



# Tehipite Topics

Summer 2008 ☞ Vol. 54, No. 4

[www.tehipite.sierraclub.org](http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org)



## San Joaquin River Cleanup

*by Richard Sloan*

On Earth Day, Tuesday April 22, 2008, members of the Tehipite Chapter helped to remove over 1,000 feet of barbed wire fence located on the San Joaquin River Conservancy property know as Ball Ranch. The fence served no purpose and was a danger to animals and human users of the property. The fence was unusually hard to remove because there were four or five strands of barbed wire on top of hog wire, buried about a foot into the ground. The fence was fairly old, since square nails were found on a few of the posts. One volunteer brought an electric-powered prototype wheelbarrow, which proved most useful to haul fence posts and wire to where it could be removed by truck. ☞

# Chapter General Meeting

## “Energy”

presented by Carl Zichella

Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.  
University of California Center  
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno  
(across from Fashion Fair)

Regional Director Carl Zichella will present a look at California and western regional energy issues. Zichella, a 21-year veteran of the Sierra Club staff, has worked on energy issues throughout his career and is presently an environmental representative from the California Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative, as well as representing environmental

stakeholders in the Western Governors Association Western Renewable Energy Zone project. He will discuss the impacts of global warming on California and the need for and challenges of siting renewable energy projects and transmission lines.

In addition to his Sierra Club work, he serves as a steering committee member of the California Apollo Alliance, is a

See *General Meeting*, page 6

## Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 P.M.

University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno



### Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club

P.O. Box 5396

Fresno, California 93755-5396

Copyright © Tehipite Chapter, 2008

Chapter phone . . . . . (559) 229-4031

Web . . . [www.tehipite.sierraclub.org](http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org)

### Officers

#### Chapter Chair

Gerald D. Vinnard . . (559) 431-5780  
. . . . . gvinnard@cvip.net

#### Chapter Vice-Chair

John Flaherty . . . . . (209) 742-4668  
. . . . . kjohnflaherty@yahoo.com

#### Chapter Secretary

Karen Hammer . . . . (559) 298-5272  
. . . . . ecuagirl45@yahoo.com

#### Chapter Treasurer

Joe Ruff . . . . . (559) 436-4880  
. . . . . 2tehipite@sbcglobal.net

### Executive Committee Members

Chris Acree . . . . . (559) 709-4913  
. . . . . chris.acree@comcast.net

JoAnne Armstrong . . (209) 726-0636  
. . . . . sierrafer@peoplepc.com

Don Gaede . . . . . (559) 434-5138  
. . . . . gaede80@sbcglobal.net

John Honnette . . . . . (559) 859-7800  
. . . . . jhonnette@aol.com

Ron Mackie . . . . . (559) 683-0293  
. . . . . rmackie@sierratel.com

John Rasmussen . . . . (559) 332-2419  
. . . . . John@BigBaldy.com

### Chapter Committee Chairs

#### Council of Club Leaders Delegate

JoAnne Armstrong . . (209) 726-0636

#### Honors & Awards

Beth Leacox

#### Hospitality

Rae Marx . . . . . (559) 641-7589

#### Tehipite Topics Editors / Website

Marcia & John Rasmussen . . . . . (559) 332-2419  
. . . . . Topics@BigBaldy.com

#### Membership/Hospitality

Rae Marx . . . . . (559) 641-7589

#### Membership/Newsletter Distribution

Marian Orvis . . . . . (559) 226-0145

#### Outings and Outings Leader Training

Carolyn Ordway . . . (559) 449-7780  
. . . . . jbord606@yahoo.com

Richard Sloan . . . . . (559) 696-2971  
. . . . . RiverRich1509@aol.com

#### Political Committee

William Fjelbo . . . . . (559) 642-4511

#### Programs

open

#### Publicity

John Honnette . . . . . (559) 859-7800

### Conservation Committee

#### Conservation Chair

Heather Anderson . . (559) 434-2510  
. . . . . heather.anderson8@comcast.net

#### Air Quality / Transportation

Kevin Hall . . . . . (559) 227-6421  
. . . . . hallmos@aol.com

#### Global Warming

Franz Weinschenk franzie@scccd.org

#### Sprawl

John Honnette

#### Kings Canyon National Park / Giant

#### Sequoia National Monument / Sequoia

#### Forest

John Rasmussen . . . . (559) 332-2419  
. . . . . John@BigBaldy.com

#### Sierra National Forest

Tom Eliason . . . . . (559) 439-7195  
. . . . . tomeliason@comcast.net

#### Water

Chris Acree . . . . . (559) 709-4913  
. . . . . chris.acree@comcast.net

#### San Joaquin River

Richard Sloan . . . . . (559) 696-2971  
. . . . . RiverRich1509@aol.com

#### Wilderness/Desert

Ron Mackie . . . . . (559) 683-0293  
. . . . . rmackie@sierratel.com

#### Yosemite National Park

George Whitmore . . (559) 229-5808  
. . . . . geowhit1954@comcast.net

#### CNCC Delegate

Heather Anderson . . (559) 434-2510

## **Merced Group**

Sierra Club  
Box 387  
Merced, CA 95341

### **Group Chair**

Rod Webster . . . . . (209) 723-4747  
. . . . . rwebster@elite.net

### **Group Vice-Chair**

Linda Lagace . . . . . (209) 384-1354

### **Group Treasurer**

Dave Tucker . . . . . (209) 384-1354

### **Group Secretary**

Annette Allsup . . . . . (209) 723-5152

### **Member-at-Large**

Jule Biesiada. . . . . juleb13@msn.com

### **Conservation Chair**

JoAnne Armstrong. . (209) 726-0636  
. . . . . sierrafer@peoplepc.com

### **Publications**

Rod Webster . . . . . (209) 723-4747

### **Agriculture**

Charlie Magnuson . . (209) 394-7045

### **Membership**

Linda Lagace . . . . . (209) 384-1354

### **Publicity**

Rod Webster . . . . . (209) 723-4747

### **Population**

Tammy Johnson . . . . (559) 665-5507

# **Merced Group**

## **Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings**

Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup>  
Rod Webster's home, 7:00 P.M.  
345 E. 20th St., Merced

Conservation meeting is first and can last 30-40 minutes. Anyone with an interest in local, state or national conservation issues is welcome to attend. Come just to get informed or get as involved as you wish.

## **Outings**

Please see the Tehipite and Yokuts (Modesto area) Chapter listings for outings. Phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 to coordinate carpools.

## **Merced Group General Meetings**

**Third Thursday of each month  
(no meetings in July or August)**

Sierra Presbyterian Church  
3603 M St., Merced  
(corner of M and Yosemite Blvd)  
Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. and are finished by 9:00 P.M.

### **June General Meeting**

Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.  
Possible Meeting Topic, "China and the Peace Corps"



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



### Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

#### Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

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

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

F94Q W1300 1

# California Wilderness Legislation

by your field staff,

Barbara Boyle, Bill Corcoran, Juana Torres, and John Monsen

Late yesterday, Senator Barbara Boxer and Rep. Buck McKeon introduced legislation in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives (H.R. 6156/S. 3069) to protect significant portions of the Eastern Sierra and San Gabriel Mountains as wilderness, and to protect portions of three rivers as wild and scenic rivers. The areas and rivers are listed at the end of this message.

Together the proposed wilderness comprises nearly half a million acres of lands that Sierra Club and our coalition partners in the California Wild Heritage Campaign have been working to protect for many, many years. A bill of such significance is truly a remarkable achievement for two Members of Congress who usually do not fall close together on the political spectrum, and is the result of intensive grassroots organizing, phone calling, meeting and hearing attendance, letter writing, and persuasion of elected officials over the past several years by many, many constituents. As staff, we are so proud of our members and those of other organizations, and of the organizers who have worked in this region over the past several years to make this possible.

This bill is also the result of tough negotiations by Senator Boxer and Rep. McKeon and their staffs. While we haven't fully digested the contents, which are just being divulged today, we do know that there is about 51,000 acres from portions of some BLM WSA's that are released in the bill using standard wilderness release language. There is a provision to allow snowmobile access in Leavitt Bowl, which we have opposed vigorously, but with language to manage the area as wilderness in non-winter months. There is some wilderness management language, such as fire-related language, which we may not support.

We recognize that the bill has not been reviewed by any Sierra Club committees yet and that it will need to go through that process. Nonetheless, we believe that this is a very strong package of protections that we must mobilize in support of immediately because we believe the opposition from off-roaders will be large and loud. We feel it is essential to contact our members in the district and urge them to call Rep. McKeon to thank him for introducing this strong package of wilderness and wild rivers. We will be calling all our members in the district over the next few days with a recorded message, telling people about this bill and asking them to call Rep. McKeon in support of it. We will also be sending email alerts to our activist lists.

There will be plenty of time later to work on refining the language and working for improvements. But right now, we need to be ready to show that support for the bill in the 25<sup>th</sup> district far outstrips the opposition, so we will be organizing to achieve that goal in the short term.

Stay tuned for more details, and thank you all for your efforts on behalf of wild places, wherever they may be.

List of areas and acreage protected:

- Hoover and Emigrant Wilderness Additions: 77,233 acres
- Granite Mountain: 34,564 acres
- Owens River Headwaters: 15,247 acres

- White Mountains: 223,516 acres
- John Muir Wilderness additions: 80,112 acres
- Magic Mountain: 13,709 acres
- Pleasant View Ridge: 28,424 acres
- Amargosa River: 26 miles
- Owens River Headwaters: 19 miles
- Piru Creek: 7 miles
- Wilderness Study Area Release
- 51,000 acres in Masonic Mountain, Mormon Meadow, Walford Springs, and
- Granite Mountain Wilderness Study Areas ↗



*Phillip Winklepleck, Don Gaede, James Larkin*

## **Tehipite Chapter Scholarships**

*by Don Gaede*

**O**ur Tehipite chapter is very pleased this year to award not one, but two \$1,000 college scholarships. They will go to two excellent students at CART (Center for Advanced Research and Technology).

One student, Phillip Winklepleck, has been working with hydrologists at Pacific Southwest Research Station, observing the snowpack in the Sierra and measuring the change it has been experiencing. He has been accepted into Humboldt State University, majoring in Biology/Wildlife Management.

The other awardee, James Larkin, has been working with Fresno Wildlife Rehabilitation, and did a study of the San Joaquin river on the biodiversity of macroinvertebrates. He has been accepted into UC Santa Cruz, majoring in Marine Biology. ↗

## *General Meeting, from page 2*

director of the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technology, and the California Carbon Registry. Until recently, he served as a director of the San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization. He is a resident of Davis, California, where he lives with his wife, Sarah, and their dogs, Lambchop and Dudley. ✨

## Lobby Day

Come join us for our annual Lobby Day on Sunday and Monday August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. You will be part of a team that will help us in passing our priority bills during the most exciting and challenging time of the year at the State Capitol. Be prepared for interaction with other activists and our professional lobbying staff, as well as with legislators and their staff.

It is a two-day event with Sunday afternoon consisting of training by our lobbying team about how to lobby and learning about our priority bills so that you can effectively advocate for them. On Monday, you will work the halls of the Capitol as teams, with meetings scheduled from morning through the afternoon. We will focus on key remaining bills as the session winds down; hot issues this year are global warming, renewable energy, outdoor education, toxic chemicals, and reform of transportation and land use planning.

You will find out that it is possible to have fun and save our environment at the same time! Past participants have found it to be an eye-opening and rewarding experience. A co-pay of \$25 upon registration will be used towards your lodging and food; some travel reimbursement will also be provided.

For more information, please contact Annie Pham, Legislative Aide at [lobbyday@sierraclubcalifornia.org](mailto:lobbyday@sierraclubcalifornia.org) or (916) 557-1100 ext. 107. ✨

## Nominations for Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee

*by John Flaherty, Nominating Committee Chair*

Again it's time to think about the yearly election for members of your executive committee. This is a chance to bring in new people and keep our club strong and active. If you have any suggestions for people you think might make good candidates, including yourself, let me know. It really is a rewarding opportunity.

John Flaherty  
[kjohnflaherty@yahoo.com](mailto:kjohnflaherty@yahoo.com)  
(209) 742-4668



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

Clair Tappaan Lodge is the perfect summer base camp for anyone who enjoys the wide variety of activities offered by the Tahoe area. Explore wildflower gardens and expansive views while hiking the nearby Pacific Crest Trail. Short hikes to secluded mountain lakes begin at the Lodge and are perfect for introducing the family to the mountains. Donner Lake offers great kayaking, swimming, and fishing while Donner Summit has long been a destination for rock climbers and mountain bikers.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere.

See you on Donner Summit...



For more information about these programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at [www.ct.sierraclub.org](http://www.ct.sierraclub.org) or call (800) 679-6775.

## Sierra Magazine's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Paddlesport Contest

Enter to win great prizes! June 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for entries in Sierra's Second Annual Paddlesport Contest. There are only a few weeks left to win a Bell canoe, a Necky kayak, or a paddling trip to beautiful Southwest Florida. Go here to enter:

<http://action.sierraclub.org/paddlecontest>

# Outings Schedule

## Outing Ratings

Distance	Elevation Gain
1) up to 6 miles	A) under 1,000 feet
2) 6 to 10 miles	B) 1,000 to 2,000 feet
3) 10 to 15 miles	C) 2,000 to 3,000 feet
4) 15 to 20 miles	D) 3,000 to 4,000 feet
5) over 20 miles	E) over 4,000 feet

Our Tehipite Chapter Outings Co-Chairs are Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 or [jbord606@yahoo.com](mailto:jbord606@yahoo.com) and Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971 or [RiverRich1509@aol.com](mailto:RiverRich1509@aol.com). Please contact them with any questions concerning our outings program. Contact the trip leader directly if you are interested in one of the listed trips.

Tehipite Chapter outings are free and open to the public. All leaders are unpaid volunteers assuming responsibility for a good trip, and your cooperation is mandatory. Please review additional trip and participant requirements at [www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings](http://www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings).

CST #2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRF) under the California Seller of Travel Act. The TCRF is not applicable to these Outings. The law requires us to advise you that you would not be eligible to make any claim from the TCRF in the unlikely event of default by the Sierra Club. California law also requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. The Sierra Club has such a trust account.

### June 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day hike (1B) - Moderate.

Tuolumne Meadows Annual day hike to explore the Tuolumne River and many of the cascades flowing out of the high country.

Possible overnight near Tuolumne Meadows.

*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*

### June 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (1A)

Annual hike to Redwood Canyon. Goodies afterward provided by leader.

*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

### July 5<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (1A)

Lewis Creek: Corlieu Falls to Red Rock falls

*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

### July 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (3B)

This is Gerald's famous Three Peaks hike in one day. Mt. Givens, Mt. Ian McCampbell and Kings Castle. A beautiful place to spend the day. Call for details.

*Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780*

### July 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, Friday - Sunday

Car camp and day hikes

Hike Saturday (2C): Dinkey Wilderness (3 Sisters Peak)

Hike Sunday (optional 2B): Coyote Lake. Non-aggressive dogs welcome.

*Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971*

### August 2<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (1A)

Park Ridge trail at Grant Grove, Kings Canyon Park. Start at Panoramic point.

*Don Redmond 559-268-1537*

### August 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, Friday - Sunday

Car Camp and Day Hike

Hike Saturday (2B): Cliff Lake (from Courtright Reservoir)

*Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971*

### August 16<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (2A)

Taft Point. Possible full moon hike.

*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*

### September 20<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (3C)

White Wolf to Pate Valley

Possible overnight in Porcupine Flat  
Call early.

*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*

### October 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>,

### Friday - Saturday

Various hikes (3C)

Hetch Hetchy

Call for details.

*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*

### November 15<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Day Hike (3B)

North Fork Merced. Overnight in Railroad Flat

Call early.

*John Flaherty (209) 742-4668*





**SIERRA CLUB** TEHIPITE CHAPTER  
 OF THE SIERRA CLUB  
 FOUNDED 1892 P.O. Box 5396 • Fresno, California 93755-5396

Non Profit Org  
 U. S. Postage  
 P A I D  
 Fresno, Calif.  
 Permit No. 150

## Inside *Tehipite Topics*

San Joaquin River Cleanup .....Cover  
 Chapter Meetings .....2  
 Merced Group .....3  
 California Wilderness Legislation.....4  
 Tehipite Chapter Scholarships .....5  
 Lobby Day .....6  
 Sierra Magazine's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
 Paddlesport Contest .....6  
 Nominations for Tehipite Chapter Executive  
 Committee .....6  
 Outings .....7

Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the second Friday of each month—August 8<sup>th</sup> for the September issue. Submit material to [Topics@BigBaldy.com](mailto:Topics@BigBaldy.com).

# Live Your Values!

Take a Tour of Fresno  
 Cohousing — the Greenest  
 Neighborhood in Fresno!



**2658 East Alluvial Avenue**  
 (between Willow and Chestnut Avenues)

For more information call  
 1-866-246-7717 or visit

[www.FresnoCohousing.org](http://www.FresnoCohousing.org)

**LaQuerencia**

Live Green!



Our custom-designed neighborhood features 28 energy-efficient homes and extensive community facilities to create an inter-generational neighborhood for singles, families and seniors.

2-, 3-, 4- and 5-bedroom townhomes from the mid \$300,000s to high \$400,000s are ready for move-in summer 2008. Stop by our Meeting Room at the construction site Sundays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for details.