

# Condor Call



© Photo by David Stillman

EVs power...Petro tanks...Energy choice...Forest Voice

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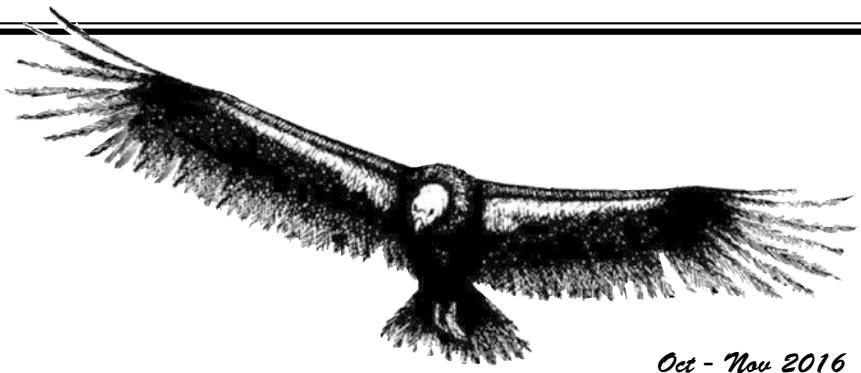
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# Condor Call

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



Oct - Nov 2016



## On the road with EVs

By John Hankins

The Sierra Club's participation in National Drive Electric Week was such a success that it drew hundreds of interested people, and they weren't just spectators, as some energized the events with purchases and promises.

Plus, it drew lots of publicity throughout the Los Padres Chapter's area, giving the Sierra Club a positive charge.

"Our goal was to encourage people to want electric cars — and encourage auto makers to produce them," said our Chapter's new Transportation Chair, James Reach, who organized EV events under the club's banner in downtown Solvang with the help of Mike Pace and Arguello Group Chair Rebecca August, who came in her Leaf, and Oxnard's Channel Islands Harbor with help from Lucille McElroy. The Electric Vehicle Advocates of Ventura County was instrumental in providing owners and their vehicles to both venues, including Kent Bullard.

"They were very successful events," he said. "Scores of interested, curious attendees both from local areas and tourists from all over the world came and learned about electric vehicles from the owners who were present."

Reach is one of those owners — a Tesla Model S with Autopilot — who was busy all day during the Oxnard event putting the Tesla through its paces, such as calling it to himself on cue with a smartphone app. (See photo above).

At the Solvang event on Sept. 10, city Mayor Jim Richardson — a Chevy Volt plug-in hybrid owner — came "and hung with us," Reach said, noting he was instrumental in having the council approve the first installation of a charge station in Santa Barbara County.

"This is the type of innovation paving the way to a fossil free future," said Third District Supervisorial candidate Joan Hartmann on her Facebook. She attended, driving her Tesla Model S. In all, there were ten fully electric

vehicles on display by owners at Solvang.

At the Channel Islands event the next day, Sept. 11, dealers also participated and at least two EVs were sold. Bolstered by being next to the popular Farmers' Market, there were 27 vehicles on display, including an amazing 1957 Mercedes 190SL and a Volkswagen Beetle converted to electric power. It also had one of the first street-legal electric vehicles in the US, a 1958 Sport Rider.

Plug-in hybrids were also a popular attraction as were an electric boat and bicycles.

Also on hand was Stan Cowen of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, passing out discount vouchers of up to \$2,200 off at participating dealers, who will also match that sum, amounting to up to \$4,400 off. Some vouchers may still be available; email [stan@vcapcd.org](mailto:stan@vcapcd.org)

Reach told the public "electric vehicles have remarkably good driving performance and acceleration, and no tailpipe at all." And they're becoming more practical; Reach said it takes 3½ hours and about \$10 to charge his Tesla at a plug-in inside his garage. A hybrid Prius owner, Phil Nemy of Ojai, drives his electric vehicle 80 miles to work in Glendale getting 50 mpg, and he can plug in at his work.

The events were covered by virtually all the newspapers in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, plus KEYT TV and KVTA radio, among others.

Anyone interested in learning more may email Reach at: [reach@101freeway.com](mailto:reach@101freeway.com)

### COVER PHOTO

Seven falls in all in the Matilija Falls complex, which can now be legally accessed thanks to an agreement with the property owners. And the Sierra Club will show it to you in a special guided hike; see story and picture next to the Nov. 19 listing in Outings. Photo by David Stillman.



## Gaviota Plan rules on tap

Following four public hearings at the planning level, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors expects to hear the important Gaviota Coast Plan on Nov. 8. The plan and schedule are at: <http://tinyurl.com/GaviotaPlan>

The plan provides policy direction for land use. In a joint letter, the Environmental Defense Center, Sierra Club, Naples Coalition and many others signed onto a letter urging the following principles:

- ~ Protect Gaviota's unspoiled biodiversity by ensuring wildlife habitats are protected.
- ~ Protect Gaviota from fracking, steam injection, and other unconventional enhanced oil and gas extraction technologies.
- ~ Ensure the Gaviota Coast Plan's policies are consistent with the Coastal Act.
- ~ Support local Gaviota farmers by allowing additional uses on agriculturally zoned land, such as farm stays and farm stands.
- ~ Ensure the Plan's policies protect informal access to and along the coast.



## EVs drive on

The old curiosities are becoming the new revolution with Electric Vehicles able to go over 200 miles with "a wonderful silence," said Sierra Club's James Reach, who is shown "commanding" his Tesla Autopilot to him with a smartphone app. "It's all the rage," said Tom Spence, DJ on KVTA, who was an initial skeptic. Some vehicles at the Oxnard event went back to the future, with a 1957 Mercedes converted to electricity 20 years ago, and a one-driver Sports Rider from 1964. (Photos by John Hankins)

# Meanwhile, back in ol' fossil fuel land...

By Fran Farina

**Venoco's Still Kicking** - As it prepares to emerge from bankruptcy, Venoco's new owner,



Apollo Investment Corp., seeks to recover its investment by gaining access into the South Ellwood

Field and processing the oil at the Ellwood Onshore Facility (EOF), located next to Haskell's Beach. This isn't Venoco's first attempt — Sierra Club fought an earlier iteration called "Full Field Development" which Venoco withdrew in 2010.

The latest sales pitch offers to

retire Platform Holly in 25 years rather than 40, the 52-year-old EOF and abandon the Paredon Project in Carpinteria.

Recall that Venoco's attempt to circumvent CEQA by proceeding with its Paredon initiative was overwhelmingly defeated by Carpinteria's voters in June 2010. Venoco filed a new application and its draft EIR was just released with a public hearing scheduled for Oct. 19, written comments due by Nov. 14.

On Sept. 20, Goleta's City Attorney told the council that an amortization study on the EOF's non-conforming use concluded Venoco recouped its investment in 2009. No action will be taken until Venoco emerges from bankruptcy, but it certainly sounded like the

council was ready to negotiate support for Venoco in return for certain guarantees.

Meanwhile, everything on this issue takes place in closed session and the public remains excluded from negotiations. The City Planning Commission will take public comment, though the purpose and process are unclear.

**Oil Train Pain** - It seems that even though Phillips 66 hasn't paid its bill to San Luis Obispo County for work on the rail spur project for mile-long trains carrying volatile crude oil, the Planning Commission went ahead with a Sept. 22 hearing.

Phillips 66 also withdrew its request for a six-month delay after a federal board ruled that federal preemption does not apply to oil

companies; however, if railroad facilities are constructed, local mitigation measures would be preempted.

In a related matter, the City Council in Benicia used the ruling to vote 5-0 against a Valero Refining Co. request for a rail transfer station, but the SLO Planning Commissioners were not persuaded and continued the matter to Oct. 5. The Commission appears to be split 2-2 and the swing vote remains uncommitted.

Union Pacific's slow compliance with implementing "positive train control" (PTC) was revealed in an August 2016 report concluding none of its locomotives nor miles are so equipped with. Only 7% of its track segments and 10% of its training have been

completed. Compliance dates are extended to 2018.

**Pacific Coast Energy's appeal** to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is set for Oct. 11, for approval of 96 new oil wells using steam injection. Staff is recommending denial; except for allowing emergency seep cans to address the ongoing seep problem.

Two additional oil projects in North Santa Barbara County are being monitored by Sierra Club. They include steam injection for ERG Cat Canyon for 233 wells and Aera Cat Canyon for 141 wells.

~ Fran Farina represents the Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter on the Santa Barbara Environmental Coalition which monitors all energy activity in the tri-county area.



A packed Goleta city council meeting on Sept. 20 showed that the Ellwood Onshore Facility has worn out its welcome and residents "overwhelmingly expressed their strong support for shutting down this 50-year old aging and dangerous oil processing plant on the beach," said Santa Barbara Sierra Club Chair Katie Davis. Read story on page 1. (Photo by Katie Davis)

## Oil spill info stifled

By Gerry Ching

An Oil Spill Response workshop was held on Sept. 21 with a particular emphasis on the 2015 Refugio (SB County) and the 2016 Grove (Ventura County) oil spills and focused on problems on how to better respond and inform the public.

This workshop presented a unique opportunity for each agency to share its experience with other agencies and for public-interest groups to discuss the problems encountered with dissemination of public information. Key topics included initial response, damage assessments, cost recovery and contingency plans.

Led by the state Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) and hosted by the SB County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), it included numerous local, state and federal agencies along with the Sierra Club, Environmental Defense Center, ForestWatch, among others.

One of the most criticized responses during the Refugio oil spill was the perceived lack of public information during the initial

days of the incident. This resulted in some of the public self-deploying to try to clean the fouled beaches. Several factors that contributed to this situation included public misunderstanding of processes, agencies which were overwhelmed and the structure of the Unified Command. A key recommendation was to fix these problems.

By law, the Unified Command consists of government agency reps and the responsible party. In the case of the Refugio spill, this placed Plains Pipeline in a prominent position which resulted in some inappropriate actions such as initially refusing SB County supervisors entry to the command center.

Similar situations arose during the June 23 Grove spill in the city of Ventura, which was initially reported by members of the public who were awakened by "a sickening smell." Ventura City Manager Mark Watkins was moved to declare the reaction by Crimson Pipeline "was not transparent or forthcoming," while a *Ventura County Star* editorial called the response a "pattern of wrong or incomplete

information..."

While public information is released by a Joint Information Center, a Santa Barbara County report recommends revising it in its "2015 Refugio Oil Spill After-Action Report and Improvement Plan," which is available for public comment. Go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/OilActionReport>

The OSPR workshop presentation and slides are available for download at:

<http://tinyurl.com/OSPRworkshop>

### 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://tinyurl.com/LosPadresSolar>

## EVENTS

**Oct 8: Earth Charter Awards** 3-5pm at Guthrie Hall, Ventura College honoring seven people, including Walter Fuller, volunteer steward of Ormond Beach, whose work is assisted by the Ventura Sierra Club and Audubon, among others. Details at:

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

**Oct 11: Oil update** by Kim Rivers, director of Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas (CFROG) at 7:30pm. at the Poinsettia Pavilion 3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura. It will have action update on the Crimson Grove pipeline spill that happened June 23. More details at:

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

**Oct 13: "Walking on the Wild Side"** stories about hiking experiences by women, sponsored by the AAUW; 6:30pm at Brimhall Library, Thousand Oaks. Call 449-2660 or go to:

[www.toaks.org/library](http://www.toaks.org/library)

**Oct 23: Santa Barbara WILD!** 3-6pm Honoring Congresswoman Lois Capps for the Wilderness Legacy Award. A benefit for Los Padres ForestWatch. Gourmet dinner, music, auction and more. For details call 617-4610 Ext 2 or:

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

**Oct 23: Raptor Open House,** the annual event by the Ojai Raptor Center dedicated to rehab and release of birds of prey. Meet the live birds and hear native stories from noon to 4pm at the Center, 370 Baldwin Rd. Ojai. For details go to:

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

**Oct 27: "Grizzly Bears, Biodiversity, and Fire in the Chaparral"** is the topic by Richard Halsey, director of the California Chaparral Institute ([www.californiachaparral.org](http://www.californiachaparral.org)) sponsored by the Santa Ynez Valley Natural History Society 7pm Veterans Memorial Hall, 1745 Mission Drive in Solvang.

**Nov 2: "Connecting Landscapes with Mountain Lions"** talk by wildlife ecologist Anthony Giordano sponsored by the Ventura Hillside Conservancy, 7pm. Wednesday, Nov. 2 at Poinsettia 3451 Foothill Rd. #201 Ventura. Details at:

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

# Mountains to sea is where we be

A lot of action on oil, energy, wildlife and publicity kept our volunteers busy. Here's a short recap of what happened during August and September:

**Oct 2: Annual potluck breakfast** at Shoreline Park with the Santa Barbara Group continues to be a "Baldwin," and it included an optional beach walk.

**Sept 27: NRG Power Plant** got an update at a California Energy Commission hearing in Oxnard, which is opposed by the city of Oxnard and Sierra Club, among others.

**Sept 24: Santa Clara River Symposium** in Santa Paula, organized by Nina Danza, chair of the Ventura Sierra Club and co-hosted with the Public Land Alliance Network.

**Sept 20: Wildlife Team** members for the Sierra Club California/Nevada area - chaired by our own chair Jim Hines, opposed a planned subdivision on the western Los Angeles county border with Ventura county which would destroy or block an existing wildlife corridor wildlife between the Simi Hills of Ventura county and the Chatsworth Peak area.

**Sept 20: Ellwood Onshore Facility** at 50 years old has worn out its welcome, judging by a packed audience who urged the Goleta City Council to order it dismantled.

**Sept 17: Huge turn-out** to clean up the Santa Clara River Parkway, organized by Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza, who reports 658 pounds of trash was taken by 75 volunteers aged 5-75!

**Sept 10 & 11: Electric Vehicle display** sponsored by Sierra Club in in Solvang and Oxnard's Channel Islands Harbor visited by over a thousand people, organized by James Reach.

**Sept 10: KVTA interview** with Nina Danza, chair of the Ventura Sierra Club about the important Santa Clara River Parkway. In a 15-minute

interview, she talked about the Sept. 17 cleanup and the Sept 24 symposium.

**Sept 8: Visitation** by Chair Jim Hines to the Sierra Club's new office in downtown Oakland where he met the Faces behind the Names and gave the Los Padres Chapter more visibility.

**Sept 3: PLAN** (Public Lands Alliance Network) heard Jim Hines give a talk to its conference in Santa Clarita. He spoke on the protection of our coastline and ocean ecosystems, notably the proposal for a new marine sanctuary and campaigns to protect marine mammals.

**Sept 1: Our legendary** Jerry Connor, who passed away on April 4, was remembered in the September issue of Words

### EAVESDROPS

"The most immediate effect of the 'secure fence' was environmental, as canyons were filled in and the haunts of mountain lions, wolves and jaguars were bisected."

~ Statement about the 670 miles of fence built at the US-Mexico border ordered by Pres. Bush in 2006 (at a cost of \$2.4 billion!), by author Kimball Taylor.

of the Wild, which is the club's newsletter for its Cal/Neva Wilderness Committee. Jerry was a long-time participant on that committee.

**Aug 14: Ventura County Star** publishes article urging Congress to support the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act (H.R. 4685), legislation that would safeguard nearly 250,000 acres of new and expanded wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plain National Monument, protect wild and scenic rivers, and designate the new Condor National Recreation Trail. Our chapter is active in supporting this important legislation. Info at:

<http://capps.house.gov/issue/central-coast-heritage-protection-act>



"King Sequoia: The Tree That Inspired a Nation" is a book by retired national park ranger William C. Tweed and he's going to talk about this fascinating history that "created our National Park system, and changed the way we think about nature." Sponsored by the Santa Ynez Valley Natural History Society it's free at 7pm Tuesday, Oct. 11, Veteran's Memorial Hall, 1745 Mission Drive in Solvang.

## Condor Call

<http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org> ~ All phone numbers 805 area code

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

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**Typography and production by Dan Fuller**



While individuals and businesses are busy installing solar panels, a concerted effort is underway for our tri-counties' area: Community Choice Energy. Sierra Club not only urges solar panels (in partnership with Sungevity, see link on page 2) it also backs CCE. Panels shown are being installed on Condor John's house (the editor of Condor Call), who gets a charge out being a clean-energy recipient.

## Choose the power!

By Mike Stubblefield

Community Choice Energy (CCE) is a novel approach to buying green energy and is enthusiastically supported across the nation, and now our own tri-counties area is conducting a feasibility study.

Think of CCE as a "co-op" for buying electricity. It introduces competition into the marketplace and offers customers a range of choices.

It is a new, but not brand new, way to provide electricity. Marin Clean Energy has now been operating successfully for six years and there are now four CCEs in the Bay Area, including San Francisco.

Santa Barbara County is the lead agency for the tri-counties and \$400,000 has been allocated for an initial feasibility study. On Sept. 20, CCE activists from all three counties met with Angie Hacker, Division Chief, and Jennifer Cregar, Project Supervisor, of SB County's Energy and Sustainability Initiatives.

Established by AB 117 in 2002, CCE empowers local governments to leverage the purchasing power of residents, businesses and public entities to purchase or generate power. CCE puts energy purchasing and pricing into the hands of local customers. A mix of renewables, efficiency incentives and clean energy programs helps achieve climate goals.

Since a CCE is accountable to the community it serves, not shareholders, all revenue is used to directly benefit customers.

If approved, the CCE program operator – known as Central Coast

Power – will set rates. PG&E or SCE will still deliver the electricity over the same power grid, maintain the grid, send bills and provide customer service. Most customers won't notice any change on the bill other than their current utility's electric generation charge being replaced by a CCE electricity supply charge.

The feasibility study, nearing completion, includes a thorough assessment of our region's expected future electricity needs, anticipated costs and impact on customer bills to set up this new public entity with 33%, 50% or 100% renewable energy content, among risk factors.

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

The SB lead agency website is: [www.countyofsb.org/sustainability](http://www.countyofsb.org/sustainability)

### emPower helps warm your home

With colder winter nights approaching, emPower Central Coast is inviting homeowners to two free workshops to learn how to keep your home warmer and more comfortable without wasting energy or water.

The program is jointly run by the counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo and offers incentives, financing and other practical services.

There are two workshops, both from 5:30 – 6p.m., on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at the Santa Maria Inn, 801 S. Broadway, and Monday, Oct. 24 at the Santa Ynez Valley Grange, 2374 Alamo Pintado Ave. Los Olivos.

Call 568-3566 or: [www.empowersbc.org/events](http://www.empowersbc.org/events)



Yosemite in the fall calls for thee, or any of the National Parks for that matter. Photo is by Ventura photographer Denise Dewire, whose images are now on the walls of Palermo's coffeehouse in downtown Ventura.

# Celebrating 100 years National Park service

By Carla Bollinger

*Editor's note: Carla is a member of the Los Padres Sierra Club and the Public Land Alliance Network (PLAN)*

Americans were fascinated with the West, not just as a pioneer-homesteading life change or seeking fortune in the Gold Rush, but also to visit and appreciate the great outdoors, the wild places, and raw beauty of the land beyond the Mississippi River.

The driving force for tourism of America's scenic wonders was the building of the great Transcontinental Railroad, 2000 miles of tracks with competing railroads. The Union Pacific tracks were built from Omaha to meet with Central Pacific's tracks built from Sacramento. The first railroad spike was pounded in 1863, before the end of the Civil War. The final "Golden Spike" was pounded in where the two railroad tracks met in Promontory Summit, Utah territory, May 10, 1869.

The railroad companies knew tourism would be a boon to their industry. It was a win-win situation for Americans, instead of a \$1,000 stagecoach trip, five to six months of arduous travel through inclement weather, mountains, expansive plains and deserts, and risk from attacks by Native Americans (understandably) and outlaws, they could reach the west coast

for \$150 for a first-class sleeper in five-six days.

On the Hayden Survey Expedition in 1871, artist Thomas Moran filled his art-sketch books and diaries with scenes and notes covering Yellowstone's natural wonders. President Ulysses S. Grant signed on March 1, 1872, the first national park, Yellowstone National Park. The Northern Pacific branch line built "the Park Branch" in 1883, for tourists to reach the remote Yellowstone National Park.

The railroads began promoting tourism with advertising campaigns, booklets, brochures, and posters. Even Sunset Magazine was founded, 1898, by the Southern Pacific Transportation Co. Their first issue featured an essay about Yosemite and headlined on the cover, "Yosemite and the High Sierra." The railroads were full-steam ahead promoting park tourism.

Galen Clark, was the first guardian, or Park Ranger, for Yosemite Park in 1866, when the state awarded a grant for the park creation. John Muir visited Yosemite in 1868 and began his campaign to further protect the park, inspiring President Theodore Roosevelt, to develop conservation programs. Muir, with other supporters, formed the Sierra Club in 1892. He was also instrumental in the creation of Sequoia, Mount Rainer,

Petrified Forest and Grand Canyon National Parks.

Republican President Theodore Roosevelt, known for trust-busting, was also an avid conservationist. He created the US Forest Service, five National Parks, 150 National Forests, 51 Bird Reserves, and in 1906 signed into law the Antiquities Act. Today he would have been labeled a "Liberal"!

After passage by Congress, President Woodrow Wilson, signed into law (August 25, 1916) the "National Park Service Organic Act" with the mandate, "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future Generations."

For information to visit and celebrate NPS 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, check out these websites:

~ Los Padres Sierra Club Chapter Outings schedule: <https://lospadres2.sierraclub.org>

~ US Forest Service for Los Padres Forest:

[www.fs.usda.gov/main/lpnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/lpnf)

~ Channel Islands National Park:

[www.nps.gov/chis](http://www.nps.gov/chis)

~ Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area:

[www.nps.gov/samo](http://www.nps.gov/samo)

~ State Parks:

[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

## A plethora of pollution pickers

When it comes to helping the environment, Ventura and Oxnard work as one.

Just look at who came to Coastal Clean Up Day (Sept. 17) at the Santa Clara River Gateway: 75 volunteers took out 648 lbs of trash that will never again pollute the river, estuary, beach and the ocean environment. That's 75 of all ages, all backgrounds, all faiths including kids from Sierra Linda School.

The cleanup was under the leadership of Nina Danza,

Ventura Sierra Club Chair, and Candice Meneghin of CalTrout and participants competed for the 'Most Unusual Thing Found.' Who won? The school kids who pulled out a BBQ? Oxnard City Corps that found a 2011 day planner? Or Girl Scouts who dragged out a car bumper.

The winner was the bumper pullers, but also the animals and plants.

Big personal satisfaction came to volunteers from Oxnard College, Foothill Tech

and many caring individuals. Reward was ice cream discount from Coastal Cone Waffle Co.



Clean-up volunteer lending a hand. (Photo by Nina Danza)

### Los Padres Group News

The public is welcome to our programs

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**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 Rebecca August, [RebeccaAugust@mac.com](mailto:RebeccaAugust@mac.com)

**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 11:30am 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. Email Nina Danza to confirm at [sierraclubventura@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubventura@gmail.com)



# Take a Hike!

## LOS PADRES CHAPTER

UPDATES: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>

### 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>

October 7

**PALO COMADO to ALBERTSON'S MOTORWAY:** Moderate 8 mrt hike, with 950' elev. gain. Bring lots of water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet no later than 8:30am at trailhead, on Sunnycrest off of North Kanan Road. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

October 8

**PLAYGROUND:** Explore the labyrinth of boulders forming a natural playground off West Camino Cielo. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Always a new route! Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

October 9

**TEQUEPIS:** Hike up to West Camino Cielo from Santa Ynez Valley. View of Cachuma Lake and the Pacific Ocean. Moderate-strenuous 8 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. CHRISTINE 708-5877 (SB)

October 10

**MONDAY MORNING WALK:** Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. to walk to Ventura Harbor on trail from Vons parking lot for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

October 13

**LOWER NEWTON CANYON TRAIL:** Moderate 5.4 mrt hike with 600' elev. gain. Rolling hike up and down the canyon including one crossing of the creek over a bridge, and views of the Pacific Ocean and the mountains. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. 101 Freeway to Kanan; west to the Newton Canyon parking lot just before the third tunnel. Meet at 8am in the parking lot at the trailhead. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

October 14

**OLD CABIN SITE - POINT MUGU STATE PARK:** Moderate 7 mrt hike with 1,000' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at the end of Wendy Road in Newbury Park at Potrero Trailhead in Newbury Park not later than 8:30am. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

October 15

**STEVENS PARK - JESUSITA TRAIL:** Hike across meadow and up wooded area to an inspirational view of Santa Barbara. Moderate-strenuous 8 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

October 15-19

**PANAMINT CITY BACKPACK:** Come assist Park volunteer Birgitta Jansen in assessing the state of backcountry cabins in Death Valley National Park. Meet Saturday evening at Chris Wick camp and pack up Surprise Canyon to Panamint City on Sunday. Monday and Tuesday, we will work with Birgitta on assessing the condition of the cabins. There will be time for exploring this historical area. Not a beginning backpack. There is water in the canyon, but it must be filtered. Be prepared to carry all the food and equipment needed for the trip, and help carry some measuring instruments. Contact leader KATE ALLEN, 661-944-4056 or [kj.allen96@gmail.com](mailto:kj.allen96@gmail.com) (CNRCC Desert Committee)

October 15-19

**PANAMINT CITY BACKPACK:** Come assist Park volunteer Birgitta Jansen in assessing the state of backcountry cabins in Death Valley National Park. Meet Saturday evening at Chris Wick camp and pack up Surprise Canyon to Panamint City on Sunday. Monday and Tuesday, we will work with Birgitta on assessing the condition of the cabins. There will be time for exploring this historical area. Not a beginning backpack. There is water in the canyon, but it must be filtered. Be prepared to carry all the food and equipment needed for the trip, and help carry some measuring instruments. Contact leader KATE ALLEN, 661-944-4056 or [kj.allen96@gmail.com](mailto:kj.allen96@gmail.com) (CNRCC Desert Committee)

October 16

**SAN YSIDRO - GIRARD TRAIL**

**LOOP:** We'll start at the San Ysidro trailhead. At the junction where the trail becomes a singletrack, we will follow the fire road instead to a high point where we will pickup the Girard trail. Near the end of the Girard trail, we'll take a lunch break at a scenic point. Return via the McMenemy trail. Moderate 4mrt, 1000 ft elev gain. Bring lunch, lots of water and sun protection. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

October 17

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

October 21

**WHITE LEDGE CAMP:** Experience close-up views of the Topa Topas and California fall colors on our steady uphill climb through Sisar Canyon and on to forested White Ledge Camp for lunch. Gain/loss 2,210', 9 miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, extra layer, and other 10 essentials. Rain cancels. Meet at 8 a.m. on north side of Santa Paula Veterans Memorial Park, 10th and Ventura St., (north of skate park area) for short carpool to upper Ojai or meet at general store at Sisar Road and Hwy 150 at 8:30am. We'll start at the store. TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

October 22

**ENNISBROOK:** Morning walk through this Montecito area with large trees and plants near San Ysidro Creek. Flat, slow paced 2-3 miles. Children welcome, bring water and meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

October 22

**FOSSIL TRAIL:** Moderate 7 mrt hike with 1200' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at Rancho Sierra Vista (Satwiwa parking lot in Newbury Park). From the 101 Fwy., take Lynn Road south towards ocean; turn left on Via Goleta before Dos Vientos

and drive to the end parking lot. LIZ MacGOVERN 494-6442 (CJ)

October 22-23

**GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA:** Celebrate Halloween by visiting the ghosts of California's colorful past in the eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp near the historic ghost town of Ballarat. Saturday, a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with historian Hal Fowler who will regale us with tales of this Wild West town. We'll return to camp for Happy Hour and a potluck feast, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. On Sunday, we'll tour the town of Ballarat itself before heading home. Send \$8 per person (check payable to Lygeia Gerard), home and work phones, email address and rideshare

sun protection. Binoculars may be useful! Light rain does not cancel. Great for kids with accompanying parent or guardian; no dogs. Homemade cookies and dog biscuits for all participants! This is one of a series of walks to raise funds for an outdoor table for Walter Fuller, resident docent of Ormond Beach. \$5 donation per person requested. Meet at end of Arnold Road (past Agromin 6859 Arnold Rd). Contact: NINA [prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com](mailto:prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com) (VEN)

October 24

**MONDAY MORNING WALK** Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. or at 9am at the end of 5th St. in Oxnard to do urban walk. For more info call Pat at 643-0270 (VEN)

### EAVESDROPS

**"They are staying in there, being supplied by horses and mules"**

~ Referring to firefighters camped for days fighting the July Pine Fire in the Sespe Wilderness, using hand tools rather than bulldozers in the rough backcountry, said Sue Exline, Los Padres' Ojai District ranger. Article in the **Ventura County Star** highlighted the work of animal crews. (Photo by Perry Van Houten)



preferences to Leader: LYGEIA GERARD, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372, 760-868-2179 assisted by MARGUERITE McGUIGAN. (Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

October 23

**ARROYO BURRO TRAIL - SANTA BARBARA SIDE:** Hike up Jesusita Trail to Arroyo Burro Trail. Long steep hike with great views of Santa Barbara and Goleta. Hike to spring for lunch. Very strenuous 11 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

**ORMOND BEACH PHOTO SCENES** 9am-11am. Want to photo the wetlands, coast dunes and past the surf for a good cause? Come along and learn nature photo basics. Nothing fancy, phone cameras welcome. Take home a mini booklet for future reference. Let's share pics online after on Ventura Sierra Club meetup or Facebook. Distance about 2 miles flat. Wear closed shoes; bring water, snack, and

October 29

**VENTURA BEACH HIKE:** 5 mile hike in sand from Channel Islands National Park Headquarters to area south of the Santa Clara River. Meet at park headquarters at 10am. Bring water and snacks. No reservation needed and no limit. KIM HOCKING 983-2147 (VEN)

**NORTH FORK of MATILJA CREEK:** Moderate 7 mrt Hike. This is a beautiful canyon with a running stream and not a lot of elevation gain. With luck we will have some Fall color. Bring water, lunch, and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am in Park and Ride at Thousand Oaks Blvd. and Wilbur adjacent to the Oaks Mall for carpooling. We will return to Thousand Oaks by late afternoon. JOHN HOLROYD 495-6391, JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061. (CJ)

**MISSION RIDGE:** Hike up Rattlesnake trail to the connector onto Tunnel. From there we'll take a primitive trail to a high ridge for a lunch break. From there we'll

*continued on page 5*

**Conditions**  
A number of campgrounds and roads in Los Padres National Forest are closed or have restricted (no autos) access due to protection of habitats and species or are under repair. Before you go into the local backcountry, it's a good idea to check conditions with rangers. Numbers to call (unless noted all are area code 805):

**Los Padres National Forest Districts**

Headquarters	968-6640
Ojai District	646-4348
Mt. Pinos	(661) 245-3731
Santa Barbara	967-3481
Santa Lucia	925-9538

**Other Areas**

Santa Monica Mtns. Area	370-2301
Concho Parks	381-2737
Simi Valley	584-4400
Montecito	969-3514

**Forest Notes**  
For updated information, news releases, maps, and many other goodies, go to Los Padres National Forest's website: <http://fs.usda.gov/LPNF>

**Regional Hike Info**  
There are a number of websites that give you information as varied as outings, trail profiles, wildflower alerts, trail work opportunities, and much more. Here's a few:  
<http://LosPadresSierraClub.org>  
[www.SBSierraClub.org](http://www.SBSierraClub.org)  
[www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com](http://www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com)  
[www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com](http://www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com)  
[www.LPForest.org](http://www.LPForest.org)  
[www.VenturaCountyTrails.org](http://www.VenturaCountyTrails.org)  
<http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

**Ongoing Outings**  
**Santa Barbara**

**Meetup** site by the Santa Barbara Group is a place for people to find all sorts of local activities, including hikes, and you can post or see photos too. Go to: [www.meetup.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara](http://www.meetup.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara)

Regular outings are every Wednesday and Friday nights and every Saturday and Sunday during the day.  
**Wednesday night:** Strenuous conditioning hike. Meet at 6:30 at the Santa Barbara Mission, Laguna and Los Olivos St.  
**Friday evening social hike** for an easy-to-moderate 2-4 mrt 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)  
**Saturday and Sunday hikes:** Usually meets at the Bank of America on Hope and State Street. Starting times vary. For detailed schedules and who to call, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/SB-Hikes>

**Ventura**

**Meetup** group is open to anyone to join and is a super handy calendar of the local official Sierra Club outings. Ease into fitness at beginner walks, get going on intermediate half or whole day hikes, or make new friendships on overnight backpacks. Just go to: [www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura](http://www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura)

**Every Monday morning.** Easy Walks: Join Pat Jump at 9 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.

**Trail Prints**  
... No two trails are the same  
**Attractive, Accurate and Easy to Read Hiking Trail Maps of the Front Country and the National Forest**  
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**Outings...continued**

loop back down to Rattlesnake. Moderately strenuous 7 mrt. Bring plenty of water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE THE EARLY START TIME! ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

October 30  
SAN ANTONIO CREEK TRAIL: Slow paced morning walk through the park and by the creek, 3 miles or so. Children welcome, bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

October 31  
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. or at 9am at Lake Casitas parking lot to walk to the lake and then to the "Bench". For more info, call Pat at 643-0270. (VEN)

November 3  
CHEESEBORO CANYON TRAIL: Moderate 4 mrt hike with 700' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. 101 Freeway to Chesebro off ramp, Agoura Hills. Meet at 8am in the Cheeseboro Canyon Trailhead parking lot off of Chesebro. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

November 4  
PALO COMADO to ALBERTSON'S MOTORWAY: Moderate 8 mrt hike, with 950' elev. gain. Bring lots of water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet no later than 8:30am at trailhead, on Sunnycrest off of North Kanan Road. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

November 5  
ROMERO CANYON LOOP: Hike up a trail with trees and a small stream to a lunch spot. Then down an abandoned road with a beautiful view. Moderate 6 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. CHRISTINE 805-708-5877 (SB)

PALO COMADO - CHEESEBORO LOOP: Moderate 7 mrt hike with 1000' cumulative elev. gain. Experience beautiful oaks and vistas. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet 8:30am at trailhead. From 101 Freeway go north 2.1 miles on Kanan Road, turn right on Sunnycrest, go 0.8 miles to the third Public Recreation Trail sign, just past Oak Springs Drive. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061

November 6  
GOAT ROCK TO WHITE ROCK: Climb up the hillside to Goat Rock proceeding on for lunch and magnificent views from Ranger Peak. Moderate-strenuous 7 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. Rain cancels. DIANE 455-6818 (SB)

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION SANTA CLARA RIVER 9am-noon. Do you like hands-on environmental tasks and doing something positive for the earth We got you covered! Sierra Club volunteers regularly work on riparian restoration at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA) which is 220 acres of the future Santa Clara River Parkway. It is undergoing transformation from degraded grazing lands to rich riparian habitat under direction of UCSB. Endangered bird species have returned already. Tasks include: invasive plant removal, native plant installation, nursery plant care. Wear long pants and closed shoes, bring sun protection and water. All welcome! Ages 14 and under need to be accompanied by parent or guardian. Ages 15-18 without parent/guardian MUST bring 2 signed waivers. Print and bring to the event:

Sierra Club waiver: <http://tinyurl.com/lk3qytz>  
UCSB waiver: <http://tinyurl.com/>

**UCSBwaiver**

RSVP requested. RAIN CANCELS! Other dates planned: 12/3, 1/8/17, 2/4/17, 3/5/17, 4/1/17. Directions to HRNA, 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 address, turn left onto dirt road between farmland to the end (about 1/2 mi). Contact: NINA [prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com](mailto:prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com) (VEN)

November 7  
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. or at 9am at Bates Beach for low tide beach walk for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

November 11  
REYES PEAK: Moderate 7-mrt hike to Reyes Peak in the Ojai backcountry. Although you will be climbing about 1,600 ft. in elevation, you will get to experience some great views of Piedra Blanca, the Sespe Wilderness and vistas all the way to the Channel Islands. Meet at 7:30am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between the Carrows Restaurant and Chase Bank). The Trailhead is an hour's drive from Ojai. Please bring - Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 qts of water, and snack/

**EAVESDROPS**

**"I'm the one picking up wildlife off the highways."**

~ Julia Di Sieno of the Animal Rescue Team in Solvang, responding to the news of six new tunnels under Hwy 246 between Buellton and Lompoc to allow salamanders and other animals to travel between breeding ponds and upland habitat. Thanks to CalTrans, which considers animals on the roads as a hazard, and state Fish and Wildlife which has the animals' welfare at heart.

lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or temperatures of over 85 cancels. LORA & PHILIP 218-2103 (VEN)

November 12  
DABNEY CABIN: Long car pool to Nira Campground, then a long nearly level hike down Manzana Creek to Dabney Cabin. Strenuous (due to distance) 13 mrt. 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)

November 13  
OSO CYN RIDGE LOOP: This is an exploratory hike midway between Lower and Upper Oso campgrounds. Great views of the Lower SY Recreation area. We will start on a long abandoned trail/access road and return via a ridge firebreak. Moderate, 3mrt, 800 ft elevation gain. Long pants highly recommended as parts of this hike may be through somewhat overgrown areas. Bring lunch, water and sun protection. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

November 14  
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)

November 18  
PINE MOUNTAIN LODGE: Come walk in a remote, high and beautiful area of the Los Padres National Forest. We'll start from the Piedra Blanca trailhead and pass through majestic hundred-foot-high white rock formations, then into the Piedra Blanca Creek canyon and on up to Pine Mountain Lodge (elev. 6,000'),

(with a slower pace on the steep part), where we'll stop for lunch. 13 miles round trip with an elevation gain/loss of 2,940 ft. Bring warm layers, water, lunch, sun protection, and the other 10 essentials. Meet at 7:30am at Seaward & Harbor carpool location to drive north of Ojai to Rose Valley. Rain cancels. For more info, contact TERESA at 524-7170. (VEN)

RAY MILLER TRAIL - LA JOLLA CANYON: Moderate 8 mrt hike with 700' elev. gain. Beautiful views of ocean and mountains. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at trailhead off PCH at 8:30am. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

November 19  
GIBRALTAR ROCK VIA RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to Gibraltar Rock. Moderately Strenuous 5.5 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283.

November 19  
MATILIJIA FALLS: Moderate-to-Strenuous 9-miles RT with 950 ft of elevation gain/loss. Let's check out the newly re-opened historic trail. This is a very picturesque hike up Matilija Creek to two waterfalls. The trail gets progressively harder with a lot of boulder hopping, scrambling and creek crossings. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes/ boots, bring 2 liters of water, snacks, and 10 essentials. Rain cancels. Meet at Vons on Seaward in Ventura at 8am. STEPHEN email: [scbryne@gmail.com](mailto:scbryne@gmail.com).

November 20  
JESUSITATRILTO INSPIRATION POINT: Walk through woods and meadows to a scenic view point. Moderate-strenuous 7 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. CHRISTINE 805 708 5877 (SB)

November 21  
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. to walk to Ventura Harbor on trail from Vons parking lot for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

November 25  
POINT DUME TO PARADISE COVE BEACH WALK - ZUMA BEACH: Join us for a peaceful walk along the waters' edge and to Paradise Cove (tide permitting). Some rock scrambling. Bring water, food and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at beach at 8:30am. Tide at 9am is 5.6 feet increasing. Take Kanan to PCH, turn right to Westward Beach road, drive down to end and meet across from Sunset restaurant. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623 (CJ)

November 26  
ULTIMATE HIKE: Very strenuous 17.5 mile hike. This up-and-down (5000') hike covers parts of 9 different trails on the front range. This is a fast paced hike for experienced, conditioned hikers only. Hike leader approval required. Plan for an all day trip. Wear good hiking shoes, bring lunch and plenty of water. Contact the hike leader for details. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

November 27  
BLUE PEAK: (3662', 11 mile round trip, 2700 ft elevation gain) Very Strenuous hike ascends Romero Canyon trail, loops over Blue Peak, and returns down the canyon trail. Blue Peak presents a panorama of coast and back country. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

November 28  
MONDAY MORNING WALK:



You are in for a free treat as our Chapter Outings Chair, Stephen Bryne, will personally be leading an outing to the Matilija Falls complex off Hwy 33 west of Ojai in celebration of a key public access point opening up after a legal battle. See the Nov. 19 Outing on this page for details. (Photo by Jim Duliakis)

## Access now legal to Matilija Falls

The highly popular trek to the seven Matilija Falls is now *legally* open and the Sierra Club has an outing planned on Nov. 19 so you can see this amazing area.

After many years of trying, a coalition of local trail users and conservation groups announced an agreement on Sept. 21 to restore permanent public access to the falls, which also launches the possibility to buy an 80-acre parcel along Matilija Creek for eventual transfer to the U.S. Forest Service.

"National forests are a public resource that should be accessible to all of us, and the community will now be able to access this majestic canyon in perpetuity," said Los Padres ForestWatch executive director Jeff Kuyper.

The pact was signed by the landowner, the Bonsall family, and members of a community association called Keep Access to Matilija Falls Open ("KAMFO") and filed in Ventura County Superior Court.

KAMFO will reconstruct one mile of the trail along its historic location east of the creek, install signs and remove illegal campfire rings on private property outside of the trail easement. The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy has agreed to

hold the easement.

The public has traveled the route for nearly a century, but in 2009, the landowner discouraged public access, leading to a 2015 lawsuit by KAMFO, represented pro bono by the firm Slaughter Reagan & Cole LLP.

"Thousands of people visit the three big waterfalls in Matilija every year, you say? Okay, but do they visit the seven big waterfalls in Matilija?" asks David Stillman on his blogspot He then goes on to reveal "at least four more major waterfalls further upstream, including the grandest of all, the Lost Falls."

The popular route that ends at the third waterfall, with its sheer surrounding amphitheater, is about a 9-mile round trip. After that it's really hard and hikers will encounter dangerous terrain, so don't hike it alone (very few people ever go beyond the third fall because of that).

The trailhead is nearly five miles along the Matilija Canyon Road off of Hwy 33 behind Ojai.

See the Nov. 19 Matilija Falls write-up in our outings section for details, which considers it a "moderate to strenuous 9 mrt hike."

Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am behind Ventura city hall at trailhead to walk uphill to the cross for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

December 3  
MISSION RIDGE: Hike from Tunnel Trail up to near the Rattlesnake Connector and then up a primitive 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 4  
ROCKY PINE RIDGE - SHORT ROUTE: From Camino Cielo, hike into this wonderful pine tree/rock region and skirt along the ridge line. Moderate with some boulder

hopping and agility required, 4mrt. Bring water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

December 5  
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at 45 Alto Drive in Oak View to walk to the creek for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

December 10  
LAKE LOS CARNEROS/STOW PARK: Bird watching hike for an hour or so through this neighborhood park. Bring your binoculars and/or cameras. We never know what we will see. Slow paced, flat 2-3 miles. Children welcome, bring water and meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

# Fall in love with autumn

*Editor's note: Our forest region alone is home to more than 468 fish and wildlife species, and with cooler weather, the fall and winter are prime times to experience its diversity. Be sure to take advantage of our free outings.*



## Greetings friends By Jim Hines

Ah, the loveliness of the Autumn season is upon us and what a great time of year to be out and about enjoying not only the great natural beauty of the Los Padres Chapter region, but also it is one of the best times of the year



Museum of Ventura County unveiled a new alcove honoring local activist Helen Yunker, which overlooks a background mural painted by artist Ryan Carr. Shown is one of the outdoor panels of a California condor. Photo by John Hankins)

for viewing wildlife.

Deer herds abound in the grassy fields of the Santa Ynez and Ojai Valleys, whales are abundant in the ocean waters of the Santa Barbara Channel, majestic Condors are soaring in flight over Mt. Pinos and chipmunks on Figueroa Mt. are gathering pine nuts for the upcoming winter.

Take a day trip out to the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge on the coast west of Santa Maria and be dazzled by an array of seals and sea lions resting on the beach as numerous sea birds fly overhead. This refuge is also home to the tallest sand dunes on the west coast.

Channel Islands National Park is a protected sanctuary where the world's smallest foxes thrive and abound. I can tell you that there is nothing cuter than an island fox dashing by you as you walk on the trails. Rare and unusual bird life is also found on the islands.

And if you are hiking in the Santa Monica Mountains, be prepared for some of the best wildlife sightings in our region. Who knows, you may even see one of the "ghost" cats, the mountain lions which roam the area. The last one I saw was in Cheeseboro Canyon Preserve a year ago. While I don't see many lions, I often feel their presence silently watching me, yet



Figueroa Mountain courtesy ForestWatch

respectful of my feelings of caring for them. I never feel in danger.

I often see bobcats on my hikes and walks; they study me, they watch me and then they just scamper away.

I cannot tell you how mesmerized I am when watching a majestic condor in flight; stunning, dominates the sky as they glide effortlessly, eyes trained upon the earth searching for carrion to feed on. And oh how I marvel at our many species of birds of prey, eagles, hawks, owls and falcons. They are the masters of strength and dominance in our natural world, keeping the balance of life intact.

We are also graced with birds of gentle beauty as well, snowy egrets, great blue herons, colorful woodpeckers and the serenade of songbirds when we are on the trail.

Yes our wild species dazzle us, as they should, and while the Los Padres Chapter has a number of campaigns to protect our great wild creatures, it is

also nice to simply be out and enjoying the beauty of our great natural world, which is their home.

For wildlife, wild and free

## We'll show you!

"Going to the mountains is going home," as John Muir explained. Do you wish you felt that way? Have you ever wanted to learn more about hiking, camping, and backpacking or improve your own wilderness skills?

Look no further! You've found the Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course. A dedicated staff of volunteer leaders will teach adults and teens the skills to enjoy the wilderness safely and comfortably.

Evening classes are held in Ventura in February and March 2017. The course serves people of all levels from beginners to seasoned hikers. For info call 524-7170, go to our Facebook at Los Padres WBC, or email to: [lospadreswbc@gmail.com](mailto:lospadreswbc@gmail.com)

Or visit the web:  
[www.LosPadresWBC.org](http://www.LosPadresWBC.org)