



EXPLORE, ENJOY, & PROTECT THE PLANET.

# TOIYABE TRAILS

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH 2016

Winter Outings Issue

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

## From the Chair

### Nevada races to to bottom on renewable energy

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN  
(vonseg1@sbcglobe.net)

Nevada ranks fourth in solar energy potential among U.S. states (EIA, <http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=23972&src=email#>), but has dropped out of the Top 10 list of states with installed, distributed (rooftop) solar in 2015. States such as Connecticut and New Jersey, not known for a sunny climate, rank ahead of us. Nevada is first in geothermal energy potential but has only tapped a small fraction of that potential while oil and gas exploration gets new attention in our state through lease sales on public lands, even though those prospects are bleak.

Nevada should be heading the nation as a showcase of renewable energy development. What's wrong? We can point to at least two important reasons. First, a weak legislative program of support for renewable energy has left the state adrift on the transition to clean energy. Second, the state's largest purveyor of electrical power, NVEnergy, is still calling the shots with their influence at the state legislature and their use of media

Please see FROM THE CHAIR, page 2.

**Need information about Toiyabe Chapter?**

Try the . . .

**Chapter website**

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



Southern Nevada Group ICO Leader Curtis Jones with Burk High School students. PHOTO: Betty Gallifent.

### Waiting for water salvation! Truckee Meadows water plan falls short!

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

I'm writing this on the last day of November 2015. By the time you read it in 2016 the often forecasted deluge of rain and snow for the southwestern U.S. due to a strong "El Niño" may have already dumped a ton of precipitation in Nevada and eastern California.

While I waited for the "El Niño" snow and rain to begin in earnest, I submitted comments for the Sierra Club on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's (TMWA) "Draft 2016-2035 Truckee Meadows Water Resource Plan (Plan)." The Plan falls short in at least four ways that I'll talk about a little later.

Right now, it is pretty droughty in western Nevada despite some recent snows. The Truckee River is a trickle through Reno and Sparks.

Please see WATER PLAN, page 6.

### Reminder for Nevada residents: REGISTER TO VOTE by May 14, 2016

IF YOU ARE A NEW RESIDENT, a new voter (i.e. will be 18 by November 2016), or have moved to another county in Nevada since the last election, you need to register to vote!

There is a 10-day grace period until May 24, 2016, to register in person or at the Secretary of State website. You can use a valid driver license or Nevada ID card.

**Online registration!** Also, eligible voters can now register to vote, update their voter registration information, and/or change their address or party affiliation ONLINE! A DMV issued Driver's License or ID is required.

For details, please go to the Nevada Secretary of State's Election Center web site at <<http://nvsos.gov/index.aspx?page=71>> or call or visit your county's Registrar of Voters office.

**"LET NATURE WIN IN 2016!"**

**DEADLINE!**

**MARCH 1**

**FOR APR - MAY-JUNE ISSUE**

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Sierra Club CA/NV Awards . . . . . 2
- Winter Day Camp for Kids . . . . . 2, 10
- OptOutside Basin & Range Trip . . . . . 3
- Range of Light Group . . . . . 4-5
- ROL Group Winter Outings . . . . . 4
- ROL Conservation Report . . . . . 6
- Truckee River Agreement . . . . . 6
- Water Gab: What's Happening? . . . . . 6
- "Steps for Snow" at Mono Lake . . . . . 7
- Nevada's Beautiful Bats . . . . . 7
- Great Basin Group . . . . . 8-9
- Great Basin Group Outings . . . . . 8
- Winter Day Camp for Kids . . . . . 2, 10
- Youngest Peak Section Members . . . . . 8
- Humboldt Peak . . . . . 8
- S. Nevada Group . . . . . 10-11
- S. Nevada Group Outings . . . . . 10
- Moapa Paiutes Visit Gold Butte . . . . . 11
- Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meetings . . . . . 12

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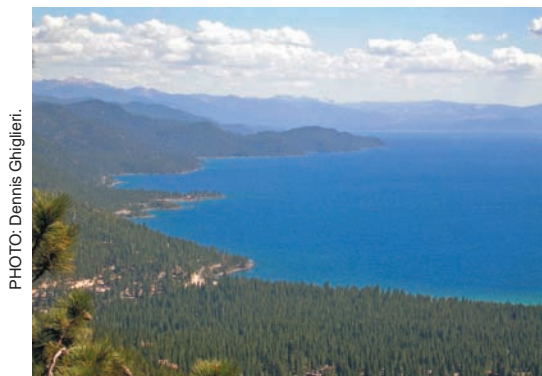


PHOTO: Dennis Ghiglieri.

**Toiyabe Chapter,  
Sierra Club,  
Celebrates  
Lake Tahoe  
Nevada Museum of Art,  
Reno, Nevada  
January 9, 2016, 6 PM**

TOIYABE CHAPTER takes the opportunity of the closing of the acclaimed exhibit on Lake Tahoe history and art to celebrate our connection to this national treasure at our front door. If you have not seen the exhibit, this is the last chance; if you have, come enjoy it again, with guided tour optional. Then sit down for dinner and enjoy our program to honor the lake and the NMA exhibit. Visit the NMA's web page on the exhibit at Tahoe: A Visual History. Purchase tickets at <http://toiyabe-celebrates-tahoe.com>. This is a limited event, and only 60 tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Your ticket purchase helps Toiyabe Chapter to continue its conservation efforts at Lake Tahoe, in Nevada, and in eastern California.



## FROM THE CHAIR . . .

continued from page 1

to present their own vision of Nevada's energy future: the one which benefits them the most.

Legislature lags behind. The Nevada legislature started back in the late 1990s to support the development of renewable energy with an aggressive Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirement, but that has now become, in spite of improvements, a mediocre standard for renewable energy and certainly not one that comports with the current needs to replace fossil-fuel energy in order to quickly cut global greenhouse gas emissions. The 2015 legislature added nothing meaningful to our state's transition to renewable energy, and there were too few renewable-energy champions who could create progress in one of Nevada's least progressive legislatures ever.

What questions should members ask? As we approach the 2016 election, Sierra Club members should be framing the questions they wish to ask candidates on renewable energy. The Toiyabe Chapter Political Committee will be doing endorsements; candidates' responses to questions on renewable energy will be heavily weighed. In its simplest form, the question is: What will you do to help unlock Nevada's enormous solar and geothermal energy?

MidAmerican Energy opposing home generation of solar energy. In 2013, MidAmerican Energy bought out NVEnergy, bringing a large electrical power provider to our state. MidAmerican Energy is a prime installer of wind turbines in Iowa and other states, and this is widely recognized as a cost-effective replacement for fossil fuels. Here in a state with lesser wind resources, MidAmerican has set themselves in opposition to distributed solar power generation on the sunny rooftops of Nevada homes, business structures, and elsewhere.

What the legislature needs to do. It is no secret that NVEnergy is trying to rig the net-metering rates to discourage rooftop solar power generation in Nevada. Unfortunately, the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada has insufficient resources to counter NVEnergy's determination. We need the 2017 legislature to pass laws enabling Nevada home and business owners to unlock the potential of solar energy. Profit from the sun's energy should be available to all citizens. We also need other mechanisms such as "community solar" whereby groups of individuals, homeowners' associations, or businesses can erect solar installations and drastically lower power bills through a cooperative approach at the local level.



## Sierra Club California/Nevada 2015 Awards

— The winners are —

For those of you who do not attend the Sierra Club California Convention/California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee meetings and have not heard the big news, the recipients of the Sierra Club California/Nevada Awards are:

**SALLY AND LES REID AWARD** recognizes an individual who has served Sierra Club California in the area of conservation.

**Arthur (Robin) Boone**

**MARY FERGUSON AWARD** recognizes a paid staff member who has served the Sierra Club in California.

**Kathryn Phillips**

**STAN WEIDERT AWARD [YE OLDE BOTTLE AWARD]** recognizes an individual who has served Sierra Club California in public lands activism.

**Terry Frewin**

**BOB HATTOY AWARD** recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to Sierra Club political activities in California.

**Alex Mintzer**

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION** for long time activism.

**Ralph Salisbury**

A big thank you to the other members of the Awards Committee, Patricia Jones and Joan Jones Holtz, for their help in selecting the winners, reviewing all the nominations, and preparing the nicely framed certificates.

— from Sierra Club California/Nevada press release

## Create an Environmental Legacy.

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

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

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



Toiyabe Trails



SERVING NEVADA  
& CALIFORNIA'S E. SIERRA

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

**Editor** – Lynne Foster (Bishop, CA; 760-873-3829; lfoster@schat.net.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

# WINTER DAY CAMP

Jan. 4 - 8, 2016

at Oxbow Nature Study Area  
for 1st - 6th graders

Full week: \$195 from 9:00—4:00

Before & after  
care option

Learn about snow science, winter safety,  
bears, geology, recycling, & more!

775-324-0936

Haley@greatbasin-os.org

DEADLINE!

MARCH 1

FOR  
APR-MAY-JUNE ISSUE



## Friends of the Inyo offers outings

DECEMBER 15 - MARCH 15

**Shady Rest Nordic Trails.** Enjoy skiing and snowshoeing on groomed trails at Old Shady Rest Campground behind the Mammoth Lakes Visitor Center. Friends of the Inyo tentatively begins grooming Dec 15 (weather permitting), running through Mar 15. Check back for potential events/outings: info@friendsoftheinyo.org, 760-873-6500.

JANUARY 23 (SAT)

**Crater Mountain Hike.** Looking for a winter hike? South of Bishop, Crater Mountain sits at the north end of Big Pine Volcanic Fields. This Wilderness Study Area offers spectacular views of the Sierra and Inyo Mountains. We'll have a good chance of seeing Tule Elk and prehistoric cultural sites. Bring hiking shoes, sun protection, water, and lunch. Meet Friends of the Inyo at Big Tree at junction of 395 and 169. Time TBD. To get to hiking location take Glacier Lodge Road – signed, graded dirt road where all but lowest clearance vehicles are fine. Take sharp left and go 3 mi to pull-out on east side of road. Contact/RSVP: info@friendsoftheinyo.org, 760-873-6500.

FEBRUARY 20 (SAT)

**Volcanic Tablelands Exploration.** This area offers exceptional winter exploration fun. With fantastic volcanic land forms, hidden canyons, winter wildlife, and archeological sites, there's something for everyone. Join Friends of the Inyo in exploring human history of the area. Exact time and meeting place TBD. Bring clothing for any weather condition, food, water, and sturdy pair of shoes. Contact/RSVP: info@friendsoftheinyo.org, 760-873-6500.

MARCH 12 (SAT)

**Wildflowers of Short Canyon Exploration.** Join Friends of the Inyo and Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society on a wildflower exploration of Short Canyon, an Area of Critical Environmental Concern with spectacular botanical resources at the edge of Owens Peak Wilderness. Nearly 300 species of plants have been described in this canyon, and we'll be taking advantage of a spring day to see what we can find. Time and meeting location TBD. Bring clothing for all weather conditions, food, water, and sturdy shoes. Contact/RSVP: info@friendsoftheinyo.org, 760-873-6500.

APRIL 22-24 (FRI-SUN)

**OWENS LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL: SAVE THE DATE.** Join Friends of the Inyo for the 2nd annual Owens Lake Bird Festival at Owens Lake Important Bird Area, celebrating migrating shorebirds as they move between hemispheres. Festival showcases the significance of Owens Lake and the return of threatened habitat. More details will be available in January. Highlights include Friday and Saturday receptions and tours of Owens Lake, catering to different interests and abilities. Camping and lodging available in the Lone Pine area. Contact/Registration: info@friendsoftheinyo.org, 760-873-6500.



## March Desert Trips

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

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

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



### Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

MARCH 2-6 (WED-SUN)

#### ANZA BORREGO STATE PARK SPRING WEEKEND

Visit this amazing California desert state park E of San Diego when temperatures are cooler and wildflowers may be blooming. Our space in developed group campground is reserved from 2pm Wednesday to noon on Sunday. Arrive any time on Wednesday and explore park on your own. Optional half-day off-road adventure with commercial outfitter (\$135) on Thursday or Friday. Day hikes may require walking over rocky trails and some areas of rock scrambling off trail. Deposit required by February 1 to confirm reservation. Limit: 18 people. Info: contact leader, Rich Juricich (rich.sierraclub@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181).

Sacramento Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

MARCH 4-6 (FRI-SUN)

(FRI OPTIONAL)

#### EXPLORE AFTON CANYON

Afton Canyon Natural Area is 37 mi NE of Barstow, off I-15. In this area the Mojave River runs above ground and the Mojave Road goes through canyon. Afton Canyon is known for outstanding scenery and riparian habitat. Stay at campground and hike into canyon on both days to see interesting sites. Hikes rated moderate. If you want to get there early, camping will be available on Friday night. Leader: Carol Wiley (desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

MARCH 10-12 (THU-SAT)

#### DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION

Help restore wilderness values in this remote and beautiful desert park.

It may be a spectacular wildflower year, and we will have time to stop and admire flowers. Project not yet determined, but may be working on Cottonwood Canyon trail. This could change before March. Leader: Kate Allen (kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).

CNRCC Desert Committee

MARCH 18-21 (FRI-MON)

#### HIKE & TOUR IN MOJAVE PRESERVE

Meet at Sunrise Campground on Friday at noon, then visit historic "rock house" and hike loop. Camping at Sunrise is primitive. Saturday there will be a longer hike from Mid-Hills down the canyon towards Hole-in-the-Wall. We hope to see wildflowers! Camp at Mid-Hills Campground. Sunday, hike to Teutonia Peak, view Cima Dome, camp again at Sunrise Rock if you'd like to stay over another night. Monday, tour through Preserve to Amboy Crater, where we can finish tour with a hike up the crater. All hikes will be moderate to easy. Leader: Carol Wiley (desertlily1@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

MARCH 25-27 (FRI-SUN)

#### CALIFORNIA DESERT WILDERNESS SERVICE

Join Mojave Group and CA/NV Wilderness Committee for our annual desert wilderness service project with wilderness staff from Needles office of BLM. This year's destination is still top secret at press time, but Turtle Mountains, Dead Mountains, and Clipper Mts are all potential choices for some fun and useful restoration work, wilderness enhancement, and spring desert enjoyment. Central commissary, contact Vicky Hoover (415-977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org).

CNRCC Wilderness Committee

## OptOutside follows John Muir on Basin & Range trip

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

Over Thanksgiving weekend a dedicated crew chose to brave the cold winter of the Nevada high desert instead of the shopping mall. As part of a nationwide movement to Opt Outside on Black Friday, the Our Wild America campaign and Nevada's Toiyabe Chapter led an outing into the newly designated Basin & Range National Monument.

Using the journals of Sierra Club founder, John Muir, the group followed in the conservationist's footsteps as they camped and hiked across the desert. A long gravel road from Hwy 318 led into the monument past several viewing points in Mount Irish Archeological District. Petroglyphs lined the rocks along the way, sharing knowledge and stories of animals, plants and the seasons as the group approached sacred sites of the Paiute and Shoshone. Unfortunately, there was evidence of weathering and even careless vandalism on many of the petroglyphs.

Having successfully traversed Logan Pass, which runs by Mt. Irish and into Southern Garden Valley, the group made camp for the night in Murphy's Gap. Though temperatures dipped below 14 degrees, the campers persevered and headed out along the Worthington Mountains the next day, a range that John Muir explored and enjoyed. They then cut across Gar-

den Valley and were rewarded with a spectacular view of the towering Grant Mountain Range.

Next stop was a hill that gave them a spectacular panoramic view of Garden Valley, the Water Gap in the Golden Gate Range, and artist Michael Heizer's masterpiece, "City," a massive earth art installation in the desert. And finally the group proceeded to document areas of the Coal Valley currently being considered for dirty fuel development, in the area surrounding Murphy's Reservoir which lies within the boundaries of the national monument. They gathered important information on temporary water flows to be shared with the Bureau of Land Management as it assesses the risk of spreading contamination from the proposed fracking wells.

Mixed feelings accompanied the group as they left the national monument--satisfaction at having successfully completed the trip, pride in having helped create the monument being explored, and uncertainty for the future of the pristine views of Basin and Range. One thing was clear though, the group will continue work to ensure future generations can continue to opt outside in the beautiful Nevada desert.



# Range of Light Reflections

## Range of Light Group

### Group News

#### Message from the Chair

BY DICK HIHN (rhahn@skidmore.edu)

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

**Outings.** The Eastern Sierra has been blessed with early snowfall, allowing Mammoth Mountain to get an early start to the season! It has also allowed many of our Club members to get an early start on skiing and snowshoeing. Our formal outings will begin in January, with trips scheduled for most Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

We would like to welcome Lisa Buckley as a new ROLG outings leader! She will offer trips to South Lake, Lake Sabrina, Rock Creek, and Owens River Gorge. This winter we will also be featuring outings on our newly completed cross-country ski/snowshoe routes.

Please look for details of our outings beginning on this page, as well as in our Group E-Newsletter, on our website, and also on our online Meetup pages.

**Membership.** As of October 2015, ROLG has 352 members. Many thanks to Shalle Genevieve, our Membership Chair, for managing our membership list and organizing our Our Range of Light Group E-Newsletter. If you wish to become a member, please contact Shalle at: marshalle@earthlink.net.

**Publicity.** Please Welcome Lynn Boulton as our New Publicity Chair! Many of you may know of Lynn's successful ongoing work to prevent bobcat trapping in our region. Many thanks to Rosemary Jarrett for her many years of service as Publicity Chair.

**Conservation.** Please see the Conservation Report from Malcolm Clark,



our Conservation Chair, which begins on the next page.

**Blue Diamond Cross-Country Ski Route Project.** In the last issue of Trails I reported the virtual completion of our Blue Diamond restoration project. GPS work has now been completed, and we have engaged a cartographer to help us create a professional map of our routes: Knolls, Inyo Craters, Knolls-Inyo Craters "connector" route, Earthquake Fault, and Obsidian Dome.

We continue to work with the Forest Service on this project. Thanks to all who have helped with this project, and especially to Mary K Prentice, Mary and Mike Shore, and Joanne Hihn. We hope to have these maps available to the public in the near future. Please look for an announcement on one of our online pages.

**Online.** For additional information about the ROLG activities, please visit us online at:

- **ROLG Website:** www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light
- **Facebook:** Our Facebook page has had 492 likes, up from 447 last quarter (Google "Facebook Range of Light Group")
- **ROLG Outings Meetup:** Our Meetup page has 141 members, up from 127 as of last quarter.

### ROL Group ExCom

BY DICK HIHN, ROL CHAIR

Our ExCom will next meet on Thursday, January 21, at 6 pm, at the home of Dick and Joanne Hihn. You are welcome to attend. Please contact me in advance for details (rhahn@skidmore.edu or 760-709-5050).



### ROL Group Website

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

&

### Chapter website

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

## Range of Light OUTINGS

BY JOANNE HIHN & DICK HIHN

### WINTER 2016 OUTINGS

ALL OUTINGS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES!

All phone numbers are 760 unless otherwise noted.

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

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

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

### 2016 WINTER SEASON

We have added weekday outings, in addition to Saturday or Sunday offerings.

**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 may change due to unforeseen weather conditions. Abominable weather will cancel an outing. If in doubt, please contact leader ahead of time.

### OUTINGS

#### JANUARY 9 (SATURDAY)

**Snowshoe in Knolls.** Join us in the Knolls on a moderate snowshoe loop hike to several high points overlooking Mammoth and the Eastern Sierra. Excellent views of Laurel Mtn, Bloody Mtn, and Minarets. We will follow Blue Diamond and off-trail routes. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Dick (760-709-5050, rhahn@skidmore.edu).

#### JANUARY 14 (THURSDAY)

**Aspendell Ski Tour.** Aspendell to Sabrina

and North Lake, mod. strenuous. Well behaved dogs welcome. Meet 10am, dirt lot, corner of 395 and Pleasant Valley Dam Rd. Contact: Lisa (720-238-2581, lgbuckley@gmail.com).

#### JANUARY 17 (SUNDAY)

**Wilderness Ski.** Ski loop behind Mammoth Mtn Inn, 3 mi RT. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Contact: Mary K (760-934-0355, mkp@

Please see ROL OUTINGS, page 5.

## You're Invited!

### Range of Light Group Monthly Meetings Everyone welcome!

For all potlucks please bring a dish for 6-8 people and your own *non-disposable* table setting. For months with potluck and program, you are welcome to skip the potluck and come only for the program.

#### January 19 (Tuesday)

6:45 pm, Announcements  
7 pm, Program

Cerro Coso Community College,  
Mammoth Lakes

This is the first of a three-part series on "Our Public Lands," with a focus on the Eastern Sierra. Tonight, in a round table discussion format, we'll review early development of lands in the Eastern Sierra including The Homestead Act, Mining Districts, and Antiquities Act.

#### February 16 (Tuesday)

6:45 pm, Announcements  
7 pm, Program

Cerro Coso Community College,  
Mammoth Lakes

This is the second in a three-part series on "Our Public Lands." Tonight we will focus on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and how it manages our lands.

#### March 15 (Tuesday)

6:15 pm, Social & Potluck  
Crowley Lake Community Ctr  
(next to Crowley Lake Store)  
7 pm, Program

Wildlife biologist, Erin Nolin, will tell us about the Endangered Species Act and the process the U.S. Fish and Wild Life Service uses in listing species of concern — including those in the Owens Valley and surrounding areas.

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

### Range of Light Group

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Dick Hihn*	rhahn@skidmore.edu
Vice-Chair	Malcolm Clark	760-924-5639
Secretary	Lesley Bruns*	lestravel@hotmail.com
Conservation	Malcolm Clark	760-924-5639
Treasurer	Mary Ann Dunigan	760-924-5982
At Large	Mike Shore*	mary.shore@gte.net
At Large	Fran Hunt*	fran.hunt@sierraclub.org
At Large	Joanne Hihn*	photos73@gmail.com
Chapter Del.	Jean Dillingham	760-648-7109
Editor	Shalle Genevieve	760-934-9668
Hway Cleanup	Dick & Joanne Hihn	photos73@gmail.com
	Mary & Mike Shore	mary.shore@gte.net
Hospitality	Wilma Wheeler	760-934-3764
ORWC** Chair	Mark Bagley	760-873-5326
Membership	Shalle Genevieve	760-934-9668
Outings	Dick Hihn	rhahn@skidmore.edu
Co-Chairs	Joanne Hihn	jphotos73@gmail.com
Programs	Mary Shore	mary.shore@gte.net
Publicity	Rosemary Jarrett	rosemaryjarrett@gmail.com
Webmaster	Jo Bacon	jbacon22@verizon.net
Webmaster Emeritus	Owen Maloy	760-934-9511

\* Voting ExCom member

\*\* Owens River Watershed Conservation Chair



## Range of Light OUTINGS

continued from page 4

npgcable.com).

### JANUARY 21 (THURSDAY)

**X-Country Blue Diamond Routes.** Join us for an easy 2-3 hour x-country ski outing on some of our favorite Blue Diamond routes. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Mike/Mary (1-805-217-5563, marymike-shore@gmail.com).

### JANUARY 21 (THURSDAY)

**ROLG ExCom Meeting.** At 6pm, Hihn residence. Please call for details if you wish to attend (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

### JANUARY 24 (SUNDAY)

**Ski San Joaquin Ridge.** Minaret Summit to San Joaquin Ridge, x-country. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com).

### JANUARY 28 (THURSDAY)

**X-Country Ski Blue Diamond Routes.** Join us for an easy 2-3 hour x-country ski outing on some of our favorite Blue Diamond routes. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Abominable weather cancels

### JANUARY 30 (SATURDAY)

**Rock Creek Snowshoe.** From Sno-Park to Rock Creek Lodge. About 6 mi, 600 ft gain, moderate pace. Along the creek, not the road. Meet 9:30am, Mammoth Union Bank or 10am, junction 395 and Rock Creek Road. Parking fee at Sno-Park, \$5. Contact: day before for last-minute changes. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Contact: Sandy (714-336-8729, kburnsides@aol.com).

### FEBRUARY 4 (THURSDAY)

**Ski Owens River Gorge.** Ski above Owens River Gorge. Well behaved dogs welcome. Meet 10am, Sunny Slopes mail boxes, off 395, across from Toms Place. Contact: Lisa (720-238-2581, lgbuckley@gmail.com).

### FEBRUARY 7 (SUNDAY)

No Outing

### FEBRUARY 14 (SUNDAY)

**Ski Earthquake Fault Area.** Possible car shuttle to parking lot "D" or Inyo Craters. About 3-5 mi depending on route. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Contact: Mary K (760-934-0355, mkp@npgcable.com).

### FEBRUARY 18 (THURSDAY)

**X-Country Ski Blue Diamond Routes.** Easy 2-3 hour x-country ski outing on some of our favorite Blue Diamond routes. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Mike/Mary (1-805-217-5563, marymikesore@gmail.com).

### FEBRUARY 20 (SATURDAY)

**Snowshoe Loop Around Obsidian Dome.** Start at Obsidian Dome parking lot. Possible trip onto Dome for wide-open views of surrounding area. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Check with leaders if you need to borrow snow-

shoes. Contact: Dick (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

### FEBRUARY 25 (THURSDAY)

**X-Country Blue Diamond Routes.** Join us for an easy 2-3 hour x-country ski outing on some of our favorite Blue Diamond routes. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Mike/Mary (1-805-217-5563, marymike-shore@gmail.com).

### FEBRUARY 28 (SUNDAY)

**Ski or Snowshoe to Wilson Butte.** Ski or snowshoe through the woods from Obsidian Dome blue diamond trails on a loop to Wilson Butte, then back to the parking area. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank or 10:30am, Obsidian Dome parking area. Contact: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com).

### MARCH 6 (SUNDAY)

**Snowshoe Tour to South Lake.** Snowshoe from winter closure gate to South Lake. Moderately strenuous. Meet 10am at dirt lot, corner 395 and Pleasant Valley Dam Rd. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Contact: Lisa (lgbuckley@gmail.com).

### MARCH 13 (SUNDAY)

**Ski/Snowshoe Route Determined By Snow Conditions.** Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Contact: Mary K (760-934-0355, mkp@npgcable.com).

### MARCH 17 (THURSDAY)

**X-Country Blue Diamond Routes.** Easy 2-3 hour x-country ski outing on some of our favorite Blue Diamond routes. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Mike/Mary (1-805-217-5563, marymikesore@gmail.com).

### MARCH 20 (SUNDAY)

**X-Country Ski to Emerald Lake.** Strenuous x-country ski from Coldwater parking area to Emerald Lake. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com).

### MARCH 24 (THURSDAY)

**X-Country Ski Blue Diamond Routes.** Easy 2-3 hour x-country ski outing on some of our favorite Blue Diamond routes. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Mike/Mary (1-805-217-5563, marymikesore@gmail.com).

### MARCH 26 (SATURDAY)

**Snowshoe Earthquake Fault to Inyo Craters.** Follow Blue Diamond routes. Car spot required. Possible ascent of Deer Mtn. Check with leaders if you need to borrow snowshoes. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Dick (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

### MARCH 31 (THURSDAY)

**Ski Rock Creek.** If road is open, ski from Mosquito Flats up Little Lakes Valley. Alternative plans depending upon snow conditions. Meet 10am, Toms Place. Contact: Lisa (720-238-2581, lgbuckley@gmail.com).

## Range of Light FALL PHOTO GALLERY

Photos by Joanne Hihn



A group of ROLG members recently visited Bohler Canyon, one of the sites affected by the Walker Fire of this past summer. We were collectively saddened by the fire's devastation.



The top photo is of a meadow, taken in Oct. 2014. The next photo was taken in Nov., 2015, after the fire. Finally, the photo below that surprised us with how quickly Mother Nature had begun her magic of revitalization.



On a Fall hike to Grant Peak above Parker Bench near June Lake, CA, we were rewarded with this view of Grant and Mono Lakes.



In September, a local historian, Robert Yoki, took an eager group on a walk along the old French Trail, a wagon road partially constructed in 1879 by John French. The road followed a route used for thousands of years by native people. French's plan to create a route from Mono County to Fresno failed. This part of the trail passes through the old mining town of Pine City.



## ROL Conservation Report

BY MALCOLM CLARK, ROL CONSERVATION CHAIR

### Inyo & Mono County issues & opportunities

**Bobcat trapping ban.** The new "no bobcat trapping" regulations were approved on November 13 and become effective on November 20 – before the opening of the trapping season on November 24. For info, go to: [http://www.oal.ca.gov/res/docs/pdf/Web\\_Daily\\_Reports/Recent\\_Actions\\_By\\_OAL.pdf](http://www.oal.ca.gov/res/docs/pdf/Web_Daily_Reports/Recent_Actions_By_OAL.pdf) and scroll down to Fish & Game Commission – Bobcat Protection Act entry.

**Endangered & Threatened Species.** Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of Greater Sage Grouse Populatio. BLM announced a Forest Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on February 13, 2015.

Responding to a number of comments submitted, BLM has made a number of proposed modifications – mainly improvements to better protect the sage grouse.

Please see ROL CONS REPORT, page 12.



# CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

## Wilderness & the Sierra Club

BY MARGE SILL

"In God's wilderness lies the hope of the world -- the great, fresh, unblighted, unredeemed, wilderness." John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, wrote this as he contemplated the beauty of Yosemite in one of his many trips to his beloved Sierra Nevada.

To many of us, the Sierra Club is still an important advocate for the wild places and for the land, its waters, and its wildlife. Here in the Toiyabe Chapter we are fortunate to have more designated wilderness than any other chapter outside of Alaska. We also have a large portion of the Sierra Nevada

wild places.

While it is true that the Sierra Club has now grown to take on many issues that were not envisioned by John Muir -- climate change, environmental justice, election of responsible leaders, and others -- it is incumbent for us to remember our roots and why the Club was formed.

In 2016 we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Parks. This is an event that should be celebrated by all of us who want to leave John Muir's legacy to our children and grandchildren.

## Truckee River Operating Agreement: In effect December 1, 2015!

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

The "Notice of Implementation of Truckee River Operating Agreement" was filed in U.S. District Court in Nevada on December 1, 2015. The Notice declared that "all of the conditions set forth (in the agreement) have been satisfied..."

The six parties to TROA are the U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Department of Justice, States of California and Nevada, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

Rob Scanland, of Great Basin Land and Water, whose organization helped acquire water rights for the Truckee River for water quality and in-stream flows, saw the implementation as an early Christmas present, saying, "[t]he water management of the Truckee River has finally transitioned into the 21st century."

The agreement culminates a 25-year process between the entities to negotiate how to:

- provide drought storage on the Truckee River,
- provide for spawning flows for endangered and threatened fish species,
- divide the water between California and Nevada,



- settle lawsuits by various parties,
- fulfill the Federal Government's trust obligation to indigenous tribes, and
- numerous other technical and procedural issues related to river flows as well as when and how to move stored water into the river.

The Federal Water Master, Chad Blanchard, is now responsible for carrying out TROA day-to-day. The TROA was made possible by a 1990 law,

Public Law 101-618 ("Truckee-Carson-Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act,") sponsored by Senator Harry Reid. The

Act established the detailed framework for the negotiations. You can read the TROA on the website maintained by the Water Master for the Truckee River at <http://troa.net>.

**More info.** To get more Truckee River information visit <http://truckeeriver.org>.

## WATER PLAN...

continued from page 1

Summer was really warm. Chapter Chair, David von Seggern, analyzed temperature records in Reno and found that the growing season has gone from 110 days in the 1970s to 190 days in 2014!

Like you, I hope to have a real winter again with snow piled high in the Sierra Nevada and Carson Range to bring river-swelling runoff in the spring. The Truckee River could certainly use it. So could Lake Tahoe and Pyramid Lake. So could the fish and wildlife in and along the Truckee River.

It will probably take more than a big winter, however, to wipe out the deficit that's been created in the Truckee River and many other western rivers over 4 to 15 years of drought, depending on where you are living and who's doing the counting. For example, on this day, Lake Tahoe is more than 1.5 feet below its rim. Pyramid Lake is 24 feet lower today than it was 15 years ago -- a deficit of more than 2 million acre-feet of water. So how does the TMWA Plan address water resources for our area over the next 20 years?

After a recent consolidation, TMWA supplies all the water for Reno and Sparks and much of suburban Washoe County. TMWA is revising its Plan, ostensibly, to address water

supply -- and demand -- to 2035.

The TMWA plan does NOT address:

- climate change and the resulting warmer temperatures that have already occurred and are certain to continue upward, affecting runoff amount and timing
- how to reduce demand within its service area (it assumes that water use will continue to grow -- until the Truckee River water rights that TMWA holds are used up)
- cost or long-term viability of these far-flung groundwater supplies
- how increasing water rates at the higher tiers of water use could maintain or even reduce water demand, thereby delaying or avoiding expensive infrastructure costs altogether.

And TMWA's Plan says it will continue to look at using piped in groundwater from remote desert valleys to meet "growing demand."

The Chapter has asked TMWA to fix these shortcomings in the draft Plan. After all, whether or not this turns out to be a deficit-busting water year, we live in a desert and reducing water use saves money and will help keep the Truckee River flowing in the future. (More at [truckeeriver.org](http://truckeeriver.org))



Truckee River bed at Lake Tahoe in Fall 2014. No water has flowed into the Truckee River from Lake Tahoe since late summer 2014. On Dec. 1, 2015 Lake Tahoe was 18" below its rim. PHOTO: Dennis Ghiglieri.

## WATER GAB: What's Happening?

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

SINCE 2004, ARTICLES in the *Trails* have tracked the ups and downs of what is known as the "Water Grab" in Nevada. The 300+ mile water pipeline from eastern Nevada to Las Vegas at a mere cost of \$15.7 Billion to urban ratepayers was shown to cause extensive harm to rural communities and tribes, to the four remote targeted valleys, and the fragile desert environment in a federal Environmental Impact Statement.

The Sierra Club is part of a wide-ranging network of conservationists, ranchers, tribes, recreationists, small businesses, counties, and communities in both Nevada and Utah -- the Great Basin Water Network -- which has brought the misguided proposed exportation project which started in 1989 to a standstill. After 24 years, there is no pipeline through our public lands.

The articles in the *Water Gab* -- the

newsletter of the Water Network -- tell the stories of the Herculean efforts of volunteers, allies, and key legal and water experts to achieve this success.

You can find the *Water Gab* on the GBWN website at <http://greatbasinwaternet.org>. When you arrive, click the "documents" to see the Water Gabs.

Please see WATER GAB, page 7.



## Water Gab



## Successful "Steps for Snow" at Mono Lake

BY JANET CARLE

Local families came out in force on a late November Saturday in a foggy morning to walk a mile in support of Mono Lake, a future snowy Sierra, and climate progress at the upcoming Paris Climate Summit.

The kids led the way through tufa towers and sagebrush to



Mono Basin kids, Norah Hinson and Solomon McFarland, led the way on the walk to Mono Lake.

the shores of the lake. As the sun came out, Geoff McQuilkin of the Mono Lake Committee, climate researcher Maureen McGlinchy, local author David Carle, and Devil's Postpile Superintendent Deanna Dulen shared insights on the climate challenges we face.

Suggested "steps" we can all take in our daily lives to use energy and water wisely were displayed, and all participants wrote



Some of the ornaments with promises to our planet.



The whole Steps for Snow group!

"promise to our planet" goals on snowflake ornaments made by local children. All of our communal actions can help ensure a snowy future.

Mono Lake has been a symbol of hope in solving environmental problems. On a beautiful morning, with the spirit of the children lifting us up, a statement was made about our future and the importance of real climate progress in Paris. A small group of people can make a big difference. It happened at Mono Lake!

Visitors to the Mono Lake Committee Information Center in Lee Vining can take home

an ornament while supplies last and make their own "promises" during this holiday season.

## WATER GAB...

continued from page 6

How did the Water Network pull together such a diversity of activists who don't always agree on resource issues? Why have the Nevada District and Supreme Courts ruled consistently in favor of the Water Network and against the Water Grab proponents and the State Engineer? Did the many fundraising efforts of the Water Network to cover costs of the expensive water protest hearings and court cases actually include beer coasters? They

did, and the coasters said:

No water. No life.

No grain. No beer.

These and many other stories in the Water Gab capture much of the spirit and heart of the Water Grab opponents in their David vs. Goliath campaign. You'll also find much more information on the Water Network's campaign and articles on water shortages all over the West at <http://greatbasinwaternet.org>.

## Nevada's beautiful bats

BY TINA NAPPE

NEVADA HAS 23 BAT SPECIES, some common, some rare. Some live in trees like the Silver-Haired and some live in caves like the big Free-Tailed. Some may migrate seasonally. The Pallid, Big Brown, and Spotted Bats are resident. In Reno the Brazilian Free-Tailed bats take up residence under McCar-ran Bridge from June-September. As up to 40,000 bats emerge at sundown, they cloud the sky and red-tailed hawks, perched in nearby trees, are waiting for them. Their evening meal has arrived.

Our historical perspective about bats was one of being dismissive of their value, fear of rabies, finding them ugly, and treating them destructively. We now recognize the bat's value in controlling insects. Jennifer Newmark, Chief of Biodiversity for the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and a bat specialist, said each bat can consume about 1000 small insects per night.

NDOW published its "Revised Bat Management Plan" in 2006, incorporating new information on bats and elaborating on conservation goals. Historically, bats have been listed as unprotected, except for the Spotted Bat, rare in Nevada and temporarily federally protected in 1968. In 2004, another 8 species of bats were added to Nevada's protected list. Through public education, surveys, and research, more is known about bats; however, they are not always easy to locate or to study. As information becomes available, actions can be taken. Working with BLM, for instance, ideal sites for

bats, such as abandoned mines, may be bat gated to limit human use but permit bat access.

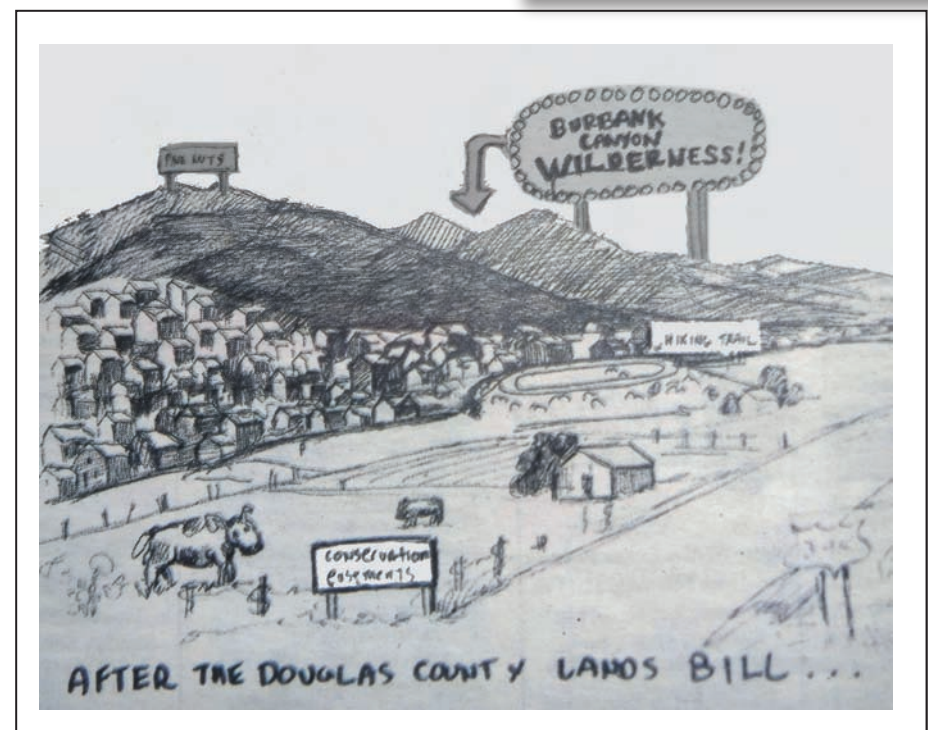
Bats are vulnerable. Their caves can be destroyed; they normally produce just one young per year. Mining, recreational caving, loss of water sources which produce quantities of May flies and dragonflies, and pesticides, also have an impact. The greatest threat now is the white nose syndrome, a fungal growth which strikes them in their hibernating sites. The cause is not known. About six million bats have been affected.

NDOW is the lead agency on resident species like bats. Because of funding through the Teaming with Wildlife program, NDOW receives a federal grant, which must be matched with nonfederal funds. The Nevada State Legislature has been providing match funding since 2001. For more information on Nevada bats see: [http://www.ndow.org/Nevada\\_Wildlife/Conservation/Nevada\\_Bat\\_Conservation\\_Plan/](http://www.ndow.org/Nevada_Wildlife/Conservation/Nevada_Bat_Conservation_Plan/).



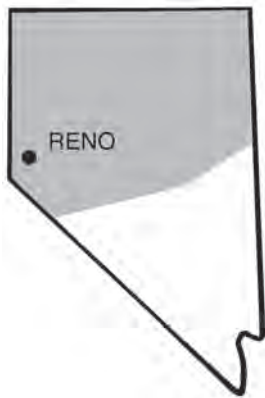
### MAKE A TREE HAPPY! Get your Trails online

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" (put that address in the "To" line). Then put "optout" in the "Subject" line — that's all you have to do.





# Great Basin Gatherings



## Great Basin Group

### Message from the Chair

#### What's happening now

BY KATY CHRISTENSEN, GROUP CHAIR

**Meetings.** The Great Basin Group will continue to host monthly meetings during 2016 at the Bartley Ranch Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7pm.

Our recent November program featured *Anne Macquarie*, whose presentation on her hiking adventures in the Himalayas drew one of the GBG's largest audiences yet for the monthly programs. Thanks Anne, and a huge thank you to all our 2015 presenters.

The 2016 monthly programs will kick off in January with Toiyabe Chapter President *David von Seggern* sharing his summer 2015 adventure in Iceland with other Sierra Club members.

**Holiday Party.** Once again, the GBG member party was a great success! Thanks



to all members for bringing such delicious dishes, and for the many donations to the GBG Get Kids Outdoors ongoing campaign. A special note of appreciation goes to *Caron Tayloe*, the new GBG Political Chair, for manning the GKO donation tree (see photo).

**Eco Book Club.** Starting in January, the new book club, with the initiation of *Charlotte Cox*, Program Chair, is meeting monthly during the winter. January's read is *A Short History of Nearly Everything* by Bill Bryson. For info, text Charlotte at 775-848-0741.

**Conservation.** GBG members have participated with partners in Reno to rally around celebrating the killing of the Keystone XL pipeline, supporting public lands at Rancho San Rafael, and asking the BLM to "Keep It In the Ground" at a oil gas lease sale.

**SAVE the date!** Saturday, January 9, 6 pm, for **A Tahoe Celebration**. Join Toiyabe Chapter members in saying farewell to the much-acclaimed Lake Tahoe Exhibit. Docent Tours, Keynote Speaker, Dinner & Drinks, and more. Visit <http://sierraclub.org/toiyabe> for registration information — tickets limited! For details, also see article on page 1 of this issue of the *Trails*.

## Great Basin Peak Section News

### Welcome to our youngest Peak Section members!

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

**J**arek Stolting, 12 years old and **A**melia Stolting, 10 years old, are our newest members. Both completed their seventh peak to qualify as members on the summit of White Mountain Peak this August.

Their favorite peak so far? Jarek's favorite was White Mountain. He liked that there was green grass, marmots, and clouds that curled up the mountain towards them. Amelia said she loved the marmots since they are cute, cozy, and fat.

Mount Augusta was Amelia's favorite

peak. She liked seeing the peak once on the ridge. She thought that it was a tough hike to the ridge, but when you could see the top it was real easy.

Their thoughts on bagging peaks? Jarek said at first they were hard but are getting easier. Amelia said it has been difficult but it was easier with family.

They both agree Tohakum was the worst. There were so many ticks! The ticks even overshadowed the awesome view of Pyramid Lake. They hope to never see a tick again.

Which peaks are their next goals? Amelia is excited to do Whitney. Jarek wants to do Tule

Peak to see the view of Pyramid Lake.

Robert, their father, said, "When I first started taking them, they protested about it being hard. However, I still encouraged them to go. After some time they realized that to see the awesome views,



### GREAT BASIN GROUP

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Holly Coughlin*	775-331-7488	ladyhiker1@att.net
Vice-Chair	Katy Christensen*	702-755-2267	mabelnv@hotmail.com
Secretary	Sue Jacox*	775-849-1890	suejacox@nvlbellnet
Treasurer	Martin Mace*	775-745-4703	mace.martin@gmail.com
Conservation	Jim Call	775-420-6363	freneticmarmot@gmail.com
Energy	Open		
Membership	Jim Call	775-420-6363	freneticmarmot@gmail.com
Outings	Holly Coughlin	775-331-7488	ladyhiker1@att.net
Political	David von Seggern	775-303-8461	vonseg1@sbglobal.net
Programs	Charlotte Cox		charcox@charter.net
Webmaster	Peter Johnson	775-250-2576	peter.j.johnson@charter.net

\* ExCom member

## Great Basin Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 775 unless otherwise noted.

ALL events include conservation education activities.

CST Nevada Tour Operator – Registration Information, Nevada Tour Operator  
Ref. No. 2008-0041 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

### JANUARY 2 (SATURDAY) 9 AM

**Beginner's Cross-Country Ski.** Trip in Mt. Rose Meadows. Learn basics from other Sierra Club X-C skiers: How to fall down, how to get up, how to ski on flats. Must provide own equipment. Half-day trip. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, warm clothing. ND. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055). Co-Leader: Rhonda Jarrett (622-8698). Moderately Easy.

### JANUARY 2 (SATURDAY) 8:30 AM

**Cross-Country Ski Tahoe Meadows (6 Skiers).** Must RSVP and take questionnaire here: <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/227069236>. Tahoe Meadows are Renoite's go-to place for ungroomed cross-country skiing. Many options available; I'll decide what we end up doing based on who RSVPs. We'll try to follow Marcus Libkind classic tour to keep things simple and organized. Follow this link to see options: [http://backcountryskitours.com/pages/find\\_tours/find\\_map\\_lake\\_tahoe\\_north.htm#tahoe\\_meadows](http://backcountryskitours.com/pages/find_tours/find_map_lake_tahoe_north.htm#tahoe_meadows) DOK. Leader: Daniel Ellsworth (775-741-8384; danomike@yahoo.com). Moderate.

### JANUARY 16 (SATURDAY) 9 AM

**Snowshoe/Hike Spooner Summit.** This will be 4-6 mi snowshoe with

breathtaking views of Lake Tahoe. Dress in layers, bring water, lunch and, of course, snowshoes and poles. Meet at Starbuck's parking lot off Wedge Parkway at 9 am. Voluntary car-shuttle to our destination. Snow and weather conditions may change location and whether we can snowshoe or hike. DOK. Leader: Connie Webb (772-4187). Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler (843-9828). Moderate.

### JANUARY 17 (SUNDAY) 9 AM

**Intermediate Cross-Country Ski.** Trip in Mt. Rose Meadows. Ski hills and gullies S of Sheep Flats and up past Chickadee Ridge. For advanced beginners (who survived Jan. 2 outing) and intermediate level skiers. Must provide own equipment. 3/4-day trip. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, warm clothing. ND. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055). Co-Leader: Rhonda Jarrett (622-8698). Moderate.

### JANUARY 21 (THURSDAY) 8 AM

**Sawmill in Desert.** Near Buckland Station, S of Silver Springs, along Carson River. About 9 mi loop; mostly flat. Remains of sawmill operation and current route of railroad, with 100-year-old bridge, on rail line to Hawthorn. Hike part of route of Carson and Colorado

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

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

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

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

animals, and other sights it takes hard work, but it is rewarding. I hope when they get older and look back on this they remember the hard work and good times they had with family accomplishing a goal".

It is exciting to see these young members exploring the amazing landscapes leading to GB peaks. One goal of the GBG list is to provide a variety of peaks enabling family members of all ages to experience peak outings together. The Stoltings are a great example and they didn't even start on the easier peaks. Good luck to them as they continue to explore new peaks.



Amelia and Jarek Stolting, our youngest Peak Section members, with their father, Robert Stolting.

## Great Programs in the Great Basin

BY CHARLOTTE COX

### JANUARY 14 (THURSDAY)

**ICELAND — FIRE & ICE & SAGAS IN A NORDIC COUNTRY.** Presenter *David von Seggern* will tell us about his visit to Iceland in summer of 2015 along with 16 other Sierra Club members on an international outing. Iceland was first settled by Vikings in about 900.

The island shows the overprint of human-kind on a land regularly exposed to volcanic activity and earthquakes. The tundra-like high landscapes are stunning and vast, with valleys containing prosperous farms. Glacial ice covers 15% of the island and melts to raging rivers after eruptions while glacial icebergs float in moraine lakes nearby. The visitor finds plenty of forested areas, contrary to popular thinking; and an aggressive reforestation program is taking place. This is a country where people truly live at risk; but given its lush beauty, it is no surprise that many chose to settle there and that countless tourists are discovering this once-ignored country which spans both the

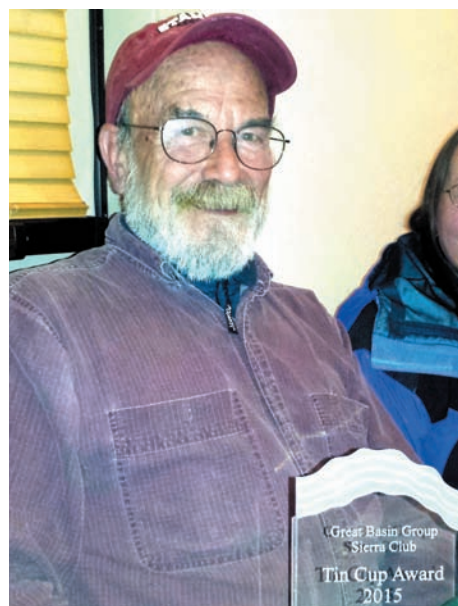
Please see GB PROGRAMS, page 9.



# Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

Railroad, circa early 1880s, with original wooden culvert. A few enigmas.



Peter Johnson was given the Tin Cup Award 2015 at the GB Holiday Party. Congratulations, Peter!

ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Easy.

## JANUARY 23 (SATURDAY) 10 AM

**Mt. Rose Meadow Full Moon Snowshoe.** Snowshoeing with full moon adds new dimension to meadows. Circumnavigate meadow, sticking to flatter areas for 3-4 mi; possible 400 ft gain overall. Bring water, headlamp, layered clothing; hot drink will be nice when we take break near our half-way point. All participants must have own snowshoes and be familiar with how to use them. Also, please sign up only if you plan to stick with group. We do not

want any early sign-outs on this type of trip. If you bring a dog, have leash for near highway. Bad weather will cancel outing. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Moderately Easy.

## JANUARY 28 (THURSDAY) 8 AM

**Lahontan Shore.** Lahontan Reservoir near Silver Springs. Enjoy silence and stark beauty of this area. Six mi total in-and-out along 'beach'. Tufa formations. Reported to be area where hotel was located and "Mark Twain" was trapped during flood of Carson River. Easy \$1 CASH per person State Park fee. ND. Leader: T A Taro Easy.

**FEBRUARY 13 (SATURDAY) TBD**  
**Petersen Mountain Hike/Snowshoe.** Enjoy solitude and panoramic views from high point (7841 ft) of Petersen Mountain Range straddling California-Nevada border



Summit of Humboldt Peak: Larry Dwyer, John Ide, Laura Newman, Daryn Dodge, Kathy Rich, and Lisa Barboza. PHOTO: Sharon Marie Wilcox.

planned earlier. Start off hiking and, if El Nino conditions keep up, will switch to snowshoes at some point. If it is snowy up high, there is a good chance to see wildlife. Weather conditions before and on day of hike will be determining factor in our success. Contact leader for details. ND. Leader: Larry Dwyer (775-745-6628; kdwyer31@charter.net). Moderately Strenuous.

**FEBRUARY 13 (SATURDAY) 9:30 AM**  
**Snowshoe from Spooner Summit.** We plan to go N along Tahoe Rim Trail. About 4-6 mi, 800 ft gain overall. Great views toward Carson Valley, Lake Tahoe. Have lunch with best view possible. Bring lunch,



## GB PROGRAMS...

continued from page 8

Asian and the North American continents. But be warned that Iceland is the country of unpronounceable names, such as Eyjafjalajokull and Hvannadalshnukur.

## FEBRUARY 11 (THURSDAY)

**WINTER TRAVEL MANAGEMENT: WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU!** Presenter **Dr. Gail Ferrell** will help us understand the fundamental change in travel management planning for winter recreation that is now taking place in our national forest units. This change is the result of a 2013 Idaho ruling that required the United States Forest Service to manage and account for impacts by snowmobile use.

In addition to the 2013 court ruling, Snowlands Network, et. al. settled out of court with the USFS in a lawsuit that required the USFS to analyze impacts of snowmobile use. The result is a process called Winter



## Humboldt Peak in the E. Humboldt Range

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

THE EAST HUMBOLDT RANGE is a northern extension of the Ruby Mountains in eastern Nevada. These mountains were heavily glaciated creating notable alpine scenery and peaks. In July, Laura Newman assembled a group of Desert Peak and Great Basin Peaks Section members to climb some of these peaks.

On July 5, we drove up Pole Canyon to the Beaver Ponds at roads end to hike Humboldt Peak (11,020 ft), the southernmost high summit in the East Humboldts. Thanks to Laura and her Mom, we got permission to access private property and drive in to this location.

Our hike began through a lush green hillside loaded with wildflowers, from where we headed up to the ridgeline hid-

den in clouds. We scrambled over Peak 10,601 then continued though the clouds to Humboldt Peak. The clouds masked our entire route, hiding views of the glaciated peaks and spiny crest of the range. A brief spitting of rain had us displaying our many colored rain jackets, but fortunately it didn't last long.

On the summit our views were totally masked by clouds. It was disappointing to know we were surrounded by phenomenal views that we would not see! After lunch and photos, but no weather improvement, we decided not to continue to Black Top, our next planned peak.

As we headed down the wildflower-

Please see HUMBOLDT PEAK, page 11.

Travel Management. Six forests — Tahoe, Stanislaus, Eldorado, Plumas, Lassen and Lake Tahoe Basin — are using it.

At the end of the multi-year planning process, a set of guidelines, rules and restrictions will be in effect for 20 years on each respective forest.

Dr. Ferrell, who is on the Board of Directors of Snowlands Network, will fill us in on the history of the plan, how it works, and how to become involved.

## MARCH 10 (THURSDAY)

CLIMATE ACTION IN NORTHERN NE-

**VADA.** What's happening in our area to deal with climate change? Panelists will present what they are doing: Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign, Climate Parents, Citizen Climate Lobby, the City of Reno. Also included is Be the Change Project -- a family of four in Reno (see photo) who have chosen to live free of fossil fuels — no electricity, no cars — on their urban homestead for the past four years. Moderated by Anne Macquarie of Sierra Nevada Forums. Discussion following the panel. For more information on the Sierra Club's actions in this area, go to <http://content.sierraclub.org/coal/>.

plenty of water, layered clothing, own snowshoes. Not a beginner's trip. Bad weather cancels. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Moderate.

## FEBRUARY 14 (SUNDAY) 9 AM

**Echo Lakes Cross-Country Ski.** Moderate trip in glacially-carved Echo Lakes Basin. Expect to see gorgeous granites, great geologic terrain, hear "Echo." All day trip. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, warm clothing. About 6-7 mi, 200 ft loss/gain. Not for beginning skiers. ND. Leader: Ridge Walker (853-8055). Co-Leader: Cathy Schmidt (240-3785). Moderate.

## FEBRUARY 18 (THURSDAY) 8 AM

**V & T Railway Day Hike.** Virginia & Truckee Rail bed from Gold Hill to Mound House. About 9 mi, down hill, Learn some history of the area.



Carol and Sue next to the Get Kids Outdoors giving tree at the GB Holiday Party.

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

## FEBRUARY 20 (SATURDAY) 9 AM

**Incline Lake Loop Snowshoe.** Beautiful 4-6 mi snowshoe in Tahoe Meadows vicinity. Dress in layers, bring water, lunch, of course, snowshoes, poles. Meet at Starbuck's parking lot off Wedge Parkway. Voluntary carpool to destination. Snow and weather conditions may change location and whether we can snowshoe or hike. DOK. Leader: Connie Webb (772-4187). Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler (843-9828). Moderate.

## FEBRUARY 25 (THURSDAY) 8 AM

**Carson River Railroads.** Near Mound House. About 9 mi one way; vehicle shuttle. Gain 500 ft. Very scenic, possible wildlife. Remains of two Comstock era railroads, Parts are off-trail. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935).

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 11.

## Winter fun for kids!

Jan. 4-8, Jan. 25-Feb. 5

BY SUE JACOX (SUEJACOX@NVBELL.NET)

PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS, don't let kids miss a fun week of winter break day camp at Oxbow Nature Study Area in Reno, Jan. 4-8. And, teachers, it's not too late to plan a day trip or an overnight winter ecology and snowshoe trip for your class.

Great Basin Outdoor School will partner with the Nevada Department of

Please see WINTER FUN FOR KIDS, page 11.



# The Mojave Monitor



## Southern Nevada Group

### Group News

#### Monthly ExCom Meetings

Wednesdays, January 13, February 17, & March 16

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee (ExCom) are most often held on the third Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. We meet from 6 to 8:30pm at the Sierra Club Office, located just off W. Sahara near Palace Station at Building C, Suite 109, 2330 Paseo del Prado, Las Vegas, NV 89102. There is plenty of free parking in the surrounding lot. Please join us on January 13 (second Wed.), February 17 or March 16.

#### General Program Meetings

AS IN 2015, our General Program Meetings this year are being conducted as quarterly membership mixers. The first one of 2015 will be on **Friday, January 22**, when we will meet and greet Sierra Club members and guests traveling to Las Vegas to attend the Toiyabe Chapter ExCom meeting the following day. The mixer is scheduled to start at 6pm and will be held at the Sierra Club office. Please mark your calendar and make a point of joining us for some fun and camaraderie.

### ICO hike to Potato Knoll

BY TONY FOUNTAIN

On a Tuesday in late October, 19 students from Burk High School in Las Vegas, NV, enjoyed an outdoor connection at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Led by volunteers from Las Vegas ICO, these students hiked just over 4 miles on the Potato Knoll trail. The weather was ideal, with cool temperatures and plenty of sunshine during the first half of the adventure.

Along the trail, hike leader Curtis Jones pointed out a variety of the surrounding features and reminded the students of the need to escape the rigor of the day-to-day challenges of school and take advantage of the natural wonder surrounding the Vegas Valley. Other Las Vegas ICO volunteers chimed in with interesting

facts about the area's geology, vegetation and wild life. The students were given examples on several occasions that demonstrated understanding and practice of the principles of Leave No Trace.

After completing the first half of the hike and circling behind the Potato Knoll mound, the students gratefully en-

joyed their lunch break in the cool shade of trees and shrubs along upper Oak Creek. Fortunately, due to recent rains, and much to the delight of the hikers, Oak Creek shared the gentle natural bubbling sound of clear, cool, fresh, running water.

Students were overheard saying, "I could live here", and "This is so beautiful." As we approached the

## 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 (FRIDAY)

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

#### JANUARY 4 (MONDAY)

**The Best of Valley of Fire: Prospect Trail.** About 5 mi, mod. strenuous. Valley of Fire is nature's gift to hikers of Las Vegas. Hike through strange, colorful landforms. How do you recognize fault in the field? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com). Level 3.

#### JANUARY 16 (SATURDAY)

**Day of Service & hike in Gold Butte.** In Honor of Martin Luther King Day, the Our Wild America Campaign will be hosting a service project in Gold Butte. There, we'll be picking up trash along the way to and from a hike within the Falling Man Complex. Meet at intersection of New Gold Butte Rd and

W. Riverside Road in Bunkerville, NV 89007 at 7:30 am. Please bring extra water, light lunch, some snacks. Dress in layers that you can take off and put back on, as you'll get warmed up as we pick up trash and hike. Hike is Class 3 with very easy rock scrambling. High Clearance Vehicle needed, or you can car pool with us from the meeting point. Contact: Christian.Gerlach@Sierraclub.org or 702-271-6485.

#### JANUARY 18 (MONDAY)

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

#### JANUARY 22 (FRIDAY)

**MEET & GREET with Toiyabe Chapter ExCom.** Join us at the Sierra

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.



Time to take in nature.

end of the 4-mile trek, the group paused for a few minutes of "Roses & Thorns." Each student as well as adult was invited to express examples of challenges or shortfalls (Thorns) versus joys and surprises (Roses) they experienced during the day's outing. This exercise was summed up best by the group recognizing that often we must confront challenges (heat, sore feet, tired bodies from climbing hills) in or-

der to enjoy the natural wonder and beauty of Southern Nevada.



Enjoying lunch under pinyon and ash trees.



Burk students and teacher on back side of Potato Knoll.

### SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

#### OFFICERS

Chair	Taj Ainlay*	702-906-5741	tajainlay@aol.com
Vice-Chair	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Secretary	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer	Desiree Saporito	702-875-2668	
At Large	Open		
At Large	Open		
At Large	Open		
Coal Power Plants	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Conservation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Endangered Species & Wildlife	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Energy	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Global Warming	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Inner City Outings	Betty Gallifent	702-334-7418	egallifent@cox.net
Membership	Taj Ainlay*	702-906-5741	tajainlay@aol.com
Outings	Par Rasmusson	702-215-9119	par@mvdsl.com
Outings	Open		
Parks, Refuges	Open		
Political	Teresa Crawford	702-526-8445	tailspinterry@hotmail.com
Programs	Taj Ainlay*	702-906-5741	tajainlay@aol.com
Open	Open		
Transportation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer	Taj Ainlay*	702-906-5741	tajainlay@aol.com
Webmaster	Brian Fadie*	702-265-2644	brianfadie@gmail.com

\* ExCom member



## S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 10

Club Office to welcome visiting members who have traveled to Las Vegas to attend the first Toiyabe Chapter Executive Committee of 2016 on Saturday, January 22. We are hosting this event as a potluck, so please bring along a dish to share, too. There will be plenty of opportunity to get to know our guests from other regions within the Chapter, as well as a chance to renew friendships and catch up on local group activities as we start the New Year. The fun begins at 6pm and will continue til 8pm or later. Info: [tajainlay@aol.com](mailto:tajainlay@aol.com).

### FEBRUARY 1 (MONDAY)

**Black Mountain Overlook Trail, Lake Mead NRA.** About 5.6 mi RT, 1000 ft gain, strenuous. Views above Lake Mead, Las Vegas Valley, distant mountain ranges are spectacular. There are geology informational signs and benches on summit. To get there we hike 2.8 mi up volcanic mountain from Boulder City. Is water level in Lake Mead recovering? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, [greatunc@aol.com](mailto:greatunc@aol.com)). Level 4.

### FEBRUARY 15 (MONDAY)

**Fire Canyon, Valley of Fire State Park.** About 4 mi, mod. strenuous. Descend into red sandstone wilderness with only us, rock, sandy wash bottom, and wild things. Very few people have been in there to check for Jurassic tracks. What causes red color of rock? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, [greatunc@aol.com](mailto:greatunc@aol.com)). Level 3.

### MARCH 14 (MONDAY)

**Sloan Canyon NCA.** About 3.5 mi RT, mod. strenuous. Hike through rugged volcanic terrain to Petroglyph Canyon, one of most interesting archaeological sites in Southern Nevada. Why are there so many petroglyphs in this canyon? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, [greatunc@aol.com](mailto:greatunc@aol.com)). Level 3.

### FEBRUARY 26 (FRIDAY)

**Hike in Gold Butte's Little Findland.** This is another outing for the Our Wild America Campaign. It will be in Gold Butte's Little Findland. Meet at intersection of New Gold Butte Rd and W. Riverside Road in Bunkerville, NV 89007 at 7:30 am. Please bring extra water, light lunch, some snacks. Dress in layers that you can take off and put back on as you will get warmed up as we hike. Hike is Class 3 with very easy rock scrambling. High Clearance Vehicle needed or you can car pool with us from the meeting point. Contact: [Christian.Gerlach@Sierraclub.org](mailto:Christian.Gerlach@Sierraclub.org) or 702-271-6485.

### MARCH 21 (MONDAY)

**Calico Hills Trail East, Red Rock Canyon NCA.** About 3 mi RT, mod. strenuous. This trail goes through little slot canyon, rock slide, and some colorful rock formations along La Madre Fault. Destination: East Point, where there are some huge fallen blocks and petroglyphs. Why are giant blocks of sandstone falling from cliff here? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, [greatunc@aol.com](mailto:greatunc@aol.com)). Level 3.

## Moapa Band Paiutes visit Gold Butte with Our Wild America Campaign

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

The Our Wild America Campaign in Las Vegas worked with the Friends of Gold Butte to get some of the Moapa Band Paiutes out to see the ancient cultural artifacts and rock stories found in Gold Butte. We also brought along some of our great high school volunteers to join us in the outing. The outing commenced with a blessing given by Unice Hote of the tribe's cultural committee. The experience was very moving not only for the members of the tribe, but also the rest of the group.

We set off on the long, lonely road into Gold Butte, stopping at a few points of interest along the way-- including the original planned highway from Los Angeles to Salt Lake City. We were lucky and caught a few glimpses of Lake Mead from the road.

We were eager to hit the trail and explore the area known as the Falling Man Complex, which is full of hundreds petroglyphs. Only by seeing them can one get some firsthand knowledge of the history of the area and meaningful interpretation behind the Native American rock stories. Fortunately, the Friends of Gold Butte have been documenting the area for some time.

The whole experience was very powerful as, panel after panel, Tribal Council Chairman Darren Daboda of the Moapa Band of Paiutes tried his best to interpret and share the wisdom of the rock stories.

Unfortunately, there was plenty of evidence of vandalism done by

gunshots to rock faces and even some petroglyphs. The whole group was definitely saddened by



the sight of the damage. What was very encouraging, though, was how the youths reacted to the damage. The youths on the outing were motivated by

the sight of the disrespect to the culture and history of the Moapa Band of Paiutes so much so that they promised to do all they could to help protect the history and make sure we can all enjoy it forever.

On the way back to the trailhead we were lucky enough to see what we think was a monarch butterfly, which is something very near and dear to the Mexican Culture of the volunteers and I. Because the members of the Moapa Band of Paiutes had shared so much of their history and culture with us we thought it only fair to share some of our culture.

I shared the Mexican belief behind the migration of the monarchs, which correlates with the Day of the Dead. It is often told as part of the holiday that the monarch butterflies that come back year after year represent the spirits of the dead coming back to visit the living.

Also, in the spirit of sharing, I had a special treat prepared for lunch for everyone. We had brought supplies to have a Taquiza (taco cook out). It was the perfect way to end a great outing.



## Great Basin Calendar

continued from page 9

Moderately Strenuous.

**FEBRUARY 29 (MONDAY)**  
6:30 PM

**Outings Meeting & Potluck.** If you are interested in learning about how to become a Sierra Club Leader this is a great way get involved. Join us as we plan future outings for April, May, and June. Bring a potluck item to share. Location TBD; call for information. ND. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Easy.

**MARCH 5 (SATURDAY) 10 AM**

**Kyber's Meadow Snowshoe.** Fairly easy snowshoe to large meadow with several interesting historical artifacts, including restored Basque sheep herder's oven. Last year we hiked, as there was no snow. This year we expect El Nino will bring more normal snowpack for this 4-5 mi trek with about 400 ft gain overall. Bring lunch, layered clothing, plenty of water. Be familiar with how to snowshoe. Bad weather cancels. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Co-Leader: Jim Call ([freneticmarmot@gmail.com](mailto:freneticmarmot@gmail.com)). Moderate.

**MARCH 6 (SUNDAY) TBD**

**Mississippi Canyon Exploratory Hike #2: Stillwater.** There is a beautiful waterfall part way up canyon with small trickle of water. In March, nearing the end of an El Nino winter, it should be in full flow (unless still frozen). With cooler weather

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 12.

## HUMBOLDT PEAK ...

continued from page 9

lined canyon, the clouds lifted and we finally got a view of Humboldt Peak. It was nice to finally get a view of our peak. I'm always on the watch for big-horn sheep and mountain goats, but all day I only saw their scat.

After returning from the hike, Laura's family treated us to a dinner on their deck. Their generous hospitality was much appreciated as we shared our tale of another day spent on a Great Basin peak.

## WINTER FUN FOR KIDS ...

continued from page 9

Wildlife and has invited other natural resource presenters for an active week at Oxbow during Washoe County School District's final week of winter break.

GBOS also cooperates with the Galena Creek Visitor Center to lead "SnowSchool" day snowshoe outings for classes, Jan. 25-Feb. 5. Other January and February dates are available for overnights in cozy cabins at Camp Galilee on the shore of Lake Tahoe.

Activities about winter safety, snow science, winter adaptations, and astronomy inform and inspire students to enjoy the winter wonderland of our Sierra snowpack safely.

More info. See [www.greatbasin-os.org](http://www.greatbasin-os.org) and contact Haley at 775-324-0936 or [Haley@greatbasin-os.org](mailto:Haley@greatbasin-os.org). Also see large poster on page 2.



**RANGE OF LIGHT CONSERVATION REPORT . . .**

*continued from page 5*

Comments on the changes to the Proposed Plan will be accepted until December 14, 2015. After considering comments submitted on the revisions, BLM will issue a Record of Decision (ROD), which is the final step in approving the plan. More information and directions for submitting comments at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-13/pdf/2015-28876.pdf>.

**Ormat and Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD).** These entities continued to disagree over water monitoring for possible effect on MCWD water supply from new wells to be drilled by Ormat as part of the expansion of their geothermal facility. In a press release on Nov. 2, MCWD "announced preliminary results from two shallow monitoring wells drilled by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), indicating that Ormat Technologies' (Ormat) Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Development Project (Project) could have impacts on local water availability and environmental resources. . . . MCWD remains firm that at least two deep geothermal wells are required to adequately assess the impacts geothermal energy production may have on water supplies and the environment. . . ."

However, according to an article in the November 7 edition the The Sheet, not all the scientists involved agree with the MCWD interpretation.

**Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership.** The group is still seeking an organizer to replace Jeff Hunter, who took a new position at the end of the summer. Additional interviews may not take place until the new year. More info

and job description at: <http://bodiehills.org/latest-news-updates/>.

**DRECP.** On November 10, federal and state officials released extension revisions to the proposed Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan in a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Proposed Land Use Amendment. Following a protest (comment) period ending about 30 days from November 13, the plan will be finalized. This is Phase I and covers only public lands in the planning area. The plan designates areas where concentration of renewable energy projects is encouraged as well as areas to be protected from renewable energy development, including lands which will be permanently added to the National Conservation Lands system. More info at: [http://www.desertsun.com/story/tech/science/energy/2015/11/10/after-7-years-desert-renewable-energy-plan-finalized/75468628/from=global&sessionKey=&autologin=](http://www.desertsun.com/story/tech/science/energy/2015/11/10/after-7-years-desert-renewable-energy-plan-finalized/75468628/from=global&sessionKey=&autologin=;); <http://www.drecp.org/finaldrecp/>; [http://www.drecp.org/documents/docs/2015-11-10\\_BLM\\_LUPA\\_final\\_EIS\\_news\\_release.pdf](http://www.drecp.org/documents/docs/2015-11-10_BLM_LUPA_final_EIS_news_release.pdf).

**California & general.** "It's all but certain that 2015 will end up as the hottest year on record. And in setting that mark, the world is on track to finish the year 1 degree C above pre-industrial levels, a dubious milestone. That would make 2015 the first year to crack the halfway mark of 2 degrees C warming, the benchmark that's been targeted as "safe" climate change". More at: [http://grist.org/climate-energy/the-earth-is-on-track-to-end-2015-with-a-degree-warming-its-uncertain-whether-medium-rss&utm\\_campaign=feed](http://grist.org/climate-energy/the-earth-is-on-track-to-end-2015-with-a-degree-warming-its-uncertain-whether-medium-rss&utm_campaign=feed).

**Great Basin Group Calendar**

*continued from page 9*

we intend to push further up canyon and perhaps also up a peak. Hikers should be prepared for up to 12 mi RT and 2000-3000 ft gain. Mississippi Canyon is at NE end of Stillwater Range in remote part of Nevada that is still accessible as day trip from Reno area. It is part of Stillwater Mountains Wilderness Study Area. We'll learn about its current prospects for becoming a Wilderness Area from Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Contact leader for details. ND. Leader: Larry Dwyer (775-745-6628; kdwyer31@charter.net). Strenuous.

**MARCH 7 (MONDAY) 8 AM**

**The John C Two Enigma Hike.** Discover some history of area as we visit two features associated with old mining operations. One-way hike of about eight mi with vehicle shuttle. Elevation gain of about 2000 ft for day. Scenic views. Return paralleling part of Carson River. Hiking poles recommended; long steep descent on 'marbles'. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderately Strenuous.

**MARCH 17 (THURSDAY) 8 AM**

**John C Two Enigma Day Hike.** Features associated with old mining operations. One-way hike of 8 mi with vehicle shuttle. About 2000 ft gain. Scenic views. Return paralleling Carson River. Hiking poles recommended for long steep descent on 'marbles'. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderately Strenuous.

**MARCH 19 (SATURDAY) 10 AM**

**Leader's Choice Desert Hike.** Depending on weather conditions, we'll pick great place to get out and explore Nevada desert on this first day of spring. Trip will be around 6-8 mi and may have over 1000 ft gain. Bring camera for scenic shots. Bring plenty of water, lunch, clothing for conditions. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Moderate.

**MARCH 19 (SATURDAY) TBD**

**Pah-Rum Peak (7608 ft) Day Hike.** With its expansive views of Smoke Creek Desert to northwest, Black Rock Desert to northeast and Pyramid Lake to S, has become one of my favorite day hikes. The hike is about 6 mi RT with 2600' of elevation gain. Pah-Rum Peak is high point in Fox Range Wilderness Study Area and we'll learn more about its prospects for full Wilderness status from Friends of Nevada Wilderness. In this El Nino year we may also encounter fair amount of snow--so as time gets closer be sure to contact leader for further details. ND. Leader: Larry Dwyer (775-745-6628; kdwyer31@charter.net). Moderately Strenuous.

**MARCH 23 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM**

**Spring Fling River Walk.** Welcome Spring with our first evening conditioning hike. After work, along Truckee River Walk. Easy hike of about 4 mi, 50 ft gain. Opportunity to see early-blooming cottonwoods, hawks, falcons, other wildlife; learn about riparian environment. Meet at Rock Park in Sparks. Di-

rections: From I-80, exit on Rock Blvd, turn S. In about 0.5 mi, just past Greg Blvd., turn R at entrance to Rock Park. (Next to Rivers Edge RV Park, before you cross Truckee River.) More info at: "http://www.Meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno">Meet Up site.

**DL.** Leader: Ridge Walker Co-Leader: Jeannie Kettler Easy.

**MARCH 24 (THURSDAY) 8 AM**

**Two Ladies, Two Gents Day Hike.** Come and meet them: three peaks over 6000 ft elevation -- Rose & Kate Sutro, and the Grosch brothers. Near Virginia City. About 1000 ft gain; 3 mi in loop. Mostly off trail, some rock scrambling. An enigma. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderately Strenuous.

**MARCH 26 (SATURDAY) 9 AM**

**Pah Rah Petroglyph Hike.** About 6+ mi hike to petroglyphs with little extra thrown in for exploring/looking for ancient art! Fairly steep in places, so it's moderately strenuous. Recommend sturdy hiking boots and poles. Also, be sure to dress in layers, bring plenty of water, lunch. Call for meeting place. Snow or weather conditions may change location of hike. DOK. Leader: Connie Webb (772-4187). Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler (843-9828). Moderately Strenuous.

**DEADLINE! MARCH 1**



**FOR APR-MAY-JUNE ISSUE**



**Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meetings**

**Saturday, 9am  
January 23, 2016  
LAS VEGAS, NV**

*For details, contact the Chair,*  
**DAVID VON SEGGERN**  
vonseg1@sbcglobal.net  
775-303-8461

All Toiyabe Chapter members are welcome to attend these meetings, which usually begin at 9 am. We reserve a time slot for input from members; if you have an issue on which you want to address the ExCom, please attend. For ExCom members' contact info, see the Chapter Directory on page 2.



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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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

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

**F94QW 1400 1**