



EXPLORE, ENJOY, & PROTECT THE PLANET.

# TOIYABE TRAILS

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2015

Fall Elections Issue

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

## From the Chair

### Planning for a Chapter staff person

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN  
(vonseg1@sbcglobal.net)

I have made no secret of my desire to see Toiyabe Chapter hire a permanent staff person. Most Sierra Club chapters of our size or larger have one or more staff positions and utilize them effectively. Our many volunteer activists, past and present, have done an impressive job -- but they could certainly use some help!

By having a staff person overseeing and coordinating the day-to-day work of the Chapter, we would increase our presence in the expanding conservation community and our effectiveness with important conservation issues. Just as Nevada has become a "swing state" in politics, it has also become an important key state in the future of conservation. Two examples of issues come to mind: federal lands transfer and the solar industry.

The barrier for Toiyabe Chapter has always been fundraising -- but that

Please see FROM THE CHAIR, page 2.

Need information about Toiyabe Chapter? Try the . . .

**Chapter website**

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

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Bennettville: July 5, 2015. Tioga Pass Road was created to give access to the mine at Bennettville. On this overcast morning, Range of Light hikers went first to the old mine and then wound their way down to the remains of the town of Bennettville, which has only two buildings standing. Photo: Joanne Hihn.

## Celebrating 50 years in Southern Nevada!

BY TAJ AINLAY

Six years after the founding of the Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club members in Las Vegas began organizing an internal group. In 1965, the opening of a local Wells Fargo Bank account laid the foundation for the Club's ongoing commitment to Southern Nevada.

Oddly enough, the inaugural "Las Vegas Group" was not the Chapter's first regional division. That honor went to the "Uinta Group," founded in 1962, which would split off in the 1970s to become the Club's Utah Chapter.

When a Northern Nevada division was proposed in 1978, David Hornbeck helped draw up the boundaries that would define the new "Great Basin Group," prompting the Las Vegas members to rename their organization the "Southern Nevada Group" (SNG).

Over the past 50 years, much has changed in Southern Nevada. The SNG has played a key role in protecting the region's environment, from taking a stand on water and air issues to fighting urban sprawl while promoting wilderness and recreation areas.

Among the many highlights of the past half century are:

- Prevailing upon

Nevada's congressional delegation in the early 1980s to halt proposals for locating **MX missile sites** in Eastern Nevada

- Supporting Chapter lobbying to create **Great Basin National Park**, successfully concluded in 1986
- Working in 1988 to ensure a fair exchange of lands in the Aerojet General Corporation **Florida-Nevada Land Swap**.
- Continuing efforts since the late 1980s to prevent **Yucca Mountain** from being used for storage of nuclear waste

### Make a tree happy! Get your Trails online

Opt out of the paper *Toiyabe Trails* and walk the Sierra Club talk by saving our natural resources. Email us at "[optout@toiyabe.sierraclub.org](mailto:optout@toiyabe.sierraclub.org)" (put that address in the "To" line). Then put "optout" in the "Subject" line — that's all you have to do.

- Supporting establishment of **Spring Mountain NRA** in 1993 and expanding **Red Rock Canyon NCA** in 2000.
- Litigating to mitigate the polluting effects of **widening U.S. Highway 95**, settled successfully in 2005
- Initiating the process to establish **Inner City Outings (ICO)**, now

Please see 50 YEARS IN S. NEVADA, page 3.

## 2015 Chapter & Group Elections

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN  
(vonseg1@sbcglobal.net)

WE ARE REMINDING members that the 2015 elections for Chapter and Group executive committees are coming soon. You will receive a ballot in the mail about December 1 and we ask that you consider the candidates and vote by return mail.

Many people have asked about an online election, but we are just not to the point where we can manage that yet.

People interested in running for either Chapter or Group executive committee should contact the Nomination Committee Chair, Anne Macquairie (annemacquairie@gmail.com), for Chapter candidacy or their Group Chair for Group candidacy.

The Executive Committee approved the following Toiyabe Chapter election schedule for 2015:

- Oct. 1:** publication of this schedule in the *Toiyabe Trails*
- Oct. 26:** Nominating Committee submits its report of candidates
- Nov. 2:** Executive Committee approves the slate of candidates via email vote
- Nov. 10:** deadline for candidate petitions to be submitted to Election Committee
- Nov. 25:** retrieve the election ballot mailing list from national database
- Dec. 2:** mailing of ballots to chapter elections mailing list
- Dec. 31:** closing date for acceptance of ballots at chapter P.O. Box
- Jan. 4:** vote count

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## FROM THE CHAIR . . .

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can be overcome. Other chapters have shown us the way, and national Sierra Club stands ready to provide us support and guidance to greatly increase our chapter fundraising capacity.

In July the Executive Committee reviewed a proposal for a temporary fundraiser paid position and approved it in concept, provided that a suitable candidate could be found through a competitive process. We advertised and now, in late August, have several potential candidates for review and will move forward on this.

The fundraiser will be tasked with developing a major-donor fundraising campaign for the chapter. While our traditional March Appeal to chapter members nets between \$6K and \$8K per year, such a campaign should extend our sustainable fundraising to a level of \$50K or more per year. Yes, a heady goal, but one I know we can attain.

There is a well-defined methodology for identifying possible major donors; and, with national Sierra Club help, we will be employing that in the months of October, November, and December. Please be prepared, if you are contacted, to listen to the appeal and to seriously consider becoming a major donor to support the Chapter's work in Nevada and eastern California.

If for some reason you are not contacted and do want to be part of our major donor team, please contact me or any members of the Executive Committee. With your help, we will be able to hire a paid staff person and greatly increase the scope of our conservation work and our promotion of the Sierra Club mission in Nevada and eastern California.

# DEADLINE!

## DECEMBER 1



FOR  
JAN-FEB-MAR ISSUE

## 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

**SEPTEMBER 26-27 (SAT-SUN)**

#### SERVICE & HIKING IN THE CARRIZO PLAINS

An opportunity to visit and assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. Saturday is National Public Lands Day. We will join other volunteers on several maintenance projects. We will be car camping, with a potluck and campfire on Saturday night. Sunday, tour several historic, prehistoric, and geologic sites in Monument. Details to be determined by group consensus. Leader: Craig Deutsche, [craig.deutsche@gmail.com](mailto:craig.deutsche@gmail.com), 310-477-6670.

CNRCC Desert Committee

**OCTOBER 8-10 (THU-SAT)**

#### DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION

Join us in restoring wilderness values in this remote, beautiful desert National Park by helping to clean up a marijuana grow site in Hunter Mtn area. 4WD required, possibility of carpooling. Meet Thursday afternoon at junction of Hwy 190 and South Saline Valley Road. Work that afternoon and all day Friday. On Saturday, either more cleanup, or we may be free to enjoy park. Camping is primitive; bring all food and water for weekend, plus trowel or shovel for personal needs. Leader: Kate Allen, [kj.allen96@gmail.com](mailto:kj.allen96@gmail.com), 661-944-4056.

CNRCC Desert Committee

**OCTOBER 24-25 (SAT-SUN)**

#### SERVICE IN THE CARRIZO PLAINS

An opportunity to visit and to assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. Saturday, assist others cleaning up debris and trash at Goodwin Ranch, a historic ranch complex maintained by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Car camp, with Saturday night being a BBQ given for volunteers by TNC. Sunday, tour one or several of historic, prehistoric, or geologic sites in Monument. Details determined by group consensus. Limit 10 people. Leader: Craig Deutsche, [craig.deutsche@gmail.com](mailto:craig.deutsche@gmail.com), 310-477-6670.

CNRCC Desert Committee

**OCTOBER 31-NOV 1 (SAT-SUN)**

#### GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA

Celebrate Halloween by visiting ghosts of California's colorful past in eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp near historic ghost town of Ballarat. Saturday, a challenging hike to ghost town of Lookout City with historian Hal Fowler, who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. Return to camp for Happy Hour and potluck feast, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. On Sunday, make a quick visit to infamous Riley townsite. Leader: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372, 760-868-2179.

Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

**NOVEMBER 19-21 (THU-SAT)**

#### DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS SERVICE TRIP

Help restore wilderness values in this stunning desert nation park. Work project not yet been determined. Perhaps another marijuana grow site or help with clean-up of cabin in Panamints. (Or something else entirely.) Meet Thursday afternoon, place TBD. Work that afternoon and Friday. Potluck either Thursday or Friday night. Leader: Kate Allen, [kj.allen96@gmail.com](mailto:kj.allen96@gmail.com), 661-944-4056.

CNRCC Desert Committee

**NOVEMBER 26 - 29 (THU-SUN)**

#### BASIN & RANGE THANKSGIVING

Tour our newest national monument in southern Nevada. Comprising 700,000 acres, Basin & Range National Monument highlights basin and range topography with Great Basin dry, dusty valleys and rocky, wooded ridges. Archaeological sites and modern City landscape-scale construction by artist Mike Heizer are preserved here for posterity. Tour area mostly by vehicle, with some hiking. Expect primitive campsites with no amenities. Leader: David von Seggern, Chair, Toiyabe Chapter, [vonseg1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vonseg1@sbcglobal.net), 775-303-8461.

Toiyabe Chapter

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  
85 Second Street, Second Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
[gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto: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 (Bishop, CA; 760-873-3829; [lfoster@schat.net](mailto:lfoster@schat.net).)

**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](mailto: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.



# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN SOUTHERN NEVADA! . . .

continued from page 1

now “Inspiring Connections Outdoors,” in Las Vegas in 2012

More recently, SN Group grassroots efforts have been instrumental in getting NV Energy to shutter its coal-fired Reid-Gardner power plant in Moapa and in working toward designation of new National Monuments at Tule Springs and Basin & Range.

Of course, exploring and enjoying the incredible natural environment of Southern Nevada has been a primary function of the Group throughout the past half century. From Lake Mead, Red Rock, and Mt. Charleston to Valley of Fire and Gold Butte, local outings leaders have conducted thousands of hikes, service projects and overnight excursions.

On October 15, 2015 at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve, a gala banquet will be held to celebrate the

Group’s past five decades in Southern Nevada. Special recognition will be given to 10 SN Group members who have been with the Sierra Club for 50 years or more, including life member Lloyd Lansing, who joined in 1933! VIP guests from government, business, and entertainment are also expected to attend. Reservations can be made online at [www.sierraclub50.com](http://www.sierraclub50.com).

In concert with the festivities, the Group is collecting historic documents, photographs, and memorabilia to be added to the official Sierra Club archive within UNLV Library’s Special Collections. For further information, email [SierraClub50@gmail.com](mailto:SierraClub50@gmail.com).

— *Taj Ainlay is the current Chair of the Southern Nevada Group and author of Las Vegas: The Fabulous First Century. (Arcadia, 2003).*



For decades now, SNG outings leaders like Gary Beckman (pictured here in 1993) have led routine clean-ups on the Toiyabe Chapter’s Adopt-a-Highway stretch of NV-159 near Red Rock Canyon.



Among the dozens of SNG service projects conducted over the past 50 years was this 1997 work party to Breakfast Canyon in Death Valley led by Ed Rothfuss.



Leanne Hildebrand with Jane Feldman, Joanne Spalding, Dr Ronald Rosen

In June 2005, the Sierra Club settled its lawsuit for widening Hwy 95 in Las Vegas without proper consideration of health impacts from increased traffic pollution. Present at the press conference were Jane Feldman, Leanne Hildebrand and Joanne Spalding, among others.



## SIERRA CLUB

50 YEARS IN SOUTHERN NEVADA



**Please Join Us for a Golden Celebration**

Thursday, October 15, 2015 ~ 6pm - 9pm  
at Las Vegas Springs Preserve








**Be Part of an Historic Occasion - 50 Years in Southern Nevada!**

The Sierra Club’s Southern Nevada Group looks forward to welcoming members and friends at this very special commemorative event.

- Cocktails on the Veranda (cash bar, 1<sup>st</sup> drink free)
- Plated 4-Course Dinner (choice of entree)
- Live Entertainment & A/V Displays
- Sierra Club Local History Exhibit

- Honored Guests & Awards Recognition
- Special Message from Washington, D.C.
- Commemorative Gifts for All Guests
- Dress: Business Casual / Hiker Hip

Don’t miss this opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of Nevada’s oldest and largest grassroots environmental group. Join us in celebrating the many accomplishments we’ve achieved in the past half century. For more information, visit [SierraClub50.com](http://SierraClub50.com) or email [SierraClub50@gmail.com](mailto:SierraClub50@gmail.com).



**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT**  
Book by September 24<sup>th</sup> and Save

Members	- \$75	\$50
Non-Members	- \$100	\$75
Table of 10	- \$800	\$700

**Make Your Reservation Now At ? [SierraClub50.com](http://SierraClub50.com)**



SNG activists have long advocated for public lands, such as this rally at Red Rock in May 1994 with Elyssa Rosen at the microphone.

Protecting local species has always been part of our mission, as exemplified by SNG Chairman David Brickley (left) speaking out for Southern Nevada’s plants and animals at the Clark County Government Center in 1998. That’s Jessica Hodge on the right as Nevada Wildlife Federation President Frank Maxwell looks on.



Gary Thompson/Review-Journal



# Range of Light Reflections

## Range of Light Group



## Group News

### Message from the Chair

BY DICK HIHN (rhihn@skidmore.edu)

GREETINGS from Sierra Club's Range of Light Group! Here are a few updates on our activities in the Eastern Sierra of California.

**Outings.** In spite of the unusually wet weather, smoke from various fires, and personal schedules, we managed to complete most of our Sunday outings this summer. In some cases, alternate destinations were selected. Our shorter Thursday outings start at 4:30p and are typically either historical in nature or highlight some aspect of our local environment. These have been quite popular. Our scheduled outings will continue to run through September. We will then take a break from scheduled outings until January, at which time we hope to enjoy lots of snow. We would like to welcome Eastern Sierra Organizer Fran Hunt as our newest certified outings leader!

**Blue Diamond Cross-Country Ski Route Project.** After several summers of work, our Blue Diamond Ski Route project is virtually completed, with only a few minor areas to work on and signage to be installed. Our next step is to GPS the routes and to prepare a map of the areas -- which include the Knolls, Inyo Craters, Knolls-Inyo Craters "connector" route, Earthquake Dome, and Obsidian Dome.

Many thanks go to the Forest Service for their support, and also to Mary K Prentice and Mary and Mike Shore for spearheading the project and organizing the work. We hope the public will use and enjoy these new and restored routes.

**ROLG Monthly Meetings.** Many thanks to Mary Shore for organizing our monthly meetings! ROLG members

and guests enjoy monthly gatherings for good food, conversation, and guest speakers.

In June, Fran Hunt, Sierra Club's Eastern Sierra Organizer, spoke on the topic of "Inyo National Forest Draft EIS and Draft Forest Plan."

In July and August we enjoyed potluck. Our usual meeting place is at the Crowley Lake Community Center.

Speakers at our upcoming potlucks will include Urs and Rosemarie Willimann on their Camino de Santiago walk and Nancy and Richard Potashin on Eastern Sierra arborglyphs. In December we will have our annual Holiday Party. Please see You're Invited, this page, for details..

**Membership.** As of July 2015, ROLG had 352 members. Thanks to Shalle Genevieve for managing our membership list and organizing our ROL Group E-Newsletter. If you wish to become a member, please contact Shalle at: marshalle@earthlink.net

In addition to the Newsletter, ROLG has the following internet sites to connect to our activities:

- **ROLG website:** [www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light](http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light)
- **Facebook:** Google "Facebook Range of Light Group".

Our Facebook page had 60 "likes" in September 2014. It is now up to 447 "likes."

Please see FROM THE ROL GROUP 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.



### ROLG Group Website

[<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/>](http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/)



### Chapter website

[<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>](http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org)

## Range of Light OUTINGS

BY JOANNE HIHN & DICK HIHN

### FALL 2015 OUTINGS

ALL OUTINGS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES!

All phone numbers are 760 unless otherwise noted.

CST2087766-40. Registration as seller of travel does not constitute approval by State of California.

**CHECKING FOR UPDATES.** In addition to contact information listed in the *Trails*, check for updates on . . .

- our WEB PAGE at [www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light](http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light)
- on FACEBOOK, search "Range of Light Group"
- on MEETUP at <http://www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/>
- in LOCAL MEDIA (newspapers, etc.), where we submit outings information (note that it does not always get included in their calendar of events and sometimes published information is not accurate).



### Thursday Outings

These ROLG summer outings end October 1. They will resume in May, 2016, when weather allows and days are longer.

### Saturday & Sunday Outings

These day trips also end October 1. They will resume in January, 2016 with X-C ski and snowshoe trips. Watch for information on our website, ROLG Facebook Page and ROLG Outings Meetup pages.



### Unscheduled Hiking Trips

These are NOT sponsored by Sierra Club Range of Light Group, but may be possible from October through December, 2015 as weather allows. If interested, contact Joanne and Dick Hihn for details (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

## 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 20 (Tuesday)

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

Adventurers Urs and Rosemary Williman will present a travelogue of their walk on the Camino de Santiago. Impressions of the people and countryside and tips on how to plan this historic trek will be included.

#### November 17 (Tuesday)

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

Nancy Hadlock and Richard Potashin have recorded arborglyphs in the Eastern Sierra. Hear about the culture which artfully carved into the aspen trees and left us clues of their life.

#### December 8 (Tuesday)

*Holiday Party* 

We are looking for a venue for our Holiday Party. To volunteer your home or to make a suggestion for a location, please contact Mary at 805-217-5563 or marymikesore@gmail.com.

Please submit suggestions for program topics and/or speakers to our program chair, Mary Shore (marymikesore@gmail.com).  
We always need fresh ideas!

### Range of Light Group

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Dick Hihn*	rhihn@skidmore.edu
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Webmaster Emeritus	Owen Maloy	760-934-9511

\* Voting ExCom member

\*\* Owens River Watershed Conservation Chair



**ROL Group ExCom Nominations & Election****Three new ExCom members needed for next year**

ROL GROUP MUST HAVE NEW CANDIDATES for our group ExCom election later this year. The three members whose terms are up have all said they wish to nominate themselves for another term: Lesley Bruns (secretary), Joanne Hihn (member-at-large), and Mike Shore (member-at-large). 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 (be sure to 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, 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 12** so they may be considered at our Oct 14 Excom meeting.

November 10 is the Group deadline for those seeking nomination by petition to secure and submit petitions. That is, anyone who is nominated but not included in the approved slate. To submit nominations or for more information, email [rhihn@skidmore.edu](mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu), 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 December 2 and must be received by December 31 to be counted. Please see the Toiyabe Chapter election deadlines on page 1 of this *Trails* issue.

**FROM THE ROL GROUP CHAIR . . .**

*continued from page 4*

• **Meetup:** [www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/](http://www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/)

Our Meetup group was started in April 2014. As of September 2014 we had 40 members. We now have 127 members.

**Conservation.** (for details for these and other conservation activities, please contact Malcolm Clark, Conservation Chair, [wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com](mailto:wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com).)

ROL Group did its part to help put an end to the trapping of **bobcats** in California. On August 5, California Fish & Game Commission voted 3-2 to ban bobcat trapping statewide.

As part of the Inyo Forest Plan revision, the Forest Service released a draft proposed list of Species of Conservation Concern for each forest. Anyone with useful information on specific species should submit it to [R5planrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:R5planrevision@fs.fed.us). For more information, visit: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_)

[DOCUMENTS/stelprd3847723.pdf](http://DOCUMENTS/stelprd3847723.pdf)

The final **Renewable Energy** General Plan Amendment removed the Owens Valley from the REGPA. A separate study using grant money will be made of the this area's suitability for **solar development**. There was considerable opposition expressed to any industrial scale solar projects in southern Owens Valley during the June 2 and 3 public workshops.

Please see: <http://www.sierrawave.net/inyo-county-solar-energy-news/> for more info.

In addition, LADWP's Southern Owens Valley **Solar Ranch** (tentatively situated adjacent to the Manzanar National Historic Site) has been put on hold.

Finally, the permit for Northland Power **Solar Farms** has been cancelled by Inyo County and their request for power transmission line connection has

**Range of Light  
SUMMER PHOTO GALLERY**

Photos by Joanne Hihn



*Tamarack Lake July 9, 2015. After a hefty climb up to an 11,600 ft plateau, we descended to blue-green Tamarack Lake.*



*Paiute Pass: August 9, 2015. The views were glorious as we ascended through forests, meadows, rocky outcroppings and along several lakes. A few of us managed to get to the top of the pass. We were greeted by Summit Lake and Humphreys Basin below the pass.*



*Tuolumne River Hike: August 9, 2015. In spite of our 4-year drought, there was enough water in the river to provide us with cascading waterfalls. We took frequent breaks, sitting along the banks to take in the beauty of this special place.*



*August 8, 2015. On our "Around the World" evening walk, John led us "around the world," all within the confines of Mammoth Lakes area. What country were we visiting in this photo?*



# CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

## Conservation Briefs

BY MARGE SILL

**Be a Citizen Scientist!** Tahoe visitors and residents can now act as citizen conservationists to help monitor what is going on at the Lake by using an app on their smart phones entitled "Citizen Science Tahoe." This app was programmed by a University of California Davis freshman in Computer Science.

Many universities are now working on apps to enable those who are interested in environmental and wildlife issues to record their findings. This is particularly important for federal agencies who do not have the paid staff to do such work in far flung places like Nevada.



PHOTO: Annica Kreuter

**No more bobcat trapping in NV?** Because bobcat trapping has now been banned in California, many Sierra Club members in Nevada are hoping

that this can be extended to our state. The national Sierra Club policy does not mention bobcats specifically, but

states: The Sierra Club opposes use of body-gripping, restraining, and killing traps. These kinds of traps are the ones used to trap bobcats, whose skins are then sold to buyers because the fur is valuable. (See article by Malcolm Clark on page 7.)

**Get out and visit NV and CA public lands!** The passage of the Boulder-White Clouds wilderness in Idaho with bipartisan support gives wilderness advocates hope that designated wilderness will continue to be important for preserving the best of our wild lands in Nevada and Eastern California. Fall is a great time to go out and visit our two new wilderness areas, Pine Forest and Wovoka, and our new national monument, Basin & Range. It is also a good time to explore those areas in the Inyo National Forest that have been proposed for wilderness in the revision process. If you go, be sure to check the weather (storms can come up suddenly) and wear bright clothing when you are hiking (it will be hunting season.).

## Sierra Club & citizen surveys

BY TINA NAPPE

The pika, which looks like a rat, but is related to rabbits, once lived in valleys and grassland habitats. Today pikas, because of rising temperatures, appear to have retreated to higher elevations and talus slopes. Pikas can die in six hours when exposed to temperatures above 25.5 °C (77.9 °F) if they cannot find refuge from heat.

Pikas rely on grasses and forbs, although during our Sierra Club survey in Glacier National Park, we saw one hauling a branch. I owe this close encounter with pikas, to two southern Nevada Toiyabe Chapter trip leaders, Par Rasmussen and Ed and Marge Rothfuss who, beginning in 1995, led national park service trips from their Las Vegas area homes. Both leaders have now relocated – Ed and Marge Rothfuss to Kalispell, MT, where they generously offered our group overnight accommodations and Par to Utah. Par, our well organized trip leader plans on continuing his service trips.

Our job was to hike to various predetermined sites and count either rocky mountain goats, bighorn sheep, or pikas. For the pika survey we were to stand quietly at the site to count pikas, look for poop, and also for stashed hay stacks for winter feeding. We were to determine whether their poop (fecal matter) was recent or old and to collect some, but not too much. Pikas consume their poop.

The National Park Service establishes



Pika.  
PHOTO: Nancy Hoffman.

the monitoring sites but relies on volunteer groups to visit and report findings. While some sites were close to our campgrounds, others required a six-mile hike. Over the five days at Many Glacier, we accessed a variety of trails and enjoyed both our purpose and the scenery. Mule deer and black bear were common.

Grizzly bears at a distance were a plus; I was disappointed not to see a moose.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife has also conducted pika studies. Since the 1970s, NDOW has had a Biodiversity program. Federal funds match state funds to finance the program. One of the species of concern is the pika. In 2009 the USF&WS received a petition to list the pika as threatened. Through field surveys, however, NDOW had identified additional pika low elevation sites in the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, thus avoiding a listing.

**What you can do.** If you are interested in joining a Park trip, you can contact him at [parasmusson@gmail.com](mailto:parasmusson@gmail.com). Watch his video report on the Glacier trip at [http://youtu.be/5x\\_M9izsaPw](http://youtu.be/5x_M9izsaPw).

## What to do instead of thinking El Niño will solve our drought problems

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

LAUNCHED BY Executive Order last April by Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval, the Nevada **Drought Forum** has held three meetings around the state this summer to listen to concerns of casinos, developers, water providers, farmers, tribes, and a few conservation groups.

A **Drought Summit** is scheduled September 21-23 in Carson City, with a final meeting the following week. Unfortunately, many of the Forum members and participants appear to be betting on a heavy winter brought by a strong El Niño to reverse our drought conditions. Critics do not believe this is a credible or responsible State drought "strategy."

The eight Drought Forum members are charged with presenting a report to the Governor by November 1, 2015. Details on report requirements are sketchy, but the NV report may be based on the final Western Governors' Drought Report, published in June of 2015. Find it at: [http://westgov.org/images/2015\\_Drought\\_Forum\\_Report\\_for\\_website.pdf](http://westgov.org/images/2015_Drought_Forum_Report_for_website.pdf).

In August, Rose Strickland submitted responses on behalf of the Toiyabe Chapter to the Drought Forum's three questions: drought effects on the environment, organization drought efforts, and major obstacles to increasing water conservation. It is well-known that we have entered a new era of increasing temperatures and decreasing water availability. We know that 27 of the over 237 Nevada groundwater basins are currently over-appropriated.

Although we do not know how many additional basins are reaching the limits of available water in this new climate regime, there are news accounts nearly every day about . . .

- northern Nevada rivers running dry or nearly dry
- lakes and reservoirs totally dry or their levels declining rapidly
- agriculture being curtailed or extremely limited in farming areas such as Lovelock, Smith and Mason Valleys, and Fallon by reduced or zero water deliveries.

The Sierra Club questions for the Drought Forum are: Why are so many of our basins and river systems over-appropriated? How can we correct these problems? Can we prevent future water shortages? To this end, the **Sierra Club made several recommendations** for state actions, including the following.

1. Instead of waiting for water scarcity crises to occur in more basins and river systems, the State can develop **water assessments** for each groundwater basin and river system on water availability, needs and current appropriations for all water uses, including environmental uses. The State can do this in a collaborative process with federal, state, and local agencies, conservation groups, tribes, water users and the public. Only then can we figure out how to adjust our water policies and management now to a much drier and hotter future.

2. The State can also address drought **impacts on fish and wildlife** and their habitats, a topic so far omitted from any consideration by the Drought Forum (which does not list the Nevada Department of Wildlife as a partner state agency).

3. The State can propose **changes to State Water Law** to require that:

- a) water for the environment, including fish and wildlife, soil stabilization to prevent erosion, dust abatement, ecosystem restoration and recreation are stated as **beneficial uses of water** in Nevada and as such must be accounted for in considering new applications
- b) the State Engineer must **maximize sustainable water use**, instead of maximizing water use (the current requirement)
- c) the State Engineer must recognize and **account for surface and groundwater interconnections** before approving new water applications.

**What we need to keep in mind.** We are all in this drought or climate change together. We must not sacrifice parts of the State or the environment for other parts of the State.



Truckee River at John Champion Memorial Park in Reno. Flow on September 8 was only 19 cubic feet/second (CFS). In Sparks, the river had only 5 CFS. Treated waste water from the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF) made up most of the flow of 51 CFS downstream of Sparks. PHOTO: Dennis Ghiglieri.



## Bobcat update

## No-trapping ban approved in California

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

On August 4, 2015, the California Fish & Game Commission (FGC) voted 3-2 to ban bobcat trapping statewide. The No Trapping Option 2 was chosen over the staff-preferred Option 1 (a ban only in specified areas). Prior to the August 4 meeting, FGC received approximately a dozen comments supporting option 1 and over 25,000 comments supporting a statewide ban.

The bobcat trapping issue goes back to the passage of AB1213 in 2013, which banned bobcat trapping adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park. The legislation directed FGC to consider how to enact bobcat trapping bans in areas adjacent to other national parks, national wildlife refuges, national monuments, and state parks.

Bobcat trapping is required to be self-supporting through licenses and fees. Areas with bans should have easily discerned boundaries. Project Bobcat was a major force in pushing for the ban, supported by others, including Sierra Club wildlife volunteer activist, Jim Hines.

In the Eastern Sierra, the most prominent advocate of a ban was Lynn Boulton. ROL Group submitted comment letters for the April 9, June 11, and August 4 FGC meetings, and testified in person in favor of a ban at the meet-



PHOTO: Annica Kreuter

ing in Mammoth Lakes on June 11. Fran Hunt, Sierra Club Organizer for our area, secured support for a ban from Sierra Club California. Mono County Board of Supervisors supported a ban, though the Inyo County

Board of Supervisors did not. We don't know whether the ban will be implemented in time to be in effect for the next bobcat trapping season (this fall) or if it will begin in fall 2016.

Note that the **no-trapping ban does NOT prohibit bobcat hunting**. Almost all bobcat trapping is commercial -- driven by the high price paid for pelts in Russia and China. In 2012-13, there were an estimated 100 bobcat trappers (down from a high of 3000) and 1292 bobcats were trapped in 2013. California Department of Fish & Wildlife is in the early stages of a 10-year study of bobcat populations in the Eastern Sierra.

## Basin &amp; Range National Monument: A gift of wildness

BY CHRISTIAN GERLACH, ORGANIZING REP, SIERRA CLUB WILD AMERICA CAMPAIGN

For all too many people, modern day to day life consists of trips to a climate controlled building from another climate controlled building with a climate controlled car only to end when we return to our own four walls that shut out any semblance of the sky. Our day to day lives no longer connect us to what is wild or natural in the world. That is why it is pivotal to the future of our species to hold on to every inch of the natural world — a gift that has made our species what it is today.

The State of Nevada received such a gift to maintain our wild side in Basin & Range, a gift of a national monument that will keep a wild public landscape for future generations to explore and enjoy, clarifying their view of the natural world. On Friday July, 10 2015, President Barack Obama proclaimed Nevada's second national monument: Basin & Range.

This beautiful expanse of over some 1100 square miles of Great Basin Desert that has been inhabited on and off by humans for almost the last 10,000 years, will now forever remain as it is today. Basin & Range, in remote south central Nevada—northwest of Alamo and Hiko, northeast of Tonopah, southwest of Caliente, well south of Ely, is home to majestic wildlife that hardly fear man as they lack virtually any interaction with our species.

Thus, the President makes the following assertion in his proclamation that "The area is one of the largest ecologically intact landscapes in the Great Basin region, providing habitat connectivity and migration corridors for a wide variety of animal species and affording researchers the ability to conduct studies over broad scales."

The pronghorn deer, mule deer, pygmy rabbits, and red-tailed hawks would agree with the President. Even the small canyon bat that wouldn't stop trying to land on my father and me would probably assert the same.

The several excursions I have been fortunate to experience in the far-away area have changed my perspective on the enormous scale of the natural world in which we live. Although I have lived all of my life in Nevada experiencing vast views of the land, the sheer immensity of these landscapes makes me second guess my own eyes. As you traverse the valleys on entering or leaving the new monument, you catch the sight of rolling hills in the distance, separating Coal and Garden Valleys -- only to find that as you approach the seemingly small hills quickly grow to dumbfounding proportions and become the sheer cliffs of the Golden Gate Range. And the overwhelming quiet makes this immense landscape magical. Every young person whom I have taken to Basin & Range is always taken aback by how silent the natural world is without humans.

Please see BASIN & RANGE, page 12.

## Raising our sagebrush (&amp; sage grouse) consciousness

BY TINA NAPPE

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, or Not Listed? This month the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) will announce how the Greater Sage Grouse will be listed. In 2010, the USF&WS acknowledged that sage grouse warranted protection and entered into a court settlement with several environmental groups setting September 30, 2015, as a deadline for decision.

This agreement raised angst among federal, state, and commercial public land users. Over the last five years there has been a flurry of activity designed to fend off a listing. Sage grouse have benefited from new partnerships, financial investments, and on-the-ground projects.

**Habitat & history.** Eighty percent of sage grouse habitat is on public lands. Sage grouse management on public lands is complicated by legal rights, historical uses, and the complexity of NEPA. There are livestock grazing permits, wild horse herd management areas, existing mines, mining claims, rights of way, renewable energy, and unfettered recreation.

Private lands, which have most of the water and meadows, are about 20% of sage grouse habitat but 80% of the habitat required by sage grouse chicks. This means that involving key land owners is vital to the future of sage grouse.

In Nevada the primary impacts on sage grouse habitat are low elevation fires, weeds, and pinyon-juniper expansion. Collaboration is the avenue for addressing these three problems.

Historically, sage grouse has been a state-managed species. Former Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar encour-

aged states to retain management by submitting their own plans to include in BLM's EIS.

Governor Sandoval convened a Sagebrush Ecosystem Council in 2012; a viable plan has been completed. The



The sagebrush sparrow, another wild resident of the Sagebrush Steppe. PHOTO: © Dennis Ghiglieri.

Legislature earmarked \$2,000,000 for projects. The plan is as yet untested and assumes that development, at a price, is available throughout core sage grouse habitat.

Public lands in Nevada that have been "protected" for wilderness, national conservation areas, wildlife refuges, and a National Park, usually focus on forests, mountains, spectacular scenery or wetlands. We have not

set aside significant sage grouse habitat, except in the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge.

- What will be the fate of the sage grouse?
- Will (or should) the sage grouse be listed as endangered or threatened? Does the USF&WS have the resources to manage an endangered species?
- Will the USF&WS receive support from states, counties, ranchers, and other users of public lands if the sage grouse is listed?
- If the sage grouse is not listed, will all the commitments drop?

We will know by September 30 -- which unfortunately will be too late for the information to appear in this issue of *Toiyabe Trails*.

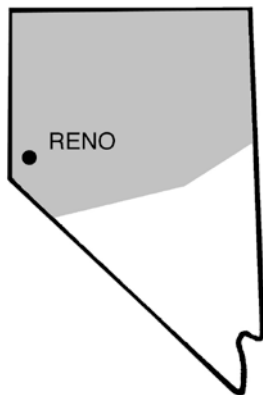
NOTE: Kudos to the environmental organizations and the Endangered Species Act for pinpointing the value of the Sagebrush Steppe, an ecosystem long ignored and abused.



© Erik Holland 2015.



# Great Basin Gatherings



## Great Basin Group

### Message from the Chair

#### A very busy summer!

BY KATY CHRISTENSEN, GROUP CHAIR

In the words of one of our tireless outings leaders, Great Basin Group trails were "smoking with Sierra Club boots" this past summer. The GB Group summer outings program hosted over 75 hikes, including four conditioning evening hikes each week. There were an average of 10 hikers/hike and an average of five miles/hike, which adds up to nearly 1000 participant miles for the quarter.

**More hikes.** Also, the GB Group Outings Meetup site has over 2000 subscribers. To find us and check updates in the outings schedule, go to <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar>.

Over the 4th of July weekend, the GB Group successfully finished its group hike of Nevada's second highest peak, Wheeler Peak (13,064 ft), in Great Basin National Park. All nine who signed up for the hike started and finished without any high altitude problems, including one 68-year-old woman. This was thanks to the technical expertise of Jim Cribari, a Sierra Club member who is an expert in high altitude acclimatization, and to Raleigh Martin, Connie Webb, and Jeanne Kettler, who were the

Sierra Club leaders for the hike.

The end-of-season GB Group picnic, including a short hike, was enjoyed by many members on August 23 at the Galena Creek park. A huge note of gratitude goes to Holly Coughlin and Jim Call for facilitating this event. Thanks also to the members who brought such delicious and diverse fare for the picnic.

**Get Kids Outdoors (GKO) Programs.** The GB Group supports exploration trips for (mostly) elementary school students through grants. The underlying purpose behind the GKO programs is to raise youth awareness of exploring and preserving nature. Today's youth will become the future stewards of our world.

Please see A BUSY SUMMER, page 9.

## Great Basin Peak Section News

### It's time to work on peak lists!

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

FINISHING A PEAK LIST would be easier if there was only one to complete, however, there are many good lists! Every time I cross one peak off of a list, I discover more peaks and lists to pursue.

When non-peak list friends ask, "When will you stop working on peak lists?" I previously said when my knees require me to stop. However, that answer took on a twist after attending the State Highpointers Convention in Sibley, Iowa this summer. The convention was a fun way to meet others who are pursuing the 50 state highpoints ([www.highpointers.org](http://www.highpointers.org)) and those pursuing the 3142 county high



points ([www.cohp.org](http://www.cohp.org)). I spent time with county highpointers locating a number of Iowa and Minnesota's county highpoints in the middle of cornfields or dirt roads.

The Iowa state highpoint, Hawk-eye Point (1670 ft), was a drive to a mosaic plaque and stone marker. A totally different concept than hiking Nevada's Boundary Peak or California's Mount Whitney -- though still a time to connect and share with other peak climbers from all around the country. (See photo on page 9.)

So when will I finish pursuing peaks? After joining the highpointers and discovering the number of "flatter peaks" that one could do even with a walker, my new answer is Never.

How much fun was the convention? I'm signed up for next year in Montana. Hope to see some of you there to join me and the other Great Basin Peaks members who are participating.

### GREAT BASIN GROUP

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Holly Coughlin*	775-331-7488	ladyhiker1@att.net
Vice-Chair	Katy Christensen*	702-755-2267	mabelnv@hotmail.com
Secretary	Sue Jacox*	775-849-1890	suejacox@nvbellnet
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Programs	Charlotte Cox		charcox@charter.net
Webmaster	Peter Johnson	775-250-2576	peter.j.johnson@charter.net

\* 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 1 (THURSDAY) 5:30P**  
**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Get in shape after work with evening conditioning hike of 4-6 mi at brisk pace. gain up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. More info: Meet Up site. Leader: Ridge Walker, Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler. DOK. Mod. Easy.

**OCTOBER 5 (MONDAY) 5:30p**  
**Easy River Walk (one of 11 different Truckee River segments).** Monday evening, after-work walk, optional dining-out afterwards. A 4-6 mi RT covering different 2-3 mi segment of Truckee River. Specific hikes repeated every 11 weeks. In total, 11 segment hikes, covering about 30 mi, span from Floriston, CA to USA Parkway exit (I80 Exit 32)). A 12th segment involves weekend-only hike that spans 7 mi (RT) from end of Quilici Ranch Rd (in Verdi, NV) to Fleish Suspension Bridge 1 mi inside California. After Monday-night hike (105-135 minutes), those interested in eating out nearby get together at restaurant for post-hike fun, food. During winter months, hike starts earlier and attendees bring hiking headlamp. The rest of year, hike starts at 5:30 pm. Refer to Meetup site for specific segment to be hiked, specific start time (<http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/>). Leader: Raleigh Martin (952-905-0822; [raleigh@pobox.com](mailto:raleigh@pobox.com)). Co-Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187; [connie1274@outlook.com](mailto:connie1274@outlook.com)). DOK. Mod. Easy.

**OCTOBER 8 (THURSDAY) 8a**  
**Buckland Station Day Hike.** Near Silver Springs. About 10 mi loop, 0 gain, From Historic Buckland Station downstream along Carson River. Enjoy riparian habitat, fall

leaves. Return on segment of Pony Express Trail. Learn some history. State Park walk-in fee: \$1/person. Option to tour remains of Fort Churchill on your own after hike. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). ND. Moderate.

**OCTOBER 8 (THURSDAY)**  
**6:30-8p**

**Great Basin Group Program Meeting.** Join us for presentation featuring world traveler and geologist, Dick Benoit, who will lead us through a lively tour of his expeditions to Falkland Islands and the Antarctic. Meet: Bartley Ranch building, L side. Leader: Charlotte Cox (775-848-0741). ND. Easy.

**OCTOBER 11 (SUNDAY) TBA**

**Hidden Canyon Day Hike.** A beautiful area in Virginia Mountains, N of Pyramid Lake. Start on narrow canyon that takes us into some beautiful volcanic rock formations and a ridge where we will have expansive views of area. Not on trail, cross-country (x-c). Hike to enjoy our Nevada desert. About 8 mi RT, gain 1500 ft. Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (775-410-1085; [lucrecianature@gmail.com](mailto:lucrecianature@gmail.com)). Co-Leader: Dale Mericle (775-828-4941). DL. Mod. Strenuous.

**OCTOBER 12 (MONDAY) 5:30p**

**Easy River Walk (one of 11 different segments of Truckee River).** Please refer to 10-8 for details on hikes. Check out our Meetup site for specific segment to be hiked, specific start time (<http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/>). Leader: Raleigh Martin (952-905-0822; [raleigh@pobox.com](mailto:raleigh@pobox.com)). Co-Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187; [connie1274@outlook.com](mailto:connie1274@outlook.com)).

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

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

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

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

## Great Programs in the Great Basin

BY CHARLOTTE COX & HOLLY COUGHLIN

**OCTOBER 8 (THURSDAY)**

**PENGUINS GALORE!** Follow along on expedition to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, Weddell Sea and Antarctic Peninsula with world traveler and geologist Dick Benoit as he photographs these extraordinary birds. But wait! There's more: including lots of snow and ice plus other wildlife such as elephant and leopard seals, petrels, albatrosses, and skuas. Presenter: Dick Benoit, a semi-retired geothermal geologist and world traveler who lives in Reno.

**NOVEMBER 12 (THURSDAY)**

**GREAT RIVERS & THE SACRED MOUNTAIN: ACROSS THE HIMALAYAS TO MT. KAILASH.** Tributary headwaters of three of Asia's great rivers -- the

Brahamaputra, the Ganges, and the Indus -- all arise within thirty miles of western Tibet's sacred Mt. Kailash. The rivers then flow in different directions to meet the sea hundreds and hundreds of miles apart. Two huge lakes -- freshwater Lake Manasarovar (the sacred) and saline Rakshash Tal (some say demon-infested) guard the approach to Mt. Kailash. A circumambulation (kora) around Mt. Kailash is a sacred pilgrimage for Tibetan Buddhists, Hindus, followers of the Tibetan indigenous religion, Bon, and also for Jains, drawing pilgrims from throughout Asia.

Hear about Anne Macquarie's 2007 trip in which she joined a group of Buddhist pilgrims in walking across the western Himalayas from Nepal into Tibet, circumambulated Mt. Kailash, then drove for hundreds of miles along the bumpy and dusty roads of Tibet over a 17,000-ft pass and back to Kathmandu. Presenter: Anne Macquarie, a member of the Chapter ExCom, a former back-country search and rescue ranger for the National Park Service, and a former mountaineer who still tries to get out in the mountains every now and again.

If exploring state highpoints interests you, a great resource is Highpoint Adventures: The Complete Guide to the 50 State Highpoints, by Charlie and Diane Winger. Join the GBPS! For details on membership, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports check out Great Basin Peaks Section at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin-peak-outings>.



## A VERY BUSY SUMMER . . .

continued from page 8

Many young participants have never even been to Lake Tahoe, the surrounding mountain and forest areas, or even enjoyed a hike. Exploring nature, learning about the environment, and doing stewardship projects are new experiences for many of them. One girl wrote: "Thank you for having us there [Lake Tahoe] and [helping us] explore nature and learn in fun ways."

Further, the GB ExCom recently determined that the Group will make an annual \$500 donation from the general fund to the Get Kids Outdoors programs. Each outings participant is asked to make a \$1 donation.

Outings donations, which total about \$1000 per year, go primarily toward supporting outings expenses, including training of outings leaders, and other group operational expenses.

A huge note of gratitude goes to Holly Coughlin who last spring took steps to participate, along with Jim Call and Raleigh Martin, in extensive Sierra Club outings leader trainings. Our leaders can now train more outings leaders, hence lowering such expenses. Other fundraisers will be held throughout the year to continue to raise funds for the GKO programs. The grant applications have already started to come in!

**What you can do.** Your support in raising funds for the grants would be greatly appreciated. Donations may be sent to P.O. Box 8096, Reno, NV 89507. Please make checks payable to the Great Basin Group, with a note of "GKO donation."

**Fall GB Group Programs.** Our popular monthly programs are held the second Thursday of the month at Bartley Ranch, and this fall will include a September 10 presentation on drones by Scott Tyler, Ph.D., from the UNR Department of Environmental Science.

The October 8 program will feature world traveler and geologist Dick Benoit, who will lead us through a lively audio-visual presentation of his expeditions to the Falkland Islands and the Antarctic.

On November 11, join our very own Toiyabe Chapter Excom officer and GBG member, Anne Macquarie, as she leads us across the Himalayas to Mt. Kailash in a multimedia talk on the great rivers and the sacred mountain of that region.

**New Programs Chair.** The GBG is thrilled to welcome Charlotte Cox as the new Programs Chair. Charlotte is a retired college teacher who actively enjoys kayaking, cooking, traveling, and practicing permaculture. She has been a member of Sierra Club for 35 years.

**Holiday Social.** Don't miss out on the annual GB Group potluck Christmas Social, December 5, at Bartley Ranch. See details in our Outings Calendar.

GB Group ExCom Monthly Meetings. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm. All members are welcome to attend. For details, please see our Group's Outings Calendar, check our webpage, or contact Katy Christensen at (702.755.2267).

# Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

outlook.com). DOK. Mod. Easy.

### OCTOBER 17 (SATURDAY) 9a

**Spooner Summit Fall Colors 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 RT, up to 1500 ft gain. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055). Co-Leader: Charlotte Cox; Rhonda Jarrett (848-0741; 622-8698). DL. Moderate.

### OCTOBER 18 (SUNDAY) 9a

**Mt. Lola Day Hike.** Trek above 9000 ft in Jeffrey pine forest offering solitude, top-of-the-world views. gain 2600 ft, over 10 mi RT. Participants must be experienced, fit. Expect 5-6 hours on trail. Learn about flora and fauna we encounter. Call or e-mail for details. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Co-Leader: jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). DOK. Mod. Strenuous.

### OCTOBER 19 (MONDAY) 5:30p

**Easy River Walk (one of 11 different segments of Truckee River).** Please refer to 10-8 for information, go to our meetup site for specific segment to be hiked, specific start time (<http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/>). Leader: Raleigh Martin (952-905-0822; roleigh@pobox.com). Co-Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187; connie1274@out-

Laura Newman and Sharon Marie Wilcox. Photo: Gerry Roach.



look.com). Mod. Easy.

### OCTOBER 22 (THURSDAY) 8a

**Machado Post Piles Day Hike.** Fire and ice in Carson Pass area. Existence confirmed in 1990. Hexagonal basalt columns possibly millions of years older than Devil's Postpiles near Mammoth. "Fire" was lava; "ice" was glaciers, evidenced by numerous large erratics, glacial striation. About 5 mi total on in-and-out; 800 ft gain, not on trail. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). ND. Mod. Strenuous.

### OCTOBER 25 (SUNDAY) 8a

**Hike Remarkable Pahsupp Mountain near Gerlach.** This little-visited mountain off Sulphur Rd, E of Gerlach, is a jewel of weird, amusing granite formations. Photo opportunities abound. Mod. easy x-c hike up, around peak, taking in some interesting sights along road at base of mountain. Bring cameras. Optional hot springs soak. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Dorothy Hudig (775-323-4835; hudig@sbcglobal.net). DOK. Mod. Easy.

### OCTOBER 25 (SUNDAY) TBA

**Monkey Condos & Skulls Day Hike.** In our own Red Rocks Area. No need to go to Southern Utah. Enjoy rock formations, junipers, great

views of mountains, and especially Pyramid Lake. Start on roads until we get to Monkey Condos, then x-c. Plan on loop returning on creek bed to join road back to cars. About 8 mi RT, 1500 gain. Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (775-410-1085; lucrecianature@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler (775-843-9828). DL. Mod. Strenuous.

### OCTOBER 26 (MONDAY) 5:30P

**Easy River Walk (one of 11 different segments of Truckee River).** Please refer to 10-8 for information, go to our meetup site for specific segment to be hiked, specific start time (<http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/>). Leader: Raleigh Martin (952-905-0822; roleigh@pobox.com). Co-Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187; connie1274@outlook.com). DOK. Easy.

### OCTOBER 30 (FRIDAY) 8:30a

**Nevada Day Hike.** Come celebrate our State, ourselves, making it through one more year, with traditional peak bag of our local landmark, Peavine Mtn (8300 ft). We'll try to find good route up "backside." About 10 mi, 3300 ft gain. Expect to learn lot about diverse habitats. If lucky, we'll see migrating mule deer, aspens in fall colors. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055). Co-Leaders: Cathy Schmidt; Rhonda Jarrett (240-3785; 622-8698). DL. Mod. Strenuous.

### NOVEMBER 2 (MONDAY) 4:45p

**Easy River Walk (one of 11 different segments of Truckee River).** Please refer to Oct. 8 for information, our meetup site for specific segment to be hiked, specific start time (<http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/>). Leader: Raleigh Martin (952-905-0822; roleigh@pobox.com). Co-Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187; connie1274@outlook.com). DOK. Mod. Easy.

### NOVEMBER 5 (THURSDAY) 8a

**Mt. Davidson (7766 ft) to Virginia City Day Hike.** About 10 mi loop 1700 ft gain. Some off trail; steep, w/brush; strenuous in places. View segment of Comstock era wooden box flume of Virginia City water system. Peak is on Great Basin Peaks Section list. Great views. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). ND. Strenuous.

### NOVEMBER 9 (MONDAY) 4:45p

**Easy River Walk (one of 11 different segments of Truckee River).** Please refer to 10-8 for more information or our meetup site for specific segment to be hiked, specific start time (<http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/>). Leader: Raleigh Martin (952-905-0822; roleigh@pobox.com). Co-Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187; connie1274@outlook.com). DOK. Mod. Easy.

### NOVEMBER 11 (WEDNESDAY) 9a

**Hidden Valley Highland Loop.** Day hike along E skyline of Reno in Hidden Valley Park. Take in "Rd to Nowhere" Peak, Flag Peak, loop back down Pembroke Canyon. About 7 mi, 1550 ft gain. Learn flora, fauna

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 12.

## Table & Currant Mountain Wilderness Areas

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

In July, Larry Dwyer led an exploration in two Nevada wilderness areas to hike two GBPS list peaks.

To hike Table Mountain (10,888 ft), we entered Table Mountain Wilderness area -- which is in the Monitor Range -- from Morgan Creek trailhead. This trail meandered up through the shade of aspen trees to a fence line about 10,000 ft. Here we headed cross-county to the ridge passing through scattered aspen groves with Basque carvings, unusually twisted trees, and a few deer.

Enjoying great views from both sides of the ridgeline, we headed to the cairn (Danville BM). Along the ridge the hedgehog cacti displayed their blooms while a swallow swooped around us. This was a very pleasant and scenic hike with a relaxing break on top to enjoy



Sharon Marie Wilcox, Randy McNatt, and Larry Dwyer on the summit of Currant Mountain.

the 360-degree views.

Leaving Table Mountain, we continued on to Currant Mountain Wilderness in the White Pine Mountains. At Warm Springs on Highway 6, be on the lookout for Bighorn sheep. They are often spotted on the cliffs above the springs or even lounging

around the upper hot springs.

Currant Mountain (11,513 ft) is the highest of the White Pine Range, topping dramatic white limestone cliffs. This hike was substantially more challenging than the leisurely hike on Table Mountain.

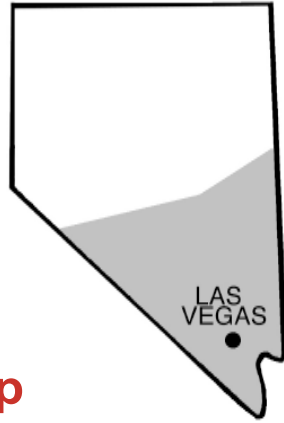
We topped the ridgeline via a steep scree slope through ancient bristlecone pines. As I trudged up this slope I tried

to convince myself how young I was compared to these gnarled trees. Unfortunately, it didn't seem to make the climb any easier. After a breather on the ridge, we followed the rocky ridgeline to the summit of Currant Mountain. The summit had a reference marker, but no register. We took a well-deserved break to re-energize for the steep trip down as well as to relish the views and solitude of another wilderness opportunity in the Great Basin.

Good route information and GPS tracks for both peaks are on [www.Peak-bagger.com](http://www.Peak-bagger.com).



# The Mojave Monitor



## Southern Nevada Group

### Group News

#### Monthly ExCom Meetings

Wednesday, October 21 & Wednesday, November 18

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Sierra Club Office, 2330 Paseo del Prado, Building C, Suite 109, Las Vegas, NV 89102-4336. We meet from 6pm to 8:30pm. There is plenty of free parking around the building. Please join us on October 21 or November 18 (dark in December). We currently have several openings on our leadership team. If you have an interest in local politics, event planning, membership activities or conservation efforts, contact SNG Chair Taj Ainlay for details, tajainlay@aol.com.

#### General Program Meetings

GENERAL MEETINGS & MIXERS are also held at the Sierra Club office unless otherwise noted on the accompanying calendar of events. Please join in our activities on October 15 (A Golden Celebration), October 24 (Get Outdoors Nevada Day), November 10 (New Members Orientation) or December 16 (Holiday Potluck). See details in our Calendar, which begins on this page. We are always happy to have volunteers assist in tabling and event organization.

#### First outing for new ICO partners

BY JEANETTE BUCKLEW

LAS VEGAS ICO is pleased that Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth is a new agency partner. Quarterly outings are being planned on an annual basis with agency youth who live in the residential component of the program.

The first quarterly outing was conducted on June 27, 2015, by Outings Leaders Jeanette Bucklew, Stan Green, and Betty Gallifent, and six agency representatives. The leaders guided 10 young adults,



From center L to R, Betty Gallifent, Jeannette Bucklew, and Stan Green receive Certificates of Commendation from Senator Reid, presented by Vinny Soptelson.

18-21 years of age, on the Mt. Charleston Robber's Roost Trail. The youths were challenged by the elevation and rock scrambling but, as one young woman stated, "I conquered my fears and it was the best day ever."

The young people enjoyed playing in the caves and experiencing connectedness with the earth. A stop at Deer Creek Overlook showed the sharp contrast of desert and mountains. Also, Vinnie Sptelson, a staff member from Senator Reid's office, presented ICO volunteers Certificates of Commendation from Senator Reid for their work with Nevada's

## 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.

A full calendar of our outdoor activities can be found online at [www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada](http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada). You can also visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sierraclub.sng](http://www.facebook.com/sierraclub.sng), and please "like" our page.

#### OCTOBER 3 (SATURDAY)

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

#### OCTOBER 3-4 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

**Discover Gold Butte.** Camping optional. See description for distances; mod. strenuous. Guest host, Jim Boone, will take us on weekend tour of fascinating Gold Butte area, including hiking, sightseeing. Saturday: Devil's Throat, Gold Butte Townsite; hiking in Lime Canyon (2 mi), Little Finland (1 mi). Campers stay at Little Finland, hotelers drive to Mesquite. Sunday: Reunite at Whitney Pocket, visit CCC Dam, then Falling Man petroglyph site. Hike to 21 Goats petroglyph site, historic Black Butte Dam (2.8 mi). What happened to ranchers? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com). Level 3.

#### OCTOBER 9-11 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

**Backpacking Hanaupah Canyon or Johnson Canyon, Death Valley National Park.** Destination dependent upon road and water re-

ports. About 6 mi driving, 3-4 mi backpacking, about 1300 ft gain for Hanaupah, 1500 ft for Johnson; moderate difficulty. Good physical condition required. Hike and camp in canyon on E side of Panamints with flowing water and trees, dense vegetation -- possibly jungle-like. Begin at Furnace Creek Visitor Center to pick up permit. Drive to West Side Road, turn onto Hanaupah or Johnson Canyon Rd (high clearance vehicles required), then backpack on primitive road. Water available at campsite (2 nights). Campsite at 3500 ft for Hanaupah and 4000 ft for Johnson. How does elevation affect climate? Limit 10, RSVP required. Leader: David Hardy (702-875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com). Level 3.

#### OCTOBER 12 (MONDAY)

**The Muffins, Red Rock Canyon NCA.** About 5 mi RT, 1000 ft gain, mod. strenuous. Muffins, composed of Triassic conglomerate, are on N end of Blue Diamond Hill. They represent channels cut into exposed sea bed 250 million years ago. Take gentle switch-back trail to Muffins, then go E to fabulous overlook of Las Vegas, then back down Skull Canyon Trail. What is environment of deposition of conglomerate? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049). Level 3½.

#### OCTOBER 15 (THURSDAY)

**A Golden Celebration!** We look forward to

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP			
OFFICERS			
Chair	Taj Ainlay*	702-906-5741	tajainlay@aol.com
Vice-Chair	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Secretary	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer	Desiree Saporito	702-875-2668	
At Large	Open		
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*	702-906-5741	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*	702-906-5741	tajainlay@aol.com
Publicity	Open		
Transportation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer	Taj Ainlay*	702-906-5741	tajainlay@aol.com
Webmaster	Brian Fadie*	702-265-2644	brianfadie@gmail.com

\* ExCom member

**LAS VEGAS ICO** Inspiring Connections Outdoors

## ANNUAL FRIENDRAISER

**Friday, November 6th, 2015**  
6:00pm-8:00pm

Las Vegas Bridge World Club  
5580 W Flamingo Road Suite 101  
Near Lindell : Look for the green balloons!

- Meet & Greet
- Wine Bar
- Complimentary Dinner By Chef Michael Jones

Find out how you can help bring urban youth into the outdoors

- Raffle
- Silent Auction
- "In Good Company" Jazz Standards

Like us on Facebook: Las Vegas ICO

youth. The day concluded with a visit to the new Mt. Charleston Visitor Gateway, where the youths learned about the Cold War secret plane crash and the Paiute heritage of the area, as well as seeing the ancient amphitheater.



## S. Nevada Group CALENDAR

continued from page 10

welcoming members and friends at Las Vegas Springs Preserve for this special event to commemorate 50 Years in Southern Nevada. Starting at 6pm, there will be cocktails on the veranda, a four-course dinner, live entertainment, honored guests, awards, a special message from Washington, D.C., and commemorative gifts for all who attend. Reservations can be made online at [www.sierraclub50.com](http://www.sierraclub50.com) or email [sierraclub50@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclub50@gmail.com) for more information.

### OCTOBER 24 (SATURDAY)

**Get Outdoors Nevada Day.** Recreation enthusiasts will gather to celebrate the spirit and opportunities the Mojave 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 again this year, so please stop by our booth at Sunset Park, 2601 East Sunset Road, Las Vegas, NV 89120. Event hours are from 9am to 2pm. Info: [www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/day/](http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/day/).

### NOVEMBER 6 (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. For additional information, contact [lasveg-asico702@gmail.com](mailto:lasveg-asico702@gmail.com).

### NOVEMBER 7 (SATURDAY)

**Magnesite Wash, Valley of Fire.** About 5-6 mi, easy going hike, off trail, some easy scrambling. Walk through beautiful sandstone formations while looking for rock art, fossils. What animals inhabit this area? Full day hike, so bring water, lunch. Leader: Bill Marr (702-433-0743). DOK. Level 3.

### NOVEMBER 9 (MONDAY)

**Gateway Canyon, Red Rock Canyon NCA.** About 3 mi RT; strenuous. Wilderness hike around Kraft Mountain in Calico Basin. Gateway Canyon is known for interesting sandstone features, including measles-like iron concretions, slump features. Start by climbing saddle (Five Stop Hill) that is a fault zone. How can you tell it is a fault? Leader: geologist Nick Saines ([greatunc@aol.com](mailto:greatunc@aol.com), 702-896-4049). Level 4.

### NOVEMBER 10 (TUESDAY)

**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, starting from 6:30pm at the Sierra Club Office. Light refreshments will be served. Info: [tajainlay@aol.com](mailto:tajainlay@aol.com).

### NOVEMBER 14 (SATURDAY)

**Top of LaMadre Ridge, Red Rock Canyon NCA.** About 6 mi; moderate to strenuous. Rapid elevation gain, requires climbing small cliff face. Hike up to LaMadre Spring Reservoir, then continue along bubbling brook which provides riparian ecozone in contrast to arid surrounding landscape. Here riparian vegetation thrives along margin. What are margins? Leader: Sas-son Jahan (702-499-9218). Level 4-5.

### DECEMBER 5 (SATURDAY)

**Red Stone Badlands, Lake Mead NRA (N Pinto Valley off Northshore Rd).** About 5-6 mi, easy going hike, off trail, some light scrambling. Hike through very colorful rock formations, possible rock art, fossils. What are sources of water in this area? Full day hike, so bring water, lunch. Dogs OK. Leader: Bill Marr (702-433-0743). Level 3.

### DECEMBER 12-13 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

**Mojave National Preserve, Amboy Crater, California.** Join geologist Nick Saines, biologist and outdoorsman, Jim Boone, guest host, on weekend hiking tour of rugged Mojave Preserve, including visits to lava tube, Kelso Station, Kelso Dunes. Saturday night, stay in motel in Ludlow; Sunday, climb up into Amboy Crater and volcano. Then on to Hole-in-the-Wall, Mojave Road historic trail, Cima Dome. Leader: Nick Saines [greatunc@aol.com](mailto:greatunc@aol.com), 702-896-4049). Level 3.

### DECEMBER 16 (WEDNESDAY)

**Holiday Potluck Mixer.** It's time for our annual holiday celebration! Come enjoy great food and fellowship at the Sierra Club office. Parking in the northwest corner of The Plazas Business Park gives you immediate access. Potluck items are welcome and appreciated. Bring along your favorite dishes and drinks to share. Time: 6pm to 9pm. Info: [tajainlay@aol.com](mailto:tajainlay@aol.com).

### DECEMBER 21 (MONDAY)

**Red Spring Thrust Fault Loop, Red Rock Canyon NCA.** About 3 mi RT, 500 ft gain, mod. strenuous. Hike to Red Spring Thrust Fault, part of Keystone Thrust System, by way of Turtlehead Peak Trail. See interesting petroglyphs, hike through beautiful sandstone terrain, including little slot canyon. How do we recognize fault in field? Leader: geologist Nick Saines ([greatunc@aol.com](mailto:greatunc@aol.com), 702-896-4049). Level 3.

### JANUARY 1, 2016 (FRIDAY)

**Hangover Hike, Red Rock Canyon NCA.** 3 mi RT, 400 ft gain, moderately strenuous. Start New Year right by joining your fellow hikers on our traditional to Calico Tanks in Red Rock Canyon. This is one of most popular hikes in Red Rock for its colorful rocks, scenic views. What is a *tinaja*? How does it form? Leader: geologist Nick Saines ([greatunc@aol.com](mailto:greatunc@aol.com), 702-896-4049). Level 3.

## ICO youth enjoy a cool day in the bristlecones

BY BARBARA GERHARDT

On June 25, 2015, Las Vegas was experiencing its first heat wave of the summer. On that day, 12 young adults -- aged 10-12 -- from Helen Meyer Community Center were grateful to be leaving the valley for the cooler temperatures of Lee Canyon with Las Vegas ICO.

On the way to our destination, Upper Bristlecone trailhead, we were thrilled to see a number of horses in a lower meadow. This was an auspicious beginning to what would be a great day in the mountains. Participants enjoyed walking in the cool shade of the aspen trees as we gradually made our ascent.



Young hiker conquering her fears.

Discussion of carving names and initials in the bark of aspen trees became a teachable moment as I explained that in the past this was considered by many an acceptable behavior. The youth responded, "No way, it makes the tree look ugly." I smiled and thought to myself, "Yep, that is the type of thinking ICO wants to encourage and instill."

As we walked, several visits from swallowtail and monarch butterflies

were pleasant surprises. At the first major plateau, our lunch stop, participants delighted in Co-Leader Jackie Todd's "world famous" chicken burritos. During lunch a sighting of a hawk or eagle high in the thermals got kids up and reaching for binoculars.

We then talked about the different ways of identifying species of trees. Participants explored and compared the needle structure of bristlecone pines and other conifers. As we began our drive back, there were more horses near the road bidding us farewell. It may have only been a brief relief from the early summer heat, but it was one we all enjoyed.



Sighting a hawk far above.



LVICO participants at Upper Bristlecone Trail.

**DEADLINE!**  
**DECEMBER 1**



FOR  
JAN-FEB-MAR ISSUE

## Laguna Beach break

BY NICK SAINES

FOUR SIERRA CLUB DESERT RATS took a mid-summer beach break at the end of July and went to Laguna Beach. We walked in Heisler Park, Montage Beach, and along the Main Beach. We visited the art museum and the Pageant of the Masters, and ate at seaside restaurants. We watched the sun set over the Pacific and composed a little poem as we did.



Edwina LaBreque, Nick Saines, Mike Gottesman, and Holly Highfill in Heisler Park, Laguna Beach, CA.



of Virginia Range. May see wild mustangs, golden eagles, prickly pondeirosas, pinyon pine, jostling junipers. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055). Co-Leaders: Tena Maximoff; Rhonda Jarrett (741-2416; 622-8698). DL. Moderate.

**NOVEMBER 11 (WEDNESDAY) 9a**  
**Lahontan Reservoir Veteran's Day Hike.** Near Silver Springs. Enjoy silence, stark beauty along shoreline. About 6 mi total in-and-out, nearly zero gain. View Tufa formations. Reported location of "Mark Twain" hotel described in flood of Carson River. Bring your U.S. flag. State Park fee: 1\$ cash. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). ND. Mod. Easy.

**NOVEMBER 12 (THURSDAY) 7:30-8p**  
**Great Basin Group Program Meeting.** Join us for presentation by our very own Anne Macquarie, Toiyabe Chapter ExCom officer, GBG member, as she leads us across Himmayas to Mt. Kailash. Meet: Bartley Ranch main building, to R. Leader: Charlotte Cox (775-848-0741). ND. Easy.

**NOVEMBER 14 (SATURDAY) TBA**  
**Pah-Rum Peak (7608 ft) Day Hike.** High point of Fox Range, just N of Pyramid Lake, has great views of Pyramid and both Smoke Creek, Black Rock Deserts. In BLM designated Wilderness Study Area (WSA), so we'll discuss its current status and prospects for Wilderness designation. About 6 mi RT, over 2600 ft gain. Note: Significant snow accumulation and/or weather could modify our plans. Contact leader for details. Leader: Larry Dwyer (775-745-6628; kdwyer31@charter.net). Co-Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (775-410-1085; lucrecianature@gmail.com). ND. Mod. Strenuous.

**NOVEMBER 15 (SUNDAY) 9:45a**  
**Incandescent Rocks Day Hike.** View colorful rock formations, including balancing rocks, as we trek to ridge line in Virginia Mountains. About 5-6 mi, but 1800 ft gain, some off-trail, which is more difficult. This is an area we believe should be protected. Bad weather cancels. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). DOK. Mod. Strenuous.

## Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 9

**NOVEMBER 16 (MONDAY) 4:45p**

**Easy River Walk (one of 11 different segments of Truckee River).** Easy River Walk is Mon. eve. walk that is 4-6 mi RT of Truckee River. 11 segment hikes in total spanning 30-40 mi. After hike those interested in eating out nearby get together for post-hike fun and food. During winter months, hike starts earlier and attendees bring hiking headlamp. Usually it starts at 5:30 pm. Refer to Meetup for specifics (<http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/>). Leader: Roleigh Martin (9529050822; roleigh@pobox.com). Co-Leader: Connie Webb (7757724187; connie1274@outlook.com). DOK. Mod. Easy.



Emigrant Lake Day Hike, Aug. 22, 2015. Photo: Holly Coughlin.

**NOVEMBER 26-29 (THURSDAY-SUNDAY) 8a**  
**Explore Nevada's Newest National Monument (Basin & Range NM).** Tour our newest national monument in S. Nevada. At 700,000 acres, Basin & Range National Monument highlights basin and range topography with dry dusty valleys, rocky, wooded ridges. Archaeological sites and City landscape-scale "art" of Michael Heizer are preserved here. Tour mostly by vehicle, with some hiking. Primitive camping sites with no amenities. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461;

vonsegl@sbcglobal.net). DOK. Mod. Easy.

**NOVEMBER 28 (SATURDAY) 8:30a**

**Relay Peak Snowshoe or Day Hike.** Start at Mt Rose Peak Summit on Route 431. About 10.5 mi RT. Starting at 8900 ft, peak is 10,338 ft and is highest point of TRT. View at top is magnificent. In NW direction, see a large part of Mt. Wilderness, Truckee, Donner Lake, and Castle

Peak in distance, as well as spectacular views of Lake Tahoe. Scenery on trail is outstanding. Wear good hiking boots, carry plenty of water, plan lunch at top. Leader: Gail Myatt (775-750-1293; gailmyatt@hotmail.com). Co-Leader: Bill Myatt (775-233-3186; bill.myatt@gmail.com). DL. Strenuous.

**DECEMBER 3 (THURSDAY) 8a**  
**Churchill Butte Day Hike.** Near Silver Springs, the Butte overlooks historic Ft. Churchill, parts of emigrant wagon route, ancient and modern Lake Lahontan, Pony Express Trail, Lincoln Hwy. Learn some history. About 10 mi, 2200 ft gain. Parts of route are off trail with steep descents. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). ND. Mod. Strenuous.

**DECEMBER 5 (SATURDAY) 6:30-9P**  
**Great Basin Group Holiday Party.** Join us for a merry evening to celebrate another great year of Outings, Programs, Getting Kids Outdoors (GKO), all other events we've been involved with. Bring potluck dish to share, BYOB. Party is in Bartley Ranch main building. Bring a friend to share in the fun! We can use a hand with set-up, clean-up, and to greet folks; please contact Charlotte to help. ND. Leader: Charlotte Cox (775-848-0741). Easy.

**DECEMBER 6 (SUNDAY)**  
**Petersen Mountain (7841 ft) Day Hike.** Enjoy panoramic views from high point of Petersen Mountain Range straddling California-Nevada border just N of Reno. Peak is on Great Basin Peaks list (#86), provides full-blown wilderness experience within minutes of downtown Reno. Learn how this area may be candidate for Wilderness designation, what Friends of Nevada Wilderness is doing to make that happen, what you can do to help. Note: Significant snow accumulation and/or weather could modify our plans. Contact leader for details. Leader: Larry Dwyer (775-745-6628; kdwyer31@charter.net). Co-Leader: Cathy Schmidt (cschmidt120@gmail.com). ND. Mod. Strenuous.

**DECEMBER 12 (SATURDAY) 10a**  
**Skunk Harbor Snowshoe.** Join us for snowshoe trek to scenic harbor, historic house on Lake Tahoe. About 4 mi RT, 800-1000 ft gain. Parking limited. so we'll carpool to trail head. Bring plenty of water, gear, cloth-

ing for conditions. Bad weather for day will cancel; we'll reschedule. Leader: Gail Myatt (775-750-1293; gailmyatt@hotmail.com). Co-Leader: Bill Myatt (775-233-3186). DL. Mod. Strenuous.

**DECEMBER 13 (SUNDAY) 9:45a**  
**Hidden Valley Highland Loop.** Fantastic views of Truckee Meadows as we hike up to ridge line above Hidden Valley. About 6 mi, 1800 ft gain. Bring lunch to enjoy near half-way point. Observe Pinyon Pine, interesting rock formations, possible wild horses. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). DOK. Mod. Strenuous.

**DECEMBER 17 (THURSDAY) 8a**  
**Carson River Railroads Day Hike.** The railroads are near Mound House. About 9 mi one way, vehicle shuttle. Gain 500 ft. Along very scenic Carson River, wildlife sightings are possible, remains of two Comstock era railroads. Parts are off-trail. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). DL. Mod. Strenuous.

## BASIN & RANGE . . .

continued from page 7

The Sierra Club's Our Wild America campaign worked hard in Las Vegas to secure Basin & Range. In spite of the success we enjoyed, the work of the Sierra Club is never done, as we fight the interests and entities that would like to see every corner of this planet developed.

The next effort for a national monument in Nevada, one already long sought by our friends and members is Gold Butte. This BLM area northeast of Las Vegas, south of Mesquite, even has two small wilderness areas, but the entire 350,000 acre area needs protection. This iconic landscape of transition between the Sonoran, Mojave, and Great Basin Deserts will be the Our Wild America focus in Nevada from now until the end of the Obama administration.

The fight to protect Gold Butte will not be easy as we have some very vocal opponents. Even as we continue to celebrate the exciting Basin & Range designation, we'll call on your help to keep Gold Butte wild!



Show your true colors and help support Sierra Club.  
**Join now!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

YES, I would like to give a gift membership to:  
 Gift Recipient \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.  
 Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX  
 Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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

**Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meetings**

**Saturday, 9am**  
**October 17, 2015**  
**RENO, NV**

For details, contact the Chair,  
**DAVID VON SEGGERN**  
 vonsegl@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.