

Vol.'17, No. 5 of 6

October - November 2017

# Condor Call



© Photo by Bill Dewey

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Persistence ... Victories ... Elections ... Rubble Rousers ... EV show  
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# DC missteps a 'mess'

By Jim Hines, Chair  
Los Padres Chapter

After four days in Washington DC for the Sierra Club (my third trip this year) I've got to say what a mess we are in!

The people I met with are opposed to national public land protections and even favor eliminating national parks, monuments and other public lands. They included members of Congress and staff of the Trump Administration and Department of the Interior.

They do not see eye to eye on issues such as protecting YOUR national lands.

While most members I met with listened to what I had to say about the importance of protecting America's public lands, some were down right rude and I got endless lectures about how "the U.S. Government is illegally occupying

the land". But there are chips in this wall of opposition and many staff members were quite helpful to me.

Meetings with Interior staff were also along the lines of "national public lands were meant to be used for their highest economic value". Interior is totally beholden to oil and gas industry and the mining industry under Ryan Zinke's control.

Regarding the national monument review which so many of you took part in, Interior staff told me that those will be released over time without any public event, except perhaps for the President dramatically reducing the size of two monuments in Utah, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante.

The Administration is also working on reducing protections and funding for national public lands.

"As Interior Secretary, Zinke is supposed to protect our air and water -- but now, that's up to us. We're ready to fight this handover of our public lands to looters and polluters -- on Capitol Hill, in the courts and with the grassroots," said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.

"We have the American people on our side -- remember, more than 2.8 million people submitted comments during Zinke's 'review' of these monuments," Brune continued, promising to fight "with more determination than ever."

To contribute to the cause, go to: [www.SierraClub.org](http://www.SierraClub.org)

## EAVESDROPS

"I am so proud of the Los Padres Chapter as today (Sept. 13) in Washington DC Sierra Club national staff (Greg Casini) used our Los Padres Chapter work and campaigns as an example of how chapters can work to make a difference. In the room were chapter leaders from all SC chapters and national staff."

~ Jim Hines, Los Padres Chapter Chair

# Trump 'Waiver Wall' draws court suits

A coalition of national conservation groups filed suit Sept. 14 against the Department of Homeland Security challenging border wall construction activities that threaten wildlife and public lands in San Diego and Imperial Valley, California.

A section of a 2005 Homeland Security act gave unprecedented power to waive any federal, state, or local law to construct roads and barriers along the border. This waiver has now been invoked six times to construct roads and barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The new lawsuit challenges the constitutionality of applying the act towards replacing existing border wall construction and building prototypes. The Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife and Animal Legal Defense Fund filed the lawsuit.

"These waivers greatly endanger communities in the borderlands. This blatant disregard for effective and well-established

safeguards harms hard-working families, threatened and endangered wildlife, and critical natural resources -- all of which are essential to the region," said Dan Millis, director of Sierra Club's Borderlands Program.

Defenders of Wildlife also warned that Trump's proposed wall would "bisect and isolate important Southwestern landscapes, pushing borderland wildlife like Peninsular bighorn sheep, jaguars and ocelots to the brink of extinction. The border wall serves as a negative symbol of exclusion and fear and sends the wrong message to those pursuing the American Dream."

Los Padres Chapter Chair Jim Hines noted a separate lawsuit has been filed by the Center for Biological Diversity. "Our good friend and former Environmental Defense Center attorney Brian Segee, who now works for CBD, has been working with the Sierra Club on this issue."



Oh dear! Border wall cramps wildlife, butt .... the heads of national conservation groups, including Sierra Club, filed suit Sept. 14 against Homeland Security challenging border wall construction that threaten wildlife and public lands in San Diego and Imperial Valley, California.



## EVs power to future

Thomas Edison had an electric car, why not you? Jacob Merkord, 14, is on board for sure (he's the one waving from the passenger door of his parents' Tesla), and he represents the Next Generation that likely will see alternate vehicles overtake high-pollution gasoline cars. See story back page on the EV show cosponsored by Sierra Club and CEC.

(Photo above by John Hankins)



## SIGHTINGS

# Work, play for environment

The Sierra Club persists, nationally and locally, as shown by these actions taken by the Los Padres Chapter over the last few months, ranging from sponsoring an Electric Vehicle show to our Chair Jim Hines lobbying in Washington DC.

But while we're busy working for the environment, it's important that we also play there. Take a nature break, by yourself, with friends or join our free outings.

Sept 25: **Record Setting** Facebook post went National! Crafted by SB Group about Santa Barbara City's divestment from banks that deal with oil and gas and especially Dakota pipeline. That single post was picked up and now has 50,000+ views and 100 shares! "Great to see our local city providing inspiration to activists across the nation," said Group Chair Katie Davis, who was responsible for the post.

Sept 24: **Annual Potluck** breakfast by the Santa Barbara Group is a long-time tradition held at Shoreline Park with a hike on the beach! Did you miss it? Too bad, see you in Sept 2018.

Sept 19: **Divest Dakota** was the cry against having our government entities invest in fossil fuel projects. Santa Barbara City Council voted to adopt a socially responsible investment policy.

Sept 16: **Santa Clara River**

Gateway about a mile up from the beach had scads of volunteers during the official Coastal Clean-up Day. What was the most unusual thing found? Read the story on page 5.

Sept 14: **Renewable Puente Power** is now a potential to stop the proposed power plant at Ormond Beach as the California Energy commission approved a study saying solar and/or battery storage could replace the plant. Sierra Club and supporters rallied at the Energy Commission hearing in Oxnard to push renewables. (See story pg 2) Read *LA Times* story here: <http://tinyurl.com/RenewablePuentePower>

Sept 11-15: **Wash DC**: Our Chair Jim Hines made his third trip to the capitol to lobby and concluded: "Boy what a mess we are in," although he did see some positives. See story this page.

Sept 10: **Drive Electric** show by our Sierra Club and Community Environmental Council (See story back page) It got good coverage from *Ventura County Star* on Sept. 8 & 9, radio shows and KEYT/KCOY ran a broadcast on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Check out broadcast here: <http://tinyurl.com/DriveElectricShow>

Aug 29: **Leave, Steve**. Our Chapter ExCom supported an opposition endorsement against Rep. Steve Knight (R-CA 25),

who has a 0% lifetime score from the League of Conservation Voters. He represents a slice of Simi Valley.

Aug 23: **Outdoor safety**. At the end of an editorial listing deaths and injuries in the Los Padres National Forest, the *Ventura County Star* urged hikers to learn do's and don'ts and noted: "*The Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter offers its excellent Wilderness Basics Course every spring.*"

Aug 21: **Alex Pujo** voted in as Los Padres Chapter Political Committee Co-Chair and Santa Barbara County Political Committee Chair, positions held by Fran Farina, who retired.

Aug 21: **Photo Class** at Ormond Beach, led by Ventura

*continued on page 3*

## COVER PHOTO

Pro photographer Bill Dewey has been helping non-profit groups via his amazing images for 30 years, and *Condor Call* is proud to again publish his work. So is the Wildling (WildlingMuseum.org), featuring his aerial shots in an exhibit that runs through January, but opening with Bill speaking at 3pm Sunday, Oct. 29. Shown is Bill's "© Roblar Avenue Morning Light" aerial, capturing the magic of a Santa Ynez Valley morning. See more at [www.BillDeweyphoto.com](http://www.BillDeweyphoto.com)

# Ormond's power battle

By Mike Stubblefield

There's a new twist in the pitched battle between renewable energy versus NRG's gas-fired Puente project on Ormond Beach.

Perhaps you've read recent articles in the *LA Times* regarding the glut of gas-generated electricity that is overpowering our electrical grid. It reported that on some days, the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) must either sell it, give it away or even pay Arizona or Nevada to take it!

Not coincidentally, the California Energy Commission (CEC) held another all-day evidentiary hearing at Oxnard's Performing Arts Center on Sept. 14. After its last hearing in Oxnard CEC decided, over NRG's strenuous objections, to direct CAISO to conduct a study of renewable alternatives to yet another natural gas plant.

There is no question that a new, slightly larger natural gas-fired powerplant would produce more than enough power for the "Moorpark Sub-Area" (which includes Santa Barbara's South Coast and Ventura County). The problem is that excess power generation from a natural gas-fired plant means excess emissions as well.

CAISO proposed a more environmentally friendly, but perhaps more expensive, "hybrid" system that includes solar generation, battery storage and "distributed generation," a term used by energy folks to refer to a series of smaller, interconnected electricity generators – some combination of gas, solar and/or wind generators.

Another twist is analysis by Greentech Media that showed falling renewable costs could bring price parity, and a subsequent study by the Clean Coalition found that if you also include the on-going costs of operations, maintenance and fuel, renewables and storage would result in cost savings.

CAISO's proposed alternative, known as a "demand-response system," is far more sophisticated than NRG's proposed, and now obsolete, natural gas-fired plant.

Computers monitor the voltage demand in each part of the grid and turn batteries on and off as necessary to maintain the correct amount of electricity throughout various parts of the grid. For example, it might be sunny and hot in Moorpark, but foggy and cool near the coast. A demand-response system distributes the appropriate amount of electricity.

Such systems are one important part of our energy future in California. In another decade, we'll all wonder what took them so long to create such a logical and efficient system. Stay tuned for a decision in the very near future; meanwhile, here's the results of Clean Coalition's alternative:

<http://tinyurl.com/PuenteSolarAlternative>

Perhaps even more important are statements from SCE President Ron Nichols about how large batteries are "rethinking" its future strategies to a time when "it's not terribly likely that there's gonna be much more (gas-powered plants) in California." Read it here:

<http://tinyurl.com/SCEfuture>

# EDC's 40th

# Victories inspire our future

*If not negotiation then litigation is usually the last resort when protecting our life and planet. The Environmental Defense Center was created in 1977 partly because of the massive 1969 oil blowout in the SB Channel, which helped jump-start a national movement.*

*EDC is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year; party Oct. 7 at Soho, details on Events pg 5 or:*

<http://tinyurl.com/EDCs40th>



*And so, we are celebrating right along with them. The Los Padres Chapter has been right there with EDC all those years, as a client or supporter, using its expertise to challenge issues or damaging developments in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.*

*Happy anniversary EDC, here's some highlights of our united histories that should act as inspiration for the dark days of Trumpland dead ahead:*

## REGIONAL

~ Throughout these 40 years, EDC along with its (over 100) clients like the Sierra Club, have won federal protection for endangered species at our beaches, wetlands and wildlands.

~ EDC helped create bill prohibiting any new oil/gas leases within the SB Channel's three-mile limit (1994).

~ Court victory led to unprecedented halt of federal oil leases in 2005.

~ Large marine reserve system established around the Channel Islands in 2002 and 2007.

~ Marine Protected Areas expanded over recent years.

~ Launched program in 2014 to protect marine life (whales, dolphins etc) from being struck by ships; we continue to monitor this issue (HR 3682).

~ Joined coalition to forbid the risky idea to transport oil by trains from San Luis Obispo through Santa Barbara and Ventura counties to the south; also to the north (2017).

~ Offshore fracking by oil companies hampered by lawsuits on grounds that federal agencies have not considered impacts on the marine environment.

~ Lots of legislation and tougher regulations were crafted after Plains oil pipeline burst near Refugio State Beach May 2015. It sent oil into the ocean, reaching Ventura and L.A. areas. Sierra Club California helped ensure the bills got approved.

## SANTA BARBARA

~ Hammonds Meadow protected via court case, allowing public access in 1989.

~ Gaviota Coast Conservancy formed in 1994, co-founded by EDC; our chapter remains a coalition partner.

~ Ballot Measure A in 1996 gave the public voter approval for any proposed new oil/gas projects outside existing sites.

~ In Lompoc area, about 5,000 acres of Burton Mesa Chaparral permanently preserved.

~ Major victory in 1998 over years-long litigation to preserve the Carpinteria Bluffs as public open space (another piece added just this year!).

~ SB County Oak protection plan adopted in 2003 after Kendall Jackson clear-cut 850 trees.

~ Ellwood Mesa permanently protected in 2005 after 20 years of development proposals.

~ Measure G in 2012 approved that agriculture land in Goleta can't be rezoned without a public vote.

~ Oil transport by barge from Ellwood terminated in 2011.

~ Venoco's plan to slant drill into the ocean from the Carpinteria bluffs was rejected by voters in 2010.

~ Legal settlement resulting in permanent preservation of the Devereux Slough and Coal Oil Point Preserve (2016).

## VENTURA

~ Blocked a ballot measure in 1994 preventing a landfill in Weldon Canyon, Ojai.

~ Lawsuit around 2003

**JOIN US**  
Like these victories? Join us:  
[www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org](http://www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org)  
[www.SierraClub.org](http://www.SierraClub.org)

prevented Ventura County from creating a new town in the Santa Monica Mountains.

~ EDC lawsuit, backed by Sierra Club, led to closure of the Halaco metal smelter site on the Oxnard coast in 2003; it is now a Superfund site.

~ Liquefied Natural Gas project defeated in 2007 off Oxnard Coast. (*NOTE: Owen Bailey represented the Sierra Club in that fight and he's now EDC's Executive Director.*)

~ Blocked an Oxnard development that permanently protects portions of the Ormond Beach wetlands (2012).

~ Helped convince Camarillo to reject a 2,500-unit project to protect ag land in 2014.

~ Helped stop the Ventura City Council from annexing 800 acres at Cañada Larga for high-end housing in 2015.

*NOTE: Betsy Weber of EDC and Condor John of Sierra Club collaborated on this article*



**Wilderness Basics Course** brings people closer to the natural world, as you can see from Cara Pedon's photo along the Aliso Trail from last year's outing. Learn more from our Sierra Club cadre of experienced staff when classes start next February, serving people of all levels. For information, call (805) 524-7170 or check out our Facebook LosPadresWBC or online: [www.lospadreswbc.org](http://www.lospadreswbc.org)

# Our bonds to nature

*"The use of the outdoors in the treatment of mental and physical health has proven to be incredibly effective."*

~ From the Sierra Club veterans' program.

By Jim Hines

Greetings Friends:

Our individual bond with the natural world is both a physical and emotional one. The feelings of goodness, relaxation, appreciation, self-awareness and awe are all awakened within us when we are out in nature.

The spiritual journey which we all take part in on this planet is fully enhanced

by the time we each spend out among magnificent mountains, red rock canyons, flowing rivers, majestic sea coasts, blooming meadows and wildlife. How can one not feel closer to themselves and to their creator than when we are out amongst the wonder and beauty of our natural world?

Being out among nature allows us to look inward to recognize and feel the full potential of ourselves as positive, talented, loving and caring human beings.

Whether you are taking a short evening walk on the beach in Ventura or Santa Barbara, a day hike along

Cozy Dell Trail or Cold Springs Trail in the Los Padres National Forest or a weekend backpack trip into the Sespe or the Dick Smith Wilderness you will have entered the realm of spiritually which only nature can provide.

Allow yourself to freely feel the gentleness, the richness, the wildness, the raw earth herself and the wild creatures which live on the land. We all bond with nature in different ways, some meditate beside a gently flowing stream, others enjoy the spiritual warmth of an evening campfire among the pines and still others go to the extreme and challenge the endurance of nature by climbing the highest peak, taking the longest walk or swimming the Santa Barbara Channel.

Whatever way you choose to spiritually bond with nature you will truly be rewarded with a feeling which knows no limit.

We are living in crazy, hectic and challenging times, so each of us needs that special place out in nature where we can each focus on what is really important in our lives, ourselves and our caring for and protecting our natural world.

Please feel free to join our free Outings listed in the *Condor Call*, or the national and international adventures at

<http://tinyurl.com/PlanetOutings>

For the wild ...

**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**

**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 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:**

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

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

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

<b>Robert Bernstein</b>	_____	_____
<b>Katie Davis</b>	_____	_____
<b>Alex Pujo</b>	_____	_____
<b>Luz Reyes-Martin</b>	_____	_____
<b>Merlie Samonte</b>	_____	_____

**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)

**CLUB DEMOCRACY**

**4 vie for 5 SB Group seats**

**Merlie Samonte SB Group Candidate**

I was born, raised and educated in the Philippines and am now a resident of Goleta. I have worked mostly in the hospitality industry and have traveled



to many places around the globe which gave me the opportunity to work with people of diverse origins.

What can I bring to the table?

I can probably bring fresh perspective based on my experience growing up in a family that farms to augment food reliance and sustainability in ways that put a lot of respect and consideration to the environment and its ecosystem. Share how our side of the world is responding to the challenges, given the fact that it is deemed to suffer most of the calamities as a consequence and manifestation of the changing climate.

I am looking forward to sharing and collaborating fresh ideas to hopefully conceive a stronger defense and sensible actions in the protection and the rehabilitation to stability and sustainability of our environment as a global community for our survival, and the future generations.

**Luz Reyes-Martin SB Group Candidate**

I am honored to be considered for a position on the ExCom for the Santa Barbara Group.

I believe that the preservation and protection of our natural environment



continues to be among the most important work we can do as engaged members of our communities. I applaud the work of the

local Sierra Club chapter in being at the forefront of advocacy.

As a member of the ExCom I will work alongside other members to continue that advocacy work, work with other groups with similar interests and continue to grow a strong member base. Environmental Justice is an area that I am particularly interested in. The effects of climate change, oil expansion and other environmental hazards particularly affect poor and under-represented communities.

I currently serve on the Goleta School Board and am employed by Santa Barbara City College.

**Alex Pujo SB Group Candidate**

I was born and raised in Argentina and came to Santa Barbara in 1974. My wife and I own a small architecture and planning firm ([www.pujo.net](http://www.pujo.net)).



Since 1992 we have been involved in local and regional transportation planning because we believe that auto-mobility is one of the greatest environmental threats facing us.

We live in an area that exports its impacts to surrounding communities and places little value on environmental justice. Our older neighborhoods are convincing proof that life is better for all living organisms when we live close to town, drive less and walk more.

Newer transportation policies are

increasing access for everyone; not just automobile drivers and passengers. Transit, bicycle and pedestrian access are a reality in parts of Santa Barbara but still a challenge where antiquated zoning policies encourage sprawl and create a false choice between quality of life and housing supply.

I am a founding member of the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (COAST) and a member of the Bicycle Coalition since 1994. I currently serve on the ExCom of the Santa Barbara Group and chair the Santa Barbara Political Committee, Los Padres Chapter. Thank you for your support.

**Katie Davis SB Group Candidate**

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

Today the protection of our



ecosystems is more critical than ever. I believe Santa Barbara has a powerful role to play in creating

a more sustainable future. As current Chair of the SB Group, I have enjoyed working on many fronts to secure recent victories, including getting Santa Barbara to set a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030 and consider a Community Choice Energy program to advance local clean energy. Also, defeating the polluting 141-well PCEC oil project and getting our County to set the strictest regulations in the state on greenhouse gas pollution from new oil projects.

As a member of Sierra Club's National Marine Team, I am fighting Trump's efforts to expand offshore oil and reduce or eliminate our national marine sanctuaries. I am also a trained presenter of Al Gore's "Climate

Reality Project" and serve on the APCD's Advisory Council.

**Robert Bernstein SB Group Candidate**

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

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



of our own food and renewable energy. A vision where we can access nature in a way that enriches us, yet with minimal damage

to our natural ecosystems.

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

I was a founding Board member of COAST (Coalition for Sustainable Transportation) and past president of the Bicycle Coalition.

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

Also, I am a hike leader and a photographer and regular contributor to the Condor Call newspaper.

I would be honored to be able to serve the Sierra Club again for another term.

**Lead our club**

Our Chapter's Executive Committee has three at-large seats open to start next year. Please consider running. We're long on action, short on bureaucracy!

For questions, contact Chair Jim Hines at 340-9266, [jhcasitas@gmail.com](mailto:jhcasitas@gmail.com)

**Sightings...**

continued from page 1

Sierra Club to not only teach about its virtues as we fight to restore the area, but record those qualities on a personal level.

Aug 18: **Day of Action** declared by National Sierra Club is Aug. 19, but our local rally with eco-groups was Friday evening at the Ventura Government Center so that local officials could attend. The national actions were to send a message to Trump/Zinke not to reduce or privatize numerous national parks, monuments and conservation areas. (See story on pge 1)

Aug 17: **Rally for Nat'l Monuments** in Santa Barbara; news cameras were there and the Sierra Club was too! Rep. Salud Carbajal spoke in front of an enthusiastic crowd near the Los Padres National Forest headquarters in Goleta about the importance of protecting our national lands and monuments. Lots of supportive honks from busy Hollister corridor.

Aug 11: **Hike, potluck, slide show** featured a hike with Al Sladek at 6pm followed by the show at Valle Verde Retirement Center in Santa Barbara, featuring Robert Bernstein's insider photos of Solstice.

Aug 7: **SB Group** had a table handing out our

information and Condor Call at the opening of "Inconvenient Truth-The Sequel".

Aug 6: **Toad the Wet Sprocket** concert at Libbey Bowl in Ojai featured our Sierra Club table prior to the music. The band supports our mission and has invited the Sierra Club to table at each of its concert locations for the Summer 2017 U.S. tour.

Aug 3: **Lands Campaign** was bolstered by our Chair Jim Hines speaking to the Camarillo Democratic Club on the national public lands issue as well as other Sierra Club campaigns locally, notably on marine issues and wildlife corridors.

Aug 1: **Double duty** for our Arguello Group Chair Rebecca August, who was appointed as the Los Padres ForestWatch's new Public Lands Advocate. Residing in the Santa Ynez Valley, she'll engage the public and politicians to protect our iconic landscapes.

July 27: **Push-Back** happened at the Goleta Master Plan meeting where it was found wanting, despite supposedly 2,000 public comments that should be accessible to the public. SB Sierra Club members Katie Davis and Robert Bernstein advocated for better results such as business outreach.

~ Compiled by Condor John Hankins

**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 4 (FOUR) people, including the write-in option if you wish.**

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

<b>Melanie Ashen</b>	_____	_____
<b>John Holroyd</b>	_____	_____
<b>Stephanie Scher</b>	_____	_____
<b>Joanne Sulkoske</b>	_____	_____

**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)

**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)

**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)  
[www.facebook.com/sbsierraclub](http://www.facebook.com/sbsierraclub)

**ARGUELLO GROUP**

NOW ON FACEBOOK; keep in touch with our SB North County Group at: <http://tinyurl.com/ArguelloGroup>

~ General meetings with potluck and programs during most months on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at Lompoc Presbyterian Church 1600 E. Berkeley Ave. at 7pm, or 6pm when there are potlucks.

~Volunteers are needed as hike leaders and to monitor issues; your talents could make a difference.

~ Questions? Contact [RebeccaAugust@mac.com](mailto:RebeccaAugust@mac.com) or 350-0629.

**VENTURA NETWORK**

~ Up-to-date information about the western Ventura County group on Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubFB>

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

~ Regular meetings 1st Tuesday monthly at REI in Oxnard 7-8:30pm. Check before attending at: [sierraclubventura@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubventura@gmail.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 City Council needs leaders

The Santa Barbara City Council elections on Nov. 7 has a mayoral election with three of the six district seats up for grabs (Districts 1-3 were voted on Nov. 2015). This will complete the city's transition to district elections, required by the Voting Rights Act settled by the city in 2015.

The Sierra Club urges all to vote in Cathy Murillo for mayor and the rest shown here in respective Districts 4, 5 and 6.



SB City Council voted to divest funds...thanks!  
(Photo by Martha Sadler)

### Cathy Murillo Santa Barbara Mayor

Cathy Murillo has served on the Santa Barbara City Council since 2012, becoming a champion of environmental causes.

During her tenure, Cathy worked to implement critical water use reductions, was the lead in preserving the Arroyo Burro Open Space and opposed harmful petroleum production practices. She also led the effort to secure \$7 million from CalTrans for alternative transportation and bikeways and supported large-scale, neighborhood-wide improvements such as lighting and pedestrian safety.

She has consistently supported the Sierra Club's positions regarding the City's 100 percent renewable energy goal and protection of our creeks and waterways. She advocated for a resolution to oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline and is the Chair of the Community Choice Energy Committee and sits on the Sustainability Committee.

Cathy also serves on the City's Housing Task Force to protect the quality of our neighborhoods by supporting well-designed, well-located, and compact housing (both affordable and workforce) coupled with innovative transportation programs such as car- and bike-sharing.

Her proven track record and unwavering commitment to promoting sustainability, environmental justice and preservation of natural resources has led our Chapter to endorse her for Mayor. To help, go to:

<https://cathymurillo.com>

### Kristen Sneddon 4th District

The Sierra Club enthusiastically endorses Kristen Sneddon for Santa Barbara's 4th district, which includes the Riviera, Upper East, Eucalyptus Hill, East San Roque neighborhoods, and Coast Village Road.

Kristen holds a MS in geophysics, with an emphasis in groundwater. She teaches environmental geology at Santa Barbara City College, focusing on climate change, water use, waste management and natural disaster mitigation.

At Santa Barbara's March for Science rally last April, Kristen heard the call for scientists to get involved in shaping the future of our community, and was inspired to run. Her priorities include wildfire and emergency planning, ensuring a sustainable water supply and supporting the city's 100% renewable energy goal.

A Santa Barbara resident for 30 years, Kristen and her husband, Chris, have two children in the local public schools, and one in college. Kristen is past chair of Starr King Parent-Child Workshop, and current chair of the Peabody School governing board.

As a parent, teacher, and environmental scientist, she will provide a unique and valuable voice on the city council. Her decision-making will be informed by her breadth of experience.

To help or learn more, go to: [www.SneddonforSantaBarbara.com](http://www.SneddonforSantaBarbara.com)

### Eric Friedman 5th District

Eric Friedman grew up in Santa Barbara County and graduated from the University of Notre Dame. He will bring to Council his long environmental experience and the perspective of a young, middle class family trying to make it on the South Coast; something that City Hall desperately needs.

From 2002 to 2016 he worked as a staff aide for County Supervisors Naomi Schwartz and Salud Carbajal on a variety of environmental issues. They include the Community Choice Energy Initiative study for the Tri-Counties that is currently underway, reopening of the Franklin Trail in the Carpinteria Foothills, conversion of Rincon Point homes to a sewer system, implementation of the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Restoration plan and the development of CycleCalCoast.com.

Eric is running for District 5, which includes West San Roque, Upper State, Samarkand, Hidden Valley, Campanil and parts of Oak Park.

Eric, his wife Julie and two sons enjoy surfing and outrigger canoeing; for them the coast, environmental stewardship and open space preservation are personal priorities. He is a former director of the local chapter of Surfrider and a former member of the Santa Barbara Harbor Commission.

To learn more about Eric's campaign, go to: [www.friedmanforcouncil.com](http://www.friedmanforcouncil.com)

### Gregg Hart 6th District

Sierra Club is pleased to once again endorse Gregg Hart for Santa Barbara City Council's 6th District.

As a Planning Commissioner, Councilmember, and State Coastal Commissioner, Gregg has worked tirelessly to preserve and protect our environment.

From leading the efforts to protect the Douglas Family Preserve to authoring the City's successful Clean Creeks Initiative, Gregg has been a steadfast advocate for our local environment.

He has worked with Sierra Club in a variety of issues. He was our major contact to secure the council's resolution opposing the Phillips 66 oil train. He serves as the City's liaison to BEACON (beach erosion authority), Creeks Advisory Committee and the ad hoc committee on Community Choice Energy. He is a leader on transportation and housing, and he is easily accessible to all.

As a Councilmember, Gregg supported municipal efforts to renew and conserve energy; he supported the bicycle master plan, ZIP car program and additional MTD funding; open space and creek restoration projects. He also supported infill development, preserving open space and building housing in locations that enable people to rely less on their cars.

To learn more about Gregg's campaign, go to: [www.facebook.com/Hart4SB](http://www.facebook.com/Hart4SB)

# Energy beat goes on...

*Editor's note: Each issue for years Fran Farina has laboriously tracked what the energy industry is up to locally in these pages, in concert with the Environmental Defense Center. Fran has 'retired' to San Luis Obispo County with our blessings and eternal thanks. The beat goes on in the capable hands of Katie Davis, SB Group's Chair.*

By Katie Davis  
#Protectourcoast

The Pacific has been off limits to new oil leases for 35

years through Democratic and Republican administrations, including a moratorium issued by George H. Bush. Over that time, opposition to offshore drilling has only grown, with 69% of Californians now opposed.

Judging the risks and impacts far too great, President Obama excluded the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic oceans from drilling, but Trump is targeting federal lands, waters and even marine sanctuaries for oil. If Trump comes for our coast,

we're gearing up for a fight. Kudos to Santa Barbara's first defensive move, passing a resolution in July opposing offshore oil and fracking.

### Summerland Smiles

In August the California State Lands Commission gave final approvals to begin work capping the leaking, stinking Becker Wells on Summerland Beach with completion this year. State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson's bill SB44 in on the Governor's desk; it would provide on-going funds for fixing

these old, leaky nearshore wells statewide.

### Doable Renewables

Santa Barbara set a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030 in June, becoming the 30th city in the nation to do so. Dozens have followed suit and hundreds of mayors have also endorsed the goal while Goleta and San Luis Obispo are considering it.

One snag is that a mechanism that's worked well in Marin County and elsewhere to achieve 100% renewable goals at a faster pace than monopoly utilities -- called Community Choice Energy -- was negatively reviewed by a consultant for the tri-county area.

It seems the consultant used outdated renewable prices and other errors even while the dozen successful programs in CA demonstrate its feasibility. SB County Supervisors discussed it Oct. 3, past our deadline. To bring utilities along too, we really need a statewide goal of 100% renewable energy, and there is pending legislation SB100 to do that. Despite overwhelming public support, progress stalled on the bill, but it'll be back next session, so keep up the pressure.

### Rethinking Puente

If California is moving towards renewable energy, maybe we shouldn't build a fourth polluting gas-power plant on the beach in Oxnard. See story on pg 2

### Cowboy Oil

At a time when federal enforcement of the Clean Drinking Water and Clean Air Acts is quickly eroding, it may not be the best time to let rogue oil operators loose in Santa Barbara County. Cases in point: AERA, a limited liability

### EAVESDROPS

"We will miss your wisdom, precision, tenacity, and kindness so much...but are so happy for you on your new adventure. Speaking on behalf of many... WE LOVE YOU!!!!"

~ David Gold, adding his voice to many who are sad to see Fran Farina leave our chapter for new work and adventures fighting for the environment in San Luis Obispo County.

company created by Exxon/Mobil and Shell to extract oil while limiting their financial and environmental responsibilities, has an application pending for 296 oil and waste water injection wells on rolling oak-covered hills near the small community of Garey and overlaying Santa Maria's drinking water supply. It has been sued in Kern county for polluting the groundwater there.

Next door, bankrupt ERG has an application pending for another 233 oil wells and four highly polluting steam generation engines to power the "enhanced oil recovery." ERG ranked No. 1 in spill volume in Santa Barbara County from 2010-2015. Judging by the scoping hearings, the projects rightly face significant opposition.

### Divest Best

Putting money where our mouth is occurred Sept. 19 when the Santa Barbara City Council voted to divest from banks funding the Dakota Access Pipeline and to adopt a socially responsible investment policy. That's what we call leadership.

## ONE TICKET GETS YOU INTO BOTH EVENTS!

# CENTRAL COAST BIONEERS 2017

FEATURING NATIONAL BIONEERS KEYNOTE TALKS BY:

- Amy Goodman
- Suzanne Simard
- Heather McGhee
- Jeremy Narby
- John Wick & Calla Rose Ostrander
- Mariel Nanasi and Local Speakers!



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# Big clean-up, thanks to you



Our members helped on numerous clean-up efforts, but there were two led by our Los Padres Chapter. SB hike leader Robert Bernstein brought a crew to Lizard's Mouth (left photo) while Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza's crew was at a Santa Clara River location, where she snapped one of the participants going "Into the Wild"!

*Editor's note: More than 510,000 pounds of trash was plucked from the state's beaches, ocean, rivers, parks, lakes and other areas as part of Saturday's (Sept. 16) 33rd annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, according to early tallies. An additional 31,912 pounds of recyclables was collected by nearly 1,000 volunteer sites in 55 counties, the largest number of sites in the cleanup's history. Here's what happened locally:*



What was Superman doing at the Santa Clara River that caused him to lose his underpants?

## SANTA BARBARA

"Coast is Clear"

During the annual California Coastal Cleanup, the local Explore Ecology group asserted "the coast is clear!"

Sierra Club joined many other groups getting rid of trash with a special run at Lizard's Mouth, and in Santa Barbara County, Explore Ecology reports a "huge success" with over a thousand volunteers from the Rincon to Guadalupe Dunes.

Those volunteers scoured at 28 sites over 80 miles gleaning over 4,635 pounds of trash and 1,433 pounds of recyclables collected and prevented from entering our ocean and waterways.

This statewide effort is the largest single-day volunteer effort in the world, which started in 1984 and has now inspired an International Coastal Cleanup Day.

The data collected on the trash provides important information regarding the types, quantity, and location of marine debris, which is analyzed by the Ocean Conservancy and distributed throughout the

## EAVESDROPS

"People are unhappy with his perceived unenforcement of environmental laws."

~ An EPA inspector, responding to reports that EPA Chief Scott Pruitt has unprecedented 24/7 protection by 18 people as he embarks on gutting the agency's funds by 31%. He has also cut the number of agents who investigate environmental crimes below the Pollution Prosecution Act mandate.

world in the hope that it will help preserve our oceans, rivers, and lakes.

In the watershed above the ocean, Sierra Club hike leader Robert Bernstein conducted a cleanup of Lizard's Mouth, "interestingly, all women and girls, except for me!" There was some good news, the total take was less than years before and "we did not see any of those nasty paint balls we used to see. Not too many cigarette butts, either and less graffiti."

Can it be? "Things are generally getting cleaner," Robert said, at least at Lizard's Mouth.

## VENTURA

"Santa Clara Clearing"

By Nina Danza

What does it take to find 3 bike wheels, a vinyl record, two golf clubs and Superman underwear?

About 72 volunteers who took these and more than a ton of other trash out of the Santa Clara River Gateway site at Coastal Clean Up Day.

Imagine, 1054 pounds of junk not getting to the beach and into the ocean. Some of the MVPs for the day deserve applause: Attendees over four years, Charlene Bouvet and students from Oxnard's Sierra Linda School, also Ken Foulks and Oxnard College geography

## Eco-series in Ventura

Ventura Sierra Club has a great series of programs starting now and running through 2018.

Up your game on local eco-science and outdoor activity expertise. Big thanks to the Ventura County Library agency, the major co-sponsor of the series, for providing complimentary room and equipment to the club.

First one is for the non-toxic crowd; a biological way to eradicate invasive species from 2-4pm Saturday, Oct. 7, at Foster Library, 1651 E. Main St. with Nicole Norelli from the California Alliance for tamarisk biocontrol. Free, but donations accepted.

Here's a chance to just mingle

students, Jose Flores, Serbio Flores and Steve Cabellero. Also, the co-captions' spouses, Jim Danza and Dino Meneghin who "loves doing this, am thinking to switch careers to trash weighing anyway!"

Candice Meneghin, CalTrout conservation manager, explained the Santa Clara River system where steelhead trout migrate from the estuary through the cleanup property and into the headwaters for reproduction.

Amy Davis, Nature Conservancy natural guide, took the group on a site walk to see what lives in the riparian area. She pointed out native plants, and picked out bits of non-native but edible mustard to taste. Everyone learned about *Arundo donax*, the most noxious invasive plant in the riparian zone.

Big thanks to the sponsors: EJ Harrison & Sons for disposal service, Golf n Stuff game coupons, Chick Fil A sandwiches, and Coastal Cone ice cream discount tokens.

We ended with the fun 'Most Unusual Thing Found' contest. Of the many entries, one of the winners was in the opening sentence" the Superman underwear.

*NOTE: Ventura County stats were unavailable as of press time.*

and talk with like-minded enviros, 12:30-2:30pm, Sunday Oct. 29, at Caraba Coffee, 9493 Telephone Rd. For 2 hours Ventura Sierra Club has arranged live acoustic music, a local art exhibit (50 percent donated to us) and a relaxed inspiring atmosphere. Shout out to George Naugles, club volunteer for putting this together.

Also, added fun via Ventura Bike HUB leading a group ride to the coffeehouse starting from the Hub, 1150 N. Ventura Ave. starting at noon. Any age welcome with ability to do a 10-mile ride.

Keep track of all our activities at: [www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/ventura](http://www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/ventura)

# Trail Prints

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## EVENTS

Oct 7: EDC's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AND for a dollar per year (\$40) get to celebrate with the environmental crowd; dinner at 6pm, music, dancing Soho, 1221 State St. See story pg 2 and get details at: <http://tinyurl.com/EDC40th>

Oct 8: Gear Sale by Los Padres Forest Assn. You can donate your extra gear, get a tax credit and help Trail Care programs. At Tucker's Grove Park in Goleta. Details at [www.lpforest.org](http://www.lpforest.org)

Oct 12: San Rafael Wilderness hiking program by local author James Wapotich, 7:30pm Santa Ynez Grange, 2374 Alamo Pintado Ave., Los Olivos. Co-sponsored by SYV Historical Society; details at: [www.SYVnature.org](http://www.SYVnature.org)

Oct 19: Early Rangers of Santa Barbara's backcountry is a free slide-show by local author James Wapotich, 6:30pm Santa Barbara Library, 40 E. Anapamu St. Part of an ongoing Wilderness Hiking Speaker Series at the library, third Thursday of each month. Get on the list at: [jwapotich@yahoo.com](mailto:jwapotich@yahoo.com)

Oct 22: Santa Barbara WILD fundraiser for our Los Padres ForestWatch friends. It's from 3-6:30pm at 2300 Garden St. Academy playing fields. Food, music, silent and live auctions etc. Tix and details at: [www.SBWild.org](http://www.SBWild.org)

Oct 29: Raptor Center open house, a rare twice-per-year events to meet birds of prey up close at the Ojai

## EAVESDROPS

"Fossil fuel people used to ignore us, then they laughed at us ... now they say renewables are too big, too impactful, too much change for the grid."

~ Responding to Trump's pro-oil politicians claiming renewables are "destabilizing the grid," Danny Kennedy of Cal Clean Energy Fund says in the LA Times the opposite is true.



See raptors at Open House like this Red-Tailed Hawk, (Photo by Lizzie Chouinard).

Raptor Center rescue and rehab grounds. Hawks, falcons, owls etc. will be there in this family-friendly event, noon to 4pm, 370 Baldwin Rd., Ojai CA. For details go to: [www.OjaiRaptorCenter.org](http://www.OjaiRaptorCenter.org)

Nov 9: Precious Cargo, "Saving the Biological Riches of the Channel Islands" is a lecture/show by Eamon O'Byrne, Conservation Director, who will detail how the islands were rescued from "ecological collapse, an extraordinary story with global implications." At the SB Maritime Mvsevm, 7pm; tickets at [www.sbmm.org](http://www.sbmm.org)

Nov 16: Marine Megatropolis, a photo show of the marine life on and under the offshore oil rigs, covering the years from 1974-1981 and shot by long-time diver Bob Evans who has fascinating ideas about these manmade 'reefs'. Free program at the SB Maritime Mvsevm, 5:30pm. Exhibit runs through April; RSVP at 456-8747 or [www.sbmm.org](http://www.sbmm.org)



"Marine Megatropolis" will be a fascinating talk about the wildlife beneath the Channel oil platforms. Photo © Bob Evans, La Mer Bleu Productions

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# 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 listed are within area code 805, unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14.

A frequently updated online listing of all outings can be viewed at: <http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org>

This website also contains links to Group web pages and other resources. Some regional Groups also list their outings on Meetup sites (See Meetups box below).

#### Key to outing locations:

- AR – Arguello Group (Northern SB County)
- SB – Santa Barbara Group (Southern SB County)
- VEN – Ventura Network (Northern Ventura County)
- CJ – Conejo Group (Southern Ventura County)

October 7  
**SAN YSIDRO TO E. CAMINO CIELO:** Strenuous hike 9 mrt, 3000' gain up to E. Camino Cielo for lunch. Follows the creek, past a waterfall, and up onto a sunny trail with some height exposure and great views. Approx. 5 hrs at moderate pace. Advanced or intermediate hikers only. -18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring a lunch and at least 2 liters of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

**SANTA CLARA RIVER riparian restoration:** 8:15am (breakfast club); 9am-noon (worktime). Make the earth a little better than it was the day before by helping plant natives and remove invasives from

the Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA). It is part of hundreds of acres being transformed into endangered species habitat. Sierra Club works under the direction of UCSB and alongside Friends of the Santa Clara River and Ventura Audubon. Coffee and light snacks offered at Breakfast Club with a walk around and introduction to HRNA. All ages welcome, 14 and under must be accompanied by adult, 15-17 without adult must bring two waivers (print from links below). **LONG PANTS AND CLOSED SHOES please!** HRNA is at 20395 S. Mountain Rd, Santa Paula: Hwy 126 E to Santa Paula, exit 10th St. and turn left (go under freeway), quick right turn on Harvard, turn right on 12th St. (over Santa Clara River on bridge), go 3.7 mi to address, look for the banner 'Santa Clara River Event' and turn left onto dirt road between farmland to the end (about 1/2 mi). **PLS DRIVE SLOWLY ON FARM ROAD** to prevent dust damage to crops. Rain cancels. Sierra Club waiver: <http://tinyurl.com/lk3qytz> UCSB waiver: <http://www.uchs.ucsb.edu/files/docs/rm/WaiverElecActivities.pdf> RSVP requested to: NINA at [sierraclubventura@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubventura@gmail.com). (VEN)

**VENTURE(A) OUT IN THE COUNTY,** a Sierra Club Educational Series 2-4pm. EP Foster Library Topping Room 651 E. Main (free parking in rear). Member and supporters welcome to attend and learn from local experts on a wide variety of outdoor science based topics in coming months. Up this date: Nicole Norelli, California Alliance for Tamarisk Biocontrol, will show the natural predator programs in progress to eradicate invasive species in the riparian environments of Ventura County. Free to enter, coffee and tea provided. Future 2018 dates March 13, May 8, July 10, Sept 11 and Nov 13. Cosponsored by Ventura County Library. For questions, email NINA at [sierraclubventura@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubventura@gmail.com). (VEN)

October 8  
**JESUSITA TRAIL TO 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. BHARAT 837-4642 (SB).

**MONDAY MORNING fitness walk:** Sulphur Mountain from Casitas Springs end; meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool 20 minutes up Hwy 33 to Sulphur Mountain Rd in Casitas Springs. The 6-mile round trip walk on a fire road begins at locked gate. There is some elevation gain to the 3-mile mark, where we will enjoy looking over Ojai Valley before turning around. LORA & PHILIP CLARKE (218-2103 or 218-2105). (VEN)

October 13  
**LILLY MEADOWS HIKE:** Enjoy pine forests southwest of Frazier Park and a waterfall too. 8.2-mile hike with gain of about 1,100'. Trail starts at Three Falls Boy Scout Camp and then ascends the North Fork trail in a pine-shaded canyon. Our lunch destination is Lilly Meadows. Bring layers, hat, sunglasses, water, lunch, sunscreen, and other 10 essentials. Rain cancels. Meet at 7:30am at Fillmore Starbucks for 1.5 hour drive to trailhead. TERESA, 524-7170 (VEN)

October 14  
**FLORES PEAK FROM GIBRALTAR ROCK:** We will drive to Gibraltar Rock, above the Rattlesnake Trail. We will then hike a steep, little-known trail to Flores Peak. Some rock scrambling and agility required. The Wednesday hikers sometimes call this "The Medicine Circle". Elevation gain is about 700 feet in only a half mile! Please bring a snack or lunch and a liter of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT [685-1283/event@swt.org](mailto:685-1283/event@swt.org) (SB)

October 14  
**RAY MILLER TRAIL (Backbone Trail):** Easy/moderate 5.4-mile round trip with an elevation gain of 1,161'. This trail offers beautiful views of Pacific Ocean and Channel Islands. Directions: From Oxnard take PCH 1 to Las Posas Rd., continue southbound on PCH 1 for 4.2 miles to the posted La Jolla Canyon entrance on the left. (There is an entrance fee for the parking lot or free parking on PCH.) Meet at 7:30am at the Ray Miller trailhead north end of the parking lot of the La Jolla Canyon. Bring plenty of water, snacks, sunscreen & hat. ANNA 657-3765. (VEN)

October 15  
**THREE POOLS BEYOND SEVEN FALLS:** Primitive trail, some rock climbing. Bring swimsuit. Difficult but short 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 451-1239 (SB)

October 16  
**MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK:** Lake Casitas - Meet at Mission Plaza at 8:30am to carpool to Lake Casitas - which direction we take depends on if there has been rain (you know that wet stuff?) recently. This is a fun walk either way; we go on pavement if we go North or dirt road if we go South, a five mile round trip walk either way. LORA & PHILIP CLARKE, 218-2103 or 218-2105. (VEN)

### EAVESDROPS

"I'm happy that the Dent House property (end of Matilija Canyon Road) serves as the gateway to the North Fork Matilija Creek trail and fully encourage and support the public's access to it via the easement road through my property."

~ Good news from owner Calvin Zara of Ojai. Thanks to ForestWatch, which monitors public access issues, and which settled a lawsuit with a different owner at a nearby access to Matilija Falls.

October 21  
**MIDLAND SCHOOL HIGH COUNTRY LOOP:** We'll explore some of the Midland School trails on this moderate 5.5 mrt hike, including the High Country Loop returning via the Red Rock Springs trail. Bring water, a light lunch and sun protection. There is little shade and can be very warm. This hike involves a 1 hr drive to the trailhead on Figueroa Mtn Rd. Rain cancels. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Email me for instructions. GERRY 964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

October 21  
**BACKPACK LEADER TRAINING FOR HIKE LEADERS (OLT 201):** One-day training for hike leaders who'd like to become certified to lead overnight backpack trips. Class will be out on a trail in the Ojai area. To qualify, you must be a currently certified Sierra Club hike leader (OLT 101 and First Aid within the past four years). After completing this course, you will need to lead a provisional overnight backpack trip and pass the evaluation to finalize your certification. For questions or to enroll, contact TERESA at [teresahnorris@earthlink.net](mailto:teresahnorris@earthlink.net). (VEN)

October 22  
**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)

October 23  
**MONDAY MORNING fitness walk:** Ennisbrook- a hidden treasure

in the Montecito Valley - Meet at 8:30am to carpool 30 minutes north to Montecito. This 4-mile loop walk is a combination of trails and streets through a beautiful part of Montecito that most people haven't seen before. Some uneven trails, but not too difficult. Beautiful Oak and Sycamore trees and some amazing houses of the rich and famous mark this walk! LORA & PHILIP CLARKE, 218-2103 or 218-2105. (VEN)

October 27  
**THE OLD CABIN SITE,** Mugu State Park: Counter clockwise LOOP. Moderate-to- strenuous 9 miles round trip hike with 1,600 feet of elevation gain up to the old cabin site in the NE part of Mugu St Park. Approx 6 hrs at moderate pace. (Upper Sycamore Cyn, Boney Mtn, Fossil trails.) Meet at 8am, Ventura carpool (Seaward and Harbor in Ventura). Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, sun hat, insect repellent, 3 qts. water, and snack/lunch required. Temperatures over 85 or Rain Cancels. LORA 218-2103 (VEN)

October 27-29  
**WILDERNESS RESTORATION** in Death Valley National Park: We continue the clean-up of a grow site in this beautiful National Park. We will hike about 3 miles up a rugged canyon to gather and carry out the trash left behind in an illegal grow site. Participants should bring an old backpack if they have one. Sturdy trash bags will be supplied to protect packs. Details on meeting time TBA. Potluck Saturday night. Leader: KATE ALLEN, [kj.allen96@gmail.com](mailto:kj.allen96@gmail.com) 661-944-4056. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

October 28  
**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 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 29  
**FISH CREEK:** Long car pool to Nira Campground, then up the Manzana to Fish Creek Camp, continuing up Fish Creek to a small swimming hole. Moderate 9 mrt. Bring lunch, snacks, plenty of water, hat, and a swimsuit if you want to take a dip in the pool. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

**RAY MILLER TRAIL:** 8 mile round trip hike with 900' ascent. Outstanding ocean/island views. Meet at trailhead off PCH at 10am. Bring water and snacks. Wear good hiking shoes. No reservation needed and no limit. KIM HOCKING 983-2147 (VEN)

**ARTFUL SALES BENEFIT** for Ventura Sierra Club 12:30-2:30pm Caraba Coffee 9493 Telephone Rd., Ventura. Money multitasks when you purchase any handmade jewelry, photos, cards or gifts shown by the artist at the shop this date. Stay and listen to delightful live acoustic music performance. Not only will half of

*continued next page*

**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):

<b>Los Padres National Forest Districts</b>	
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
Conejo 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>

**Meetups & 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 the Ventura Sierra Club at 9am every Monday morning for easy to moderate walks-hikes in the Ventura county area. A long-time tradition, the walks will last about two to three hours and the group sometimes goes for coffee afterward. Call Philip 218-2103 or Lora 218-2105.

# JOIN THE CLUB • ONLY \$15 • GET A FIELD BAG • SIERRACLUB.ORG

## Outings...from page 6

all art sales be donated to Ventura Sierra Club, but your \$\$ support this independently owned shop and local musicians. All ages. For questions, email NINA at [sierraclubventura@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubventura@gmail.com). (VEN)

October 30

MONDAY MORNING fitness walk: Coastal Ray Miller trail - Meet at Mission Plaza at 8:30am to carpool 30 minutes south to La Jolla Canyon on the coast to hike up the Ray Miller trail. This 1,100-foot climb to the fire road on top is rewarded with spectacular views of the ocean, surrounding hills and coast highway. A 4-mile round trip hike on a well-maintained trail. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water and hiking poles. LORA & PHILIP CLARKE, 218-2103 or 218-2105. (VEN)

November 4

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 708-5877 (SB)

November 5

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. Very Strenuous 8 mrt. Hundreds of knee high steps. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE THE EARLY START TIME! ALEJANDRO 451-1239 (SB)

## Trail work

Come join the Los Padres Forest Assn. as we spend a week working along the Mission Pine Trail in the San Rafael Wilderness Oct. 21-29. The project officially spans nine days but we have shorter volunteer options available. Base camp at Mission Pine Spring Camp with stock support, designated cook and all food provided.

Interested? Ask for details at: [info@LPForest.org](mailto:info@LPForest.org)

SANTA CLARA RIVER Riparian Restoration 8:15am (breakfast club); 9am-noon (worktime). Make the earth a little better than it was the day before by helping plant natives and remove invasives from the Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA). See details Oct 7 listing.

## Whale enters school gym

Two important bills authored by our own State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson are awaiting Governor Brown's signature and need your support. But before reading on, catch this amazing short video of a whale in a gym: <http://tinyurl.com/GymWhaleHolography>

✓ Senate Bill 290 would establish a program to protect sea turtles and marine mammals from marine debris entanglements, notably off the Santa Barbara Channel. Here's the link: <http://tinyurl.com/TangledSealife>

✓ Senate Bill 44 would provide funding to properly cap leaking legacy oil wells, notably off Summerland Beach. Here's the link: <http://tinyurl.com/OldLeakyOilWells>

These bills are critically important to protect California's ocean heritage, including the beaches, people, businesses, and wildlife that depend on healthy coastal habitats. All you do is write the governor before the Oct. 15 deadline at: <http://tinyurl.com/WriteTheGov>

November 6

MONDAY MORNING fitness walk: Urban walk of mid-town Ventura, 5-mile loop - Meet at Mission Plaza at 9am to walk up to The Cross first, then return via Kalorama Ave. and down to the Ventura pier. From here we will walk the Ventura Promenade north to the Lagoon, cross the RR tracks and head back to Mission Plaza on Main St. LORA & PHILIP CLARKE, 218-2103 or 218-2105. (VEN)

## EAVESDROPS

"Everything is on the table ... except fouling the beauty of our parks."

~ Newly appointed state Parks Director Anthony Jackson, an outsider who retired as a Marine officer a year ago and was spending his time going from park to park in an RV. He was praised in the **LA Times** by Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips who said, " he may be exactly the right man at the right time for state parks."

November 10

UPPER ROSE LAKE over Nordhoff Ridge down Howard creek: Moderate-to-strenuous 7-mile hike with 1600 feet of elevation gain. We start hiking at Upper Rose Lake through the Rose Valley campground and up to Nordhoff Ridge Fire road to Howard creek trail. We will then shuttle back to Upper Rose Lake. (National Forests' ADVENTURE PASS required for all vehicles parking in Rose Valley. There is a 14.5 mile drive on HWY 33 to Rose Valley turnoff and another 4.5 miles to trailhead. Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, sun hat, 3 qts of water, and snack/lunch required. Temperatures over 85 or Rain cancels. Meet at 7:30am, Ventura carpool (Seaward and Harbor in Ventura). LORA 218-2105 (VEN), PHIL 218-2103 (VEN)

November 11

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](tel:685-1283)/[event@swt.org](mailto:event@swt.org) (SB)

November 12

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](mailto:sbhikergirl@cox.net) (SB)

November 13

MONDAY MORNING fitness walk: Cozy Dell 4 mile (or more?) out and back hike - Meet at Mission Plaza at 8:30am to carpool 30 minutes east to Cozy Dell trail head in Ojai. We will start up the Cozy Dell trail until it arrives at Cozy Dell canyon junction (2 miles). If the group is up for it we can continue up Cozy Dell to the next junction for even more excitement. This trail hike has possibilities based on who shows, that day's weather and trail conditions. This can be as

short as a 4 mile hike or 2-3 more miles (up to 8 miles total). We will hike through many environmental zones, with an amazing switch-backing trail. Please wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring water and hiking poles. LORA & PHILIP CLARKE, 218-2103 or 218-2105. (VEN)

November 19

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 20

MONDAY MORNING fitness walk: Ojai Valley trail (paved) starting in Ojai - meet at Mission Plaza at 8:30am to carpool 30 minutes east to downtown Ojai where we park our vehicles near Rainbow Bridge Market (on Matilija between Signal and Montgomery). Then we walk the Ojai Valley trail to the trolley stop near the corner of Hwy 33 and Villanova to take the trolley (seniors 50cents/\$1 others) back to Ojai (For those so inclined they could walk back for even more mileage.) LORA & PHILIP CLARKE, 218-2103 or 218-2105. (VEN)

November 24

SESPE CONDOR SANCTUARY: Experience fall in the Sespe Wilderness, on a corridor through the Sespe Condor Sanctuary, starting at Dough Flat trailhead. Hike 4.5 miles to scenic rock formations overlooking Alder Creek, where we'll stop for lunch. About 9 miles round trip, 1,100' gain/loss. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, & other 10 essentials, layers, gloves and warm hat if weather is cool. Rain or recent heavy rain cancels. Meet at 7:30am in Fillmore Von's Shopping Center near Starbucks to carpool 45 minutes on unpaved forest road to trailhead. Adventure Pass not required. Teresa 524-7170 (VEN)

November 25

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 26

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 5mrt. 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)

November 27

MONDAY MORNING fitness hike: Loon Point through Summerland - Meet at Mission Plaza at 8:30am to carpool 30 minutes north to Loon Point parking lot. This is not a walk but a hike of easy to moderate level - 6 mi. loop and 800 ft. of elevation gain. This hike will lead to a sandy beach with sandstone cliffs, then to Lookout Park. We'll walk through parts of Summerland (Evans Ave to Whiney Ave), eventually to Toro Canyon Creek trail and back to Loon point parking lot. LORA & PHILIP CLARKE, 218-2103 or 218-2105. (VEN)

December 2

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 3

COLD SPRINGS, FORBUSH FLAT TO SPRING: Hike down Cold Springs Trail from E. Camino Cielo to Forbush Flat campground. Hike approx 1.5 miles further to natural spring. Bring swim suit, towel, lunch and water. Strenuous 6 mrt. Meet behind B or A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 451-1239 (SB)

December 9

TOPA TOPA BLUFF Annual Christmas Potluck: Strenuous 16 mrt hike with 4,487 ft of elevation gain to Topa Topa Bluffs (elev. 6,300 ft). Fun revelry and scenic views of the Oxnard Plain and Channel Islands. Light snow is possible. Please bring 10 essentials and food or drink to share with the group. Meet at Sisar Canyon Road gate

## World outings

Want to go waaaaay beyond local Outings to adventures all over the nation and world?

Then check out what's on the Sierra Club's website, full of new outings from Arizona to New Zealand, and Tasmania and Nepal in between. You will be amazed. Tantalizing tours of natural and human history the world over. Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/PlanetOutings>

at 7:30am. Dog friends welcome. Rain cancels. Leader: STEPHEN BRYNE 794-1150. (SB)

December 10

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)



Philip and Lora Clarke invite you to come along any Monday morning on short hikes throughout the region, taking on a Sierra Club tradition from long-term hiker Pat Jump. Contact info under Ongoing Outings box in every issue. (Photo contributed)

## Monday morning hikes 52 in a year-yikes!

By Philip Clarke

The Ventura Sierra Club's tradition of sponsoring Monday morning walks and hikes for nearly 20 years is continuing to new generations, but with the goal of doing 52 different hikes throughout the year. Here's the link: <http://tinyurl.com/Ventura52hikes>

Long-time leader Pat Jump can no longer lead the weekly walks, but a new crew has taken over rather than see it disappear. While Pat is a rather small person, filling her walking shoes is a big task. Ten years ago, Pat had a variety of 15-20 walks/hikes that covered most of Ventura and the surrounding areas, like Ojai, Carpinteria and even Santa Barbara. Lately she's been scaling back the variety of walks to just a few favorites.

Ten years ago, I was that someone new to the Ventura area and found Pat's walks amazing, helping me to discover the many fascinating places in and around Ventura. Now, in an effort to take her walks/hikes to the next level, my wife Lora and I have qualified to be local Sierra Club leaders and have taken Pat's 20 hikes and expanded them out so that there is a different walk/hike each week of the year ... yes, 52 walks and hikes in total!

Daunting, maybe, but as we started looking at the Ventura-Santa Barbara-Santa Monica Mountains areas we quickly realized that there are way more than 52 different walks possible! SO, we plan to

offer 52 Monday morning jaunts, up to 6 or 7 miles and usually no more than 3 hours in length. Some will be urban explorations in the cities of Ventura, Santa Paula, Fillmore, Thousand Oaks, etc. Others will be easy or moderate hikes into the Los Padres, Santa Monica Mountains, Thousand Oaks and Simi hills.

Much of the emphasis is keeping fit, but a secondary and equally important facet is to explore our local areas to get to know them from a pedestrian level; that is, on our feet, not by car!

In addition, we expect to build a list of weekly outings that will be posted on the Ventura Sierra Club website so that if you miss a Monday walk and want to do it on your own, you can look it up and just do it. And, feel free to offer us suggestions of new areas that can be done within at most a 30 to 40-minute drive from the downtown Ventura carpool site (currently Mission Plaza parking lot). Ensure the walk can be done by most anyone in moderately good physical condition within 2-to-3 hours.

And we'd like to offer a social stop at a local coffee shop for those so inclined. This is usually near the end of the walk or immediately following, depending on where we are that week.

Hope to see you out NEXT Monday morning! You can contact us at 218-2103 (Philip) or 218-2105 (Lora).



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# Hundreds plug into EV show

By John Hankins

Jacob likes to invite his teenage friends into his parents' Tesla Model X Autopilot and see their reactions when it powers off like a space ship smoothly, quietly and without effort. Tesla calls that "Ludicrous acceleration" -- zero to 60 mph in 2.5 seconds!

His mom Lisa Merkord likes that too, but she *loves* the wraparound windshield and the calm in LA traffic as Autopilot takes over, asserting "it's the best driving experience ever!" (It's also the safest, she says, "can't roll over because the batteries are down low.")

This is the kind of wonder we heard from over 400 people who attended the Electric Vehicle show at Oxnard's Channel Islands Harbor on a September Sunday, sponsored by the Los Padres Chapter of Sierra Club (for the second year) and Community Environmental Council (CEC). It was during National Drive Electric Week, Sept. 9-17, held every year to show the public "the benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid-electric cars, trucks, motorcycles" and even boats, bikes golf carts ... and lunar rovers.

"It's a fundamental change," said Cathy Bullard who uses her second EV (a Nissan Leaf) to commute from Ventura to



Thousand Oaks with the license plate "I (heart) 0 GAS". Her pleasant surprise? "It's almost maintenance free, so much less to do, no oil change, spark plugs, gasoline ..." Cathy and her husband Kent also have a solar system on their house and are "really interested" in a possible repurposing of EV batteries for home storage.

"These enthusiastic and knowledgeable owners of 42 electric vehicles displayed their cars," said Sierra Club's James Reach, while the attendees asked them questions with no pressure to buy. New this year and thanks to CEC was the ability for them to drive four various models (one a \$140,000 BMW).

Cameron Gray of CEC conducted a workshop with an audience hanging on every word. "We are a third party and not biased," he said, concluding that now is a good time to buy as prices are coming down and there's more models available.

You can get an electric vehicle for as low as \$20,000 now, Gray said, while hybrids are more expensive because of their complexity, ranging from

\$30,000-50,000. Gray has noticed some EV leases that have no upfront payment and are as low as \$90 per month. Tax credits and discounts from SCE, dealers and local government are also possible; in fact, Stan Cowen of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District was there to run down the possibilities.

Prospective buyers can learn about such discounts from the APCD or CEC before visiting dealers.

Reach gave credit to co-captain Kent Bullard (Sustainability Council of Ventura County) and the Electric Vehicle Advocates of Ventura County, "whose contributions made this event an overwhelming success."

The National Sierra Club now has a Go Electric Campaign, asserting EVs "present a critical opportunity to slash pollution, reduce our dependence on oil, create American jobs, and



Cathy Bullard doesn't need no stinkin' gas for her fragrance-free Nissan Leaf.

improve national security."

Cathy passed out an ad showing an electric car from the 1900s (first invented in the early 1800s), which was eclipsed by gasoline-powered vehicles, but now with new technology and much less pollution, EVs "have a second chance."

Best source for info on discounts and EV models is at: [www.DriveClean.CA.gov](http://www.DriveClean.CA.gov)



All details on EV cars and discounts were provided to this rapt audience by Cameron Gray of CEC (wearing vest) while local Sierra Club's EV show organizer James Reach (middle, facing) listens in. (Photos by John Hankins)

