



EXPLORE, ENJOY, & PROTECT THE PLANET.

# TOIYABE TRAILS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2018

## WINTER OUTINGS Issue

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

### Electing candidates who care

BY BRIAN BEFFORT, DIRECTOR, TOIYABE CHAPTER (775-848-7783, [sierraclub.org/toiyabe](http://sierraclub.org/toiyabe))

TOIYABE CHAPTER'S NEVADA POLITICAL Action Committee is gearing up for success in 2018. Your support will help elect environmentally friendly candidates in Nevada's state and local elections.

Learn more at: [https://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/political\\_action](https://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/political_action).

Range of Light members, contact San Gorgonio Chapter: <https://sanguorgonio2.sierraclub.org/>.

Tahoe Area members, contact Mother Lode Chapter: <https://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode>.

Thank you.

— Sign up —

### for Toiyabe Chapter's monthly e-newsletter

Toiyabe Trails is just part of the story. Catch up with more news, events, and action alerts in the Toiyabe Chapter's new monthly e-newsletter. If you're not getting it already, send an email to [toiyabe.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:toiyabe.chapter@sierraclub.org), and we'll make sure you're on the list.

Need information about Toiyabe Chapter?

Try the . . .

Chapter website

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



Banner for Healthy Sagebrush Communities emphasizing ecological connection between habitat and wildlife. Please see sage grouse article on page 4.

### Join me in committing to the earth

BY BRIAN BEFFORT, TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTOR

This morning I woke my son up for school. Sitting next to him on his bed, I admired his natural grace and beauty as he stretched and yawned. I welcomed his innocence as he recited the lines he's memorizing for his class play, and by the items he's adding to his ever-growing Christmas present wish list.

For these moments, I was able to put aside the news I read every day about the threats to our public lands, wildlife habitats, and communities — not to mention my son's future; Trump's reduction of Gold Butte, Bear's Ears, and more than 20 other national monuments; a tax plan and federal budget that rewards gazillionaires, hurts the rest of us, and opens the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration; efforts to dismantle the EPA and the environmental laws and regulations it enforces; and Trump's pledge to pull out of the Paris Climate Agreement — to name just a few.

Like every parent, I want my son to live a long, healthy, happy life. I want him to share the bountiful blessings of our beautiful Earth with his children. I fight back tears knowing that he, others of his generation, and future generations will pay the price for our ignorance, inertia, and greed. It's painful to accept that our planet, our civilization, and the species here with us face the greatest threats in human history.

Then I think of my job with the Sierra Club and feel grateful and empowered, because I am part of the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country. Since the 2016 elections, our members and supporters have grown to more than 3 million people. We are building the power to defend our most precious and threatened places and species; to build communities that are happier, healthier and more sustainable; to guide our society to a healthier future based on renewable energy. Faced with depressing headlines, I focus on my

work, on my ability to make a difference, even if it's in small ways.

You, too, dear member, share that power. Together, WE have the power to make a difference in the issues that matter here in Nevada and the eastern Sierra.

In September, the Toiyabe Chapter Executive Committee drafted our list of strategic priorities for 2018, which include (in no particular order):

- Climate Change and renewable energy;
- Protecting our region's public lands, water, and wildlife;
- Electing candidates who care about the environment during the 2018 elections;
- Building our membership and engaging our members;
- Participating in other local campaigns as they arise, such as the Tahoe Group's engagement with the Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan, helping kids and others go on outings, and partnering with the Great Basin Water Network to protect Nevada's rural waters from the Las Vegas water grab.

The Sierra Club's greatest power lies in our grassroots. It lies in you. Despite the Sierra Club's size, we will never have enough money, community organizers, and lawyers to effect all the changes we need. But by joining forces with you at the local level, where decisions can still make a difference, there is nothing we cannot do.

At the end of my life, I want to be able to tell my son that I did everything

Please see COMMITTING TO THE EARTH, page 2.

### Bequests are a way to support the Toiyabe Chapter mission

INTERESTED IN FURTHERING THE goals of the Toiyabe Chapter after you are no longer walking those trails? Toiyabe Chapter members can arrange a bequest to the Chapter apart from our national office. By doing this, you will be assured that your gift stays in the Chapter to continue supporting the protections you want for Nevada or eastern California.

Because the language must be stated exactly to avoid misinterpretation, please contact the Chapter Director, Brian Beffort ([brian.beffort@sierraclub.org](mailto:brian.beffort@sierraclub.org)) or the Fundraising Committee Chair, Janet Carter ([jkumar167@aol.com](mailto:jkumar167@aol.com)), to make sure it is correct.

### 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.

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# Great Basin Gatherings

## Great Basin Group

### GB Group News

BY KATY CHRISTENSON

**HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all our friends in the Great Basin! The Great Basin Group will continue to host monthly program meetings during 2017 at the Bartley Ranch Regional Park Western Heritage Interpretive Center on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm.

**Get ACTIVE in Great Basin.** An activism session, 6:15-7pm, will be held prior to each monthly GBG program meetings at Bartley Ranch Center. Stay active and keep the dialogue moving!

**Appreciation note.** A special THANK YOU goes to CHARLOTTE COX and MATTHEW SALAZAR who are stepping down from their positions as Great Basin Group ExCom members. In her role as Program Chair, Charlotte's energy, ideas, and persistence have resulted in many wonderful programs during the past two years. Her initiative also led to the now popular ACTIVISM HOUR before each monthly program. Matthew Salazar served as Vice-Chair; his assistance helped with many projects. Good luck to Matthew as he moves on with his life.

**Tin Cup Award.** Long-time Sierra Club member, Cathy Schmidt, is the 2017 Great Basin Group Tin Cup award recipient. Cathy has served the Great Basin in many ways, including Group Chair, ongoing volunteer, outings leader, early promoter of Get Kids Outdoors efforts, and consistently active in

conservation causes. Most recently, her efforts helped support and organize the Ready for 100 campaign and the Activism Hour before the GBG's monthly programs.

**Public Lands News.** GET INVOLVED with development of a Washoe County lands bill. Washoe County is following the lead of several other Nevada counties in requesting Congressional legislation to deal with federal lands in the county. This likely will affect our open spaces, our hiking trails, and our scenic views. Wilderness designations and wildlife habitat will also be under discussion. To get involved, please send an email to David von Seggern (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net) indicating your interest.

**Great Basin Group Outings.** The GBG motto is "We Get YOU Outdoors." GBG adventures meet all abilities and interests. Join us by checking these websites:

- <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno>
- <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin>

## GREAT Holiday Party & GKO Giving

BY SUE JACOX & KATY CHRISTENSEN

No wonder our Great Basin Group has "Great" in our name! The annual December 9, 2017 GBG Holiday Potluck was a GREAT success with 80+ members and friends, GREAT food, GREAT "Get Kids Outdoors" giving, GREAT help with set up and clean up, and Raleigh Martin's GREAT 2016 outings slide show.

**Tin Cup Award.** Sorry for the not-great quality photos, but they show us enjoying a GREAT time and CATHY SCHMIDT being honored by David VonSeggern with the "Tin Cup" award for her years of GREAT service on our GBG ExCom, on volunteer projects, and on recent activism initiatives.



Cathy Schmidt receives Tin Cup Award from Chapter Chair David von Seggern.

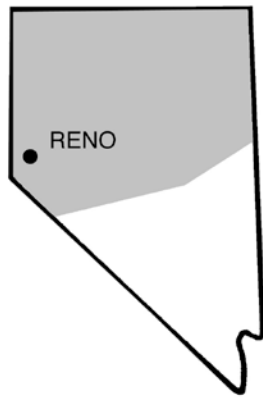
Thank you, Cathy! And thank you ExCom members for organizing and for all who realize "it takes a village" and eagerly pitched in for a fun event and



Many thanks to our hard-working volunteer setup crew, Mary and friends.

donated over \$300 for our "Get Kids Outdoors" fund at our annual Giving Tree to support outings for our area's low income youngsters.

**What you can do.** It's never too late to make donations via checks to "Great Basin Group Sierra Club" with "GKO" noted at the bottom. Please mail your donations to Great Basin Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 8096, Reno, NV 89507.



## GB Group PROGRAM MEETINGS

All program meetings held 2nd Thursday of the month

**Activism hour:** At 6:15-7p, before each program, come hear/share info about local/state/federal issues of importance to Sierra Club and take some action. Specific topics will be announced before the program. For current issues, go to: <https://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin>.

**Social time:** 6:30p (with refreshments).

**Program:** 7-8p. Place: Bartley Ranch, Western Interpretive Center, Reno.

**Info:** Katy (702-755-2267).

### JANUARY 11 (THU)

**"Walking the Franciscan Trail, Umbria, Italy" with Linda Newman.** Linda will share her experiences of the Sierra Club outing she took in Italy 2015. "Walking the Franciscan Trail, Umbria Italy," will be an introduction to the beautiful and historic land of St Francis.

### FEBRUARY 8 (THU)

**"Coping with Climate: How to Mobilize your "EcoAnxiety" for Personal & Community Health", with Dr. Haase.** Climate change is frightening and overwhelming. In this meeting, Dr. Haase will talk about "EcoAnxiety": how it is affecting us and how to cope with it. Her talk will also include an overview of the health and mental health impacts of climate change. Members are encouraged to submit questions in advance to [ehaase@me.com](mailto:ehaase@me.com).

### MARCH 8 (THU)

**"An Artist's Relationship with the Environment", with Nolan Preece.** A photographer for over 40 years, Nolan Preece has devoted his work to understanding and mastering the challenging techniques of early photography and also promoting new processes such as the chemogram (1980) and an experimental process he discovered in the late 1970s using cliche-verre. His portfolios include platinum, silver gelatin, cibachrome, and digital prints. His distinctive work is in many collections, including the Nevada Museum of Art, the Norra Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Logan, UT, and the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City. Contact Nolan at <http://www.nolanpreece.com/> and <http://www.nolanpreece.com/>.

## COMMITTING TO THE EARTH . . .

continued from page 1

I could to leave him a better world. I'm hoping you want to say similar things to the younger generations in your life.

Please consider this resolution: Do something more than you have done before. Lean into hope and know that we will be able to do this. If you don't have ideas, talk with your friends, search the Internet, or call me. I would be happy to brainstorm ways we can team up can make a difference. Toiyabe Executive Committee member Anne Macquarie inspires me every day with her email signature, "Action absorbs anxiety."

Your planet, your community, your favorite place in nature — we all need you. To change everything, we need everyone. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Please don't sit this one out.

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 (805-239-3829); [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. (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.



## Great Basin Peak Section News Exploring Nevada P2K peaks

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX



First, Congratulations to Bob Sumner for finishing the Nevada P2K list July 14, 2017 on Beaver Peak in Elko County. This list has many notable peaks that are scattered throughout Nevada. Since two sit within the Nevada Test site, Bald Mountain and Belted Range HP, a finish can't include their summits.

The access to some of these peaks requires miles of driving on rough dirt roads that can be more grueling than the peak climb. Moody Peak requires one of these long drives.

In June, Ken Jones organized a trip with Ron Moe, John Ide, and myself, to hike Moody and Shingle Peaks, both on the NV



John Ide, Ron Moe, and Ken Jones heading up Shingle Peak (in background). Photo: Sharon Marie Wilcox.

P2K list. We met at Moody Springs to camp the evening before our Moody Peak (8883 ft) hike located in Nye County's Pancake Range. The spring near an old cabin had a pond amply tramped by wild horses, but otherwise a nice area for camp. Our night sky never darkened with the light from the full moon.

Our 6 am start followed horse trails and a jeep road to a location named "Collins Hotel" on the map. Remnants of a structure marked this spot and we headed up from here bushwhacking through a pinyon-juniper forest interspersed with Mountain

Mahogany. Happy to beat the heat on our climb, we took a leisurely break on top to enjoy the views and sign the register.

Next, we drove to Shingle Springs in Lincoln County's Far South Egan Wilderness to camp in position for our hike up Shingle Peak (9823 ft). Our camp near the corral had a flurry of hummingbird activity as we set up camp.

We started early again to beat the heat, meandering up a dry wash until we found a ridge that led to the summit. Yellow blooms on cliffrose shrubs provided a colorful display along our route. We took another leisurely summit break to absorb surrounding views and enjoy the cool temperature before we descended.

These NV P2K peaks provided yet another Great Basin adventure to experience Nevada's public land treasures.



Ron Moe, Ken Jones, and Sharon Marie Wilcox heading up Moody Peak. Photo: John Ide.

## Smoke Creek desert history & hike

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN (VONSEG1@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

Smoke Creek Desert, north of Pyramid Lake and southwest of Black Rock Desert, was home to approximately 500 pioneer people in the early 1900s. Today, only one ranch remains occupied. Although the larger, adjoining Black Rock Desert gets attention due to its designation as a National Conservation Area and due to the annual Burning Man Festival, the Smoke Creek Desert deserves a look.

Outings leaders David von Seggern and Dorothy Hudig set out with 10 participants on October 21, 2017, to tour this area. We drove to the west side of Smoke Creek Desert playa, first stopping at a geothermal area north of Pyramid Lake that has abundant

tufa formations. Our next stop along the playa was at abandoned Bonham Ranch, where we were treated to an unexpected fly-in by several small aircraft who used the dirt road as a landing strip. There we shared some Smoke Creek Desert history,

including the importance of the driller and the now-missing drill rig that was used to supply water for the settlers.

Next we proceeded to the outlet of Smoke Creek where some remains of historic buildings exist at the point where Noble's Cutoff of the California Trail turned west towards Honey Lake Valley. We were surprised by a beaver dam on the small creek which runs perennially.

We drove onward to the west into the



Sierra Club trip participants find 360-degree wilderness-like views from the peak of Burro Mountain, Washoe County.

## Great Basin Group Outings News

By Daniel Ellsworth

### Winter — & some good books — are here

FOR SOME HARDY INDIVIDUALS, winter is the best season to be outdoors exploring the mountains. And for many others, winter is a season to relax with a cup of coffee by the fire and read a book. Either way, here is a short list of books that could be of some interest to a person aspiring to a primary/secondary career in alpine outdoor adventure. Enjoy!

**Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills** (latest edition) — The Mountaineers Books. This is one of the (or just simply "the") reference bible of elementary technique for exploring the high country. A must-have for any outdoor adventurer's library.

**Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain** — Bruce Tremper. This is an industry-leading manual for avalanche safety and recommended for anyone planning on traveling in a snow-covered alpine environment. If you take a quality Level I avalanche fundamentals course, the instructor will most likely ask you to purchase and read this.

**Backcountry skiing: Skills for Ski Touring & Ski Mountaineering** — Martin Volken, Scott Schell, and Margaret Wheeler. This is a book for anyone interested in learning advanced winter ski touring techniques. One of my mottos is "if you need to put a harness on when skiing, then ask yourself, 'am I skiing, or am I climbing?'" Anyway, if you think you'll need to use a harness on a ski tour, check this book out.

**Allen & Mike's Really Cool Backcountry Ski Book** — Allen O'Bannon and Mike Clelland. These guys' books are just fun to read. Great illustrations as an added bonus!

**Allen & Mike's Really Cool Telemark Tips** — Allen O'Bannon and Mike Clelland. People still telemark ski?

**Biff America: Mind, Body, Soul** — Jeffrey Bergeron. This is actually a collection of short columns about making the ski bum lifestyle work in 21st century America, written with wit and wisdom. Lighthearted, and fun reading about backcountry skiing.

**Skis Against the Atom** — Knut Haukelid. Riveting tale of a group of Norwegians ruining Nazi plans while skiing the Hardangervidda. True story.

**CalTopo** — When I was a soldier, I was trained to use a map and compass and how to pace out distances in an open field. It was, and still is, a good set of skills to have. Then the Army gave me a GPS, which at the time was as big and heavy as a brick. Within the next decade, anyone could go to a sporting

goods store and buy a lightweight GPS of their own, but we were still having to print out maps from software on our computer (or, gasp, go down to the geology school at UNR to buy a large USGS 7.5 minute map). Fast forward to today — we have CalTopo.com.

CalTopo puts all of that USGS and USFS mapping data at your fingertips. It is all online and free to use (there are account upgrade options available), making it easy to create and print custom topo maps. Create an account and you will be able to save custom maps and trips to share with other people online. Also, the custom trip and waypoint data can easily be uploaded to your GPS and vice-versa.

Trip planning can also begin and end with CalTopo if you desire. There are several weather and map overlays that you can apply to your trip map to view slope angles (for avalanche terrain), weather forecasts for your trip area, public/private land ownership, snow depth, and many others. The data is pulled from several public sources in real-time. After plotting your trip, you can also give reasonably accurate estimates of trip distance and elevation gain.

To learn more about CalTopo, visit [caltopo.com](http://caltopo.com). In addition, to learn more about the one man team that makes this great trip planning tool possible, Google "Matt Jacobs Caltopo."

Be on the lookout for future Caltopo classes on the Great Basin Group outings calendar.

### 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, because some outings leaders post to one and not the other.

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? Do you want to share your experience with others? If so, consider becoming an outings leader for the Great Basin Group of the Sierra Club. Contact Outings Chair Daniel Ellsworth for more details ([danomike@yahoo.com](mailto:danomike@yahoo.com), 775.741.8384).

## A shout out to Sierra Club outings leaders

BY TINA NAPPE

Feel like a hike today? While the Sierra Club works to save our national monuments, support clean energy, and oppose transfer of public lands, many of us like to hit the trails as well. Fortunately, there are Sierra Club members who lead the way.

Although my appreciation is focused on the Great Basin Group (GBG) leaders, out-

hills and climbed Burro Mt. (2 miles RT, 1100 ft gain) for a great view of the playa. The climb was a challenging cross-country route with no defined trail, over rocky terrain. One participant unluckily sprained an ankle, making for a careful and slow hike back down with lots of sympathy and two extra poles.\*

As the day drew to an end, we all finished the trip at the town of Gerlach, with a buoyant dinner at Bruno's Country Club, recalling the day's activities before returning to Reno.

\* Following Sierra Club outings protocol, the leaders reported this incident.

ings in all our groups and in groups across the nation continue to fulfill one of the Sierra Club's early missions: introducing the public to the open spaces we all cherish. People will likely defend that which they know. And we could not offer this service or this opportunity without volunteer leaders.

This unpaid responsibility requires initiative, reliability, and dedication. Outings leaders are expected to have First Aid skills and training in how to be leader. They coordinate with other leaders to make a calendar of outings. They thoroughly check the hike before actually doing it and often research history, biology, and other matters which surround the trail.

This fall after some absence from

Please see GB OUTING LEADERS, page 6.

# CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

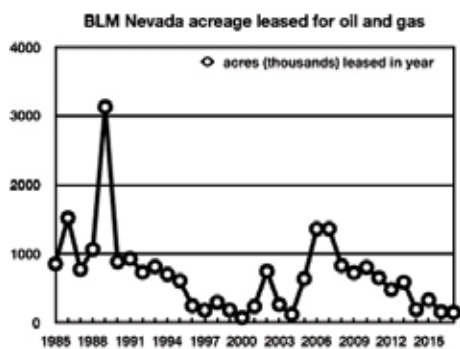
## Oil & gas leasing in Nevada: A new push

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN (VONSEG1@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION is bringing many troubling policy changes to our public lands agencies. Among these are a rollback of Obama-era constraints on fossil-fuel development on public lands (for instance, the previous shutdown on coal leasing) and a refocusing on promotion of fossil-fuel extraction from public lands. These policies are rooted in the extraction history of the past and are aligned with traditional fossil-fuel industries. This is ill-conceived because data shows that the number of new jobs in the renewable energy sector nationwide far exceeds that in the fossil-fuel sector.

This is especially true in Nevada, a state blessed with clean, renewable solar and geothermal energy sources and lacking in fossil-fuel resources. Tabulation of data from the Energy Information Agency of the U.S. government shows that Nevada produces geothermal and solar energy at a rate more than 10 times that of oil and gas production (coal production in Nevada being zero). Also, the total production of fossil fuels in Nevada is only a very minute portion of that for the entire U.S. There are good geological reasons why Nevada is not now, and never likely will be, a significant producer of fossil fuels.

Against that backdrop, Nevadans are looking at a more vigorous oil and gas leasing program by the BLM. Note that BLM manages this leasing also for the other federal land agencies, such as the Forest Service. As the graph here shows, the history of leasing



in Nevada is up and down, much dependent on the price of oil and gas; but leasing has been low in recent years. These data, along with others, can be found at <https://on.doi.gov/2nntQCJ>.

The same data source shows that Nevada lease sales have been roughly 5%-20% annually of all lease sales under BLM management, on an acreage basis, since 1984. The same data source shows that the actual number of producing acres in Nevada has consistently been only a fraction of a percent of that in all the leases under BLM management.

Clearly, there is a great disparity between the aspirations of the oil and gas industry and the actual results in Nevada.

In 2017 the proposed December 12 offering of nearly 400,000 acres in the Ely District, added to the previous 2017 offerings of nearly 300,000 acres in the Elko and Battle Mountain Districts, is cause for concern. (Of that 700,000 acres, about 85,000 acres were actually leased.) This concern was greatly heightened when the U.S. Forest Service announced in October 2017 that it would be gathering comments on the suitability of 54,000 acres near and in the Ruby Mountains for a possible lease sale in 2018 by the BLM. Most consider the Ruby Mountains as the crown jewel of Nevada mountain ranges. The chapter and the national legal team have already submitted comments on this proposal. Altogether over 8000 comments were submitted to ensure future generations of Nevadans will also get to explore and enjoy the Ruby Mountains.

## Moose, black bear, wolf, & rare bats in Nevada

BY TINA NAPPE

SIGHTINGS OF MOOSE IN ELKO County are becoming too numerous to ignore, according to the Nevada Department of Wildlife. In years gone by, sightings were rare and maybe even mistakenly identified, but now moose have been captured on camera. Two moose were mistakenly killed by sportsmen. A moose, maybe a young one, was spotted near Winnemucca.

Historically, a moose or two might wander in from Idaho where the population has risen to 15,000-20,000. Moose have also meandered into Oregon and Washington as well. In Idaho the increase in moose is partially credited with forest regrowth after timber cutting. IF YOU SEE A MOOSE, please call NDOW (775-688-1500) or, better yet, send a photo to [ndowinfo@ndow.org](mailto:ndowinfo@ndow.org) along with documentation.

BLACK BEAR populations are increasing and spreading into their historic range in Nevada. Healthy black bear populations have spread from the Sierra Nevada and Carson range down to the Utah border. Except for occasional sightings, black bear were once considered nonexistent. Begin-

ning in 1988, complaints to the Nevada Department of Wildlife from Tahoe residents about marauding bears began to build and studies were initiated. Now the estimated population is between 500 and 600 bears. Genetically, they are related to the Sierra Nevada bears. Maybe time to build highway crossings along the Sierra Front?

A possible WOLF sighting in November 2017 was verified in March via its scat as a male wolf, perhaps from the Shasta pack.

There have been possible sightings with wandering wolves over the years, but no wolves have been confirmed since 1922. Wolves are endangered under federal law but managed as a game animal (no hunting) in Nevada.

In August, the Bat Working Group set up mist nets in the Monitor and Toquima Mountains. They captured a SPOTTED BAT and a WESTERN RED BAT, both rare and protected. You can learn more about Nevada bats by listening to NDOW podcasts (<http://nevadawild.org/bat-week-bats-of-southern-nevada>). Maybe next year we could volunteer.



Photo: Kristin Szabo.

## Volunteer opportunities: Helping sage grouse survive wildfires & politics

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

THIS SUMMER THE NEWS in Nevada and the Eastern Sierra was filled daily with reports on a plethora of wildfires. It seemed that as one fire was declared "out," another one began to fill our skies with smoke from both nearby fires as well as those far away. Fueled by a very wet winter/spring and consequent prodigious growth of cheat-grass and other weeds, these fires caused extensive damage to and loss of wildlife habitat, especially to our sagebrush-covered mountains and foothills.

In the meantime, changing politics in Washington, D.C. are also threatening the implementation of a joint Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Sage Grouse Conservation plan as well as updates to 100 land management plans which cover sagebrush habitat on 67 million acres of public lands in 11 Western states. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decision not to list sage grouse as endangered or threatened was based upon the beneficial impacts of implementing these conservation plans.

Secretary of Interior, Ryan Zinke, conducted an investigation of these plans and



Tina Nappe and Rose Strickland at Sweetwater Summit Sage Grouse habitat restoration site.

issued a "report" on recommended changes to these plans. His supporters cheered the changes, which include proposals for "augmenting" sage grouse populations instead of protecting and restoring sagebrush habitat.

Wildlife proponents see the changes as undercutting nearly a decade of collaborative federal and state work on identifying, protecting, and restoring sage grouse habitat, which culminated in these Conservation Plans. Chapter scoping comments on the Zinke proposal emphasized the need to implement the 2015 plans and to monitor the results in order to ensure conservation measures are effective.

While both wildfires and politics are threatening our Great Basin iconic bird of the sagebrush, we do have opportunities to work on habitat improvement and fire rehabilitation projects with both federal and state agencies on our public lands and national forests. Chapter leaders and staff are researching opportunities for service trips to help restore good sagebrush habitat over the next year or so. Sierra Club volunteers have already participated in two BLM restoration projects on Sweetwater Flat in the Eastern Sierra and in the Virginia Mountains north-

## Nevada Peak commemorates Alvin R. McLane

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

ALVIN MCLANE EXPLORED THROUGHOUT Nevada as a water sampler, archaeologist, speleologist, historian, and geologist. He was a much sought after leader for trips anywhere in the state. Rose Strickland and I were lucky to have been able to travel with him on some of his many explorations.

Alvin was a meticulous record keeper and had his own set of fully annotated maps of his many discoveries. His book, *Silent Cordilleras, the Mountain Ranges of Nevada*, is still a go-to reference for all-things-mountain in Nevada. Alvin documented that Nevada is the most mountainous state in the nation with more than 300 named mountain ranges.

A fitting tribute to Alvin the explorer was the naming of a peak in the Nightingale Range east of Winnemucca (dry) Lake at 6474 ft back in 2016. The name "Alvin Peak" was recommended by Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology staff members Jack Hursh and Charlotte Stock and approved by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, as follows:

"McLane Peak: summit; elevation 6,494 ft.; located on BLM land in the Nightingale Mountains, 52 mi. northeast of Reno to honor Alvin McLane (1934-2006), Nevada outdoorsman and expert on State archaeology and mountain ranges ..." (Approx. 40° 09' 13" N, 119° 15' 34" W)

## Volunteer opportunity in Yosemite National Park

THE YOSEMITE CONSERVATION HERITAGE Center (formerly known as LeConte Memorial Lodge) is a National Historic Landmark building that represents the rich heritage of the Sierra Club in Yosemite Valley. The building houses several interpretive displays, a children's nature corner, a wonderful library, art projects, and evening programs. It welcomes over 15,000 visitors each year.

Since 1904, a curator and Sierra Club volunteers have provided information to park visitors. Volunteers are needed in July, August, and September of 2018. Applicants should be current Sierra Club members.

For details on becoming a volunteer at YCHC, please contact Bonnie Gisel, curator at [Bonnie.Gisel@sierraclub.org](mailto:Bonnie.Gisel@sierraclub.org).

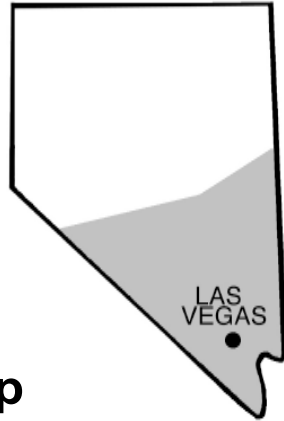
east of Reno/Sparks this fall.

**What you can do.** If getting out into the fresh air of our sagebrush country – planting seeds or sagebrush seedlings, removing saplings invading the sagebrush habitats, marking fences so sage grouse do not crash into them, and similar projects – appeals to your sense of adventure and stewardship, please contact Rose Strickland ([publiclands@toyabe.sierraclub.org](mailto:publiclands@toyabe.sierraclub.org)) or Brian Beffort ([brian.beffort@sierraclub.org](mailto:brian.beffort@sierraclub.org)) and sign up for future Sierra Club service trips.



Alvin with his dog, Petroglyph, next to a petroglyph which marks the winter solstice.

# The Mojave Monitor



## Southern Nevada Group

### Group News

#### Meetings, Events, Opportunities

**ExCom: Jan. 3, Feb. 7, & March 7**

**Join us at the Clubhouse!**

The new Sierra Club Office in Las Vegas has recently added overhead projection to our meeting space, along with three dozen additional folding chairs, so it has become a great venue for group meetings, presentations, discussions and social activities. If you haven't visited us yet, we are now located at 3828 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89107, with easy access and plenty of parking. Please come see for yourself at one of our upcoming events, as listed below and on our Calendar at [www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada](http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/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 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Sierra Club Office, as noted above. Please join us on **January 3rd, February 7th or March 7th**.

Other regular events scheduled at the new office include the **RECYCLING COMMITTEE's** meetings held on the first Monday of each month at 7pm and the Standing OWA Monthly Meeting of **OUR WILD AMERICA**

every **first Thursday** at 6pm.

And don't miss out on our first social gathering of the year, the **TOIYABE CHAPTER LEADERS MEET & GREET** on **Friday, February 9th from 6pm**.

Plus, there will be a very special Sierra Club **POLITICAL TRAINING** on **Sunday, February 11th**. Look for announcements of additional activities via email, on the Chapter website, and on our Facebook Page (Sierra Club - Southern Nevada Group).

Please see details of the last two meetings in our *Trails* Calendar, which begins on this page.

## 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.

#### JANUARY 1 (MONDAY)

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

#### JANUARY 8 (MONDAY)

**Four Slots Loop, Valley of Fire SP.** A 3-mi hike, with 700 ft gain. All off-trail with minor scrambling over slick rock. Moderate pace. Level 4. This 3 miles will feel more like 5 miles. Entrance fee required for VoF. Leader: David Morrow (702-703-9486, [David.brenda.morrow@gmail.com](mailto:David.brenda.morrow@gmail.com)).

#### JANUARY 13 (SATURDAY)

**Prospector's Trail, Valley of Fire SP.** A 6-mi, one-way hike with minimal gain through colorful canyon highlighted at one place by ancient Americans' art work. Requires car shuttle. How old are settlements in this part Nevada? Level 3. Entrance fee

required for VoF. Leader: Sasson Jahan ([sasson702@gmail.com](mailto:sasson702@gmail.com); 702-499-9218).

#### JANUARY 15-18

(Monday–Thursday)

**Exploring Joshua Tree National Park, CA.** Leave Monday morning, return Thursday evening. Three nights in nearby motel, optional camping. In this park, Mojave Desert meets Colorado Section of Sonoran Desert. What is the difference? Hiking in Joshua Tree forest through spectacular granitic rock outcrops. Level 3. This is an exploratory trip. Mod. strenuous hikes, sight-seeing. Leader: geologist Nick Saines ([greatunc@aol.com](mailto:greatunc@aol.com), 702-896-4049).

#### JANUARY 27 (SATURDAY)

**Hamlin Peak, Lake Mead NP.** A 7-mi RT hike to peak with beautiful views of Lake Mead, returning through colorful badlands. Bring your good camera! A moderate gain of only several hundred feet. What is length of Lake Mead? Is evaporation rate higher here or at Lake Powell? Level 4. Leader: Sasson Jahan ([sasson702@gmail.com](mailto:sasson702@gmail.com), 702-499-9218).

#### JANUARY 29 (MONDAY)

**Fire Canyon - Painted Pinnacles Loop, Valley of Fire SP.** A 4-mi loop, 300 ft gain, mod. strenuous. We descend into sandstone wilderness of Fire Canyon, return through Painted Pinnacles (also known as "God's Bowl"). God's Bowl is one of most beautiful places in Valley of Fire. Level 3.5. What is origin of color of rocks? Entrance fee required for VoF. Leader: geologist Nick Saines ([greatunc@aol.com](mailto:greatunc@aol.com), 702-896-4049).

#### FEBRUARY 9 (FRIDAY)

**Toiyabe Leaders Meet & Greet.** We are hosting the first Toiyabe Chapter Meeting of the year at our office on this weekend, so please join Sierra Club representatives from all over Nevada and Eastern California at this potluck social event. We'll enjoy great food and fellowship with our best and brightest. There's plenty of parking in front of the office for easy access. Potluck items are welcome and appreciated. Bring along

*Please see SN GROUP CALENDAR, page 6.*

## Valley of Fire sparks genuine insight for ICO kids

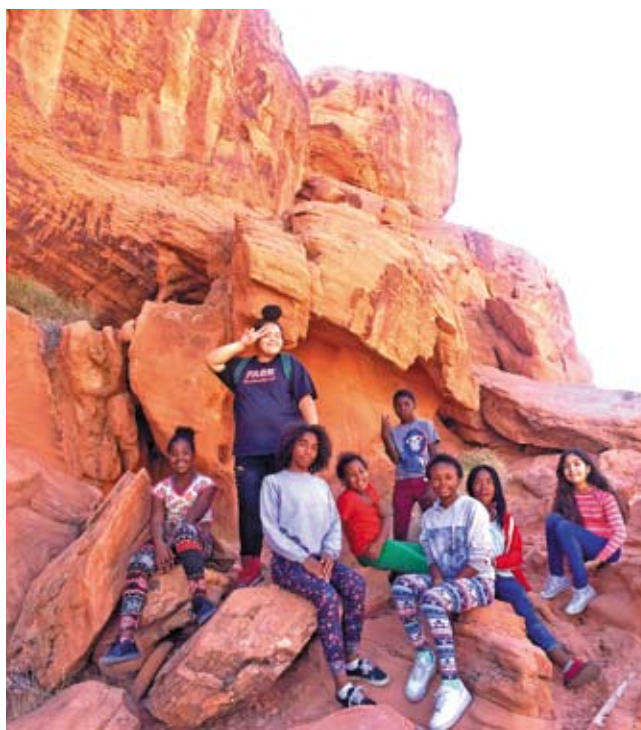
BY CYNTHIA REGIDOR, LVICO CERTIFIED LEADER

Early Saturday morning, on the last day of September, Las Vegas ICO (Inspiring Connections Outdoors) and eight children from the Cambridge Community Center set out for an adventure to Valley of Fire State Park. Ranging from 9-13 years of age, one by one, the children introduced themselves to Las Vegas ICO leaders.

They had lovely, lyrical names, such as Heaven, Harmony, Precious, and Karma. All said how fond they were of playing outside. It was clear they were ready to make the trek out to the Valley of Fire.

On arriving, we stopped off at the Beehives, where an initial safety talk was given, along with a discussion of

Leave No Trace principles. Afterward, the children scattered off like bees, scaling each rock formation that crossed their path. "You could make a movie here!" squealed one girl. It was heartening



to watch each child discover the nooks and crannies of these sandstone structures, popping their smiling faces through each interesting formation, all the while trying to keep up with their requests to snap their picture. As we walked back to the van, Precious thoughtfully expressed her own discovery about herself, "I never knew I liked to climb until I came here."

Hiking at Mouse's Tank ignited more of the children's imagination. While they all were able to spot the ancient petroglyphs etched along the trail, the children were drawn to exploring the shady slot canyons and their many carved-out crevasses, creating visions of the new "apartments" they wished to live in. We settled into our

newfound "apartment" and dove into our lunch sacks. Precious, lounging on her rock as if it were a couch, said dreamily, "I'm so comfortable here," then let out a big sigh, while Rosa asked if we could stay in our "apartment" overnight.

Bellies full, the children continued to climb to higher vistas along the trail until the afternoon sun got the best of them and we trudged back to the van.

Adventuresome Ashby summed it up like this: "When you're doing boring things, time goes so slow, but when you're doing fun and interesting things, time goes too fast!"

**What you can do.** For more information on how to support Las Vegas ICO, please email us at: [lasvegasico702@gmail.com](mailto:lasvegasico702@gmail.com).

### SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	<a href="mailto:tajainlay@aol.com">tajainlay@aol.com</a>
Vice-Chair	Vinny Spotleson		<a href="mailto:vinny.spotleson@gmail.com">vinny.spotleson@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Jane Feldman*		<a href="mailto:feldman.jane@gmail.com">feldman.jane@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	<a href="mailto:tajainlay@aol.com">tajainlay@aol.com</a>
At Large	Verna Mandez	<a href="mailto:vmandez@battleornprogress.org">vmandez@battleornprogress.org</a>	
At Large	Bobby Mahendra		<a href="mailto:bobby.mahendra@hotmail.com">bobby.mahendra@hotmail.com</a>
At Large	Vinny Spotleson		<a href="mailto:vinny.spotleson@gmail.com">vinny.spotleson@gmail.com</a>
At Large	Naomi Lewis		<a href="mailto:lewis.naomi10@gmail.com">lewis.naomi10@gmail.com</a>
Coal Power Plants	Jane Feldman*		<a href="mailto:feldman.jane@gmail.com">feldman.jane@gmail.com</a>
Conservation	Jane Feldman*		<a href="mailto:feldman.jane@gmail.com">feldman.jane@gmail.com</a>
Endangered Species & Wildlife	Jane Feldman*		<a href="mailto:feldman.jane@gmail.com">feldman.jane@gmail.com</a>
Energy	Jane Feldman*		<a href="mailto:feldman.jane@gmail.com">feldman.jane@gmail.com</a>
Global Warming	Jane Feldman*		<a href="mailto:feldman.jane@gmail.com">feldman.jane@gmail.com</a>
Las Vegas ICO	Betty Gallifent		<a href="mailto:lasvegasico702@gmail.com">lasvegasico702@gmail.com</a>
Membership	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	<a href="mailto:tajainlay@aol.com">tajainlay@aol.com</a>
Outings	Par Rasmusson	702-215-9119	<a href="mailto:par@mvdsl.com">par@mvdsl.com</a>
Outings	Open		
Green Burials	Dennis Raatz		<a href="mailto:runwa2001@yahoo.com">runwa2001@yahoo.com</a>
Political	Verna Mandez		<a href="mailto:vmandez@battleornprogress.org">vmandez@battleornprogress.org</a>
Programs	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	<a href="mailto:tajainlay@aol.com">tajainlay@aol.com</a>
Recycling	Heather Haney-King		<a href="mailto:hhaneyking@gmail.com">hhaneyking@gmail.com</a>
Transportation	Jane Feldman*		<a href="mailto:feldman.jane@gmail.com">feldman.jane@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	<a href="mailto:tajainlay@aol.com">tajainlay@aol.com</a>

\* ExCom member

**FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 1  
(MON-THU)**

**DEATH VALLEY TOUR.** Begin in Shoshone near Death Valley at noon for a tour of historic community and then primitive camping in area. Next day, go to China Ranch and hike in Amargosa Canyon. Third day, drive through heart of Death Valley, visiting scenic sites and hiking some beautiful canyons. Camp that night in Furnace Creek area. The last morning, hike dunes and then head home. Details available later. To reserve: Carol Wiley (desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

**FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 4  
(WED-SUN)**

**JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK: LATE WINTER WEEKEND.** Visit Joshua Tree National Park when temperatures are cooler and wild flowers may be blooming. We may explore palm oases, boulder areas, and desert canyons or climb peaks within Park. We have campsites from 12pm Wednesday until 12pm Sunday. Hikes may require walking over rocky

**GREAT BASIN OUTING LEADERS . . .**

*continued from page 3*

Sierra Club hikes, I began checking the GBG Meetup site and was immediately impressed with the variety and number of hikes and leaders.

For many years Holly Coughlin was both a coordinator and leader of GBG outings. During those years, outings leaders gathered each quarter to lay out three months of outings — a challenge for anyone to plan that far in advance. Now outings are no longer posted in the Trails for the GB, but directly online through coordination with the new GBG Outings Chair, Daniel Ellsworth, who ensures quality, a variety of outings, and a minimum of conflicting dates.

Roleigh Martin is new to the area but a tireless leader. I joined him on a fast-

your favorite dishes and drinks to share. Family and friends welcome, too! Time: 6-9pm. Info: tajainlay@aol.com.

**FEBRUARY 10 (SATURDAY)**

**McCullough Hills Trail (1).** Located at Black Mountain in Henderson, hike is 10 mi RT with only a few hundred feet of gain. Why is McCullough Range called Black Mountain? What mammals inhabit this range? Level 4. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218).

**FEBRUARY 11 (SUNDAY)**

**Sierra Club Political Training.** Organizers from Sierra Club National Headquarters in Oakland, CA, are coming to Southern Nevada to share their knowledge on how to elect environmental champions to office in this year's important elections. This is your opportunity to get in at the ground level of cause-related campaigning. Learn how to participate and become a member of our Group or Chapter political committees. Time: To be announced. Info: tajainlay@aol.com.

**FEBRUARY 12 (MONDAY)**

**Top of World Arch, Valley of Fire SP.** From parking lot #2, this is a 4-mi hike longer than short route we took last time. Will feel like 6-mi trail hike. All off-trail. Moderate pace. Level 4. Entrance fee required for VoF. Leader: David Morrow (702-703-9486, David.

# Winter Desert Trips

## Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

trails and some areas of rock scrambling off trail. Maximum distance 10 mi, up to 2000 ft gain. Some vehicle travel on dirt roads may be required. Cost: \$30/person, including 4 nights camping; \$20 deposit to reserve; Park entrance fee of \$25 per vehicle. We may take a guided tour of historic Keys Ranch (\$10 per person extra). Group size: 18. Email or call leader for reservation information. Leader: Rich Juricich (rich.sierraclub@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181).

Sacramento Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

**MARCH 20-23 (TUE-FRI)**

**TOUR OF MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE.** Begin Tuesday at noon at Sunrise Rock campground on Cima Road. That afternoon, hike Teutonia Peak for scenic views of area (3 mi RT). Next day, drive to Rock House

and hike loop trail (1 mi), then go Midhills to camp. Thursday we will hike in area. Friday, tour the famous Mitchell's Cavern at 11 am. Details available later. To sign up, contact Carol Wiley (desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

**NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT  
FEBRUARY 9 (FRI)**

**MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE: RESTORATION EVENT.** Join California/Nevada Desert Committee and National Park Service for restoration project in Mojave National Preserve (MNP) on February 9, one day before Desert Committee meeting on Saturday and Sunday. Gather on Friday, 8:45 am, work through afternoon, and adjourn in time to reach Shoshone for dinner hour. Our primary task will be to remove "culturally planted

*Please see WINTER DESERT TRIPS, page 8.*

## Recycling: It's one of the "Four Rs"

BY HEATHER HANEY-KING, RECYCLING COMMITTEE CHAIR, S. NEVADA GROUP

THE RECYCLING COMMITTEE of the S. Nevada Group formed as a result of the New Member Orientation last May. Shortly after forming the committee, Republic Services announced they would be bringing single stream recycling to all of southern Nevada by the end of 2018. This felt like a big automatic win, but since then we have learned there is more to a successful recycling program than providing a user-friendly containers and weekly pick-up schedule.

**Recycling world changes.** During our first few months as a committee we discussed what other cities are doing to improve recycling efforts and generally clean up the urban environment. Part of our discovery period included a trip to the Republic Services recycling facility located in North Las Vegas. There we learned that many of our assumptions about recycling aren't necessarily correct. Many of us have been at this for a while, and things have changed. For example, post-consumer **cartons used for juice, milk, and broth are now accepted.**

However, some of the packaging labeled for recycling isn't accepted by most processing plants. Plastic shopping bags and other lightweight produce or frozen food packaging is largely responsible for clogging up the equipment at the North Las Vegas recycling facility we visited. Once shredded and contaminated these items

become trash. This type of packaging must be returned to retail locations like grocery stores that specifically accept this material for recycling.

Aluminum or steel cans, cardboard, and paper products continue to be the most universally recycled products. Make sure any cardboard boxes are flattened so other



*A look inside the Southern Nevada Recycling Center. Photo: Republic Services.*

items don't end up stuck inside once they are crushed by the equipment. For this reason, it's a good idea to crush any large container prior to tossing in the recycling bin. **Plastic containers numbered 1-7 are recyclable with the caps on, as are glass jars.** With containers the key to remember is empty, clean, and dry. In this case rinsed counts as clean. Being dry prevents liquids from contaminating paper products.

Speaking of contamination, we learned the **biggest messes at the recycling facility are caused by dirty diapers, pet training pads, and similar hygiene related items.** Those are a definite no for your recycling bin along with yard waste, clothing, and household products that contain recyclable materials, but require a different path to be broken down. If all of this seems complicated, no worries, Republic Services will be launching educational programs to help the community adjust.

**What you can do.** In the meantime, if you would like to get involved with the recycling committee please contact me (hhaneyking@gmail.com). Also, please spread the word to others who may be interested. We typically meet at 7pm the first Monday of the month at the Sierra Club's Las Vegas office.

Remember, too, that **RECYCLING is only one of the 4 Rs, —be sure to REDUCE, REUSE, and REDESIGN your lifestyle to be more sustainable** wherever possible. Your children and your planet will thank you.

## S. Nevada Group CALENDAR

*continued from page 5*

brenda.morrow@gmail.com).

**FEBRUARY 19-22  
(MONDAY-THURSDAY)**

**Enjoying Long Beach, CA.** Leave Monday morning, return Thursday evening. Three nights in hotel. Guest leader is Gareth Pearson. Moderate hikes, bike riding along beach, visit to Aquarium of Pacific, plus Bolsa Chica Ecological Preserve for some bird watching. Level 2-3. Co-leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049).

**FEBRUARY 24 (SATURDAY)**

**McCullough Hills Trail (2).** This hike is on trail to Eldorado Valley Overlook at Black Mountain in Henderson. About 8 mi RT of partial trails, partial x-c with several hundred feet gain. At lunch time, we'll have view of Boulder City to E, dry lake bed, solar farm to W. Level 4. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218).

**MARCH 10 (SATURDAY)**

**33 Hole & Geode Field, Lake Mead NP.**

A 7 mi RT through narrow canyon passing by geode field on way back. Minimal gain. Wildlife viewing here affords big horn sheep, coyote, desert tortoises, gray horned owl. What do owls subsist on, what feature in their feathers helps them fly silently? Level 3. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sasson702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218).

**MARCH 12 (MONDAY)**

**Falling Man & Kota Circus, Gold Butte NM.** About 8 mi, mostly flat, mod. strenuous pace. Visit three petroglyph sites: Falling Man, 21 Goats, Kota Circus. Kota Circus is longest panel in Clark County. This is a long hike, so participants must have hiked with me before, shown that they can keep up with necessary pace. Level 5. Leader: David Morrow (702-703-9486, David.brenda.morrow@gmail.com).

**MARCH 26-29 (MONDAY-THURSDAY)**  
**Exploring Sedona, AZ.** Leave Monday morning, return Thursday evening. Three nights in motel, optional camping. Sedona is famous for its beautiful red rock scenery, and as spiritual, New Age center for its controversial vortexes, as well as for its resorts, restaurants. Do three or four mod. strenuous, scenic hikes. Level 3. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049).

# Range of Light Reflections

## Range of Light Group

### From the Chair

#### Explore, Enjoy, Protect . . . wait, there's more!

BY LYNN BOULTON, CHAIR, RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP

I RECENTLY ATTENDED A SIERRA CLUB TRAINING that started off with a reading of the Sierra Club's mission statement. I was surprised to find out there are *three paragraphs* to the mission statement, not just three words. Here they are:

*To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth;*

*To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources;*

*To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.*

The Sierra Club is not just solving environmental problems; its goal is to do it in a way that helps everyone. The mission statement has evolved to consider the human environment — e.g. those who live next to a polluting factory or breathe smog because they can't afford to leave their neighborhood.

Here is the original 1892 mission statement, which is missing that element:

*To explore, enjoy, and render accessible the mountain regions of the Pacific Coast; to publish authentic information*

*concerning them; to enlist the support and co-operation of the people and the Government in preserving the forests and other natural features of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.*

If you haven't read the article, "A Deeper Shade of Green", by Aaron Mair, the Sierra Club President, please do. Both the current mission statement and this article showed me a side of the Sierra Club I wasn't aware of and have made me proud to be a part of it.



## Range of Light Outings

### JANUARY 7 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBD by weather conditions.** Contact Melissa for more information as we get closer to the outing date (760-937-0499, melissas1@verizon.net).

### JANUARY 14 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBD by weather conditions.** Contact Brigitte for more information as we get closer to the outing date, (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com).

### JANUARY 21 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBD by weather conditions.** Contact Ann for more information as we get closer to the outing date, (760-934-9271, annleithliter@gmail.com).

### JANUARY 28 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBD by weather conditions.** Contact Dick and Joanne for more information as we get closer to the outing date, (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

### FEBRUARY 4 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBD by weather conditions.** Contact Melissa for more information as we get closer to the outing date, (760-937-0499, melissas1@verizon.net).

### FEBRUARY 11 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBD by weather conditions.** Contact Dick and Joanne for more information as we get closer to the outing date, (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

### FEBRUARY 18 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBD by weather conditions.** Contact Brigitte for more information as we get closer to the outing date, (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com).

### FEBRUARY 25 (SUNDAY)

**Destination TBD by weather conditions.** Contact Ann for more information as we get closer to the outing date, (760-934-9271, annleithliter@gmail.com).

## 1872 Mining Law in today's world

BY LYNN BOULTON, CHAIR, RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP

The comment period ended November 20 for the proposed *Perdito Exploration Project at Conglomerate Mesa*, Inyo County, and now the BLM has the task of deciding which laws take precedence — the 1872 Mining Law or the many environmental protection laws that have been enacted since then.

It is one thing to honor California's gold mining history and traditions, but the increase in California's population, now up to 38 million, has changed the game. Which laws take precedence?

The BLM charter (FLPMA, 1976 law) makes BLM lands available for many uses including mining. The Conglomerate Mesa area is included in the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA, 1976 law). The Omnibus Public Lands Management Act (2009) forces BLM to actively protect the CDCA. And the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP, 2016, not a law) designates a part of Conglomerate Mesa as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) containing 3 or 4 possibly rare plants.

All of this helps to protect Conglomerate Mesa, but it is still at risk for mining. The DRECP is being tested by Silver Standard's application to drill seven holes to a depth of 1000 feet at Conglomerate Mesa to look for microscopic, disseminated gold. The obvious purpose for the exploration is to mine it. That means an open-pit, cyanide heap-

leaching mine.

*Conglomerate Mesa lies between 2 designated wilderness areas:* Malpais Mesa and the Inyo Mountains. The mesa was withdrawn from Cerro Gordo Wilderness Study Area in 1994. A historic foot trail from Keeler to Death Valley crosses it, but it isn't on the historic register. It is the only complete sequence of Permian continental shelf strata exposed and the only known location of 12 species of fusulinid fossils.

Unfortunately, there are no laws protecting unique geology and paleontology short of a national monument designation. There is a dense, regenerating Joshua tree forest to the east of the mesa and on the top of it, making it a valuable climate change refuge area for these trees. However, a 2017 Executive Order (13783) killed the guideline to consider GHG emissions in NEPA

Please see 1872 MINING LAW, page 8.

### Range of Light Group

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\* Voting ExCom member

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## ROLG WINTER 2018 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.

**We are not able to list outings for March at this time. Please check for outings at the locations listed below.**

**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/>>
- or 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).

Our **BEST SUGGESTION:** Always check with leader for updated information about an outing you are interested in joining. Remember, you don't have to be a member of the Sierra Club to participate in our outings, but we encourage you to support the good work of the Sierra Club and its many volunteers.

### What to Bring on Winter Outings

Prepare for a variety of conditions. Bring water, lunch and snacks, layered clothing, hats, gloves, sunglasses, appropriate footwear as well as skis/snowshoes if appropriate.

### Important Notice

Outings destinations are dependent on weather conditions. Abominable weather will cancel an outing. Please contact leader ahead of time.

### ROL Group Website

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

### &

### Chapter website

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

# Range of Light FALL PHOTO GALLERY

BY JOANNE HIHN



Robert Joki, local Mammoth Lakes historian, took a group on a "Ghost Busters, A Search For Mammoth City Graves" tour. We started at the old Townsend grave and explored local bluffs for the original 1880 Mammoth City Cemetery.



ROLG continues to follow recovery of vegetation and wildlife in Bohler Canyon after a 2015 fire. Lynn Boulton, ROLG's Chair, gives perspective to rapid grasses and aspen growth along a trail.

Long-time ROLG leader Sally (R) introduced hikers to a new loop trail below the Sherwin Mountain Range, outside of Mammoth Lakes. Sally led several Thursday early evening outings in September which were popular with tourists and locals alike.



Led by Tom Budlong, members of ROLG, Friends of the Inyo and California Wilderness Coalition visited Conglomerate Mesa, outside of Death Valley. We observed first hand this historically significant, unspoiled wilderness and learned about efforts by Silver Standard U.S. Holdings Inc. to secure permission by the BLM to drill exploratory wells in search of Carlin type gold deposits. If these deposits are found in sufficient quantities, Silver Standard proposes to extract the gold by means of open pit mining using the cyanide heap leach method. Many wrote letters to BLM and attended a meeting of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, encouraging them to choose the "NO ACTION" alternative to prevent exploratory drilling.



Several ROLG members and friends enjoyed a cardio workout on an outing up and over Burro Pass. This view, near the top of the pass, looks down on some of the Virginia Lakes (west of Route 395 off of Conway Summit).



In October, 2017 a small group of hikers visited the Harvey Monroe Hall Natural Reserve, in Inyo National Forest. In past years, the Carnegie Institute of Washington, Department of Plant Biology, conducted research on the effects of heredity and climate on plants.

## 1872 MINING LAW...

continued from page 7

reviews.

Open-pit mining is a one-time only use which renders the landscape pretty much unusable thereafter. A 2003 amendment to SMARA, a California reclamation law, requires metallic open-pit mines to be backfilled, but once excavated, Conglomerate Mesa's form, geology, and fossil record could never be restored.

We need tighter laws still. Thankfully, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 1969) allows us to contribute to BLM's decision-making process, so we can point out how special this place is.

**Thank you to all who wrote letters.** Now we wait and see what the BLM decides: a full EIS, a permit to go forward with the drilling, or a permit denial?

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

**Toiyabe Chapter  
ExCom Meeting**  
**Saturday, 9 am  
February 10, 2018  
Las Vegas**  
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).

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Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
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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 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)**

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## WINTER DESERT TRIPS...

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species" (tamarisk, fan palm, sunflowers) at Desert Studies Center, Zzyzx. Don't miss this annual, pre-Shoshone service opportunity. Contact: Sid Silliman for project details, directions, camping options, and RSVP (gssilliman@cpp.edu).