

Sierra Club YODELER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY CHAPTER ♦ SUMMER 2026



- ♦ TRUMP TO WASTE MILLIONS ON OAKLAND COAL TERMINAL ♦
- ♦ RICHMOND TOXIC SITE COMMUNITY MEETING IN JULY ♦
- ♦ SIERRA CLUB SUMMER PICNICS ARE BACK ♦
- ♦ YODELER ARCHIVES SHOWCASE THIS PUBLICATION'S HISTORY ♦

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Members and Supporters,

We're in a summer of action. Can you feel it? Everywhere I look, I see volunteers, community partners, and neighbors finding a new reservoir of enthusiasm and dedication to advance what we've fought so long to protect - our air, water, land, climate, and communities.

I see this in the work we are doing across the Chapter - members are turning up by the dozens to speak out at the Air District in support of new appliance rules that will keep our homes safer from indoor air pollution and educating our community about ways to reduce pollution connected to warehouse activity and the heavy duty truck traffic to and from these facilities with stronger indirect source rules. Volunteers and members are also hard at work canvassing and supporting environmental champions on the ballot across the Bay Area so democracy, affordability, and the environment win in November.

It's been a sustained period of hard work, and with the long days of summer, I hope we are all finding ways to nourish our souls and have fun. For me, that means finding time for leisurely bike rides, hikes, and meals outdoors with family and friends. If you're looking for a way to tap into some of that leisure, I'm thrilled that our Chapter Membership Committee is planning a Chapter Picnic on July 11th from 12-3pm. For the first time since before the pandemic, we're planning a big summer gathering for members, supporters, friends, and family. See Chapter News on page 2 for more details - I hope to see you there!

With appreciation,



Sarah Ranney
CHAPTER DIRECTOR



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Address Changes

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Photo by Spencer DeMera on Unsplash.



SUMMER 2026 CHAPTER NEWS

Trump Targets Oakland with Funding for Coal Terminal

On June 4th, 2026, the Trump administration announced that it would be directing \$75 million in taxpayer funding towards a new coal storage and handling terminal in Oakland. The funding could be part of a larger \$700 million handout to corporations to support coal infrastructure and is an unprecedented use of the Defense Production Act (DPA). The Chapter will continue to work alongside residents of West Oakland as they continue their decade-long fight to protect their community from this harmful project, while working to increase protections for already-burdened communities across the region by advocating for stronger pollution controls such as the Bay Area Air District's Fugitive Dust rules. Stay tuned for ways to get involved in the fight.

Join us for a Chapter Summer Picnic on July 11!

Mark your calendar for our summer event. We are bringing back the annual picnic! Save Saturday, July 11th from 12 to 3 pm for some fun, games, joy, and connecting. We will have a reserved spot with shade and benches near the building at Cedar Rose Park, 1300 Rose St, Berkeley (look for the Sierra Club sign). Children, pets, and friends are all welcome!

Getting to the park is bike- and BART-friendly — a six-minute walk from North Berkeley BART. Visit our events calendar at sierraclub.org/sfbay/events to register and learn more.

Save the Date: Richmond Toxic Site Community Meeting Sat 7/25

For decades, the United Heckathorn Co. Superfund site, a shoreline toxic site at the Port of Richmond, has been contaminated by pesticides, posing risks to community and ecosystem health. After a failed cleanup in the '90s, EPA is finally undertaking another cleanup, and will share their proposed cleanup plan with the public later this summer. The United Heckathorn Working Group (Richmond Shoreline Alliance, SF Baykeeper, and Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter) is hosting three community meetings throughout the summer and fall to learn about the site, the proposed plan, and submit public comments to the EPA. Save the date for our first meeting that will take place the morning of Saturday July 25th, in person in Richmond. Follow our chapter calendar at sierraclub.org/sfbay/events for more details as they're announced.



**WHAT WILL YOUR
LEGACY BE?**

Ensure your environmental legacy by naming the Sierra Club's San Francisco Bay Chapter in your will or trust.

If you have named your local Sierra Club chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today:

MATT BIELBY
matt.bielby@sierraclub.org
(510) 848-0800 x 321

ABOUT THIS CALENDAR

Activities listed here are abbreviated. For full listings, registration, and waivers visit: 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 in a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver form, call (415) 977-5630.

COVID-19 Protocol

Masks are optional for adults in outdoor areas but required in indoor close quarters such as vehicles, public transport, restaurants, or visitor centers. Vaccinations are not required, so please be aware you may be on trips with unvaccinated individuals. Masks are required at all times for unvaccinated minors. If you are experiencing any possible COVID-19 symptoms, do not attend the outing and contact the outing leader. Report any positive COVID-19 tests after an outing to the outing leader.

Carpooling

Carpooling helps the environment and allows people without cars to participate. You can arrange carpools on our Meetup group: meetup.com/sanfranciscobay. Outings will be listed there 2 - 3 weeks prior to the event. Masks are required in carpools.

SUMMER 2026
OUTINGS
CALENDAR

WEEKLY • TUES

Lake Chabot Reservoir 1A Hike. Scenic weekly 3-mile hike. Park free on street, \$5 in lot, or annual pass from East Bay Regional Park District. MEET: 4:00 pm at boathouse/cafe. LEADER: Dolores Gruenewald, (510) 798-7897 or doloresgru@aol.com. (Solo Sierrans)

WEEKLY • WEDS

Lafayette Reservoir 1A Hike. Enjoy the lovely weather while walking around the beautiful reservoir. We have both faster and slower walkers, or you can walk at your own pace. COST: 5 quarters for 1hr, 15 minutes of parking. MEET: 3:30 pm at the west end of the parking area near the picnic tables and permanent bathrooms. LEADER: William Gilbert, wmgbrt@gmail.com. (Solo Sierrans)

SECOND SUNDAYS AND FOURTH SATURDAYS

JUL 12 • SUN | JUL 25 • SAT | AUG 22 • SAT

Let in the Wow: Luxurious Walking in Delight Zen Mindfulness is a slow walking practice designed to relax and balance yourself resulting in deepening connection to your inner nature. It is often accompanied with an experience of delight. Attendees report a change in awareness and some report their heart opening. We walk in luxurious awareness and share during check ins. Led by author of *Walking Into Enlightenment* out April 27th. Please sign up online. Limit 12 people. BRING: Clothes for weather changes in your area. MEET: 11:00 am at 1853 Solano Ave, Berkeley, in the parklet nestled between Pegasus Book Store and Zachary's Pizza. ENDS: 12:30 pm. LEADER: Halley, sierragreenforest@gmail.com. (Walking)

JUL 4 • SAT

Jack's Peak 2B Dayhike. Join Steve Bakaley on a leisurely - moderately paced hike in the beautiful scenic piney ridges of Jack's Peak County Park near Monterey. This not a Sierra Club sponsored hike. BRING: Lunch, snacks, layered clothing, and liquids. Recommend long pants to avoid poison oak and well-fitting hiking boots with good ankle support. MEET: 10:30 am at Jack's Peak County Park. ENDS: 4:00 pm. LEADER: Steve Bakale, slbakaley@gmail.com. (Mount Diablo Group and Santa Cruz Group)

JUL 10 • FRI

Pole Walking Training Session for Balance/Mobility: Concord Vet Center. COST: Free for Veterans and their family members. MEET: 9:30 am at Concord Vet Center, 1333 Willow Pass Rd Suite #106, Concord. ENDS: 11:30 am. LEADER: Jayah Paley (415) 699-3333 or jayah@adventurebuddies.net. (Hiking)

JUL 10 • FRI

Redwood Park Evening Hike. Take an early evening stroll through Oakland's Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park. This 4 mile hike features lush woods and expansive vistas. The terrain is hilly so be prepared for at least a light cardio workout. Friendly dogs welcome. **MEET:** 6:30 pm at Redwood Bowl Staging Area, Roberts Regional Recreation Area, Skyline Boulevard, Oakland, CA. **LEADER:** Jeffrey Sanchez, amagi@pacbell.net. (Sierra Singles)

JUL 24 • FRI

Redwood Park Evening Hike. Take an early evening stroll through Oakland's Reinhardt Redwood Regional Park. This 4 mile hike features lush woods and expansive vistas. The terrain is hilly so be prepared for at least a light cardio workout. Friendly dogs welcome. **MEET:** 6:30 pm at Redwood Bowl Staging Area, Roberts Regional Recreation Area, Skyline Boulevard, Oakland, CA. **LEADER:** Jeffrey Sanchez, amagi@pacbell.net. (Sierra Singles)

SEPT 6 – SEPT 11 • SUN – FRI

Exploration of The Miter Basin. Join us on this Eastern Sierra high-altitude exploration of The Miter Basin outside Lone Pine offered to experienced backpackers. Forming an almost perfect three-mile-wide circle it is bordered by a ridge of a dozen

towering 13,000-foot peaks with Sky Blue Lake at its center. The only entry is through a narrow southern gap carved by Sky Blue Lakes outflow, Rock Creek. Perched above the basin floor are several nestled lakes flanked by tall buttress ridges that run in towards the center like spokes of a wheel. This is a truly remarkable and seldom visited place with a mix of steep rugged terrain, wide expanses of grass, and six fading glaciers. Also notable is the presence of Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep which, if we are lucky, we might see. Because there are no maintained trails in the basin, our exploration will follow in the purest mountain hiking form: cross-country travel (just like bighorn)! **COST:** \$125. **BRING:** Individual commissary. Participants bring their own food and cooking equipment. Participants need to furnish their own overnight sleeping gear. The leader will send a detailed equipment list to approved participants. **MEET:** 8:00 am at Cottonwood Lakes Trailhead. **ENDS:** September 11, 8:00 am. **LEADER:** JP Torres, jpinkflo@xecu.net. (Backpacking)



SUMMER 2026 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Pole Walking & Hiking Classes for Veterans

Sierra Club's Military Outdoors program offers free classes to Veterans and their family members all around the Bay Area. Learn life-long skills to enhance your outdoor experiences and improve endurance, strength, and spine function. For more information, go to sierraclub.org/loma-prieta/military-outdoors.



75% of all pollution produced by automobiles comes from cars over 13 years old

!!!

YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS A CLEAN PLANET.

Recycling your vehicle can lead to a 76% reduction in water pollution and 86% reduction in air pollution.

Automotive recycling estimates 24 million gallons of motor oil is reused and not wasted.

DID YOU KNOW..

86% of a vehicle can be reused.

AND

6 recycled cars can build a 6,000 square foot home with steel framing.

DONATE YOUR OLD VEHICLE TODAY!

DONATE YOUR UNWANTED VEHICLE

Donate your vehicle to support the Sierra Club Foundation's SF Bay Chapter! Not only will your generous donation continue to help us make a difference, but it can also help you qualify for a tax deduction. It's easy, the pick-up is free, and our partners at CARS accept cars, boats, motorcycles, RVs, and more. To get started, visit our website at scfch.careasy.org or call (844) 674-3772.

BECOME AN OUTINGS LEADER

If you enjoy exploring wild lands, meeting new people, and leading adventures for them, you could make a great Sierra Club outings leader!

The Sierra Club's outdoor activities aim to connect all people with the natural world and with the Club. As an outings leader with the San Francisco Bay Chapter, you can join others in exploring wild lands, grappling with conservation issues, and even changing perceptions. Because trips are often specialized around a unique theme or activity, you could be hiking, backpacking, kayaking, bicycling, or doing service work – it's up to you to choose, because you ultimately design and lead your very own trip.

To be an outings leader, you must be a current Sierra Club member, at least 18 years of age, and have completed First Aid training and the Sierra Club Outings Leader Training. You then must choose a current outing leader to act as your mentor and lead your provisional outing with them in attendance. Following the outing, the mentor leader will provide feedback. After a positive evaluation, you will be a full-fledged outings leader and able to lead outings on your own. And then, Happy Trails!

You can choose what type of outing you would like to lead and which activity section you would like to affiliate with. For more information on requirements, trainings, mentors, and more, head to sierraclub.org/sfbay/how-become-outings-leader.



Read the earliest issues of the Yodeler online!

GO ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE VERY FIRST YODELER FROM 1939

ON THE SIERRA CLUB COLBY LIBRARY'S INTERNET ARCHIVE AT

ARCHIVE.ORG/DETAILS/SIERRACLUBLIBRARY

Make a donation to support your local chapter's work here in the SF Bay Area!

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ Surprise us! \$ _____ ☐ Make my gift monthly!

Make your check payable to **Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter**, or use your credit card.

Please select a payment method: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ AmEx

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Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

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Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Return instructions:

Cut out this card and return it (in an envelope) to:



P.O. Box 2663
Berkeley, CA 94702

Donate online:

sierraclub.org/sfbay/donate

cut here

Yodeler Feedback Needed

The *Yodeler* has changed a great deal over the course of its life. We want to make sure it is still as useful to you as it can possibly be. We've been considering the environmental impact of printing the *Yodeler* and want to hear what you think! It is extremely important to us to make sure our communications are accessible to all – so if you have a preference to print or digital, let us know. Do you love reading the *Yodeler*? Are you concerned about our print material footprint? Do you think print materials are important in the age of AI slop? How do you prefer to get your most up to date Chapter news?

Let us know by filling out this survey at bit.ly/YodelerSurvey. Alternatively, you can email us at yodedit@sfbaysc.org. Or, if you prefer, call us at (510) 848-0800 or send a letter to *Yodeler* Editor, P.O. Box 2663, Berkeley, CA 94702.

Please consider these questions when emailing, writing, or calling (otherwise, refer to the online survey):

1. How long have you been a Sierra Club member?
2. How active have you been over the course of your Sierra Club membership (on a scale of 1 to 5)?
3. Do you receive a print copy of the SF Bay Yodeler?
4. How often do you read the Yodeler?
5. Do you ever read the digital Yodeler posted on our Sierra Club website?
6. What sections do you find the most valuable in

the Yodeler? Why?

7. On a scale of 1 to 5, how well does the Yodeler keep you informed about the Chapter's campaigns and advocacy work?
8. Would you be interested in receiving the Yodeler as an emailed publication only?
9. Is there anything you would like to see more or less of in the Yodeler?
10. How do you currently prefer to get your news and updates from the SF Bay Chapter?
11. How do you feel about the print material you receive from the Chapter?
12. How do you feel about the digital communication you receive from the Chapter (emails, social media, etc)?
13. How would you feel if the Chapter used digital material only?
14. Anything else you'd like to share about the Yodeler, its usefulness, print vs. digital, or how you'd like to receive your Chapter news?
15. Please provide your zipcode.

Thank you greatly for your participation! Your input helps us shape our chapter and provide *you* with the materials and communication you need most.



#SierraSnapshots | Sea lion with mouth open on rock. Photo by Leslie Whitecotton on Unsplash. For a chance to get your snapshots featured in the next issue of the *Yodeler*, email photos to yodedit@sfbaysc.org or share them on Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #SierraSnapshots. Include your name, the names of any people in the photo, and where and when the photo was taken.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Facebook.com/SierraClubSFBayChapter

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Bluesky @SFBaySierraClub

SIERRACLUB.ORG/SFBAY

Our website is home to helpful information and resources including:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Become an outings leader (p. 6)
- Share your feedback on the *Yodeler* (p. 7)
- Go camping this summer (p. 5)
- Add the SF Bay Chapter to your will (p. 3)

EMAIL

Visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/email to sign up for Bay Chapter emails, including monthly bulletins and action alerts.