

IN THIS ISSUE: Wilderness class, Climate clash, Outings dash and we make our outdoor passion last, plus group elections and fruitful actions.

Vol. '14, No. 6 of 6

Dec. 2015 - Jan. 2016

# Condor Call





## Condor Call

<http://lospadres.sierraclub.org> ~ All phone numbers 805 area code

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ADVERTISING: Contact Condor Call Editor

DEADLINES FOR ALL ISSUES:

Copy Deadline: 20th — Advertising Deadline: 22nd of month preceding publication.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

February/March, April/May, June/July, Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec/Jan

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Free to members

Non-members, \$20 per year. Contact Editor John Hankins (see contact info above)

**Photos, news, tips always welcome!**

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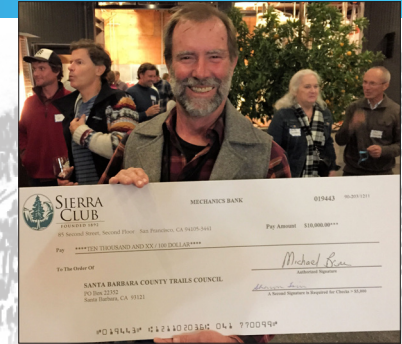
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A \$10,000 check from the Sierra Club to SBC Trails Council president Otis Calef is earmarked for the new Franklin Trail, thanks to funds left to the SB Group by Jim Vanyo. See Pages 3 & 17 (Photo by Katie Davis)

### EAVESDROPS

"That sort of ignorance would be dangerous in a doorman, let alone a president."

~ A scientist, after a blind grading of candidates' knowledge of climate change science. After grading, the names were disclosed with the lowest score of 6 (of 100) to Sen. Ted Cruz who knew "less than the average kindergartner." Hillary Clinton got an 'A' with 94.

### COVER PHOTO

Our region's fall colors may not be as extensive as New England's, but they are just as spectacular, as seen by Susan Bell's multi-colored trees and bushes along Rush Creek in the Eastern Sierra Nevada. (©Photo by Susan Bell; follow her and her talented photos on Facebook: Susan Bell Photography).

Next issue of *Condor Call* is all electronic so to get it send your email to [condorjohn@gnusman.com](mailto:condorjohn@gnusman.com) comes out 1st of June  
**DEADLINES:**  
 Editorial: Jan. 21  
 Advertising: Jan. 25  
 Questions? Call 452-2885



# Our members are everywhere, man

By John Hankins

*Editor's note: Read this to Johnny Cash's tune of: "I've been everywhere man, Crossed the deserts bare man, I've breathed the mountain air man, I've been everywhere man..."*

Our members seem like they're everywhere. Activists in meetings and events, volunteers in the backcountry or conducting clean-ups, collaborating with other like-minded groups ... and that doesn't even count all our outings every weekend and some weekdays. Here's a list of what we've done the past few months.

Dec. 2: **Franklin Trail Fundraiser**, in which the SB County Trails Council, and Friends of Franklin Trail honored the Santa Barbara Group for helping to fund the *Franklin Trail* in Carpinteria with a Challenge Grant, matching donations, dollar for dollar up to

\$10,000. Held at The Mill in SB.

Nov. 29: **Climate Change Rally** in which at least 70 people attended and marched through downtown Ventura to the pier as part of a world-wide event preceding the United Nations climate talks in Paris. Our event was covered by *Ventura County Star* and KCLU interviewed the main organizer, Liz Lamar, chair of the Ventura Sierra Club.

Nov 29: **VC Star guest Op-Ed** by Sierra Club member and energy activist (Citizens' Climate Lobby), Jan Dietrick, highlighting the Sierra Club's Climate Change event at the Foster Library.

Nov. 22: **Elephant Snot** was used to clean up graffiti at Lizard's Mouth, which our hike leader Robert Bernstein attended with others using this oddly-named substance to erase paint from rocks.

Nov 15: **Gill Net Protest** was  
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## Condor Call

Journal of Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club  
Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties

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Our annual Wilderness Basics Course will take you above and beyond into the Los Padres National Forest in a safe and comfortable manner that will give you confidence. And you'll meet some amazing and talented people along the way. See application on pg. 16 (Photo by Arturo Hernandez)

# Outdoor class builds confidence and camaraderie

## What's WBC all about?

Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course offers training for adults and teens at various levels of fitness and experience who want to explore and enjoy the wilderness in safety and good company, be it just for day hikes or overnight backpacking trips.

It starts Feb. 24 – May 4 with eight one-per-week classes (with breaks) and weekend day and overnight opportunities. Shared gear is available and discounts at local stores is a bonus to keep costs down.

Local experts will share their knowledge of equipment, navigation, first aid and so much more, including camaraderie with wonderful people. See application on pg. 16.

For details, call (805) 524-7170, or email: [lospadresWBC@gmail.com](mailto:lospadresWBC@gmail.com)  
Check out our Facebook too: [www.facebook.com/lospadresWBC](http://www.facebook.com/lospadresWBC)

By Arturo Hernandez

Confidence is key to success in many situations in life. As a graduate of the Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course I assure you that this is true of backpacking as well. Prior to becoming a student of WBC, I was strictly a day hiker.

Although I felt comfortable spending hours hiking outdoors from dawn to dusk, venturing into the realm of overnight backpacking seemed a major jump that I did not feel comfortable making on my own. What would I eat? Where would I sleep? How would I stay warm through the

night?

The underlying fear was that I would be stuck out in the middle of nowhere without the skills or equipment I needed to survive.

I was referred to WBC by a friend who is a graduate. He assured me that I would learn the answers to all of my questions, along with the basic knowledge necessary for overnight backpacking. I signed up for WBC and quickly found it to surpass my expectations. By the end of the eight week course, I gained the confidence I needed to become a true backpacker.

The instructors were excellent,

the curriculum was full of valuable knowledge, and the pre-planned, instructor-led hikes and backpacking trips were a fun way to put my skills to the test. In the process of completing the class, I also managed to make some great friends.

Last, I'm proud to share that I will be returning to WBC in 2016 as a staff volunteer and hike leader. I hope you will join me on some WBC adventures!

For more details, call (805) 524-7170 or email [lospadreswbc@gmail.com](mailto:lospadreswbc@gmail.com)

Also, check out the Facebook page at [facebook.com/lospadreswbc](http://facebook.com/lospadreswbc).



## SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA

## Delegates influence convention

The Sierra Club California convention this year turned out to be a worthy event for our Los Padres Chapter with two of our members gaining honors and our marine campaigns given a boost to statewide importance.

“It was a great weekend of networking, attending important workshops and making important decisions on the future of SCC policy,” noted Jim Hines, our chapter’s Ventura County Conservation Chair.

Our delegates included Hines, group Chairs Katie Davis (Santa Barbara) and Liz Lamar (Ventura Network), our co-legal and co-political member Fran Farina, Terry Frewin (SB member and editor of the Sierra Club Desert Report newsletter) and Jerry Connor of the Arguello Group.

SCC advocates in the state capitol and agencies on a broad range of environmental issues, reflecting the interests of more than 150,000 Sierra Club members and activists. It is governed by an Executive Committee with members traditionally from the large chapters in either northern or southern California, but now the Central Coast has a representative when the delegates elected our own Fran Farina. We also expect her to take a leadership role on the SCC’s Political Committee as we head into the 2016 election cycle.

Davis congratulated Farina as “well deserved,” and related that after she “spoke impressively” during the candidates forum, “the guy in front of me turned around and asked, ‘Is she as amazing as she seems?’”

Other highlights included:

~ Frewin received the award

for the person who has worked the hardest on protecting public lands, in this case the California desert.

~ All 80 SCC delegates voted YES to support our chapter’s campaign to make it official Sierra Club policy to work to ban deadly gill nets in coastal waters, primarily created by Hines.

~ Liz Lamar talked to delegates on population, women’s issues and the importance of diversity.

~ SCC Directory Kathryn Phillips said the bills supported by the club “did pretty well” and it is now tracking which elected officials are accepting oil money.

Chapter Chair David Gold summed it up: “Great work everyone! Thank you for representing us so well!”

~ By Condor John



The Climate Rally held in downtown Ventura preceding the United Nations’ climate talks was a colorful and passionate affair to support clean energy. The sunflower signs were particularly notable, created by Jan Dietrick, a Sierra Club member working with the VC Climate Hub with help from Michelle Nosco, Lynn Okun and Kristina Grey. “The art in the signs became evidence of a fun collaboration with artists that attracted people on the street,” Dietrick said. (Photo by Condor John Hankins)

## Chapter’s reach goes beyond borders

*continued from page 3*

organized inside and outside a federal hearing in support of a ban on the use of deadly drift gill nets in ocean waters offshore of southern California. The ban is now an official campaign of Sierra Club California.

Oct. 24: **Wilderness Team Summit** was hosted by our Chapter in Ojai. Delegates came from California and Nevada to update and press forward on actions benefitting wilderness areas. (See story on pg 6)

Oct 22: **Breakfast and Beach Walk**, an annual affair by the Santa Barbara Group, enjoyed a good turnout, good food and a walk on the beach via a bike path that replaced a road.

Oct 17: **Oktoberfest party** by

the Ventura Sierra Club celebrated fall at Camp Comfort near Ojai with a butterfly demonstration by Juliana Danaus, of Monarch ARC Waystation. Carol Marsh and her volunteers put on a very successful and fun picnic for our members and supporters.

Oct 14: **Sustainability Summit** covering the Central Coast area was held at UCSB, as part of the National Day of Climate Action. The national message was “Act on Climate.” (See story on page 10)

Oct 9-11: **Sierra Club California** convention in San Luis Obispo was huge for our chapter, not only because of the amount of delegates we sent, but also because our members were singled out: Fran Farina elected to the

state ExCom, Terry Frewin won the public lands conservation award and Jim Hines got all 80 delegates to vote to ban drift gill nets off the SoCal coast. (See story above)

Oct. 4: **Arts 4 Earth** event at the WAV artists’ colony in downtown Ventura occurred during a rare but wonderful rain, but did not stop a large crowd from attending. Jim Hines manned the Sierra Club table, talked with lots of people about our wildlife and land protection campaigns and he was interviewed for the local Ventura cable TV news channel. Hines called it, “A wonderful art show celebrating our earth and her great wild creatures through the eyes of a number of talented local artists.”



Terry Frewin, Santa Barbara Group member, received the award for the person who has worked the hardest on protecting public lands, via his work as editor of the Sierra Club Desert Report newsletter. Here he is in his element, the Mojave National Preserve. (Photo contributed)



# Spills, leaks, wells all may be continued

By: Fran Farina

As 2015 comes to a close, we can look back on a very active year on the energy front with more challenges looming in 2016.

## Refugio Oil Spill

The three bills introduced by Sen. Jackson and Assembly member Williams to address the Refugio oil spill were all signed by Gov. Brown.

The Natural Resource Damage Assessment is underway by NOAA and other state and federal partners to determine the amount of restoration needed and to compensate the public.

Plains All American Pipeline has now been ordered to purge Line 903 of oil remaining in the 130 mile pipeline for corrosion repairs, similar to those that caused Line 901 to rupture.

## Venoco Projects

The Ellwood Marine Terminal Abandonment finally received a completion letter from Santa Barbara County. A Negative Declaration will now be prepared.

An amortization study of the Ellwood Onshore Facility was authorized by the Goleta City Council in December 2014 together with a new Non-Conforming Uses Termination Procedures Ordinance. Venoco asked for time to prepare its

own amortization report but so far nothing has been released.

Venoco's largest proposed project is the South Ellwood Field Expansion which is sometimes referenced as a "lease line adjustment." If this were granted, Venoco could drill from Platform Holly into this oil field and keep its operation going for another 40+ years. Sierra Club is working with its partners to fight this project.

## Summerland Leaks

Summerland Beach has a long history of offshore well activity. Unfortunately, the operators of these facilities have long disappeared and there are no records from the 1890s. It is estimated that over 400 wells remain that were abandoned using techniques that do not meet current standards. The area also has natural seeps and the combination can make for a hazardous environment.

## EAVESDROPS

**"With profits to protect, Exxon provided climate-change doubters a bully pulpit they didn't deserve and gave lawmakers the political cover to delay global action until long after the environmental damage had reached severe levels. That's the inconvenient truth as we see it."**

~ Dallas Morning News editorial (ExxonMobil's hometown newspaper) about the company's cover-up of its global warming assessment from 1988 on.



While on a hike, ExCom member and hike leader Gerry Ching spied contractor Pacific Petroleum at work preparing to test Pipeline 903, which was shut down and ordered empty after a segment of Plains All American's network burst and spilled oil into the ocean along the Gaviota Coast on May 19. The closure has put a large portion of the offshore oil business at a standstill until regulators are confident of the pipeline's integrity. (Photo by Gerry Chin)

Sierra Club testified before the State Lands Commission in August to support investigating the Becker Onshore Well which had previously been identified as one of the worst polluting sources. In late October equipment was brought in and the well was found to be leaking, and a buoy attached. That was the good news.

Now money needs to be found to perform the actual abandonment at a cost estimated up to \$1.5 million. A more comprehensive approach may also be explored through legislation to address all of these coastal "legacy" wells that were not properly abandoned and pollute the environment but have no identified responsible party to pay for the work.

Such wells are located in Goleta/Ellwood, Summerland, and Huntington Beach.

## North SB Wells

Sierra Club monitors all applications for well field expansion

in North Santa Barbara County; currently 700 new wells are proposed by four different operators.

## Oil Trains

It's been over a year since the Recirculated Draft EIR was released on this project but no hearing date has been announced. Rumor has it that Final EIR will be available to the public in December with a hearing in February. Everyone along the Union Pacific Railroad track should be concerned with having mile-long oil trains rolling through your communities.

## Oxnard Power Plants

Oxnard suffers with more coastal power plants than any other city in California! Since 2014, Sierra Club has actively fought placing a fourth power plant on this coastline. A decision by the California Energy Commission is months away.

## Community Choice Energy

Three counties now want to explore Community Choice Energy

together – Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. The first step is a feasibility study and sufficient funds have been committed for this phase.

CCE provides a way by which our local governments form a Joint Powers Authority that then selects the energy products on the wholesale market and sets the rates. It's an exciting program that has been implemented successfully elsewhere in California.

## Lend A Hand

Like I said when I started, it's been an active year with more to come in 2016. Consider lending a hand. There's plenty of work to share; contact your group leader (see page 2 directory).

~ Fran Farina represents the Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter on the Santa Barbara Environmental Coalition. The Coalition monitors all energy activity in three counties.



## CAL - NEVA

# Wilderness protectors meet

By Jim Hines

It was a beautiful autumn day in the Ojai Valley as Sierra Club wilderness activists gathered on Oct. 24 from throughout the region to discuss Sierra Club campaigns to protect our great wild places throughout California, our own Los Padres region, deserts, the eastern Sierras and the wildlands of Nevada.

Thanks go to Los Padres Chapter

ExCom members Fran Farina and Gerry Ching for representing our Chapter.

The conference featured local presentations about local wilderness campaigns for the Los Padres National Forest and Channel Islands National Park.

We all learned a lot about the exciting Condor Trail proposal, during a great presentation from Chris Danch, Director of the Condor Trail Association. The trail is marked for 421 miles over the entire length of the Los Padres forest, and Danch talked about the history of the Condor Trail and the obstacles we face today in order to achieve it.

It does have legs, though, as it is part of the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act now wending its way through Congress. The Act would add over 245,000 acres of wilderness areas in the Los Padres National Forest and

the Carrizo Plain National Monument.

Alasdair Coyne of Keep the Sespe Wild talked about its work to stop the so-called "Adventure Pass," the forest fee program which charges people a fee to use our public lands which we already own.

Aimee Rutledge from the nonprofit Wilderness Land Trust told us about numerous lands which have been purchased in the Los Padres National Forest, the closest being in the Santa Barbara San Rafael Wilderness.

And Fran Hunt, Sierra Club organizer from Bishop, unveiled our Sierra Club campaign to protect the great wild places of the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests.

It was a great and educational day with activists working together, notably on Sierra Club campaigns to protect the great public lands we all enjoy.



Ormond Beach's ubiquitous host, Walter Fuller (right), tells a group of visitors about the unique qualities of the area, which supporters hope will one day be restored and protected. The Ventura Sierra Club helped out by funding informative field guides, thanks to Nina Danza. (Photo by Nina Danza)

## ORMOND BEACH

# Helping helpers help

By Nina Danza

*"This past Sunday I helped with a nature walk and explained the birds as we did the*

*Arnold loop. All visitors were very pleased and they departed happy. ~Aug. 24, 2015*

*(Weekly Records, By Walter Fuller.)*

Without much more than a sharp eye, a mind for helping the earth, and a big heart, Walter Fuller has been teaching thousands of people about the ecosystem at Ormond Beach.

*"Fishermen: 213, Beachgoers: 746, Surfers: 86, Dog Walkers: 118, Bike Riders: 34, Bird Watchers: 43, Other: 130, TOTAL: 1,370" ~August Visitor Tally, Walter Fuller.*

Recently I led a hike along the canal trail and Walter gave me a laminated field guide showing examples of native plants and bird species specific to the area. I had 12 hikers and one field guide, hardly enough to do the job right.

So it was a no-brainer when Walter mentioned it would be great to have enough copies to lend out for future groups.

'YES WE CAN' make more field guides for Ormond Beach! Ventura Sierra Club provided

funds and now groups up to 25 will be equipped to identify native birds and plants in the wetlands.

Come get on Walter's visitor tally and try out a field guide. Thanks Sierra Club!

# Forest oil suit filed

Three conservation groups sued Ventura County in November to halt a plan to drill 19 new oil wells along the Santa Paula Canyon Trail, a popular hiking trail that serves as a gateway to waterfalls, swimming holes, backcountry campsites and endangered species habitat in the Los Padres National Forest.

Despite objections from nearly 1,000 hikers and local residents -- including members of the Sierra Club -- and expert scientific testimony, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors approved the oil wells on a 3-2 vote in October, relying in large part on an outdated environmental impact report prepared in 1978.

The lawsuit asserts the county must conduct a new study of the environmental risks and correct violations. It was filed by Los Padres ForestWatch, Center for Biological Diversity and Citizens for Responsible Oil & Gas (CFROG).

A copy of the lawsuit is available at: [www.SaveSantaPaulaCanyon.org](http://www.SaveSantaPaulaCanyon.org) [www.CFROG.org](http://www.CFROG.org).



"I went for a hike yesterday on a trail golden with fallen pine needles and oak leaves ... and one leaf still holding onto its summer green and spotlighted by a shaft of sunlight!" said the photographer, Niall Fritz. It just shows that fall and winter are great times to enjoy the wilderness.



# Will you hear us in Paris?

By John Hankins

*"If successful, the Paris meeting could spur a fundamental shift away from the use of oil, coal and gas to the use of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power."*

So sayeth the *New York Times* of the United Nations' global climate talks in Paris happening from Nov. 30 through Dec. 11, and our local Sierra Club chapter was right there in spirit.

We participated in the National

Day of Climate Action on Oct. 14 (see story pg. 10) and the Ventura Sierra Club attracted at least 70 people during a climate rally on Sunday, Nov. 29.

"We had a great turnout, a spirited march to the pier, and educational presentations at the library," said Liz Lamar, the Ventura Sierra Club chair who was the key organizer of the event. "I can't begin to express how pleased I was with the club's event."

"This is one of the pivotal times in history," predicted Katie Davis, our Santa Barbara Group Chair, emphasizing that change "doesn't just happen, people make it happen." She noted that oil companies knew about fossil fuels contributing to climate change, but covered up their scientific reports.

The solution for the future is clean energy, she said, and one of the best prospects right now is the Community Choice Energy (CCE)

## BEACH GAS PLANT ALERT

The Los Padres Chapter has opposed power plants on Oxnard beaches and many members will be protesting along with others leading up to a Dec. 17 meeting on the issue by the state Public Utilities Commission.

A Climate and Anti-Power Plant Rally will happen at noon Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Port Hueneme Fishing Pier, 555 E Surfside Dr. For details go to Facebook and tap in:

[Ventura County Climate Hub Ventura350](#)

The City of Oxnard is updating its coastal plan to prohibit gas-fired power plants on its beaches and to stop Edison and NRG from building a fourth plant. The rally will celebrate the City and the many people who have fought to protect Oxnard's shores over many decades.

Then on Thursday, Dec. 17, there will be a bus going to San Francisco from Oxnard to the CPUC meeting to protest NRG power plant proposal on the beach. For details, go to:

[www.CauseNow.org/SFbus](http://www.CauseNow.org/SFbus)



"Demand a transition to clean energy," asserted our Santa Barbara Group's Chair, Katy Davis, not only locally but globally. She and Jim Hines (shown) were speakers at the Ventura Climate Rally as part of a series of worldwide rallies to inspire the United Nations to take action during the Paris talks through Dec. 10. (Photo by Condor John Hankins)

# Help keep roof top solar grounded

By Katie Davis

Chair SB Group

Solar roofs are the best way to produce local energy and make use of our greatest asset, our sunny skies.

They produce energy right where we need it in our cities and towns utilizing otherwise empty rooftop space and save public money. In fact, over the next thirty years California schools and government will save more than \$2.5 billion in electricity costs from the solar they've already installed. Solar reduces greenhouse gas pollution while being a boon for the economy, employing over 54,000

people in California.

And yet, instead of encouraging solar roofs, the utilities are fighting them.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is drafting new rules that will affect solar owners. The monopoly utilities (SCE, PG&E and SDG&E) have submitted proposals that include charging \$3 per month per KW of system size (for a typical home system of 5 KW, this would be an extra charge of \$180/year).

They also propose cutting the net metering credit in half, so you get much less credit for the solar energy you

produce, increasing interconnection fees that you pay to connect a solar system to the grid and implementing demand charges, which penalize solar owners for their inevitable swings in electric use during the day.

These fees -- if adopted by the CPUC -- would drastically reduce, if not eliminate, any economic benefit of solar. Similar moves in Arizona have killed the solar market there.

The good news is that many people, including local elected officials around the state, are advocating for protecting solar roofs. Santa Barbara County Supervisor Salud Carbajal

movement, in which the counties of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura are paying for a joint study on its feasibility.

Another club member, Todd Schuman of Camarillo, alerted the crowd to the Aliso Canyon well failure

and natural gas leak at Porter Ranch in the Granada Hills, which he said were emitting "huge amounts of methane" and that such facilities should be more controlled and taxed.

Two other speakers were candidates running for office, Salud Carbajal and Monique Limón, both of whom supported the CCE idea. (Note: The chapter has not yet endorsed any

*continued on page 8*

## GO SOLAR

The Sierra Club has partnered with Sungevity to make it easy and affordable for rooftop solar systems, and \$750 will go to your local chapter. Get a free quote and details at: <http://content.sierraclub.org/solar>

is one of those voices. "I urge the CPUC to keep it simple and support net metering policies that have proven to be effective," he wrote in a recent letter to Michael Picker, the President of the CPUC.

The Sierra Club has joined Vote Solar, Environment California, Greenpeace and other organizations in one of the largest comment collection drives ever held on any issue to come before the CPUC. You can submit a comment yourself at our website:

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

Or link directly to the action: <http://tinyurl.com/ProtectSolar>



# Big victory from Newhall creep

A significant blow by the California Supreme Court to the large Newhall Ranch project that would seriously impact eastern Ventura County was handed down Nov. 30.

It was a case that tested the scope of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), wrote Ron Bottorff of the Friends of the Santa Clara River (FOSCR), one of the plaintiffs challenging the 21,000 home proposal that lies just east of the county line in Los Angeles County and along six miles of the river. While it would have major impacts across the county line, Ventura doesn't have much legal power to require mitigation.

Opponents called the court action a "severe blow" to the project's

future. "This real problem for the development because it can't roll forward with the same plans," said John Buse, an attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity, which sued the state and the developer.

This action is the latest in a string of legal challenges to the project that go back to the late 1990s. For example, in 2000 the Los Padres Chapter was among the plaintiffs winning a major CEQA victory against the project regarding issues of water supply, floodplain constriction, wildlife corridors, traffic analyses and general plan non-conformance.

The current case was over whether or not there was a significant impact of greenhouse gases, and whether there

was enough mitigation of effects on freshwater fish. The court concluded there was a significant impact and effects on the fish amounted to an illegal "taking."

"Awesome," responded Los Padres Chapter Chair David Gold, an attorney himself.

Our Santa Clara River activist, Nina Danza, said "I am very, very, proud of the tireless work of Ron Bottorff, Lynne Plambeck, Barbara Wampole and their board (Sierra Club members on the FOSCR). Please join me in congratulating them and supporting a protected Santa Clara River through Ventura County."

Read the decision at: <http://tinyurl.com/NewhallCourtCase>



After the Ventura Climate Rally speeches at city hall, scores of marchers walked into downtown and to the pier, picking up supporters of climate change along the way. (Photo by Condor John Hankins)

## Will you hear...

*continued from page 7*  
candidates.)

The rally was part of the thousands of Global Climate March Events preceding the Paris talks, "in total over 785,000 people marched this weekend, making it one of the biggest climate mobilizations ever in history," said May Boeve of 350.org as she arrived in Paris. She was overwhelmed when checking her computer about the response and commented, "What I saw was the beauty and power of a growing movement."

Breaking news on the Paris event can be had at:

[www.SierraClub.org/paris](http://www.SierraClub.org/paris)  
[www.350.org](http://www.350.org)



Finn, only 8 years old, "was totally fearless and confident, yet he clearly knew exactly what he was doing," said hike leader Robert Bernstein during a Sierra Club outing to the Playground, between Camino Cielo Road and high above the city of Goleta. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

## Nature kids you not Get your friends to join

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

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

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"/> \$49
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"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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

Join today and receive  
a FREE Sierra Club  
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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)

## EAVESDROPS

"Grassy surfaces will be significantly cooler on a sunny day when compared to artificial turf, gravel or pavement."

~ AccuWeather, quoted in a Tom Elias column about the potential downside of replacing lawns. He noted that at the Women's World Cup where temperatures were in the high 70s, "temperatures on the synthetic grass fields ranged from 120 to 120 degrees."



# Forest bites man...again

Los Padres Chapter member Bryan Snyder is back on the map after publishing his second in a series of adventures called "Off the Map."

The second installment is titled "Further Off the Map," which invites you on a journey into the wild and inhospitable reaches of our continent in search of natural wonders both breathtaking and obscure.

He's got stories that touch upon Santa Barbara and the Gap Fire, with a chapter devoted to Blue Canyon in the Santa Ynez Valley. Throughout this follow-up, join him as he faces off against rattlesnakes, lightning bolts, dust storms and his own better judgment in the course of fifty-three misguided adventures – tales that span from the colossal



volcanic peaks of the Pacific Northwest to the moonlit depths of the Grand Canyon.

With detours into the pyrotechnic metropolis of Burning Man and the hippie utopia of the Rainbow Gathering, this book celebrates the unique qualities of the American West, punctuated with humor, insight, and the risk of severe bodily injury.

He grew up exploring the rolling hills and shady creeks of upstate New York, and had a year abroad in Scotland filled with hitchhiking adventures that "convinced me to find employment outdoors." So after college, he taught natural science to young students at various environmental schools from Maine to Hawaii before settling on the West Coast. He now lives in Santa Barbara with his wife Lora.

The books and compilations of his adventures is on Amazon.com or go to:

[www.OffTheMapBooks.com](http://www.OffTheMapBooks.com)



RATTLESNAKE CANYON

Club member Alan Freeman of Lompoc has spent a lifetime hiking in the backcountry, honing a personal style that is as adept with color (Rattlesnake Canyon, pen, ink and watercolor) as he is with the black and white "Grotto Study." (From "The Landscape Drawings of Alan L. Freeman")



GROTTO STUDY

## ALAN FREEMAN

# Wilderness draws the artist

A new book is now available featuring detailed, brilliantly-composed pen-and-ink studies of the rugged, natural locations and architectural motifs in the Los Padres Chapter area and other environments from the Yukon to Santa Fe.

"The Landscape Drawings of Alan L. Freeman," edited by Suzanne B. Siegel, is 94 pages that includes five color plates and 128 black and white images

Based in Lompoc, Freeman is a dedicated outdoorsman and plein-air artist who has hiked thousands of miles to document

old-growth forested mountain valleys, ghost towns and rocky coastal vistas during a career spanning nearly five decades.

A Sierra Club member and lifelong Santa Barbara County resident, Freeman studied painting and printmaking at SB Community College after serving in Vietnam. For 25 years he was SBCC Professor Robert Frame's studio assistant and exhibited at the Santa Barbara Sunday Arts and Crafts Show since the mid-1970s.

Freeman's drawings, watercolors, etchings and

paintings have been shown extensively in Central Coast and Southern California venues. His work appears in collections regionally and nationally.

"His masterly command of line recalls the graphic virtuosity of 19th Century engravings. This selection of meticulously-observed and sensitively-recorded imagery presents many endangered landscapes as an eloquent call for preservation," editor Siegel said.

For orders or inquiries: please contact the editor, S.B. Siegel at [\(269\) 226-0257](tel:269-226-0257).

## FURTHER OFF THE MAP

FIFTY-THREE TALES OF ADVENTURE  
ALONG THE ROUGHER EDGES OF  
AMERICAN WILDERNESS

BRYAN SNYDER

Off into the mists, "Further Off the Map" is a series of adventures by an intrepid Sierra Club member. (Photos by Bryan Snyder)



## DROUGHT PT. II

## Envision a lawn without it

By Mike Stubblefield

In our arid and drought-prone area, your first and highest priority outside is using less water.

The most effective way to go is replacing the lawn with plants, shrubs and trees with some kind of ground cover and landscaping that doesn't need, or uses a lot less, water.

Removing an established lawn can be a chore. The quick way, if you despise manual labor is to hire a professional if you can afford it. If not, you can simply let it die by not watering it; but that could take a while, and you'll have to watch it happen, which is not a pretty sight.

If you have kids, cats and/or dogs, they will help to trample it to the point at which you can take it out yourself with nothing fancier than a hoe, rake and shovel.

**There are four ways to remove a lawn: Dig it up; layer it; solarize it; or spray it.**

Let's address spraying first. Don't go there. This stuff is poison. It's hard to know what all the side effects are and how long it will stay in the soil.

Because I'm impatient, and cheap,



carrying a hug bag of "dirty" money to their local congressman's office with a demand that he stop accepting "dirty money" and step up on climate-change issues.

I dug mine up myself. We live on the rich, but soft and relatively sandy topsoil of the western Oxnard Plain, so it's not as difficult to dig up as, say, the hillside of upper Ventura. You'll feel like you're really accomplishing something.

The downside is you're throwing away a lot of valuable topsoil stuck to the underside of the turf. And you're making it easy for crabgrass to finally break free into the sunlight and take over. (One of my Master Gardener instructors once told us that weed seeds can lurk a foot or more below the surface for decades, just waiting for sunlight and water.)

Layering is not an approach that I used; but it's popular and totally safe. Simply cover the turf in your yard with six or more layers of cardboard or newspaper. Then cover it with about four to six inches of organic mulch (we'll talk about mulch next month . . .) and water it. The layers of cardboard/newspaper prevent light from reaching

the grass and prevent the grass from growing up to the surface where it can photosynthesize. After a couple of months, the grass dies and, voila! You can dig down through the mulch and newspaper and plant right in the soil.

This is the method most UC Master Gardeners recommend, and it's the best way to go.

Solarizing is a variation on layering: Mow the lawn super-low, almost down to the soil. Water it lavishly. Cover it with a clear plastic tarp to hold in the moisture and the sun will "sweat" the turf to death! Solarizing takes about three times as long as layering.

What I did, and what most folks do, after removing the lawn is replace it with mulch, which can be expensive. And you will need enough to put three or four inches of the stuff onto your now grass-free yard (after you cover the yard with good quality weed cloth). I'll tell you about mulch next issue.



OUTCH! It may hurt to get rid of that nice, green manicured lawn, but during this prolonged drought it's one of the best ways to save water. (Photo by Condor John Hankins, killing his patch).



A rally at UC Santa Barbara during the National Day of Climate Action held Oct. 14 nationwide was to demonstrate strong support for action. Now in its fifth year, the annual Central Coast Sustainability Summit featured a panel on building a clean energy economy. During the event, UCSB Professor Rachel Segalman reminded the audience that we have the technology to do it, and quipped: "The stone age didn't end because we ran out of stones." (Photo contributed)

## Change needs everyone

By Katie Davis

Last year 400,000 people marched in New York City to demand action on climate in the largest climate march ever held, and this year Santa Barbara joined over 170 cities for a National Day of Climate Action Oct. 14.

The People's Climate Movement organizers held marches, rallies, and events were held in nearly every state under the slogan, "To change everything, we need everyone."

While the events are designed to demonstrate national support for climate action leading up to the international climate talks in Paris, targets were local as well as global. So it was fitting that the Santa Barbara action took place at the annual Central Coast Sustainability Summit at UCSB. At the close of the Summit, participants gathered for a "Photo Action" with a banner reading "Keep Santa Barbara Above Water" and "Act on Climate."

And the Santa Barbara Group

members were in the thick of it.

In its fifth year, the Summit focused on two key issues – energy and water – and participants discussed concrete strategies for creating a healthier and more sustainable future. Rep. Lois Capps also led a panel titled "Building a Clean Energy Economy," with business, non-profit, academic and government agency participants.

UCSB Chemical Engineering Professor Rachel Segalman summed it up by reminding the audience, "The stone age didn't end because we ran out of stones." We have the technology and capability, all we need is the will and determination to change.

Some of the many other events nationwide included hundreds marching through flood-prone Miami, Florida, a demonstration outside of the capitol building in increasingly hot Phoenix, Arizona, a 26-mile paddle on the Missouri River by clean energy advocates, and Pittsburgh protesters





Conejo Group is renowned for its adventures far afield. Here are some of the hike leaders during an outing to Eagle Rock; they are (from left) Melanie Ashen, Walt Zabriskie, Fontayne Holmes and, behind the camera, Liz MacGovern. Access their outings anytime at: <http://tinyurl.com/ConejoOutings>

**GROUPS VOTE  
for leaders  
See pgs 12, 13**

**CONEJO GROUP  
POTLUCK PARTY!**

The Cameron Center will be the site of our annual potluck and photo show on Thursday, Dec. 10 starting at 7pm, but come earlier to help set up.

Bring your most tempting dish and favorite drink and be entertained by the photos of our journeys. Questions? Contact Walt Zabriskie at 341-6295, or Joanne Sulkoske 492-3061.

We are a very social group and welcome new people. Everyone is permitted to participate in our group activities, especially for outings where we will show you our local trails. The Conejo Group comprises the eastern part of Ventura County. Access our outings at any time:

<http://tinyurl.com/ConejoOutings>

If you travel and would like to visit other Sierra Clubs around the country, go on an outing and meet new people, click on the following link for the Online Activity Registration System (OARS) database:

<http://vault.sierraclub.org/activities>

The Conejo Group is the only group that uses the OARS database in the Los Padres Chapter.



*Los Padres Group News*

The public is welcome to our programs

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

~ Executive Committee meets at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of every month, either in-person at the Carpinteria IHOP, or by conference call. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda and details: [gching@cox.net](mailto:gching@cox.net)

**ARGUELLO GROUP**

~ Board usually meets first Monday of the month at various locations and times. General meetings most months on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at Lompoc Presbyterian Church 1600 E. Berkeley Ave., usually with conservation program 7 – 9pm or 6 – 9pm when there are potlucks.

~Volunteers are needed as hike leaders and to monitor issues; your talents could make a difference.  
~ All information on this North County Santa Barbara Group from Jerry Connor, 928-3598 or email: [Connor.gd2@verizon.net](mailto:Connor.gd2@verizon.net)

**CONEJO GROUP**

~ Get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6295 [mail@hkwarren.net](mailto:hkwarren.net)

~ Web: [www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo](http://www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo)  
~ Outings: [www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings](http://www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings)

**SANTA BARBARA GROUP**

~ Usually meets at 5:30pm on the first Monday of the month at Union Bank, 15 E. Carrillo St. View the calendar, hikes and issues and join the mailing list for the South Coast Santa Barbara area (Carpinteria to Goleta) at [www.SBSierraClub.org](http://www.SBSierraClub.org) or follow us on Facebook.

**VENTURA NETWORK**

~ Up-to-date information about the western Ventura County group in *Condor Call* on the Los Padres Chapter website. Address: PO Box 7301, Ventura CA 93006. Also on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Ventura-Sierra-Club/152441931434825](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ventura-Sierra-Club/152441931434825)

~New MEETUP site for hikes, outings and other fun stuff in Ventura County: [www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura](http://www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura)  
~ Regular board meetings 1st Wed monthly at REI in Oxnard 7-8:30pm. Call Nina Danza to confirm at 901-1679.

**VENTURA SIERRA CLUB**

The Ventura Leadership Team could use your talent!

We are a vibrant group protecting and enhancing the environment in our area of Western Ventura County, notably comprising the cities of Oxnard, Ojai and Ventura. Plus, we have a lot of fun and satisfaction too.

If you are a Sierra Club member living in Western Ventura County,

please consider lending a hand to your local group.

We meet the first Wednesday of the month at REI in Oxnard, from 7-8:30pm. Members interested in fundraising and website development are especially welcome.

Call 667-7617 if you have questions, or email:

[elisaabethlamar@hotmail.com](mailto:elisaabethlamar@hotmail.com)



Remember how hot it was in October? Well, that didn't stop a full house of hikers going to the amazing Playground area, but they did pause for shade. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

**SANTA BARBARA GROUP**



If you've never been to the Santa Barbara Group's annual potluck breakfast (this one on Oct. 18), you'll have another chance next year. You can see how much fun they are having and, after breakfast, there's a beach walk below Shoreline Park. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)



**MEET S.B. CANDIDATES:**

# Hiker, biker, activist, advocate

**ROBERT BERNSTEIN**

Building a sustainable world means having a positive vision of what we want, not just opposing projects.

My vision: A community that is more walkable, bikeable and transit friendly, for social justice as well as environmental reasons. It's a vision where we locally produce much of our own food and renewable energy.



A vision where we can access nature in a way that enriches us, yet with minimal damage to our natural ecosystems.

Global climate change is largely the result of human policies and activities and I want us to do our part on a community level.

I am a Life member of the Club and have served on our Group ExCom since 1998. During this current two year term I served as Group Chair as well as Environmental Justice Chair and Transportation Chair.

Also I am a hike leader and a photographer and occasional writer for the Condor Call. I would be honored to be able to serve the Sierra Club again for another term.

**KATIE DAVIS**

John Muir, the founder of the Sierra Club, said, "The battle we have fought, and are still fighting for the forests, is a part of the eternal conflict between right and wrong."

Today the protection of our ecosystems is more critical than ever. I believe Santa Barbara has a powerful role to play in creating a more sustainable future.

As current Chair of the SB Group, I have enjoyed working on a number of fronts to secure recent victories including getting our County to set the strictest regulations on greenhouse gas pollution from new oil projects in the state.

Also, in getting local governments to put up funds for the first phase of a Community Choice Energy program -- the single greatest thing we can do to advance local clean energy.

We are also helping build new hiking trails and working to create a new National Marine Sanctuary from the Gaviota coast to Cambria. I am also a trained presenter with Al Gore's "Climate Reality Project" and was awarded 2nd place in the 2012 Cox Conservation Hero awards.

I look forward to continuing to serve the Sierra Club in its mission to move us beyond fossil fuels and to conserve our local and global resources.



**ALEX FAVACHO**

A great burden and task has been inherited by my generation. The frequency and intensity of wildfires, hurricanes, and other climate events have reached historic levels each year in the last decade.

The realities of climate change no longer exist in the abstract. I came to this conclusion four years ago when I began my activism with 350 Santa Barbara. Since that time,



I have helped coordinate and organize dozens of rallies, get-out-the-vote events, phone banks, voter registration drives, speeches and canvassing efforts.

At UCSB, I founded a 60-member campus organization, Students Against Fracking, for the Measure P Anti-Fracking campaign, to which I dedicated over 1,200 hours.

I continued my activism in variety of ways: as a member of the Environmental Caucus, employment as an advocate with Food & Water Watch and currently researching unconventional oil activity via UCSB.

I am an avid backpacker (Patagonia, Big Sur, and Los Padres National Forest) and touring cyclist (Tennessee to California, Canada to Mexico). I have also dedicated myself to community volunteer work, inspired by my grandfather and father who instilled a strong

**SANTA BARBARA GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE**

## Santa Barbara Group Executive Committee Ballot

(See candidate statements this page)

NOTE: Only members of the SANTA BARBARA GROUP can vote for the candidates. Second box is for households with dual memberships who get only one Condor Call.

**Print and mail ballot by Dec. 31 to:**

**Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club,**  
P.O. Box 31241, Santa Barbara CA 93130

**Vote for NO MORE THAN 4 (FOUR) people, including write-in option if you wish**

In alphabetical order:	1 <sup>st</sup> member	2 <sup>nd</sup> member
Robert Bernstein	_____	_____
Katie Davis	_____	_____
Alex Favacho	_____	_____
Alex Pujo	_____	_____
Write-in candidate(s)	_____	_____

**Enter your Sierra Club member ID # (from Condor Call label or membership card)** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)*

passion for advocacy.

I believe my experience, dedication, and passion are a perfect fit for the Sierra Club. Thank you for considering me for this position.

**ALEX PUJO**

My wife and I own a small architecture and planning firm (www.pujo.net) and since 1992 we have been involved in local



and regional transportation planning issues because we believe that auto-mobility is one of the greatest environmental

threats facing us.

We live in an area that exports its impacts to surrounding communities and places little value on environmental justice.

Our older neighborhoods are convincing proof that life is better for all living organisms when we live close to town, drive less and walk more.

Slowly but surely, the implementation of new transportation policies (Circulation Elements, Bicycle Master Plans, Regional Transportation) increase access for everyone. Transit, bicycle and pedestrian access is a reality in parts of Santa Barbara but still a challenge where antiquated zoning policies encourage sprawl.

I am a founding member of the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST) and a member of the Bicycle Coalition since 1994. I joined the executive committee of the Santa Barbara Group in 2014 and I am very proud of my colleagues' work on climate change and oil issues. Thank you for your support.





**ROSEMARY HOLMES**      **CONNIE GEIGER**



**JERRY CONNOR**      **JANET BLEVINS**



**DORIS CONNOR**      **REBECCA AUGUST**

# Arguello's got knowledge, know-how

## ROSEMARY HOLMES

With our coastal California in such danger from such things as offshore drilling, fracking, and our lives in general threatened by pesticides, traffic air pollution, and an infinite and varied additional range of toxics, I think environmental activism continues to be a necessary response.

In the past I have written articles for the local press, worked to set up community forums and Sierra Club programs and have worked with other community organizations such as our local botanical society.

I am happy to make these small contributions. As a board member I can help determine the foci of the Arguello Chapter, as well as assist with the many small things that keep it going logistically and helps maintain interest with our members and the community at large.

## CONNIE GEIGER

Member of Arguello Group since 1974; hike leader for many, many hikes; Chairman of Adopt-a-Highway (AAH) for about 20 years, and have served continuously as Secretary of Arguello Group ExCom for many years also.

## JERRY CONNOR

As in many past years, I hope to continue to serve the Arguello Group as a member of its ExCom, the Los Padres Chapter ExCom, Wilderness Basics Course board and as a delegate to the annual Sierra Club California convention and the California-Nevada Regional Conservation Committee.

I also serve in organizations working in concert with the Sierra Club on most issues.

We have some immediate challenges: Santa Barbara County is faced with issues of land use that can be incompatible with open space or agricultural needs, and oil development in unsuitable locations with several related water and emissions problems.

I will be defending our conservation positions in writing or speaking at hearings with County Supervisors, City Councils, and the Planning Commission as needed.

## JANET BLEVINS

Janet Blevins is a retired teacher who now volunteers her time in various community, social justice and environmental groups. She looks forward to becoming more involved with Sierra Club and the urgent work to preserve our natural world.

## DORIS CONNOR

Doris has been in the Sierra Club for more than 40 years, with 14 years in the Northern Rockies and then 29 years in the Los Padres Chapter.

She has been especially active in outdoor activities, including hiking, skiing, canoeing, rafting, and backpacking. Doris has served as Arguello Group Treasurer for several years, and has been involved in all activity plans.

## REBECCA AUGUST

Rebecca August has been a Sierra Club member for over twenty years, and is an avid hiker and backpacker.

She is a writer and an artist, has served on several environmental and educational non-profit boards, and recently founded the group, Safe Energy Now! North County. Rebecca looks forward to working with the Sierra Club to protect our local environment, and the planet.

**PRINT OUT  
BALLOTS  
AND MAIL**

## ARGUELLO GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

### Arguello Group ExCom Ballot

(See candidate statements this page)

NOTE: Only members of the ARGUELLO GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second box is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one *Condor Call*.

**Print out this ballot and mail by Dec. 31 to:**

Arguello Group, Sierra Club,  
P.O. Box 333, Lompoc CA 93438-0333  
Vote for NO MORE THAN 6 (SIX),  
(Including write-in option)

Alpha order	1 <sup>st</sup> member	2 <sup>nd</sup> member
Rebecca August	_____	_____
Janet Blevins	_____	_____
Doris Connor	_____	_____
Jerry Connor	_____	_____
Connie Geiger	_____	_____
Rosemary Holmes	_____	_____
Write-in candidate(s)	_____	_____

Enter your Sierra Club member ID \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote; it will NOT be tied to your name)

## CONEJO GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

### Conejo Group Executive Committee Ballot

(No candidate statements available)

NOTE: Only members of the CONEJO GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second box is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one *Condor Call*.

**Print out and mail ballot before Dec. 31 to:**

Conejo Group, Sierra Club  
106 Quails Trail, Thousand Oaks, CA 91361

**Vote for NO MORE THAN 4 (four) persons,  
including the write-in option.**

Alpha order:	1 <sup>st</sup> member	2 <sup>nd</sup> member
Melanie Ashen	_____	_____
John Holroyd	_____	_____
Stephanie Scher	_____	_____
Joanne Sulkoske	_____	_____
Write in candidate(s):	_____	_____

Enter your Sierra Club member ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number is to ensure a valid confidential vote; it will not be tied to your name)



# John Muir's passion embraced

## Greetings Friends

By Jim Hines

I am so proud to be a member of the Sierra Club, our nation's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. Here's why:

My Sierra Club journey started when I was young, my parents were life members and we would go on outings far and wide, exploring the great beauty of our earth. From local hikes in the Los Padres National Forest, to outings in the Rocky Mountains to international trips to far off East Africa, the Sierra Club allowed us to experience the natural wonders of our world.

As my life journey evolved for me -- work, career, relationships -- I always maintained my own membership; then when I became even more aware of the dangers facing our environment, I started getting more involved as an activist.

That really started with my appointment to my local Ventura Sierra Club. I have since gone on to become the Vice-Chair of our Los Padres Chapter and am fortunate to have many great Sierra Club mentors which I look up to for advice on a regular basis.

While I've been fortunate to have started many Sierra Club campaigns locally, statewide and even national, I will never forget where my roots started right here in Ventura County.

The Sierra Club was founded by the vision of a man living in the San Francisco Bay area who cared a great deal about the majestic Sierra Nevada mountain range. John Muir was so alarmed that he formed a small organization called the Sierra Club in 1892. It was to protect a



Humpback whales are just one of the reasons why proponents are supporting a new Marine Sanctuary off the San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara coasts. (Photo courtesy of NOAA).

## Chumash sanctuary for life on land and sea

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has accepted the nomination for a new Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

That means it recognizes our coast as deserving special status, and puts it officially under consideration for protection as part of the Sanctuary Program, which would be the first in the national system to focus on indigenous culture and history as a primary core value, along with protection of ocean habitat.

In a statement Oct. 9, NOAA concluded that a marine sanctuary off the coast of San Luis Obispo and northern Santa Barbara counties would present opportunities for research, education, and local partnerships.

A study commissioned by the Sierra Club concluded it could add "at minimum 23 million dollars per year to the local economy and

create almost 600 new jobs."

The nomination was submitted by the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, which has been working on the initiative with Central Coast environmental groups and Sierra Club California for the last two years. The area proposed for the national marine sanctuary stretches from Santa Rosa Creek in Cambria to Gaviota Creek in Santa Barbara, protecting marine habitat along some 140 miles of coastline.

"This nomination is about taking action to make sure the natural wonders of California's Central Coast will be here for future generations," said Kathryn Phillips, Director of Sierra Club California. She urged all citizens to tell NOAA to go beyond the nomination to the designation process, which would make it a reality.

~ Editor's note: Story contains excerpts from our sister Santa Lucia Chapter in SLO.



Caught volunteering is Santa Barbara Group hike leader Robert Bernstein, using "Elephant Snot," the latest weapon brought to bear on the paint vandalism at beautiful Lizard's Mouth. Snot is a proprietary substance that is biodegradable and "seems to work a bit better" than other substances, he said. (Photo contributed)

special place he loved in the Sierra Nevada, a place we all know and love as Yosemite National Park today.

One of the main reasons I admire the club so much is the fact that it has changed to meet the growing threats to our environment as the times have changed.

The club is there to protect against threats from technology that harms the environment; and the club welcomes and engages many diverse peoples in our society: Native Americans, people of color and the youth of our nation.

I feel that we are one very large environmental family, and while the club is not perfect, its true strength is our ability to engage people from all regions to protect what is important to them locally, as well as carry on nationwide campaigns. No other

environmental organization in our nation does that.

The club is directed by the individual members like yourself in our campaigns and issues. I am very proud of the fact that our activist teams have continued to grow, people power protecting our great wild places and our precious wildlife.

The most important person in the Sierra Club is YOU.

I am reminded of that each time I represent our Los Padres Chapter at state and national Sierra Club conferences, conventions and meetings. We all come together for the common good of protecting a natural world which we cannot afford to lose ... and with the same energy and passion which John Muir had in 1892.



# Take a Hike!

## LOS PADRES CHAPTER

Updates at <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>

Panoramic photo by Robert Bernstein

### WELCOME HIKERS

The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Study footwear is recommended. If you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. All phone numbers are area code 805, unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14. A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at the chapter's website:

<http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>

December 4  
ROSE VALLEY-NORDHOFF PEAK (4,485 ft.) via Howard Creek (3,480 ft.) trail: strenuous 12 mile one-way hike begins at Howard Creek trailhead, climbs 1,200 ft. to the peak and ends on Hwy. 33 at Cozy Dell trailhead. Brisk pace - (2.5mph). Car shuttle required. This is just one of many ways to get to Nordhoff Peak, where you will get plenty of views of the surrounding area. Meet at 7:45am at the Ventura carpool area at Seaward and Harbor, between Carrows restaurant and Chase Bank. Bring 10 essentials, hiking/ trail boots, 3-4 qts of water, snacks and lunch. Hiking poles, sunscreen, sun hat and insect repellent

recommended. Rain or extreme heat (above 85F) cancels. PHIL 218-2103 & LORA 218-2103 (VEN)

December 4  
OLD FOREST and LOST CABIN TRAILS - MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK: Moderate 8 mrt hike. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

December 5  
MISSION RIDGE: Hike from Tunnel Trail up to near the Rattlesnake Connector and then up a primitive



Will it snow this year during the annual Topa Topa Bluff Christmas Potluck on Saturday, Dec. 12? Come along and find out ... see details under the Dec. 12 outings or call leader Stephen Bryne at 794-1150. (Photo by Perry Van Houten)

### Ongoing Outings

#### Ventura Every Monday Morning

**EASY WALKS:** Join Pat Jump at 8:30 a.m. every Monday morning for easy to moderate walks in the Ventura and Ojai areas. A long-time tradition, the walks will last about two hours and the group sometimes goes for coffee afterward. Call Pat at 643-0270.

#### Ventura Every Wednesday

**URBAN EVENING HIKE:** Weekly hike in Ventura meets across the street from the Mission at 6:45 p.m. for a 4 1/2-mile walk up to Father Serra's Cross for spectacular scenic views of Ventura, the Channel Islands and the sunset. It continues across the hillside, down to the ocean, to the end of the pier, then along the promenade looping back to the Mission. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Contact KURT PRESSLER 643-5902. (VEN)

#### Santa Barbara Fridays, Wednesdays and Weekends

**SOCIAL HIKE** every Friday evening for an easy-to-moderate 2-4 mile roundtrip evening hike in the Santa Barbara front country, beach or back roads. Meet at 6 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission; we leave at 6:15 sharp. Bring a flashlight; optional potluck or pizza afterward. AL SLADEK, 685-2145. (SB)

**STRENUOUS** 5-10 mile roundtrip evening hike on Wednesdays. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission; bring water and a flashlight, preferably head lamp. Hike is designed for conditioning. For details, contact BERNARD MINES, 722-9000.

**MODERATE AND STRENUOUS** hikes at 9 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Meet at Bank of America at State St. and Hope Ave.

#### Monthly Programs

**ARGUELLO GROUP** offers slide shows, speakers and movies, the third Friday of each month. Call for details: 928-3598.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Help keep Highway 1 beautiful. Adopt-a-Highway trash pickup from the Lompoc 'Wye' to the Base boundary. Meet at Vandenberg Village Shopping Center parking lot at 9 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of odd-numbered months. Rain cancels. Contact CONNIE: 735-2292.

### Outing Notes

*Key to outing locations (noted in parenthesis at the end of each listing)*

AR - Arguello Group

(Northern SB County)

SB - Santa Barbara Group

(Southern SB County)

VEN - Ventura Network

(Northern Ventura County)

CJ - Conejo Group

(Southern Ventura County)

LA - Los Angeles Chapter joint hikes

*The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Study footwear is recommended. If you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. All phone numbers listed are within area code 805, unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14.*

*A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org> This website also contains links to Group web pages and other resources.*

trail to the top of a ridge. Return via Edison Road trail. Primitive trail, steep at times and some boulder hopping. Moderately strenuous 6 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

December 5  
UPPER SYCAMORE TRAIL - SYCAMORE CANYON LOOP: Moderate 4.5 mrt hike with 600' elev gain. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at 9am at Satwiwa parking lot. Take the Lynn Road exit of the 101 Fwy. south to Via Goleta near Dos Vientos in Newbury Park. Turn left into Rancho Sierra Vista / Satwiwa and drive to the end parking

lot. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)

December 6  
SAN YSIDRO TO E. CAMINO CIELO: Strenuous hike up to E. Camino Cielo for lunch. Follows the creek, past a waterfall, and up onto a sunny trail with some height exposure and great views. Strenuous 9 mrt, approx. 5 hrs at moderate pace. Intermediate hikers or beginners with cardio conditioning welcome. -18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes and a hat, bring lunch and 2 liters of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KRISTI Email: myomy.design@cox.net (SB)

*continued next page*



## Outings...continued

**PLAN YOUR OUTINGS:** Take a break from your holiday shopping to plan your outings for the next Condor Call outings schedule. It will cover Feb-May plus 2 weeks into June. Then get your writeups to your Group Outings Chair. Questions? Email Gerry Ching ([gching@cox.net](mailto:gching@cox.net)).

December 7

**MONDAY MORNING WALK:** Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or 9:00 am at 45 Alto Drive in Oak View to walk to the highway and up valley meadow (large square) for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

December 8

**ROSEWOOD TRAIL:** Moderate 7 mrt loop with 800' elev. gain. Views of Conejo and Hidden Valleys and the Oxnard Plain and Santa Cruz Island from the top of Angel Vista. Bring lots of water, food, and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8:30am at the trailhead. Take the 101 Fwy. to Ventu Park Road south, make a right turn on Lynn Road and an immediate left turn on Regal Oak. Park and meet in the cul-de-sac. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

December 9

**CALABASAS PEAK via HIDDEN TRAIL:** Moderate 5 mrt hike with 900' elev. gain. Bring water, food, extra clothing and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 9am for carpooling. JOHN HOLROYD 495-6391 (CJ)

December 10

**HOLIDAY POTLUCK AND DIGITAL PHOTO SHOW:** The Cameron Center will be the site of our potluck and photo show. Bring your favorite digital photos or prints to share. Digital photos must be submitted to Walt Zabriskie at least 10 days prior to potluck. Bring your most tempting dish and favorite drink for a Holiday Celebration. Come early (6:30pm) to help setup. The party will start at 7pm. HUGH WARREN (805) 341-6295, JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)

December 11

**OLD CABIN SITE - POINT MUGU STATE PARK:** Moderate 8 mrt hike with 1000' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at Potrero Road trailhead at intersection of Wendy

Drive in Newbury Park no later than 8:30am. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

December 12

**MISTLETOE HIKE:** Collect some mistletoe on this stroll in a wooded mountain area. Children with supervision welcome. Easy 4 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

December 12

**SB GROUP HOLIDAY PARTY:** Please join us at the annual Sierra Club Santa Barbara potluck holiday party! We'll have great speakers this year including Jefferson Litton from the Community Environmental Council who will share some good news about how Santa Barbara County can transition to 100% renewable energy. Please bring food and beverages for yourself and to share. The Club will provide disposable dinnerware but you are encouraged to bring your own reusable items so we can keep our footprint low. The party will be held from 6pm-8:30pm at Jefferson Hall, Unitarian Society, 1535 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101. (SB)

**MISTLETOE HIKE:** Collect some mistletoe on this stroll in a wooded mountain area. Children with supervision welcome. Easy 4 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

**LANG RANCH PARKWAY:** Moderate 6 mrt hike with 1200' elev. gain from end of Lang Ranch Parkway via fire road and Albertson Motorway. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at end of Lang Ranch Parkway off of Westlake Blvd. at 8:30am. SUSAN VIVELL 495-1436 (CJ)

**TOPA TOPA BLUFF ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK:** Strenuous 16-mile out and back hike with 4,487 ft of elevation gain to Topa Topa Bluffs (elev. 6,300 ft). Fun revelry and scenic views of the Oxnard Plain and Channel Islands. Light snow is possible. Please bring 10 essentials and food or drink to share with the group. Meet at Sisar Canyon Road gate at 7:30am. Dog friends welcome. Rain cancels. Leader: STEPHEN BRYNE, 794-1150. (VEN)

*continued next page*



# Learn to Backpack

## Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course

We offer thorough training for adults and teens of various levels of fitness who want to explore and enjoy the wilderness in safety and good company. A dedicated staff of leaders will share their skills and stories in eight classroom sessions and during several exciting outings in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Training classes are held from 7-9:30 p.m. in Ventura, February 24 through May 4. Local experts will demonstrate hiking techniques, equipment, outdoor clothing, navigation, wilderness first aid and safety, weather, water filtration, cooking and wilderness ethics, among other important topics. Students will apply this wisdom by participating in day hikes, camping and backpacking trips in our beautiful mountains.

Join us and the many people who have found new insights, enjoyment and adventure in the outdoors. Warning: it could change your life.

**Class starts February 24, 2016**

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[lospadresWBC@gmail.com](mailto:lospadresWBC@gmail.com) • (805) 524-7170



### 2016 Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

(Teenagers under 18 years of age must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Course Fees:

Sierra Club Member: \$160/single, \$285/couple Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Non Member: \$175/single, \$315/couple

Student: \$135 (with student ID)

Send your check made payable to: Los Padres WBC, PO Box 3165, Ventura CA 93006-3165



**Outings...continued**

December 13

**MIDLAND SCHOOL HIGH COUNTRY LOOP:** We'll explore some of the Midland School trails on this moderate 5.5 mrt hike, including the High Country Loop returning via the Red Rock Springs trail. Bring water, a light lunch and sun protection. There is little shade and can be very warm. This hike involves a 1 hr drive to the trailhead on Figueroa Mtn Rd. Rain cancels. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call for instructions or email me (gching@cox.net). GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

December 14

**MONDAY MORNING WALK:** Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am in Ojai at Cozy Dell trailhead to go uphill on trail for 1 hour and then return. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

December 16

**LOS ROBLES EAST TRAIL:** Moderate 5 mrt hike with 600' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at trailhead parking lot, at the south end of Moorpark Road in Thousand Oaks at 8:30am. LIZ MacGOVERN 494-6442 (CJ)

December 18

**PALO COMADO to SIMI PEAK:** Moderate 8.5 mrt hike with 1,560' gain to Simi Peak. Bring lots of water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks no later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

December 20

**LA CUMBRE PEAK VIA RATTLESNAKE TRAIL:** Beautiful views from the highest peak on the

front range. Strenuous 11 mrt hike with 3200 feet elevation gain/loss. Experienced hikers only. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

**EAVESDROPS**

**"Join us in raising a toast to the Sierra Club for their generous support of the Franklin Trail."**

~ The gracious invitation by the Santa Barbara Trails Council for the Dec. 2 fundraising "Happy Hour @ The Mill," in which the Santa Barbara Group matched every contribution up to \$10,000.

**NATURE WALK - WILDWOOD PARK:** Moderate approx. 4.5 mrt hike with 680' cumulative elev. gain. Enjoy a nature walk while looking for early wildflowers (no guaranteed spotting) as we hike along Stagecoach Bluff down past the water treatment plant, above Paradise Falls, along the creek to Indian Creek Trail and back to the parking lot. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 9:30am in the Wildwood parking lot at the south end of Avenida de los Arboles in Thousand Oaks. NIKI STOKOLS 907-8175 (CJ)

December 21

**MONDAY MORNING WALK:** Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am in Ojai at Shelf Road trailhead to do large square for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

**CHUMASH TRAIL TO MUGU PEAK @9am-noon.** Moderate 4.5 mi loop hike with 1,100 feet elevation gain. Steep steady climb for the first 1/2 mile, which is crowded with hikers and runners. Then leave the crowds behind and enter the pastoral scenic La Jolla valley for several miles. We'll take a spur to the top of

Mugu Peak for a refreshment break and then return to the main trail and back to parking. Bring 2 liters water, snacks, sun protection. Wear good hiking shoes. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at free parking pullout across from the Navy firing range (northerly of Mugu Rock). Questions NINA 901-1679 (VEN)

December 23

**CENTURY LAKE - MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK:** Easy 4 mrt hike with 400' elev. gain from the Reagan Ranch parking lot to Century Lake. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the Reagan Ranch Parking Lot off of Cornell Road and Mulholland. Rain cancels. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

December 26

**POINT DUME to PARADISE COVE - EASY HIKE SERIES:** Easy to moderate 5 mrt hike with 250' elev. gain. Lovely beach walk, up a small hill and down stairs to tide pools, and around corners to Paradise Cove and beyond. Tide 6.4' at 9:30am. Tide 3.8' at 12pm. Bring water and food. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's on Hampshire Road just before the Shell Station in Thousand Oaks no later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

December 28

**MONDAY MORNING WALK:** Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at the Sulphur Mountain Road trailhead off Hwy 33 to walk uphill for about 1 hour and then return. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

December 30

**SYCAMORE CANYON - POINT MUGU STATE PARK:** Moderate 4.5 mrt hike with 600' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at Rancho Sierra Vista Satwiwa parking lot in Newbury Park at 9am. From the 101 Fwy., take

*continued next page*

The restful Ducas Family Bench along the Franklin Trail above Carpinteria promises sweeping vistas from Ventura to Santa Barbara. (Photo by Gerry Ching)

# Carp. trail extended

**By Gerry Ching**

The second phase of the Franklin Trail is open!

It was opened to the public in mid-May, adding over three miles to the initial two miles of Phase 1, which was opened in November 2013.

The historic Franklin Trail, back of Carpinteria, is being opened by a coalition of Santa Barbara County groups in three phases. The first two phases involved establishing easements through private land. The 2.7 mile third phase (not yet opened) involves opening up the original route through Los Padres National Forest land. This last phase is probably the toughest to accomplish as the original route was overgrown and all but impassable.

The newly opened segment begins at the gate at the end of Phase 1, and a water dish for your best

hiking companion is next to the gate. The route travels about 3.5 miles up fire roads, gaining an additional 1060 feet of elevation. Hiking the two sections now totals 5.2 miles and over 1700 feet elevation gain.

Hiking the two segments involves a moderate-strenuous hike due to the cumulative elevation gain of almost 2400 feet and a round-trip distance of 10.4 miles. Be sure to allow enough time (about 6 hours) and take plenty of water and sun protection as there is little available shade.

For those who would like a more moderate hike, consider a 6.4 mile round trip hike to the Ducas Family bench and back. A Santa Barbara Group hike to the bench is scheduled in mid-June.

More information about the Franklin Trail can be obtained at: [www.franklintrail.org](http://www.franklintrail.org)



**Outings...continued**

Lynn Road south towards ocean; turn left on Via Goleta before Dos Vientos and drive to the end parking lot. MELANIE ASHEN 497-6773, WALT ZABRISKIE 497-1775 (CJ)

January 1  
ANNUAL NEW YEARS DAY HIKE - MISHE MOKWA TRAIL to SANDSTONE PEAK: Moderate 7 mrt hike with 1500' elev. gain. Hike via Split Rock, with views of Balanced Rock. Snack on Mt. Allen, highest point in the Santa Monicas. Loop back via Backbone Trail to the parking area. Bring water, food and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 9am for carpooling. HUGH WARREN 341-6295, JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)

January 3  
OUTINGS WRITEUPS DUE SOON: Outings for the next Condor Call are due soon. They should within the period of Feb-May, plus 2 weeks into June. If you haven't gotten your writeups to your Group Outings chairperson, do so NOW!

January 8  
UPPER OJAI FRONT COUNTRY: Strenuous, 12.5 miles starting at Horn Cyn Trailhead, and ending at Sisar Cyn Trailhead via Nordhoff Fire road and Reef Trail through White Ledge campground.

Strenuous/fast paced (2.5mph) one-way hike with 3,800 ft. of elevation gain. Car shuttle required. Meet at 7:45am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows restaurant and Chase Bank). Bring 10 essentials, hiking boots and poles, 2-3 qts of water, snacks and lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or extreme heat (over 85F) cancels. LORA 218-2105 (VEN), PHIL 218-2103 (VEN)

PALO COMADO to SIMI PEAK: Moderate 8.5 mrt hike with 1,560' gain to Simi Peak. Bring lots of water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks no later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

January 9  
DIVIDE PEAK: Very strenuous 12 mrt hike with 3200 feet elevation gain/loss from Matilija trailhead to Divide Peak. Experienced hikers only. Great views of Ojai and Lake Casitas. On a clear day, all 8 Channel Islands are visible. Wear lug-soled shoes, bring at least 3 liters of water, lunch, and snacks. The weather can vary greatly during the course of the hike, so check out the forecast beforehand and bring layers accordingly. For those in Ventura meet 8am at Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows).

For those coming from Santa Barbara meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 7:30am to arrange carpool to trailhead (Note early start time). JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

January 9 MESA PEAK: Moderately strenuous, moderately paced 7 mrt with 1500' elev. gain hike in the Santa Monica Mountains overlooking the ocean. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 8:30am for carpooling. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061 (CJ)

January 9 (Repeats Mar 6; May 1)  
NO RESOLUTION SANTA CLARA RIVER RESTORATION @9am-noon. You don't need a New Year's resolution to make the world a better place, just lend a few hours doing environmental restoration on the Santa Clara River. Sierra Club is partnering with Friends of the Santa Clara River, and UCSB Riparian Restoration Program to return hundreds of acres at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA) near Santa Paula to a long term sustainable ecological condition. This preserve is home to endangered bird species, contains a wealth of stream-side plants, rare butterflies and more. Long pants and closed shoes strongly recommended. Bring water and snacks. All ages welcome. High school teens can get community service

hours. Ages 15-18 unaccompanied by parent/guardian MUST bring 2 signed waivers. Download Sierra Club Youth Waiver here <http://tinyurl.com/lk3qytz> and UCSB waiver here <http://www.ehs.ucsb.edu/files/docs/rm/WaiverElecActivities.pdf> RSVP requested. Rain cancels. Directions to Hedrick Ranch at 20395 S. Mountain Rd, Santa Paula: Hwy 126 E to Santa Paula,

exit 10th St. and turn left (go under freeway), turn quick right on Harvard, turn right on 12th St. (cross Santa Clara River bridge), go 3.7 mi to the address, turn left onto dirt road between farmland to the end (about 1/2 mi). Look for Even' banner. Questions NINA 901-1679 (VEN)

*continued next page*

## Irony of glass



Oh, come on, really? In a recent clean-up of the popular Lizard's Mouth area above Goleta, broken bottles of Lizard's Mouth beer were found ... as well as cigarette butts and other junk that doesn't belong in our back yard forests. Cleaning up the mess from disrespectful visitors or repairing trails keeps the Sierra Club busy, along with many other organizations such as ForestWatch and trail organizations (see adjacent box to help out). (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

## How you can help our tattered trails

**Los Padres Forest Association:** Bryan Conant 405-8628 or [info@LPForest.org](mailto:info@LPForest.org)

**Ojai District Los Padres Forest:** Heidi Anderson, 646-4348 or [handerson@fs.fed.us](mailto:handerson@fs.fed.us)

**Los Padres ForestWatch:** Tanner Yould, 617-4610 or [info@lpfw.org](mailto:info@lpfw.org)

**Santa Barbara Trails Council:** <http://sbvolunteers.org/>

**Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area:**

Craig Sap: (818) 880-0396; [craig.sap@parks.ca.gov](mailto:craig.sap@parks.ca.gov)

Mary Ann Webster: Task Force (310) 733-7042; [mawebster1984@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mawebster1984@sbcglobal.net)

Jerry Mitcham, Trails Council (818) 406-1269; [jerrymitcham@verizon.net](mailto:jerrymitcham@verizon.net) or [www.smmtc.org](http://www.smmtc.org)





On Nov 21 a dozen happy hikers gathered at Dough Flat and installed 15 carsonite signs along the Alder Creek Trail to Cow Spring Camp, 3.5 miles one-way. The signs were installed every quarter mile to inform visitors of the Condor Sanctuary boundary. Many thanks to Mark Subbotin who rigged up a carrier for the 35-pound Pilot Hole Driver. (Photo by Heidi Anderson)

## Ojai camp, roads closed

The popular Middle Lion Campground in the Ojai District is normally open year round, but due to anticipated rain and a limited work force to maintain the facilities, it is now closed until March 24, the Forest Service announced.

While the closure will also restrict access to the Lion Canyon trailhead, the trail itself remains open. It can be accessed from the gate above Middle Lion Campground or by hiking the Rose-Lion Connector from the Upper Rose Valley Lake (or dust bowl).

Nearby, Rose Valley Campground is still available until Jan. 4, to reopen March 24.

Also, Reyes Peak, Nordhoff, Cherry Creek and Dough Flat Roads will be closed for the winter on Dec 16.

### Outings...continued

January 10  
**FOSTER PARK CREW TRAIL:** We'll recount the history of Foster Park and the city of the same name in Ventura County. Then we'll hike the little-known CREW trail in Foster Park, explore the old Foster Bowl, then return on the old road which connects the two campgrounds. Easy 2.5 mrt. Bring water and a light lunch. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. If you are coming from south of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Email me for instructions ([gching@cox.net](mailto:gching@cox.net)). GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

### EAVESDROPS

**"Don't rely on a cellphone."**  
 ~ Good advice from Diane Cross from the Ojai Ranger District if you're going on our trails, particularly in winter when the weather can change dramatically. A better device is a battery operated weather radio, and certainly check forecasts, she noted in the *Ventura County Star*.

January 15  
**CHUMASH TRAIL - LA JOLLA LOOP TRAIL - POINT MUGU STATE PARK:** Strenuous 9 mrt hike with ocean view. Challenging steep beginning. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at Wendy Drive and Potrero Road in Newbury Park no later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

January 16  
**MT. PINOS SNOWSHOE or SHEEP CAMP HIKE:** Bring or rent snowshoes, then join us for some fun in the snow, snowshoeing on the trail to Mt. Pinos and back. 2 mile trail starts at 8,300 ft. and climbs to 8,800 ft. Wear warm

fleece or wool layers, boots, hat, gloves, and bring sunglasses, water, lunch, sunscreen, and other 10 essentials. In case there is no snow, we'll hike to Sheep Camp, 10 miles, about 1500 ft. gain/loss. Rain cancels. Adventure Pass needed for cars. Meet at 8am in parking lot near Fillmore Starbucks. TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

**TRIUNFO CANYON PARK - WESTLAKE VILLAGE:** Moderate 4 to 5 mrt hike of leader's choice with 400' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8:30am in the second parking lot of Triunfo Park at the end of Tamarack Street. Take Westlake Blvd. south to Triunfo Canyon Road, turn right and continue to the Community Park. SUSAN VIVELL 495-1436

January 17  
**OUTINGS WRITEUPS DUE NOW:** Send Feb-May outings writeups for the next Condor Call outings schedule to Gerry Ching ([gching@cox.net](mailto:gching@cox.net)).

January 22  
**POINT DUME to PARADISE COVE - EASY HIKE SERIES:** Easy to moderate 5 mrt hike with 250' elev. gain. Lovely beach walk, up a small hill and down stairs to tide pools, and around corners to Paradise Cove and beyond.

Tide 5.2' at 9:30am Tide 1.4' at 12pm Bring water and food. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's on Hampshire Road just before the Shell Station in Thousand Oaks no later than 8:30am for carpooling. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

January 24  
**NATURE WALK - WILDWOOD PARK:** Moderate approx. 4.5 mrt hike with 680' cumulative elev. gain. Enjoy a nature walk while looking for early wildflowers (no guaranteed spotting) as we hike along Stagecoach Bluff down past the water treatment plant, above Paradise Falls, along the creek to Indian Creek Trail and back to the parking lot. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 9:30am in the Wildwood parking lot at the south end of Avenida de los Arboles in Thousand Oaks. NIKI STOKOLS 907-8175 (CJ)

January 29  
**OLD CABIN SITE - POINT MUGU STATE PARK:** Moderate 8 mrt hike with 1000' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at Potrero Road trailhead at intersection of Wendy Drive in Newbury Park no later than 8:30am LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

*continued next page*

# Trail Prints

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**Attractive, Accurate and Easy to Read Hiking Trail Maps of the Front Country and the National Forest**



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**Outings...continued**

January 30  
HAWK CANYON to WESTERN PLATEAU LOOP: Moderate 5 mrt hike with 600' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at trailhead at 8:30am. From Hwy 101 exit north on Rancho Conejo Blvd. and continue approximately 2 miles to City Recycling Center on Conejo Center Drive. Parking and trailhead are on the right. MELANIE ASHEN 497-6773, WALT ZABRISKIE 497-1775 (CJ)

February 5  
CARPINTERIA: FRANKLIN CANYON: Strenuous 10.4 miles round-trip with 2,350 ft. of elevation gain starts from trailhead near Carpinteria High School, climbs to Ducas Family bench, then continues climbing 2 mores miles before turning around. Carpinteria Valley and ocean views highlight the hike. Meet at 7:45am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows restaurant

and Chase Bank). Bring 10 essentials, hiking boots and poles, 2-3 qts of water, snacks and lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or extreme heat (over 85F) cancels. LORA 218-2105 & PHIL 218-2103 (VEN)

March 2-6  
ANZA BORREGO STATE PARK SPRING WEEKEND: Visit this amazing California desert state park east of San Diego when temperatures are cooler and wild flowers may be blooming. Our space in a developed group campground is reserved from 2pm Wed. to noon on Sunday. Arrive anytime on Wednesday and explore the park on your own. An optional half day off-road adventure with a commercial outfitter (\$135) on Thur. or Fri. Day hikes may require walking over rocky trails and some areas of rock scrambling off trail. Deposit required by February 1st to confirm participation. Limited to 18 people. For more

information contact leader: RICH JURICICH, rich.sierraclub@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181. (Sacramento Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

**EAVESDROPS**

**"We are continuing to lead by example ... we're going to have to keep some fossil fuels in the ground rather than burn them."**

~ Statement by President Barack Obama in announcing rejection of the Keystone XL oil pipeline proposal on Nov. 6.

March 10-12  
DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION: Come help restore wilderness values in this remote and beautiful desert park. It may be a spectacular wildflower year, and we will have time to stop and admire the flowers. Project may be trail work on the Cottonwood Canyon trail, but possibility that it will change before March. Leader: KATE ALLEN, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

March 11  
SERRANO VALLEY LOOP, Point Mugu State Park: This 9 miles round-trip moderate-to-strenuous hike loops through many scenic parts of the center of the Park. About 5 hrs of hiking starts at Big Sycamore Canyon trailhead and climbs 1,100 ft. up steep Serrano Canyon. Along the way enjoy woodland foliage and some wildflowers which may be blooming. Meet at 7:45am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows restaurant and Chase Bank). Bring 10 essentials, hiking boots and poles, 2-3 qts of water, snacks and lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent



**CIMWI**  
**RESCUE HOTLINE**  
**(805) 567-1505**

recommended. Rain or extreme heat (over 85F) cancels. LORA 218-2105 & PHIL 218-2103 (VEN)

March 25-27  
CA DESERT WILDERNESS SERVICE Join Mojave Group and the CA/NV Wilderness Committee for our annual desert wilderness service project with wilderness staff Needles office of BLM. This year's destination is still top-secret at press time, but Turtle Mountains, Dead Mountains or Clipper Mts are all potential choices for some fun and useful restoration work, wilderness enhancement, and spring desert enjoyment. Central commissary, contact VICKY HOOVER 415-977-5527 or [vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org](mailto:vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org). (Mojave Group/CNRCC Wilderness Committee)

**Outdoor trail guides: SB & Ventura**

Hiking is such a popular activity in our Los Padres Chapter region (Santa Barbara and Ventura) that many sites offer information. They include:  
[www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf/)

Official Los Padres Forest website details all kinds of recreation.  
[www.hikelospadres.com](http://www.hikelospadres.com)

Los Padres Forest Association's Trail Guide.  
<http://santabarbaratrailguide.com>

The Sierra Club's official guide for Santa Barbara trails that includes our free outings, plus news, photos and club links. Established in 1986 as a book,

now online.

<http://www.independent.com/news/outdoors/day-hikes>

Newsy site for day hikes by the Santa Barbara Independent.

[www.sboutdoors.com](http://www.sboutdoors.com)

Trails, news, photos written and compiled by Ray Ford.

[www.santabarbarahikes.com](http://www.santabarbarahikes.com)

An interactive site and blog by Diane Soini.

<http://www.vcstar.com/news/vcs-outdoors/trail-guide>

Sponsored by the VC Star newspaper.

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

Includes news and links by Steve.

**Parts of forest closed in winter**

Scores of forest campgrounds, roads and off-road vehicle trails are typically closed for the winter months due to inclement weather and the potential for snow and rain. Closures may also be due to restoration of habitats.

While the winter season is an excellent time to hike the Los Padres National Forest, the public should always check with district offices for the latest conditions and consult the National Weather Service for current weather forecasts.

Here's the links:

[Monterey Ranger District](#)  
[Santa Lucia Ranger District](#)  
[Santa Barbara Ranger District](#)  
[Ojai Ranger District](#)  
[Mt. Pinos Ranger District](#)