Club leader came here, ‘captivated by the beauty’

By Jon Ullman
Executive Director

Two years ago, the Sierra Club’s Victory Corps commander managed to off the last two Congressional races available. “I have two locations,” he said. “Northern California and Santa Barbara, California.” Do either of those interest you?

I had been working in Miami for the Sierra Club for 18 years as their South Florida/ Everglades Senior Representative and Communications Director. I had already participated in Victory Corps, a program in which Sierra Club staff helped a congressional candidate in an important, competitive race, but I really wanted to work on a race outside of Florida.

“Let me check with my wife,” I told the manager. My wife, Blanca, didn’t miss a beat. “Santa Barbara? Take it! Call him back now!”

We had travelled through the area on our way up the coast to San Francisco from Anaheim, where my then 11-year-old daughter convinced me to attend a YouTube convention called VidCon, a year earlier. We, like so many, were captivated by the beauty of the mountains and the sea and the friendlier-than-usual people. Somehow, it seemed serendipitous that it would come up again.

The candidate was Salud Carbajal, the Santa Barbara County Supervisor, who would become the first Mexican-American U.S. Representative for an enormous district from San Luis Obispo to Ventura. I met the Sierra Club leaders who volunteered hundreds of hours of their time to get him elected. The well-financed oil-backed opponent tried to trick voters through TV ads and mailers that Salud supported offshore oil drilling, when in fact he was the anti-oil drilling candidate. T b c Sierra Club played a major role in setting the record straight through rallies and media work.

I learned how offshore and on-shore oil drilling, its storage, and transmission have devastated this region. How it is not only incompatible with other industries such as tourism and agriculture, but also a visual blight and threat to human health. But it wasn’t until the Thomas fire and the deadly Montecito mudslides, did I understand the indirect threat the industry posed to the area through climate change. Just as the seven million residents of South Florida, at only a few feet above sea level, were seeing the grim effects of greenhouse gases, Californians too were feeling the pain from enhanced fire, drought and floods. The remaining rigs in the channel are a visual reminder of a global energy system that is unleashing increased death and destruction every day.

continued on page 2

36 years and counting, still no beach access

BULLETIN
The Los Padres Chapter on July 26 voted to not only help fund the Gaviota Coastal Trail Alliance to gain public access through Hollister Ranch, it is also in the process of asking the national Sierra Club’s approval to support and raise funds for the effort.

By Phil McKenna, Gaviota Coast Conservancy
The public’s right to access the ocean is guaranteed by the California Constitution and the Coastal Commission is charged by the Coastal Act to maximize public access along the coastline.

Yet today there is no public access to any portion of the 8.5 miles of the dry sand fronting Hollister Ranch just west of Gaviota State Beach.

This, despite legislative direction to the Coastal Conservancy 36 years ago: “to implement, as expeditiously as possible, the public access policies and provisions of the Coastal Act at the Hollister Ranch.”

A window has opened to challenge this circumstance.

In 2013 the Conservancy accepted a long dormant offer-to-dedicate created in 1982 by the YMCA, then an owner of land on the Ranch, that provided for a managed access program allowing up to 50 individuals per day to access the beach at Cuarta Canyon, about two miles west of the Hollister Ranch gate.

The Hollister Ranch Owners’ Association strongly disliked this public access, suing the Conservancy and the Coastal Commission.

While Judge Colleen Stern’s initial ruling was favorable to the State and Public, settlement discussions were begun in Santa Barbara Superior Court to resolve this dispute. An agreement was reached behind closed doors in late 2017, but in May 2018 Judge Stern ordered that the agreement be made public and the public could intervene in the lawsuit, finding that the people had a strong interest in the issue.

As is, the settlement is a sham. It provides for a maximum of 880 individuals per year to visit the beach at Cuarta Canyon in a managed access program run by the Ranch. That also means the Ranch expenses would be reimbursed from a government account earmarked for true public coastal access including planning and construction of the Hollister Ranch section of the California Coastal Trail.

Under the settlement, the general public can visit the dry sand of the beach, but only by ocean access through the surf and along a road approximately 99% of the public unable to physically or economically navigate the three-mile ocean voyage from Gaviota.

continued on page 2

ACCESS NOW!
In a letter to the California Coastal Commission dated July 13, 2018, the commission is asked to direct its staff “to immediately negotiate and implement an action program for the completion of the California Coastal Trail across Hollister Ranch,” which would run from Gaviota State Park to Jalama Beach County Park, “including appropriate vertical access to the ocean.”

It is signed by the Gaviota Coalition, Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club, California Coastal Protection Network, SB County Trails Council and CoastalWalk-Cal Coastal Trail Alliance.

This long-time contentious issue reached national proportions via the New York Times, LA Times (best pictures!), regional TV outlets and local newspapers. Here’s some links:
https://tinyurl.com/ NYTimesHRanchAccess
https://tinyurl.com/ LATimesHRanchissue
https://tinyurl.com/ SBHollisterHRanch

continued on page 2

Free Drive Electric Week Events
The Los Padres Chapter’s National Drive Electric Week Events for 2018 may even top the popularity of the last few years. For those who have EV and hybrid vehicles already, we urge more owners to show off their vehicles proudly to educate the public with your experience: to take part, contact James Reach at jreich@sierraclub.org.

NOTE: There will not be an EV-hybrid show on the South Coast this year. For those who have EV and hybrid vehicles already, we urge more owners to show off their vehicles proudly to educate the public with your experience: to take part, contact James Reach at jreich@sierraclub.org.

SOLVANG
Saturday Sept. 8, 10am – 3pm
470 Mission Road, Solvang, CA 93463
Contact is James Reach: jreich@sierraclub.org

OXNARD
Sunday Sept, 9:30am – 3pm
Channel Islands Harbor
(adjacent to Farmers’ Market)
4610 Harbor Boulevard
SPECIAL: This event will feature an adjacent ride and drive event with volunteer assistance by the Electric Vehicle Advocates of Ventura County.
Contacts are Kent Bullard: kentbullard@gmail.com or Jones Holtz at (626) 443-0706

COVER PHOTO
Join the Sierra Club for its landmark series of 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tours of the enchanting Channel Islands National Park. Only those dates are left: Aug 19-21, Sept 23-25 and Oct 21-23. Food provided, self or naturalist walks, like this one hiking to Smuggler’s Cove on San Cruz island.
For details, contact Joan Jones Holtz at (626) 443-0706 or phingtig@comcast.net

EDITOR’S NOTE
Meet the Los Padres Chapter’s new executive director, brought on board to enhance the chapter’s (and its four groups) storied history to “Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet.” Welcome at: JonathanUllman@SierraClub.org

By Jon Ullman
Executive Director

A large continent of our Executive Committee met to greet the new Executive Director, Jon Ullman. They are (from left) Gerry Ching (secretary), Alex Pujo (SB Group), Janet Blevins and Rebecca August (Arguello Group), Mike Stubblefield (Ventura Sierra Club), Chapter Chair Jim Hines, Katie Davis and Martha Sadler (SB Group) and Jon Ullman. (Photo by Condor John)

Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties
Opposition is intense!

By Katie Davis

And then climate change came for me...

I didn’t sleep for three days after I returned to my house, which almost burned down in the Holiday Fire that swept through Goleta on July 6.

I was in shock and grieving for my neighborhood. The fire burned down most of the houses on my street right up to my house, including the fence on both sides. I’m living in a smoky wasteland.

An expert says there is a 99% likelihood that climate change increased the severity of the heatwave (102° at 9pm) that created the freaky tinderbox in which this fire erupted 100 or so yards from my house.

Here’s more info on that:
https://tinyurl.com/FiredClimateChange

Exxon Protest

A few days later July 11 we protested Exxon’s application to truck oil and restart drilling at their offshore platforms at the Court House in Santa Barbara. Those platforms have been shut down since the May 2015 blowout on the Refugio Beach pipeline to refineries.

Trucking is the most dangerous way to transport oil and while the criminal trial for the last spill is still grinding on at the Santa Barbara courthouse – it is a poor time to talk about restarting offshore oil production.

But for me it’s bigger than that.

As early as 1977, scientists at Exxon warned the company that “use of fossil fuels... should not be encouraged” because of the risk, but Exxon went on to undermine climate science, delay political action and post record profits.

So, we are protesting to stop these projects. No more drilling. No more spilling. No more climate disasters.

Record Turnout

The following week on July 17, the Santa Barbara County Energy division held their second hearing on ERG’s draft environmental impact report for their proposal to drill 233 high-intensity oil wells in the cat canyon area near Santa Maria.

Opposition was intense. “This is the most folks we’ve seen for an environmental hearing in this division’s history,” said Erin Briggs, County Energy Planner.

Many comments revealed many issues, including ERG’s bankruptcy and history as one of the top three operators with the highest number and volume of oil spills in the county, the unacceptable risk of polluting Santa Barbara’s drinking water supply, and the climate impacts of locking in intensive oil production for decades to come.

The comments at hearings in both Santa Maria and Santa Barbara ran overwhelmingly in opposition to the project.

Overall, 78% of those who spoke at the two hearings were opposed to the project. We’ll need to keep up the fight as this and two other huge projects come up for approval starting this fall.

Clean Energy Advances

As the same time we were fighting off dangerous oil expansion in the county, we had huge victories from three local jurisdictions.

On July 17, the Santa Barbara County and the cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta all voted to give the people a choice when it comes to power. Santa Barbara Group’s testimony said “there are 8,763 jobs in renewable energy and efficiency in Santa Barbara County. CCE could further benefit this sector.

That means that Community Choice Energy program. “We are going to be using renewable energy sources, solar and wind and geothermal power,” said Kirby Dusel, the vice president of Pacific Energy Advisors. Its study found the program could provide cleaner energy at lower cost for participants.

In the end, well, the program would launch in January 2021, and would help our region meet its goal of 100% renewable energy.

Time to Celebrate

After over a century of oil drilling, on July 28 Carpinteria celebrated the end of oil with beer and music at the Rincon Brewery. With the passing of Venoco, forty-five acres of the Carpenteria bluffs can now be put to other happier uses. Two oil platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel will be decommissioned, and Carpenteria’s famous beach has been saved from the prospect of unsightly drilling rig.

I’ll drink to that.
On 7-11 opponents of Exxon’s proposal to transport its offshore oil via hundreds of trucks was heavily opposed at a hearing at the Santa Barbara County Administration Building. See story on page 2. (Photo by Katie Davis)

Dynamic events each month

The Ventura Sierra Club’s dynamic programs are getting a lot of attention, thanks to organizers Rachel Enevoldsen and Nina Danza.

Coming up Aug 9 is an opportunity to meet John Muir (actor Don Baldwin), who’s got the legend’s knack for storytelling for your listening pleasure, then on Sept. 11 it’s Steve Evans of CalWild talking about the wild and scenic rivers of which run through our chapter. Details and RSVP of both events are at: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

The Aug 9 event is a BBQ with the Muir actor, bring your own meat or other entree, side dish to share and your own plate, cup, utensil, no alcohol please. Guaranteed to please; it’s from 5:30-8pm @ Linear Park (N. Bank Rd and Rio Grande St.). Details and RSVP at: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

Aug 9: Solarize Ventura has a free workshop planned at 6pm at the Santa Barbara Unitarian Church, 1355 Santa Barbara St. Program is by Community Environmental Council, hosted by Brighten Solar Co., local cities and the county. Tax credits, vendor options, batteries and more details: www.SolarizeSantaBarbara.org

Sept 16: Celebrate 25th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of the Santa Clara River, on a brilliant Sunday from 3:30 – 6:30pm at Rancho Camulos, 5164 E. Telegraph Rd. (Hwy 126) in Piru, on the banks of the river. Billed as the Silver Streams Gala Celebration and Fundraiser, details and info are at: www.FSRC.org

Sept 20: FAVE HIKES! Join cartographer and LFPA executive director Bryan Conant and local guide and author Craig. Carey for a fun account of, their favorite Los Padres destinations, the status of much of the forest post-Thomas Fire, and what efforts are underway to repair and rehabilitate hiking and backpacking routes impacted by the fire. Sponsored by Ventura Land Trust, this fun duals and tells all & 7pm, Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. Ventura. Donations gratefully accepted.

John Muir, disguised as Don Baldwin

EAVESDROPS

“A eagle! one of my students squealed, much to my delight.”

Yes, a bald eagle, a bird well known in Ventura in the 1970s, now under threat of a Trump Administration bent on dismantling the Endangered Species Act, which by its protections have saved America’s symbol. Teacher Susan Terrell related this story of her class in awe of wildlife during an outing in the Venturaville Union Bay Natural Area.

EAVESDROPS

"She often escaped from (him and physically and sexually abused) (by running into) the woods, and she came to view the wilderness as protective and therapeutic.”

~ From a NY Times obituary about Emma Goedewall, the first woman to conquer the 2,000-mile long Appalachian Trail done in 1955 when she was 67 years old, carrying only a small sack (no tent, no sleeping bag). Four years later she did the 2,000-mile Oregon Trail, “inspiring two distinct movements in long-distance hiking: women thru-hikers and the ultra-lite movement,” according to a museum citation.

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ New meeting day and time: first Tuesdays, noon to 1:30pm of each month except Nov. 13 and Dec 18, 2018. Meets at Union Bank, 15 E. Carrillo St. View the calendar, hikes and issues and join the mailing list for the South Coast SB area (Carpinteria to Goleta) at: www.SBSierraClub.org

www.facebook.com/sierraclub.santa.barbara

ARGUELLO GROUP

~ Now on Facebook, keep in touch and post with our SB North County Group at: http://tinyurl.com/ArguelloGroup

~ General meetings with potluck and programs during most months on 3rd Friday at Valley of Flowers Church in Vandenberg Village, 3346 Constellation Rd. at 7pm; 6pm if a potluck. Need a ride or offer a carpool? Contact Janet Blewars: 717-4161 or janre80@gmail.com

~ Volunteers needed for hikes and other events, let’s see how you can help: email Janet or answer roadside “Volunteers needed” signs.

~ ExCom meets 7pm on 4th Thursday of every month, either at the Surfrider Buellton or at the Edgewater restaurant, 1535 Santa Barbara St. Program is by Community Environmental Council, hosted by Brighten Solar Co., local cities and the county. Tax credits, vendor options, batteries and more details: www.SolarizeSantaBarbara.org

VENTURA NETWORK

~ Latest info about the western Ventura County group: http://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClub28

~ New MEETUP site for hikes, outings etc: www.meetup.com/Sierra_ventura

~ Regular meetings 1st Tuesday monthly at Ventura Bike Hub, 490 N. Ventura Ave, 7-8:30pm

~ STRONGLY RECOMMEND RSVP as location and date are subject to change: sierraventura@ventura.org

CONCEJO GROUP

~ Get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from the website: www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings

~ ExCom meets 7pm on 4th Thursday of every month, either at the Carpenteria HIIF or by conference call. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: shuttle@cox.net

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings

http://tinyurl.com/ArguelloGroup

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings

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By John Hankins
Our chapter volunteers (and friends) kept working on promoting renewable energy, battling for public access off the coastal Hollister Ranch (earning nationwide attention), alerting the public to vital issues, working on trails, conservation projects and simply enjoying our special environment.

Please join us in any capacity you like (see Group News box pg 3), and don’t forget, we offer free outreach (outside of this section). Here’s what we’ve been up to in June and July:

July 28: R.I.P. Oil celebration marking the end of Venoco’s operations in Carpinteria was held at the Rincon Brewery, sponsored by the Sierra Club, Env. Defense Center and Carp. Valley Assn. “With the passing of Venoco, 45 acres of the Carp. Bluffs will now be put to other uses, 2 oil platforms will be decommissioned ...” read the invitation.

July 20: Wow, NY Times did a feature on the Hollister Ranch access issue, of which our chapter is involved in the fight to gain public access. Read update on issue page 1 and the NYTimes coverage here: https://tinyurl.com/NYTimesHillRanchAccess

July 19: Zero waste film organized by the Brighten Solar Co. as a fundraiser for showing the Sierra Club’s new renewable energy film. Our Arrowgol Group wants to show it in the North County. Good idea, Rebecca.

July 13: Head Hunters no longer exist in a remote part of the Philippines, but one of our hike leaders, Robert Bernstein, headed there and treated folks to a potluck slide show at the Valley Verde Retirement Center. An optional hike at the SB Mission preceded the program.

July 13: Coastal access through Hollister Ranch came to the Cal Coastal Commission meeting in Santa Cruz where advocates for public access strongly challenged the present agreement with homeowners. That access was a compromise from a May court ruling; final decision expected in September. (See story pg 1)

July 11: Trucking Oil is a bad idea, according to opponents, rallies and testimony by Sierra Club and others, during a plea to SB County to let them throw their offshore oil onto hundreds of trucks. (See story pg 2)

July 10: “Reinventing Power, America’s Renewable Energy Boom” was a public screening to benefit the Los Padres Chapter, hosted by Brighten Solar Co. at http://brightensolarco.com

July 10: Mules, Miles & Memories, a special “armchair ride” through the high Sierras highlighting a mom (Dena Mercer) and her daughter’s adventures. Was part of Ventura Sierra Club’s Ventures Out series at the Foster Library.

June 28: Cut Clearcutting: Chapter ExCom voted unanimously to support Sierra Club California’s Stop Clearcutting Campaign. Take action here: https://tinyurl.com/CutClearcutting

June 24: Stop Oil drilling forum co-sponsored by the SB Sierra Club packed the hall of the Unitarian Society. It addressed the moral and practical necessity of saying NO to hundreds of dirty oil projects planned for SB County. Other sponsors: SB CLUE, Food & Water Watch, SB Standing Rock Coalition, 350 Santa Barbara and SBCAN - Santa Barbara County Action Network. Get detail on proposed 750 new wells at: https://tinyurl.com/CutClearcutting

June 23: Sierra Club’s Venture(a) Out adventures. Was part of Ventura Sierra Club and Vernocan. A lead-in photograph by Mike Kredjurian (Wilderness Basics Course grady and Cara Peden’s hike trail photo. (See reprint this page)

June 9: Islands Warning from Chapter Chair Jim Hines about how our Channel Islands National Park and Sanctuary could be at risk due to Trump Administration policies and turnover of NPS Superintendent. This will be closely watched.

June 4: Forest Stakeholders meeting included Sierra Club, where our secretary Gerry Ching learned that Los Padres Forest’s priorities remain timber (minimal in LPNF) and fuel management, which allows firewood permits. Also headquartered likely to move to Santa Ynez Valley.

Join THE SIERRA CLUB’S LOS PADRES CHAPTER

By CONRADO JOHN HANKINS

T he Sierra Club’s 126-year-old motto to “Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet” is expressed in Santa Barbara and Ventura through the Los Padres Chapter, which annually sponsors dozens of free outings to all corners of our region while also advocating to protect these wildlands.

Founded in the 1950s, the Los Padres Chapter helped to establish the Los Padres National Forest via the Wilderness Act of 1964 as well as the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in 1980, among many other victories.

But hiking the trails remains a primary function of the chapter, and for all different reasons. Once, when I noticed that a certain hailing leader had stopped his singles-focused outings, I asked why. “I met my wife on one of my single outings,” he replied. A lame excuse, I thought, but it shows how strong relationships can come from walks in our woods. Typical outing includes hikes to the G lasto Hot Springs, Bates Beach, and the Backbone Trail as well as rock hopping at The Playground above Goleta, a Santa Ynez River swim, and even the Riviera Urban Hike. See lospadres.sierraclub.org

For those who want to go more “wild” but be prepared while doing so, the annual Wilderness Basics Course (Feb-Mat.) assists all levels with tips and techniques on numerous experts, gear to use, and tasty food. “You need to go and get lost in the wild to bring out the creative child in you,” advised graduate Shaila Rao. See facebook.com/lospadres.sierraclub.org

The club also sponsors three-day, three-island treks to Channel Islands National Park. This year’s treks are planned for July 15-17, August 19-21, September 23-25, and October 21-23. For details, email jjohlmann@sbcglobal.net

Join us in any capacity you like (see Group News box pg 3), and don’t forget, we offer free outreach. (outside of this section). Here’s what we’ve been up to in June and July:

WASHINGTON: DC March for the Ocean: On June 9 was huge behind this banner. Santa Barbara Group Chair Kate Davis was there along with hundreds of Sierra Club activists and fellow travelers. Rails were also held in Santa Barbara and Ventura, while Sal Juan Manuel Crescioni erected a rock sculpture near Ventura’s pier. (Photo above by Katie Davis, at right by John Hankins)

SIBENERGY PROJECTS

June 16: Trail surveys of Santa Monica Mountains found Sierra Club volunteers willing to help on several dates including June 16, 21, 24 and 27; thanks to Teresa Norris, our Wilderness Basics Course co-founder.

June 14: Feature Story written by Conrado John about our Los Padres Chapter in printed in the Santa Barbara Independent’s annual outdoor issue, featuring a lead-in photograph by Mike Kredjurian (Wilderness Basics Course grady and Cara Peden’s hike trail photo. (See reprint this page)

June 9: Islands Warning from Chapter Chair Jim Hines about how our Channel Islands National Park and Sanctuary could be at risk due to Trump Administration policies and turnover of NPS Superintendent. This will be closely watched.

June 3: Poison Free activism by our Chapter Chair Jim Hines was recognized for his work in the Santa Monica Mountains. He was given a plaque by Poison Free Malibu for his work to ban the use of deadly anti-cancer rodenticides (rat poisons) which can also kill mountain lions and other predators which eat the poisoned rodents.

June 4: Forest Stakeholders meeting included Sierra Club, where our secretary Gerry Ching learned that Los Padres Forest’s priorities remain timber (minimal in LPNF) and fuel management, which allows firewood permits. Also headquartered likely to move to Santa Ynez Valley.

New: Adult Access!

Nordic ski at the Peak by Shangri La Care Cooperative Inc. Phone: (805) 640-6446 email: info@slcc@shangriolareccoop.org
Imagine the earth wanting gas guzzlers

By James Reach

The goal of our Sierra Club National Drive Electric Week shows is to teach the public about the benefits, ease and low cost of electric vehicle use and maintenance.

Once you get behind the wheel of an EV you will want to have one as your primary car. The instant torque that causes smooth, rapid, silent acceleration, short braking distances and one-pedal driving (letting off the accelerator pedal causes regenerative braking which eases into a full stop, which makes for a surprisingly silky-smooth driving experience).

Besides the driving experience being far better than any internal combustion engine vehicle, the cost of ownership, fueling and maintenance are sharply lower. Electricity for fuel is far lower priced than gasoline per mile.

A podcaster recently paid $16 round trip in electricity in his Tesla Model 3 round-trip to and from the San Fernando Valley to Las Vegas. The overall maintenance costs are sharply lower because there are almost no moving parts to wear out or maintain, and the brake shoes last virtually forever.

Also attractive is that EVs have zero tailpipe emissions and allow solo drivers to drive in HOV lanes.

More EV vehicles are being offered at lower and middle prices with greater than 200-plus miles of range when the battery is fully charged. The lowest priced Tesla Model 3 at $35k will be out by the end of this year. Kia, Hyundai, Volkswagen and many other manufacturers are offering models every few months, and there are now used cars available.

Also, more very fast public charging stations are being installed for long distance travel, supplementing the primary method of having an electric charging station at your residence or place of work.

Just think of a scenario where the historic situation was reversed, no one would adopt an Internal Combustion Engine vehicle. Imagine if more than 98% of vehicles on the road are all-electric and a petroleum industry trade group wanted to promote a nationwide series of ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) vehicle shows called, “National Drive ICE Week.”

Here are how participants who attended might report what they learned:

“Owners at ICE vehicle explained that gasoline, a type of fossil fuel, is pumped into a tank in the car which then drives around with about 12 gallons of this hazardous, explosive liquid in it. Exploding small drops of this fuel propels the cars.”

“We were shown a ‘charging station’ where the volunteer shows us how to put a credit card in the reader and then a hose so the vehicle would start fueling. There were two counters on the pump; one that showed gallons and one for cost. The full tank cost more than $60. Because it was sooo expensive per mile of range, we asked how much it cost to fill up using a home garage fuel charger.”

“The volunteers explained that it is not possible to refuel gasoline cars at home, and there are no free gas stations.”

It would be a world where you must drive to an expensive fuel charger several times a month to ‘recharge’ your ICE car at exorbitant prices – there are no alternatives.

Today, we are turning that around!

* * *

Editor's note: You can reach James Reach, our chapter's Transportation Chair, for more about the club's EV-hybrid campaign locally at: james.reach@sierraclub.org

Tesla Model X Autopilot owner Lisa Merkord said, “It’s the best driving experience ever!” and not just because it gets Xero emissions. The Auto-pilot feature on LA freeways is amazing and trouble-free and her teenager Jacob can hardly wait to drive it! (Photo by John Hankins)

Supervisor Joan Hartmann with dog Mika in front of her electric Tesla Model S, for which she recharges with solar powered panels at home. She’ll be at the Solvang show and tell Sept. 8, 10am to 3pm. No Santa Barbara show this year, so South Coasters should take the scenic drive to Solvang this year. (Photo contributed)
It was very disgusting to be in there; I kept thinking I would see a dead body of some sort for sure.”

Zack Noyle on his now-famous photo of a surfer under a wave of trash near Zuma, which was once known for the purity of its waters.

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 and see photos too. Go to:
http://meetup.com/SantaBarbaraSierraClub

Regular outings are every Wednesday and Friday nights and every Saturday and Sunday during the fall and winter.


Every evening social hike in a trailhead or park is easy to moderate 2.5 mile 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 sharing: AI: 805-682-1028. Contact AID 805-682-1028

Saturday and Sunday hikes: Usually meets at the Bank of America on Hope and State. Starting times vary. For detailed schedules and who to call, go to:
https://meetup.com/SantaBarbaraSierraClub

Ventura

Meetup group is open to everyone and is a super handy calendar of the local Sierra Club outings. Ease into fitness at beginner walks, get going and State Street. Starting times vary. For detailed schedules and who to call, go to:
http://meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

Every Monday morning: Easy Walks: Join the Ventura Sierra Club at 9am every Monday morning at the parking area behind the City Hall and head out for the 2- to 3-hour long hike. Meet up at 8:30 for coffee and 9am for departure.

The low tide is at 09:40, which will allow us to follow the beach trails and enjoy the Sierra-like scenery. On the way, we’ll hike up to the summit of Mt. Pinos at 8,847’, the highest peak in Ventura County & San Bernardino Mtn. too. Bring hat, sunglasses, 2 liters of water, lunch, sunscreen, and buddy up! We will regroup occasionally so that we may continue as a group. For info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 moenandez@cox.net (VEN)

Meetings

August 8-12: CARMEL & CHANNEL ISLANDS BACKPACK: TWIN RIVERS LOOP, ARC DOME: This area has been invaded by coyotes, moose, deer, badger and mountain lions, so dial 11 digits from landline phone numbers listed are otherwise noted. Note that most of Santa Barbara County sidewalks and roads can be narrow, so please yield the right-of-way to cars. This is a flat loop trail that should take 2-3 hours. For info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 moenandez@cox.net (VEN)

August 18 WILD & GEMIC FILM FEST 5-7pm. Come say ‘hi’ to both volunteers at the Ventura Land Trust benefit. Ventura Sierra Club is here to help the trust obtain thousands of acres in our county for recreation and ecological conservation. Location and tickets at venturalandtrust.org (VEN)

krut shopping@cox.net (SB)

SHEEP CAMP Hike: Enjoy Jeffrey pine forest! Trail starts at 8:30am. We gain 1,600’ & lose 1,500’, while hiking 9 miles round trip. Our lunch destination is Sheep Camp, near a spring, where we’ll relax for an hour & enjoy the Sierra-like scenery. On the way, we’ll hike up to the summit of Mt. Pinos at 8,847’, the highest peak in Ventura County & San Bernardino Mtn. too. Bring hat, sunglasses, 2 liters of water, lunch, sunscreen, and buddy up! We will regroup occasionally so that we may continue as a group. For info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 moenandez@cox.net (VEN)

September 1 TRESPASS TRAIL: Moderately strenuous 6 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2200. Get ready to see eye-popping views up and down the coast. We will ascend Trespass trail to a lovely Dell overlooking the coast. We will hike at a moderate pace or about 2 miles an hour, stopping for lunch, and returning to the trailhead at approximately 3:30pm. There is a steep ascent so cardiological conditioning is recommended. Under 15 must be accompanied by an adult. Hiking shoes and at least 2 liters of water required. Meet behind B of America parking lot at Hope Ave. 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME. For info, email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

WILDCOY PAM PARK LOOP: Moderate 4.5 mile hike with approach. 700’ elev. gain. Hike goes up across Molino Creek Trail. Return down Wildwood Park Loop. Meet behind B of America parking lot at Hope Ave. 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME. For info, email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)
Outings...from page 6 leading us back to our cars. This is a 6 mile loop along a mix of beach, pavement, and dirt. Plan on being done about 12:00. For more info, contact JAMES ROMERO -- you can have blistering summer in an abandoned road with a beautiful view. The article is presented her page 1) reinforcing gains made by Page 10 1962 when there were only a Michael Huffington. “It was sort of 2) establishing new wilderness areas Page 11 a State Pass or carpooling so you 5) get a field bag • SierraClub.org 6) http://driveelectricweek.org/ 7) sierraclubventura@gmail.com 8) The Call of the W 9) Laguna Chumash & Historic Hwy 150: We’ll walk a portion of the original Hwy 150 road near the Sierra Chumash booth. Arrowhead Road. Easy/moderate 2.5 miles, 1 hour and a half long. Lunch portions recommended as Spring rains brought tall grass. Meet behind B of A near Hope Ave and the parking lot. Hope Ave & State St. If you arrive early, please meet us at Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for details. GERRY 1-805-964- 5411, gcho@cox.net (VEN) September 9 L A N G L E Y & H I S T O R I C H W Y 150: We’ll walk a portion of the original Hwy 150 road near the Sierra Chumash booth. Arrowhead Road. Easy/moderate 2.5 miles, 1 hour and a half long. Lunch portions recommended as Spring rains brought tall grass. Meet behind B of A near Hope Ave and the parking lot. Hope Ave & State St. If you arrive early, please meet us at Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for details. GERRY 1-805-964- 5411, gcho@cox.net (VEN) NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK WEEK, 9:30am-3pm Show your vehicle. It’s fun and just come play with some! Volunteers needed to staff the booth. OCSENT West Channel Park, 3610 Harbor Blvd. Sign up as an exhibitor at vmrk.weather.gov/event.php?eventid=1208 (SB) VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - MAU L E N L I N A R, victoria.a.perez@ sierraclubventura@gmail.com (VEN) NICHOLAS FLAT TRAIL: Trail - 12pm-1pm Moderate, 6.5 mile lightly trafficked loop trail near Malibu that features a lake, a lake and a lake! We take you from the beach to the mountains. Bring 2-3 liters of water, snack, lunch. We will be stopping at the Nicholas pond to rest and re-energize. No pets allowed. This trail has been closed to dogs for small insects so wear long pants and boots, there are no restrooms. This trail will be carried off. Parking can be found on PCH or in paid parking. We will meet at the PCH and the trailhead away from the bus. Call Victor for more info, contact VICTORIA AT victoria.a.perez@sierraclubventura@gmail.com (VEN) September 15 R A Y M I L L E R TRAIL: Hike at the Laja campground parking lot - start at 10am. It’s a 2.5 mile out and back. Bring your dog, carpooling with someone who has a State Pass or carpooling so you can all chip in and pay for a can. From our cars, we will walk up the scenic trail offering panoramic views of the ocean and islands (and hopefully a cool breeze) to the Laja campground. We will take short breaks, turn around and return to the cars. This is a 5 mile out and back trail. The elevation is gradual along several switchbacks. As always, please bring plenty of water and a hat. For more info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 moenandez@gmail.com (VEN) September 15 RAY MILLER TRAIL: Meet at 9am in the parking lot along Harbor Blvd. just south of Spinaker. From there we will walk through Harbor Village and the harbor to Channel Island Harbor Park, turn around and follow the road back to the setting ponds for a short walk around. That will be about 2 miles. From there, we will meet at the pond! Prepare for sun and bugs. 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For more info, contact MAUREEN 1-805-657-8735 moenandez@gmail.com (VEN) Los Padres Club’s Chapter Ann Tyne holds a map of the Dick Smith Wilderness which she helped establish. (Photo provided. By Jack Carnichael)
Rag tag eco-warriors

By Jim Hines

Greetings Friends:

It has been a rough year for those of us who are working in so many ways on so many fronts to stop the destruction of our national public lands, the polluting of our air and water and the killing of precious wildlife.

While we have suffered some difficult defeats and there are times when it seems like the attacks on our environment will never end, it is each one of you who are part of the army of resistance, the Warriors of the Rainbow as singer Joan Baez calls us, who have worked so hard attending and speaking out at public hearings, attending rallies and public events, meeting one on one with elected and appointed decision makers who are truly making a positive difference.

You have worked to raise public awareness, brought new people into the environmental movement by being the example of a positive. You are part of an army of Davids who will bring down the Goliaths who seek to destroy our environment.

We live in scary times, but I never thought I would see the day where people who are well dressed in four-piece business suits are the ones who hate the U.S. Government and are taking actions to get rid of the only thing America has: her land, heritage and historical culture.

These appointed and elected officials, many of whom identify with the American Patriot Movement, actually believe that the U.S. Government is illegally occupying lands in the western U.S. (our national parks, monuments, forests and wildlife refuges!).

Do not give up, we have stopped some terrible things from happening, we have stalled off things and we are on court over many environmental issues.

We are so fortunate to have two great members of Congress representing our chapter area, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. They are Julia Brownley, who represents 90% of Ventura County and Sahaj Carabjali, who represents a small portion of Ventura, all of Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County.

Others in Congress who are particularly helpful on our issues, but not from our area, include Raul Grijalva (D-northern Arizona) and Paul Lowenthal (D-Laguna Beach, CA).

Do not give up for our planet and all her living creatures which need people like you. It is truly you who are the voice for the earth and the wildlife who cannot speak up. Your voice matters.

We may be a rag tag army of environmental warriors, but history has shown that in the end we will carry the day. Because of you we will prevail in the end.

In deep appreciation for all that each of you do.

Many thanks to the 70+ volunteers who cleaned up graffiti and trash from Wheeler Gorge in the Ojai District on June 30. Sponsors included Black Diamond, Los Padres Chapter of American Alpine Club, the SB Rock Gym, and Los Padres ForestWatch to do this excellent deed which garnered about 200 pounds of trash and hundreds of square feet of graffiti. Then many celebrated by climbing the clean rocks. (Photo by Bryant Baker of LPFW) To volunteer in the future, go to: www.LPFW.org

Join the Club - Only $15 - Free Bag - SIERRACLUB.ORG