



TOIYABE TRAILS

FALL ELECTIONS ISSUE

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

From the Chair

A trip through four outdoor recreation areas

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN
(vonseg1@sbcglobal.net)

IN THE SPACE OF LESS than two months, I have sampled four different recreation environments: Bavarian Alps, Jarbidge Wilderness, Lake Tahoe, and the Adirondack Forest Preserve. What do these four environments represent insofar as how humankind interacts with nature?

First of all, they span nearly the complete range of development. From the emptiness of the Jarbidge where I only saw three other hikers in five days to the rather advanced human footprint in Bavaria, they do offer different models of how humankind interacts with the natural environment. Bavaria shows the signs of a long history of human influence, and most of the land is still in private hands.

However, out of this private ownership, Bavaria has developed a fairly agreeable recreational experience, with well-maintained trails over private holdings, mountain huts to serve up food and drinks, and skiing opportunities, both downhill and cross-country. What is missing, in relation to many developed American recreational regions, are the glaring lights, the huge parking lots, the over-sized signs, the roaring small engines, and the roadway right-of-ways that are at least two times as wide as really needed. Instead, people have placed themselves and their infrastructure somewhat benignly in the landscape,

Please see FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR, page 2.



Mt. Houghton. Please see story of the naming of Mt. Houghton in article just below. Photo: John Houghton.

Celebrating 50 years of the Wilderness Act

Returning to family "wilderness" roots

BY MONICA "NIKI" HOUGHTON

Growing up on West Plumb Lane in Reno during the late 1950s and early 1960s, my father, Sam Houghton, and my brother, John, served as Chairs of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club. I remember attending Chapter slide programs at the Stein Hof-Brau. We also went on day hikes with the Sierra Club. My mother Edda enjoyed sketching, especially dead trees, and often we would stop along the way, where she would share an orange with me. At age 14, I headed east for school, married, and raised two children. And I became a composer. Even though I could only visit family occasionally, the language of my compositions often seemed to be infused with the spaciousness and light of the West.

Once my children were in college, I began participating in Sierra Club National and International Outings, enjoying memorable backpacking and service trips. Then, in June 2011, after retiring from teaching at the Cleveland Institute of Music in Cleveland, Ohio, I returned to Nevada to rediscover all that I had been missing.

That first summer, after practicing up on my map and compass skills, I embarked on my first-ever solo backpack -- into the Jarbidge Wilderness. The flowers were amazing after an especially wet winter. I also visited Great Basin National Park, High Rock Canyon, and many other wonderful places. In ensuing years I've

explored such places as Monarch Divide, Milestone Basin, Hoover Wilderness, and Sonora Pass. Last summer I climbed Arc Dome and Wheeler Peak, thereby completing the seven peak requirement for membership in the Great Basin Peaks Section; my day pack now sports a patch proudly.

Recently, going through some of my late brother John's slides, I recognized many of the places he visited as a young man. John was an avid mountaineer and geographer, and a member of the Faculty at UNR. After he perished in the 1979 Mt. Erebus Disaster, some of his friends petitioned the USGS to name a nearby mountain after him. Mt. Houghton sits



Building the Houghton Spur at Relay Peak, summer of 2014. Photo: Tahoe Rim Trail Association.

Please see MT. HOUGHTON, page 2.

Toiyabe Chapter Election Schedule 2014

November 7

Nominating Committee submits report of candidates

November 14

ExCom approves slate of candidates via email vote

November 21

deadline for petitions to be submitted to ExCom (petition candidates are placed on ballot)

December 1

mailout of ballots to Chapter Elections mailing list

December 31

closing date for acceptance of ballots at Chapter P.O. box

Jan. 2

vote count

What you can do. Do you want to be active in the nation's leading conservation and environment organization? If interested, Toiyabe Chapter members are welcome to contact the head of the Nominations Committee, James Morehouse (jdmorehouse49@gmail.com), to learn more.

WANTED: Chapter members to serve on Task Force for Defense of Public Lands

WE ARE FORMING A TASK FORCE to fight against a movement in the Nevada legislature to consider large-scale transfers of federal public land to the state.

Please see PUBLIC LANDS TASK FORCE, page 2.

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Tahoe Area Group	Open	

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* Chapter ExCom member

PUBLIC LANDS TASK FORCE FORMING . . .

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For many, many reasons, we believe this is a bad idea and one which the Toiyabe Chapter ought to be working to eliminate.

Our task force will work through the coming legislation session in 2015 to educate our members and the public and to involve them in meaningful op-

position. We are looking especially for help in the areas of publicity and digital media skills, but really we invite anyone who is willing to maintain a commitment to the task to join us. Please contact Rose Strickland (rosenreno@sbcglobal.net) or David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net).

FROM THE CHAIR . . .

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a trait which American commerce has not acquired.

Turning to the **Adirondacks**, we see some similarities with Bavaria, some causes to be hopeful, and yet some characteristically American excesses. The Adirondacks has a history of preservation that extends over nearly 200 years, is larger than any national park in the coterminous U.S., and has adjusted fairly well to a nearly 50-50 mixture of public and private ownership.

There is a strong culture of conservation and restoration. Numerous wilderness areas lay within the "Blue Line" which defines the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The Adirondacks offer a large range of recreational activities, from family theme parks to wilderness solitude.

Moving on to **Lake Tahoe**, we find a compact basin area that faces the challenges of increased development and tourist promotion. It is almost guaranteed that everything done in this small basin will have an impact in some way or another. Further, the watershed is relatively small, with all the main courses flowing through the most developed shoreline areas. What level of increased human "footprint" can Lake Tahoe withstand while keeping its pristine waters?

Lastly, I move from the western extreme of the state to the northeastern extreme at **Jarbidge**. This was Nevada's first designated wilderness and even today offers one of the best, if not the best, wilderness experiences in Nevada. Having little to nothing in common with Bavaria, for instance, it contrasts starkly to those areas where humankind has penetrated. Although Jarbidge may be the model for what the Sierra Club considers to be the premier outdoor experience, we need to admit that there are other models that do work to get people outdoors, to offer exercise, and to acquaint them with the natural world. Yet we remain dedicated to the concept that, while it is possible for humankind to somewhat benignly take root in the natural world, we cannot and will not cede every bit of ground to a human makeover.

MT. HOUGHTON . . .

continued from page 1

between Mt. Rose and Relay Peak*. (Remember to pronounce the "o" in the first syllable, as in "ho-ho-ho!")

Whenever I go out into the wild areas around my new home in Reno, I feel close to my family, and to the powers that that made us all. I'd like to say thank you to those who have devoted their time and energy over the past 50 years to obtaining our Wilderness designations.

*Tahoe Rim Trail volunteers built a spur off the Relay Peak trail this summer to Mt. Houghton.

DEADLINE!
DECEMBER 1
FOR JAN - FEB - MAR ISSUE

Create an Environmental Legacy.

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

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

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



Toiyabe Trails



SERVING NEVADA
& CALIFORNIA'S E. SIERRA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Memoriam

Hal Klieforth
1927-2014

THE PASSING OF HAL Klieforth in July marks the end of an era for the Toiyabe Chapter. When he came to Reno in 1965 to work for the Desert Research Institute as a meteorologist, he immediately became active in the Chapter and was elected Chair of the Executive Committee.

At that time the Chapter included all of Lake Tahoe and much of Eastern California, but Reno was the center of Chapter activity. Hal held Chapter meetings nearly every month and also led hikes in the Carson Range and cleanup trips for the Mt. Rose Highway.



Hal in his Bishop office. Photo: Sacramento Bee, August 24, 2008.

He also started the Conservation Forum, a diverse group of individuals, who cared about all facets of conservation. The forum met monthly to talk about issues and to show slides. Emphasis in solving problems was placed on science and the gathering of data, because Hal was a dedicated scientist.

In addition, Hal served as the Chair of the task force which managed the University of Nevada research forest in the Carson Range. If you needed to know about the weather or the snow conditions when leading a trip, you called Hal.

For many years, Hal was extremely active in the Eastern Sierra Task Force of the California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee. This task force held quarterly meetings in the Owens Valley and worked on issues involving all of the Eastern Sierra including such places as Eureka Valley.

When he retired from the Desert Research Institute in 1996, Hal spent most of his time in Bishop roaming his beloved Sierra Nevada and also the White Mountains. He began to accumulate a large library of maps, pictures, journals, reports, books, and other written information about the Sierra Nevada which he gladly shared with agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and interested individuals. Because of his great knowledge and positive attitude, he had many friends who shared his interests, even though few could walk the 20 or more miles a day that he could. He was always a man of action up to the very end.

Some of us "old-timers" who knew Hal well over many decades think of him as the John Muir of the Toiyabe Chapter, sending the message to all: "Climb the mountains and get their glad tidings." We shall miss him.

Fall Desert Trips

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

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

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

Sierra Club California/Nevada
Regional Conservation Committee

OCT 30 - NOV 1 (THU-SAT)

DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS
RESTORATION

Join us in restoring wilderness values in this remote and beautiful National Park. Main project involves cleaning up debris from marijuana grow site on Friday. Gather early Thursday afternoon and work on as-yet-undecided project in Valley before heading to campsite. Trip requires 4WD to get to work site. Camping is primitive; bring everything you need, including water. Group size limited. Leader: Kate Allen (kjallen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).

CNRCC Desert Committee

OCT 31 - NOV 9 (FRI-SUN)

DESERT WILDERNESS CAMPOUTS
& CELEBRATIONS

Join Sierra Club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee in series of gatherings to celebrate anniversaries of Wilderness Act (50th) and CA Desert Protection Act (20th). Starting evening of Oct 31, join NPS's "Mojave Fest" (Nov 1). On Nov 2, head to Mecca Hills Wilderness and continue as moving campout in honor of both anniversaries. End Nov 8-9 with Desert Committee in Saddleback Butte State Park. Attend one or both weekends plus any in-between time you can. For details as they develop, see <www.caldesert20.org>. Contacts: Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, 415-977-5527), Judy Anderson (anderson-judith@att.net, 818-248-0402), or Pat Flanagan (patflanagan29@gmail.com).

CNRCC Wilderness Committee

NOV 15-16 (SAT-SUN)

EXPLORE & SERVE IN
CARRIZO PLAINS

Pronghorn antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but rather attempt to crawl under the fences. Our service on Saturday will either remove or modify several sections of fence to facilitate this mobility. Sunday will be, at choice of group, either hike in Caliente Range or else tour of popular viewing areas in plains. This is an opportunity to combine car camping, day hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Leader: Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

DEC 29 - JAN 2, 2015 (MON-FRI)

HOLIDAY SERVICE IN
CARRIZO PLAIN

Return once again to Carrizo Plain to celebrate end of year and offer service to pronghorn antelope in this National Monument. Lying between Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo, this vast grassland is home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, kit fox, and a wide variety of birds. We've planned a Welcome Hike on Dec. 29, 2.5 days of service modifying barbed wire fencing, and a full day for hiking and exploring. Use of accommodations at one of the old ranch houses is included. Limit: 12. Cost: \$30 covers four dinners and breakfast on New Year's morning. Info: contact leader, Craig Deutsche (craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670).

CNRCC Desert Committee

Celebrate the 50th anniversary
of wilderness: Visit California
Wilderness Areas!

DID YOU KNOW THAT . . . California is one of the few states to have its own Wilderness Area system? The 12 wilderness areas, part of the state park system and totalling 475,438 acres, are:

- Anza-Borrego Desert SP: 297,400
- Boney Mountain, Point Mugu SP: 6190
- Bull Creek, Humboldt Redwoods SP: 10,450
- Cuyamaca Mountain,
- Cuyamaca Rancho SP: 13,210
- Henry W. Coe SP: 23,300
- Limekiln SP: 413
- Mount San Jacinto SP: 12,465
- Murrelet Prairie Creek Redwoods SP: 6600
- Redwood Heritage, Jedediah Smith Redwoods SP: 5500,
- Santa Rosa Mountains, Anza-Borrego Desert SP: 87,000
- Sinkyone, Sinkyone Wilderness SP: 7100
- West Waddell Creek, Big Basin Redwoods SP: 5810

—from Range of Light Newsletter, Sept. 14

UNZIP ZIP!

BY TINA NAPPE

TWO AM. THE ZIPPER BIRD song breaks the night silence. Hmmm. Who is that? The zipping stops. The sound of footsteps from tent to "dunny," our portable outhouse. The moon is down; even the oak silhouettes can't be seen; the other tents are closed and silence prevails.

But privacy is not complete without a closed dunny door. The zipper sound starts then stops, starts again as the zipper stumbles going around the curved door.



A movable dunny, outhouse in the Australian outback. Photo: Tina Nappe.

Two weeks in the Western Australia outback; two weeks of camping, when zippers rule. Every afternoon, the tent, tightly packed in its compact bag, is discharged from the trailer, along with the stretcher, the sleeping bag, and the sleeping pad. Each item must be carried to a new site. Zippers have become essential components of modern camping. When did this dependence on technology occur?

Camping items are efficiently bagged, and except for the mattress pad are encased in zippered duffels. For a half hour at the new camping site, zipping sounds, like buzzing bees, bounce throughout our little enclave. Tent bags are unzipped, the content, Coleman's Instant Dome, is popped up, the doors unzipped and the windows as well, circulating the air. Then back to the trailer for the stretcher, also nicely compact in its zippered case. Unzipped, the stretcher is unfurled; I struggle with errant legs – then, success! Next, the mattress pad and, finally, the sleeping bag, which I unzip to open for airing.

Am I finished unzipping? Oh, no. There is my "suitcase" a zippered duffel bag, containing among its contents of clothes a zippered vest and zippered "cosmetic" case. And, finally, emptying the contents of my nicely zippered day pack in which my zipper windbreaker is stuffed and ziploc bags are removed to determine whether they can be used another day.

Uh, oh – not quite through. Back to the Nissan Patrol, where my camera battery was being recharged as we drove. Pop the battery back into the camera, the camera into its case, then zip it up. I take my binoculars out of their zippered case. Time to explore the new site.



Hal in the early 1960s.

Range of Light Reflections

Range of Light Group



Group News

Letter from the Chair

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

ExCom. Meets October 22, 1pm, Malcolm Clark's home (time & date tentative). ExCom Candidates needed: see notice on this page.

Program Meetings. June 17: Kirstin Heins, Bishop Outdoor Recreation Planner for BLM spoke about implementation of the Wilderness Act by BLM, Forest Service, and Park Service. July 15: Alan Via took us on a photo journey from New York's Catskills to the California's Sierra. August 15: A small

Group ExCom meetings

WE USUALLY MEET quarterly (January, April, July, October). The next meeting is Thursday, October 22, 1 pm, at the home of Malcolm Clark. All are welcome but please confirm date, place, and especially time, in order to assure a quorum at the meeting or because of weather.

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

Normally ExCom acts on proposals between meetings only when a deadline (e.g., comment letter on BLM or Forest proposal) precludes waiting to next ExCom meeting.

For this meeting, we would especially appreciate suggestions for 2 new ExCom members to replace 2 current members who will not run for re-election.

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

group met for an evening picnic (no program) at McGee Creek trailhead.

Outings. Thursday and Sunday summer outings ended on September 28. Cross-country ski and snowshoe outings will begin as soon as snow allows in January.

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

Blue Diamond Cross Country Trail Marker Restoration. Great progress was made by the 20+ participants working on 11 days to prepare and post signs in the Inyo Craters and Obsidian Dome areas. There's more to be done next year!

Conservation Updates

On Sept 9, Fran Hunt, Sierra Club Eastern Sierra organizer, hosted a **meeting with Friends of the Inyo** to prepare for the public Inyo National Forest meeting in Bishop on Sept 18 on the future of Inyo National Forest. This is part of the process initiated by the NOI (Notice of Intent) published by the Region 5 forest service on August 29, with comments due September 29.

A **house party** organized by Fran Hunt and our environmental allies was held on September 2 to celebrate the **50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964.**

Devils Post Pile National Monument (near Mammoth Lakes) released the Draft and Environmental Review for its first ever General Management Plan. The draft includes 3 alternatives. Comments were due September 30.

Please see FROM THE ROL CHAIR, page 5.

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

BY JOANNE HIHN & DICK HIHN

Thursday Outings. These ROLG summer outings end October 1. They will resume in May, 2014, when weather allows and days are longer. Saturday and Sunday Outings: These day trips also end as of October 1. They will resume in January, 2015 with x-country skiing and snowshoe trips. Watch for information on . . .

- our WEBSITE at <<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/>>
- FACEBOOK page at <<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Range-of-Light-Group/464737966890277>>
- ROLG OUTINGS MEETUP page at <<http://www.meetup.com/ROLG-Sierra-Club-Outings-Meetup/>>

Unscheduled Hiking Trips. These informal trips are *not* sponsored by the Sierra Club Range of Light Group but may be possible as weather allows from October-December, 2014. If interested, contact Joanne and Dick for details (rhihn@skidmore.edu).

ROL ExCom Nominations & Election Group needs 2-3 new ExCom members next year

BY MALCOLM CLARK (MALCOLM.CLARK@GMAIL.COM)

Our group must have new candidates for our ExCom election later this year. At least two of the three members whose terms end this year -- Mauriça Anderson, Jean Dillingham, and Malcolm Clark -- have said they will not run for re-election. Continuing members (term not expiring) are Lesley Bruns, Mike Shore, and Joanne Hihn.

When possible we like to offer a choice by fielding more than three candidates. Please send your suggestions for someone you think could make a valuable contribution to our ExCom and who might be willing to serve (get the nominee's permission first). Don't hesitate to nominate yourself if you have time and willingness to serve.

The ExCom normally meets four times a year. It is the voting and final decision-making body of the Range of Light group.

In order to have material submitted to the Chapter in time, our deadlines differ slightly from Chapter deadlines. Submit nominations by Oct 18 so they may be considered at our Oct 22 ExCom meeting. Group deadline for anyone who is nominated but not included in the approved slate to secure and submit petitions (petition nomination) is November 1.

To submit nominations or for more information, email RangeOfLight.sc@gmail.com or snail mail Range of Light Group, P.O. Box 1973, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. Ballots for Group and Chapter ExCom election will be mailed about Dec 1 and must be received by Dec 31 to be counted.

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.

October 21 (Tuesday)

Social (cookies & punch), 630p
Coons Gallery,
23 N. Sierra Hwy, Bishop*
Program: 7p

"Art in the Eastern Sierra"

Wynne Benti welcomes you to her Gallery, home to some of the best Eastern Sierra *plein air* Painters. Gain insight into the world of *plein air* and learn the history of the Gallery. Meet newly elected District 1 Supervisor, Dan Totheroh, from 630-7p.

November 18 (Tuesday)

Potluck & Social, 615p,
Crowley Lake Community Ctr
Program, 7p

"How is your forest?"

Forest Service botanist, Michele Slaton, will bring us up to date on the condi-

tion of the forest in the E. Sierra: the effects of climate, drought, fire, pollutants/gases, insects, and pests.

December 9 (Tuesday)

Holiday Party & Potluck, 615p,
Home of John Walter,
240 Mammoth Knolls Drive,
limited parking

"Celebrate the season!"



Join your Sierra Club friends and enjoy an evening of food, conversation, and good cheer.

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

RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP

OFFICERS

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Jean Dillingham (middle, seated) helps a family from Argentina discover life in the waters of Mono Lake. Photo: Ann Brauer.

Jean Dillingham gets kids outdoors!

BY ANN BRAUER

Getting kids outdoors to discover the wonders of nature has been Jean's "job" for many, many years. Currently serving as Education Chair for the Toiyabe Chapter, she has designed, taught, and promoted outdoor youth experiences for Sierra Club and other organizations. Her "courses" enable participants to explore, observe, and record the environment. In some cases, students contribute information to professionals who study the same areas. Because some of the programs occur annually, experienced students help introduce newcomers to the processes they use.

Recently, Jean took us to two of Mono Lake's beaches to observe osprey nests on the tufa towers just off shore. She grabbed a small bag of materials and her Mono Lake Volunteer badge.

As we wandered along, Jean offered to catch some shrimp for us to see, which she did with simple materials

— clear cups and a dip net stowed in her bag. This sparked the curiosity of a passing family from Denmark. Jean produced hand lenses, so the children, and the rest of us, could see shrimp "up close." That led to exploring the life cycle of the myriad of sand flies that rose in clouds around our feet, and a demonstration of how tufa forms. Before that experience was over, a family visiting from China joined in.

Further along the shore, a family from Argentina was eager to learn about life in Mono Lake. The entire family enthusiastically caught, observed, and released the tiny shrimp.

What started out as a simple walk along the beaches of Mono Lake turned into an impromptu demonstration of how to get kids, and their families, interested and involved in the wonders of the world around them!

FROM THE ROL CHAIR ...

continued from page 4

Mark Bagley represented Range of Light Group at a **River Conference** (July 29-31) of parties involved in Lower Owens River Water Project agreements. The meeting looked at the possibility of allowing for seasonal variations in water flow to replace the currently mandated constant flow rate throughout the year required of LADWP (Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power).



The trail to Lamarck Lakes begins at North Lake, west of Bishop. We visited Lower and Upper Lakes.

Range of Light SUMMER PHOTO GALLERY

Photos by Joanne Hihn



In July, several ROLG members joined a Sierra Club Mule Pack to Charlotte Lake. Although the weather didn't always cooperate, we still managed to enjoy ourselves. The scenery, like this view, was spectacular!



We toured the old Mammoth Gold Mines and remains of Mammoth City whose population reached 1000 in 1878 before closing down a year later.



On this Thursday evening hike above Red's Lake we saw a spectacular display of light streaming through the clouds to illuminate the Minarets, Ritter, Banner and other nearby peaks.

CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

*It is not the mountain
we conquer, but
ourselves.*
— Edmund Hillary

Celebrate wilderness!

A brief history of the Wilderness Act

BY MARGE SILL

Although John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt strongly advocated protection for the wild areas of our country, the Wilderness Act of 1964 was the most important step in assuring that these wild places were protected. The Act, as it was finally passed by Congress and signed into law by President Johnson on September 3, 1964, stated, "A wilderness...is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

The bipartisan passage of the act occurred only after many revisions, compromises, and citizen input after introduction of the first draft into Congress. Senator Clinton Anderson of New Mexico (the state where the first wilderness – the Gila – was designated) wrote, "wilderness is an anchor to windward. Knowing it is there, we can also know that we are still a rich nation, tending our resources as we should, not a people in despair searching every last nook and cranny of our land for a board of lumber, a barrel of oil, a blade of grass, or a tank of water."

For the next 50 years the Wilderness

Act was expanded, and many wild areas in the 50 states were designated as wilderness. 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 equilibrium."

However, there are yet many wild areas that have not received wilderness protection. In 2014, citizens from all over our country are celebrating what we have achieved and advocating for areas that still need designation so that our wild heritage will be passed on to our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

Climate change threatens survival of Devil's Hole pupfish

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

A new study reports that the "critically endangered Devils Hole pupfish" is threatened with extinction from climate change. A UNR web story quoted Mark Hausner, a hydrologist with Desert Research Institute in Las Vegas and lead author on the paper, saying, "Climate change is making it harder for the Devils Hole pupfish to survive and has most likely contributed to the decline we have seen." It went on to quote Scott Tyler, a professor at the University of Nevada, Reno and lead scientist and co-author on the paper, saying, "there is no question that the temperature is going to rise on the shallow shelf, and there is no question that the fish are going to be affected."

Devils Hole pupfish latest count was 92 -- up from a recent low of 35 adult fish -- but far below counts of over 500 adult fish in 1972. The new research, however, finds that climate change

warming of the water on the shallow rock shelf where spawning occurs and eggs are deposited has already cut a week from the 10-week optimal period for survival of newly hatched pupfish.

By around 2050, the research shows, that period will be reduced by an additional two weeks and will further reduce the number of young fish that can make it to adulthood. Because the pupfish have a 10-14 month lifespan, Hausner notes that one breeding year with no new pupfish born could lead to extinction.

The National Park Service must now determine how to respond to the threat to the pupfish from global climate



Devils Hole, part of Death Valley National Park, during a Devils Hole Workshop tour in 2011. Kevin Wilson (2nd from left) with DVNP was part of the research team looking at climate change impacts to the pupfish. Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.

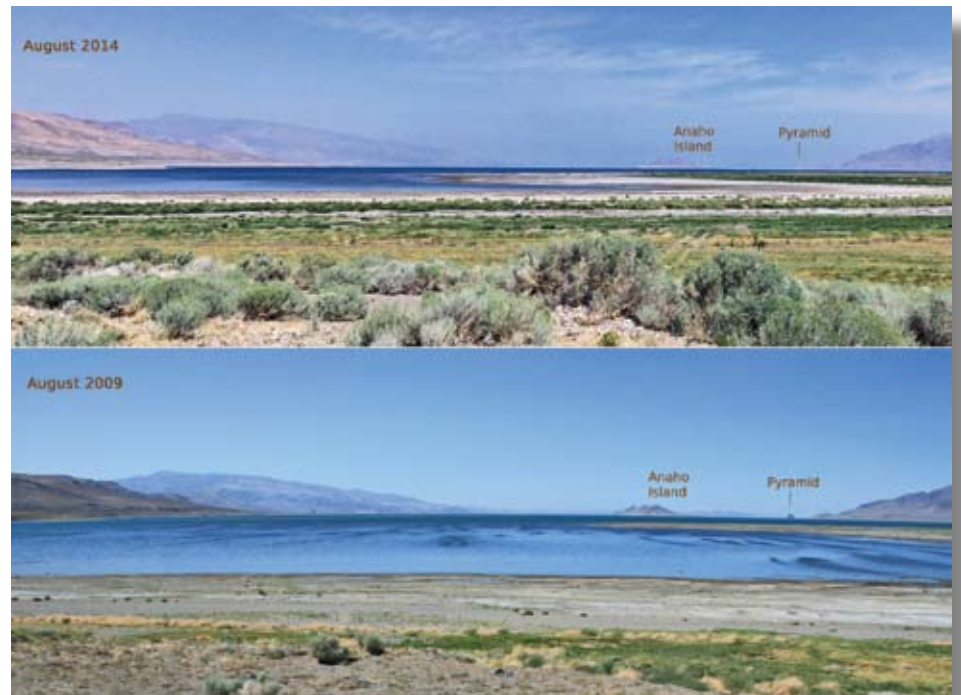


Devils Hole pupfish on the shallow shelf. Photo: Olin Feuerbacher.

What's happening with disappearing water in the West?

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

Almost every newspaper or news show has some really bad news about the continuing and worsening drought in the western U.S.: photos of Lake Mead's deepening white bathtub rings, graphs of diminishing Colorado River flows supplying water to millions of people and much of the U.S. food production, and horror stories of the current extreme water shortages for California farmers and residents.



Very bad water news. The latest bad water news is from the U.S. Geological Survey. You can find an article on this research, entitled, "GPS is Tracking West's Vanishing Water, Scientists Surprised to Learn," at this link: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/08/140821-drought-california-west-gps-groundwater-science/>.

Research scientists from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography report in *Science* that, based on data collected at Global Positioning System (GPS) stations throughout the western U.S., 240 billion metric tons of water have been lost from lakes, streams, snowpack and groundwater. The cause? The extended drought. Another result? Uplifting of the earth's crust west of the Colorado Rockies. As the great weight of water is removed, the Earth's crust rebounds – overall, up to 4 millimeters, but 15 millimeters (0.6 inch) – in the Sierra Nevada.

Meanwhile in Nevada, local water authorities weakly call for reducing water use as drought supplies are tapped for Reno and Sparks and water waste

regulations are not seriously enforced in southern or northern Nevada.

The Nevada State Engineer held "listening sessions" across Nevada in July and August. Why? Quote: "to provide information to the public on water related issues in Nevada and, more importantly, to listen to any and all comments, suggestions and questions from the public about water related issues."

What do people want to know? Sierra Club members and Great Basin Water Network activists attended many of the seven sessions, along with farmers who have little or no river water for irrigation this year and homeowners and farmers whose wells are failing. Citizens asked . . .

– how the State Water Engineer is addressing climate change impacts to water supplies and water rights in Nevada

– why the State Engineer approved municipal water conservation plans which are not working

– whether any water will be left in creeks and springs for fish and wildlife

There was also no answer to a question about the State's Water Plan for now and for the future.

Proposed changes "arbitrary and capricious." You may ask what information was provided to the public by the State Engineer. The details of proposed changes to the Nevada Water Law were not available at the sessions. The changes, when first proposed, were to counter adverse court decisions in which Nevada district judges twice found water right applications by the Southern Nevada Water Authority approved by the State Engineer "arbitrary

Please see *DISAPPEARING WATER*, page 7.

change induced warming.

For more information see:

- <http://www.unr.edu/nevada-today/news/2014/devils-hole-pupfish>
- <http://blogs.agu.org/geospace/2014/08/26/heating-fishbowl-climate-change-threatens-endangered-devils-hole-pupfish/>
- <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/pdfs/trails/13/13JAS/TT13JAS.pdf> (*Toiyabe Trails*, June-July-August 2013, "Devils Hole Pupfish: Can they survive?")

Deepening honeybee crisis & our food supply

BY SIERRA CLUB GENETIC ENGINEERING ACTION TEAM

WHEN PEOPLE THINK of honeybees, honey comes to mind. Most people are not aware that honeybees are a major pollinator for crops that produce 1/3 of American food, including over 140 fruits, vegetables, seeds and nuts. Yet honeybee populations are in significant decline.

There is a strong body of scientific peer reviewed papers linking the honeybee demise to a widely-used class of neurotoxic pesticides called neonicotinoids ("neonics" for short).

In 2005, Monsanto received patents to "coat" their proprietary genetically manipulated seeds with neonics, primarily manufactured by Syngenta and Bayer. Seed treatments became the new norm.

In 2006, beekeepers discovered their foraging bees left the colony in search of pollen and nectar but didn't come back. This finding of neurobehavioral disruption is a significant distinction of Colony Collapse Disorder. Neonics also impair the bee's immune system, leaving it more susceptible to parasitic infestation.

Many believe the crisis of worldwide bee deaths threatening the global food supply has been worsened by an industry-funded misinformation campaign distracting policy makers from identifying the causation of honeybee decline. What you can do

Call Congressional representatives to support the Saving America's Pollinator

Please see HONEYBEE CRISIS, page 12.

DISAPPEARING WATER...

continued from page 6

and capricious."

Costs of filing applications. In addition, the costs for filing applications and protests to the State Engineer are going up, along with a plethora of other charges, making it more and more expensive for anyone but the wealthy to participate in water rights hearings. What those who showed up did hear was a proposal by the State Engineer to facilitate interbasin transfers up to 25% without public hearings as well as the Engineer's continuing inability to correct the many over-appropriated basins in Nevada.

Knowing about the problem has not led to doing anything about it. Leadership on how to address our diminishing water supplies in the western U.S. is seriously missing. We seem to know a lot about the problem as well as what we should do about it. But, the political will to require increased water efficiencies for municipal and agricultural use and to stop over-allocating our more and more scarce water supplies for new growth and jobs is conspicuously absent.

Same old, same old? The plan seems to be that of Insisting on continuing the same old practices in allocating and managing water and expecting a new result. That way of doing things brings us squarely to a definition of the insanity of current water planning in the western U.S.

Marge Sill: Worker bee for the Jarbidge Wilderness

BY DOROTHY HUDIG

HOW DID IT HAPPEN? The Wilderness Act of 1964 created only one Nevada wilderness, the Jarbidge (from an Indian word meaning "monster that lurks in the canyon").

In 1989 Congress extended the Jarbidge Wilderness by 75% from 64,667 to 113,167 acres. How were the new boundaries set and who did the work? The following story is Marge Sill's account of what it was like to be a wilderness worker bee in the late 1960s.

Within a year or two after the Jarbidge was made a wilderness, Marge and Dick Sill first went to the new wilderness on a Sierra Club trip led by Irving Pressman, a botanist from Carson City. They were struck by its beauty, its wildness, and the profusion of spectacular wild flowers. They vowed to return.

With the encouragement of the Superintendent of the Humboldt National Forest, the Sills started the exploring and mapping necessary to document the roadless areas which could be added to the existing wilderness.

For several summers, Dick and Marge returned to the Jarbidge in their four wheel drive vehicle. There were challenges: for example, the nearest gasoline was 90 miles away in Elko. Dick was the mapper and explorer, on foot and by vehicle. Marge was the worker bee, doing the planning, the cooking, and the writing about what she saw on the ground and in the air.

After a day's work, they threw their sleeping bags on the ground and slept under the light of the Milky Way. One special nightly sighting in this country of the pointed firs was the bats, who put on a marvelous air show – fluttering, streaking, and swooping before the two spectators.

Dick drew the maps of possible wilderness additions on both the west side and the east side of the 1964 wilderness on USGS maps, determining the locations of new potential boundaries. The two often visited with and sometimes camped with Forest Service employees and the few visitors to the area. It was hard work but completely satisfying to these two wilderness lovers.

Later, Dennis Ghiglieri and Phil Farrell explored and mapped the southern boundaries for possible wilderness extension.

In the 1980s, the Toiyabe Chapter Wilderness Committee drew the maps for the Jarbidge, the Ruby Mountains, Arc Dome, Boundary Peak, and other recommended wilderness areas which were eventually included in the 1989 Nevada Wilderness Protection Act (sponsored by Senators Harry Reid and Dick Bryan and Representative Jim Bilbray).

It took many dedicated people to establish the wilderness that we enjoy today.

How did the locals feel about the Jarbidge additions? Did they feel threatened by more wilderness? Actually, no, because none of the small mines was included. Today the town of Jarbidge

Continued inaction on climate change: It will be irreversible

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

A DRAFT OF THE LATEST UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, leaked to the Associated Press, is quoted referring to impacts from global climate change as becoming irreversible and that

"currently observed impacts might already be considered dangerous."

The AP quotes from the draft report are even more alarming than those contained in the April 2014 report saying that the greenhouse gases we are increasingly releasing

"cannot plausibly be undone for hundreds of years or more" and that "[c]ontinued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people

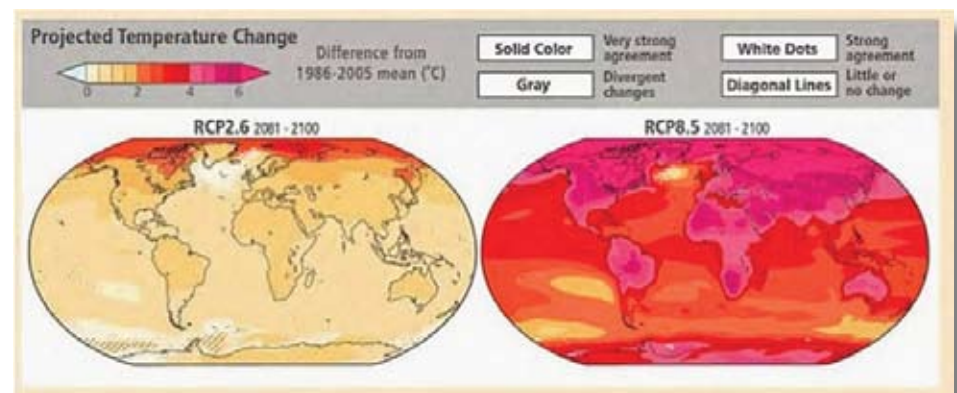
and ecosystems"

and

"[w]ithout additional mitigation, and even with adaptation, warming by the end of the 21st century will lead to high to very high risk of severe, widespread and irreversible impacts globally."

The report, summarizing research from thousands of scientists, says that we still can reduce the impacts from a 9 degrees F temperature increase in North America to 2-4 degrees F with "aggressive" action at a cost of only 0.06% of annual growth (see chart). Continuing to do nothing, however, will be "catastrophic."

NOTE. Article is based on reporting from <<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/08/27/3476258/climate-scientists-draft-ipcc-report/>>.



Humanity's choice (via IPCC): Aggressive climate action ASAP (left figure) minimizes future warming and costs a mere 0.06% of annual growth. Continued inaction (right figure) results in catastrophic and irreversible levels of warming, 9 degrees F over much of U.S. (Source: <<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/08/27/3476258/climate-scientists-draft-ipcc-report/>>.)

has 13 to 18 winter residents. Visitors are warmly welcomed, summer and winter.

Dick Sill died in 1981, and Marge is now limited in what she can do as a "worker bee," but remembering the summers in the Jarbidge gives her great joy.

NOTE. Article based on a July, 2014 interview by Dorothy Hudig.

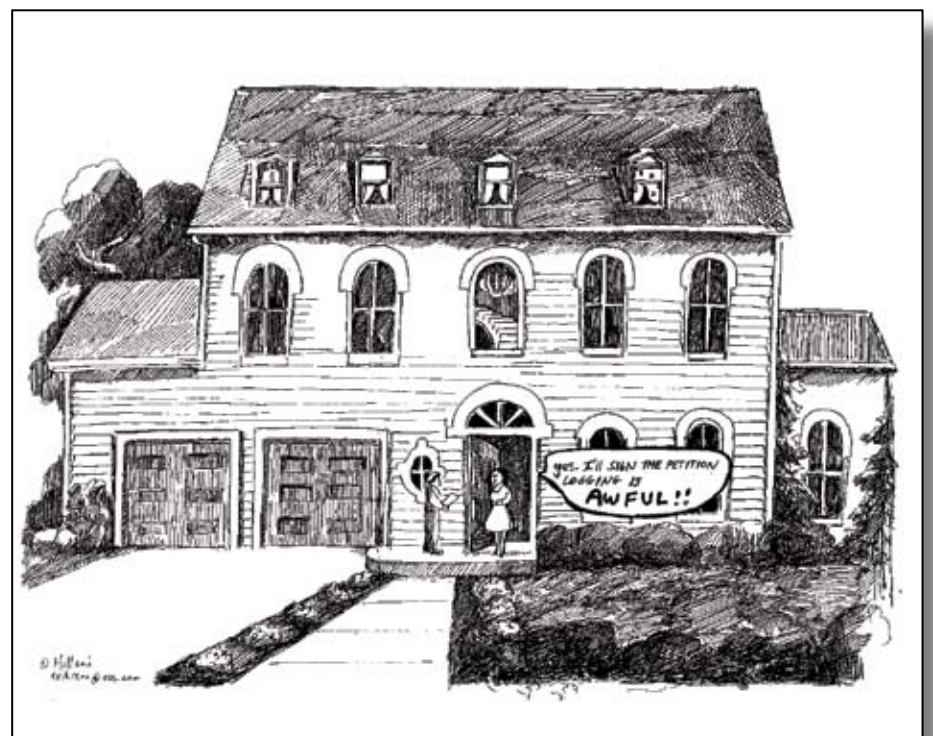
Big increase in Carson City summer temps

BY TINA NAPPE

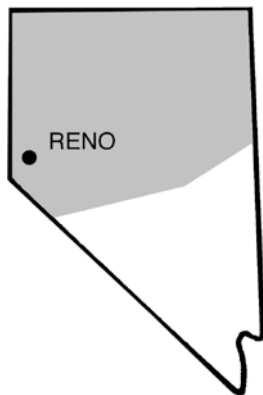
According to the Associated Press, federal temperature records show "Carson City has warmed the most over any other city in the nation in the last 30 years" (*Reno Gazette Journal*, June 9, 2014).

Temperatures in Carson City have risen 4.1 degrees F since 1984. Las Vegas is sixth with an increase of 3.4 F. Carson City's summer time heat has risen an average of 6.8 F over the last three decades.

Some reasons for the increase include urban development (more asphalt) and increase in population: 35,000 in 1984 to 55,000 today. One result is increased demand for air conditioning in older residential areas.



Great Basin Gatherings



Great Basin Group

Message from the Chair

Summer conditioning hikes

BY HOLLY COUGHLIN

SUMMER IS WITHOUT A DOUBT the busiest time for local Sierra Club outings. Many of us started getting our bodies in shape for summer hikes in April, and continued the workout until the end of September.

We saw a lot of new folks joining our hikes for the very first time as well as many of our members who have been coming for years. People enjoy how leaders offer hikes geared for all ability levels, from getting ready to hike Rose on Mondays with Stephanie, Easy Tuesday treks with David, Wednesday faster-paced hikes with Jim and Holly, or Thursday moderate hikes with Ed, Yvonne, or Karen.

These hikes were all after-work outings that generally lasted about two

hours. Participation through our Meet-Up site increased from nearly 1000 in May to over 1900 in September.

Huge kudos should be given to all the Leaders who took the time to plan and lead over 40 conditioning hikes between July 1 and September 30! Participants know that each Leader brings her or his own unique knowledge of local trails, flora, fauna, history, and/or geology to every outing.

Of course, all of these hikes were meant to prepare us for the fabulous all-day weekend hikes that all of our Leaders are known for. If you didn't get out with us this year, be sure to check out next year's Summer Conditioning Hikes to get in great hiking shape, learn new places to go, and meet new friends.

Programs that support the Sierra Club

BY CARON TAYLOE, GREAT BASIN PROGRAM CHAIR

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE ATTENDED the meetings at Bartley Ranch and to those of you who attended the Get Kids Outdoors event. Supporting local programs means you support the ideas and purpose of the Sierra Club.

Thank you to Dr. Pat Barker, retired BLM archaeologist from the Nevada Rock Art Foundation, who gave a wonderful presentation on the historical and cultural

Please see GB PROGRAMS, page 9.

Great Basin Peak Section News Volunteer service trips

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

IN JUNE, MEMBERS VOLUNTEERED to work with Friends of Nevada Wilderness removing noxious weeds in the Hunter Creek drainage of Mount Rose Wilderness. A beautiful sunny day was spent removing noxious weeds to help protect Truckee River watershed and wildlife habitat while learning the differences between the native thistle and noxious Canada thistle, how to prevent the spread of noxious weeds, and why this



is important.

FNW offers numerous volunteer trips through out the year, so join one to explore and protect some of the wilderness treasures often overlooked in our great wild Nevada.

Members have been completing the hikes on the second annual Tahoe Rim Trail Challenge. This fun event encourages exploration of unique destinations along this 165-mile trail. The TRT is well maintained and offers scenic hiking, plus access to many peaks in the Tahoe Basin. Their website provides detailed information on the trail including maps and trail conditions.

GBPS joined Desert Peak Section for a triple list finish

Please see GB PEAK SECTION NEWS, page 9.

GREAT BASIN GROUP

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* ExCom member

Great Basin Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 775 unless otherwise noted.

ALL events include conservation education activities.

CST Nevada Tour Operator – Registration Information, Nevada Tour Operator

Ref. No. 2008-0041 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

OCTOBER 5 (SUNDAY) TBA

Gloria's Peak Day Hike. Join us on beautiful trek in Pah Rah Range. Great views of Pyramid Lake most of hike. Great rock formations. About 8 mis. Use roads and some x-c. Mod. strenuous due to terrain. Gain is about 1800 ft, but will take our time. DL. Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (775-410-1085, lucrecianature@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Dale Mericle (828-4941). Mod. Strenuous.

OCTOBER 6 (MONDAY) 6P

ExCom Meeting. Great Basin Group ExCom meets to discuss programs, outings, membership, other group matters at Swill Wine & Coffee. Members welcome to sit in. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Easy.

OCTOBER 9 (THURSDAY) 7P

Monthly General Meeting. Ned Tibbits from Mountain Education will bring us up to date with info on mountain safety and about his charitable organization. Meet at Schoolhouse at Bartley Ranch this one time. Social: 630p. General meetings are open to public. See web page, <www.toyabe.sierraclub.org/gbgroup/>, for details. ND. Leader: Caron Tayloe (crntayloe@gmail.com). Co-Leader: David VonSeggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

OCTOBER 11 (SATURDAY) 8A

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

OCTOBER 17-19 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) 6:30P

Black Rock Hot Springs Car Camp. Fall is great time to visit Black Rock since it's started to cool off and there aren't as many people. Meet Friday eve after work and head on up, camping Friday night at Trego Hot Springs, natural hot spring near Gerlach. In morning head to another, prettier, hot spring with side trip to third nearby hot spring. Learn about Black Rock! On way back, probably visit site of Burning Man to check their clean-up. Leader very familiar with area. Remote area, probably no cell service. High Clearance vehicles; 4WD not needed. No RVs/trailers but campers OK. Must sign up 10/1 - 10/15 ! DOK. Leader: David Book (775-843-6443). Easy.

OCTOBER 18 (SATURDAY) 8A

El Dorado Canyon Day Hike (near Dayton). Slightly over 12 mi on an in-&- out, under 900 ft gain. Riparian habitat with many crossings of small stream. Lunch at natural arch. Also, small slot canyon to hike and view on way out. Learn some history of area. High clearance vehicle needed or ride share. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

OCTOBER 19 (SUNDAY) 9A

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

OCTOBER 25 (SATURDAY) 9:30A

Marlette Lake Day Hike. From beginning of

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

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

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

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

Kids benefit from GB Group social!

BY SUE JACOX, SUEJACOX@NVBELL.NET

SOCIAL FOR US, SPECIAL FOR KIDS – an absolutely gorgeous summer day in a shady green setting, brightened by the toe-tapping bluegrass music of the "Sierra Sisters." This was the Great Basin Group's August 23 summer potluck picnic at Bartley Ranch to raise "Get Kids Outdoors" donations.

For the third consecutive summer, members and friends shared a meal while sharing support to give kids a chance to fall in love with nature. Speaker Gwen Bourne reported that from 50-70% of American children today have never walked a forest trail. Our grants to low-income schools make it possible for some children to have many "first time" experiences in the natural world and get excited about how they can be our next planet protectors.

Children from local schools such as Sun Valley and Rita Cannan have ben-

efitted. As you read this, some Anderson Elementary School sixth graders from

Reno may be seeing Lake Tahoe for the first time or hiking at Spooner Lake with Great Basin Outdoor School (with some of their expenses covered by our "Get Kids Outdoors" fundraiser).

What you can do.

But there are always more children missing this important connection with nature. For ideas or help with future fundraisers, please contact our Great Basin Group ExCom via the email above. Be

sure to join us next time, and please consider supporting our "Get Kids Outdoors" fund with checks payable to "Great Basin Group, Sierra Club." Mail to Great Basin Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 8096, Reno, NV 89507. Thanks so much for all past and future support for kids!



"Sierra Sisters" plus a fun fiddling "cousin" liven up "Get Kids Outdoors" fundraiser at Bartley Ranch. Photo: Sue Jacox.

trailhead at Spooner Lake to Marlette Lake; view beautiful fall colors. About 10+ mi RT; 1200+ ft gain. Lunch at lake and learn about native fish species. State park parking fee, which can be split by carpooling. Dog must have leash. Trip limit 12. DL. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (775-420-6363, freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Moderate.

OCTOBER 31 (FRIDAY) 8:30A

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

NOVEMBER 1 (SATURDAY) 8A

Mt. Davidson Day Hike. Last hike before time change. First for this "season" in series of highest peaks in local mountain ranges; Mt. Davidson is in Virginia Range at 7664 ft, overlooking Virginia City. About 7 mi in loop, 1000 ft gain. Portions off trail, very steep with brush. Some classify segment as "Class Three". See portion of one of wooden flumes which brought water to VC. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Strenuous.

NOVEMBER 3 (MONDAY) 6P

ExCom Meeting. Great Basin Group ExCom meets to discuss programs, membership, outings, and other matters at Swill Wine & Coffee. Members may sit in. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Easy.

NOVEMBER 8 (SATURDAY) 8A

Wovoka Proposed Wilderness Area & Bald Mountain (9407 ft). Explore proposed wilderness S of Wellington and climb Bald Mountain, highest point in Pine Grove Hills. After climbing Bald, explore some places that make this area very special. Participant interest and weather conditions determine how much we explore. Learn about current status of wilderness proposal and Wovoka, for whom area is named. ND. Leader: Larry Dwyer (775-745-6628, kdwyer31@charter.net). Mod. Strenuous.

Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

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

NOVEMBER 9 (SUNDAY) 9A

Hidden Valley Highland Loop. Day hike along E skyline of Reno along Highland Trail in Hidden Valley Park on E side of town. Take in "Road to Nowhere" Peak, Flag Peak, loop back down Pembroke Canyon. About 7 mi, 1550 ft gain. Learn of flora and fauna of Virginia Range. Hope to see wild mustangs, golden eagles, prickly pondeirosas, pinyon pine, jostling junipers. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055). Co-Leader: Gracie Caudill (233-6404). Moderate.

NOVEMBER 9 (SUNDAY) 9A

Hungry Ridge Day Hike. About 7 mi on loop through beautiful rock canyon to high desert ridge. Spectacular views in every direction. See a variety of plant life and be on lookout for wildlife. About 1000+ ft gain. Climb at moderate pace, but cameras encouraged. DOK. Leader: Lu Belancio (851-9279, lucrecianature@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Yvonne Jerome (851-3043, sjerome@att.net). Moderate.

NOVEMBER 11 (TUESDAY) 8A

Lahontan Reservoir Veteran's Day Hike. Lahontan Reservoir near Silver Springs. Honor all branches of U.S. military; bring your U.S. Flags. Day hike of shoreline. Enjoy silence and stark beauty of this area. About 6+ mi on in-&-out hike along beach. View some Tufa formations. Cost: \$1 CASH/person for State Park fee. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Easy.

NOVEMBER 13 (THURSDAY) 7P

Monthly General Meeting. David von Seg-

gern will present a travelogue of his Sierra Club trip to Bavarian Alps this past summer. Meet at Bartley Ranch Wern Heritage Center (aka, Ranch House). Come early at 6:30 for social. See <www.toiyabe.sierraclub.org/gbgroup/> for details. General public welcome at our monthly meetings. ND. Leader: Caron Tayloe (crntayloe@gmail.com). Co-Leader: David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

NOVEMBER 16 (SUNDAY) 10A

Needle Peak & Beyond Day Hike. Trek in Virginia Mountains W of Pyramid Lake to visit Needle Peak and see other interesting geological formations. About 6-8 mi, 2000+ ft gain. Discuss flora/fauna sighted along way. Lunch at destination with great views. Some rocky off trail hiking, so trail shoes necessary. Bad weather cancels. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (775-420-6363, freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

NOVEMBER 22 (SATURDAY) 8A

Burro Mountain (6092 ft) on Western Edge of Smoke Creek Desert. Climb to top of this desert peak with expansive views of Smoke Creek Desert. Explore area being considered for wilderness designation. This is sage grouse habitat; we could see pronghorn, deer, and raptors or, possibly stumble across archeological remains. Learn about sage grouse habitat and how wilderness designation may help these majestic

birds. ND. Leader: Larry Dwyer (775-745-6628, kdwyer31@charter.net). Mod. Strenuous.

NOVEMBER 24 (MONDAY) 6:30P

Outings Meeting. Outings Leaders plan trips for Jan, Feb, and March. Bring a potluck dish to share. Beverages provided. Location TBA, call for details if you are interested in becoming a leader or learning about outings. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775)331-7488). Fun.

DECEMBER 1 (MONDAY) 6P

ExCom Meeting. Great Basin Group ExCom meets to discuss programs, outings, membership, other matters. Members welcome to sit in. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Easy.

DECEMBER 6 (SATURDAY) 8A

Churchill Butte Day Hike. Churchill Butte is near Silver Springs. Scale butte -- overlooking historic Fort Churchill, portions of emigrant wagon route, ancient and modern Lake Lahontan, Pony Express Trail, Lincoln Hwy. Learn some history of area. About 9.5 mi, 2200 ft gain for day; all in first 4 mi. Part off trail with steep descents. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

DECEMBER 7 (SUNDAY) 10:30A

Hidden Valley Loop Day Hike. Great local hike with views of entire Truckee Meadows. About 6 mi, over 2000 ft gain. Lunch on ridge line. Learn about local flora/fauna. Bad weather cancels. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (775-420-6363, freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Moderate.

DECEMBER 13 (SATURDAY) 6:30P

Annual Holiday Party. Great Basin Group will host our Annual Holiday Party at Bartley Ranch. Mark your calendars for great potluck dinner and review of this year's activities. See <www.toiyabe.sierraclub.org/gbgroup/> for details. ND. Leader: Caron Tayloe (crntayloe@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy.

DECEMBER 20 (SATURDAY) 8A

Carson River Railroads Day Hike. Carson River Railroads is near Mound House. About 9 mi one way, with vehicle shuttle. Gain less than 500 ft. Hike along scenic Carson River Canyon and learn about two of railroads of Comstock era. Parts of hike are x-c. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

GB PEAK SECTION NEWS...

continued from page 8

celebration on Glass Mountain. These celebration hikes always include a party on the summit, with champagne, snacks, and fun. The outing included a campout and potluck at Sawmill Meadow Campground, as well as a variety of interesting peaks to climb. DPS has numerous peak climbs and activities throughout the year, so check out their schedule for interesting trips.

Members have reported many great hikes so far this summer as they work



Weeding the Wilderness with Friends of Nevada Wilderness Staff and GBPS members Niki, Mary, Lu, and Randy. Photo: Sharon Marie Wilcox.

on the GBP list. Who will finish the list next? There are three members with only two of the 116 peaks left. Will it be one of them?

What you can do. Join the GBPS! For details on membership, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports check out Great Basin Peaks Section at: <<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/Great-BasinPeaks.html>>.

Great Basin Peak Section News

A jovial time in the Jackson Mountains

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

In our continuing quest to explore new wilderness areas and enjoy their peaks, we left Reno early for North Jackson Mountains and a hike to their High Point (9095 ft). Last gas in Lovelock, and then from Rye Patch Reservoir we began a long drive on dirt roads to our starting point near the Redbird Mine. Numerous antelope sightings and assorted wildflower displays enhanced the journey.

An old mining shaft and other mining remains provided varied photographic subjects as we hiked about 2.5 miles to the summit. Cloudy, hazy skies limited our summit view, though we could see tomorrow's goal, King Lear Peak (8923 ft).

King Lear shadowed camp that evening as we engaged in our feeding frenzy and relaxed in the Great Basin solitude. Our main evening challenge was wrestling the chocolate cake away from Sue and her fork.

In order to summit before thunderstorms threatened, we got an early start. A four-mile drive up a rough road brought us to our trailhead at South Jackson Mountains Wilderness boundary. We



Summit of King Lear Peak--Sharon Marie, Niki, Mary, Vic, Sue and Bob. Photo: Sharon Marie Wilcox.

had reviewed various routes, but chose Bob Sumner's and followed the ridge south of the main gully through colorful displays of lupine, mule's ears, and mature junipers.

King Lear Peak was named after the main character that descends into madness in Shakespeare's tragedy. I reflected on this as we hiked upward and neared the formidable-looking summit. Our only day's tragedy would be a storm preventing the group from sitting on the summit. However, I had to reflect on our madness level for continually ascending such summits.

We wound through trees and rock outcroppings, then continued up a steep ramp

GB PROGRAMS...

continued from page 8

significance of rock art in Nevada.

On October 9 we will be hosting Ned Tibbits from Mountain Education who will be talking about his charitable organization and its mission: "To minimize wilderness accidents, injury, and illness in order to maximize wilderness enjoyment, safety, and personal growth, all through experiential education and risk awareness training."

November 13 will feature Sierra Club leader David von Seggern, who will present a travelogue of his July 2014 Sierra Club trip to the Alps of Bavaria, Germany. Environmental comparisons between the Bavarian Alps and Lake Tahoe will be discussed in this travelogue.

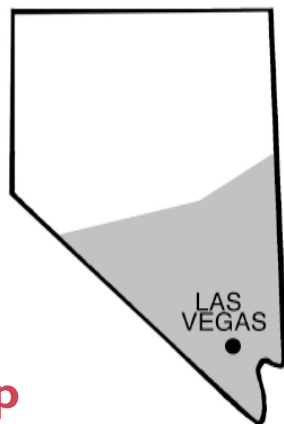
Hope to see all of you at our programs! For any program-related activities, please contact Caron Tayloe (crntayloe@gmail.com).

with loose, slippery dirt and rubbly small rock. Reaching a solid rock notch, we easily climbed to a large summit area.

A leisurely break on King Lear allowed us to absorb views somewhat obscured by haze and reminisce about other summits we have rested on.

After descending the steep slippery slope, we returned to camp and celebrated with a feeding frenzy. Sue played guitar for a group sing-along under a night of countless stars. All enjoyed another memorable trip in the Great Basin.

The Mojave Monitor



Southern Nevada Group

Group News

Monthly ExCom Meetings

October 15 & November 19, 2014

EXCITING NEWS! WE HAVE A NEW OFFICE! It is located just off Sahara Avenue, in the business complex behind the Bank of Nevada Regional Headquarters, at 2330 Paseo del Prado, Building C, Suite 109, Las Vegas, NV 89102-4336. Open to all members, our monthly ExCom meetings will be on Wednesdays during the 4th quarter (October and November; dark in December) We'll meet from 6-8:30 pm in our new office. Any member who would like to join the leadership team is invited to attend. The dates are October 15 and November 19. Contact the Group Chair, Taj Ainlay (702-682-9361), for details.

General Program Meetings

Programs: October 14, November 10, & December 9

General Meetings and Membership Mixers. These are also held at the Sierra Club office unless otherwise noted on the accompanying calendar of events. Please join in our activities on October 14, November 10, and December 9. See details in the Calendar.

All phone numbers indicated below are within the 702 area code unless otherwise noted. All hikes and service projects are led by certified outings leaders.

Las Vegas ICO changes name to "Inspiring Connections Outdoors"!

The ICO program in Las Vegas, and in the 52 programs around the country, is changing its name. The new name is Inspiring Connections Outdoors. Each local organization participated in this robust search for a new name.



Photo: Betty Gallifent.

Consensus was finally reached this summer, with the ICO acronym and mission remaining the same.

Why the name change? The old name "Inner City Outings" had been used since the program's inception in 1976. To many people the words "Inner City" reflected old attitudes and its negative connotations turned away agencies and individuals that ICO wanted to partner with. The old name also did not include the suburban and rural areas that many programs serve.

SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

OFFICERS

Chair	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361	tajainlay@aol.com
Vice-Chair	Heidi Plonski*	702-773-9151	heidiplonski@gmail.com
Secretary	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer	Desiree Saporito	702-875-2668	
At Large	Tazo Schafer*	775-237-9098	tazo.schafer@yahoo.com
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	Betty Gallifent	702-334-7418	egallifent@cox.net
Membership	Taj Ainlay*	702-682-9361	tajainlay@aol.com
Outings	Par Rasmusson	702-215-9119	par@mvdsl.com
Outings	Open		
Parks, Refuges	Open		
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

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.

OCTOBER 4 (SATURDAY)

Fletcher Peak, Spring Mountains NRA (aka Mt Charleston). About 7 mi RT, 2000+ ft gain, mod. difficulty. Go through two altitudinal zones, watch ponderosa pines change to bristlecones at about 8000 feet. How does elevation in desert ecology play a role in different bio zones? Leader: Sasson Jahan (702-499-9218). Level 3-4.

OCTOBER 4 (SATURDAY)

Red & Black Mountain, Boulder City. About 7 mi, easy. Beautiful rock formations, maybe bighorn sightings, great views from top. Leader: Roger Olsen (702-506-5475). Level 2-3.

OCTOBER 4 (SATURDAY)

Cathedral Rock, Kyle Canyon, Spring Mountains NRA (aka Mt Charleston). About 2.8 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. Family hike: all ages (babies, too!). Friendly dogs welcome. Cool fall temperatures, autumn colors (golden aspen trees), an awesome view of canyon and surrounding mountains at top of "Rock." Learn a little geology. If that trail has not re-opened, a similar trail will be used. Leader: Gary Beckman (702-648-2983). Level 2-3.

OCTOBER 11 (SATURDAY)

Fall Color Hike to Bristlecone Loop, SMNRA. What chemical causes aspens to appear yellow? Beginners' hike, about 4 mi, pace adjusted to slower hikers. Leader: Jack Sawyer (702-228-3857) Level 1-2.

OCTOBER 13 (MONDAY)

Upper Bristlecone Trail, Spring Moun-

tains NRA (aka Mt Charleston). About 5 mi RT, 800 ft gain. Take this scenic trail from ski area at Lee Canyon to junction with old road, then take switchbacks up to top of ridge and loop back, reaching an elevation of 10,000 ft. How old are bristlecone pines? Why did President Roosevelt stop construction of this road? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049). Level 4.

OCTOBER 14 (TUESDAY)

Fall Mixer: Tacos Under the Stars. Come enjoy some eco-company and get the latest news. See our new Sierra Club office on Paseo del Prado, too! Parking in the NW corner gives you immediate access. Light entertainment and food are provided. Potluck items are welcome and appreciated. Time: 6 to 8p. Submit announcements in writing anytime to the Hostess, Vice Chair Heidi Plonski: heidiplonski@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 18 (SATURDAY)

Nevada Hot Springs, near Hoover Dam (NV side). About 3 mi, difficult. Bounding over beautiful boulders, using ropes to lower ourselves down and climb up in several areas. Great rock formations and river views. Leader: Roger Olsen (702-506-5475). Level 4.

OCTOBER 24 (FRIDAY)

Annual Las Vegas ICO Friendraiser. Sierra Club members and non-members are welcome to this festive event, featuring live music, a complimentary dinner, raffle and silent auction prizes. All funds raised through this event help to get our urban youth into the outdoors. Location: Las Vegas World Bridge Club, 5580 W. Flamingo, Suite 101, Las Vegas, NV. Time: 6 to 8pm.

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

LAS VEGAS ICO ANNUAL FRIENDRAISER

Help us bring our urban youth into the outdoors!

Friday, October 24, 2014
6 to 8 pm

at Las Vegas World Bridge Club
5580 W. Flamingo
Suite 101
Las Vegas, NV

Join us for a complimentary dinner, wine bar, jazz trio, raffle and silent auction.

For more info. Like us on Facebook at "Las Vegas ICO" or contact Barbara Gerhardt (gerhardt.barbara@yahoo.com).

The new name, "Inspiring Connections Outdoors," expresses a forward-looking attitude and better defines the full spectrum of people ICO seeks to reach. For more information about Las Vegas ICO contact Betty Gallifent (egallifent@cox.net).

A day of exploration at Robber's Roost

BY BARBARA GERHARDT

THE SKY WAS CLOUDY on the days leading up to Las Vegas ICO's scheduled Robber's Roost hike with a group of 11-12 year olds from Helen Meyer Community Center. It seemed that the monsoon season had arrived early, as there had already been some heavy rain in the Mt.Charleston area. As luck would have it, the rain came early in the week – Thursday the 17th was a beautiful sunny day.

Exploring the cave with flashlights.



Please see ROBBER'S ROOST ICO, page 11.

8p. For additional information contact Barbara Gerhardt: gerhardt.barbara@yahoo.com.

OCTOBER 25 (SATURDAY)

Get Outdoors Nevada Day. Recreation enthusiasts will gather to celebrate the spirit and opportunities the Mohave Desert provides. Community groups, nonprofits, government agencies, retailers, outfitters and outdoor event promoters will be on hand to showcase Southern Nevada's spectacular natural offerings. We are an exhibitor this year, so please stop by our booth at Craig Ranch Regional Park, 628 West Craig Road, North Las Vegas. Event hours are from 9am to 3pm. Info: www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/day/.

OCTOBER 26 (SUNDAY)

Arches at Sunrise Mountain, East of LV. About 4 mi, difficult. Delightful romp on some very uneven terrain. Some rock climbing and ridge walking, plus three beautiful arches. Leader: Roger Olsen (702-506-5475). Level 4.

OCTOBER 27 (MONDAY)

Best of Valley of Fire. About 5 mi. Valley of Fire is Nature's gift to the hikers of Las Vegas. Hike through strange and colorful landforms. Let's keep our eyes open for tracks and undiscovered petroglyphs in Jurassic rocks. What kind of tracks might we find? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049). Level 3.

NOVEMBER 1 (SATURDAY)

Top of LaMadre Ridge, Red Rock Canyon NCA. About 6 mi, mod. to strenuous. This hike has a rapid elevation gain, requires climbing a small cliff face. Hike up to LaMadre spring reservoir, then continue along a bubbling brook which provides riparian eco zone in contrast to arid surrounding landscape. Here, riparian vegetation thrives along margin. What are margins? Leader: Sasson Jahan (702-499-9218). Level 4-5.

NOVEMBER 3 (MONDAY)

Gateway Canyon, Red Rock Canyon NCA. About 3 mi RT. Wilderness hike around Kraft Mountain in Calico Basin. Gateway Canyon is known for its interesting sandstone features, including measles-like iron concretions and slump features. Start hike by climbing a saddle that is a fault zone. How can you tell it is a fault? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049). Level 4.

NOVEMBER 4 (TUESDAY)

General Election Day. Be sure to vote and help elect candidates who care about the environment. Polls are open from 7a to 7p. Details at <www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/election/>.

S. Nevada Group CALENDAR

continued from page 10

Spring mountain is heaven on earth for Las Vegans in the summertime. In the summer months, Toiyabe Chapter's Southern Nevada Group hikers frequent this isolated mountain range, soaring about 12,000 feet above Vegas. On July 27, 2014, seven hikers went up the mountain to enjoy the cool air. On average it is 20 plus degrees cooler up on Mt. Charleston. Photo: Sasson.



www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/election/.

NOVEMBER 8 (SATURDAY)

Aviation Nation Hike, East of LV. About 5 mi, not easy. Climb up to a shoulder on Sunrise Mountain and watch airshow at Nellis AFB for a few hours. Big Arch is a bonus. Leader: Roger Olsen (702-506-5475). Level 3-4.

NOVEMBER 10 (MONDAY)

New Member Orientation. Our second 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 will be meeting for one hour, from 7 to 8p at the new Sierra Club Office on Paseo del Prado. Light refreshments will be served. Info: tajainlay@aol.com.

NOVEMBER 15 (SATURDAY)

South Pinto Valley area, Lake Mead NRA. About 5-7 mi, depending on group & conditions. Mod. paced hike through very colorful formations with spectacular views of this infrequently visited region of Lake Mead. Mix of on- and off-trail hiking. Watch for fossils. Optional mindful

meditation session or short mindful walk during our hike. All-day hike so bring water, lunch. Back at cars by 3p. Dogs welcome. Leader: Bill Marr (702-433-0743, wrmarrwilliam@aol.com). Level 3-4.

NOVEMBER 16 (SUNDAY)

Frenchman Mountain, East of LV. About 1.5 mi, 1800 ft gain in 0.5 mile, difficult. Best view of city. Leader: Roger Olsen (702-506-5475). Level 4.

NOVEMBER 17 (MONDAY)

Brownstone Canyon, Red Rock Canyon NCA. About 7 mi RT. Hike into wilderness from Calico Basin at Red Rock to Brownstone Canyon through some ruggedly beautiful and colorful Jurassic rock formations. Our destination is Indian pictographs in Brownstone Canyon. What is the difference between a pictograph and a petroglyph? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049). Level 4.

NOVEMBER 22 (SATURDAY)

Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up. Meet at 8:30a. Out on SR 159 we'll make S approach to Red Rock, making it a little more pristine as we walk

2 mi in sun and fresh air. Bring hat, sunscreen, water. What's a "pencil cholla?" Leader: Jack Sawyer (702-228-3857) Level 1-2.

NOVEMBER 29 (SATURDAY)

Kingman Wash #1, near Hoover Dam (AZ side). About 5 mi, nice walking workout. Walk through some dam history, old building foundations, railroad tracks. Great lunch spot, 20 ft above river. Leader: Roger Olsen (702-506-5475). Level 3.

DECEMBER 1 (MONDAY)

Sloan Canyon NCA. About 4 mi RT. Hike through rugged volcanic terrain to Petroglyph Canyon, one of most interesting archaeological sites in Southern Nevada. Why are there so many petroglyphs in this canyon? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049). Level 3.

DECEMBER 6 (SATURDAY)

Oak Creek Canyon from Highway. How much lower are these ponderosa pines in Oak Creek than their normal elevation? Beginners' hike, about 4 mi, pace adjusted to slower hikers. Leader: Jack Sawyer (702-228-3857) Level 1-2.

DECEMBER 6 (SATURDAY)

Fortification Hill, near Hoover Dam (AZ side). About 4-5 mi, not easy, but not hard. Best view of lake, dam, and surrounding area. Nice trail but loose rock in a short scramble to base of mesa. Leader: Roger Olsen (702-506-5475). Level 3.

DECEMBER 9 (TUESDAY)

Winter Mixer: Turkey Grill Under the Stars. It's time for our annual holiday celebration. Come enjoy some eco-company and get the latest news at the new Sierra Club office on Paseo del Prado. Parking in the NW corner gives you immediate access. Light entertainment and food provided. Potluck items welcome and appreciated. Time: 6 to 8p. Submit announcements in writing anytime to the Hostess, Vice Chair Heidi Plonski (heidiplonski@gmail.com).

DECEMBER 13 (SATURDAY)

Valley of Fire State Park. Explore some little visited canyons in NE part of park that contain beautiful formations, ancient rock art, fossils. Hiking pace mod. and easygoing. We always seem to find new things on this hike if we take our time. May include short optional mindfulness exercise along way or at lunch. This is an all-day hike that will cover 5-6 mi off-trail. Return to cars by 3p. Bring lunch, enough water for full day. Dogs welcome. Leader: Bill Marr (702-433-0743, wrmarrwilliam@aol.com). Level 3-4.

DECEMBER 10 (WEDNESDAY)

Railroad Tunnels, Lake Mead NRA. About 7 mi, easy. Great view of lake plus tunnels. Leader: Roger Olsen (702-506-5475). Level 2.

DECEMBER 15 (MONDAY)

Arnight Trail to Pine Creek, Red Rock Canyon NCA. About 2.5 mi. A great desert hike from trailhead at Oak Creek Canyon N to Pine Creek, passing Juniper Canyon, descending into Pine Creek along beautiful section of trail, picking up our cars at Pine Creek trailhead. Why is Juniper Canyon different than Oak Creek and Pine Creek Canyons? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049). Level 3.

DECEMBER 20 (SATURDAY)

Snowshoe Hike, Bristlecone Trail, Spring Mountains. About 2-3 mi RT, depending on conditions and hikers' ability. Meet at top of LVSSR ski area parking lot at Bristlecone Trail trailhead at 9a. Bring snacks, water, snowshoes, poles. Call REI for rental snow shoes and poles or contact me for snowshoes if needed. Leader: Eric Blumensadt (702-370-1836).

DECEMBER 20 (SATURDAY)

Kingman Wash# 2, near Hoover Dam (AZ side). About 4 mi, nice walking workout. Delightful hike up large wash to incredible views from top of mesa. Some rock hopping and one little scramble. Leader: Roger Olsen (702-506-5475). Level 3.

DECEMBER 28 (SUNDAY)

Sunrise Mountain, East of LV. About 5 mi, not easy. Big Arch is a bonus. Great views from top. Leader: Roger Olsen (702-506-5475). Level 4.

JANUARY 1, 2015 (THURSDAY)

Hangover Hike, Red Rock Canyon NCA. About 3 mi RT, 400 ft gain. Start New Year right by joining your fellow hikers on our traditional late morning hike to Calico Tanks in Red Rock Canyon. This is one of most popular hikes in Red Rock for its colorful rocks and scenic views. What is a tinaja? How does it form? Leaders: geologists Nick Saines (702-896-4049) and Gary Beckman (702-648-2983). Level 3.

ROBBER'S ROOST ICO OUTING...

continued from page 10

The Robber's Roost hike was chosen for a number of reasons. First, there is a dilapidated one-room log cabin on a spur trail south of the Robber's Roost trailhead which would be interesting to explore. Children's literature has numerous refer-



Helen Meyer group at Mt. Charleston Visitor Center.

ences to log cabins and this would be an opportunity to see a log structure first hand. The young hikers could try answering questions such as: What happened to the bark that had been on the logs of the cabin, why would people build a structure out of logs and not some other material?



Rock scrambling up to Robbers' Roost.

On the hike itself, walking back up the hill to the actual Robber's Roost Trailhead and the trail to the caves, students saw there were different types of trees as they climbed higher. Of course, everyone was thrilled with the "butter-scotch" tree . . . the fragrant bark of the Ponderosa pine. The ascent to the cave area was short but a bit steep, yet this group of 12 children (10 boys and 2 girls) had no difficulty and even relished the challenge.

What a wonderful opportunity for city kids to feel like explorers -- and explorers they were. After a brief explanation and demonstration on how

to approach the rock scrambling going up and down, the kids took turns (four or five at a time) going up into the cave using headlights and flashlights to investigate. Some comments were: "This is better than Adventure Dome!", "Oh, I want to spend the night out here!", and "I want to bring my Mom here!"

The outing was a great success. The enjoyment for me lingers on as I recall that day and the wonderful kids. My hope, and the goal of ICO, is that the experience we shared that day lives on in the children's memories as well.

What you can do. Las Vegas ICO invites anyone interested in what we are doing to come to one of our meetings and consider becoming a member of our local chapter. For more information, contact: Betty Gallifent (egallifent@cox.net).

All photos: Betty Gallifent.

DEADLINE!
DECEMBER 1
FOR
JAN - FEB - MAR ISSUE

Bookshelf

THE GREAT BASIN FOR KIDS

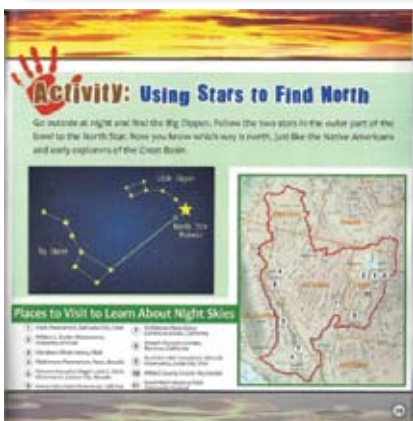
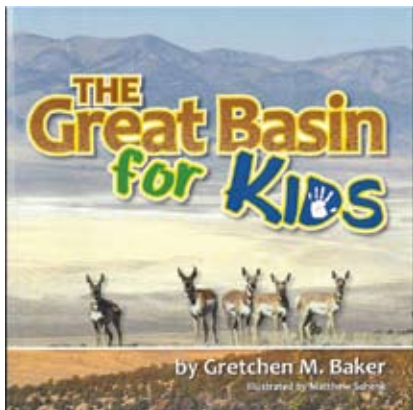
By Gretchen M. Baker

CreatSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2014.

Common praise of a good book is “I just couldn’t put it down”. That was true for me reading Gretchen Baker’s second book – this one “for kids.” Even though some of us aren’t so young anymore, it was fun to read about the Great Basin Desert as a place of discovery and wonder.

At a clean and crisp 40 pages, it’s just the right amount of information, games, and challenges for young readers. I think you’ll agree, it’s ideal for any kid out exploring the desert on a hike or just riding in the car.

Gretchen’s book includes features and



habitats of the Great Basin – for example, caves and sagebrush – and also the people who live in the Great Basin desert. She presents each topic along with a “fun fact” and “kid-friendly activity” (let’s find the north star!). The book is colorfully illustrated, with maps pinpointing areas of particular interest and encouraging kids to find more on their own.

The book is available at Great Basin National Park bookstores and online (just Google it). Gretchen also has a website at www.gretchenbaker.com.

—Dennis Ghiglieri

A PERFECT MORAL STORM THE ETHICAL TRAGEDY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

By Stephen M. Gardiner

Oxford University Press, 2011.

A Perfect Moral Storm is a supremely written volume and requires much from the reader. However, it is well worth the attention. In a tight discourse of nearly 500 pages, the author presents his perspective on the moral challenge posed by global warming. If the text alone were not enough, ample footnotes on nearly every page carry details of the author’s arguments. Whence the title? The author states that “... climate change constitutes a perfect moral storm that threatens our ability to behave ethically.”

Gardiner is able to see every argument from nearly every perspective, and the treatment is thorough on most items. The author goes past covering whether global warming is real or not (he firmly thinks it is) and focuses on what we are morally bound to do about it. He poses the moral problem as an intergenerational one and one that has to do with justice for the disadvantaged. Take, for instance, his statement that “... many of the victims of our bad behavior (the poor, future generations, and nature) lack the ability not only to resist, but even to make their concerns heard.”

The cleverest chapter of the book may be Chapter 9 in which the author draws a long and solid analogy between the behavior of certain characters in Jane Austen’s *Sense and Sensibility* and that of principal geopolitical characters in the world climate forums. In both cases he demonstrates moral corruption, one at a very small scale and the other at global scale.

One of the themes he returns to often is that our current political systems are possibly incapable of dealing with the problem, if in fact they have not already shown it. The problems that local communities, or even nation states, have dealt with in the past are not global in extent, and the methods at their disposal

are not developed or refined enough to deal with the current global moral challenge. He says “Perhaps existing institutions and theories must be radically reconceptualized to reflect new global and ecological realities...” With states failing, he even suggests that the burden falls back on individual citizens to take action, as in many other cases where the states could not seem to meet the challenge (think abolition, for instance).

The author makes a very cogent case for the fact that we (individuals and political entities) are failing to meet the climate crisis. He points out that this has been true for two decades now and that the outlook becomes grimmer with every year of inaction. His final sentence in the conclusion to Chapter 11 says that “... what we do now falls far short of any morally defensible goal.”

Chapter 12, a discussion of the immediate future, begins with “We face a looming global environmental tragedy.” The work of Gardiner should be required reading for all who are working to mitigate global warming and especially all who are politically engaged with this problem at the world level.

Lastly, the author discourages waiting for solutions to come by “luck”. This approach, he says, is “morally impermissible, and a sign of deep corruption.” Some of the “luck” solutions may be a geoengineering breakthrough, a significant cost reduction in renewable energy sources, or some natural feedback mechanism that miraculously cancels global warming. Waiting for such a solution is not only reckless; but, were it to happen, we would escape from grappling with the moral challenge sitting before us now and therefore not progress as an intelligent species.

—David von Seggern



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HONEYBEE CRISIS...

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— contributed by Laurel Hopwood

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ExCom Meetings

October 18, 2014
Reno, NV

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.