

Vol.'16, No. 6 of 6

Dec 2016 - Jan 2016

# Condor Call



Sespe Wilderness Falls photo by Zack Abbey



© Photo by Cara Peden

Prevailing... Teaching... Electing... Playing... Outings

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Armed with fresh bandanas, students of the Wilderness Basics Course learn how they can be used as tourniquets, sweat bands, water filters, food covers, wash cloths and fashion statements! (Photo by Arturo Hernandez)

## GAVIOTA COAST

# A Grand Plan prevails

After many years of work by county government and involvement by environmental groups, a long-awaited Gaviota Coast Plan was approved that should protect against leap-frog development but also enhance public access and recreation.

The Board of Supervisors approved the plan on a 3-2 vote on election day, Nov. 8, updating the 1982 Local Coastal Plan and zoning ordinances for the coast watersheds near the western Goleta boundary at Eagle Creek to Jalama Creek, north of Point Conception.

"We're thrilled that public trails and access are prioritized along this beautiful coastline. Given the terrible environmental impacts of the Refugio oil spill last year, it's also important that the plan calls for discouraging enhanced oil and gas recovery techniques such as hydraulic fracturing and steam injection," said Katie Davis, Chair of the Santa Barbara Group.

The coast is one of the last undeveloped stretches of coastline left in California, and has certainly "faced a barrage of development pressures. Without sustained and costly effort initially led by Selma Rubin and carried on by Gaviota Coast Conservancy and others, the Gaviota Coast would have been transformed long ago," commented GCC Board Member Phil McKenna. The Sierra Club has long been part of the Conservancy.

Still, "much more needs to be done," commented Michael Brown, president of the GCC. The Coastal Commission must approve the plan within the coastal zone areas, the county needs to implement various measures and there are still development proposals up-coast from the Ellwood area.

Supervisor Doreen Farr is given credit for launching this latest effort with the formation of the Gaviota Coast Planning

Advisory Committee (GavPAC) in 2009. She made the motion to approve the plan, which got the needed votes from Supervisors Janet Wolf and Salud Carbajal.

Some of the benefits include:  
~ A streamlined permitting process for small scale agricultural endeavors,

~ Enhanced protection of public view-sheds and access,

~ Reaffirming the importance of the Coastal Trail and inland access,

~ Innovative design guidelines for appropriate development,

~ Prohibiting construction of a very large development on the Cojo-Jalama Ranch, north of Point Conception.

In sum, Brown concluded that the plan "establishes an important framework for future actions that affect our irreplaceable Gaviota Coast." To keep apprised of current and future issues, go to:

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

## Join an adventure

The Los Padres Chapter is again offering its wildly popular Wilderness Basics Course, starting from Feb. 8 through March 29, and what a joy it is to learn with like-minded people in lovely outdoor settings.

WBC is a comprehensive training for people at all levels of fitness from teens to adults who want to enjoy and explore the wilderness through hiking and backpacking.

**Warning:** This could change your life!

### EAVESDROPS

**"Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life."**

~ John Muir, co-founder of Sierra Club.

"The WBC taught me many important skills to take my passion even further," said one of last year's students who already had experience, Alison Dernbach. "I feel confident with my gear and knowledge to tackle more challenges. Plus, I made some great friends and explored some awesome local areas!"

A dedicated staff of experienced

leaders share their expertise and teach students the skills to enjoy the wilderness during eight classroom sessions and several exciting outings.

Eight classes will be held on Wednesdays from 7 - 9:30pm, from Feb. 8 through March 29. Classes are held in Ventura and will cover equipment, wilderness first aid and safety, weather, water filtration, wilderness ethics, cooking, navigation and clothing, among many other topics.

Students will gain practical experience via day hikes, car camp, and backpacking trips in our local mountains. All these outings offer students a choice of difficulties ranging from low to moderate to strenuous ... your choice!

Early Bird registration prices last through Jan. 25. This course has sold out for two years in a row, so sign up now! Discounts are available for Sierra Club members, students and couples.

"I love that we're building a community of knowledgeable hikers and backpackers in this area and I love the willingness of the staff to share their unique expertise," said Teresa Norris, who created our WBC with the first class in 2009 after two year of planning starting in 2007.

For more details go to: [www.lospadresWBC.org](http://www.lospadresWBC.org)

You may also call (805) 524-7170 or email:

[lospadreswbc@gmail.com](mailto:lospadreswbc@gmail.com)



Advocating for the environment is hard work and never-ending, but eminently satisfying, given the Sierra Club's long and successful history with coalitions. Two examples are lobbying to protect the Gaviota Coast (above, photo by Dave Pierce) and a show of support in a Santa Barbara rally against building the Dakota pipeline under the Missouri river, which was halted in early December. (Photo by Katie Davis)

# Resist ~ Recruit ~ Train ~ Sustain

**By John Hankins**  
Editor, Condor Call

A new strategy was adopted by the Sierra Club National Board of Directors to combat a massive shift in our nation's direction against protecting our environment due to the election of Donald Trump and Co.

The four pillars are: Resist, Recruit, Train and Sustain.

Locally, the Los Padres Chapter will actively embrace those four aspects. Chapter Chair Jim Hines said, "we know the threats from the incoming Trump Administration are real

and will have a negative effect right in our region." Efforts by an environmentally hostile presidency may include:

~ Stop the progress to protect federal waters offshore, notably the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary proposal. "Already Secretary of Commerce designate Wilbur Ross has stated he intends to defund the national marine sanctuary program," Hines said.

~ Not move any current public land protections or wilderness bills, which places legislation in jeopardy affecting the proposed

Rim of the Valley corridor and Los Padres National Forest proposals.

~ Increase in offshore oil leases being put out to bid, which could include the Santa Barbara Channel, and loosening of regulations.

~ Generally weaken clean air, climate change and clean water regulations.

~ A hostile U.S. Attorney General may stop or weaken all enforcement of our nation's environmental laws.

~ Legislation to privatize our public lands across our nation, including the Los Padres National

Forest, may find traction in the 2017 Congress.

"Our national Sierra Club staff believes our best chance is in the U.S. Senate with some moderate Republicans," Hines said, who plans to revisit Capitol Hill this coming Spring to lobby for Sierra Club values.

Ventura Sierra Club Chair, Nina Danza, was already supporting National's pillars well before the election. "The engagement of new volunteers is what I've heard is one of the most dire needs expressed by ExCom and Ventura members over the last

couple years. A well thought out plan for what to do to retain the new blood is extremely important. Even better is giving a task at the initial meeting and FOLLOW UP."

*continued on page 2*

### COVER PHOTO

Adventure awaits below and above the horizon when you join us in our annual Wilderness Basics Course beginning in February. It is fantastic; read the article this page and see application page 5. Shown is a scene from last year's course approaching 19 Oaks Campground. (Photo by Cara Peden)

# Oil not leaving

By: Fran Farina

**New Eyes on Venoco** ~ With the election of Kyle Richards and Stuart Kasdin, Goleta City Council has a new majority to look at terminating Venoco's Ellwood Onshore Facility and proposed expanded slant drilling in the South Ellwood Field. Venoco has yet to emerge from bankruptcy so no additional action has taken place since our last report unless in closed session.

**No Phillips 66 Oil Trains** ~ Yet ~ San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission denied Phillips 66 Rail Spur Project in early October.

Phillips 66 appealed to the County Board of Supervisors, but no hearing date has been set. In a surprising move, Phillips also filed a lawsuit challenging the denial. Normally, this would not occur until Phillips completed the administrative process that includes the BOS hearing.

**One Down, Three to Go** ~ In north Santa Barbara County, we had a major success at the Board of Supervisors rejecting the Pacific Coast Energy Company's proposal for up to 144 new wells (see story this page).

Next up is ERG's 230-well project in Cat Canyon; a Draft EIR could be available in early 2017. Another oil project by Shell and Exxon/Mobil under the name AERA Cat Canyon proposes



Nearly 100 people packed the house for the Santa Barbara Group's annual Holiday Party Dec 3rd. Chair Katie Davis gave a rousing talk on "Our Ocean's Future" highlighting threats, but also California victories banning plastic bags, winning elections and leading on climate. Former Assembly member and incoming SB County Supervisor, Das Williams, said we must vigorously resist Trump. Join our email list at [www.sbsierraclub.org](http://www.sbsierraclub.org) (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

141 wells. An application from 2015 by Petro Rock for 230 wells remains incomplete.

**Refugio Oil Spill Update** ~ The Plains All American Pipeline responsible for the oil spill at Refugio remains shut down. Plains continues to investigate pipeline anomalies. There is no plan for moving forward yet and all offshore platforms that rely on the pipeline are also shut down.

**Progress in Summerland** ~ The current timeline for remediation of the abandoned Becker well calls for a scoping plan in 2017 with actual remediation in 2018. That's the good news. The bad news is that the cost has probably doubled and we'll need to work to secure more funding in the next State budget.

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



# Big oil project denied

By Katie Davis

Chair, SB Group

A big onshore oil project in Santa Barbara's North County was rejected 3-2 by the Santa Barbara County Supervisors Nov. 1, partly because the company has a history of oil seeps and explosive well casing failures. In fact, it was No. 1 in spills last year out of over twenty oil companies operating in the county.

It's the first large onshore oil project rejected by the county in years and the hearing -- on appeal from a Planning Commission denial -- was packed with pro and con. The Sierra Club played a big part in opposing the project, along with the Environmental Defense Center, SB-CAN, Center for Biologic Diversity, and Food and Water Watch, among others.

Pacific Coast Energy Company (PCEC) wanted to drill up to 144 new cyclic steam injection oil wells on Orcutt Hill. The Planning Commission rejected it due to the numerous significant and unavoidable impacts to water quality and endangered and sensitive species. Staff sited PCEC's current steaming operations, which have resulted in 99 oil seeps requiring emergency permits, and other problems. An environmental review concluded it could cause additional seeps and spills into creeks and watersheds; and various alternatives did not eliminate those impacts.

The Supervisors voted 3-2 against the project. Supervisors Doreen Farr, Janet Wolf and Salud Carbajal agreed with the Planning Commission's denial. Two of the North County Supervisors, Steve Lavagnino and Peter Adam, voted for the oil company's plan. More speakers were opposed, with 28 speaking against versus 19 in favor, and the county also got more letters and calls against the project from the community.

PCEC employees and union representatives spoke in favor of the project, citing the value of construction jobs and the area's tradition of oil development.

# Matilija Dam gets funding

The Hewlett Foundation has granted \$175,000 to the Matilija Coalition for writing grant proposals to help pay for getting rid of the Matilija Dam near Ojai, which will help bring the sand to beaches and enhance the Ventura River.

Also, State Coastal Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board are also providing funding for several projects along the Ventura River and for Matilija Dam removal. And our friends at Channelkeeper are asking for support to restore flows to the Ventura River; follow its new social media campaign, #ResurrectTheRiver,

# Resist...

continued from page 1

Danza suggests posting a volunteer item calendar of things to do, such as clean-up days at places such as the Santa Clara River or Lizard's Mouth. Also, attending city and county hearings to speak or support others who do by holding signs and staffing tables at events with sign-up sheets. Other ideas include a writing group to draft articles and letters to media and photographers at events to post on social media, in addition to Condor Call.

Nationally, the Sierra Club is gearing up "to build our movement into the strongest it has ever been," wrote Club President Aaron Mair and Executive Director Michael Brune to members.

In poetic terms, they declared: "While a lone tree might be blown over by a single huge gust of wind, a forest, with our roots intertwined, can withstand the strongest storm."

They also noted the "incredible support that has poured in," such as 80,000 unsolicited new members since the election (totaling over 2.5 million), monthly donations are up and response has been positive to a new Team Sierra Club site that accelerates grassroots and national activism at:

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

### What you can do:

~ Contact your local group (see Group News box on page 7) to become more active and use your particular talents to help out.

~ Can't be an active volunteer? Then donate to fund our activism at:

<http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org>

~ Ask friends, family and co-workers to join the club -- it's only \$15 online at:

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

~ Turn your passion into action, be it hiking, running, fresh foods, surfing, writing, political knowledge, etc.; go to the Team Sierra Club site to find out how.

~ Already belong to an environmental group? Then let's explore partnerships to become stronger together.

# Donors make it happen!

Please accept an immense thank you to every one of you who contributed money throughout the year, making it possible for all of us to be catalysts of change. And a similar thank you to all who volunteered your time.

While we only ask you once per year during our March Appeal, you can contribute anytime, and the simplest way is online. Just click on the 'Donate' link at our website: <http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org>

You may also contribute via a check to: Los Padres Sierra Club, PO Box 31241, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241. To support our effective action programs (not tax-deductible), make a check out to "Los Padres Sierra Club," and for a tax-deductible donation, make it out to "Sierra Club Foundation."

Following are contributors since the summer months who have not been listed previously.

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Preserve the Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering Sierra Club in your will. There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

Sierra Club  
Gift Planning Program  
2101 Webster St.  
Oakland CA 94612  
[gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org) • (800) 932-4270

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<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**

# Help spend VW scandal funds

*Editor's note: To ensure you are in the loop to help advocate for cleaner air via the electric vehicle revolution, send a note to our Transportation Chair James Reach: [reach@101freeway.com](mailto:reach@101freeway.com)*

**By James Reach**

Santa Barbara and Ventura County residents have a chance to advocate for appropriate use of money coming from the Volkswagen diesel scandal settlement money.

The Sierra Club believes one of the best uses will be to encourage consumers to convert from petroleum-powered (diesel and gasoline) passenger vehicles to electric vehicles that have zero tailpipe emissions. The money will come from the "Environmental Mitigation Trust," at \$2.7 billion nationwide, with \$280 million allocated for California.

Starting next year, a tidal wave of settlement funds to lower pollution through the betterment of our transportation infrastructure is on the horizon and will hit our shores very soon. We need to be at all the appropriate allocation meetings of our local governments and special districts to ensure the funds are spent optimally.

Volkswagen knowingly incorporated cheating computer systems that ran emissions controls during smog testing from 2009 to 2016, but did not run those controls during normal vehicle operation, affecting nearly 500,000 diesel-powered vehicles. The emissions spew 15 to 40 times more NOx than is permitted under EPA standards during normal driving. In 2015, the Environmental Protection



Agency filed a complaint against Volkswagen with other parties.

Volkswagen agreed to spend up to \$14.7 billion for remediating NOx emissions. Most of this money is going to vehicle buyback and modification programs (\$10 billion) for affected consumers.

The rest, \$4.7 billion, goes towards NOx reduction programs under two separate funds: The ZEV (zero emission vehicle) Investment Commitment (\$2.0 billion), of which California will be allocated \$800,000 will be administered by Volkswagen under legally-enforceable guidelines to use the funds to increase the use of ZEV technology.

The second fund -- called the "Environmental Mitigation Trust" -- is more important because we, as Sierra Club environmental advocates, will have the opportunity for public input. This fund is \$2.7 billion nationwide, with \$280 million allocated for California.

Our Sierra Club Electric Vehicle Initiative Program is asking each of us to be involved in providing public input at the

appropriate times to advocate for programs that encourage drivers to convert from petroleum-powered (diesel and gasoline) to zero (tailpipe) emission electric vehicles, and to set up a widespread charging network along our streets and highways.

It also advocates such conversions for public transit such as buses, and encourages private-sector diesel-powered semi-trucks to go all-electric. Further, ports could provide plug-in electricity so that vessels don't run their diesel engines while docked.

The mitigation money could also be used as matching funds for the federal Diesel Emissions Reduction Act that is already going to local governments and special districts.

The Sierra Club asks that we totally advocate for electric vehicles and their infrastructure, rather than jurisdictions using the mitigation money for compressed natural gas, hydrogen fuel cell and diesel powered vehicles. For more detail, go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/VolksSettlement>



Chapter leaders attending the Sierra Club's convention were inspired by club president Aaron Mair and others with a strong new united front against impending Trump anti-environmental policies (see page 1). "We truly walked away with a great charge of energy," said our Chapter Chair Jim Hines. Our conventioners included, (seated from left): Mike Stubblefield, Leslie Purscell, Martha Sadler and (standing from left) Terry Frewin, Elizabeth Lamar, Fran Farina and Jim Hines. (Photo contributed)

## Leaders apply within

Be a nominee or nominate a member to serve on the Los Padres Chapter's Executive Committee. It's where you can really make a difference and help build a legacy of good work. Just contact our Vice-Chair David Gold at 805 642-7748 or email: [davidgold4@aol.com](mailto:davidgold4@aol.com)

# Here's a taste of what we do

No doubt volunteer efforts will gear up since the election of a president who has no record of caring for the environment. But the Sierra Club does and has been doing clean-ups, restorations, rallies, outings and political actions all along. Join us (see story on page 1). Meanwhile, here's a taste of our usual activism during the last few months:

~ Dec 3: **Riparian restoration** at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area, 220 acres of the future Santa Clara River Parkway, a big volunteer effort led by UCSB and Nina Danza of the Ventura Sierra Club.

~ Nov. 20: **Must see peek** exploring the 2,700 acre "playground" on the American Jewish University's Brandeis-Bardin Campus located in Simi Valley. Our members went and noted the public is also invited during the third Sunday of each month.

~ Nov 20: **Major clean-up** to the Tar Creek area led by Forest Ranger Heidi Anderson, which included numerous Sierra Club members: our Outings Chair Stephen Bryne, Wilderness Basics Course founder Teresa Norris, backcountry explorer Suzanne Tanaka, and Jake Fallor. Backcountry writer and KVTA radio personality Perry Van Houten was also there to spread the word.

~ Nov 19: **Matilija Falls celebration:** About 35 people participated in our outing celebrating a new, legal access that has taken years to negotiate.

~ Nov 19 & 20: **Standing Rock:** Members of Sierra Club joined hundreds at a rally and march down State Street organized by Keep It Clean SB to express solidarity for Standing Rock and the tribes opposing the Dakota Access Pipeline. The next day we attended a similar rally was in Ventura.

~ Nov. 15: **Pesticide hearing** drew our members to protest the use of pesticides around schools,

held at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center with the CA Dept of Pesticide Regulation.

~ Nov 12-13: **Statewide convention** of Sierra Club California in SLO, attended by our Chapter officers who spoke about our statewide campaigns for marine life and organic agriculture, among other topics.

~ Nov. 12: **The Valley Sierran** (San Fernando Chapter newsletter) printed our Chair Jim Hines' piece on "America's Election Impact on Environmental Protection," listing him as the SoCal Organizer of the Club's Wilderness Team. He noted: "we are preparing our offense..." (see story page 1).

~ Nov. 6: **Riparian restoration** in which Sierra Club was a major player in getting volunteers, notably teenagers, for event at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area along the Santa Clara River. Thanks to Nina Danza for organizing it!

~ Nov. 1: **Oil wells rejected** by a 3-2 vote of the Santa Barbara County Supervisors. Sierra Club opposition was a key to stop an Orcutt Hills project asking for 144 new wells despite its history of leaks and spills. After the vote, we rallied in support of Salud Carbajal for Congress.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Kamala Harris visited Santa Barbara during a campaign stop Nov. 1 and a Sierra Club banner was prominently displayed behind her on TV!

~ Oct. 23: **Ormond Beach** photo hike helped raise funds to purchase an outdoor table for resident docent, Walter Fuller, organized by Nina Danza.

~ Oct 8: **Earth Charter Awards** honored seven people, notably Walter Fuller, the onsite resident docent at Ormond Beach.

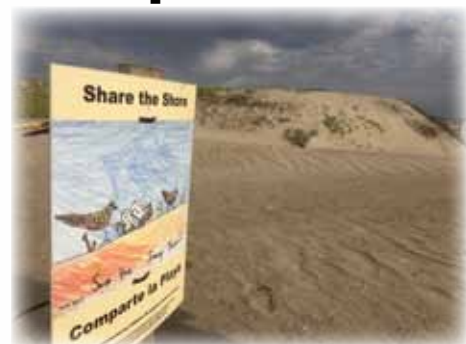
~ Oct 2: **Annual potluck** picnic and beach walk sponsored by the Santa Barbara Group carried on a years-long tradition.

~ Compiled by Condor John

## Meet up at the beach



### Join the club



An Ormond Beach photo hike helped raise funds to purchase an outdoor table for resident docent, Walter Fuller, organized by Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza. See Jan 29 in Outings for her next photo adventure. (Photo by Nina Danza)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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**YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:**

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Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



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Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
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Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 2250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible if they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your item includes \$ 7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club, PO Box 401041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

F94Q **W-1000** 1



**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 8  
**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 341-6295, JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061.** (CJ)

December 9  
**FOSSIL TRAIL:** Strenuous 6.1-mile loop hike with 1650 ft. elevation gain and loss. Hike will follow Boney Mountain Trail linking up with Fossil Trail and then returning via Upper Sycamore Canyon. Hike features panoramic views of Sycamore Canyon, Newbury Park and Oxnard plain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soiled shoes. Hiking poles suggested. Meet at Satwiwa end parking lot (left on Via Goleta from Lynn Road and continue to end parking lot by rest rooms) at 8am. **SEAN COLE venturacoles@gmail.com** (VEN)

December 10  
**LAKE LOS CARNEROS/STOW PARK:** Bird watching hike for



Out Wilderness Basics Course offers some welcome adventures, such as this dusting of snow on Mt Pinos for our Sheep's Camp outing last year. Don't worry, WBC will prepare you for any kind of weather; join the class starting in February (see story page 1 and application on page 5. (Photo by Jean Paul Tummeler)

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)

**TOPA TOPA BLUFFS ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK:** Strenuous 16-mile out and back hike with 4,487 ft. of elevation gain to Topa Topa Bluffs (elev. 6,300 ft.). Leader will be hiking at a moderate pace. 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 trailhead at 6:30am. Parking limited so may have to park at the market on Hwy. 150 and walk one mile to trailhead. (Cars on road to trailhead 4WD only.) Rain cancels. Leader: **SUZANNE TANAKA, 218-8613** (VEN)

**BONEY MOUNTAIN - POINT MUGU STATE PARK:** Moderately paced strenuous 8.5 mrt hike with 2300' elev. gain. We will hike to summit. Bring water, food and lug-soiled shoes. Meet at Satwiwa end parking lot located off Lynn Road at Via Goleta (left turn) before Dos Vientos in Newbury Park at 8am. **LIZ MacGOVERN 494-6442.** (CJ)

December 11  
**CATHEDRAL PEAK/LA CUMBRE PEAK:** From Mission Creek hike up to Cathedral Peak, steep and rocky in places. Continue up to La Cumbre Peak for lunch. Views

include "Three Pools" and the full coastline. Pass by an echoing canyon. Return down Tunnel trail. Strenuous 8 mrt. Some agility needed. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. **ALEJANDRO 898-1240** (SB)

December 12  
**MONDAY MORNING WALK:** Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza parking lot or 9am at Lake Casitas parking lot to walk to the other side of the lake. For more info call Pat at 643-0270 (VEN)

December 14  
**MASH SITE - MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK:** Moderate 5 mrt hike to the Mash Site with 500' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soiled shoes. Meet at 8am at the Ronald Reagan Ranch parking lot off Cornell and Mulholland. Take the 101 Fwy. to Kanan Road, make quick left at Cornell Road, cross Mulholland Road and quick left into dirt parking lot. **FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590.** (CJ)

December 16  
**NORDHOFF PEAK:** Strenuous 10.5 mile one-way hike in Ojai front country. Starting at the Cozy Dell Trailhead off Hwy 33, you will climb about 3,000 ft to reach Nordhoff Peak, where we will have lunch. Then we will continue across the ridge with splendid views on both sides of the Peak to eventually head down the Howard Creek trail to its end in Rose Valley near Hwy 33. This hike is not intended for beginners

or those not used to significant elevation gain with long mileage. Meet at 7:30am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between the Carrows Restaurant and Chase Bank). In order to leave at least one vehicle at the Howard Creek TH for the end of the hike, there will be an hour's drive (half hour each way) before starting on the Cozy Dell trail. Please bring - Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 qts of water, and snack/lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or temperatures of over 85 cancels. **LORA & PHILIP 218-2103** (VEN)

December 17  
**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)

December 18  
**CARRIE'S HIKE:** (7.5 mile round trip with 2300 ft elevation gain) Moderately strenuous hike (with some steep sections) visits cool riparian trails and beautiful coastal vistas. It connects Cold Spring East, Hot Springs, McMenemy and Saddle Rock Trails, forming loops at each end. 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)

**CHORRO SPRING:** Strenuous 8.6 mrt with 2500' elev. gain. Bring water, lunch and good hiking shoes. Meet at 7:30am in the far east end of the Oaks parking lot, or 9am at the trailhead on Highway 33. To reach the trailhead continue north on Highway 33 about 22 miles beyond Ojai. The trailhead is signed on the right. Park on the

*continued on page 5*

# Can't see forest for the fees

## Big Changes for Forest visitors

*Editor's Note: Large-scale changes are in effect across the Los Padres Forest with cost increases, discounts, reserve system and so much more. Thanks to ForestWatch, which has created a list of all the popular public sites in the Forest, and compares the previous costs and rules with the new ones now in effect.*

**Required reading! at:**

<http://tinyurl.com/LPNFchanges>

Brace yourself ... To consolidate the six Los Padres National Forest concessionaires, the Forest Service has selected Parks Management Co. to become the sole concessionaire, already in effect November 1.

This is where it gets a little painful, as some of the sites you've been using for free or as part of the Adventure Pass program are now going to be managed by Parks Management and will cost quite a bit more to use. Campgrounds like NIRA, Pine Mountain and Chuchupate that used to accept a \$5 Adventure Pass, are now going to charge \$20/night. And certain trailheads like Upper Oso and NIRA, which also used to either require a \$5 Adventure Pass or were free, are now going to cost \$10/day to park. Ouch.

Most of it translates to more cost for the forest-user but hidden in the new program are some good changes as well. Some additional tidbits include a \$50 annual day use pass that is good across the forest; Adventure Pass remains in effect at select sites, and an online reservation system is in play for some campgrounds, while others retain first-come-first-serve. (Info from Bryan Conant, ForestWatch).

## EAVESDROPS

**"How nice it was this morning (after election) to hear one of our staff members arrive at the office with wet hair and a big smile on her face, with the most important news of all: Surf's Up!"**

~ Hillary Hauser of Heal the Ocean, urging all to reject apathy, don't give up hope and continue "good work that sends reverberations up the political ladder."

**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**  
  
**805-708-1421 • www.trail-prints.com**

**Outings...from page 4**

left by a large mound of dirt. We'll return to Thousand Oaks about 4:30pm. HUGH WARREN 341-6295, mail@hkwarren.net. (CJ)

December 19

**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)

December 21

**CHEESEBORO CANYON TRAIL:** Moderate 4 mrt hike with 700' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at trailhead at 8am. Exit 101 Fwy at Chesebro Road, continue to T, turn left and drive over the Fwy turning right at Chesebro Road and drive 0.7 mile to parking area on right and continue to inside parking lot. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

December 25

**GAVIOTA PEAK/TRESPASS LOOP:** Moderately strenuous 7 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2200'. Get ready to see eye-popping views up and down the coast. We will ascend the fire road to the saddle and return via Trespass trail. We will hike at a moderate pace or about 2 miles an hour and stop at the saddle for snacks, returning to the trailhead at about 2pm. This is a fairly steep ascent so cardio conditioning is recommended. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring 2 liters of water, snacks, and personal first aid. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net or 563-0349 (SB)

December 26

**MONDAY MORNING WALK:** 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)

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 Monica=s. 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 mail@hkwarren.net, JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061. (CJ)

**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 2

**MONDAY MORNING WALK:** 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)

January 4

**PIUMA TRAIL:** Moderate 5 mrt hike with 600' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am. Exit 101 Fwy at Lost Hills Road, right turn to Las Virgenes Canyon, left turn

into the small parking area on the corner of Piuma and Las Virgenes Road. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590. (CJ)

January 6

**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)

January 7

**HELL'S HALF ACRE:** Hike from Cachuma Saddle up a dirt road to interesting rock formations. About ten miles round trip. Moderately strenuous. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME! DIANE dianesoini@gmail.com (SB)

**SIMI PEAK TRAIL:** Moderate 6.5 mrt hike with approx. 1400' elev. gain. Bring water, food and lug-soled shoes. Meet at trailhead on Lindero Canyon Road ½ block east of King James Court at 8:30am. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061. (CJ)

January 8

**LOON POINT BEACH WALK:** We'll start just south of Summerland and walk the beach to Santa Claus Lane Beach. Return via Padero Lane. Great views of the SB Channel and elegant beach estates. Easy 4 mrt. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

**SANTA CLARA RIVER:** 9am-noon. How many chances do you get to make the environment whole again? Here's one! Come work on riparian restoration at Hedrick Ranch Nature Area: 220 acres of the future Santa Clara River Parkway. Under direction of UCSB marine science lab, HRNA is undergoing transformation from degraded grazing lands to rich riparian habitat. We will be doing any of a variety of tasks such as: invasive plant removal, native plant installation, nursery plant care. Wear long pants and closed shoes. Bring sun protection, snack 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. RSVP requested. RAIN CANCELS! Other dates planned: 2/4/17, 3/5/17, 4/1/17. Directions to Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (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 20395 S. Mountain Rd, turn left onto dirt road between farmland to the end (about 1/2 mi). Contact: NINA, sierraclubventura@gmail.com. (VEN)

Sierra Club waiver: <http://tinyurl.com/lk3qytz>  
UCSB waiver: <http://www.ehs.ucsb.edu/files/docs/rm/WaiverElecActivities.pdf>

January 9

**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)

January 13

**SULPHUR MOUNTAIN ROAD:** Moderate-to-strenuous 10 mile one-way hike up or down Sulphur Mountain Fire Road. Depending on which way you choose to walk the road, you will either gain or lose 1,900 feet over the ten miles. This hike is not intended for beginners. Sulphur Mountain Road is a well-maintained fire road gently sloping to its highest point of 2,300 ft. above the valley floor. The lower section winds goes through an oak forest, giving way higher up to cattle grazing land. From some points along the road, you will see Lake Casitas, the Channel Islands, the Oxnard plains, and even Ojai. Meet at 8am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between the Carrows Restaurant and Chase Bank). Two groups: one to start in Casitas Springs at 400 ft level; the second group will drive to upper end of Sulphur Mtn Road and start from there. Car keys will be exchanged when the two groups meet on the road!). Please bring - Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 qts of water, and snack/lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or temperatures of over 85 cancels. LORA & PHILIP 218-2103 (VEN)

January 14

**DIVIDE PEAK:** Very strenuous 13 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 bring layers accordingly. For those coming from Santa Barbara meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 7:30am (note early start time) to arrange carpool to trailhead. For those in Ventura meet 8am at Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

January 15

**ROMERO CANYON TO BUENA VISTA BENCHES:** Short but steep 3 mrt morning walk to hidden benches. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

**NORDHOFF PEAK VIA THE PRATT TRAIL:** Strenuous 10.6 mrt with 3500' elev. gain. Bring water, lunch and snacks and good hiking shoes. Meet 7am in the far east end of the Oaks parking lot, or at the Pratt/Foothill trail head at 8:15am. To reach the trailhead from the main street in Ojai go north on Signal Street. Just before the end, veer left. Parking and the trailhead are next to the Stewart Canyon Debris Basin. We'll return to Thousand Oaks about 4:30pm. HUGH WARREN 341-6295, mail@hkwarren.net. (CJ)

**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 16

**MONDAY MORNING WALK:** Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza

## Fire threat, regs lesson

Rainfall amounts across Los Padres National Forest have provided sufficient moisture levels to reduce fire restrictions which were severe during the drought.

Now, campfires and charcoal barbecues will be allowed in all developed campgrounds, but dispersed fires of any kind outside of Designated Campfire Use Sites are prohibited. A list of such sites are at:

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

Still, a free campfire permit is required to use portable lanterns or stoves using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel outside of developed campgrounds. Download the permit from the forest's website.

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)

January 18

**ROSEWOOD - ANGEL VISTA:** Moderately easy 3.5 mrt hike with 800' elev. gain. Views of Conejo and Hidden Valleys, the Oxnard Plain and Santa Cruz Island from the top of Angel Vista. Bring water and wear lug-soled shoes. Take the 101 Fwy to Ventu Park Road south, make a right turn on Lynn Road, and an immediate left turn on Regal Oak, or take Lynn Road to Regal Oak. Park and meet in the cul-de-sac at 8am. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590. (CJ)

*continued on page 6*

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. Classes are held from 7-9:30 p.m. in Ventura, February 8 through March 29.

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 8, 2017

[lospadreswbc.org](http://lospadreswbc.org)  
[facebook.com/lospadresWBC](https://www.facebook.com/lospadresWBC)  
[lospadresWBC@gmail.com](mailto:lospadresWBC@gmail.com) • (805) 524-7170



#### 2017 Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Sierra Club Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about WBC? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Course Fees — Register before January 25 to receive an early bird discount!

	Early Bird	Regular
Single Sierra Club member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$160	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Couple Sierra Club members	<input type="checkbox"/> \$285	<input type="checkbox"/> \$312
Single non-member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	<input type="checkbox"/> \$191
Couples non-members	<input type="checkbox"/> \$315	<input type="checkbox"/> \$345
Student with photo ID	<input type="checkbox"/> \$135	<input type="checkbox"/> \$148

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



On Nov. 19 Outings Chair Stephen Bryne led an outing to Matilija Falls, celebrating a newly-opened legal access. Despite the large crowd and exuberance, we're showing a quiet moment with Ryan Fabel. Bryne had help from Kristi Kirkpatrick and Teresa Norris. Here's his report: "We had a record-breaking 35 people show up. The weather was fantastic with temps in the 70s. A good time was had by all. A local resident proclaimed that she could now 'scratch this hike off her bucket list' as it was a hike she had wanted to do for many years. People came from as far away as Orange County, the San Fernando Valley, and the Santa Ynez Valley to attend. A number of people commented that the hike was challenging due to the boulder hopping and creek crossings." (Photo from Meetup)

#### Outings...from page 5

January 21  
GAVIOTA PEAK: Walk past the hot springs, then up to a 2,400 foot peak for lunch and a sweeping coastal view. Long drive. Moderate 6 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DIANE [dianesoini@gmail.com](mailto:dianesoini@gmail.com) (SB)

#### EDITOR'S PICK

January 22  
CANINE HIKE RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Hike up a beautiful wooded canyon with scenic views to meadow. Mostly shaded trail. Moderate 4 mrt, 1000 ft. elevation gain, optional 1 1/2 mile extension up and back to Gibraltar Road. Well behaved dogs welcomed and encouraged; must be leashed. Bring snack and water for you and your canine companion. Hikers without dogs welcome too. Meet at B of A parking lot at 9am. Hike limited to five dogs - please call to reserve your dog's place. Rain/fire cancels. Call if you have questions. SALLY 689-7820 (SB)

January 23  
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at Shelf Road in Ojai to do large square. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

January 28  
COLD SPRINGS TO E. CAMINO CIELO: Hike up through a canyon with trees and a stream, then up a trail along the side of Montecito Peak to E. Camino Cielo for panoramic views of the south coast and the back country. Strenuous 9.5 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

January 29  
RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to Gibraltar Rock. Moderate 5.5 mrt. Bring a snack and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

BEGINNER NATURE PHOTO ADVENTURE: 9am-noon. Want to get more likes? Take better pictures! Walk through the Santa Clara River 'Secret Garden' while practicing photo composition basics. Good native plants, critters and scenery expected! This is one of a series of photo adventures to raise funds for equipment at the Ormond Beach Arnold Road entrance. Phone cameras welcome. Take home a mini instruction booklet for future reference. Donation requested for the outing \$5. Total distance about 2 miles, no elevation change, but two river crossings likely ~2 feet deep. Wear closed shoes; bring water, snack, and sun protection. River crossing footwear optional (no

flipflops). Rain forecast cancels. No dogs please. Park and meet at the end of Mission Rock Road past Pick the Part (950 Mission Rock Road). Contact: NINA, [sierraclubventura@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubventura@gmail.com). (VEN)

January 30  
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza parking lot or 9am at Lake Casitas parking lot to do circle by the lake. For more info call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

February 3  
DIVIDE PEAK: Very strenuous 12 mile round trip hike with 3,200 ft. of gain from the Matilija trailhead. Although the beginning of the trail is on well-maintained fire road or trail, when you begin the climb to the peak, it will be over rough terrain. Lunch will be on the Peak. This hike is for experienced hikers only. You will enjoy great views of Ojai and Lake Casitas. On a clear day, all 8 Channel Islands are also visible. Meet at 7:30am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between the Carrows Restaurant and Chase Bank). Will require a 30-45 minute drive to the trailhead in Ojai. Please bring - Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 qts of water, and snack/lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain or temperatures of over 85 cancels. LORA & PHILIP 218-2103 (VEN)

February 4  
SWEETWATER TRAIL: A hike from the Bradbury Dam lookout to the Lake Cachuma County Park. We'll explore a portion of the park before retracing our steps. Easy 5 mrt. Bring a light lunch and water. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Email me ([gching@cox.net](mailto:gching@cox.net)) for instructions. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

February 5  
CATHEDRAL PEAK DRAGON BACK: Start at Tunnel Trailhead toward Seven Falls. Make steep climb to the base of the Cathedral Peak Spine. Moderate but difficult 4 Mile Round Trip. Possible 1200 foot gain with lots of boulder hopping. Bring water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

February 11  
HIDDEN MEADOWS - HIKE and BRUNCH: Moderate 4.4 mrt with 560' elev. gain. Wonderful views of the Santa Monica Mountains., Simi Valley, the Oxnard Plain and Channel Islands. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet 8:30am at the trailhead at end of Falling Star Avenue cul-de-sac. Take 101 Fwy, to Lindero Canyon to left turn at Kanan, to right turn at Falling Star. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590. (CJ)

## GREETINGS FRIENDS

# Our past inspires the future

By Jim Hines  
Chair LP Chapter

Greetings, Friends

The land which makes up the Los Padres Chapter region (Ventura and Santa Barbara counties) is filled with inspiring stories. Our past comes alive in the stories of our land. To walk in the footsteps of those who walked before us is to truly walk in appreciation of hardships, sorrow, joy and a passion to live.



The stories which my ancestors have told me over the years (I am a 5th generation of my family to be born in the Ojai Valley) fascinate me. Their sharing of their struggles, their hard work on the ranch and the emotional connection with the land (now part of Lake Casitas) play a big part in my life.

We are so fortunate to be able to visit and learn from a number

## No Fillmore hike access

*Editor's note: This letter to the editor to the Fillmore Gazette was written by our Wilderness Basics Course founder, Teresa Norris, about limited access to historic trails. Other letters to the media may help affect change; write to: [info@fillmoregazette.com](mailto:info@fillmoregazette.com) or [letters@vcstar.com](mailto:letters@vcstar.com)*

To: Fillmore Gazette editor,

I was deeply saddened to learn that they have fenced off the end of Grand Avenue near Fillmore, where I have been accessing the Sespe Creek to hike to Devil's Gate for many years.

Other cities, such as Ojai, have more hiking trails every year. But each year Fillmore has fewer places where people can walk in our natural areas. Now there are practically none.

Decades ago, people used to be able to hike up Pole Creek or to the top of San Cayetano Mountain, for which a local school is named. But now, private property blocks the access to the Los Padres National Forest from these areas.

The Tar Creek area in the Sespe Condor Sanctuary is also closed, due to the trash people were leaving in Tar Creek and the hazard it poses to the condors. This closure I understand, but it is one more area not accessible anymore.

Another area I used to hike was up Santa Paula Peak, where the owners of Diamond Ranch kindly let us walk through their property in Timber Canyon. But since the ranch was sold a couple of years ago, the new owners will not allow access anymore to this spectacular hiking trail.

The one place left to hike near Fillmore is the Dough Flat trailhead, which is closed in the winter and spring, and is a 45-minute drive from Fillmore.

We can see the mountains that surround our town, but we can't get to them.

Teresa Norris  
Fillmore resident

of historical and cultural sites in our region. Feeling the challenges of the first nations peoples, the Chumash Nation as they tell me about the ancient ones who paddled out from the coast to the Channel Islands in their tomols (canoes), an event which is enacted each year amazes me and captures my heart. I wonder what emotions and feelings these proud people had as they expressed themselves through their rock art, such as the Painted Cave site off San Marcos Pass.

It is so important that we today learn from the past by preserving the past.

History does come alive in our own backyard:

What strength the first women pioneers had as they homesteaded in the vast loneliness of the Lockwood Valley. Where is the treasure buried by Mexican bandit Joaquin Murrieta? Is it in the Ojai Valley, Lockwood Valley, will we ever know?

The Mission period saw Spanish explorers de Anza and Portola lead expeditions in our region in the late 1700s, leading to establishing the mission system, locally in Ventura, Santa Barbara and Santa Ynez.

Then came the rancho period where vast areas were divided up. The great grassland valleys of Santa Maria, Santa Ynez, Conejo and Ojai become lands of cattle and agricultural crops, along with our offshore Channel Islands. Ah ... the stories the Channel Islands can tell us of pirates, smugglers, cattle barons, castaways and romance, learn about it at the Channel Islands National Park visitor center in Ventura Harbor.

## Votes OK locally

The top of the ticket (Donald Trump) was the Sierra Club's worst nightmare, and his appointees as of press time are a rude awakening for the environment's sake; however, the Club's endorsements in our Los Padres Region came out very well. Here's the scorecard, thanks to our political co-chair Fran Farina who compiled the results.

Kamala Harris won the U.S. Senate seat, while we got two of our three endorsees in the House: Salud Carbajal (24<sup>th</sup> District) and Julia Brownley (26<sup>th</sup> District). Unfortunately, Bryan Caforio (25<sup>th</sup> District) lost to a Republican.

The two State Senators we endorsed both won handily, Hannah Beth Jackson (19<sup>th</sup> District) and newcomer Henry Stern (27<sup>th</sup> District). For State Assembly, two of our three endorsees prevailed: Monique Limón (37<sup>th</sup> District) and Jacqui Irwin (44<sup>th</sup> District).

As for the State Propositions, Sierra Club encouraged a YES vote on four and all won handily. They are: Prop 56 (Cigarette Tax), Prop 58 (Multilingual Education EdGE), Prop 59 (advisory to nullify Citizens United) and Prop 67 (Plastic Bag Ban).

Our endorsed County Supervisor in Santa Barbara's 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Joan Hartmann, won which retains a 3-2 edge in that county. However, Carla Castilla

My family took ownership of the vast Rancho Santa Ana in the western Ojai Valley in the late 1880s. As I walk the land today -- it is now owned as a wildlife and open space preserve -- the emotions, feelings and memories which pour out of me as I see that land as it was, a land which nurtured, challenged and gave strength to the ones who came before me.



Historic Chumash images at Painted Cave off San Marcos Pass.

Now with our lingering drought, Lake Casitas is lowering and my past comes alive: the road which is emerging as the lake recedes is the road I walked on as a kid. A giant, now dead, oak tree which is also now visible as a tree I tied my pony to as a child.

We have a number of local historical sites in our region which are open to the public; take time to visit them and learn how those who came before us struggled, lived and worked. Connecting with our past connects us to ourselves.

lost in Ventura's 3rd District after being pummeled by \$150,000 in outside oil money. The loss narrows what has been a pro-environment edge on the Board.

Voters agreed with our endorsements for Goleta City Council, Stuart Kasdin and Kyle Richards, and Carpinteria City Council voters were also on board, giving the nod to Fred Shaw.

But in the North County, Santa Maria City voters rejected our endorsees: Hector Sanchez and Terri Zuniga, keeping it comfortably conservative.

Bases were loaded for our Goleta Water District favorites as all three reached home base, in order: Lauren Hanson, Bill Rosen and Rick Merrifield. However, endorsee Charles Newman lost in his bid for Montecito Water District.

In Ventura County, our top priority was SOAR (Save Our Agricultural Resources) which had both a county and various city initiatives to renew to 2050. Most faced competing initiatives that were less protective, backed by agricultural interests. But SOAR won handily everywhere, in the County and cities of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Oxnard, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and Ventura, a lot of them with 70 percent or more of the vote!

# Choose Santa Barbara Group Leaders



**JIM TAYLOR**

Jim Taylor's passion for photography led to a career in printing, developing software and starting his own company called Carpe Data.

In 2011 he spent a year traveling around the U.S., visiting 33 states, national parks and friends. Carpinteria was the family's first stop and their last. They loved the beachy town and downsized to a small house a block from the ocean. Jim started a neighborhood Nextdoor web site that serves as a communications channel for 175 neighbors in Concha Loma.

They won first place in the Carpinteria Valley Water District's 2014 Water-Wise landscaping contest for their water conscious front yard. Jim serves as Vice

## EAVESDROP

**"This is conservation today: habitat, water, air quality, ecosystems - viewed through the lens of climate solutions with an eye toward justice for all."**

~ Statement from the Sierra Club Foundation broadly defining what it funds. Help them out, tax free; go to:

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

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 boardmember 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.

## Help the owls

The native burrowing owls are in danger of being evicted from their warrens to make room for large scale land developments.

You can help them stay by emailing the director of the CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Charlton Bonham, to suspend the "passive relocation" of burrowing owls in California. Email is: [director@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:director@wildlife.ca.gov)

Thousands of burrowing owls throughout California are affected by this regulation, including Santa Barbara and Ventura areas. Those living within the Los Padres Forest are safe, but not those on private and other lands. The policy allows developers to set up a so-called door in the entrance to the underground burrows which allows them to leave, but NOT return so that homes can be built on the owl's natural habitat.

## 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 3 (THREE) people, including write-in option if you wish**

In alphabetical order: 1<sup>st</sup> member 2<sup>nd</sup> member

Catherine Mullin \_\_\_\_\_

Martha Sadler \_\_\_\_\_

Jim Taylor \_\_\_\_\_

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.)

President of the Carpinteria Valley Association and chairs the Energy Committee, which tracks oil and gas development as well as solar and conservation issues.

Jim has fought polluting new oil projects in Santa Barbara County, contributing expertise in graphics, communications and technology. You may contact him at: [jim@carpedata.com](mailto:jim@carpedata.com)



**KATE MULLIN**

I have represented the club on the executive committee since 2012 and have found that our local Sierra Club does indeed make a difference. To wit: we recently worked hard at helping elect local politicians and officials who, like me, believe environment protection issues are paramount. I have been happy to serve on behalf of our county's environmental voice and I will continue helping our Santa Barbara Sierra Club respond to local environmental concerns.

Now more than ever our commitment to saving our planet and human rights must include activism and work. The next few years will be a fight against forces that wish to take these fundamentally important protections away. I will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of your local Sierra Club Group to keep our environment healthy and progressing towards 100 percent clean energy.



**MARTHA SADLER**

I have gleaned powerful lessons about affecting policy to favor climate-friendly energy production and sourcing from the other members of the executive committee over the past two years. I will fight for sustainable energy to be generated locally -- where hawk-eyed local environmentalists can keep tabs on it. As ever, my foremost priority remains the protection of wild things and wild open places, from the mountains to the ocean. But maintaining connections to nature even inside the urban footprint, for people who are asked to live in increasingly dense built environments, is another of my chief concerns.

# Choose Conejo leaders

## 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. You may photocopy or cut this ballot from the Condor Call.

**Mail ballot before Dec. 31 to:**  
Conejo Group, Sierra Club, 106 Quails Trail, Thousand Oaks, CA 91361

**Vote for NO MORE THAN 3 (THREE) persons, including the write-in option if you wish.**

In alphabetical order: 1<sup>st</sup> member 2<sup>nd</sup> member

Hugh Warren \_\_\_\_\_

Liz MacGovern \_\_\_\_\_

Ellen Sanders \_\_\_\_\_

Write in candidate if desired: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write in your Sierra Club member ID # (from your Condor Call mailing label or your membership card) \_\_\_\_\_

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

# 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 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:mail@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 under Ventura Sierra Club

~ New MEETUP site for hikes, outings and other fun stuff in Ventura County: [www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura](http://www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura)

~ Ventura Network Meetings first Tuesday of the month at REI in Oxnard 7-8:30pm. Email Nina Danza to confirm at [sierraclubventura@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubventura@gmail.com)

# Choose Arguello leaders



**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 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.



**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.



**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

## 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 4 (FOUR), (Including write-in option)**

In alphabetical order: 1<sup>st</sup> member 2<sup>nd</sup> member

Rebecca August \_\_\_\_\_

Janet Blevins \_\_\_\_\_

Doris Connor \_\_\_\_\_

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)



**SIERRA CLUB**  
LOS PADRES CHAPTER  
P.O. Box 31241  
Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241

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# Condor game is based in reality

Saving endangered species is not a game -- until now -- thanks to a broad collaboration of agencies creating a reality-based game using actual conservation practices applied by the California Condor Recovery Program.

Players act as zookeepers, field biologists and veterinarians; incubate California condor eggs, release chicks into the wild and establish their own flock.

Called “*Condor Country*” the new mobile game is free to download for both Android and IOS devices, and is listed in the App Store. Check it out, but ensure you read the beginning tutorial; more info at:

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

While the basic game is free, proceeds from optional in-game purchases will help continue the Santa Barbara Zoo’s programs. It was developed through a

collaboration of the Zoo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Cerberus Interactive, but the one who hatched the idea first was Aaron Marshal, the zoo’s Director of Education.

“There is no win or lose in the game; it is about establishing a wild condor flock capable of raising chicks and producing more condors,” said Dr. Estelle Sanhaus, the Zoo’s Director of Conservation and Research. “But just like in real life, there are losses. Condors die from lead poisoning, eggs are infertile. But the California condor can be saved, despite setbacks. If the condor can do it, then other endangered species can. That’s our message.”

“It’s a really powerful and unique tool ... trying to achieve a self-sustaining population,” said the man who knows, Joseph Brandt, head of the Fish and Wildlife Service’s condor recovery program. It is the



first game that simulates such a program.

While it’s available now for anyone in the world to play, locals will recognize the actual locations used in the game: the Sespe Condor Sanctuary, Big Sur and the Grand Canyon. You may also recognize some of the characters, said the Zoo’s Julia McHugh, such as the Benefactor, “based on local legend Jan Hamber, and the vet looks suspiciously like Zoo condor keeper Carol Hunsperger.”

A companion study guide will aid teachers in the classroom or players wanting more information. Players are also able to earn special golden feathers to speed up game play by opting to learn more about condor conservation.

“We are revolutionizing the way that people can connect to endangered species and to the people working to save them,” predicted Paul Souza, the Southwest Regional Director of Fish and Wildlife Service.

California condors, North

America’s largest land bird with a wing span reaching nearly 10 feet across, have teetered on the edge of extinction since the 1960s. In 1982 there were only 23 birds alive. They were captured and nurtured in zoos and the population now numbers about 450 birds, over half of whom are now flying in the wild.

\* \* \*

*Editor’s note: Out in the field, expanding the release sites of California condors into coastal northern California and southern Oregon is under consideration.*

## 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/SClubSolar>



This shot was taken in 2013 by a nest camera that was used by biologists to monitor chicks and adults, and inform the creators of Condor Country.