



EXPLORE, ENJOY, & PROTECT THE PLANET.

# TOIYABE TRAILS

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2017

FALL ELECTION ISSUE

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

## We're all connected!

BY BRIAN BEFFORT, CHAPTER DIRECTOR

IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, President Trump announced his administration would cancel the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), throwing more than 700,000 "Dreamers"—immigrants who have grown up as Americans despite their unofficial status—into uncertainty.

Shortly thereafter, Michael Brune, the Sierra Club's Executive Director, released the following statement:

"Trump's mean-spirited decision to terminate DACA endangers the safety of hundreds of thousands of our friends, family members, and neighbors. These are young people who came to the United States with a dream to make a better life, and they are making our country better as a result."

After reading this, you might be thinking, "What does this have to do with the Sierra Club?" For an organization founded by John Muir to save the iconic landscapes of the American West, Brune's words might suggest the Club has lost track of our core mission to protect the environment.

Brune's statement, however, reflects the great strides forward the Sierra Club has experienced in its 125-year history. The Club's early battles consisted of

Please see WE'RE ALL CONNECTED, page 2.

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Try the . . .

Chapter website

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

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Toiyabe Chapter's Range of Light Group has just celebrated its 25th anniversary of helping to "explore, enjoy, and protect" California's Inyo and Mono counties. Please see article and photos on pages 7 and 8. Photo: Joanne Hihn.

## Possible futures of the water grab in Nevada

BY ROSE STRICKLAND, WATER CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR FOR TOIYABE CHAPTER

On August 23, 2017, federal district court Judge Andrew Gordon issued a ruling (see [http://greatbasinwaternet.org/doc/2017-8-24\\_order\\_fed.pdf](http://greatbasinwaternet.org/doc/2017-8-24_order_fed.pdf)) on a legal challenge to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) written by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on the 300-mile water pipeline project proposed by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). The courtroom in Las Vegas where the judge heard oral arguments last July was crowded with opponents, including rural county commissioners and ranchers, tribal reps, and conservation groups, including Great Basin Water Network, Sierra Club, and Center for Biological Diversity.

The judge prefaced his ruling with this statement: "I am sensitive to the strong feelings and weighty interests at stake in this case . . . there can be no question that drawing this much water from these desert aquifers will harm the ecosystem and impact cultural sites that are important to our citizens. On the other hand, southern Nevada faces an intractable water shortage."

He then went on to state that he could only review the legal mandates behind BLM's decision to grant SNWA a Right-of-Way (ROW) for the pipeline. The decision? BLM could grant the ROW across public lands for the pipeline, but first it has to address plans to mitigate the potential losses of wildlife habitat, including tens of thousands of acres of wetlands and desert springs which would be dewatered from SNWA's groundwater pumping.

Prior rulings in state district court have found the Nevada State Engineer's decisions and actions to be in violation of due process requirements as well as arbitrary and capricious under Nevada water law. Therefore, SNWA currently not only lacks a ROW for or permission to build its proposed pipeline, but it also

lacks the over 84,000 acre feet in illegally approved water rights to convey to Southern Nevada.

The State Engineer has scheduled a two-week hearing this fall in response to the latest state district court order ordering him to specify how environmental impacts as well as takings of senior water rights will be avoided, managed, and mitigated. SNWA is now stating publicly that it has no need for the E. Nevada water until at least 2035, and continues to issue will-serve letters to new residential and commercial developments (<http://mesquitelocalnews.com/2017/08/judge-orders-studies-water-grab/>).

### Other solutions to SNWA's water grab

Opponents question whether SNWA will be able to afford the pipeline project without pushing increases in So. Nevada water rates to raise \$15.7 billion (in 2009 dollars) in construction and lending costs. In the meantime, SNWA has just spent \$7.5 million in a deal with Mexico and other western states that will net up to 54,500 acre feet of other Colorado

Please see WATER GRAB, page 5.

## WANTED:

### Candidates for Toiyabe Chapter Executive Committee

IF YOU'D LIKE TO FIND OUT ABOUT running for the Chapter ExCom, contact David von Seggern ([vonsegl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vonsegl@sbcglobal.net), 775 303-8461) by October 15.

### Toiyabe Chapter 2017 ExCom election schedule

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

PER TOIYABE CHAPTER BYLAWS, the Toiyabe Chapter Election Schedule for 2017 is:

**Oct. 1:** Publication of this schedule in *Toiyabe Trails*

**Oct. 28:** Close window for nominations; Nominating Committee submits report of candidates

**Nov. 1:** Executive Committee approves slate of Chapter candidates via email vote

**Nov. 11:** Deadline for candidate petitions to be submitted to Election Committee

**Nov. 23:** Election postcard materials sent to printer by Elections Committee

**Nov. 27:** Retrieve election ballot mailing list from national database and forward to printer

**Dec. 1:** Mail electronic ballot link and instructions on postcard to Chapter elections mailing list

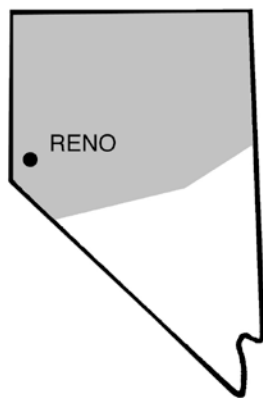
**Dec. 30:** Closing date for acceptance of electronic ballots and paper ballots at Chapter P.O. Box

**Jan. 2:** Vote count — electronic and paper

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# Great Basin Gatherings



## Great Basin Group

### GB Group News

BY KATY CHRISTENSON

**Get ACTIVE in Great Basin.** An Activism session, 6:15-7pm, will be held prior to each of the monthly GBG program meetings at the Bartley Ranch Center. The September 14 Activism Session focused on the clean energy movement in Reno and participants filled out postcards for mailings to legislators. Stay active and keep the dialogue moving!

**Great Basin Group Annual Members Picnic, August 27.** The annual GBG members annual picnic was a huge success! About 50 members attended, and over \$400 was raised for the GBG's Get Kids Outdoors grant programs. It was held at the spacious Galena Creek Park Bearmat group picnic site, and a beautiful afternoon was enjoyed by all, accented by the delightful music provided by the Little City String Band. A special THANK YOU to Charlotte Cox and Sue Jacox for all their planning efforts.

**Great Basin Group Outings.** The GBG outings program continues to roll along as one of the group's best ways to reach the greater community of Northern Nevada. The group's 30 outings leaders posted and led 99 outings from June through August 2017,

getting 952 members of the community outdoors.

Five new outings leaders have graciously joined the Great Basin Group this summer, offering to volunteer their time and lead outings for the group: Katrina Hedlesky, Justin Johnson, Lana Mason-Olson, Sophia Johnson, and Jeannie Drabek.

The mid-week after-work hikes offered by our group's outings leaders are truly the GBG's most popular hikes. Attendance ranges from 10 to 20 hikers per weekly outing. These hikes offer a rich diversity of experiences suitable for beginner to advanced hikers. The outings leaders of these hikes have a wide range of experience, offering insight on conservation efforts that have been initiated through past decades in the region, sharing hiking routes that are both published and unpublished, and offering up knowledge of the local flora and fauna.

**Of special note.** The last ski tour led by the GBG for the 2016-17 ski season was on June 17, 2017, in the Carson Range. Hikers did not carry skis this summer over any parts of the trail. It was a HISTORIC SUMMER HIKING SEASON!

GBG also led two summer outings in the Black Rock Desert; a popular destination for hot springs, desert, and astronomy enthusiasts.

The GBG motto is "We Get YOU Outdoors." GBG adventures meet all abilities and interests. Join us by checking websites: <[http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-](http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno)



Late summer GBG hikers encountered huge snow drifts, creating unprecedented challenges!

## WE'RE ALL CONNECTED...

continued from page 1

fighting large-scale development and resource extraction that threatened treasured landscapes and rivers. Today, these challenges haven't gone away, and they have been joined by myriad toxic chemicals in our air, food, and water; by urban development, sprawl, indoor air quality, access to food and natural areas; by the siting of industry and highways in poorer communities; and by the numerous ravages of a changing climate.

As you have probably read, disenfranchised people and communities of color feel the greatest brunt of pollution, climate change, and other environmen-

tal ills. They cannot afford the energy to protect themselves from heat waves and storms, or the travel to escape them. They are also more likely to live in food deserts, park deserts and downwind from industrial pollution.

On the other side of that coin, the moneyed, "good-old-boy" corporate industrialists who are profiting by polluting the masses are the same people who have hijacked our democracy by dividing us all along lines of race, sex, color, religion, and political party.

It's all connected. Our crippled politics are simply a reflection of our crippled environment, and vice versa. Luckily, we can heal both by standing up to

## GB Group PROGRAM MEETINGS

All program meetings held 2nd Thursday of the month

### Activism Hour (new!)

Before each program at 6p, come hear/share info about local/state/federal issues of importance to Sierra Club and take some action. Specific topics will be announced prior to program. Social time: 6:30p (with refreshments). Program: 7p. Place: Bartley Ranch, Western Interpretive Center, Reno. Info: Charlotte Cox (775-848-0741).

### OCTOBER 12

**"What is Sustainability?" with John Sagebiel.** With some calling into question the word "sustainability" and even the concept, maybe it's time to consider what it really means and how a university can demonstrate its values and assess its performance. John C. Sagebiel, PhD, is the assistant director for environmental programs in Environmental Health and Safety, part of Research & Innovation at the University of Nevada, Reno, and has an extensive background in air pollution and sustainability. Sagebiel is chair of the University's Sustainability Committee, lives in a zero-net energy home and drives an electric car.

### NOVEMBER 9

**"Tahoe Pyramid Bikeway" with Janet Phillips.** Janet will show slides of the 2017 trail construction done by the Bikeway near Floriston, and plans for completion of the trail in 2018. If successful, it will complete the connection along the Truckee River from Tahoe to Reno.

### SAVE THE DATE! DECEMBER 9

**Holiday Party.** Details coming.

*Club-Hiking-Reno* and <<http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin>>.

**GBG Monthly Programs.** The GBG hosts 7p monthly programs at the Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Center on the second Thursday, with a social hour beginning at 6:30p. A pre-program ACTIVISM session will begin at 6:15p. Please see outings websites and this page for more details.

**GBG monthly ExCom meetings.** These are held the first Tuesday at 5:30p at the Swill. All are welcome!

## 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](mailto: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 (760-937-3620); [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. (See Chapter address in first paragraph, above.)

**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 a Group Membership Chair (see directories on pages 4, 8, and 10) 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 online at <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>) or the Sierra Club Information Center in San Francisco (415-977-5653). Also, see group pages for website addresses of groups.

injustice wherever it occurs, by helping the disenfranchised find their political power, by involving them in creating a healthier, more humane economy based on environmental, social, and economic justice. And given the enormity of the challenges we face, to change everything, we are going to need everyone.

Because, as Muir famously wrote, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." Our challenge is to find a path that connects us to everything else, especially our own humanity, to heal our politics, our economies, and our planet. Brune's statement on DACA is an attempt to do just that.

## Picnic supports “Get Kids Outdoors”

BY SUE JACOX, SUEJACOX@NVBELL.NET

Thank you, Sierra Club friends, for valuing and supporting our “Get Kids Outdoors” campaign. About 50 members enjoyed our annual summer picnic at Galena Creek on August 27 and donated over \$400 to help local children connect with the outdoors. Each year we are able to send more classes of children on field studies both to enjoy the natural world and to gain a better understanding of how natural systems function.

“We need the younger generation to take over,” declared Rose Strickland at the picnic, when congratulated on a recent hard-fought court victory to protect Nevada water and wetlands and the wildlife they support. The first step in getting kids to follow in her footsteps and those of our other dedicated Sierra Club conservation volunteers is to

awaken their love of nature and provide opportunities for children to develop their environmental literacy and their sense of stewardship.

As Rex Burkholder, leader of the successful legislative campaign to extend outdoor school to all Oregon middle school students wrote, “Our ability to solve present and future environmental crises, such as changing climate, the loss of plant and animal species, food insecurity, water resource depletion and soil degradation, all depend upon immersing our children in nature and giving them the tools to understand the forces that govern this planet.”

Donations to our “Get Kids Outdoors” fund were rewarded with raffle tickets so that each donor had



Katy and Helaine with GKO materials at picnic.

chances to win fun prizes provided by our ExCom members and friends. Little City String Band inspired toe tapping, singing along, and even some dancing with a lively line up of bluegrass and popular tunes. As always, pot luck offerings of members were delicious and charcoal was provided for barbecuing. A little cloud cover and the shade of the Jeffrey pines made for such a pleasant late summer gathering that we can't wait to do it all over again next summer.

## A Great Basin exploration: Confusion Hills/Andesite Ridge

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

Our Sierra Club outing departed Reno on June 23rd for another hiking adventure. The destination, Confusion Hills in Nye County, Nevada, is a proposed “lands with wilderness characteristics” site. This trip provided an opportunity to explore more Great Basin public lands. A lunch stop was planned at the Mizpah Hotel in Tonopah to meet other group members driving from different locations.

As we drove along Walker Lake we

spotted a herd of 25 bighorn sheep. This close encounter with our designated state mammal prompted us to wildly snap photos. The bighorn didn't seem bothered and leisurely munched the vegetation until we got too close for their comfort.

At the Mizpah a trip bonus involved lunch with Robin and Fred Holabird, who were at the hotel promoting Robin's new book, *Elvis, Marilyn, & the Space Aliens*. This seemed an appropriate title as we were heading past the Extraterrestrial Highway (Hwy 375) and camping near an area of claimed UFO sightings.

After lunch, we continued to Confusion Hills and near Warm Springs spotted another large herd of bighorn bheep. Warm Springs sits at the junction for NV Highway 375 and bighorns are often spotted here.

The route to our campsite near Andesite Ridge wound through interesting geology, wildflowers, pronghorn, and wild horses. Our group set up camp and had ample time to savor the desert solitude. We



Kirk Petersen (front; then from left), Vic Henney, Deborah Stevenson, Larry Grant, Larry Dwyer, Sue Wyman, Ron Moe. Photo: Sharon Marie Wilcox.

## Great Basin Group Outings News

By Daniel Ellsworth

### Part 1: Winter is Coming



By the time that you have this article in your hands it will be the early days of autumn. Most of your backpacking trips for the year will be behind you, and you are probably thinking of fall color hikes and Oktoberfest celebrations. Another thing you might want to consider thinking about doing if you plan on exploring this winter is start looking for deals on ski equipment, a season pass at a ski resort (only to get skilled at skiing), and an avalanche education provider (to safely enter the alpine winter environment with a small group — such as the Sierra Club).

For the sake of convenience, look at a nearby resort for beginning your career as a skier -- this helps you spend more time at the resort getting experience, instead of on the road to the resort during short winter days. Mount Rose and Northstar have fit this role for many years and have several programs available for all skill levels. Northstar also has a Nordic center if you don't aspire to being a downhill skier. Parents, don't overlook the Sky Tavern Junior Ski Program -- start 'em when they're young.

Okay, you've been skiing at a resort for a season or more and every time you're on a lift ride you look across the highway at all of the great ski terrain and wonder “how do I depart the sweaty masses of humanity at the resort and get over to that and ski?”

First, you should now consider an avalanche safety course. Skip the 2-hour seminars on snow safety — they're just going to tell you what you don't know. Make a beeline for a quality “Level 1: Avalanche Fundamentals” course as defined by the American Avalanche Association. The National Ski Patrol and the American Institute for Avalanche Research & Education provide excellent Level 1 courses in the region.

Search for local classes online now and reserve a spot, because classes do fill up. You have your resort experience, your avalanche safety education, and your gear. Now you are ready for your winter ski adventures to begin! Watch our outings sites for Sierra Club winter outings.

### Part 2: General Outings Info

The Great Basin Group publishes all of its outings online. There are two primary sites, be sure to watch both of them, since some outings leaders post to one and not the other; and other outings leaders post to both.

The majority of outings are posted on our Meetup site: <https://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/>

Many additional outings are posted exclusively on the Great Basin Group website calendar here: <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin/outings-and-events>.

Are you an experienced hiker, trail runner, kayaker, bicyclist, rock climber, skier? Do you believe in the Sierra Club mission? Would you be delighted to share your experience with others? If so, consider becoming an outings leader for the Great Basin Group. Contact Daniel Ellsworth for more details: [danomike@yahoo.com](mailto:danomike@yahoo.com), 775.741.8384.

### Part 3: Mountain Hub

I beta tested this new app last season. I have to say that I'm impressed with its potential to really assist with outdoor trip planning and conditions reporting (critical components for outdoor adventuring). Try it out, it's free. Here is their story: “Mountain Hub is a community-fueled app for the outdoors. Join thousands of outdoor professionals and enthusiasts across the globe in a quest to share the greatest adventures in your backyard and beyond. Get updates about current conditions and adventures from users like you. Empower your outdoor experience with useful tools like maps and route tracking. Share your knowledge and experience with our global community.”

slept under an amazing display of stars with serenading coyotes.

Our morning hike to the Andesite Ridge Highpoint began on a jeep road, then veered up towards the ridge near a spring. Unfortunately, the spring was totally trampled by horses. This pleasant hike wove through low sage and pinyon-juniper forest. The day's temperature required a few stops in juniper shade as we followed the ridgeline over a few bumps to the 8044 ft high point. Our leisurely lunch included views, photos, naps, and relishing the cooler elevation before we descended to hotter temperatures at camp.

The day concluded with a yummy pot-luck dinner followed by an evening sing-a-long to Sue's guitar playing. Thanks to Larry Dwyer for another memorable exploration in the Great Basin.

## BOOKSHELF...

continued from page 8

the cost of doing business.

Lastly, Sandel touches on nuclear waste, hitting home with Nevadans: is it morally acceptable to offer payments to diminish people's resistance to nuclear waste storage? Read the book to see how this played out in Switzerland in an unexpected way.

What Money Can't Buy will inform you of the deeper reasons behind our current environmental and societal ills. Putting everything up for sale is the trend, and the author argues that we need to change the culture of applying market incentives and opportunities to everything. If we don't, the market will simply equate to morality. Economics was not meant to foster that, but is exorbitantly doing so now.

— reviewed by David von Seggern

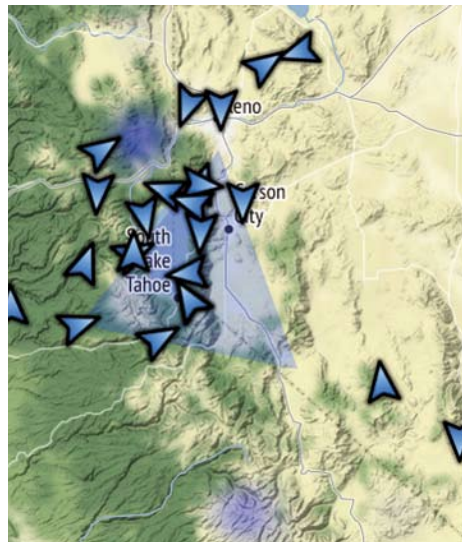
MICHAEL J. SANDEL IS THE ANNE T. AND ROBERT M. BASS PROFESSOR OF GOVERNMENT AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

# CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

## Fire cameras replace outmoded fire lookout stations

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

If you have hiked anywhere in the Sierra Nevada, or other ranges, in the past couple of decades, you'll have noticed that fire lookout towers are mostly empty. Budget considerations, new policies on wildfire, and satellite technology have all led to lesser reliance on humans watching for the onset of wildfires. But there is now a tool for replacing the human effectiveness once associated with fire lookout towers. This is based on broadband communications from robot-like cameras constantly scanning the area around them.



Firecam locations near Lake Tahoe.

We call these "firecams".

This technology exists today and is being used by personnel at wildfire incident stations of the BLM, the USFS, and other agencies. Of course, humans must be there to monitor the firecam screens, but one human can easily monitor many firecams all at once in a similar fashion to security cameras at sensitive facilities.

The most advanced effort with this technology resides with the Nevada

Seismological Laboratory (NSL). This was a logical outgrowth of the high bandwidth network the NSL had in place for decades to collect seismic data in real time from tens of seismic stations in Nevada. Seismic data is sampled at typically 100 samples per second, thus requiring high bandwidth in the communication equipment; this bandwidth is adequate for images sent at intervals of seconds.

Firecams have a limited field-of-view (FOV), typically 60 degrees; but technology allows the FOV to be changed remotely, and soon firecams will automatically rotate to give 360-degree coverage. At present they are mainly used as a confirmatory tool and a way to track fire progress.

You can look at firecam images in near-real-time from over 25 firecams at <http://alerttahoe.seismo.unr.edu/firecams.html>.

Lake Tahoe, where the effort got underway. An additional eight are spread across Nevada, with more to be installed in the near future.

### What are the advantages of firecams?

There are many, and we mention just a few:

- Firecams work 24-7 with no fatigue and

with effectiveness on a par with humans.

- Firecams have a lesser cost than human employees.
- Firecams can give not only information on new fires, but can show the burning and smoke conditions at short intervals after fires commence.
- Firecams can also show stormcloud formations that lead to fires.
- Firecams allow early discovery of fires, which means response teams can mobilize and get to fires earlier, thus limiting the fire's spread and damage

Smokey Bear would be proud of this new tool for detecting and controlling wildfires. For those who may object to putting out every wildfire, be aware that the firecams can help fire responders decide which fires can burn without endangerment and which fires pose real threats. Adding this tool to the wildfire defense across the West seems logical. With it, we can make more informed decisions on how to deal with specific wildfires and how to deal with wildfire in a general sense.

As the reliance on these firecams increases, we will likely see studies on their utility, their cost effectiveness, and their use within an overall wildfire policy.

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.

DEADLINE!

DECEMBER 1



FOR  
JAN-FEB-MAR ISSUE

## POSSIBLE FUTURES OF THE WATER GRAB IN NEVADA...

continued from page 1

of other Colorado River water over 10 years. This is an astronomically cheaper and less environmentally damaging alternative than its proposed water grab in eastern Nevada (<https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/science-and-technology/water-authority-to-fund-conservation-work-in-mexico/>)

In addition to these kinds of deals, other alternatives to SNWA's proposal to take groundwater from the ancient carbonate aquifer in Nevada are in the news right now.

For example, leasing water from farmers and ranchers with senior water rights

in a 3-year pilot project to address the long-term drought and lessening water flows in the Colorado River. Funding for the \$11 million pilot project came from the Bureau of Reclamation and Western cities, including Las Vegas (<http://www.coloradoindependent.com/166848/colorado-river-water-climate-change>).

Unfortunately, the popular project has been discontinued while "water buffaloes" attempt to resolve several significant issues:

- how to set the value of the leased water,
- how the program can be scaled up to more than the few dozen participants,
- how to deal with some W. states water law requirement that if a farmer does not use his water he loses it,
- how the "leased" water can actually get to Lake Mead without being diverted, and
- whether leasing a little water from farmers is worth it when lower Colorado

River states are pushing new dam and diversion projects which will drain hundreds of thousands of acre feet from the River

### Related water news

In other water news, Minnesota's Ramsey County District Judge, Margaret Marrinan, just issued a ruling that the State had allowed excessive pumping of an aquifer on which White Bear Lake depended without knowing whether it was sustainable (<http://www.startribune.com/judge-rules-against-state-in-white-bear-lake-case/442372183>).

The judge ordered the State to stop issuing any more well permits within a five-mile radius of the lake until it's certain the drawdowns are sustainable. The ruling also directed the state to ban residential irrigation when the lake falls below 923.5 feet above sea level and continue the ban until the lake rises to 924 feet. In this case, a judge had to intervene in order to ensure that groundwater pumping was specifically being done in a sustainable way that did not harm existing water rights holders.

### What is the future of the SNWA water grab

More State water hearings?

More court appeals and remand orders?

A revised federal EIS with actual commitments and triggers for mitigation of pumping impacts (if possible)?

Takings lawsuits by ranchers and others who are losing water rights to SNWA's pumping?

More legislative proposals to undermine Nevada's water law as AB 298 threatened in the last Nevada legislative session?

More Western states' programs to lease water for municipalities during times of severe water shortages?

SNWA investments in desalination plants on the Pacific coast in exchange for more water from the Colorado River?

More federal, state, and local court decisions to ensure the public interest is protected in State water rulings and groundwater basins will not continue to be over-appropriated in Nevada?

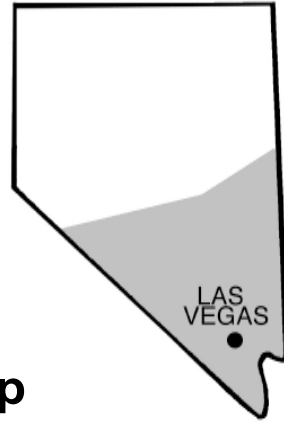
### What you can do

Find the latest news on the Nevada water grab on the Great Basin Water Network website: <http://greatbasin-waternetwork.org>. Check out its many activities in the Water Gab newsletter: [http://greatbasinwaternetwork.org/doc/water\\_gab-0817.pdf](http://greatbasinwaternetwork.org/doc/water_gab-0817.pdf).



Great Basin Water Network Attorney Simeon Herskovits talks with GBWN Board Member, Tom Baker, at the US District Court Hearing in Las Vegas July 31, 2017. Photo: D. Ghiglieri.

# The Mojave Monitor



## Southern Nevada Group

### Group News

#### Meetings, Events, Opportunities

**ExCom: Oct. 4, Nov. 1, & Jan. 3 (dark in December)**

#### WE HAVE A NEW CLUBHOUSE!

In August, the Sierra Club Office in Las Vegas moved to a new location near Springs Preserve and Meadows Mall. The new address is 3828 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89107. The phone number remains the same, (702) 732-7750.

It's a great location, clean, well lit and spacious, with easy access and plenty of parking. Staff members have their own individual offices. There's a dedicated conference room as well as a large open space

in the front that can be used for events and other activities involving large groups.

Please come see it for yourself at one of our upcoming events. Let's transform the new office into a true Clubhouse for environmental action in Southern Nevada.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Open to all members, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee (ExCom) are typically held on the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. We meet from 5p to 730p at the Sierra Club Office, as noted above. Please join us on October 4, November 1, or January 3; dark in December

Among other events scheduled at the new office: there is a **Public Lands Defense Workshop** being held on Tuesday, October 3 from 6 to 9 pm. We're also offering a **New Members Orientation** on Tuesday, November 14 from 6pm. Finally, don't miss out on our annual **Holiday Potluck Mixer** on Wednesday, December 6 from 6pm! Look for announcements of additional activities via email, on the Chapter website, on our Facebook Page (Sierra Club - Southern Nevada Group), and in our Calendar in the Trails (begins on this page).

Please note that all phone numbers indicated are within the 702 area code unless otherwise stated. All hikes and service projects are led by certified outings leaders.

## 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.

#### SEPT 28–OCT 1 (THURSDAY-SUNDAY)

##### Service Project in Zion National Park.

Join us this National Public Lands Day weekend as we work with park staff to help protect our nation's fifth-most-visited national park. As guests of park, we'll stay at Watchman Campground. Details: please watch our 4-minute Video Invite at <https://tinyurl.com/zion-service>. Info & RSVP: Par Rasmusson ([parasmusson@gmail.com](mailto:parasmusson@gmail.com), 702-215-9119).

#### OCTOBER 3 (TUESDAY)

**Public Lands Defense Workshop.** Please join the Center for Biological Diversity and Sierra Club for this free workshop on defending public lands. This workshop will provide information about the public-lands seizure movement, your representative's role in it, and tools you can use to fight back. The workshop will start at 6pm at the new Sierra Club Office on Meadows Lane.

For details, contact [christian.gerlach@sierraclub.org](mailto:christian.gerlach@sierraclub.org).

#### OCTOBER 7 (SATURDAY)

**Get Outdoors Nevada Day.** A free, fun, family-friendly event highlighting all Southern Nevada has to offer in recreational activities, education, volunteering, tourism and local businesses. For the 2017 edition, the City of Henderson is hosting the event between 9am and 2pm at the scenic Cornerstone Park, featuring a 31-acre lake & public amenities, located at 1600 Wigwam Pkwy, Henderson, NV 89074. Food will be available for purchase or bring a picnic lunch. Please come by and see us at the Sierra Club and Las Vegas ICO booths. Details at [www.outsidelasvegas.org](http://www.outsidelasvegas.org).

#### OCTOBER 7-9 (SATURDAY-MONDAY)

**Telescope Peak, Panamint Mountain Range, Death Valley, CA.** Two-night car

Please see SN GROUP CALENDAR, page 6.



**LAS VEGAS ICO**  
Inspiring Connections Outdoors


**ANNUAL FRIENDRAISER**



**Saturday, November 4, 2017**  
**6 - 8 PM**

**Transition Services Inc.**  
**6100 W Cheyenne Ave**

Between Torrey Pines and Jones, corner of Bronco St.  
Look for the blue Transition Services sign



- Meet and Greet
- Beer and Wine Bar
- Dinner by Chef Michael Jones
- Raffle and Silent Auction
- Live Music "In Good Company"

\$20 entry, includes dinner and entertainment

**HELP BRING URBAN YOUTH INTO THE OUTDOORS**

I want to join Las Vegas ICO in their work to bring Las Vegas youth into the outdoors.


<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 One Day Outing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Lunch for One Outing	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Share of One Day Outing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Coach & Driver	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$175 One Day Van Rental	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Outing to a National Park—Death Valley or Zion	

A tax deductible donation can be made out to: The Sierra Club Foundation\* with Las Vegas ICO written in the memo line. (100% of your gift stays with Las Vegas ICO).

\* The Sierra Club Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Las Vegas ICO is an outreach program of the Sierra Club.

Mail to:

Las Vegas ICO  
Sierra Club Office  
3800 Meadows Lane  
Suite 3828-30  
Las Vegas, NV 89107



Like us on Facebook:

Las Vegas ICO

[www.facebook.com/sierraclub.org/toiyabefas-vegas-ico](https://www.facebook.com/sierraclub.org/toiyabefas-vegas-ico)

## In Memoriam

### Howard G. Booth (1927-2017)

On August 16, 2017, the Toiyabe Chapter lost one of our longest serving members, Howard G. Booth. He was 90 years old.

An avid hiker and a champion of environmental conservation, Howard was born on March 15, 1927 in Bloomsburg, PA. He served in both WWII and the Korean War. Upon moving west in 1957, he was employed as a meteorologist at the Nevada Test Site by NOAA/National Weather Service until his retirement in 1982.

According to Howard's wife, Ursula Wilson-Booth, "His appreciation for Nevada grew as he explored the desert, mountains, and public lands nearby, and his passion for the outdoors molded him into an ardent conservationist and determined fighter for public lands and wilderness."

"His love for hiking, climbing, exploring, river running and volunteering helped create a movement to defend Red Rock Canyon against development and exploitation until it was finally declared a National Conservation Area (in 1990)."

Howard met Ursula in 1989 on a volunteer service trip for the BLM. They married and moved to Boulder City four years later. Sharing a commitment to wilderness and other causes, their trips to destinations as far away as Denali and Patagonia were documented with



Howard's skill as photographer.

In 2005, Howard became the recipient of the Sierra Club's highest honor, the John Muir Award, which recognizes a distinguished record of achievement. He was also presented a citation by U.S. Senator Harry Reid in 2015 for his 50+ years of service to the Toiyabe Chapter. Most recently, he was also a strong supporter of Las Vegas ICO.

Howard is survived by Ursula and her children Hans and Sonya Wilson, as well as his nieces Elena Booth and husband Dave Gillespie, of Providence, RI, and Susan Rapp of Canterbury, CN. He will be cremated and his ashes interred at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, NV on October 5, 2017. A luncheon will follow. RSVP at <https://goo.gl/forms/b39L35qjRV1P8D4F2>.

Ursula has requested that in lieu of sending flowers, tax deductible donations may be made out to the Sierra Club Foundation with "Las Vegas ICO" written in the memo line. Mail to: Las Vegas ICO, Sierra Club Office, 3828 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89107.

### SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com
Vice-Chair	Vinny Spotleson		vinny.spotleson@gmail.com
Secretary	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com
At Large	Verna Mandez	vmandez@	battleornprogress.org
At Large	Open		
At Large	Vinny Spotleson		vinny.spotleson@gmail.com
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Parks, Refuges	Open		
Political	Verna Mandez		vmandez@battleornprogress.org
Programs	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com
Publicity	Open		
Transportation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Webmaster	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com
* ExCom member			

camp at Mahogany Flat camp ground (8200 ft) is required to set up for hiking this ridge-line. Full hike (if we do it), 14 mi RT. Peak over 11,000 ft. High clearance or SUV vehicles needed to get to campground. Bring day pack for hike, food and drinks for camp. Each person brings own tent, sleeping bag, etc. Signup required. Passengers share gas money for drivers. Level 5. Co-Leaders: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218), David Morrow (David.brenda.morrow@gmail.com, 702-703-9486).

#### OCTOBER 16 (MONDAY)

**Arnight Trail to Pine Creek, Red Rock Canyon NCA.** great desert hike! Go from trailhead at Oak Creek Canyon north to Pine Creek, passing Juniper Canyon; descend into Pine Creek along beautiful section of trail, picking up cars at Pine Creek trailhead. Why is Juniper Canyon different than Oak Creek and Pine Creek Canyons? Gain/loss less than 200 ft, 2.5 mi total, mod. strenuous. Level 3. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com).

#### OCTOBER 23 (MONDAY)

**Top of World Arch, Valley of Fire SP.** This 4 mi hike has less than 1000 ft gain. No trail, lots of sand and slick rock, some of it steep. Great photo ops of striated sandstone. Great views from top of VoF escarpment where arch is located. Level 4. Pace, Easy to Moderate. Entrance fee required for VoF. Leader: David Morrow (702-703-9486, David.brenda.morrow@gmail.com).

#### OCTOBER 27-29 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

**Death Valley Backpack, Johnson Canyon.** Meet in Blue Diamond on morning of 10/27, drive out on 160 and on to Furnace Creek to meet others at Visitor Center. From there, find West Side Rd and look for Johnson Canyon Rd going off to right. Drive up this high clearance road will be about 6.5 m. Begin hiking when we get to where water is flowing (about 4.5 mi and 1550 ft). We can set up camp or go further to set up camp. Next day, explore area (bring day pack). There are trees and possibly some bushy areas and stream crossings. Hike out Sunday morning. We must have at least two 4x4 vehicles and 6 people. Number of

## Southern Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 5

vehicles will determine how many seats for passengers. Maximum is 4 vehicles and 12 people. Sunrise around 7:10a. Sunset around 6p. When you commit I will send you trip sheet. Level 3. How hot and how cold does it get here? Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com).

#### OCTOBER 28 (SATURDAY)

**Pinnacles at Valley of Fire SP.** Mostly flat hike with RT distance of 6-7 mi. Rock formations in this valley are amazing due to process of weathering and erosion. Carpool from SE end of town to drive up through Lake Mead National Park. Stop on way at Rodger's Spring. What kind of amoeba lives in this hot spring? Level 3. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218).

#### NOVEMBER 6 (MONDAY)

**Waterfall Canyon, Red Rock Canyon NCA.** This is a hidden gem of Red Rock Canyon. Canyon has series of waterfalls in Cambrian limestone, each getting higher and higher, going in more than mile, until final unclimbable falls over 20 ft high is reached. Springs emerge from valley walls at this point. Drive up Rocky Gap Road to trailhead, where there is an exposure of Keystone Thrust Fault. What conditions produce the waterfall? Less than 200 ft gain, 2.5 mi RT. Mod. strenuous, Level 3.5. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049).

#### NOVEMBER 14 (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'll be meeting from 6pm for about 90 minutes at the new Sierra Club Office on

Meadows Lane. Light refreshments will be served. Info: tajainlay@aol.com.

#### NOVEMBER 18 (SATURDAY)

**Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.** Day trip and a few short hikes at this sanctuary for migrant birds, which is registered on Ramsar Wetlands as being of International Importance. Famous resident of springs here is Devils Hole pupfish. Meet up early at SW end of town to carpool. Level 2. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218).

#### NOVEMBER 20 (MONDAY)

**North Bowl of Fire.** About 6 m RT, less than 1000 ft gain. Visit at least two arches. No trail. Mostly walking in washes. High clearance vehicles required for 3-mile drive up Callville Wash to trailhead; 7-in ground clearance should be enough. Level 4. Easy to Moderate pace. Leader: David Morrow (702-703-9486, David.brenda.morrow@gmail.com).

#### DECEMBER 2 (SATURDAY)

**Day Trip/Hike to China Ranch.** Hike by Amargosa River as it flows through this place to eventually empty in Badwater Basin in Death Valley. At end of hike, stop at date farm for date shakes. About 6-mile RT on mostly flat ground. Meeting place for carpool at SW end of town. Where does Amargosa river start up and where do waters come from? Level 3. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218).

#### DECEMBER 6 (WEDNESDAY)

**Holiday Potluck Mixer.** It's time for our annual holiday celebration! Come enjoy great food and fellowship at the new Sierra Club Office on Meadows Lane. There's plenty of parking in front for immediate access. Potluck items are welcome and ap-

preciated. Bring along your favorite dishes and drinks to share. Family and friends welcome! Time: 6pm to 9pm. Info: tajainlay@aol.com.

#### DECEMBER 11 (MONDAY)

**Exploring Gold Butte.** Hike to Falling Man, 21 Goats, and Kota Circus petroglyph panel. About 8 mi, less than 1000 ft gain, Level 4. Moderate to fast pace (2-2.5mph). Walking in sand with some slickrock and minimal scrambling. See what is here that deserves protection as National Monument. It's a long drive to Gold Butte; last 2 mi require high clearance vehicles; 7.5 inch ground clearance should be enough. Leader: David Morrow (702-703-9486, David.brenda.morrow@gmail.com).

#### DECEMBER 16 (SATURDAY)

**Traversing Black Mountain Peak.** Hike about 7-plus mi, about 2000 ft gain with a 360-degree view of Las Vegas and Eldorado Valley. Go up one ridge and down the other. What variety of wildlife does this mountain range support? Level 5. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218).

#### DECEMBER 18 (MONDAY)

**Horseback Ride, Red Rock Canyon NCA.** We'll let our 4-legged friends (horses and mules) do the hiking as we take a trip with Cowboy Trail Rides in Red Rock Canyon. A 1 or 1.5 hour morning or afternoon ride, with fabulous views of Red Rock Canyon escarpment. Which is more sure-footed, horse, mule, or human? Leader: Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049).

#### JANUARY 1, 2018 (MONDAY)

**Hangover Hike, Valley of Pillars, Rainbow Gardens.** Start New Year right by joining your fellow hikers on mod. strenuous and scenic 4-mi RT hike in Rainbow Gardens on east side of town. Less than 200 ft gain. Level 3. This uncrowded trail has spectacular desert scenery with rugged sandstone buttes and volcanic mountains. How do you recognize volcanic rock? Co-Leaders: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com), David Morrow (David.brenda.morrow@gmail.com, 702-703-9486).

TEMPERATURES HAVE BEEN sizzling this summer in Las Vegas, but Saturday, July 15, was nothing short of a way cool day for seven youth aged 9-15 from Walnut Recreation Center and two novice ICO leaders. One indicator that this was going to be a unique day was when we ICO leaders arrived at the center, ALL seven youngsters were ready and waiting for us 30 minutes early. Trust me, that is extremely unusual.

After departing Walnut Center, the first stop was the Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway. Upon getting out of the van the youth immediately noticed how it was pleasantly cooler and their heads were all tilted upwards as they were taking in the mountainous terrain. One youth commented, "Oh, I forgot you can sometimes see the moon during the day", as he gazed to the sky."

For several on the trip this was their very first time to the Mt. Charleston area which was evidenced by their awe in the vast difference in the scenery such a short distance away from their homes in the city. Inside the visitor center Austine Wood's incredible polarized glass art

## Mt. Charleston delivers a special day!

BY BARBARA GERHARDT

resulted in oohs and ahhs.

After viewing the exhibits, we went outside, where hike leader David Richards provided an explanation of the significance of the Cold War National Memorial which is the only national monument dedicated to the Cold War era.

That was followed by Mt. Charleston rangers sharing key environmental features of the Spring Mountains and the Toiyabe National Forest, animals that live in the region, and how to identify trees we would be encountering on the trail. By now, everyone was eager to experience our hiking trail, Robbers Roost. The Robbers Roost trail is a short hike up to limestone caves that legend tells us were used by horse thieves in the 1800s.

As we walked the trail, students learned to identify three spe-

cies of trees (curl-leaf mountain mahogany, white fir, Ponderosa pine. When asked how soil is formed, the youngsters came to the conclusion that soil is comprised of microscopic bits of rocks and decomposed plants.

Three species of butterflies (Mt. Charleston admiral, Western tiger swallowtail, and Spring Mountains checkerspot) flittered and fluttered past us during the day. As we ascended the trail,

the scarlet gilia was also with us, adding color to the day. These kiddos hiked and scrambled the steeper parts of the trail with glee; no whiners in this crowd. The Robbers Roost area is a popular rock climbing location and watching them was a source of fascination and awe.

Exploring the caves, however, was the ultimate "payoff" of the day.



Mmmm, that butterscotch aroma . . . (smelling the bark of a Jeffrey pine)

Imaginations were running wild as the dark caves spawned talk of ghosts and other creatures. Ultimately, this was an incredibly special day because of the seven youth who exhibited responsible behavior, a deep respect and caring for one another, a delightful sense of humor, and an intense interest and appreciation of the natural environment they were experiencing. Nothing describes the success of this outing better than the comments that were made during the day. In their words:

"I love nature! What a beautiful bird (upon hearing the song of a canyon wren). This is so amazing."

"This is the best day of my life! I feel like I could cry — it is just so beautiful."

"It is a lot to take in. When I am 16, I am definitely coming up here and going camping and bringing you all with me."

"What did I love the best? Every inch of it!"

As for me, I have to say this was one of my most memorable ICO outings: special kids plus nature equals a totally rewarding experience; but, I admit, I feel that way after most ICO outings.

To learn more about Las Vegas ICO visit us on Facebook: Las Vegas ICO or go to our website: <http://www.sierra-club.org/toiyabe/las-vegas-ico>.

# Range of Light Reflections

## Range of Light Group



### From the Chair

#### The "Big 25" & more food for thought

BY LYNN BOULTON

The Range of Light Group just celebrated its 25th Anniversary. 14 dedicated Sierra Club members who loved the outdoors and the Eastern Sierra got it started. Some are still serving -- Shalle Genevieve who edits and distributes our monthly newsletter and Lynne Foster who edits the Toiyabe Trails! The other founders have put in years of service keeping this group going: Pete Bakuses, Terry Crawford, Dina Dixon, Kathy Duvall, Bette and Don Goodrich, Paul Kluth, Owen Maloy, Kathy Morey, Cy Walker, and Bryce and Wilma Wheeler.

Over 100 trips have been offered each year, as well as monthly potlucks with guest speakers who enriched the members' knowledge of the area. To carry on, to grow and to thrive, we need your help. The Range of Light has two openings right now and one coming up at the end of the year:

**Treasurer needed.** This person writes checks (about 20/yr), emails the Chair with the balance quarterly, and submits a form to the chapter quarterly for ROL to receive its dues. It is perfect for someone who has a little bit of time to give and wants to work from home.

**Program Chair needed.** In the past, this person has organized monthly meetings with speakers, potlucks, and parties. However, there is room for creativity and permission to change things. The job could be shared, the number of speakers could be pared down, or new activities added. Our member count has shifted from Mammoth to Bishop and so should the location of more activities. I personally have learned so much from the many

different speakers covering a wide range of topics from how we can't really interpret the local petroglyphs to how the Mammoth Water District prepared for the drought.

**Executive Committee candidate needed.** The ROLG has a board, which is called "ExCom"; it has 6 members. The board meets 4-6 times/year and discusses and/or votes on what stance to take on issues or requests. This is where the ROLG decides to write a letter of support for something and how to respond to development projects that impact the environment. This board is also responsible for keeping ROLG going by filling open positions. We have an ExCom position opening up on Jan 1, 2018, but we need to put it on the ballot by this November. There are no pre-requisites for this position other than a desire to explore, enjoy, and protect the environment.

**What you can do.** We all have busy lives and many of us are volunteering in other capacities, but we need your help. Environmental attacks, development, and tourism have all increased. And of course we have to keep up on top of the traditional work we do leading hikes, picking up trash along the highway, setting up un-groomed cross-country ski routes, and keeping members informed.

In addition, we would like to do more to fight Global Warming through the Sierra Club's "Ready for 100" program. So come help us! Get involved! To volunteer, contact: Lynn Boulton (chairrolg@gmail.com, 760-914-9016). Thank you!

#### Range of Light ExCom Meeting

Wednesday, November 1, 6:15p at the Hihn's home. Open to all members. Info: Lynn Boulton (chairrolg@gmail.com, 760-914-9016).

#### Range of Light Outings

##### Thursday Outings

ROLG evening outings for the 2017 season end October 1. They will resume in May, 2018, when weather allows and days are longer.

##### Saturday & Sunday Outings

These day trips also end as of October 1. They will resume in January, 2018, 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 the Sierra Club Range of Light Group but may be possible as weather allows from October through December, 2017. If interested, contact Joanne and Dick Hihn for details (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

## Range of Light Group celebrates 25 years!

BY LESLEY BRUNS

As Sierra Club celebrates its 125th anniversary, the local Range of Light Group is proud to be turning 25 years old.

### A little history

On the evening of July 22, 1992, a group of inspired conservationists met at the home of Bette and Don Goodrich to discuss forming a new Sierra Club group in the Eastern Sierra. At the time, there was an Eastern Sierra Committee of Sierra Club's Toiyabe Chapter, which included the "Mother of Nevada Wilderness," Marge Sill, but there was no group dedicated to Inyo and Mono counties.

Bette had been a National Outings leader for Sierra Club and decided to spearhead the effort. At that very first meeting, the name Range of Light Group (ROLG) was selected and preparations were made to draft bylaws. In less than two weeks, Toiyabe Chapter had approved this new Sierra Club Regional Group which was formed to provide not only a local conservation focus, but also

to sponsor outings and social events.

### Many accomplishments

In 2017, ROLG is still going strong, thanks to all the dedicated volunteers who have contributed their time and energy over the years. Some of the group's many accomplishments include: successfully suing the FAA to prevent a major expansion of the Mammoth Lakes Airport, supporting a land exchange with the U.S. Forest Service which protected 1900 acres of wild and riparian lands, working with regional partners to gain LADWP's cooperation in re-watering the Lower Owens River, and re-establishing historic Blue Diamond cross-country ski routes on US Forest Service lands.

### Popular outings & meetings

From the beginning, ROLG has organized monthly potluck meetings where

Please see ROL 25th, page 8.



Bryce Wheeler, past Outings Chair for ROLG, told some engaging stories about his experiences hiking in the Eastern Sierra.

## 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 potluck and come only for the program. For updated information visit [www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light](http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light).

#### October

Program and location TBA.

#### December

Program and location TBA.

#### November

Program and location TBA.

Please mark your calendar to check for updated information.

Sorry, no information on this quarter's programs at press time. For info, please contact Chair, Lynn Boulton (ChairROL@sierraclub.org).

#### Range of Light Group

##### OFFICERS

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Vice-Chair	Malcolm Clark* 760-924-5639
Secretary	Lesley Bruns* lestravel@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Mary Ann Dunigan 760-924-5982
At Large	Mike Shore* pacificshore38@gmail.com
At Large	Fran Hunt* fran.hunt@sierraclub.org
At Large	Joanne Hihn* photos73@gmail.com
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Education	Jean Dillingham 760-648-7109
Hwy Cleanup	Dick & Joanne Hihn photos73@gmail.com
Mary & Mike Shore	marymikesshore@gmail.com
ORWC** Chair	Mark Bagley 760-873-5326
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Membership	Shalle Genevieve 760-934-9668
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Programs	Mary Shore marymikesshore@gmail.com
Publicity	Lynn Boulton amazinglylynn@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Jo Bacon jo@eccotone.net

\* Voting ExCom member

\*\* Owens River Watershed Conservation Chair

## Range of Light SUMMER PHOTO GALLERY

BY JOANNE HIHN

On August 13, ROLG celebrated 25 years of service to the Eastern Sierra. Many of our founding members were present. We enjoyed a perfect day in a perfect place — Mono Lake County Park. Mike and Mary Shore barbecued tri tip and eggplant. As is usually the case at potluck dinners, we had too many choices of tempting food (a good thing)! We enjoyed live music by Sally Gesford, recorder, Ron Rosien, guitar, and Lyn Rowe, cello. Thank you! The sharing of stories about people and past events after dinner was memorable. Thanks to all who came and to all of the organizers who made our day a success.



Several of us took the boardwalk down to Mono Lake where the phalaropes had just arrived, perhaps in our honor?



David von Seggern, Toiyabe Chapter Chair, joined in our celebration. Thanks for making the trip, David and Dorothy!



An enthralled audience listened to recorder, guitar, and cello music performed by Sally Gesford, Ron Rosien, and Lyn Rowe. Bravo!



On a recent off-trail hike near Watterson Divide (reached by taking Benton Crossing Road off of Interstate 395), we were awed by the multitude of flowers which carpeted an otherwise arid landscape. Our goal for this day in June, 2017, was a rock scramble to 360-degree views of the surrounding area. Looking west, we saw the grand Sierra laid out before us.

## Bookshelf

### WHAT MONEY CAN'T BUY: THE MORAL LIMITS OF MARKETS

By Michael J. Sandel

Farrar, Straus, & Giroux: 2013.

THE AUTHOR COMES WITH SOLID acclaim and credentials and is characterized as a political philosopher. Although this book goes far afield from basic environmental or conservation issues, most of our readers will find this book interesting and rewarding. Many of the issues we face today are rooted in today's culture, which over-emphasizes financial elements while sacrificing moral and environmental well-being. This book helps us to understand the boundary between the today's market forces and the moral forces that have long governed society. As Sandel emphasizes, the former has pushed deeply into the latter, creating a new morality based on economic measures only.

The author starts with an example of the simple changes in queuing that have recently happened. We often stand in line for certain purchases or services, and the process is one of equality — first come, first served. But now real life includes "line standers" who, for a fee, hold a place in line for someone willing to pay the price. Both the line stander and the absent beneficiary

are now participating in market dynamics that skews the equality factor.

Sandel goes on to other examples, among which are some relevant to our environmental interests. For instance, pay-to-pollute, big-game hunting fees, carbon offsets, and others. The author makes the point that these usually give the beneficiary a release from the moral onus that should accompany these actions. By paying up, the beneficiaries feel they are meeting a market-based standard that is in fact good for all.

However, markets make no moral judgments. The case of carbon offsets is particularly relevant to today's global warming crisis. Rather than reducing carbon offset across the board and having everyone share the burden of doing so because it is a worldwide environmental threat, carbon offsets allow players to take themselves off the hook by simply paying up.

A similar example to the carbon offsets case that of paying fines for pollution. Rather than taking action to cure the problem, the polluter just chalks the fines up to

Please see BOOKSHELF, page 3.

## Fall Desert Trips

### Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 1  
(FRI-SUN)

**NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY**  
Join various N. Nevada outdoor groups for an as yet undetermined volunteer project in Black Rock Desert about 100 mi north of Reno. Current plans are for a project at Soldier Meadows Hot Spring. Most food provided but you'll have to work for it! There's usually a work day and a play day, so we won't work all weekend! Info: David Book (775-843-6443), as we get closer to the event!

Great Basin Group

OCTOBER 27-29 (FRI-SUN)  
WILDERNESS RESTORATION IN

### RANGE OF LIGHT 25<sup>TH</sup> . . .

continued from page 7

guest speakers have shared their knowledge on varied topics such as public land management, endangered species, and outdoor recreation.

The popular outings program also started the first year. Over 100 are offered annually which incorporate elements of history, natural science, and environmental education. Outings range from summer flower walks, canoe/kayak trips, and hiking adventures to on-snow excursions.

### The future

Range of Light Group is proud to look back on its success and plans to "explore, enjoy, and protect the planet" well into the future.

### DEATH VALLEY NP

Join us as we continue clean-up of grow site in this beautiful National Park. Hike about 3 miles up a rugged canyon to gather and carry out trash left behind in illegal grow site. Participants should bring an old backpack, if they have one. Sturdy trash bags will be supplied to protect packs. Details on meeting time and camping location have not been finalized. Potluck Saturday night. Leader: Kate Allen (kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).

CNRCC Desert Committee



### Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

Saturday, 9 am  
January 2017

TBA

For details,  
contact the Chair,  
DAVID VON SEGGERN

Chair@Toiyabe.  
SierraClub.org

All Toiyabe Chapter members are welcome to attend these meetings. This will be a strategic planning meeting. There will be limited time for regular Chapter business. Those wanting to put an issue before the ExCom are asked to contact David von Seggern, Chapter Chair (vonse1@sbcglobal.net, 775-303-8461).



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

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

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
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
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	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our efforts, unless based on lobbying and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



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