi, downhill, with some off-trail. Learn some history of area. Vehicle shuttle necessary. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

#### FEB 16 (SUNDAY) 9A

**Echo Lakes Cross-Country Ski.** Moderate x-c ski trip in glacially-carved Echo Lakes Basin. Expect to see gorgeous granites, great geologic terrain, hear "Echo." All day trip. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, warm, layered clothing. About 6-7 mi, 200 ft loss or gain. Not for beginning skiers. ND. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055). Moderate.

#### FEB 22 (SATURDAY) 9A

**Hope Valley Snowshoe & Soak.** Join us on a snowshoe trek starting in Hope Valley and going up along road toward Burnside Lake. About 5-6 mi, 1200 ft gain. Must have some snowshoeing experience. Lunch at a nice spot with great view. Optional soak at Grover's Hot Spring afterward. People need to share rides to either leave after snowshoe or go for relaxing soak. Bring warm, layered clothing for weather and conditions, plenty of water, lunch. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (420-6363). Moderate.

#### MAR 3 (MONDAY)

**GB Group ExCom Meeting.** The Great Basin Group Executive Committee meets to discuss conservation issues, general meeting programs, and other administrative items. All members are welcome to attend and bring issues to the attention of the ExCom. Contact David von Seggern for info on time and location (vonsegl@sbcglobal.net, 775-303-8461).

#### MAR 8 (SATURDAY) 9:30A

**Virginia Mountains Desert Day Hike.** One of our favorite locations for hiking in desert N of Reno. About 6-7 mi RT, gain 500-1200 ft depending on weather. Learn about rock formations, flora, fauna we observe. Bring warm, layered clothing for conditions, plenty of water, lunch. Back around 3p. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: James Call (420-6363). Moderate.

#### MAR 13 (THURSDAY) 6:30P

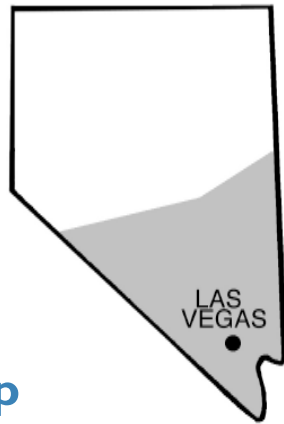
**Monthly Program Meeting at Bartley Ranch.** Guest speaker: Janet Carl, from Mono Lake area. Time: 6:30-7, social; program, 7p. Check Caron's article for more information. ND. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy.

#### MAR 13 (THURSDAY) 6:30P

**General Program Meeting.** Meet at Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Center

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 12.

# The Mojave Monitor



## Southern Nevada Group

### Group News

#### Monthly ExCom meetings

January 15, February 19, & March 19, 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 January 15, February 19, and March 19, 2014.

#### General Program Meetings Membership Mixers

Friday, January 24 & Tuesday, March 4, 2014

DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2014, our General Program Meetings are being conducted as membership mixers. The first will be on **Friday, January 24**, when we will meet and greet Sierra Club members and guests traveling to Las Vegas to attend the *first Toiyabe Chapter ExCom meeting of the year*.

Our second gathering will be on **Tuesday, March 4**— a party-like opportunity to socialize, renew friendships, and make new acquaintances.

Both events are scheduled to start at 7p and will be held at the Sierra Club office. So please mark your calendar and make a point of joining us for some fun and camaraderie on January 24 and March 4.

## 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.

#### JANUARY 12 (SUNDAY)

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

#### JANUARY 18 (SATURDAY)

**Red Cap, RRCNCA.** Gain 800 ft on 3 mi RT hike. Short, challenging, and most of all fun. We'll scramble to one of highest points in Calico Hills. What species lies dormant in water pockets until rains come? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 4.

#### JANUARY 24 (FRIDAY)

**MEET & GREET with Toiyabe Chapter ExCom.** Join us at the Sierra Club Office to welcome visiting members who have traveled to Las Vegas to attend the first Toiyabe Chapter Executive Committee of the year. We are hosting this event as a potluck, so please bring along a dish to share, too. There will be plenty of opportunity to get to know our guests from other regions within the chapter, as well a chance to renew friendships and catch up on local group activities as we start the New Year. The fun begins at 7p and will continue till 8:30p or later. Info: tajainlay@aol.com.

#### JANUARY 25 (SATURDAY)

**Calico Tanks Overlook at RRCNCA.**

We'll start our 3 mi RT trek at second pullout on Scenic Drive, boulder up chute over saddle to Boy Scout Overlook, then scramble to Tanks for lunch. Then past arch, pictographs, and head home. How can you tell a pictograph from a petroglyph? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

#### FEBRUARY 1 (SATURDAY)

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

#### FEBRUARY 8 (SATURDAY)

**Hidden Valley, Muddy Mountain Wilderness.** Along this 5 mi loop in a majestic valley of Aztec sandstone, we'll discover natural springs, petroglyphs, pictographs, arrowhead chip-pings, and much more. Need HCV to trail head. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

#### FEBRUARY 16 (SATURDAY)

**White Rock Loop, RRCNCA.** Six mi RT loop. Hike starts at Willow Spring

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

## Inner City Outings ventures down the Colorado River

BY BETTY GALLIFENT

Fourteen students from West Prep High School in Las Vegas ventured through Black Canyon on the Colorado River in a motorized raft on Saturday, November 23, 2013. The boat trip, arranged and led by Las Vegas Inner City Outings, was accompanied by a light rain for most of the entire 12 mile ride — the end of a three-day rainstorm that drenched southern Nevada.

The students braved the wet and cold conditions, helped by rain ponchos supplied by the boat vendor and an extra supply of hats, gloves, and space blankets supplied by Inner City Outings members. The rainy conditions added to the drama of the ride which started in the shadow of Hoover Dam and the new arch bridge suspended nearly 900 feet above the river.

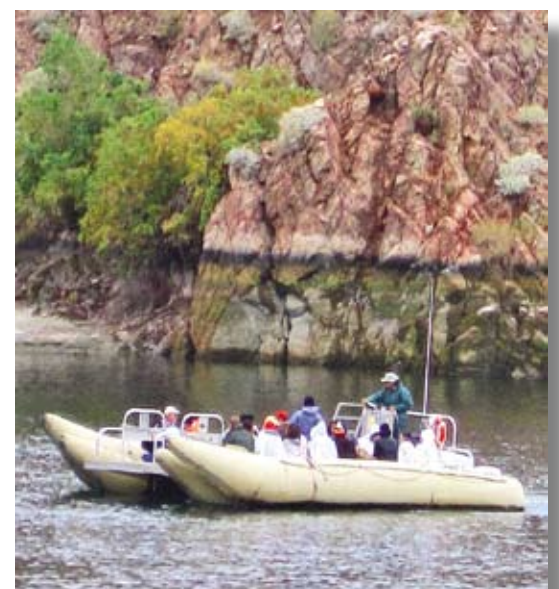
The boat captain, also the trip's narrator, filled the

students in on the origins of the Colorado River, functions of the dam, the history of its building, and details of the Lake Mead National Recreational Area. His audience was 9th through 12th grade student council students, all from West Prep, on an outing to help them build leadership skills.

Soon after traveling south into the canyon, students saw waterfalls descending from the canyon's ridges and hot steam rising from the river banks, a sign of the many hot springs along this river created from underground geothermal activity that bubbles to the surface along fault lines. Students learned that the predominant volcanic rock was only 15 to 20 million years old -- rather recent compared to the metamorphic rock it rested on.

Along the canyon walls were signs of the old river gaugers' walkways, a gauging station, and pull carts suspended by cable across the river. The job of the gaugers, students learned, was to measure the depth, volume of flow, and salinity of the river—a job now done completely by technology.

Though seasonal and weather conditions didn't provide any sightings of



Raft coming into Willow Beach, AZ. Photo: John Gallifent.

big horn sheep, so prevalent along this stretch of the river, the rainy conditions did showcase its many species of water fowl. The wide-winged landings and take-off of the Great Blue Heron were seen over and over again, as were sightings of cormorant and their white droppings on canyon walls. Students watched the avocet dive for fish and the coot skitter its feet along the water on take off, which the captain called the "coot scoot."

Please see ICO FIELD TRIP, page 11.

### SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361	tajainlay@aol.com
Vice-Chair	Eric King*	702-265-2644	brianfadie@gmail.com
Secretary	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer	Desiree Saporito	702-875-2668	
At Large	Gecko Benjamin*	702-505-0000	
At Large	Open		
At Large	Open		
Coal Power Plants	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Conservation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Endangered Species & Wildlife	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Energy	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Global Warming	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Inner City Outings	Charles Schneider	702-498-3224	charlie_nancy@cox.net
Membership	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361	tajainlay@aol.com
Outings	Par Rasmusson	702-215-9119	par@mvdsl.com
Outings	Open		
Parks, Refuges	Ed Rothfuss	406-756-0028	mroth9827@aol.com
Political	Teresa Crawford	702-526-8445	tailspinterry@hotmail.com
Programs	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361	tajainlay@aol.com
Publicity	Open		
Transportation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com

\* ExCom member

## S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 10

and goes around White Rock Mountain. How many wildernesses do we traverse on this hike? Look for pictographs, fire rings. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2.

### FEBRUARY 22 (SATURDAY)

**Arizona Hot Springs, LMNRA.** A 6 mi RT hike to one of most popular hot springs on Colorado River. Down White Rock Canyon to river and on to hot springs. After lunch, leaving by the back way, we'll see petroglyphs at a dry falls. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3.

### MARCH 1 (SATURDAY)

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

### MARCH 4 (TUESDAY)

**SPRING MIXER!!** Our General Meeting this month will focus on fun! Join us at 7p at the Sierra Club Office for light refreshments, socializing, and special activities being arranged by our volunteers. Will there be live music? A lottery drawing for some big ticket items? A bit of story telling? Let the rumors fly! What we know for sure is that it will be a lot of fun and you won't want to miss a moment. Info: heidiplonski@gmail.com.

### MARCH 8 (SATURDAY)

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

### MARCH 21-24 (FRIDAY-MONDAY)

**Toroweap Point Camping Trip, Tuweep Wilderness, North Rim of Grand Canyon.** There is a special place to check your pulse and feel your heartbeat. This place is as dangerous as it is stunningly beautiful. It is a vertical world where laws of gravity and nature remind us of our human vulnerabilities. Requires an HCV and a 60+mi drive over unpaved, bone-jarring roads. There are bigger places on earth than Toroweap – the glaciers of Alaska come to mind -- as well as th enormous mass of Mt. McKinley – but none can give a stronger impression of sheer immensity. Leader: George McDonald (702-808-3855, onecoolhike@yahoo.com).

## ICO FIELD TRIP TO THE COLORADO RIVER ...

continued from page 10

Riders got a chance to stretch their legs at Weeping Springs Cove, where they found a small waterfall seeping out over mossy rock and creating a microclimate of vegetative species.

By now, students, none of whom had been to Black Canyon before and many who had not previously been on a boat, were getting accustomed to the bobbing from the river's flow, and the unusual wet conditions of this outdoor adventure. A high point was sighting a pair of bald eagles on a ridge overlooking the Fish Hatchery at Willow Beach, the boat's take out point.

The rain had stopped as the students left the boat and the boatman deemed this crew "true river rats" for having survived the rainy day. As the students gathered for the closing circle before departing for Las Vegas, they shared their feelings about the day. They liked Black Canyon, being on the boat, and the waterfalls, as well as bonding with their fellow student council members. While most thought they could have done without the rain, one girl said the rain made the trip unique and gave them an experience different than anyone else's.

Though wet and cold, all were eager to participate in future Inner City Outings trips.



West Prep Student Council at Weeping Springs Cove. Photo: Chris Justus.

ing trip met this criterion.

West Prep School is a new partner for Las Vegas Inner City Outings. Its official name: West Preparatory Institute, School for Academic Excellence at Charles I. West Hall. The school is the only kindergarten through 12th grade public school in Clark County. It is located in Las Vegas' historic West Side. Its purpose is to prepare all



Hoover Dam in background, with West Prep Student Council members and West Prep Staff. Photo: Betty Gallifent.

ICO's trip leaders were proud of the students and how they coped with the inclement weather. Clearly, the students learned an important life lesson: When conditions aren't ideal, you make adjustments and carry on, finding adventure in the challenge. The students did just that.

This trip was made possible through a grant to Las Vegas Inner City Outings received by the national office of Sierra Club's ICO. The purpose of the grant was to offer a unique one-time outdoor experience to youth which would normally be beyond the budget of a local Inner City Outing group. The Black Canyon raft-

students for college entry.

Chris Justus, West Prep's science teacher and student council advisor, participated in this river trip and told of his follow-up with science students on river-related topics. They included a discussion with chemistry students on the generation of hydro-electric energy at Hoover Dam and its comparison to nuclear energy now being studied in their class. AP biology students from the trip talked about C4 and CAM photosynthesis in desert plants. He also said that students were "buzzing" about the trip for several days after their return to school. Future trips with West Prep students are in the works.

## MONO LAKE AGREEMENT ...

continued from page 7

steps with the goal of arriving at the day when the streams feature trophy trout, lush streamside forests, and abundant wildlife. (Editor's Note: For details, please see *The Mono•logue* at <[www.monolake.org/today/2013/11/07/the-stream-restoration-agreement-is-signed-whats-next/](http://www.monolake.org/today/2013/11/07/the-stream-restoration-agreement-is-signed-whats-next/)>.)

**Stay vigilant with us.** Visit the creeks when you are next in the Mono Basin and stop by the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore to hear the latest status reports. *The Mono•logue* will have updates as implementation proceeds, and you can expect future *Mono Lake Newsletters* to provide all the details as we put the Stream Restoration Agreement into action.

— Geoff McQuilkin, Mono Lake Committee Executive Director (from the Fall 2013 Mono Lake Newsletter)

## NEVADA DAY HIKE ...

continued from page 8

ridgeline through bristlecone pines to the base of the limestone cliff and rocky chute to the summit.

We ascended the steep chute and found a surprise: a half-mile long summit plateau, where we explored the interesting shapes of gnarled bristlecone snags. Pleasant weather allowed us to enjoy views, register signing, photos, and lunch at our leisure.

Back at camp we watched a colorful sunset as we reflected on another fantastic trip of exploring the gems of the Great Basin.



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

The Lodge has an extensive program of WINTER activities. Quick, easy access to the backcountry!

For more info on lodge activities, to receive a schedule, or to make a reservation, please go to . . .

<[www.sierraclub.org/outings/lodges/ctl/](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/lodges/ctl/)> or call 800-679-6775



## Winter Desert Trips

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

All Desert Committee activities, unless stated otherwise, are suitable for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. 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

**JAN 30-FEB 1 (THU-SAT)**

#### DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION

Help restore wilderness values in this beautiful and remote national park. Project will be picking up plane crash debris in southern part of Park. Meet early Thursday afternoon in Shoshone. Work at crash site Thursday afternoon and all day Friday. Work Saturday if needed. Primitive camping Thursday and Friday night near work site, will need to bring all supplies, including water. Leader: Kate Allen (kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).

CNRCC Desert Committee

**FEB 8-9 (SAT-SUN)**

#### WINTER ESCAPE IN CARRIZO PLAIN

This outing combines a day of service in Carrizo Plain National Monument with a day of sightseeing and/or hiking. Weather can be cold, gray, and rainy, or it can be warm and bright -- we take our chances. Job will be removing or modifying fences to give pronghorn greater mobility on Plain. Recreation will be determined by group's

wishes. An opportunity to combine car camping, day hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Contact leader: Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

**FEB 22 (SAT)**

#### SOUTHERN NEVADA WILDERNESS SERVICE

A one-day project helping BLM enhance wilderness in or at edge of one of new (2002) wilderness areas in southern Nevada managed by BLM. Option to enjoy area on Friday and campout Fri night with Vicky Hoover. Contact Vicky to sign up 415-977-5527, Vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org.

CNRCC Wilderness Committee

**FEB 28-MAR 3 (FRI-MON)**

#### DEATH VALLEY EXPLORATION

Meet Friday at 11a to set up. Noon hike in Amargosa Canyon. Saturday, travel through lower Death Valley, hiking at Natural Bridge and Golden Canyon. Camp at Texas Springs Campground in Furnace Creek. Sunday, travel N through park, stopping at

sites along way to Mesquite Sand Dunes. Camp at Stovepipe Wells. Monday, hike up Mosaic Canyon. Bring own food and water; start with full tank of gas. Some services at Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells. You can join trip for just Saturday and Sunday. Contact leader: Carol Wiley (earthlingwiley2000@yahoo.com, 760-245-8734).

CNRCC Desert Committee

**MARCH 6-9 (THUR-SUN)**

#### JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK: SPRING WEEKEND

Visit Joshua Tree National Park when temperatures are cooler and wildflowers may be blooming. Explore palm oases, boulder areas, and desert canyons or climb peaks within Park. Camp in Indian Cove campground (picnic tables, fire grates, and pit toilets). Bring own drinking water or fill up at Indian Cove Ranger Station. Hikes may be off-trail. Some vehicle travel on dirt roads. Cost: \$30/person, which includes three nights camping. A \$20 deposit required to confirm participation. Group size limited to 16. For reservation information call leader: Rich Juricich (rich.sierraclub@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181).

Delta Sierra Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

**MARCH 28-30 (FRI-SUN)**

#### MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE EXPLORATION

Meet at Sunrise Campground, 11a, Friday. Four-mile RT hike to Teutonia Peak that afternoon. Potluck that evening. Saturday, enjoy 6-mi hike around Barber Peak from Hole-in-the-Wall. Hike to Kelso Dunes on Sunday. For those staying over Sunday, we can camp at Granite Pass. Camping is primitive, so bring plenty of water. More info available at time of sign-up. Contact: Carol Wiley (desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

CNRCC Desert Committee

## Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 9

#### Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Center off Lakeview Dr. in SW Reno.

Social at 6:30, program at 7. Join us for a presentation by Janet and David Carle, former park rangers, who set out on an around-the-world journey in search of water-related environmental and cultural intersections along the 38th parallel. Their book, *Traveling the 38th Parallel, a Water Line Around the World*, is a chronicle of their adventures as they meet people confronting challenges in water supply, pollution, wetlands loss, and habitat protection. At the heart of the narrative are the riveting stories of the passionate individuals – scientists, educators, and local activists – who are struggling to preserve some of the world's most amazing, yet threatened, landscapes. ND. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy. Check our website, MeetUp, or Facebook pages for details.\*

**MAR 15 (SATURDAY) 8A**

**John C. Two Enigma Day Hike.** Discover some history of area as we visit two features associated with old mining operations. One-way hike of about 8 mi, gain 2000 ft for day. Scenic views. Return paralleling part of Carson River. Hiking poles recommended for long, steep descent on

Marbles. Vehicle shuttle necessary. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderately Strenuous.

**MAR 16 (SUNDAY) 1P**

**Eve of St. Patrick's Day.** Hope to see some spring greenery as we walk a loop in W Reno including along Truckee River. Review of St. Patrick's holiday history. Let's check out what is waking up in nature for new season. Walk followed by dinner at local restaurant. DL. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461, vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

**MAR 19 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P**

**Spring Fling River Walk.** Welcome spring with our first evening conditioning hike. After work, walk along Truckee River. Easy hike, about 4 mi, 50 ft gain. Opportunity to see early-blooming cottonwoods, hawks, falcons, other wildlife, and learn about riparian environment. DL. Leader: River Walker (473-1445). Easy.

**MAR 22 (SATURDAY) 8A**

**Two Ladies & Two Gents Day Hike.** Come meet them, three peaks in 6000 ft range. Rose, Kate, Grosch Brothers near Virginia City. About 3 mi, 1000 ft gain in loop. Mostly off-trail, with some rock scrambling. Of course, there's enigma. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

**MAR 24 (MONDAY) 6A**

**Outings Meeting & Potluck.** Schedule outings for April, May, June. If you have an interest in joining our outings team, this is a fun way to get involved. Please bring potluck dish to share. Beverages provided. Location TBA. ND. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy.

**MAR 29 (SATURDAY) 9A**

**Gloria's Peak.** Great hike in memory of a dear outings leader. In Pah Rah range, mainly x-c, for about 6+ mi, gain 1500 ft. Great views of Pyramid lake from start of hike. Walk through beautiful rock formations. May encounter some snow, which will make hike more beautiful. Strenuous hike because of terrain. ND. Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (775-410-1085, lucrecianature@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Dale Mericle (dalemericle@gmail.com). Moderately Strenuous.



### Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meetings

Saturday

January 25, 2014

Las Vegas area

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.



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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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