

# Sierra Club YODELER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER ♦ WINTER 2016-17

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ELECTIONS  
ISSUE! BALLOT  
ON PAGE  
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NEW HOPE FOR THE DELTA ♦ SF VOTES TO “KEEP IT IN THE GROUND” ♦ TO  
PROTECT OUR WATER, PROTECT OUR WATERSHEDS ♦ EAST BAY CITIES SIGN  
ON TO CLEAN POWER PROGRAM ♦ HELP STOP THE TAR SANDS INVASION ♦

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

These have been a wild few weeks here at the Bay Chapter. I started my position as director in mid-September, just as the election season was heating up, and I have to say it's been a roller coaster of work and emotion.



Often we think of ourselves as a little bubble here in the Bay Area, able to avoid the hazards of presidential politics or federal regulations. I'm afraid, though, that there are some realities ahead that will burst that bubble: an anti-science, climate-change-denying president; a senate and house dominated by politicians who are determined to undermine environmental regulations that protect the water we drink and air we breathe; an incoming administration that has no respect for the health and safety of the people they are meant to protect. All communities in the Bay Area will be impacted—whether you are living next a refinery or in a coastal city susceptible to sea-level rise. We are all in this together.

Though I am afraid, I am also hopeful. The Bay Chapter is 30,000 members strong. Locally, our endorsed candidates and ballot measures did quite well—with many of our endorsees leading the way to a brighter future for the Bay Area and beyond. Reading through this issue of the Yodeler, I am filled with pride for all of the work we are doing, from helping to put limits on toxic refinery pollution, to advancing renewable-energy programs, to protecting our waterways, wildlife habitats, and open spaces. Our presence is felt throughout the region and it is a beacon of hope for the nation.

You may be wondering what you can do to help. There is a lot!

- **Get involved in regional groups and issue committees.** Find contacts and meeting times at [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/leadership-roster](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/leadership-roster).
- **Respond to our calls to action.** Sign up to get our email alerts and make your voice heard at [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/email](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/email).
- **Vote in the chapter elections.** You'll find voting instructions, candidate statements, and your ballot in this Yodeler, starting on page 21.
- **Donate to the local chapter.** With the Trump administration coming in, our work is going to triple—help us build our capacity to keep fighting for the environment by making a gift today at [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/support](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/support) or by calling 510-848-0800.

There are many challenges ahead, but we can do this together. Please join me in a new era for the SF Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club. The challenges will be greater than ever before and we need to work together to navigate the waters ahead. I'm ready, are you?

Minda Berbeco  
DIRECTOR

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**ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOGRAPH:**

Sandhill cranes spend the fall and winter months in Delta wetlands—ecosystems that are threatened by dwindling water flows. Read about the State's efforts to direct more fresh water to rivers and the Delta to protect endangered species and threatened ecosystems on page 9. Photo by Michael Reinhart.

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# FALL 2016 CHAPTER NEWS

## A challenge to Club members

In the January 8, 1945 issue of the *Yodeler*, Bay Chapter member Nate Clark wrote, "There has probably never been a time in the history of the Nation or the Sierra Club when active serious participation in public affairs was as important as it is now." Those words were published four years into America's engagement in World War II, and eight months before V-J Day. Over 70 years on, our world is again facing existential threats, and Clark's call to action feels both relevant and urgent.

As we seek to build a movement that's up to the enormous tasks of confronting climate change and building more equitable, sustainable, and inclusive economies, the "active serious participation" requested of you today is to vote in the elections for your representatives to the Sierra Club's chapter and group Executive Committees. In his 1945 letter, Clark made the case for this simple act of engagement: "Membership is an implied pledge by each individual to share in this program by active participation in the election of officers who are interested in this work and capable of adding something of value to the Club's influence."

So, dear members, please vote! Instructions are on page 21, candidate statements begin on page 22, and your paper ballot is on page 31. If you prefer to vote online, head to [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/2016chapterselections](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/2016chapterselections).

## Celebrate the holidays with the Sierra Club!

### BAY CHAPTER HOLIDAY PARTY

*Fri, Dec 2, 6-9 pm, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley*

Join your fellow Sierra Club members at our annual holiday open house. The Sierra Club will be joined by several other organizations in our building to celebrate the season and all the work we do. Those sharing in the fun include the Ecology Center, League of Women Voters, and SEEDS Community Resolution Center. There will be food, beverages, live music, a free raffle, and of course,

lively conversation.

To volunteer or to donate food, please contact Joanne Drabek at [joanne1892@gmail.com](mailto:joanne1892@gmail.com) or 510-530-5216.

### MARIN GROUP HOLIDAY PARTY

*Wed, Dec 7, 6-8 pm, O'Hanlon Center for the Arts, 616 Throckmorton Ave, Mill Valley*

Because we know you have more holiday cheer than you can use up at one Sierra Club party, the Marin Group invites members, friends, and family to their holiday celebration. Potluck dishes and donations are warmly welcomed. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Questions? Contact Marin Group chair Max Perrey at [mperrey@sfbaysc.org](mailto:mperrey@sfbaysc.org) or 415-879-5361.



## Betty brings down the house

September's sixth annual David Brower Dinner fundraiser was a great success thanks to everyone who attended, sponsored, donated and purchased auction items, volunteered, and helped in so many other ways. Thank you for helping us celebrate the National Park Service centennial and honor the work of some amazing local activists, educators, and youth leaders.

One of the highlights of the evening was a speech by Trailblazer Award recipient Betty Reid Soskin, who interprets local history at Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond. "I'd like to tell you something about time," began Betty, who at 95 is the oldest active national park ranger. "My great-grandmother was born into slavery in 1846. And on January 20th, 2009, I am a guest on the Capitol Mall with a picture of my great-grandmother in my breast pocket, witnessing the inauguration of America's first African American president."

Betty's speech illustrates how much can change in a relatively short period of time. She urges us all to build a movement to protect our planet for future generations that exceeds our nation's pre-WWII mobilization. Watch a video of Betty's speech at <http://tinyurl.com/bettysspeech>.

### PHOTO CREDIT:

David Brower Dinner awardees Betty Reid Soskin (left) and Mia Monroe (right) get ready to blow out candles on a birthday cake celebrating the National Park Service's 100th anniversary and Betty's 95th birthday. Photo by Kay Vasilyeva.

## After a loss, a new phase in the campaign to save Tesla Park

On October 21st, the State Parks Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission voted unanimously to approve a plan to expand a 1,500-acre off-highway vehicle park onto one of the most pristine and ecologically important areas left in the Bay Area: the land known as Tesla Park.

Tesla Park is located about 12 miles south of Tracy, tucked into rolling hills where the Central Valley merges into the Bay Area. Kathryn Phillips, the director of Sierra Club California, has written of Tesla: "It's the kind of place where you can still walk through a grove of oak trees and feel like you're a million miles away from cities and freeways." Tesla sits in the heart of an area that is home to the California red-legged frog and other threatened and endangered critters that need very specific habitat.

The commissioners' decision to throw Tesla open for

dirt bikes and other off-highway vehicles that are sure to destroy it and the wildlife that depend upon it was disappointing, but not unexpected. A new stage in the fight to save Tesla Park has now begun. The group known as Friends of Tesla Park, with the support of dozens of public agencies, public officials, and community organizations like the Sierra Club, is prepared to file a legal challenge. The coalition will also continue to work at the state level to re-designate Tesla as a nature and cultural preserve. Stay tuned!



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## Refinery emission caps will keep dirtiest crudes out of Bay Area

BRITTANY KING

With "conventional" crude oil running out worldwide, the Bay Area's five refineries are turning to the dirtiest and most dangerous crudes on the planet, including Canadian tar sands. That's why we need a new rule that caps refinery emissions—including greenhouse gases, toxic chemicals, and deadly particulate matter—at today's levels.

Finally, after years of community pressure, local air regulators at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District have begun the process of evaluating a cap on toxic refinery emissions and greenhouse gases—but Big Oil is lobbying behind the scenes to delay and derail this critical regulation. Our pro-caps coalition is working overtime to keep the Air District representative to the community it serves, and to keep the caps rule moving forward.

In addition to fighting against backroom lobbying, we're working to prevent procedural delays to implementing the caps rule. As Steve Nadel wrote in the last issue of the Yodeler, the staff of the Air District has paired the caps proposal with a plan to do Health Risk Assessments

(HRAs) on all industrial sources of pollution. That means doing a detailed analysis of the potential health impacts of various amounts of each of thousands of chemicals emitted by all industrial facilities in the Bay Area. We support such a plan—which would require polluters to install the best available technology to bring their emissions down—but we think it should be separated from the emission caps rule. That's because the HRA process could easily take 5 to 10 years, and without a cap in place emissions will inevitably increase during these extended studies.

As the Bay Area and California reduce overall oil consumption and refiners continue to become net exporters, the Air District cannot stand by and allow the Bay Area to become the gas station for the Pacific Rim—simply shouldering all the health and safety impacts of processing the world's dirtiest crudes while the oil industry reaps the profits.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/CallForCapsNow> to send a message to the Air District board telling them to consider the caps and HRA proposals separately; close the loophole that allows oil refiners to increase emissions from the dirtiest crudes; and move forward on the full, public analysis of the caps. Then, join us at 9 am on Wednesday, December 7th for the Air District's board meeting at 375 Beale Street in San Francisco. RSVP to [brittany.king@sierraclub.org](mailto:brittany.king@sierraclub.org).

# For water's sake, leave Crystal Springs to the wildlife

ARTHUR FEINSTEIN

What are they thinking?

As discussed in the April-May issue of the Yodeler, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) has proposed to open its San Mateo Watershed (also called Crystal Springs Watershed) to unsupervised public access. This 23,000-acre watershed and its reservoirs play a crucial role in the Hetch Hetchy water supply system and over two million people depend upon it for their water. It also supports the largest number of listed and sensitive species of any habitat of comparable size in the Bay Area.

So what's the problem? Don't we want access? Usually yes. But as we have seen in the Soberanes Fire, the Yosemite Rim Fire, and many others this year, most wildfires are started by people. In fact, people start 95% of all wildfires in California.

In 2002 the SFPUC dealt with a similar proposal to increase public access to the Crystal Springs Watershed. In its adoption of the 2002 Watershed Plan, the SFPUC determined that unsupervised access would likely result in significant impacts to the watershed, especially for fire. As

a result it instituted a docent-led access program that has been a great success.

Now, the SFPUC is once again being pressured for increased access, and so far has evidently forgotten its previous conclusion. Part of that pressure initially came from the SF Board of Supervisors, which recently considered a resolution that urged the SFPUC to allow unsupervised access to the entire watershed. To our great appreciation, however, the Board of Supervisors rejected this resolution by an overwhelming vote of 10 to 1. Even the original author of the resolution, Supervisor John Avalos, voted against it; only Supervisor Wiener voted in the affirmative. The Sierra Club, alongside our partners at the Committee for Green Foothills, the Sequoia and Golden Gate Audubon Societies, and the California Native Plant Society, worked hard to educate our Supervisors on this issue, visiting offices and writing letters. We truly appreciate this vote and thank our Supervisors for recognizing the importance of this issue.

We hope the SFPUC will take the hint. It is reckless and foolhardy to risk the water supply of two million people and the fate of innumerable wildlife. There are hundreds of miles of trails in San Mateo County (many in habitats similar to Crystal Springs) available to hikers and other users of our Bay Area's beautiful natural areas. Let's leave Crystal Springs to its wildlife inhabitants and preserve our water supply long into the future.

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## A breakthrough for Clipper Cove

HUNTER CUTTING

The proposed plan for a new marina in Clipper Cove at Treasure Island has recently changed dramatically and for the better. Real estate speculator Darius Anderson, who had been pushing to close off Clipper Cove entirely to build a private luxury mega-marina, has taken a major step backwards and is now promoting a plan that would leave about two-thirds of the Cove for public use.

This is a major step forward in the fight to save Clipper Cove, a public treasure that is San Francisco's largest and best-protected open space on the Bay. Advocates for the Cove are still fighting to further improve the marina plan, but saving at least two-thirds of the Cove is a major victory worth celebrating.

As is so often the case, this victory has hundreds of

godparents, including the Sierra Club, which was one of the very first organizations to champion Clipper Cove.

The campaign to save Clipper Cove isn't done fighting (or winning). The current plan would still sacrifice 25 percent of the Cove in order to expand Anderson's private luxury marina by 442 percent. The public won Round One, and we can win Round Two. So stay tuned for how you can help. But in the meantime, everyone should enjoy this victory!



### PHOTO CREDITS:

Opposite page: hillside destruction at the Carnegie off-road vehicle park adjacent to Tesla Park, photo courtesy [www.teslapark.com](http://www.teslapark.com); This page: a youth sailing class at Clipper Cove, photo by Lyn Hines.

# GoSolarSF program keeps pace

JOHN RIZZO

San Francisco's GoSolarSF program is in its 8th year of providing rebates to property owners installing solar power on their houses, apartment buildings, and commercial buildings. The program has paid out \$24 million, incentivizing 14.3 megawatts of solar—almost half of San Francisco's total installed solar.

The program's goal of stimulating solar adoption and creating a self-sustaining market has largely been achieved. One might wonder what it will do for an encore.

The answer is, plenty. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is recommending an overhaul of the incentive program that will keep up with changing renewable energy markets and technologies for years to come.

One issue is the cost of residential solar, which has dropped 53 percent since 2008, and the price of solar panels is expected to continue to drop. In order to incentivize the highest number of projects, the SFPUC has had to lower the amount paid to each installation as the cost of those installations dropped.

The GoSolarSF rebate will now be tagged to a price index, and is expected to drop to zero for basic residential systems in four or five years. The GoSolarSF program will continue the rebates to low-income homeowners, who have always have been eligible for the largest rebates.

At the same time, GoSolarSF will develop new distributed energy incentive programs, for energy storage and

electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The SFPUC also proposes to develop an inverter replacement incentive for previous low-income and non-profit customers. The inverter is the piece of equipment that converts DC power coming from the solar panels to AC used in buildings. Inverters often wear out and are expensive to replace.

Another change to GoSolarSF is that recipients will now be required to be customers of CleanPowerSF, the City's new clean power agency. This is good for the owner, and good for CleanPowerSF. It's good for the owner because CleanPowerSF offers significantly higher Net Metering rates than does PG&E. Net Metering is the payment a utility makes to the solar energy system owner for putting electricity into the grid. The electricity produced on San Francisco homes and business will also provide CleanPowerSF with a supply of locally generated solar power.

You can find more information about GoSolarSF at [www.sfwater.org/gosolarsf](http://www.sfwater.org/gosolarsf).



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# Let's work together to reopen Vargas Plateau Regional Park

WILLIAM YRAGUI

Residents of southern Alameda County have seen a large increase in local park popularity, but a serious decline in park access and availability. The recent closure of Vargas Plateau Regional Park has made a bad situation worse. Shortly after Vargas Plateau first opened this summer, a court found that the East Bay Regional Park District failed to comply with a 2012 settlement agreement con-

cerning road improvements and safe access, and required the park to be closed.

The Sierra Club calls on the park district to promptly comply with the obligations it agreed to as part of the settlement so that it may fulfill its mission to provide “safe and healthful recreation” to the public by reopening Vargas Plateau. We also support an interim proposal for a limited reopening of the park for bikes, pedestrians, and equestrians, pending settlement of the case. This proposal has the support of the plaintiffs, park district board member Dennis Waespi, and community groups like Mission Peak Conservancy.

We look forward to working with all stakeholders to re-open Vargas Plateau as quickly as possible.

**PHOTO CREDITS:**

This page: photo courtesy GRID Alternatives, which installs solar for low-income homeowners through the GoSolarSF rebate, primarily in the Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhoods. Facing page: Bay Chapter organizer Brittany King speaks at a press conference before the Board of Supervisors vote on the East Bay Community Energy program, photo courtesy East Bay Clean Power Alliance.

# Cities sign on to new East Bay clean power agency

LUIS AMEZCUA

In the coming months, Alameda County is scheduled to give presentations inviting cities in the county to become founding members of East Bay Community Energy (EBCE). EBCE is the new nonprofit local power agency, which will provide energy consumers a cleaner—and likely cheaper—alternative to PG&E. Established in the “Community Choice” energy model, EBCE will prioritize and maximize community benefits such as the development of local energy resources, clean energy jobs, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. The program will give residents and businesses an opportunity to decide where they get their electricity from. Whereas PG&E relies on electricity from dirty and carbon-intensive sources, Community Choice programs can choose clean and renewable power—and the benefits accrue locally, rather than to the shareholders of a for-profit utility.

After EBCE was briefly delayed in early August to give County Supervisors additional time to discuss it, the Sierra Club and our allies, in partnership with the Alameda County Labor Council, developed a set of amendments to the program’s founding document, the Joint Powers Agreement, to shape a program that would do the most good for our communities and environment. Specifically, our main requests for the program were:

- Develop a “Business Plan” that will serve as a road-map to: develop and integrate local renewable energy resources in the long and short term; and lay out how the program will foster local benefits;
- Limit the amount of “unbundled” Renewable Energy Certificates the program can purchase. When the certificate is unbundled, credit for renewable energy can be purchased separately from the power itself, allowing electricity that would otherwise not be considered renewable to be labeled as such; and
- Take steps to minimize adverse impacts to existing workers in order to ensure a just transition for them.

The coalition’s work was successful. County Supervisors supported the amendments, voting to allocate up to \$500,000 to develop a business plan within eight months of setting up the program’s governing board.




The Sierra Club and our allies are actively working to encourage cities to become founding members of EBCE so they have the opportunity to shape this program early on for their local businesses and residents. At time of printing, Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany, Piedmont, and Fremont had all signed on. The deadline for all cities to officially get on board is the end of 2016, in order for the new EBCE Board of Directors to convene its first meeting in early 2017. The program’s expected launch date is October 2017.

The Sierra Club applauds the County, numerous cities, and engaged stakeholders for taking the time and effort to make this program a reality. The Sierra Club is excited to be working with a coalition of environmental and labor organizations. This coalition serves as a clear example that picking between the environment and jobs is a false choice—we can have both.

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## SF's "Keep It in the Ground" ordinance will transition Kern County oil field into solar fields

LUIS AMEZCUA

The City of San Francisco has taken a bold stand against profiting from climate disruption, passing legislation on November 15th that prohibits the leasing of city-owned land for fossil fuel extraction. The unanimous decision by the Board of Supervisors is a win-win-win for the environment, for clean energy jobs, and for city residents.

The passage of the 'Keep It In The Ground' ordinance is more than just a symbolic move; Supervisor John Avalos introduced the legislation in response to the revelation that for decades, San Francisco has benefited from leasing 800 acres of city-owned land in Kern County—the heart of California's oil and gas country—to Chevron for oil drilling. This arrangement is at odds with San Francisco's reputation as a leader in seeking solutions to lower our nation's dependency on dirty, climate-destabilizing fossil fuels.

The ordinance takes effect in 2020, when Chevron's 26-year lease with the city expires. The ordinance requires the City to develop a just transition plan for the properties to ensure responsible and constructive re-use of the land, and ensure that impacts on workers are avoided or minimized.

Now that San Francisco is getting out of the fossil fuel business, it's making the correct assessment and examining how to take advantage of California's famous 300 days of sunshine and generate alternative energy and green jobs through the installation of solar fields. According to a report from the City's budget analyst, this move isn't only sensible for the environment—it also makes sense for the city's budget. Leasing the land to a solar provider is expected to produce more than twice as much revenue per acre than Chevron's fossil fuel operations.

The decision to divest City resources from fossil fuel extraction and redirect them to solar comes at a time when the demand for renewable energy is booming—while the price of the technology and the cost to consumers falls sharply. In fact, since the implementation of the Individual Tax Credit (ITC) for solar in 2006, the cost to install solar energy has dropped by well over 70 percent.

In 2004, San Francisco was one of the first cities in the nation to make a commitment to transition to 100 percent renewable electricity. To achieve that goal by a target date of 2030, the City has invested in energy efficiency, broken down barriers to installing rooftop solar, and launched CleanPowerSF: a new local power utility in the "Community Choice" clean energy model. The 'Keep It In The Ground' ordinance has the potential to help San Francisco reach its renewable energy goal by providing power to its CleanPowerSF customers.

Just before the November 15th vote, Supervisor Avalos expressed the significance of this ordinance, saying: "With the pending Trump presidency, local leadership on climate change is more urgent and important than ever. San Francisco and other cities can help lead this country into the clean energy future we need." Indeed, San Francisco has long been a leader in the environmental movement. By once again demonstrating that aligning financial assets with environmental values makes economic sense, let's hope more cities follow suit and divest capital from the fossil fuel industry, joining San Francisco in building a vibrant clean energy economy that benefits all of us: workers, communities and our environment.



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## Will the State protect our rivers, Delta, and Bay?

HEINRICH ALBERT & SONIA  
DIERMAYER

The State Water Resource Control Board (Water Board) recently issued a draft ruling that could result in greater freshwater flows for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Now Sierra Club members must mobilize to ensure that the Water Board follows through on requiring higher flow levels and doesn't back down in the face of massive agribusiness opposition.

California rivers, the Delta, San Francisco Bay, and the ecosystems that depend on them have long been in serious decline, largely due to California's 1,400+ dams and ever-increasing water diversions. The Water Board is charged with setting (and regularly updating) water quality standards for the Delta and SF Bay, and setting minimum flow requirements for Delta tributaries needed to achieve those quality standards. These water quality standards have not been updated since 1995 and Delta water quality and native fish populations have plummeted.

On September 15th, the Water Board announced a draft of new in-stream flow objectives for major tributaries of the San Joaquin River. The proposed objectives range between 30 and 50 percent of unimpaired flow (the natural flow without diversions), with a starting point of 40 percent. This is well below the 60 percent of unimpaired flow that should be left in the river for the benefit of fish species according to the Water Board's 2010 flow criteria report. However, the Water Board is required to balance environmental requirements with irrigation, residential, and industrial water demand. Flow levels at 40 percent of unimpaired would be better than the status quo, where flows frequently drop below 20 percent of unimpaired.

The Sierra Club supports the board's effort to address the current inadequate flow regime and congratulates the board for setting higher average flows. However, we strongly urge the board to revise the target to the 60 percent of unimpaired flows that fisheries scientists agree are needed for ecosystem health.

The new flow objectives are a draft proposal, not a final regulation. Many irrigation districts (agriculture uses 80 percent of California's developed water) in the San Joaquin Valley are strongly opposed to the proposals and are committed to stopping their adoption. Some large urban water agencies are likely to join them. If these flow objectives are to have a chance of restoring California rivers, it is critical that the Water Board hears from citizens who value our environment over corporate subsidies to big agriculture.

The proposed flow standards are the first part of a four-phase process that will go into 2017 and likely years beyond. The next step (Phase II) will consider flows in the Sacramento River and its tributaries, Delta outflows, and reverse flows near the South Delta Pumps. The South Delta Pumps move water into the large aqueducts that take water to the Central Valley and southern California. Reverse flows caused by these pumps are a major contributor to fish mortality. A draft scientific-basis report for the Phase II proceeding was issued on October 19th, with a public workshop scheduled for December 7th.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

This whole process will have a profound impact on California's riparian environments. It will be critically important for the environmental community to stay engaged throughout the process.

Use the form at <http://tinyurl.com/flowsforfish> to send a message to the Water Board urging them to set the in-stream flows at 60 percent to ensure the salmon and the Delta ecosystem survive. Or, even better, write a personal letter and send it to:

*Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board*

*1001 I Street, 24th Floor*

*Sacramento, CA 95814-0100*

*Fax: (916) 341-5620*

*Email: [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)*

*(subject line: "Comment Letter: 2016 Bay Delta Plan Amendment & SED")*

Comments must be received by January 17, 2017.

Then, attend a public hearing on the proposed flow standards. Five hearings will be held between late November and early January at various Northern California locations. For details, visit <http://tinyurl.com/statewaterflows>.

Contact [heinrich.albert@outlook.com](mailto:heinrich.albert@outlook.com) if you would like to get involved in this campaign.

### PHOTO CREDIT:

Facing page: Oil fields in Bakersfield, located in Kern County. Photo by James Ian L.A., courtesy Flickr Creative Commons: [flickr.com/jamesherman](http://flickr.com/jamesherman)

## Thomas Meissner: Wunderbarer wanderer

KAREN ROSENBAUM

Born in a country where backpacking is almost unknown, Thomas Meissner didn't strap on a genuine sleeping-bag-and-supply pack until he was in his 30s—but for the past 22 years, he has not only trotted the trails and set up camp in the wild—he has also led groups of hikers and backpackers into his favorite haunts, and has recruited and trained countless others.

This is why none of his hiking protégés and companions were surprised when, in May, Thomas received the chapter's Michener Outings Leadership Award for 2016.

Thomas was born and reared in Nürnberg, Germany. Most of Europe's greener places are fairly close to civilization, and Thomas, like other Europeans who love the outdoors, did a lot of day hiking—throughout Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. He also did a lot of class and lab work, earning his M.S. in physics from the University of Bonn and his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Ruhr University (Bochum).

In 1992, he left behind family, friends, and home country to work on a postdoc at the University of Washington, in Seattle. He did two more postdocs, at the University of South Carolina, in Columbia; and Carnegie Mellon University, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While in Washington State, he tried backpacking for the first time.

Thomas moved to the Bay Area in 1998, to work at Remote Sensing Systems, in Santa Rosa, where he works—in layman's terms—"as a scientist measuring weather and climate data on the earth from satellite observations." He sought out a guided backpacking trip and became acquainted with the Sierra Club and seasoned backpack leader Lloyd Sawchuk.

Lloyd, who won the Michener award in 2009, says, "Thomas was eager and determined" and wanted to know, in detail, "the history of the backpack section, the goals of the organization, and how leaders are trained." To demonstrate his motivation and qualifications to become a trip leader himself, Thomas joined Lloyd on a private snow camping trip near Iron Mountain in the Sierra. Lloyd was impressed: "The weekend was very cold, windy, wet, and miserable—sleet, rain, fog, and inescapable discomfort. Thomas proved to be knowledgeable, focused, and eager to begin formal training as an assistant leader." Thomas assisted Lloyd on a number of weekend backpack trips and snowshoe outings, and soon graduated to leading hikes and backpack treks himself, and to training other leaders.

In 2001, eager to introduce the uninitiated to the wonders of the wild, he began organizing an annual course for beginning backpackers. This spring, the 17th such course will introduce beginners to backpacking equipment and how to use it, basic navigation skills, wilderness safety, water treatment, wilderness ethics, and low-impact camping. Roger Williams, who recently took over as

chair of the backpacking section from Thomas, calculates that at about 50 new backpackers per year, Thomas has helped make many hundreds of individuals more competent in the wilderness. (See page 20 for information on this spring's Beginning Backpackers course!)

Short trips, long trips, California backpacking trips, European inn-to-inn trips—Thomas has led outings from Stinson Beach to the German Alps. He has led over 150 backpack trips into California's High Sierra and coastal mountains. He has shared his knowledge and love of Bavaria—this year, from Rothenburg to the Danube; two years ago, along the Bavarian Forest Crest.

Leading trips is obviously a labor of love for Thomas, who enjoys planning his trips as well as amplifying the wilderness experience for others. He likes the connection on his treks—people connecting with one another and with nature. One has to be flexible, he says. About 12



**PHOTO CREDITS:**

This page: Thomas at Cerro Chirripó, the highest mountain in Costa Rica, in 2016. Facing page: Thomas on a 2013 trip to Sequoia National Park. Both photos courtesy Thomas's Flickr account, [www.flickr.com/thomasmeissner](http://www.flickr.com/thomasmeissner).

years ago, on a backpacking trip in the Northern Sierra, the hard rain turned into snow, and the trip had to be terminated early. Sometimes creeks are too high to cross, and he has to alter the original route. Someone might get sick or injured—and have to be taken to a hospital by a horse or a helicopter. Thomas handles the responsibility calmly.

Teri Shore, who has co-led many trips with Thomas, says, “He is one of the few people whom I trust completely in the back country. He knows the mountains and can read the landscape and the weather as well as maps. I have never known Thomas to get lost or off trail.”

Though quiet and kind, Thomas is an exceptionally organized, no-nonsense leader, one for whom, says JP Torres, database coordinator for the backpacking section, “promptness is a virtue.” JP adds, “Anyone who has been on a trip with Thomas and heard his decisive ‘Five minutes!’ near the end of a snack break knows that if you aren’t paying attention, you will fall behind once everyone else has gotten up and started following Thomas down the trail.” JP has adopted Thomas’s “Five minutes!” call when he leads trips—much to the delight of participants who recognize Thomas’s voice in the exclamation. Thomas has also been known to pound on his metal cooking pot to make sure backpackers get up in time for an early start. “After a few friendly complaints,” Teri Shore says, “he gave up that type of wake-up call!”

Kath Giel has accompanied Thomas, often as his assistant leader, on many of his adventures. This spring, she assisted Thomas with “Hiking the Alps of Bavaria and Tyrol.” Tramping with him in the homeland he knows so well, she says, is a pleasurable and memorable experience. On all his trips, Kath says, “Thomas carries a large pack that contains all sorts of essentials. Did your hiking pole break? He has a knife with a tool. Did you lose something in the leaves? He has a headlamp. Did your batteries die? He has a spare. Do you wonder where you are? He has a map and GPS.”

Although most of Thomas’s backpacking trips take

place in non-winter weather, he leads annual backcountry snowshoe trips to the Sierra Club’s Bradley Hut, perched on the Sierra crest east of Lake Tahoe. He apparently is oblivious to the raucous snoring in the communal sleeping room.

Pressed to rank the best backpacking sites, Thomas offers Sequoia National Park as one of his favorite places. He has trekked all over the United States, in New Zealand, Australia, Costa Rica, Patagonia, and Canada. In 2012, he made it to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro. He revisits his native land once or twice a year.

The famous American trails? Thomas has hiked the John Muir trail straight through and has done large sections of the Pacific Crest Trail and the Appalachian Trail, usually with other, lucky companions. He is willing to “share the journey,” says Kath Giel.

What new place would he like to explore? The Peruvian Andes—and it’s on his calendar for 2017!



## RESTORE HETCH HETCHY 2017 ANNUAL DINNER



Hetch Hetchy: Requiem for a Valley, Oil on canvas, 36" X 72" Brooks Anderson 1992

**Saturday, March 11 at 6 PM**

**BERKELEY CITY CLUB**

Please **JOIN US** for a special evening featuring world-record rock climber Hans Florine, along with gourmet dining, silent auction and live music.

For more information, please visit  
[www.hetchhetchy.org](http://www.hetchhetchy.org).

## Dreaming up California's "Leap" to the future

DANA MOSKOWITZ

In the mountains of Southern California a group of diverse young people gathered together to become something bigger than themselves. Fed up with feeling useless and unheard, these people decided to create a collective voice that could not be drowned out. This group cares deeply about the Earth and all the people and animals that reside on it. These young people are finished with the system that dictates their lives and oppresses the vulnerable. These young people have created a manifesto of their values and ideas and they expect to be heard. This accumulation of ideas is the California Leap Manifesto.

Myself and forty other young people attended West SPROG, a weeklong activist training held by the Sierra Student Coalition—a network of high school and college-aged youth from across the country working for environmental, climate, and social justice. This training was more than just Campaigns 101. We woke up every day at eight in the morning and went to bed every night past midnight. Every minute we worked tirelessly to engage with one another, to learn from each other, and to build a movement that would last longer than those seven days in the mountains.



During these long days we were inspired by Naomi Klein's work creating The Leap Manifesto for Canada (read it at <https://leapmanifesto.org>) and wanted to create our own for California. The Leap Manifesto is a vision for a leap forward for environmental and social justice to help build a progressive movement. The California Leap Manifesto is specific to our state and calls for respect for the inherent rights of indigenous communities, a complete transition to renewable energy by 2030, a shift in education, and equal representation in government, just to name a few of the things we touch on.

The project was started this summer and the work continues. We unveiled our first draft at Power Shift West, a conference for young activists held at UC Berkeley. You can read the first draft of the California Leap Manifesto at <https://californialeapmanifesto.wordpress.com> (note that the document doesn't necessarily reflect Sierra Club positions or policies). On this blog site we will be updating the manifesto and all the work we do surrounding it. We hope to add members to our movement to refine our manifesto and to be fully representative of all the voices that are contained in California.

The original Leap Manifesto team said of the process of creating the document: "The idea was to create a space to not just say 'no' to the worst attacks on human rights and environmental standards, but to dream together about the world we actually want and how we could get there." If you want to be involved in shaping this dream for California's future, contact Francisco Ferrera at 805-822-7650.

Dana Moskowitz is a student at UC Berkeley and an intern in the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter's conservation department.

**ACTIVE ADVENTURES EUROPE**

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**Hike, bike and kayak your way around the Mont Blanc Circuit**

**Check trip availability at: [activeadventures.com/europe](http://activeadventures.com/europe)**

**or call 1 800 661 9073**

# 2017 Sierra Club Calendars

Calendars will be available until December 2, 2016 (then while supplies last)

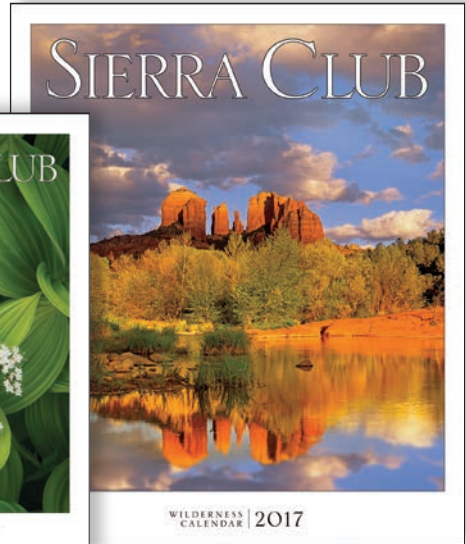
Number purchased:	1-3	4-11	12+
Wilderness Wall price	\$13.50	\$13.00	\$12.25
Engagement price	\$14.50	\$14.00	\$13.25

Prices include sales tax. We accept cash, checks, MasterCard, Visa, Discover Card, and American Express.

**To purchase, visit the chapter office:**

2530 San Pablo Ave (between Dwight & Parker), Berkeley  
 Monday - Thursday, 10 am to 5 pm; Friday 10 am to 2 pm  
 For further information, call (510)848-0800.

*NOTE: The Bay Chapter will not be shipping orders of fewer than 12 calendars. Purchases of fewer than 12 must be made at the chapter office. Call (510) 848-0800 for details on shipping for orders of 12 or more. Shipping will start Wednesday, October 5. Shipping costs: \$14 for 12 calendars, one address in the USA. \$1 for each additional calendar.*



Two calendar formats!

- **ENGAGEMENT:** Week-by-week format features 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.
- **WILDERNESS WALL:** Spiral bound, month-by-month format; 12 majestic North American landscapes.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE LOCAL CONSERVATION WORK OF THE SIERRA CLUB'S SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER.

## GO SOLAR

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Visit [sierraclub.org/solarflyer](http://sierraclub.org/solarflyer) or call (844) 815 5614 to request a free quote and find out if solar panels are right for your home.



## ABOUT THIS CALENDAR

Activities listed here are abbreviated. For full listings, visit: [sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/activities). The online calendar will also include changes, cancellations, and outings submitted after the print deadline.

### Hike and backpack ratings

Hike ratings are based on distance and elevation gain (the sum of all gains in elevation per day):

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. up to 6 miles | A. under 1,000 feet   |
| 2. 6 - 10 miles  | B. 1,000 - 2,000 feet |
| 3. 10 - 15 miles | C. 2,000 - 3,000 feet |
| 4. 15 - 20 miles | D. over 3,000 feet    |
| 5. over 20 miles | E. over 3,500 feet    |

Backpack ratings include a third digit for travel:

- T. trail
1. limited/easy crosscountry
  2. moderate crosscountry
  3. strenuous/difficult crosscountry

### What to bring

For day hikes always bring lunch and enough water. Consider layered clothing, sunscreen, good hiking boots with treads, and hiking poles. Non-service dogs are allowed only if specified in the listing; canine hikers should bring leashes, litter bags, and water for their dogs.

### Liabilities

To participate on a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver form, call call (415)977-5630, or visit <http://tinyurl.com/outingswaiver>.

### Problem resolution

If you have an outing-related concern that you are not able to address via the outing's leader, please contact the chair of the sponsoring section or group. If that is not sufficient, you can contact the Activities Committee ombudsman, Seth Feinberg, at [sethfeinberg@yahoo.com](mailto:sethfeinberg@yahoo.com) or (510)969-7151, or the Chapter office at (510)848-0800.

### Carpooling

Carpooling helps the environment and allows people without cars to participate. If you are driving to a hike, please stop by the carpool point to pick up others. If you're a rider, pay a share of expenses. Many activities are listed on the Chapter's Meetup site a couple weeks in advance of the event. Join the Meetup group and post a comment requesting or offering a ride: [www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay](http://www.meetup.com/sanfranciscobay).

# WINTER 2016 OUTINGS CALENDAR

## TUESDAYS

**Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A hike.** Optional dinner afterward. MEET: 3:30 pm at boathouse during December and January, and 4 pm beginning February. LEADER: Dolores Gruenewald, (510)351-6247 or [doloresgru@aol.com](mailto:doloresgru@aol.com). (Solo Sierrans)

## WEDNESDAYS

**Lafayette Reservoir 1A hike.** Optional dinner afterward. MEET: 4 pm in parking lot (takes five quarters or annual pass). LEADER: Lee Cowden, (925)934-6357. (Solo Sierrans)

## DEC 3 • SAT

**Inner Sunset/Presidio 1A hike.** This is a one-way hike from the Inner Sunset through the Presidio with interesting stops along the way. Return via Muni. Any rain cancels. COST: Muni fare \$2.25, seniors \$1. MEET: 10:15 at 9th and Irving Streets, northeast corner. ENDS: 3:30 pm. LEADER: Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

**Lake Chabot 2B loop hike.** Moderate to leisurely paced day hike through eucalyptus and oak groves. Highlights include Lake Chabot, Chabot View, and the Cascade Trail. Be prepared for mud and lots of poison oak. MEET: 10:30 am at Marciel Gate, Anthony Chabot Regional Park. LEADER: Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or [slbakaley@lbl.gov](mailto:slbakaley@lbl.gov) (preferred). (Mount Diablo and SAC Groups)

## DEC 4 • SUN

**Berkeley hills and architecture 2A hike.** An educational walk featuring hidden parks, plus houses designed by Bernard Maybeck and other prominent architects. BRING: Money for post-walk dinner. MEET: 10:30 am on grass at corner of Euclid and Bayview near Berkeley Rose Garden. ENDS: 5 pm. LEADER: Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

## DEC 10 • SAT

**Mount Tamalpais 3C hike.** Moderate hike on Mount Tam. MEET: 9 am at Meet at the Fairfax Parkade to carpool to trailhead. LEADER: Pao Chen, (510)237-7570 or [paoc945@yahoo.com](mailto:paoc945@yahoo.com). (Hiking)

## DEC 11 • SUN

**Tennessee Valley 1A history hike.** Pleasant saunter to the beach on one of the Bay Area's iconic trails and learn about the area's colorful history. Not too many years ago, this natural landscape nearly succumbed to a sprawl development. Long before that, the valley was known as Elk Valley, and the beach at the end of the trail was called Indian Cove. Then came that fateful day in 1853: there lies the tale of the wreck of the SS Tennessee, her foolhar-

dy captain, half-crazed doctor, chest of gold, and missing "keyhole" in the cliff. **MEET:** 9 am at Tennessee Valley trailhead, Mill Valley. **ENDS:** noon. **LEADER:** Ken Lavin, (925)852-8778 or [ken\\_lavin@hotmail.com](mailto:ken_lavin@hotmail.com). (Mount Diablo Group)

**Bear Valley to Kelham Beach 3C hike.** Many nice views on this scenic hike. **MEET:** 9 am at Bear Valley Visitor Center, Point Reyes Station. **LEADER:** Tom Post, (415)690-6572 or [tpost123@hotmail.com](mailto:tpost123@hotmail.com). (Hiking)

**Alameda Bay Farm Island & Harbor Bay 1A shoreline walk.** Explore the Bay shoreline and lagoons of Harbor Bay Isle with great views of the open water and San Francisco skyline. **MEET:** 1:30 pm at Towata Park, Alameda. **ENDS:** 4:30 pm. **LEADERS:** Caprice Solotar, (510)525-2110; Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or [bob\\_solotar@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_solotar@hotmail.com). (Mount Diablo Group)

**Bayside at Point Isabel 1A hike.** Hourlong walk on paved trail. Wheelchair accessible. Followed by optional Chinese dinner at Pacific East Mall. **BRING:** Binoculars for possible shorebird sightings. **MEET:** 3:30 pm at small parking lot at the end of Rydin Road. **LEADER:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

#### DEC 14 • WED

**Moonlight 2C hike.** Ohlone College to Mission Peak summit on the Peak Trail. Not for beginners. We will stop on a regular basis but must complete the 7-mile hike by 10 pm when the park closes. **BRING:** Headlamp or flashlight, but the objective is to enjoy hiking in the moonlight. **COST:** \$4 parking fee. **MEET:** 6:30 pm at Peak/Ysc trailhead north of Ohlone College tennis courts, Fremont. **ENDS:** 10 pm. **LEADER:** William Yragui, (650)642-5150 or [wyragui@infobond.com](mailto:wyragui@infobond.com). (SAC Group)

#### DEC 17 • SAT

**Corona Heights Natural Area service project.** Help maintain the more than 100 native plant species and provide habitat for wildlife. We'll remove invasive plants and nurture natives, and perform other routine park maintenance projects. All tools and gloves are provided. Children welcome with parent or guardian. Held rain or shine. Wear close-toed shoes. **MEET:** 10 am on north side of Randall Museum at the end of Museum Way, just off Roosevelt. **ENDS:** noon. **LEADER:** Russell Hartman, (650)242-2679 or [rph1917@comcast.net](mailto:rph1917@comcast.net). (Gay & Lesbian)

**Point Reyes Mount Wittenberg and Coastal Trail 2B hike.** This 10-mile loop begins with a long, slow climb through dense woods up to Mount Wittenberg. We then make our way over to the Coastal Trail, which offers an expansive ocean view. Finish with a pleasant walk along wooded creeks. **MEET:** 11 am at far end of large parking lot where trail begins, Bear Valley Visitor Center. **LEADER:** Jeffrey Sanchez, (510)599-5238 or [amagi@pacbell.net](mailto:amagi@pacbell.net). (Sierra Singles)

#### DEC 18 • SUN

**Winter Solstice 2B hike.** Let your inner Druid shine on a solstice hike in Mount Diablo State Park. Search for signs of the season, including mistletoe and Christmas berry (toyon). Great views from atop Twin Peaks. Our trail passes beneath sturdy boughs of Coulter pines, renowned for possessing the heaviest cones of any

pine tree (we won't dawdle too long underneath!). **COST:** \$6 vehicle entrance fee (exact change required). **MEET:** 10 am at Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center, Clayton. **ENDS:** 2:30 pm. **LEADER:** Ken Lavin, (925)852-8778 or [ken\\_lavin@hotmail.com](mailto:ken_lavin@hotmail.com). (Mount Diablo Group)

**Annual GLS holiday party.** GLS was founded 30 years ago in the Castro. In its first year, and in spite of a raging epidemic, more people joined GLS than any Sierra Club chapter in the nation. Since then, GLS has done so much of which we are proud. So, let's party! **BRING:** Food to share. The Club will provide the main dishes and non-alcoholic beverages. **MEET:** Muir Beach Community Center. Optional morning hikes at 9:30 and 10 am. Lunch at 12:30 pm, then presentation of hike leader awards and introduction of the new GLS Governing Committee. Around 1:30 pm, music by the fabulous Pam and Jeri. **COST:** Free for active members, or \$15, which includes new membership. For volunteer options email [leslie@lesliecaplan.com](mailto:leslie@lesliecaplan.com). **LEADER:** Angela Romagnoli, (415)637-3869 or [angelaromagnoli@hotmail.com](mailto:angelaromagnoli@hotmail.com). (Gay & Lesbian)

**Berkeley Hills 3B loop hike.** Explore the best of both city and greenbelt: hidden urban pathways and parkland trails. Great views of the Bay on a clear day. **MEET:** 10:30 am at University Avenue and Oxford Street, southeast corner. **ENDS:** 5:30 pm. **LEADER:** Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or [bob\\_solotar@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_solotar@hotmail.com). (Hiking)

**Emeryville Marina 1A sunset walk.** Hourlong walk on paved trail with quiet views of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge. Wheelchair accessible. After, optional early dinner at the Emery Bay Market. **MEET:** 3:30 pm at the back of Chevy's Restaurant by picnic tables. **LEADER:** Vera Lis, (510)234-8949. (Solo Sierrans)

#### DEC 21 • WED

**Winter wonderland on Tam 2-3 B-C hike.** Look for fungus, newts, and water. Leader may request "quiet zones" to maximize sounds of nature, like birds, burbling water, and the breeze in the trees. Please come if you enjoy the serenity of being in nature but want to be in a group. Hiking in the winter is magical, but weather sometimes manages us; confirm attendance with the leader so you can be informed of shifts in the hike time and/or locale. **MEET:** 8:30 am at Lake Lagunitas parking lot. **ENDS:** 1 pm. **LEADER:** Jayah Faye Paley, (415)699-3333 or [seminar@polesformobility.com](mailto:seminar@polesformobility.com). (Hiking)

#### DEC 30 • FRI

**Round the mountain Mount Diablo State Park 2C hike.** This classic loop provides views in all directions. We'll circle the park's namesake peak via Deer Flat, Murchio Gap, Prospectors Gap, Devil's Elbow and the Mary Bowerman Trail. Partly through sections that burned in the 2013 Morgan Fire. Steady, relaxed pace with breaks. Prepare for mud and poison oak. **COST:** \$10 park entry. **MEET:** 10 am at Diablo Valley Overlook at Juniper Camp turnoff. **LEADER:** Jake Van Akkeren, (925)933-3486 or [joanakkeren@comcast.net](mailto:joanakkeren@comcast.net) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group & Save Mount Diablo)

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

### JAN 7 • SAT

**Mount Diablo 2B necklace hike.** Climb above the winter fog on a leisurely to moderately paced hike around the mountain. COST: \$10 parking fee. MEET: 10 am at Juniper Campground. LEADER: Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or [slbakaley@lbl.gov](mailto:slbakaley@lbl.gov) (preferred). (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

**Inner Sunset to Dolores Park 2B hike.** One-way hike through the Haight/Ashbury and Castro neighborhoods. Return via Muni. COST: Muni fare. MEET: 10:15 am at 9th and Irving Streets, northeast corner. ENDS: 3:30 pm. LEADER: Gloria Navarra, (415)731-6144. (Hiking)

### JAN 11 • WED

**Winter wonderland on Tam 2/3 B/C hike.** Look for fungus, newts, and water. Leader may request “quiet zones” to maximize sounds of nature, like birds, bubbling water, and the breeze in the trees. Please come if you enjoy the serenity of being in nature but want to be in a group. Confirm attendance with the leader so you can be informed of shifts in the hike time and/or locale. MEET: 8:30 am at Bootjack Trail parking lot. ENDS: 1 pm. LEADER: Jayah Faye Paley, (415)699-3333 or [seminar@polesformobility.com](mailto:seminar@polesformobility.com). (Hiking)

### JAN 13 • FRI

**Moonlight 2C hike.** Ohlone College to Mission Peak summit on the Peak Trail. Not for beginners. Regular stops, but must finish by 10 pm when the park closes. BRING: Headlamp or flashlight, but the objective is to enjoy hiking in the moonlight. MEET: 6:30 pm at Peak/Ysc trailhead north of Ohlone College tennis courts, Fremont. ENDS: 10 pm. LEADER: William Yragui, (650)642-5150 or [wyragai@infobond.com](mailto:wyragai@infobond.com). (SAC Group)

### JAN 21 • SAT

**Central Point Reyes 3C loop hike.** Leisurely to moderately pace through varied terrain. Highlights include the top of Mount Wittenberg and Kelham Beach. Mellow hikers especially welcomed. MEET: 8:30 am at Bear Valley trailhead. ENDS: 5:20 pm. LEADER: Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or [slbakaley@lbl.gov](mailto:slbakaley@lbl.gov) (preferred). (Hiking and Sierra Singles)

### JAN 25 • WED

**Marin Headlands 3C loop hike.** Moderate pace. MEET: 9 am at Tennessee Valley parking near stables. ENDS: 4 pm. LEADER: William H. Mayers, (415)-302-4802 (cell), (415)785-3516 (home), or [wbmayers@gmail.com](mailto:wbmayers@gmail.com). (Hiking)

### JAN 28 • SAT

**Lunar New Year on Mount Tamalpais 3C hike.** Moderate pace. MEET: 9 am at Mountain Home parking area, Panoramic Highway, Mill Valley. Any rain cancels. LEADER: Pao Chen, (510)237-7570 or [paoc945@yahoo.com](mailto:paoc945@yahoo.com). (Hiking)

### FEB 4 • SAT

**Bird watching safari, Sacramento Valley and Delta.** Join Tish Brown for a car caravan to the Cosumnes River Preserve of the Nature Conservancy and Thornton agricultural area to see migratory birds, hopefully including sandhill cranes, tundra swans, geese, and ducks. BRING: binoculars. MEET: 9:30 am for carpooling in parking area near Macys/Chevron station/Starbucks on Sommersville Road off Sommersville Road South exit in Antioch. ENDS: 4 pm. LEADER: Tish Brown, (925)325-7228 or [tishbbird@yahoo.com](mailto:tishbbird@yahoo.com). (Delta Regional Group)

### FEB 11 • SAT

**Eagle Peak and Mount Diablo Falls 2C loop hike.** Climb Eagle Peak from the wild north side and return via Donner and Back Canyons. Leisurely to moderate pace. Be prepared for cold winds, mud, and poison oak. Optional dinner stop after hike. COST: \$6 parking fee. MEET: 10 am at Mitchell Canyon trailhead. ENDS: 5:30 pm. LEADER: Steve Bakaley, (925)945-8205 or [slbakaley@lbl.gov](mailto:slbakaley@lbl.gov). (Mount Diablo Group and Sierra Singles)

**Emeryville to Berkeley along the Bay Trail 1A hike.** A 5-plus-mile bayside walk along the Emeryville shoreline and Berkeley frontage road pathway. BRING: lunch or purchase at Seabreeze Market. MEET: 11 am by Emeryville Marina entry control gate (just past Chinese restaurant). ENDS: 3 pm. LEADER: Caprice Solotar, (510)525-2110. (Mount Diablo Group)

**Moonlight 2C hike.** Ohlone College to Mission Peak summit on the Peak Trail. Not for beginners. Regular stops, but must complete the 7-mile hike by 10 pm when the park closes. BRING: Headlamp or flashlight, but the objective is to enjoy hiking in the moonlight with no (or very limited) artificial illumination. MEET: 6:30 pm at Peak trailhead north of Ohlone College tennis courts, Fremont. ENDS: 10 pm. LEADER: William Yragui, (650)642-5150 or [wyragai@infobond.com](mailto:wyragai@infobond.com). (SAC Group)

### FEB 15 • WED

**Mount Tam 3C hike.** Full loop of the north side of Mount Tamalpais. Moderate pace. MEET: 9 am at Deer Park School, Fairfax. ENDS: 4 pm. LEADER: William H Mayers, (415)785-3516 (home), (415)302-4802 (cell), or [wbmayers@gmail.com](mailto:wbmayers@gmail.com). (Hiking)

### FEB 18 • SAT

**Mount Diablo waterfalls 2B hike.** Leisurely paced hike to Donner Canyon waterfalls. Some steep trails. COST: \$6 car entry. BRING: Money for post-hike dinner at Concord restaurant. MEET: 10 am at Mitchell Canyon parking lot. ENDS: 5 pm. LEADER: Guy Mayes, (510)522-1590. (Hiking)

### FEB 25 • SAT

**Muir Woods / Steep Ravine 3C loop hike.** Explore the south side of the mountain on a route with great vistas and old-growth redwoods. Moderate pace, but not for beginners, speed demons or gazelles. Hikers with relaxed attitudes especially welcome. MEET: 9:15 am at Mountain Home trailhead. ENDS: 5 pm. LEADER: Bob Solotar, (510)525-2110 or [bob\\_solotar@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_solotar@hotmail.com). (Hiking)



# SPECIAL EVENTS & PROGRAMS

## SAN FRANCISCO DINNERS

**MEET:** Social hour 6 pm, dinner 7 pm, program 8 pm. Grace Lutheran Church, 3201 Ulloa St. at 33rd Ave. **COST:** Send a check for \$22 made out to "Sierra Club, S.F. Bay Chapter," to Gerry Souzis at 1801 California St., #405, San Francisco, CA 94109. Please indicate the program date, number of guests, vegetarian meals requested, and your phone number. Non-members welcome. **BRING:** Wine or soft drinks. Glasses and ice available. **LEADER:** For questions, contact Gerry between 4 and 9 pm at 415-474-4440 or [gsouzis@hotmail.com](mailto:gsouzis@hotmail.com).

There will be no December 2016 program.



**Thu, Jan 19 – "The Swiss Alps, a Natural History" with Ron Felzer.** Ron Felzer has been exploring and studying Switzerland and the Swiss Alps for over 40 years. With his background in biology, forestry, and environmental studies, he will show us many aspects of the Swiss Alps, from a variety of mountain ranges to Swiss wildflowers. The areas he will be focusing on are the Berner Oberland, the Jungfrau-Aletsch-Bietschorn World Heritage Site, the Zermatt/Matterhorn region, and the Swiss National Park.

During his teaching career at Merritt College, Ron created and taught approximately 100 field courses, including "Natural History of Death Valley," "The Wolves of Yellowstone," and "Natural History of the Peruvian Amazon." He continues to teach field natural history courses, including "Ecology of the Cascades and Mount Shasta," and an upcoming course "Natural History of Taiwan." Ron has been a Life Member of the Sierra Club for over 40 years.

Checks must be received by January 14.

### PHOTO CREDITS:

This column: Dodging sheep near Carlisle, photo by Phil Mumford. Right-hand column: the Matterhorn, photo by Ron Felzer.



**Thu, Feb 16 – "The UK Challenge: A Bicycle Journey from Land's End to John O'Groats" with Phil Mumford.** Phil Mumford and his wife bicycled Great Britain from Land's End in the south to O'Groats in the north. Their route took them along the hilly roads of Devon and Cornwall, through Bristol, the Welsh countryside, Manchester, Arran Island, along the Caledonian Canal and Loch Ness, then on to Inverness and Wick in northern Scotland. The journey took them about five weeks, staying in B&Bs along the way.

Phil is a retired teacher, now living in Livermore. He is an avid bicycle tourist, having ridden across the Middle East, China, Africa and America, as well as many European tours.

Checks must be received by February 11.

## GREEN FRIDAYS

Green Friday programs present speakers and topics discussing the most important environmental issues of our time. All are welcome. **MEET:** the second Friday of the month at the Bay Chapter Office, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Suite I, in Berkeley. Doors open at 7 pm, program 7:30 to 9 pm, including questions and discussion. Refreshments are served. **COST:** \$3 donation is requested.

There is no Green Friday in December; instead please come to the Sierra Club's annual Holiday party (find details on page 3).

**Fri, Jan 13 – The Greenbelt Alliance with Stephanie Reyes.** Interim CEO Stephanie Reyes will discuss the Greenbelt Alliance, which for nearly sixty years has worked for the improvement of open space in the San Francisco Bay Area and against irresponsible developments. Its goals include protecting the Bay Area's 3.6-million-acre greenbelt of natural and agricultural lands, directing all new development into already urbanized areas, and working for greenbelt protection and urban development that benefits Bay Area residents across the socio-economic spectrum.

**Fri, Feb 10 – Ken Gibson of the Bay Chapter Water Committee.** Ken's presentation will look at the current structure of residential water pricing applied by water agencies in the Bay Area and consider how those structures could evolve to encourage water conservation while promoting social equity. Similar principals could be applied in pricing water for urban commercial and industrial users. Eventually, rational charges for water consumption could be applied by agricultural water agencies to promote wise water use.

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE

## SPECIAL EVENTS & PROGRAMS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

### DELTA GROUP ACTIVITIES

Please join the Delta Group for the following hikes and activities. For information about Delta Group activities, call Janess Hanson at 925-458-0860.

*Sat, Dec 17* – Martinez Regional Shoreline 1A sunset walk

*Sat, Feb 4* – Bird-watching safari, Sacramento and Delta

*Sun, Feb 26* – Martinez to Port Costa 2A hike

### MOUNT DIABLO GROUP PROGRAMS

**MEET:** 7 pm at Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Road, Walnut Creek. **COST:** Free and open to all, no reservations necessary. **LEADER:** With questions, contact Ken Lavin at [ken\\_lavin@hotmail.com](mailto:ken_lavin@hotmail.com) or 925-852-8778.

*Wed, Jan 9* – “*Chaco Canyon and Culture.*” Come to our next general meeting as Teri Shore leads us on an exploration of New Mexico’s Chaco Culture National Historic Park. Teri will share the history and mysteries of what was the major urban center of ancestral Puebloan culture. She will also provide hiking tips and suggestions on how to best experience the park from the perspective of a first-time visitor, including Fajada Butte, Pueblo Bonita, Chacoan Roads, rock art, incredible cliffs, and remarkable landscapes.

A resident of Sonoma, Teri Shore is North Bay field director for the Greenbelt Alliance. She is an avid backpacker and wilderness advocate who has led Sierra Club backpack trips for the Bay Chapter Backpack Section since 1996.



*Wed, Mar 8* – “*Exploring Vietnam’s Son Doong Cave.*” Imagine a cave so large that it has its own weather system, with clouds and a river inside. So it is with the world’s largest cave, located in Vietnam’s Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park.

Son Doong, Vietnamese for “River Mountain Cave”, was first discovered in 1991 and first explored in 2009. Fewer people have been in the cave than have stood on top of Mount Everest. Join one of those intrepid spelunkers, Adam Garcia, as he guides us down and through this geological wonder.

Adam Garcia grew up in the East Bay and studied environmental science and urban planning in southern California. Currently, Adam is planning and research manager at Greenbelt Alliance, where he oversees mapping and policy analysis.



### EAST BAY DINNERS

**MEET:** Berkeley Yacht Club on the Berkeley Marina; 6 pm for no-host cocktails/social hour, 7 pm dinner, 8 pm program. **COST:** Cost of dinner and program is \$27, including tax and tip. For the January 26 event there is a \$10 “program only” option, starting at 8 pm. **SIGNUP:** Send your check, payable to “Sierra Club,” with your name, telephone number, and the names of your guests, to: Jane Barrett, 170 Vicente Road, Berkeley, CA 94705. Phone: 510-845-8055. Attendance limited to 115. Reserve early!

*Thu, Dec 1* – “*California’s hydroscaapes past, present and future.*” California’s hydroscaapes include diverse landscapes and fascinating stories ranging from groundwater springs at McArthur-Burney Falls, to volcanic eruptions at Lassen Peak, wetlands restoration in the Central Valley, melting glaciers in Yosemite National Park, water diversions at Mono Lake, and Ice Age megafauna at the La Brea tar pits.

Join us as Bay Area geologist John Karachewski leads us on a captivating visual tour of California’s scenic landscapes, and learn about the geologic, environmental, and historical issues related to water resources, changing land uses since the Gold Rush, and climate change. Rekindle memories and gain ideas for future trips to new parks through stunning imagery that illustrates the dynamic and seasonal changes in California’s landscapes.

John is a geologist for the California-EPA in Berkeley. He has a doctorate in geology and has conducted projects throughout the western US from Colorado to Alaska to Midway Island and throughout California. John also teaches at Diablo Valley College and leads field trips for the Point Reyes National Seashore Association Field Institute and Oakland Museum of California. Doris Sloan and John collaborated on a popular book about the “Geology of the San Francisco Bay Region,” published by the University of California Press. John enjoys biking, hiking, and photographing during the magic light of sunrise and sunset.

Reservation deadline is November 26.

### PHOTO CREDITS:

This page: Chaco ruins, photo by Teri Shore (left); Son Doong Cave, photo by Adam Garcia (right). Facing page: Anti-DAPL activists at Standing Rock, photo by Ray Baker (left); Phorid fly laying eggs into honey bee, photo by Christopher Quock (right).



**Thu, Jan 26 – “Stopping the Dakota Access Pipeline: Standing united at Standing Rock.”** What do dozens of indigenous nations, environmental groups, and Black Lives Matter have in common? They are all coming together at Standing Rock Indian Reservation, North Dakota, to take a stand to stop the plan to route the Dakota Access Pipeline through sacred tribal land and underneath the Missouri River. In the process, these diverse groups are building the foundation for a global movement to overturn the oppression and impoverishment of all people, and our planet.

Join us as East Bay native Jamen Shively chronicles his adventures connecting with leaders of the Lakota, Sioux, and other indigenous nations, camping out at the front lines of the movement to stop the "black snake", and grassroots organizing. We will meet passionate tribal elders, young indigenous warriors ready to sacrifice their lives, and environmental and human rights leaders who collectively say "enough is enough" – all centered around the largest gathering of indigenous peoples in the United States in over a century.

Jamen Shively is a veteran of the tech industry and a pioneer of social and environmental movements. After serving as Corporate Strategy Manager for Microsoft, he became a leader in the movement to legalize cannabis and hemp internationally, working closely with former Mexican President Vicente Fox. He has pioneered programs to eliminate the digital divide in Latin America, and to end hunger globally. Jamen is program chair of East Bay Dinners, and President of Radish.org, pioneer of collective intelligence to holistically solve the world's most daunting problems.

Reservation deadline is January 19.

**Thu, Feb 23 – “ZomBees, serendipity and citizen science.”** Concern about threats to honey bees is mounting. In the U.S., hive failure rates have increased as honey bees deal with introduced mites, diseases, pesticides and other stressors. Recently a new threat to honey bees, the parasitic phorid fly *Apocephalus borealis* (AKA the zombie fly), was discovered in San Francisco by Dr. John Hafernik. Bees

infected by the fly (ZomBees) show disoriented zombie-like behavior, leaving their hives at night to die under nearby lights.

Join us as Dr. Hafernik discusses the accidental events associated with the discovery of zombie fly parasitism of honey bees, and implications for hive health and other threats to honey bees in the Bay Area and beyond. He will highlight the role of citizen scientists in tracking zombie fly parasitism across North America through the ZomBee Watch Project ([zombeewatch.org](http://zombeewatch.org)) along with the many discoveries that citizen scientists have made about this unusual phenomenon.

Dr. John Hafernik is Professor of Biology at San Francisco State University and a past President of the California Academy of Sciences. John's research focuses on evolutionary and ecological processes at the population or species level and conservation biology of insects. He is co-founder of ZomBee Watch, a citizen science project that has been featured by *Scientific American*, the Discovery Channel, KQED, Science Friday and the *New York Times*. ZomBee Watch was named one of the top 10 Citizen Science projects of 2015 by SciStarter and *Discover Magazine*.

Reservation deadline is February 16.



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**MEMORIAL  
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**In memory of Rob Ng  
Gift of Wendy Tom-Chan**

The San Francisco Bay Chapter welcomes donations in general, as well as gifts in memory or in honor of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor, or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the Executive Committee. To make a gift, call Melanie Jolly at 510-848-0800 extension 302, or go online to: [sierraclub.org/sfbay/support](http://sierraclub.org/sfbay/support).

# CLASSES & TRAININGS

## SNOWCAMPING TRAINING

*Indoor seminar: Saturday, January 7, 2017. Trip dates vary.*

True wilderness and solitude expand when the snow comes down. Want to learn how to camp in the snow safely, comfortably, and with like-minded people? The Snowcamping Section's annual training series, now offered for the 48th year, has taught generations of people the skills for winter navigation, shelter construction, staying warm, cooking, and other winter tips and tricks.

The training series teaches groups of adults, families, and youth during a full-day classroom session in Emeryville, followed by two weekend trips (one two-day, one three-day) in the Sierra to practice what we've learned. Each group has leaders with years of experience and multiple assistant leaders to guarantee a small student-to-leader ratio.

Kids and snow are a natural match for big fun, so families with children ages eight and older have a special group that focuses on the unique challenges and joys of taking kids into the winter backcountry. There are also many alumni trips for graduates of the training series. Youth groups may be accommodated as space and staffing allow.

This training is not for the complete backcountry rookie; all students must apply and we ask that all applicants be in good physical shape and have backpacking experience.

The early-bird application due date is November 30; the final due date is December 17. The mandatory full-day classroom training is January 7. Trip dates vary by group. Sign up soon to select dates that work for you and get the early bird discount. A limited number of scholarships are also available. For more information and to sign up, visit [www.snowcamping.org](http://www.snowcamping.org).

## BEGINNERS BACKPACK COURSE

*Indoor seminar: Sunday, March 26, 2017. Field trip dates: April 8-9, April 22-23, April 29-30, May 13-14, 2017 (choose one).*

Learn how to travel safely and comfortably with only a pack on your back during the annual Beginner's Backpack course run by the Backpack Section. We are offering this opportunity for folks who have little or no experience in backpacking but who want to explore backcountry trails and get away from the crowds.

The course consists of two parts. The first is a full-day indoor session on March 26th, including a series of short lectures, discussions, slide show, and equipment show. The event will be hosted from 9 am to 5 pm at the Naturebridge Conference Center (Golden Gate National Recreation Area).

The second part of the course is an overnight weekend backpack trip in April/May in small groups led by experienced instructors.

There are four dates to choose from. The backpack trips are located in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. During the trip you will have the opportunity to try out your gear, learn how to set up a tent and operate a backpack stove, practice basic navigation skills and, most important, experience what it feels to hike with a heavy pack on your back. Participation in the backpack trip requires attendance at the indoor session.

Participants should be in good physical shape and have no serious health conditions. A good background in day hiking is necessary. Families with children ages 12 and older are welcome. The course is not suitable for younger children. The cost is \$90 per adult and \$45 for participants ages 12 to 22.

The application deadline is March 1, 2017. Early registration is recommended, as space is limited. Applications received after March 1, 2017 will be considered only if space is still available. To register, download the application at [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/backpacking](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/backpacking).

Questions? Email Thomas Meissner at [meissner.thomas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meissner.thomas@sbcglobal.net), or call 707-795-7980 (only if you do not have access to email).

## WILDERNESS FIRST AID CLASS

*Saturday, January 28 and Sunday, January 29, 2017, 8:30 am to 5 pm, Bay Chapter office, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley.*

This class satisfies first-aid requirements for most Bay Chapter outing leaders (confirm requirements with your section/group officers). Students have two options: You can take the one-day class on Saturday and receive the Basic Wilderness First Aid certification of the American Safety & Health Institute — \$50 for members/\$60 for non-members. Basic WFA is a practical, eight-hour course that prepares you to recognize and avoid wilderness hazards, and do first aid outdoors with whatever equipment you have or can improvise. Or, you can take the two-day class for an additional \$30/\$40, and receive the higher-level WFA certification. This option adds more advanced skills and role-playing scenarios.

Current Bay Chapter outings leaders may register by the Tuesday before the class. Call 510-848-0800 or email [wfa@sfbaysc.org](mailto:wfa@sfbaysc.org). Then mail a \$30 deposit check (payable to "Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter") to: Sierra Club, Attn: WFA, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite I, Berkeley, CA 94702. This check will be returned in class, but will be cashed if you don't show up. Include your mailing address, email, phone number, and which section you lead for. Indicate if you are also attending the Sunday class; you will pay the \$30 fee for the second day in class.

If you are not a current Chapter outing leader (including leader candidates or trainees), register with Steve Donelan at [donelan@speakeasy.net](mailto:donelan@speakeasy.net) or P.O. Box 1227, Berkeley, CA 94701. Indicate if you are attending the Sunday class. Include your membership number. Be prepared to pay the fee in class.

If you already have the current WEC textbook (200 pages) and show it in class, deduct \$15. People who have taken Steve Donelan's one-day class in the last year can sign up for the second day only, for \$30/\$40. Those who have taken Steve's two-day class can repeat the second day for free. Pre-register with Steve at the email address listed above.

# 2016 CHAPTER ELECTION

## Voting Instructions:

All members of the Sierra Club who live in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, or Marin Counties, and who were registered as a member of record in the Club database as of October 31st, are eligible to vote. You may choose to vote by paper ballot or online. If we receive both electronic and paper ballots for the same membership number, only the electronic ballot will be counted. All ballots must be received before 2 pm on Friday, December 16th.

### HOW DO I VOTE ONLINE?

On November 18th we emailed all Chapter members whose email addresses we have on file with a link to the online ballot. If you did not receive this email but wish to vote electronically, go to the online voting site at [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/2016chapterselections](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/2016chapterselections). You will need to provide your membership number (the eight-digit number printed on the address label of this Yodeler, above your name). Full instructions for voting electronically are listed on that webpage.

### HOW DO I SUBMIT MY PAPER BALLOT?

Your paper ballot is printed on page 31. Once you have made your selections, place the ballot in an envelope, stamp it (47 cents first-class postage), and mail it to:

*Ballot Submission  
Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter  
2530 San Pablo Ave, Suite I  
Berkeley, CA 94702*

Do not include anything else (checks, letters to the Yodeler, etc.) with this ballot. Ballots sent by fax or email will not be counted.

### HOW DO YOU KNOW I'M A MEMBER?

The Yodeler mailing label printed on the reverse of your ballot will indicate it's valid. The mailing label includes your unique membership number. We cannot accept any ballot lacking a membership number.

### WHAT AM I VOTING FOR?

Each Bay Chapter member can vote in the chapter-wide Executive Committee (Ex Com) election and in the election for the Ex Com of their local group (see below for finding group affiliation).

This year there are no candidates for the Delta Group Executive Committee, so if you are a member of that group you may only vote for the Chapter Executive Committee. The Mount Diablo, Northern Alameda County, Tri-Valley, and West Contra Costa County Groups have fewer candidates than vacancies. If you are a member of one of these groups, contact your group chair to in-

quire about procedures to fill vacancies after the election.

- West Contra Costa Group chair: Gabriel Quinto, 415-265-4610 or [gtq2002@yahoo.com](mailto:gtq2002@yahoo.com)
- Tri-Valley Group chair: Janis Kate-Turner, 925-344-6150 or [janiskate@gmail.com](mailto:janiskate@gmail.com)
- Mount Diablo Group chair: Jim Blickenstaff, 925-830-1929 or [jpblick@comcast.net](mailto:jpblick@comcast.net)
- Northern Alameda County Group chair: Olga Bolotina, 510-910-4733 or [obolotina@presidiomba.org](mailto:obolotina@presidiomba.org)
- Delta Group: contact the chapter office at 510-848-0800 or [info@sfbaysc.org](mailto:info@sfbaysc.org)

The ballot indicates how many candidates you may vote for in each race. You may not select more candidates than indicated on the ballot or your ballot will be considered spoiled and will not be counted. You may vote for fewer candidates than the maximum.

### WHAT GROUP DO I BELONG TO?

To determine which group you belong to, look at the mailing label on this Yodeler. If you are a Bay Chapter member, a three-digit number beginning with "10" should appear in the line above your name, following your eight-digit membership number. This number designates your local group: 100 = No group membership; 102 = Marin; 103 = Mount Diablo; 104 = San Francisco; 105 = Delta; 106 = West Contra Costa; 107 = Southern Alameda County; 108 = Northern Alameda County; 109 = TriValley.

### WHAT IF I HAVE A JOINT MEMBERSHIP?

Just after your group number, your mailing label also indicates whether your household has a single (SNGL) membership or a joint (JNT) membership. Each section of the ballot has two columns for votes. If you have a single membership, mark only in the first column. For joint memberships, each member makes their selections in one column. Both members in a joint membership must vote in the same medium (either paper or electronic ballot).

### WHAT CAN "SPOIL" MY BALLOT?

Your ballot will be considered spoiled and will not be counted if:

- you vote in the incorrect group election;
- you vote for more candidates than the maximum indicated;
- your ballot is illegible; or
- you have already cast your ballot (only your first ballot will be counted; for joint membership voting rules, see above).

### WHAT IF I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, contact the Chapter office at 510-848-0800 or email the Elections Committee at [elections@sfbaysc.org](mailto:elections@sfbaysc.org).

### HOW CAN I HELP?

We always need help counting the ballots. To volunteer to help at the ballot-counting party on Saturday, December 17th, at 10 am at the Chapter office, contact [elections@sfbaysc.org](mailto:elections@sfbaysc.org).

Remember that your participation helps ensure that the Sierra Club remains a truly democratic, grassroots organization.

# Candidate Statements:

*Candidate names are listed alphabetically. The membership dates listed for each candidate are those listed in the Club membership database, but may not be completely accurate, especially for earlier time periods.*

## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There are four candidates. You may vote for four or fewer.

### Olga Bolotina

**Residence:** Oakland

**Occupation:** Chief of Staff, Oakland Councilmember Dan Kalb



**Sierra Club member since:** 2000

**Statement:** Born and raised in Russia, Olga Bolotina earned a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the St. Petersburg Academy of Veterinary Medicine. Olga's interest and passion for sustainability led her to receive a Master's degree in Sustainable Business Administration from the Presidio School of Management. Currently, Olga works as the Chief of Staff for Oakland City Councilmember Dan Kalb. She was elected as Chair of the Northern Alameda County Group, at large member of the SF Bay Chapter, board member of Sierra Club California and nominated as a State Political Committee representative as well as representative to the Council of Club Leaders (CCL).

Olga's love for nature and a lifelong passion for conservation were nurtured from early on in her childhood. Camping in the wilderness, mushroom hunting, wild berry and flowers picking and fishing trips were among her family's frequent activities. As a veterinary professional Olga worked with numerous wildlife rehabilitation organizations such as the Marine Mammal Center, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, Montclair Veterinary Hospital and The Yggdrasil Urban Wildlife Rescue.

Olga has a comprehensive background in political organizing, group leadership, and event organization and facilitation. More recent campaigns that Olga took leading roles in through her work and volunteering: banning coal in Oakland, the successful Fossil Fuel Divestment by the City of Oakland Police and Fire retirement investment boards, and continuing to implement Community Choice Program in Alameda County.

In her scarce time away from serving our communities, Olga enjoys wilderness trips, sustainable gardening and connecting with other environmental and environmental justice leaders.

Olga is urging you to get involved! Now more than ever we need to stand together, organize, reach out, educate, and do everything in our power to save our beautiful natural places here in Bay Area and throughout the country.

Olga considers serving as a leader in the Sierra Club as a great privilege and honor, and continues to expand her knowledge and experience that she puts into practice and shares with current and future Club leaders. She humbly asks you to continue putting her skills and

expertise to work, for the benefit of the Club and our planet. She has the skills, experience, and passion found at the core of the Club, all of which are profoundly applicable to our Executive Committee.

### Jess Dervin-Ackerman

**Residence:** Berkeley

**Occupation:** Environmental & political organizer

**Sierra Club member since:** 2013



**Activities:** Former Bay Chapter Conservation Program Coordinator & Manager; Assembly District Delegate for the California Democratic Party; 350 Bay Area co-founder and former Board President.

**Statement:** As a former staff person for the SF Bay Chapter, I have a deep understanding of and appreciation for the Chapter community, the issues facing the organization, and the campaign priorities for the Bay Area. I led the organization's advocacy efforts for a swift transition away from fossil fuels to a clean energy economy, taking lead for the Sierra Club on the Coal Free Oakland, efforts to launch CleanPowerSF, the Bay Area-wide campaign to cap emissions limits at Bay Area refineries, launching the East Bay Clean Power Alliance, and more.

I grew up in Berkeley to activist parents, so it's not a stretch to say I'm a lifelong environmentalist. I see climate change as the most important issue facing us, and I am driven to work for climate justice because I care deeply about the people and beautiful places that are being impacted by unsustainable energy sources and unchecked capitalism. I am committed to working towards a sustainable, just, and equitable community and environment in the Bay Area. I value authenticity paired with open, honest, and frequent communication in my life and work. I believe that it is through these values and creating long term relationships built on trust that we will win environmental and climate justice victories.

My hope for the SF Bay Chapter is an organization that is inclusive, diverse, and truly represents the communities it works in, at all levels of leadership. I hope you will elect me to represent you on the Chapter Executive Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

### Becky Evans

**Residence:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Retired paralegal

**Sierra Club member since:** 1969



**Activities:** Chapter Chair, 2014-16; Chapter Executive Committee member since 2011; San Francisco Group activist since 1993; Chapter Political Committee member; Recipient of San Francisco Tomorrow's Jack Morrison Lifetime Achievement Award, 2014; Member, Bay Area Water Stewards, People for the Parks Board; Sierra Club Colby Library volunteer.

**Statement:** I ask for your vote to re-elect me to the Chapter Executive Committee. If elected, I will focus on mentoring new activists, strengthening our awesome staff, encouraging regional smart

growth, and working to preserve the California Environmental Quality Act.

I'm proud to be a life member in the Sierra Club, soon to celebrate its 125th birthday. Working at all levels of the Sierra Club, my major efforts have been for parks, waterfront and water issues and community efforts on sewage and transportation. I have served as Chair of the Executive Committee for almost three years and find it demanding, exhilarating, and requiring infinite patience.

The Chapter's successes are yours — you attend hearings, write letters, meet with elected officials and populate phone banks. Your dues and contributions make the Chapter's work possible.

There are nine members elected by the Chapter membership — now at more than 30,000 — and representatives from the Chapter's eight groups. We are volunteers — consultants, scientists, civil servants, attorneys, tech experts and retirees. We are responsible for Chapter staff, budget and conservation campaigns as well as political endorsements and approving litigation.

Together we need to meet the challenges of sea level rise, climate change and a growing Bay Area population. It will take all of us working together to meet these challenges. Please vote for me for the San Francisco Bay Chapter Executive Committee — thank you.

## Arthur Feinstein

**Residence:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Conservationist

**Sierra Club member since:** 1981



**Activities:** Chapter and San Francisco Group Executive Committee Member, 2006 to present; ExCom chair, 2010 to 2013; Interim Chapter Director, 2012; SF Group PolCom Chair, 2008; SF Group ConsCom chair, 2009 to 2012; Vice-Chair, Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee, 2015 to present; Awarded National Sierra Club's Susan Miller Award, 2014; Awarded Clean Water Network's 30-Year Heroes Award; National Audubon Society's Bay Champion Award.

**Statement:** San Francisco and the Bay Area needs a strong Sierra Club as never before. Climate change, sea level rise, extreme weather, drought, species extinction, fracking, the list goes on and can seem overwhelming. But the answer is not despair but rather to accept the challenge, seek solutions and implement them. To do this will require a strong Sierra Club that will lead the effort to reduce and then eliminate dependence upon non-renewable fuels. That will advocate for answers to sea level rise such as creating new wetlands to reduce storm surges and act as levees. That will work to preserve our natural world in the face of increased development.

When Chapter chair I helped establish an energetic and successful Energy Committee. I have worked on wetlands issues on local, state and federal levels helping save and restore thousands of acres of wetlands around the Bay. I played a key role in saving two square miles of East Bay habitat in our 14-year struggle to save Gateway Valley in Orinda. With many others, I helped establish the McLaughlin East Shore State Park.

The Club makes a difference. The Bay Area is a healthier place for us and for the critters with whom we share this world thanks to our efforts. I believe I have the skills and experience to help the Club continue this essential work.

## MARIN GROUP CANDIDATES

There are five candidates. You may vote for five or fewer.

### Mickey Allison

**Residence:** Sausalito

**Occupation:** Biology teacher, retired

**Sierra Club member since:** 1985

**Activities:** Sierra Club ICO Baltimore, 1998-2004; Bay Area ICO, 2005-present; Bay Chapter Federal Parks Committee, July 2015 to present; Marin Group: observer, March 2016 to present.

**Statement:** Growing up in the East Bay, visiting Muir Woods, tide pooling and hiking county parks began my love of nature. At UC Davis, I continued hiking/backpacking with SF Bay and Sacramento Chapters. Living in the Baltimore/DC area, I joined local and national SC trips and became a Sierra Club Inspiring Connection Outdoors (ICO) leader.

For many years, I have shared the uniqueness of every habitat and the need to preserve it with young adventurers while taking them on hikes. It's a joy to see them share tidbits about some plant or animal with their friends.

Upon my return to the Bay Area, I moved into a houseboat. Thinking green, I installed energy efficient upgrades to my home, transferred to SF Bay ICO and started hiking Marin. Seeing groups, walking side by side, collapsing the fragile edge of narrow trails, bothered me; so, I ended up teaching users how some behaviors damage the environment and native species.

Noticing increased visitation to Muir Woods since 2004, I went to hearings to support the park's sustainability. Later, I joined the Sierra Club Federal Parks Committee and advocated for environmental protections to be incorporated into various GGNRA plans (e.g. Muir Woods Reservation System, Redwood Creek Realignment & Dias Ridge Trail Extension Project, and Dog Management Plan.)

My Biology and Zoology degrees required development of good research techniques, analysis of scientific papers and drawing conclusions. My experience and expertise would greatly help Marin Group's decision making process and environmental advocacy.

I will advocate for preservation of parks and open spaces, habitat, wildlife protection, and take careful scrutiny of other issues specific to Marin County. I would be honored to receive your vote.



### Laura Chariton

**Residence:** Mill Valley (unincorporated)

**Occupation:** Environmental activist

**Sierra Club member since:** 1996



**Activities:** Vice Chair, Marin Group; President, Watershed Alliance of Marin; promote biodiversity and Club diversity, promote environmental restoration, preservation policy advocate, avid hiker and backpacker, natural systems protection and restoration, watershed education, NPS tule elk docent.

**Statement:** During my three years on the Marin Group ExCom, Marin has been in the forefront of a battle between skyrocketing real estate speculation, population growth and visitor stress on our parklands. How do we retain our small town character and renowned biodiversity and prevent damage to natural ecosystems? Who speaks for the habitat?

With a Master's degree specializing in Riparian Policy and Environmental Restoration my focus is to save all native species starting in my own backyard. SCMG board members work to solve local environmental issues such as climate change, sea level rise, water and air pollution, inappropriate growth and development and loss and destruction of habitat leading to local extinction.

The Sierra Club's legacy and reputation for identifying needs for environmental protection can give voice to the community of life. Focusing on local issues and having the capacity to engage environmental laws and science, we may influence elections and policymakers if we work together. Because of my science based advocacy and affiliations, I can bring a valuable perspective to the board. We need to expand ethnic and racial diversity within the Marin Group.

I initiated the creation of the Bay Chapter Federal Lands committee in 2014 by raising concerns to National and the Bay Chapter about working more effectively with GGNRA.

I founded the Watershed Alliance of Marin to protect wildlife, streams and watershed health, while collaborating with and supporting the work of Marin watershed groups and local agencies.

Through my activities, research and observation I remain informed by nature. I would be deeply honored to continue serving the Sierra Club community and hope for your vote.

## Susan Ives

**Residence:** Mill Valley

**Occupation:** Communications consultant, writer, activist

**Sierra Club member since:** 2005

**Statement:** I have worked for the environment throughout my career. I serve as a volunteer, board member, and activist for many environmental causes; have held senior-level jobs in state government and nonprofit organizations; and founded a women-owned business helping nonprofit organizations dedicated to social change.

My clients are dedicated to forest preservation, land conservation, providing outdoor experiences for underserved youth; wildlife protection, environmental education, and environmental justice.

My professional experience includes: Press Officer for National Sierra Club; Special Assistant to the Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs; Board member and strategist for the Greenbelt Movement International founded by Nobel Laureate



Professor Wangari Maathai; and Vice President for Public Affairs and Communications for the Trust for Public Land.

I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the Old Growth Forest Network and the Advisory Board of Save the Bay and Resource Renewal Institute.

As your representative on the Marin Group Executive Committee I will work to: gain greater protection for public lands, native wildlife, and habitats; revive Marin's culture of preserving nature and beauty for future generations; provide family-friendly, Sierra Club-sponsored outdoor experiences intended to engage new and diverse voices for our environment; and make "sustainability" the guiding principle for Marin's policymakers—the Board of Supervisors; city governments, public agencies, and agricultural industry.

## Kristin Shannon

**Residence:** Sausalito

**Occupation:** Author, communications consultant

**Sierra Club member since:** 2015

**Activities:** Bay Chapter Political Committee, SF Bay Chapter Federal Parks Committee, Member Marin Group Executive Committee, Chair, Mt.Tam Task Force, Board member, Watershed Alliance of Mari.

**Statement:** Growing up walking with a mother who was blind, and later guiding outdoor journeys with her friends, I learned to listen. There is a tenderness and special quality of silence when you encounter nature through all the senses except your eyes. You also learn the hard reality of the need to balance social justice and environmental concerns.

My upbringing instilled a strong sense of responsibility to participate in change that translated into direct action. I studied neuroscience and economics, with professional work as a policy analyst, and directed think tanks in two countries, consulting for Environment Ministers, the Canadian Prime Minister, NGOs (overseas with Open Society Foundation) and served on the White House transition team.

The Sierra Club's Marin Group can help establish models in the way we manage our own backyard to address population pressures and escalating recreational demands.

Since 2002, I've worked with Marin's biggest landowner, the GGNRA, to balance resource protection with visitor loads. Appointed to Congressman Huffman's ad hoc committee, we created a landmark agreement on the future of Muir Woods.

Coordinating with local politicians is a reminder of how crucial it is to elect people who will keep their promises.

Caring about nature isn't only about geography; the "environment" is a metaphor for how we all connect. To deal effectively with species decline, climate change, or local coastal plans brings us back to listening carefully to establish common ground, and trusting that our joint actions will add up.

While your Executive Committee is part of this process, and I





would sincerely appreciate your vote, we frankly work best when members bring fresh ideas and candid feedback. Please come and engage!

## Brian Staley

**Residence:** Woodacre

**Sierra Club member since:** 2016



**Statement:** I have spent my adult life fighting to preserve the character and the beauty of Marin. I would like to have the chance to continue that work with your help. I respectfully request your vote for a seat on the Executive Committee.

I am running for the seat to continue the long fought efforts protect the remaining open spaces and natural resources in Marin. There has never been a time when threats of major change to our communities and open spaces has been so great. As reported in the media and as reported by every County environmental organization, the California coast and Marin in particular is under enormous development pressure. Pressures from developers, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTC), The Association of Bay area Governments (ABAG), increasing property values, and new State requirements are all contributing to these pressures to build much more high density complexes through Marin. Marin ranches and farms are a central battle ground for these new suburban development pressures, yet they need protections and our help. The Executive Committee of the Sierra Club's Marin Group is a unique place from which one can effect positive change in this area.

We have a choice whether to protect our community character for future generations. I for one feel strongly that working within the current governmental system is the best option. With my three decades of experience as a green designer, planner and builder, I believe I have the necessary experience to help make a difference. Using my technical familiarity with water quality, water treatment, habitat restoration, and other subjects I will fight to keep Marin's rural character intact while understanding that there are limits to respectfully working within the system.

I feel that I have many worthwhile strengths to contribute towards the great works the Sierra Club will accomplish and I have always believed that a clean protected environment doesn't have to be in conflict with local economic interests. There are always solutions to be found that protect this place we call home.

## MT. DIABLO GROUP CANDIDATES

There is one candidate. You may vote for one.

### Jim Blickenstaff

**Residence:** San Ramon

**Occupation:** Letter carrier, USPS

**Sierra Club member since:** 1982



**Activities:** Chair, Mount Diablo Group, 1993 to present; Co-leader, San Ramon for Open Government; Activist for, The 'No HOV Ramps Coalition.'

**Statement:** I would like to continue in my role as Chair of the Mount Diablo Group of the Sierra Club, San Francisco Bay Chapter. There are current and upcoming environmental challenges in our region that will require a strong Sierra Club presence and response. I believe, from my many years of experience, that I can continue to be an effective leader on the issues, not only critical to the Sierra Club, but to other organizations, with whom we will need to coordinate in order to maximize our impact and success.

The Contra Costa County Urban Limit Line has been a valuable tool in holding down sprawl. But, it is under constant threat from well moneyed interests. The 30 acre exception rule is vulnerable to mis-use, and threatening the very premise of the U.L.L. Also, the development of the Concord Naval Weapons Station is moving forward again. Proper implementation of the 3,200 acres set aside as parks and open space will be critical. Public input will be as important as ever. The phased planning will require close monitoring by the Mt. Diablo Group, as well as other key environmental organizations. We've seen in the past how a lack of transparency has lead to problems and controversy.

Whatever it may be; from maintaining a strong County U.L.L., or overseeing a huge project next to Concord; I ask for your vote; so that I may continue to represent the Mount Diablo Group, and the Sierra Club principles of conservation, so critical to smart growth, and a green and healthy future for our children.

## NORTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP CANDIDATES

There are three candidates. You may vote for three or fewer.

### Luis Amezcua

**Residence:** Berkeley

**Sierra Club member since:** 2013



**Activities:** Co-Chair, Chapter Energy-Climate Committee; Member, Chapter Executive Committee; Executive Committee Member, Northern Alameda County Group; Co-Chair, Sierra Club California Energy-Climate Committee.

**Statement:** A transition to a clean energy economy has been a significant priority to me as I continue to lead the Chapter's efforts to push for Community Choice program in Alameda and San Francisco that will foster local economic and environmental benefits. I have played a key role in bringing together various environmental and labor stakeholders in pushing the Community Choice programs to prioritize clean energy jobs and local energy resources. And in promoting clean energy, I have also, with our allies, opposed expansion of dirty energy by banning fracking in Alameda County and stopping the Oakland coal project in its tracks.

Regionally, I led the Club's effort to have the Bay Area Air District develop regulations to reduce refinery pollution and adopting the strongest regulation in the nation to tackle woodsmoke pollution, which makes up roughly 40% of wintertime pollution in the Bay Area, and a \$3 million incentive program to switch out to cleaner heating devices.

When moving away from fossil fuels toward clean energy, we also have to tackle the challenges in communities that are being impacted by climate change the most because many do not have the resources to take action or improve their environmental conditions. We need to make sure that these communities have an opportunity for not only clean energy jobs, but also cleaner air and equitable access to clean energy resources.

I will continue the Sierra Club's strong advocacy, and engage our partners and other organizations that share the Club's goals to make the Bay Area a leader in the fight against climate change.

## Olga Bolotina

**Residence:** Oakland

**Occupation:** Chief of Staff, Oakland Councilmember Dan Kalb

**Sierra Club member since:** 2000

(See statement under Executive Committee candidates.)



## Chris Jackson

(No photo or candidate statement submitted.)

## SF GROUP CANDIDATES

There are eight candidates. You may vote for four or fewer.

## Leigha Beckman

*Petition Candidate*

**Residence:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Consultant

**Sierra Club member since:** 2016

**Activities:** I've been a Sierra Club member since 2016, am a Friend of the Urban Forest in San Francisco, and have authored several pieces on the environment benefits of smart growth policy.

**Statement:** I am extremely fortunate to call myself a lifelong resident of California and eight-year resident of the Bay Area. I am less fortunate, however, to witness the increasingly deleterious impacts of climate change resulting from human activity. I strongly believe that it is our moral imperative and ecological duty to prevent and mitigate those impacts as much as possible.

As an active urbanist advocate, I support transit improvements that reduce vehicle miles traveled and their corresponding carbon emissions, such as expansion of Muni and Caltrain's electrification project. I urged my San Francisco district supervisor to support Prop E, requiring the city to take responsibility of tree maintenance. At Tesla, I served as Program Manager for Environmental Health and Safety for service centers, where I worked to ensure global compliance with environmental regulations related to facilities, high voltage batteries, chemicals procurement, and several other operational areas. I worked closely with the Environmental



Compliance and Sustainability team to launch a parts recycling efforts and manage end-of-life batteries, as well as other initiatives in line with Tesla's green mission.

I am currently applying to law school with the intent to focus on land use and environmental law, and I would be honored to serve on the Sierra Club's Executive Committee.

## Sheila Chung Hagen

*Nominating Committee Candidate*

**Resident:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Legislative aide, Office of San Francisco Supervisor David Campos

**Sierra Club member since:** 2015

**Activities:** Member, Sierra Club San Francisco Group; MA, Environmental Management and Sustainability, Harvard University; Executive Committee, Bernal Heights Democratic Club

**Statement:** Powerful changes come from mobilizing diverse communities around environmental issues that affect their everyday lives. I know this from my experience leading the successful Free Muni for Youth campaign with the support of the Sierra Club and many other community organizations. Together, we organized for three years and launched a program that helps 40,000 low and middle income youth in San Francisco get to school and feel vested in our public transportation system.

In addition to advancing accessible transit, I also had the privilege of working with the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations to launch CleanPowerSF, our innovative, local program for powering homes and businesses with clean energy. Despite political gridlock and numerous setbacks, our persistence paid off and now more than 7,800 families and businesses are benefitting from CleanPowerSF. 60,000 more will come online soon.

As an Executive Committee member, I want to ensure that the Sierra Club continues to lead the way on environmental accountability in San Francisco. My priorities include supporting the successful roll out of CleanPowerSF, increasing affordable housing production, and advancing equitable transportation investments.

I believe in this organization, and I want to help the San Francisco Group build greater inroads among younger generations of environmentalists and communities of color. As a Latina and Asian woman, as a public policy advocate, as a former nonprofit executive, as a long-time San Francisco resident, and as the mother of twins, I bring a diverse set of skills and perspectives that I believe will enhance the critical work of the Sierra Club.

It would be an honor to serve on the Executive Committee, and I ask for your support.



## Laura Foote Clark

*Petition Candidate*

**Residence:** San Francisco



**Occupation:** Non-profit executive director

**Sierra Club member since:** 2015

**Statement:** My father was an avid birdwatcher, and I grew up visiting marshes and wild places up and down the East Coast. As a city-dweller and nerdy child, I enjoyed spending weekends gathering pond scum and other samples to check out under the microscope. I developed a deep appreciation for nature preserves and the intricate ecosystems that rely upon them. I witnessed first-hand the fragility of marshes and the destructive impact of human activities along the Chesapeake Bay, picking up trash with cleanup efforts.

As I grew older, I came to appreciate the role of urban planning in preserving our wild places. As an environmentalist, I believe reducing greenhouse gas emissions should be our number one objective. With that comes reducing car usage and improving public transportation.

Having lived in Washington, DC, New York City, Chicago, and San Francisco, I know our city can do so much more to improve regional public transportation in the Bay Area. We can do more to encourage infill development and reduce suburban sprawl. We can reduce our region's carbon emissions dramatically with the right urban policies.

I have been a strong advocate for sustainable housing and transportation in San Francisco. I hope to continue that work with the San Francisco Sierra Club.

## Travis Cole

*Petition Candidate*

**Residence:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Engineering manager

**Sierra Club member since:** 2015

**Activities:** Attending Conservation Committee meetings

**Statement:** I have been passionate about environmental, and conservation issues all of my adult life, and have a strong interest in sustainable energy, walkable cities, and urbanism. I believe we should be encouraging dense urban development and car free lifestyles, to improve the environment and prevent global warming. San Francisco residents use less electricity, less water, and drive fewer miles than the rest of California and the rest of the United States. Because of this, we should advocate for more housing development near jobs so people can give up their cars and lower their carbon footprint. San Francisco can be the model for sustainable urban development, and the Sierra Club can take the lead in advocating for more housing where the environmental impact is lowest. In dense cities like San Francisco.

I'm an avid hiker, frequently enjoying our California State parks. I grew up in rural Washington state, so I'm just as much at home in nature as I am in downtown San Francisco. If elected, I will fight to preserve our natural environment and for a sustainable, walkable and bikeable San Francisco.

I will bring over 5 years of results focused management experi-



ence, and an analytical approach to decision making.

## Armand Domalewski

*Petition Candidate*

**Residence:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Field organizer

**Sierra Club member since:** 2015

**Activities:** I've been a member of the Sierra Club since 2015 and played an active role in the election last year.

**Statement:** I'm running for the Sierra Club because I'm deeply concerned about the existential crisis of climate change. I've worked on renewable energy policy, contributing to several analyses focused on renewable energy tax credits at Novogradac and Company. I worked at New Media Ventures, a non-profit that invests in progressive media and technology. NMV invested in several environmental advocates, such as The Story of Stuff. I'm an environmental advocate who believes the Sierra Club needs to embrace urbanism as a key tool in fighting climate change.



## Becky Evans

*Nominating Committee Candidate*

**Resident:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Retired paralegal

**Sierra Club member since:** 1969

**Activities:** Chapter Chair, 2014-16; Chapter Representative to the Council of Club Leaders, 2013-2016; Chapter Executive Committee member since 2011; San Francisco Group activist since 1993; Chapter Political Committee member; Recipient of San Francisco Tomorrow's Jack Morrison Lifetime Achievement Award 2014; Member, Bay Area Water Stewards, People for the Parks Board; Sierra Club Colby Library volunteer.

**Statement:** I ask for your vote to re-elect me to the San Francisco Group Executive Committee. If elected, I will focus on mentoring new activists, improving local transportation, protecting neighborhood quality, encouraging regional smart growth, implementing CleanPowerSF and working to preserve the California Environmental Quality Act.

A life member in the Sierra Club, soon to celebrate its 125th birthday, I have volunteered at all levels of the Sierra Club. My major efforts have been for parks, waterfront, water issues and community efforts on sewage and transportation. I served on San Francisco's Environment Commission before the Department had staff and on the city's Open Space Advisory Committee in its early years.

The Sierra Club's successes are yours — you attend hearings, write letters, meet with elected officials and staff phone banks. Your dues and contributions make the Club's work possible.

The nine members of the Group Executive Committee work with other activists and organizations to implement green goals and pol-



icies for San Francisco. Together we need to meet the challenges of sea level rise, climate change and a growing Bay Area population. It will take all of us working together to meet these challenges.

Please vote for me for the San Francisco Group Executive Committee — thank you.

## Katherine Howard, ASLA

*Nominating Committee Candidate*

**Residence:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Landscape architect

**Sierra Club member since:** 2012

**Activities:** Co-founder of grassroots open-space advocacy groups: SF Ocean Edge, Healthy Soccer SF, Golden Gate Park Preservation Alliance, and Friends of the Music Concourse. We fought to protect the western end of Golden Gate Park from the Beach Chalet Soccer Fields stadium project (loss of over seven acres of grass to artificial turf, loss of trees and habitat, and 150,000 watts of stadium lighting.) We worked with parents and players concerned with health impacts of artificial turf. We preserved and landmarked the 100-year-old trees in the Music Course in Golden Gate Park. We kept a 40,000 square foot water treatment factory out of Golden Gate Park.

Served on Citizens' Advisory Committees: the ROSE (Recreation and Open Space Element, city-wide open-space policy); Outside Lands Concerts (formulated a landscape protection plan for Golden Gate Park during concerts); Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods Open Space Committee (supporting open-space in San Francisco); Ocean Beach Vision Plan / Local Coastal Program (coastal protection of our western shoreline); and San Franciscans for Community Planning (advocating for true affordability and livable open space in San Francisco's low-income housing.)

**Statement:** Climate change is here, and it must be dealt with vigorously if we are to save our planet. Effective political change starts at the grassroots level, through outreach, education, recruiting, and on-going activism. Political change also requires getting the attention of government officials. We cannot depend on those in power to protect the environment unless we hold them accountable for their actions. I would use my background in neighborhood activism, my experience with City policies, and my training as a landscape architect to help the Sierra Club protect our environment by raising awareness of environmental issues, promoting livable open space for all economic, racial, and age groups, and strengthening political will on vital environmental issues.

## Linda Weiner

*Nominating Committee Candidate*

**Residence:** San Francisco

**Occupation:** Retired, air quality policy

**Sierra Club member since:** 1999



**Activities:** San Francisco Group Executive Committee: 2010-2016; Conservation Committee Member, 2010-2016; Group Diversity Committee, 2011-2012; Alternate Representative to San Francisco Bay Chapter Executive Committee, 2014-2016.

**Statement:** During my tenure on the SF Group Executive Committee, I have been actively involved with a variety of Sierra Club issues on the policy level, as well as supporting action.

Representing Sierra Club, I have testified at government Boards and hearings: at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District in support of a regional climate plan; at the Regional EPA hearing on reducing carbon pollution from power plants, with a focus on pollution in low-income communities; at a Federal EPA panel in San Francisco on Clean Fuel Standards, also writing an Op-Ed for the SF Chronicle; representing Sierra Club, I have spoken directly with policy makers; at SF City Hall Board of Supervisors meeting in support of Clean Power and as a speaker at a rally at SF City Hall; meetings with members of the Board of Supervisors about Free Muni for Youth; and meetings with various Bay Area legislators in Sacramento at 2 Sierra Club Lobby Days concerning environmental legislation.

In support of Sierra Club in general, I have participated in several Sierra Club chapter retreats and have volunteered for several years at the David Brower Sierra Club dinners.

I bring experience in air quality regulations, global warming legislation, and Communications, having previously worked at the American Lung Association in California as Director of Air Quality Advocacy and as Director of Communications for the Bay Area, as well as a producer at KQED and many years working in public health. I will continue to use my skills, energy and passion for advancing Sierra Club policies, particularly in working on environmental justice issues.

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## SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP CANDIDATES

There are four candidates. You may vote for three or fewer.

### Jannet Benz

**Residence:** Fremont

**Sierra Club member since:** 2014



**Activities:** Served as a panelist for Sierra Club, Southern Alameda County interviews for Fremont City Council candidates, 2014.

**Statement:** The Bay Area is in the midst of some of the most expansive development in decades. I recognize there are current and upcoming issues in our area that need input and follow-up from a strong environmental organization like Sierra Club. I am running to preserve and protect our parks and open spaces, and insure that development adopted is sustainable, all of which helps protect our quality of life. I am active in local land use politics advocating for more sustainable elements to be required in new developments; Class I trail networks as a safe non-vehicular mode of transportation; community meetings regarding the Niles/ Sunol Trail and urging EBRPD not to pave acres of parkland at Mission Peak for a parking lot. I have been involved with Fremont Citizens Net-

work (FCN), a community communication network for issues/event based communications for residents of Fremont, initially formed to oppose building a stadium in Fremont and to support local candidates who appreciate the benefits of smart and sustainable growth. I believe teaching our youth to appreciate and respect nature is how we “grow” our next generation of environmentally conscious adults.

Much of my environmental work has been done with young school children and/or with Girl Scouts. I developed, organized, and managed the annual Earth Week program at Sunol Glen School (K-8). The program involved collaborating with many organizations such as, Save the Bay, Alameda Creek Alliance, local organic farmers and others to set up learning rotations for students in all grades, as well as classroom activities throughout the week. I am pleased that the program continues successfully today.

I would be honored to serve on the Southern Alameda County Group Executive Committee to work: to preserve our parks and open spaces; for more sustainable development, and to elect environmentally-aware officials. I would sincerely appreciate your vote. Thank you.

## Diana Brumbaugh

**Residence:** Fremont

**Occupation:** School administrator

**Sierra Club member since:** 2000

**Activities:** Current Southern Alameda County Group Executive Committee Secretary

**Statement:** Much of my environmental work has been in education. As a science teacher, I established an eco-friendly school garden, worked with other Alameda County high schools with recycle/reuse programs, and taught the first AP Environmental Science class in Fremont Unified School District. I have been active with the Alameda Creek Alliance and served as their outreach coordinator, planning their 10-year anniversary celebration and tabling at events. I also volunteered for the Measure K (Protect Coyote Hills) Initiative. I have recently developed a love of birding and have been attending as many GGAS and Ohlone Audubon activities as possible. I would be honored to continue to serve on the Southern Alameda County Executive Committee as we continue to work on preserving open space, protecting the Alameda Creek watershed, electing environmentally aware officials, and ensuring smart growth.



## Glenn Kirby

**Residence:** Hayward

**Sierra Club member since:** 1978

I am an East Bay native, growing up in West Contra Costa County and living in Hayward for the past 30 years. My wife and I have been Sierra Club members since the mid 1970's. I am retired from a management position in an Alameda County city.

I served on the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Executive Com-



mittee for 6 years, 2 years as Chapter Vice Chair. I served on the City of Hayward Planning Commission for 8 years and then on the Alameda County Planning Commission for 12 years and as chair for 3 years. I served as a member and chair of the East Bay Regional Park District's Park Advisory Committee (PAC) for 16 years. I formerly served on the Board of Directors for the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, and as chair the East Bay Area Trails Council.

I view preservation of open-space as fundamental to our quality of life in the Bay Area. I also support public access, where appropriate, through trails and the expansion of parklands. I enjoy hiking and bicycle riding and would usually rather be outdoors than in meetings or public hearings. However, whether I am weighing the impacts of a proposed development or considering whether to recommend endorsement of a candidate for local office, I know that the decisions we make today will determine the future for the Bay Area.

I strongly support the Sierra Club's mission to the protect parklands, agricultural lands and critical habitat. I have had the privilege of serving the SF Bay Chapter in many ways over the years and ask for your support to continue to do so.

## William Yragui

**Residence:** Fremont

**Occupation:** Business owner

**Sierra Club member since:** 2012

**Activities:** Sierra Club Southern Alameda County Group ExCom member, 2014; Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter East Bay Public Lands Committee member, 2014; Transportation Committee, 2015; Activities Committee, 2016; Environmental Round Table, 2016

**Statement:** The Sierra Club has need of membership actively involved in building the organization both internally and externally to those interested in supporting environmental causes. We have a deep well of those committed to making sure that our natural resources are protected but we need to be more aggressive about protecting access to our parks and open spaces. Developing a sense of wonder about nature originates from spending time outdoors interacting with the fauna, flora, and most importantly with others passionate about life on this planet. I am committed to protecting access to our parks and will work to ensure that the Sierra Club continues to represent everyone including those without access to wealth, prestige or power.

As a Sierra Club member, I am a member of the Transportation, Activities and East Bay Public Lands committees. I am committed to encouraging new membership and will continue to lead hikes and organize new member orientations and volunteer events.

As a member of the Southern Alameda County Group Executive Committee, I advocate for those not at the table and work to ensure that we represent all of our members not just a few.

## TRI-VALLEY GROUP CANDIDATES

There are two candidates. You may vote for two or fewer.

## Richard Pugh

(No photo or candidate statement submitted.)

## Dick Schneider

**Residence:** Oakland (but member of Tri-Valley Group)



**Occupation:** Former environmental scientist

**Sierra Club member since:** 1980

**Activities:** Executive Committee, Sierra Club Tri-Valley Group; Sierra Club representative, Altamont Landfill Open Space Committee; Former Chapter Conservation Chair; Former member, National Conservation Governance Committee.

**Statement:** I am running for Tri-Valley Group Executive Committee to continue protecting open space, biological diversity, scenic beauty, and quality of life in the Tri-Valley area.

For the past 17 years, I have been involved in many Tri-Valley conservation campaigns. I was a leader of Alameda County Measure D in 2000, protecting 250,000 acres of East County land from excessive, badly located and harmful development. I continue to watch-dog the county to make sure that Measure D is properly implemented.

In 2002, I helped write and qualify the Protect Livermore's Environment Initiative, which established an urban growth boundary for North Livermore. After its adoption, I worked in the 2005 campaign that defeated Pardee Homes' plan to break the UGB and build a huge housing development in North Livermore.

More recently, I helped write and collect signatures for the Dublin Open Space Initiative of 2014 to protect Doolan Canyon from development. After the Dublin City Council unanimously adopted the initiative in June 2014, I was a leader of the campaign to defeat Pacific Union's counter-initiative, Measure T, which would break the new Dublin urban growth boundary and authorize sprawl in Doolan Canyon. We won with 84% of the vote.

I strongly support protecting Tesla Park from off-road vehicles by stopping expansion of the Carnegie State Recreational Vehicle Area into this magnificent area. I wrote the EIR comments that the Club submitted. Unfortunately, in October the state Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Commission approved the EIR and General Plan to open Tesla to OHV use, and so it seems we will have to join with others to sue the OHV Division of state parks to protect this vital area.

The Tri-Valley is a beautiful place with so many important natural qualities that deserve lasting protection. I would appreciate your vote to continue serving as a member of the Tri-Valley Group Executive Committee to help protect this area. Thank you.

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## WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GROUP CANDIDATES

There are two candidates. You may vote for two or fewer.

## David McCoard

**Residence:** El Cerrito



**Occupation:** Retired library worker

**Sierra Club member since:** 1964

**Activities:** 1975-6, member, Executive Committee and Outings Chair, Kern-Kaweah Chapter; 1984-86, member, SFBC Wetlands Task Force and Solid Waste Subcommittee; 1983-1998, SFBC information table coordinator; mid-90s-2001, 2004-2008 & 2010-present, SFBC Conservation Committee; 2004-2008, SFBC Political Committee; 1990-present, ExCom, West Contra Costa Group (Chair 1994-95); 2008-present, Sierra Club statewide (CNRCC) Energy-Climate Committee; 2012-present, SFBC Energy Committee (2014-present, co-chair).

**Statement:** I feel that the four most important issues facing the West County Group are GHG emissions, air quality and toxics, land use and transportation. These are interrelated and directly affect the quality of life of residents (human and otherwise). As a resident of Hercules through 1998, I participated in citizens' groups working to protect Franklin Canyon and to influence land use and planning decisions.

Basic to action on environmental issues is the task of increasing the number of people actively involved in the Group. We can do this by actively inviting and creating opportunities for participation, and making members know that their activity and feelings count.

I will bring my experience in working with information table volunteers, Chapter committees, and community groups, as well as my time on the Group ExCom, to the internal management of the Group. I am running so that I can continue to contribute to the Club's effectiveness as I have in the past.

## Rita Minjares

**Residence:** El Cerrito



**Occupation:** Retired technical consultant for Charles Schwab

**Sierra Club member since:** 1988

**Activities:** Group chair from 2002 to 2005, Vice chair 2006 to 2013, Treasurer 2014 to present

**Statement:** There are a lot of worthy environmental groups out there, many of them need your money to do their work nationally. The Sierra Club is a grassroots organization and you can become involved on many levels. The Bay Area is a crucible for urban issues, transportation, land use, air quality, energy. This is the bread and butter of the groups. Going to city council meetings and speaking up, talking to candidates, trying to find common ground, going to neighborhood meetings, building alliances, this is key to keeping abreast of the issues.

I bring my experience of the past 14 years working in the West Contra County Group Executive Committee to the table. I am running to continue to contribute my skills to the Sierra Club.

# 2016 Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter Executive Committee Election Ballot

Please vote for the Chapter Ex Comm and your local group Ex Comm. For instructions on voting and submitting your ballot, see page 21. If you prefer to vote online, visit [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/2016chapterelections](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/2016chapterelections).

Mark your ballot with black or blue ink. Please make your selections legible and keep your marks within the boxes. If you mismark your ballot, you may make a correction in a manner that clearly indicates your intended vote.

Candidate names have been listed in random order.

<b>SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP EX COMM</b> (vote for THREE or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
Glenn Kirby		
William Yragui		
Diana Brumbaugh		
Jannet Benz		

<b>SAN FRANCISCO GROUP EX COMM</b> (vote for FOUR or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
Linda Weiner		
Becky Evans		
Travis Cole		
Katherine Howard		
Leigha Beckman		
Armand Domalewski		
Sheila Chung Hagen		
Laura Foote Clark		

<b>WEST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY GROUP EX COMM</b> (vote for TWO or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
David McCoard		
Rita Minjares		

<b>CHAPTER EX COMM</b> (vote for FOUR or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
Arthur Feinstein		
Jess Dervin-Ackerman		
Becky Evans		
Olga Bolotina		

<b>MARIN GROUP EX COMM</b> (vote for FIVE or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
Laura Chariton		
Kristin Shannon		
Susan Ives		
Brian Staley		
Mickey Allison		

<b>MOUNT DIABLO GROUP EX COMM</b> (vote for ONE or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
Jim Blickenstaff		

<b>NORTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP EX COMM</b> (vote for THREE or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
Luis Amezcua		
Chris Jackson		
Olga Bolotina		

<b>TRI-VALLEY GROUP EX COMM</b> (vote for TWO or fewer)	Single member/ first joint member	2nd joint member
Dick Schneider		
Richard Pugh		

# The Sierra Club

San Francisco Bay Chapter  
2530 San Pablo Ave., Suite 1  
Berkeley, CA 94702

Change service requested



**#SierraSnapshots** | Photo by Nitsan E. Mesika from a Sierra Club hike exploring five Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Preserves. Submit your photographs on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook using the hashtag #SierraSnapshots for a chance to be featured in the next issue. You can also send photos to [yodedit@sfbaysc.org](mailto:yodedit@sfbaysc.org). Include your name and where and when the photo was taken.

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## **SIERRACLUB.ORG/SFBAY**

Our website is home to helpful information and resources including:

- The Yodeler blog, updated regularly
- Our full events and activities calendar
- Group information and leadership roster

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Chapter elections are now open. Members are urged to vote for their Club representatives. For details, see page 21.
- Our annual holiday open house is Friday, December 2nd at our Berkeley office. All are welcome! Find details on page 3.

## **EMAIL**

Visit [www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/email](http://www.sierraclub.org/sfbay/email) to sign up for Bay Chapter emails, including monthly bulletins and action alerts.