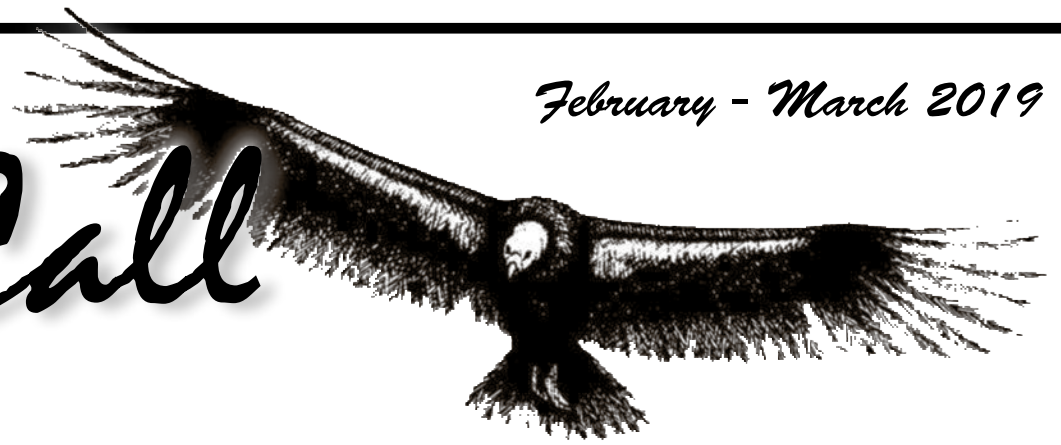


Vol. 19, No. 1 of 6

February - March 2019

Condor Call



DRIFTING OIL SMEARS BEACHES

Scum-mired birds dying by the hundreds

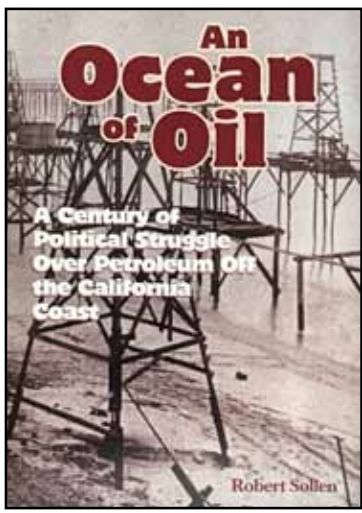
(LA Times front-page headlines Jan 1969)



© Photo by Shaw Leonard

The Blob ... Puente <poof!> ... Electrify ... WBC begins ... Outings
Pgs 1,2 Pg 1 Pgs 3,4 Pgs 1,4 Pgs 6,7

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Robert Sollen wrote the book on local oil from experience covering the spill as a reporter. He will be at commemoration event. Published in 1998, he and his wife Tomi (deceased) were long-time members of the Sierra Club.



Selma Rubin was a key activist representing the Sierra Club during the 1969 oil spill and its aftermath, helping to create activists groups. (Photo by Jan Keller, also an activist, still active!)



Fred Eissler with daughter Christine on top of Lumbert Dome in Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park. Fred got the National Sierra Club involved, calling for a moratorium on offshore oil that passed unanimously.

1969 oil spill...been there, still here

By Jon Ullman

On January 28, 1969, Union Oil Platform A “blew out” covering 75 square miles of ocean in oil by the following day. The slick despoiled beaches and killed more than 3,500 sea birds, ranging from San Luis Obispo to San Diego.

The rest, as you know is history. New local organizations formed, a Declaration of Environmental Rights conference held, the first Earth Day is organized, passage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and a slew of laws protecting air, water and wildlife were passed and national environmental organizations’ memberships soared.

Read our 1969 coverage here:

<https://tinyurl.com/SClubSpillReport>

This is a good time for Sierra Club to honor its local leaders during this unparalleled event. Many were well-known community activists who, in addition to serving the Sierra Club, helped forge new groups like Community Environment Council (CEC), Environmental Defense Center (EDC) and Get Oil Out! (GOO!)

Fred Eissler was a Santa Barbara Group ExCom member who also served on the national Sierra Club Board of Directors in San Francisco. His national resolution calling for a moratorium of off-shore oil drilling was passed unanimously. He also wrote an expose with photos for Sierra Club Bulletin and helped establish the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary.

Another ExCom member, Selma Rubin, who lived to the age of 97, spawned countless new organizations and protected the Gaviota Coast from development. Jim Billig chaired the Santa Barbara Group during the spill and represented the Club in the newly-forming CEC.

These three leaders have passed away, but surviving spouses, friends and children are keeping their memories alive. Written records and mementos from that time are preserved in boxes at universities. Some records still reside in attics.

Their stories tell of a community betrayed by oil companies and the government. One year before the 1969 spill, the US Interior Department wrote that “measures to protect oil pollution and protect esthetic values will be effective.”

Today we hear the same promises as Exxon and its AERA subsidiary pursue dangerous drilling on and off our shores. Fifty years later, rigs are still ticking time bombs as rust corrodes, humans commit error and greed and negligence prevails.

On land, oil companies want to triple oil production by more than 700 wells by injecting high-pressure steam into the ground to extract oil. Industry promises have not and will not protect our air and water. Nor will ignoring the looming climate disaster that product is causing.

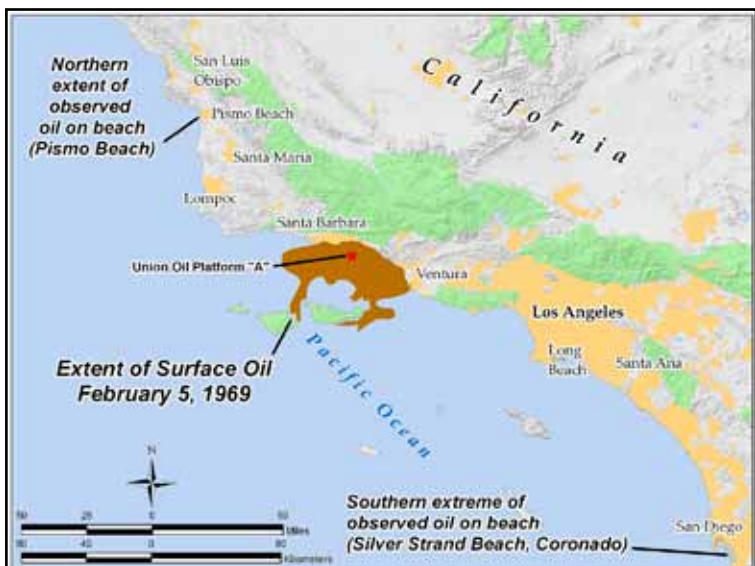
Now more than ever, we must use the anniversary of the 1969 blowout to renew our commitment to fight oil expansion and retire these scars on our horizon before our luck runs out.

There are many 1969 heroes not mentioned here, but we want to include others in future stories in our blog. If you have information, contact me at (805) 617-3106 or: jonathan.ullman@sierraclub.org

Meanwhile, the Sierra Club’s role continues (see box of upcoming events).

COVER PHOTO

Santa Barbara Channel looks wonderful 50 years after it was soiled by the devastating 1969 oil spill, but platforms still represent a threat and feds want more offshore everywhere. © Photo by Shaw Leonard, producer The GaviotaMovie





Condor Call

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

Feb - Mar 2019

WILDERNESS BASICS

Course conquers skeptics

Editor's note: Classes start Feb. 6 on Wednesday evenings through March 27 and include lots of outdoor training, classroom education and camaraderie covering the Santa Barbara and Ventura county region. Price breaks for couples and students. For details, go to: <http://lospadreswbc.org>

By Peter Green
WBC graduate

A friend of mine talked me into taking the Wilderness Basics Course from the Los Padres Sierra Club but since I already do all-day hikes, I was skeptical.

Maybe I could get a few tips out of it, but I really didn't expect much. I mean how much different was it from what I was already doing? But wow, how wrong I was about the class and how little I knew.

I went out and bought equipment before the class even started: a \$300 tent, a \$150 sleeping bag, a sleeping pad from the surplus store and a bargain buy backpack from a department store that looked really cool. I thought I was all set.

After two classes I realized I didn't know how to pitch the \$300 tent, the sleeping bag was not a good fit for the weather where I wanted to go, the sleeping pad was at the surplus store for a reason and the backpack was way too heavy, cheaply made and only good for about two days of travel.

That was a humbling experience and after that I dropped my skepticism and decided to learn.

The WBC classes covered everything -- and I mean EVERYTHING -- on backpacking. I learned how to pack it, what to take and what to leave at home - and the 10 essentials I should never be without.

I learned what to look for when getting new gear, where to go to check the weather or get maps, how to find a good campsite, what kinds of clouds could produce lightning, what to do if I met up with a wild animal, how to navigate with a compass and how to prepare myself for any situation. It was eye-opening for sure.

I studied and read, went on some hikes, did a car camping trip and two overnight backpacks as a group. Before I knew it, the class was done.

I ended up confident, I made new friends and was ready to take on the wilderness.

That next summer I took three

trips with friends and did four days backpacking alone in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Without the WBC training from the Sierra Club, it would've never happened.

I can't recommend it enough to anyone who might be on the fence or skeptical like I had been. But trust me: go to the WBC classes, learn from the experienced leaders and take that next step from day hikes to backpacking adventures in comfort and safety.



Tremendous victory Puente powers down

On Dec. 7 2018 NRG withdrew its application to the California Energy Commission for approval of the Puente Power Plant, which had been proposed for construction on the Oxnard coast.

“NRG’s withdrawal is a tremendous victory for the community and the Oxnard coast,” exclaimed Linda Krop, Chief Counsel of the Environmental Defense Center.

The withdrawal of the Puente Power Plant comes after more than three years of opposition waged by the EDC and its clients, Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter, and Environmental Coalition of Ventura County, as well as other partner organizations.

EDC and its clients were the first public intervenors in the CEC proceeding and provided expert testimony and volumes of evidence proving that the Puente Power Plant

would cause irreversible harm to this coastal community and conflict with local and state law. “The withdrawal of the Puente Power Plant application is a major step forward in restoring the Oxnard coast and moving the region forward on a path to clean energy,” said Krop.

“We are thrilled that our coast will be saved from a fourth polluting fossil fuel power plant,” remarked Mike Stubblefield of the Los Padres Chapter, followed by the Coalition’s Janis McCormick who noted, “our coast has been subject to more than its share of polluting power plants.”

The withdrawal followed an October Energy Commission Committee recommending denial of the project due its significant environmental impacts to coastal wetlands, habitats and rare wildlife, along with violations of local and state laws and regulations.



Michael Brune, Sierra Club's executive director, is coming to Santa Barbara Jan. 27 to help us drive the campaign against oil and for renewables. See pg 3 box.

Let's win \$10K

Sierra Club national is having a competition -- whichever chapter gets the most monthly donors (relative to their size) before Jan 31, gets \$10,000 to fight local battles.

The Los Padres Chapter would like to win this because we happen to have a whole lot of local battles in 2019.

It all goes to our Chapter, which covers Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. If we win, it will help cover legal and other costs, help us beat all these oil projects, expand renewable alternatives and protect nature.

If you can afford to donate at least \$5/month to local Sierra Club, please do so before Jan 31 here:

<https://wildernessguardian.sierraclub.org/local/?chapter=1000>

Read links for climate change here

Editor's note: The Santa Barbara Independent offered a special on local climate change in its Jan. 17 issue, along with outside links. Here's its teaser to numerous articles written by staff members that are immediately relevant, including practical, individual actions:

"The climate isn't just changing — it's already changed.

We saw it in the extreme weather events that tore through Montecito, and we can observe it in the incremental changes to our air and water. The rapidity of this new reality means adaptation is now the name of the game.

Here, we examine how human systems and the natural world are — or aren't — adapting to the "global weirding" that's landing in our backyards."

To read the stories, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/IndyClimate>



The North County region of Santa Barbara County tends to be oil-friendly, but that may change, judging by the pushback against hundreds of new oil wells at Cat Canyon that would be drilled over drinking water aquifers. Here, protestors stand outside a Jan 17 hearing, which included "a large group of UCSB students who gave the best researched and informed comments I've ever heard," said Katie Davis of the SB Group, one of the organizers. (Photo by Jon Ullman)

Think Oil's leaving? Not without resistance!

By Katie Davis
Oil, Oy!

This year will determine the future of oil production in Santa Barbara County.

Several large onshore oil projects proposed near Santa Maria would triple onshore oil production. All would drill through the Santa Maria groundwater basin, the only local source of drinking water for much of north Santa Barbara County, and lock in production for up to fifty years using carbon and pollution-intensive cyclic steam and flooding. The projects are called:

ERG Cat Canyon @ 233 wells
AERA Cat Canyon @ 296 wells
Petro Rock Cat Canyon @ 230 wells
That's a total of 759 new wells!

EAVESDROPS

"California is moving toward carbon-free electricity as President Trump's Washington sleeps with the fossil fuel lobby."

~ NY Times editorial that quotes former Gov. Brown saying, "In California, facts and science still matter."

Bankrupt ERG

First up, ERG will come to the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission on March 13 at 9am, 511 East Lakeside Parkway, Santa Maria. ERG's proposal for 233 wells is topped with an extra helping of risk because the company is currently in bankruptcy, and its future ownership is unclear.

Please send boatloads of comments asking the Planning Commission to deny this project to: dvillalo@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Big Oil AERA

Next up will be AERA, which is owned by Shell and ExxonMobil. They were met with protesters, signs and chants on January 17 in Santa Maria before a hearing on their draft environmental impact report, a hearing which went on for 3 1/2 hours!

About eighty people weighed in until 9:30 pm, with the majority opposed. The big concerns were the significant and widespread risks to water quality, significant degradation and loss of oak trees and habitat, and off-the-chart greenhouse gas emissions out of line with the county's climate goals.

Comments on the draft environmental impact report are being accepted until Jan. 28 and it will likely to come to the planning commission in late spring. Find a link at: www.sbsierraclub.org

Polluting PetroRock

You can trace the origins of PetroRock back to Hunter Resources, one-time operators of the Casmalia toxic waste dump, a \$100 million superfund site where the groundwater will remain contaminated for 1,000 years. They are slow-walking their oil expansion project. Perhaps they are waiting to see what happens with

the other two projects.

SLO Down

Meanwhile, Exxon is seeking to restart offshore oil production from its three platforms off the Gaviota coast that have been shut down since the 2015 oil spill, caused by a Plains Pipeline break likely due to poor maintenance.

They propose to truck the oil via 70 tanker trucks per day on the 101 and 166 freeways through Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties until new pipeline can be built along the route. The City of San Luis Obispo, took a strong leadership stand against offshore oil, passing a resolution on Jan. 15 opposing all of it.

But like the projects above, Santa Barbara County Supervisors will ultimately decide.

Renewable News

The good news is that our chapter region is turning the page to embrace clean and renewable

energy.

Ventura County launches the Clean Power Alliance in February and offers the best price to be had for a 100% renewable energy plan, even for low income customers who will pay their same discounted rate for all green energy.

This is the chance to show the rest of the nation how quickly a county can make the shift, but it all depends on you. Choose the 100% plan and fewer people will suffer ill health living near polluting power plants, more people will get jobs installing solar, wind and storage -- and we might just save the planet.

For those of you in Santa Barbara County feeling jealous, hang in there. The City of Santa Barbara is unveiling their strategic energy plan at the Feb. 12 council meeting and it's planning an energy symposium on March 14. They'll catch up.

In the meantime, enjoy being leaders, Ventura.

Rearranging the planet

By Robert Chianese

The giant alternative energy installations in California's Mojave Desert have real benefits to society and the planet by reducing our use of climate-changing fossil fuels.

Massive solar panel fields and vast banks of mirrors that aim sunlight at tall, heat generating towers produce large amounts of green energy. But we cannot use all of it without adequate storage technologies, so we pay Nevada and Arizona to take some of it off our hands. But that is not the only irony.

These installations require the removal of thousands of tortoises (*Gopherus agassizi*) from the desert floor. Biologists find and pull them from their burrows,

and then "translocate" them to a large preserve, where they try to reestablish their living routines. However, over 40% of this threatened species die just by being picked up and more languish in their new surroundings. There were 200 adults per square desert mile in 1950, now reduced to 5 to 60 per square mile.

This unfortunate trade off sacrificing one species to save many others presents us and environmentalists with a calculus we may not appreciate. And we again face dilemmas of the unforeseen consequences of new technology: the power plants require transmission towers that ravens can now perch upon to spot baby desert tortoises, so that piles of their carcasses litter tower bases.

All of this grows out of our unexamined assumptions about the desert itself—that it seems the relatively blank space of our imaginations, when in fact it is full of life, with some 2,450 plant and 266 invertebrate species. Surviving climate change may require a fuller appreciation of our planet itself and its varied habitats.

Editor's note: This is an excerpt from author's article in American Scientist magazine in January issue. See his full report here:

<https://tinyurl.com/DesertIrony>
This excerpt was also reprinted with permission from the Sierra Club California and Nevada Desert Report:

<https://tinyurl.com/DesertReportChianese>

Chianese is a retired professor of English who taught at Cal State Northridge and is a member of the Condor Clan Sierra Club.



This protestor at the Jan 17 hearing against Cat Canyon oil wells believes an oil well is a death knell, while others have the perspective of "a sun spill is just another beautiful day." (Photo by Jon Ullman)

Condor Call

<http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org> ~ All phone numbers 1-805 area code

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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Typography and production by Dan Fuller

Oil spill's 50-year commemorations

Sunday, Jan 27: Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune will speak at Santa Barbara's Arlington Theater, during a commemorative event spearheaded by local groups that arose from the disaster: EDC, CEC, GOO and UCSB Environmental Studies Dept. which will also speak. Go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/69SpillEvent>

Monday, Jan 28 (the actual 50th Anniversary) Sierra Club will speak at a press conference protesting Trump's plan to expand drilling and fracking off our coasts, 10am at Pacific Regional BOEM office, 760 Paseo Camarillo. Details here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ProtestOilPlan>

Tuesday, Jan 29, 'Broke' the oil spill film about the 2015 pipeline break along the Refugio Coast in 2015 is sponsored by SB Group. Director Gail Osherenko will be there for a Q&A along with updates on current and future oil threats locally. Airs 6:30 p.m. at SB Main Library 40 E. Anapamu St. See Meetup for details:

<https://tinyurl.com/BrokeSpill>

Renewables boost electricity's appeal

By Camille Collett

Now that large parts of our region are already committed to 100% clean energy, getting there will rely on using renewables to generate more electricity instead of natural gas or coal.

At a minimum, that means a new campaign to electrify buildings and appliances.

After transportation, buildings are the largest sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Half of these emissions come from the use of gas combustion appliances like furnaces, water heaters, and stoves, all of which can be replaced with high performance electric appliances that can have zero-emissions when powered by clean energy.

With grids in Santa Barbara and Ventura areas committed to 100% renewables by 2030, building electrification is the next step in achieving that goal. And replacing gas with electric appliances not only reduces GHG emissions, it improves human safety, comfort and health.

Gas leaks (aka the silent killer) add immense amounts of GHG and endangers people's lives. In 2015, the Aliso Canyon gas leak, the worst in US history, left residents and first responders sick with nausea, migraines, nosebleeds and in some cases cancer, forcing over 8,000 people to evacuate their homes.

California Seismic Safety Commission concluded in a 2002 study that 20-50% of post-earthquake fires are related to gas leaks. Last year, during the Montecito mudslides, a SoCal Gas pipeline burst sending flames 400 feet into the air which one resident said, "sounded like two 747's colliding".

In addition to the health and safety benefits of electrifying buildings, this transition will create numerous jobs in construction, electrical work, manufacturing,

energy efficiency and installation of heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

Electric appliances help save energy and money, according to the Dept. of Energy. Advanced electric heat pump appliances -- water and space heaters, clothes dryers, induction stoves and convection ovens -- are up to four times more energy efficient than gas. Electric heat pumps can also operate in reverse for both heating and cooling units.

Just this month, SoCal Gas estimates 45% rate increases by 2022 to continue safely operating its aging gas system.

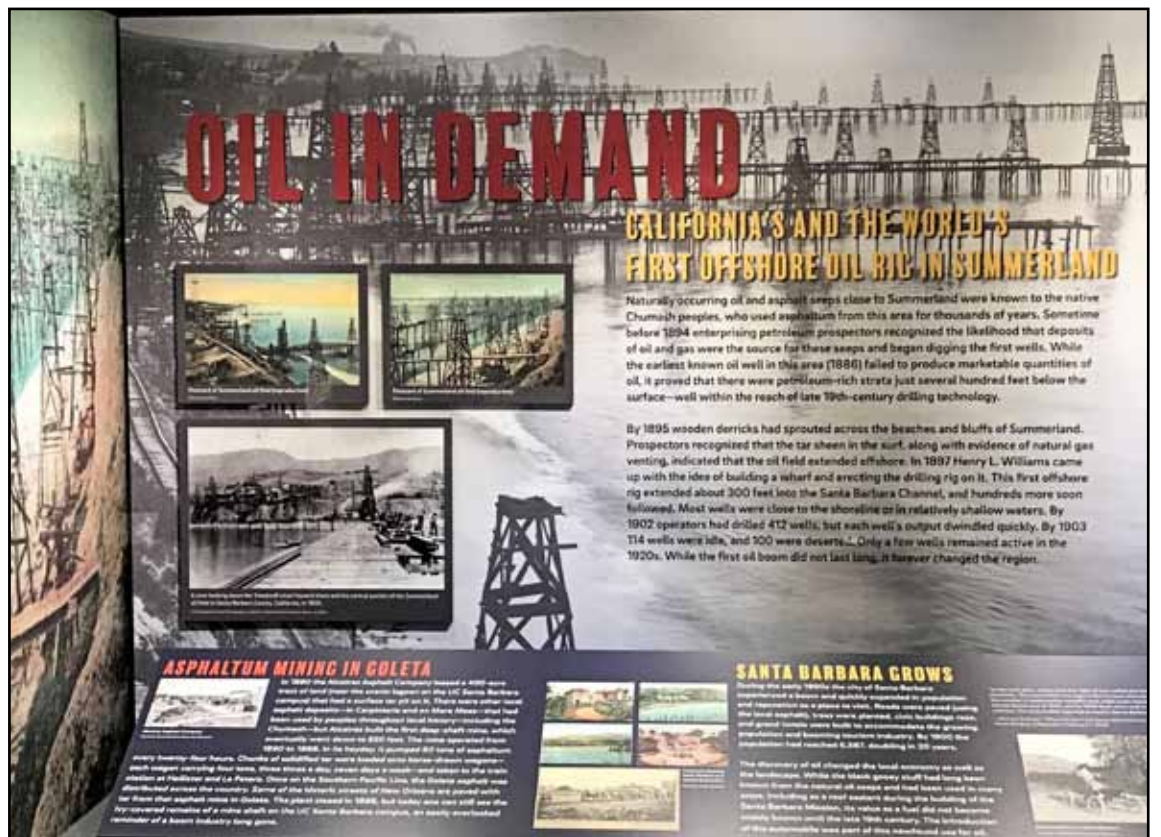
In order to make this transition, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties should set targets to reduce building GHG emissions consistent with the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report and California's GHG reduction goals of 45% by 2030 and 100% by 2045. Go to: www.ipcc.ch

We can accomplish this by establishing building ordinances that require the installation of all-electric appliances when existing ones reach the end of their life, in any new commercial, residential or industrial building, during the sale or retrofit of a property, establishing new rental agreements and even for existing buildings and homes after a specified date to comply.

Offering rebates, education and training will help make electrification the easy, go-to choice for owners and contractors.

Several cities have already begun transition to building electrification, notably Los Angeles, Marin and Palo Alto.

By joining this transition, we will boost our local economy and increase local air quality, health and safety. Globally, getting off gas would help slow climate change, set an example for others and help create a better planet for future generations to enjoy.



Graphic display about how oil, asphalt and gas have played a major role on- and off-shore our region; noting that the mess of oil rigs (shown on Summerland's beach) were the world's first offshore wells in late 1800s (disputed). By the way, remnants exist, and the state is working to plug those still leaking. The oil companies are defunct, and taxpayers are footing its bill still. (Photo by John Hankins)

Clean Power costs illuminated

Editor's note: Katie Davis of our Los Padre Chapter read an article in the Ventura County Star about the new Clean Power Alliance affecting Ventura County to clear up some misconceptions. By the way, the CPA has offered this easy link to determine what individual bills would be:

customerservice@cleanpoweralliance.org

Dear Editor,

Your article was misleading. The Clean Power Alliance will save ratepayers money compared to SCE. Every plan is less than the comparable SCE plan, and everyone can select the plan that they want, switch between plans at any time, or stay with SCE. It's all about choice and competition.

The plans offered will be: 36%

renewable energy at 1-2% less cost than SCE's 34% renewable energy base tier, 50% renewable energy at 0-1% less than SCE's base, or 100% renewable energy at 7-9% more than SCE's base, but 5% less than SCE's comparable green tier. The best deal -- most renewable energy per dollar -- is 100% renewable. It's just a few bucks more for a lot cleaner plan. And energy efficiency could help residents save more.

The Thomas Fire was an unusual December fire that's part of a larger and frightening trend of increases in fire and weather disasters linked to climate change from burning fossil fuels. The cost of not moving to renewable energy -- many hundreds of millions spent fighting fires, coastal lands inundated, agricultural loss -- will

be much higher than doing the right thing now. Plus, more renewable energy means better health, less air pollution, and more jobs. Renewable energy is creating jobs 12 times faster than the rest of the economy. The more we invest, the cheaper it becomes, while natural gas is subject to price spikes and disasters like the Aliso Canyon blow out.

That is why Ventura selected the 100% renewable energy tier as the default for people who don't pick a plan, but you can always switch plans. Low income customers (CARE) will get the 100% plan but pay the same as they do now. Ventura is saving the planet and making it easy for residents to go green.

Regards, Katie Davis

Eco-trackers

With so much damage going on against the environment by the Trump Administration, how do we keep track, especially now with a lower-profile Environmental Protection Agency chief?

Condor Call often prints how to do that via the Sierra Club's activist network (www.SierraClub.org) and through www.SierraClubCalifornia.org

National Geographic is also keeping track; <https://tinyurl.com/NatGeoTracker>

There is also the Harvard Law School's excellent "Regulatory Rollback Tracker" that we've mentioned before. Sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/HarvardEcoTracker>

Condor Call has subscribed to this service for two months now and can highly recommend it for information on what's at stake, litigation, court decisions, open comment period and regulatory history. Some recent items include:

~ NOAA considering opening marine national monuments to commercial fishing.

~ Hydraulic fracturing on federal and Indian lands.

~ Redesigned page about offshore oil leasing, notably a Freedom of Information Act request about the decision to expand offshore oil leasing but exempting Florida where the White House tenant has his Mar-a-Lago estate.

~ EPA's plan to replace the Clean Power Plan, soon to be open for public comment.

~ EPA plan to repeal the 2015 Clean Water Rule.

Group News

The public is welcome to our programs

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Meets 4th Thursday 7pm of every month, either at Carpinteria IHOP or by phone. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda: gching@cox.net

~ Chapter website and blog at:

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ We meet 1st Tuesdays, noon to 1:30pm of each month. Meets at Impact Hub, 1117 State St. View the calendar, hikes, issues and join the mailing list for the South Coast SB area (Carpinteria to Goleta) at:

www.SBSierraClub.org

www.facebook.com/sbsierraclub

<https://tinyurl.com/SBGroupBlog>

ARGUELLO GROUP

~ 3rd Fridays most months for SB North County Group at 7pm, 6pm if a potluck is planned. General meetings and programs held at Valley of Flowers Church in Vandenberg Village, 3346 Constellation Rd.

Need a ride or offer a carpool? Contact Janet Blevins: 717-4160 or janro48@gmail.com

Keep in on our Facebook page:

<http://tinyurl.com/ArguelloGroup>

~Volunteers needed for hikes and/or issues; your talents could make a difference. Call 350-0629 or:

RebeccaAugust@mac.com

VENTURA NETWORK

~ 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:

sierraclubventura@gmail.com

~ Get latest info about the western Ventura County group via Facebook and a blog:

<http://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubFB>

<https://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubBlog>

~New MEETUP site for hikes, outings etc:

www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

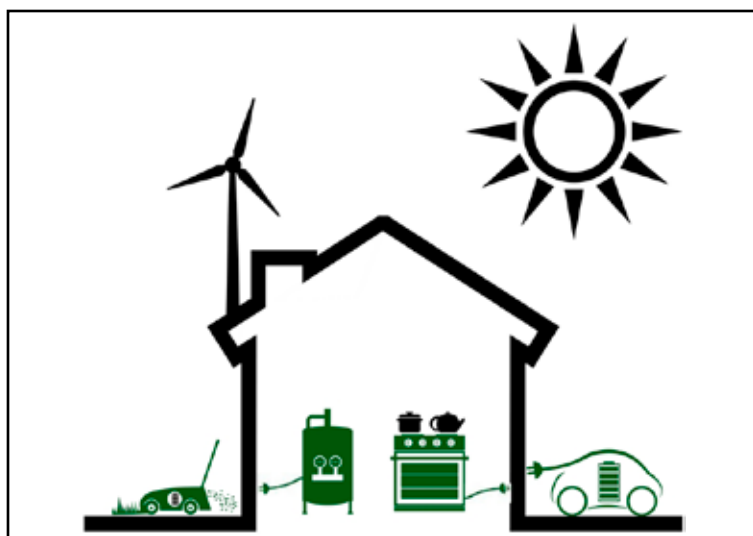
CONEJO GROUP

~ Events, outings and meetings will be sent to you if you sign up at ConejoGroup@gmail.com

Otherwise, get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6295 mail@hkwarren.net

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo

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



Electric heat pumps help buildings have zero emissions. (Graphic by Joanne Zulinski)



Meet our chapter's new Transportation Chair Kent Bullard who, along with his wife Cathy, really drive the drive with a fully electric Tesla (I<heart>0 GAS) and a SORTA EV Chevy, getting their electric power via his solar panels (with battery in the garage). Kent is active in the EV Advocates of Ventura County and helped jumpstart the free "EV Drive and Learn" program (read story below). He was also a major factor in helping make our annual EV show a success.

Free! Drive an EV

Fed up with offshore oil wells? Fed up with fracking in our National Forests?

The Electric Vehicle (EV) Advocates of Ventura County are happy to inform *Condor Call* readers know that EV owners have instituted a program called "EV Drive and Learn".

This program means that drivers still using gasoline cars and who may be ready to leave fossil fuels behind, can actually test drive one of our members cars, and

learn all about the pleasures and economics of switching to an EV.

We have volunteer EV owners happy to visit with *Condor Call* readers in most areas of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and SLO counties.

Test drive and learn all about EVs from people who actually own and drive them.

For details and to hop on board a quiet, safe, modern and emission-free vehicle, contact Gene Rubin at (805)340-2270 or:

gene@generubinaudio.com

PORT PROPOSAL

Car park hurts Ormond area

By Irene Rauschenberger

Parking thousands of vehicles on a 34-acre site next to Oxnard's Advanced Water Purification Facility (AWPF) will create an industrialized parcel that will destroy any hope of a better public benefit.

Your voice is needed by submitting comments to both the Oxnard City Planning and Parks commissioners, due Jan. 31, to:

jay.dobrowalski@oxnard.org

If you miss the date, there might be other opportunities in future hearings.

The proposal -- adjacent to the water facility at Hueneme and Perkins roads -- is by the Port of Hueneme Harbor District requesting a permit to store and operate an outdoor vehicle storage facility for five years with an option to buy.

It is currently being reviewed, along with Oxnard master plans, which will drive decisions that affect Oxnard parks and natural places for decades.

The water facility was created to provide the city an alternative to imported water and is committed to providing resources and access to education, inviting the public to visit this beautiful facility and wetland gardens.

Unfortunately, the facility and surrounding natural areas are being threatened by the Port's proposal,

which includes metal fencing, high intensity lighting polluting the night sky, and a security tower that will thwart community access. It will also cause increased air pollution. And yet, the Port District claims there are no significant environmental effects.

To put the Port's proposal into perspective, compare that the Oxnard Auto Center touts over 3000 cars and trucks on 50 acres; Ventura Auto Center is even larger. The Port claims its 5000 vehicles are not an impact, how so?

Too, it disregards the fact that this is the last remaining parcel on Hueneme Road with a natural view to the ocean horizon that would benefit greater from an environmentally compatible project.

More important, due to global warming, the Port's proposal is an infringement to the water facility's needs for security, and to adjacent land acquisition of The Nature Conservancy and Coastal Conservancy.

It also affects the preferred location for the Ormond Beach Restoration Plan's "Gateway Park"

access point, prepared in 2009 by Cal Poly. Watch testimony on this detail by scrolling to the 1:23:16 time:

<https://tinyurl.com/OrmondPlan09>

The water facility has the potential to work with environmental entities and educators to provide community opportunities. Noteworthy, the Ormond restoration plan is consistent with efforts since 1983, when Ormond Beach Observers unified the voice of several diverse organizations interested in protecting these wetlands. This is historically significant, as noted by Jean Harris of OBO:

<https://tinyurl.com/OrmondPlan83>

Ironically, here we are in 2019, and Oxnard's Planning department response to the Port District proposal is a 120-page Mitigated Negative Declaration claiming no significant effects on the environment:

<https://tinyurl.com/OrmondND>

This is significant; please send your comments in by the Jan. 31 deadline and keep apprised of future hearings.



That empty lot you see on your right may soon be 'home' to thousands of new vehicle imports coming in from Port Hueneme. Trouble is, "they're going to dump a foot or more of gravel on top of that beautiful verdant green field," plus causing lots of tailpipe emissions, said club member Mike Stubblefield, who is afraid it may be "a done deal," so it's up to us to send in comments: deadline is Jan. 31, see link in story above. (Photo by Irene Rauschenberger)

EVENTS

Jan 31: **Wildlife Corridor** zone proposal at Ventura County Planning Commission. The Sierra Club Wildlife Team activists will be there; see the proposal here:

<https://tinyurl.com/WildZones>

Feb 2: **Trailblazing Women** in Conservation are featured during a symposium organized by the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden from 10am to 4pm at the SB County Education Office. Details and registration at:

www.sbbg.org

Feb 10: **Wind Wolves Preserve**, a unique opportunity for volunteer work and play all day in the largest non-profit land preserve at 83,000 acres, straddling Ventura, Kern and LA counties. Details at Feb. 10 Outings list on pg 6.

Feb 14: **Great Whites & Mermaids**, the Underwater Photography of Ralph Clevenger at 7pm, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum 113 Harbor Way, SB; details at:

<https://sbmm.org>

Feb 16: **Buzz About Bees** will be how to conserve and protect our pollinators with Dr. Ruben Alarcón from 1-3pm at the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy office, 370 Baldwin Ave.

Feb 20: **"Groundswell Rising"** film about impacts of fracking and other extreme extraction on local communities. Q and A with water expert featured in film and discussion of SB north county oil projects; 6:30pm at Full of Life Flatbread, Los Alamos

Feb 27: **"In Wildness"**, The Oak Group artists' benefit for Los Padres ForestWatch will have a panel discussion on the exhibit at 5pm SB

City College's Humanities Building Rm 111. The exhibit is at SBCC's Atkinson Gallery Rm 202 now through March 22. Info at:

www.lpfw.org/oakgroup

March 9 & 10: **Women's Adventure** film tour on the 9th and women-led and focused hikes during the weekend sponsored by Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. Find details here:

<https://ovlc.org>

March 10: **Grunion Tale** book will be signed by Sierra Club member Eileen Ryan McMillen from 2-4pm at Chaucer's Books in Santa Barbara, just in time for the start of grunion season!

March 13: **Deny ERG** high-polluting oil proposal for 233 wells that would be drilled through the Santa Maria's drinking water supply at SB County Planning Commission hearing. Send your comments to:

DVillalob@countyofsb.org

March 14: **"The Refugio Incident: A Wildlife Responder's Perspective,"** lecture by Elaine Ibarra of SB Wildlife Care Network who responded to oil-soaked animals during the May 19, 2015 event and the evolution of oil spill response; 7pm at SB Maritime Museum, 113 Harbor Way. Details at:

www.sbmm.org

March 16: **Blue Water Ball**, Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper's 19th annual event that helps them protect and restore the Channel and its watersheds. Will be held from 5-9:30pm at Decker's HQ, 250 Coromar Dr. Goleta. Music, gourmet dinner, dancing and merchandise. For details go:

<https://bluewaterball.org>

March 18: **Santa Cruz Island** day trip with the Ventura Sierra Club via Island Packers. Expect fields of green with abundant wildflowers along a five-mile hike up to Potato Harbor. For details, read March 18 Outings on pg 7

, or go here:

<https://tinyurl.com/SCruzDayTrip>

Wind Wolves wonder

A special trip to the unique Wind Wolves Preserve for volunteer work and play day is happening from 8am to 6pm Sunday Feb. 10 sponsored by the Ventura Sierra Club.

Wind Wolves is the largest non-profit land preserve at 83,000

acres and straddles Ventura, Kern and LA counties. You're in for a treat if you've never visited. Be on the lookout for the resident herd of Tule elk, and so much more.

We have a full day of fun: habitat restoration under the direction of the Wildlands Conservancy rangers, club hike of about 6-8 miles and bring a dish to share for a potluck picnic.

To carpool, meet 8am at parking lot between Chase Bank and Carrows (Seaward and Harbor Blvd). Return Ventura 6pm or a bit later.

RSVP is required as we must give the Conservancy a head count; email here:

sierraclubventura@gmail.com

What is WBC?

Volunteer leaders teach people the skills to enjoy the wilderness in 8 classroom sessions and guide the students on 4 exciting outings.

Evening classes will be held in Ventura starting Feb. 6 through March 27, while outings are in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. The course serves people of all levels from beginners to seasoned hikers who desire to get out and see our beautiful backcountry. Discounts available for couples, students and members.

See our flyer on pg 7.

To register:

<http://bit.ly/LPWBC19>

For information, call (805) 524-7170 or send an email or online here:

lospadreswbc@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/lospadreswbc

www.lospadresWBC.org



Save whales from hunting

A massive grenade powered harpoon slams into the body of a majestic Blue Whale in international waters off the coast of Ventura and Santa Barbara; unbelievable, you say ... well it is now very well possible.

Japan has officially withdrawn from the International Whaling Commission and it will begin global whaling operations soon.

Relevant here is that the CA Fish and Game Commission staff is recommending it take a position and inform the Japanese. Public comments are due by Jan 30, reference item #26 on the Feb 6 agenda to:

fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Meanwhile, the Sierra Club is galvanizing support at the legislature.



LEARN TO BACKPACK

The Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club presents

THE LOS PADRES WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE

An 8-week course in Ventura
Wednesdays, 7:00 - 9:30 PM
February 6 to March 27, 2019

COVERS: •Equipment •Navigation •First Aid more...	PRICING: Early Bird prices start at \$175 (student rate available). All levels welcome.	INCLUDES: Four exciting wilderness outings!
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Register at: www.LosPadresWBC.org

SIGHTINGS

Sounds like fun

By John Hankins

Resist, restore and rejoice could be our own subhead to the club's motto of Explore, Enjoy and Protect, judging by our actions during the December-January months.

Some of them sound like fun, others rewarding and still others giving back to our community. If any of this resonates, please join us; see Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved. Oh, and if you want to donate, go to:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Another important list is our current Outings which are free for all; see pages 6&7. You see, when we're not resisting and politicking, we are likely outdoors, enjoying what we intend to protect.

Jan 31: **Wildlife Corridor** zone proposal hearing at Ventura County Planning Commission. Sierra Club Wildlife Team activists attended the meeting. See the proposal here:

<https://tinyurl.com/WildlandZone>

Jan 27: **50 Years After** the Santa Barbara Oil Spill: A Call to Action was the title of a special event to assess progress in the last 50 years and a call for renewed action and solutions. Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune was a key participant.

Jan 17: **AERA drafty oil** proposal for 296 new wells in Cat Canyon got a chilly response with a rally at 5pm before a 6pm hearing in Santa Maria, led by the Sierra Club and Environmental Defense Center. See story pg 2.

Jan 15: **Climate Action** Resolution by Santa Barbara School Board unanimously adopted, thanks to Sierra Club and other supporters. They pledged to put it into action installing solar and ensuring climate

literacy, among other actions.

Jan 12: **Loop Trail** proposal along Santa Clara River was introduced on site to Ventura city council member Cheryl Heitmann and Marie Lakin of the east Ventura Community Council, following a similar meeting with others on Dec. 14.

Jan 5: **Gov't Shutdown** action by Sierra Club Wild America Campaign asking the public to share stories about how the Trump shutdown has affected National Parks, visitors' centers and the like; share at: #ProtectPublicLands

Jan 8: **Restoration project** about efforts to remove the 90-year-old Rindge Dam now filled with sediment featured State Parks' Jamie King, an environmental scientist. This was part of the Ventura Sierra Club's Venture(a) Out educational series at the Foster Library. The overview of Malibu Creek's ecosystem and removal of the dam is like efforts to remove Matilija Dam in the upper Ojai area.

Jan 1: **Yvon Chouinard** tribute winning the Sierra Club's most coveted John Muir Award, which appeared in *Condor Call* Dec/Jan issue was posted on Patagonia's private corporate Facebook page.

Dec 19: **WBC website** revision launched. Wilderness Basics Course leader Teresa Norris said: "Many thanks to Cara Peden for our beautiful new website. This has been a big project for her. We all can appreciate her dedication and expertise." Classes start Feb. 6. Gotta go to it at:

www.LosPadresWBC.org

Dec 14: **Loop Trail proposal** along Santa Clara River was shown on site to Ventura council members Erik Nasarenko and Christy Weir by Jim



A true "environmental elder" now, Marc McGinnes was sent to Santa Barbara as a young, green attorney by Rep. Pete McCloskey of California (then an R, now a D) to respond to the 1969 oil spill. McCloskey predicted accurately it would cause a national call to action. While Marc was an outsider sent by a Republican, but his skills endeared him and he never left. In 1971 he became a UCSB faculty member. Here he talked about the challenges and victories of the environmental movement at the SB Maritime Museum on Jan. 10, based on his new book "In Love with Earth: Testimonies and Heart-songs from an Environmental Elder." More to come next issue. (Photo by John Hankins)

and Nina Danza of Ventura Sierra Club, asking for their support.

Dec 13 **Holiday potluck** and digital photo show by the Conejo Group, featuring your digital shots and most tempting food at the Cameron Center, TO.

Dec 11: **Climate Action Plan** update at SB Board of Supervisors where Sierra Club succeeded in pushing the county to adopt ambitious goal for emissions reductions.

Dec 12: **Triunfo Trail** maintenance work was a labor of love, handled by members from our Conejo Group, coordinated by John Holroyd.

Dec 9: **Holiday Party** Ventura Sierra Club at Ventura Bike Hub 490 N. Ventura Ave.

Dec 1: **Holiday Party** by Santa Barbara Group featured potluck feast, awards, celebration of Successes and path forward.



Jamie King fascinated the audience at Foster Library Jan. 8 with a talk about a restoration project along Malibu Creek in order to remove the Rindge Dam. It was instructive to local efforts to raze Matilija Dam in Ojai, eventually restoring the Ventura River to flow freer and deposit more sand along Ventura's beaches. King is an environmental scientist with California State Parks and her talk was part of the Venture(a) Out educational program. (Photo by Nina Danza) See future programs at: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura



Dolphins head toward the islands in this fascinating painting by Suzanne Blaine Siegel. And so, can you. Check out Sierra Club's seven trips to the Channel Islands in story below. But if you're in for just a day trip, we got you covered. Go to Santa Cruz Island with the Ventura Sierra Club on Tuesday, March 19, where you can hike and see abundant wildflowers and, on the hour-long cruise each way with Island Packers, you will likely see dolphins and whales. For details, see the March 19 Outings description on page 6 or go to: <https://tinyurl.com/SCruzDayTrip> (Painting is for sale as a donation; call 452-2885 if interested.)

Islands are a local adventure

Sierra Club California has planned seven 3-day, 3-island trips to the enchanting Channel Islands this year, so pick your season to match your schedule.

Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Or marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions from a kayak or from the boat. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds—and an occasional whale. Watch for the endangered island fox,

look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years or, just relax at sea.

The cruises depart from Santa Barbara. Dates are: April 7-9, May 5-7, June 9-11, July 14-16, Aug. 18-20, Sept. 22-24 and Oct. 20-22.

The cost is \$730 and includes an assigned bunk and all meals, snacks, and beverages. Kayaking will be overseen by our concessionaire; all hikes will be on trails, class 1 terrain. The trips are a fundraiser to support

the Sierra Club political program in California.

To reserve space, send a \$200 check, written to California Sierra Club PAC, to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact the leaders, Joan Jones Holtz (626) 443-0706 or:

jholtzhl@aol.com

Or Wayne Vollaire (909) 327-6825 or:

avollaire1@gmail.com

Celebrate 'In Wildness'

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the San Rafael Wilderness, the Oak Group's exhibition "In Wildness" opened January 25th at the Atkinson Gallery at Santa Barbara City College.

The show features new landscape paintings by members of the Oak Group highlighting the Wilderness Area in Los Padres National Forest. Working with conservation groups and landowners, Oak Group artists record the beauty of these endangered landscapes to draw public attention and to help generate funds to protect them. To date, Oak Group sales of \$3 million have supported these goals.

A panel discussion featuring Oak Group artists will be held at 5pm Wednesday, Feb. 27 in SBCC Humanities Building, Room 111.

The San Rafael Wilderness was the first primitive area to be designated as wilderness under the Wilderness Act of 1964. It is home to rare and endangered wildlife and among the wildest, most remote, and most rugged landscapes of California's central coast region.

Today, a half-century later, the San Rafael remains the largest permanently protected open space in Santa Barbara County, featuring landmarks like Hurricane Deck, Castle Rock, Manzanita Creek, Sisquoc River, and Big Pine Mountain.

The exhibition is inspired by the words of famed naturalist Henry David Thoreau, who wrote: "In Wildness is the preservation of the world."

A portion of the proceeds from each painting sold will benefit Los Padres ForestWatch, a local

nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of wilderness, wildlife, and clean water throughout the Los Padres National Forest, the Carrizo Plain National Monument, and other public lands along California's central coast. Learn more here:

www.LPFW.org/oakgroup

To purchase a painting or view the online gallery for a sneak preview, contact Rebecca August at 617-4610 Ext 5 or go to the web link above.



Davy Brown Watershed, watercolor, by Chis Chapman is part of the exhibit.

Ojai trail app

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy now has a link for your mobile device called Trailfinder.

"We are pretty sure we are not the only ones who have ever been turned around on the Ventura River Preserve or wondered just how much further we have to climb up Luci's trail. Now you can see just where you are on all your favorite OVLC and US Forest Service trails in Ojai," according to its pitch on the web.

A special thank you to Clarity Webworks for developing the OVLC Trailfinder.

Check it out on your mobile device

www.ovlc.org/trailfinder



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. Sturdy 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. Note that most of Santa Barbara County is in the new 805 overlay zone so dial 11 digits from landline phones (1-805-number). Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14.

A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at: <http://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 box this page.

February 2
CHUMASH (MUGU) PEAK TRAIL: 8am-10am. 2.7 mile loop is highly trafficked travel with a 1,243 foot elevation gain. Features beautiful wildflowers and ocean views. Option to extend hike to extended loop if wanted. This is a leave no trace hike. Bring warm enough clothes that

can be removed if hot. Bring 1-2L of water and a high caloric snack. We'll be moving at a moderate pace. Please make sure you are in shape enough to keep up and go the distance. Parking is found in the dirt lot or along PCH west of Mugu Rock. I'll be waiting near the trailhead lot. For more info, contact VICTORIA at victoria.a.perez@gmail.com. (VEN)

February 3
SAN MARCOS FOOTHILL PRESERVE: This is an easy-moderate 3.5 mrt hike across the San Marcos Foothill Preserve, part of our County Parks system. We'll explore the parts of the current trail system. Bring water and a light lunch. Sun protection is recommended as there is limited shade. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. Rain cancels. GERRY 1-805-964-5411 (SB)

February 4
ANGEL VISTA: Moderate 7 mile out and back, multi-use trail with an elevation gain of approximately 1000 ft. We'll begin with a stroll through an oak ravine followed by a gradual upward climb to Angel Vista. We'll pause at the top for a short break at the picnic bench to refuel and marvel at the views of Conejo Valley, Oxnard plains, and the Channel Islands. The trail is rocky in places, so good sturdy hiking shoes are required and trekking poles may be an asset. Meet at 9am at the trailhead in the parking lot at the end of Greenmeadow. There is a single port-a-pot available

for use and will be the only facility along the way. Directions: From the north, drive south on the 101 Fwy, exit Moorpark Rd., turn right at the end of the off ramp and continue to the end of the road, turn right on Greenmeadow and follow the road 0.5 miles, to the parking lot at the end of the road. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

February 6
WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE: 8 weeks Learn To Backpack class starts February 6, but fills up early. See story pg?. For questions and to determine if there is still room, email or go to: www.LosPadresWBC.org lospadreswbc@gmail.com

February 8
VENTURA BIKE PATH, dog friendly! Meet at the Vons parking lot at the corner of N. Olive and W. Main St., park nearest to Main St. at 1pm. Two and four legged friends welcome, although we do have to share the bike path with runners and bikers! First section of the bike path starts next to Art City Gallery and has a selection of its own interesting sculptures to enjoy as we walk past this industrial area. This is an out and back walk on pavement, so wear sturdy shoes and keep your dog on a leash, back by 3pm. For more info, contact JUDITH LAURENTOWSKI, 805-509-2026 (VEN)

<https://www.google.com/maps/@34.2823525,-119.3045196,17z>

February 9
FREMONT TRAIL: Park on East Camino Cielo and walk North along ridge used by Fremont to cross the ridge into Santa Barbara. Superb views of valley. Bring lunch and water. Easy-Moderate, 4 mrt. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. Rain cancels. MURRAY 1-805-967-8770 (SB)

February 10
WEST FORK COLD SPRINGS TO TANGERINE FALLS: Hike along the trail then do some rock-hopping up the creek to the falls. Difficult 3 mrt. Some climbing and agility required. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 1-805-451-1239 (SB)

EAVESDROPS
 "If your job is affected (by Trump Government shutdown), you should hibernate until the shutdown's over."

~ Smokey Bear's advice via a cartoon by Brian McFadden. Real news reports noted, at Yosemite, "trash adorned every trail ... most ominous were the mounds of toilet paper (and) free-ranging turds."

February 10
WIND WOLVES VOLUNTEER WORK AND PLAY DATE: Wind Wolves is the largest non-profit land preserve at 83,000 acres and straddles Ventura, Kern and LA counties. You're in for a treat if you've never visited. A full day of fun: habitat restoration 10am-1pm under the direction of the Wildlands Conservancy rangers, Club only afternoon hike 1-4pm approx 6-8 mi, 1,000', then bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner picnic 4-5pm. Meet 8am at the Ventura carpool (Seaward/Harbor between Carrow's and Chase Bank). Return Ventura 6pm. RSVP REQUIRED NINA (sierraclubventura@gmail.com) (VEN)

February 11
SISAR CANYON: The once shady, green canyon is starting to show signs of re-birth following the devastation of the Thomas fire. We'll walk up the canyon 3 miles to an overlook with views of the Ojai Valley, turn around and retrace our steps to the cars. The trail is wide and traveled mostly by locals with their dogs. There are 2 creek crossings that will have water in them. Be prepared to cross with waterproof boots and poles. Meet in the Stagecoach general store parking lot on the corner of HWY 150 and Sisar Cyn Rd. at 9am. The market is about half way between Ojai and Santa Paula on HWY 150. Directions: From Ventura, drive north on the 33 to where it meets the 150 in Ojai, turn right on 150 and go east 8.9 miles to the market which will be on the left at Sisar Cyn. Rd. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

February 17
GAVIOTA CAVES: Hike up about 500 feet from Gaviota beach and explore the caves and wind tunnels in the ridges above and proceed to overlook. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Light colored long pants are recommended. Moderate 4 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT

1-805-685-1283 /event@swt.org (SB)

February 18
SYCAMORE CANYON/LA JOLLA CANYON LOOP: Shuttle hike. We will meet at the Sycamore Canyon Campground day use parking lot at 9am, leave cars there, then drive in as few cars as possible to La Jolla Canyon parking lot where we will begin the hike. There is a parking fee at the state parks for those without annual parking passes, but parking may be available on the PCH for free. This will be a one way hike up the Ray Miller Trail, across the Overlook fire road, down the Scenic Trail to the Sycamore campground and our cars. We will drop drivers off at their cars at La Jolla on the way home. Distance is about 6-7 miles with an elevation of about 1100 ft. Directions: From the Point Mugu Naval Air Base follow Pacific Coast Highway, or Hwy 1, south for 6 miles south to Sycamore Canyon Campground and turn left at 9000 Pacific Coast Highway. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

February 23
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. CHRISTINE 1-805-708-5877 (SB)

February 25
SHOOTING STAR TRAIL: Trail is named for the delicate blue flowers that grow along it in spring. We'll meet in the parking lot at 9am and begin our hike up the Mesa Trail, over Montcliff Ridge to the Shooting Star Trail that takes us into the Santa Rosa Valley. We'll walk between sprawling horse ranches and farmlands and even by a fire truck collection. Finally, we will elevate out of the valley on the Box Canyon Trail. This is steep, but we'll take it as slow as you need to. Total distance is 6.2 miles with a 1000-foot elevation gain. Terrain is both a multi-use wide road through Wildwood Park and a narrow single track trail through the valley. Directions: From Ventura take the 101 south and exit Lynn Road, turn left and drive to Avenida de los Arboles, turn left and drive to the end, where you will find the trail parking lot - 928 W. Avenida de los Arboles. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

March 1
LOS ROBLES TRAIL, AFTERNOON HIKE, THOUSAND OAKS: My dog loves this trail! Meet at the Los Padres trailhead at 1:30pm (take Moorpark Rd. south off the 101, go 0.3 miles, left on Los Padres for 50ft). The hike is about 4¼ miles with an elevation gain/loss about 750 ft. Los Padres Trail leads through a beautiful riparian woodland, then to Los Robles Trail. We'll head west on Los Robles Trail through the meadow and over the hill. We'll do the loop with a short side trip. Be prepared for stiff ups and downs, which means hiking poles are a good idea, as well as water (for you and your dog), sunscreen and a leash for your dog. Back by 3:30pm. For more info, contact JUDITH LAURENTOWSKI, 1-805-509-2026 (VEN)

March 2
MISSION RIDGE: We'll hike up
continued next page



Support wildlife corridor

The Ventura County Resource Management Agency is in the process of crafting regulations for wildlife corridors throughout the county and your input is requested. Meanwhile, a corridor across Highway 101 at Liberty Canyon just beyond the Ventura border is inching along as part of an overall strategy to help wildlife. On Ventura County's website, you will find an ordinance proposal, interactive map, frequently asked questions, staff reports and exhibits. A hearing on Jan. 31 is past our deadline, but to keep apprised, go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/WildZones>

You can also send comments on the Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Movement Corridors to the Planning Commission staff by emailing:

Meighan.Batinica@ventura.org

(Photo by Sherry Kempster of a cougar along a backyard wall in Ventura County)

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

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

Conditions

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

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

Other Areas	
Santa Monica Mtns. Area	370-2301
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
- www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com
- www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com
- www.LPForest.org
- www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
- <http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>



Finally ... the Ventura Botanical Garden trails have reopened after a year of recovery from the Thomas Fire. You can see the fire damage still to the right, but the recent rains will surely help the plants. The trail with wonderful views above Ventura's city hall used to be free. It still is on Tuesdays. Closed Mondays, \$7 entry fee for non-members Wednesday – Sunday. Dogs allowed Tuesday and Wednesday. Members do have benefits, for detailed info go to: <http://www.venturabotanicalgardens.com>

Outings...from page 6

Rattlesnake canyon and over to Tunnel trail. We'll take a primitive trail up to Mission Ridge and loop back down to Rattlesnake. We'll have a short break at the top for lunch. Strenuous 7 mrt. There is some rock scrambling and exposure involved so must be comfortable with heights and ledges. Bring 2-3 liters of water. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

March 2

POTRERO JOHN: Trail follows a beautiful canyon up Potrero John Creek, crossing it several times, winding through pine trees, climbing to a waterfall. 6 miles round trip, 1,272 ft gain. Bring water, snack, sunscreen, and layers. Rain cancels. Meet at 9am at Ventura carpool. TERESA 1-805-746-6030 (VEN)

March 3

CANINE HIKE UP MISSION CANYON POWERLINE ROAD TO LABYRINTH: Moderate hike up Tunnel Road, continuing on the Edison Catway to the top, where there is a small labyrinth and terrific views of the Channel Islands and Rattlesnake Canyon. Steady uphill, total gain 1,300 ft. Round trip 5.5 miles out and back. Well behaved dogs welcomed and encouraged; must be leashed. Bring snack and water for you and your canine companion. Hikers without dogs welcome too. Meet at B of A parking lot at Hope Ave. and upper State Street at 9am. Hike limited to four dogs - please call to reserve your dog's place. Recent heavy rain/fire cancels. Call if you have questions. SALLY 1-805-689-7820 (SB)

March 3

PIEDRA BLANC TRAIL TO TWIN FORKS CAMP: Easy pace. Take Hwy. 33 to Rose Valley turnoff. Trailhead at the end of the road/parking lot. Adv. Pass req. for cars. Carpoolers meet at Von's parking lot, Ventura, Harbor Blvd. entrance 9am. Hike starts 10am. 5.5 miles + RT/600' elevation gain. Bring 10 essentials, food / water, warm gear. Rain forecast on Friday, high water in Sespe Creek, or 85 degrees cancels. KIM 1-805-983-2147. (VEN)

March 4

WESTERN PLATEAU: Through the back door. The recent Hill fire damaged the bridge from Santa Rosa Park to the Western Plateau and Hawk Canyon and is still closed. There is a lesser-known

access to the area from Newbury Park that we'll use to enter the area. We'll descend into the Hill Canyon and either come up past Elliot Peak or up Hawk Canyon if its open, up to the utility trail that will climb us out of the canyon back to Newbury Park. We can also walk to the bridge and look at the damage from the fire if the group wants. In summer this area can be hot and dry, but in spring the grass is green and wildflowers are blooming. Total mileage is 5-6 miles depending if we choose to go to the bridge or not, with a 1000 ft. elevation gain. Meet at the end of Rancho Conejo Blvd and park along the curb at 9am. There are no bathroom facilities along the trail. Directions: From Ventura, take the 101 south, exit Rancho Conejo Blvd. and turn left. Follow the road for about 2 miles to the end. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

March 9

WEST FORK COLD SPRINGS TO EAST FORK: Hike down from Gibraltar Road to the trail then stop at the confluence of the East and West forks for a snack. Steep 3 mrt. Some climbing and agility required. Bring lunch or a snack and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 1-805-455-4212 (SB)

March 10

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 gloves, 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 1-805-451-1239 (SB)

March 11

LOON POINT/ SUMMERLAND EQUESTRIAN TRAILS: Loon Point beach is beautiful flat beach at the base of high cliffs offering tide pools and coastal wildlife. Low tide will be at 09:31 so we should be able to walk the beach, round the point, and reach Lookout Park with dry feet. Those who have had enough fun can turn and return to their cars for a 1 mile walk. The rest of us will continue through Summerland and access the equestrian trails for a total of 6 miles, 400 ft elevation hike through the trees, horse properties, past the polo fields and back to

our cars. Terrain is a mix of beach, asphalt and horse trails. Meet at the Loon Point parking lot at 9am near the port-a-potty. Directions: From Ventura drive north on the 101 towards Summerland and exit Padero Lane, turn left and go back over the freeway. The parking lot will be on your left. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

March 16

CHORRO GRANDE: Strenuous 10 mrt hike with 3200' elev. gain/loss - experienced hikers only. The hike starts at 4000' and climbs steadily for 5 miles to 7200', ending up on the Pine Mountain Ridge near Reyes Campground. Wear hiking shoes/boot, bring lots of water, snack, lunch. There's a good chance that there will be in snow at the top, so bring a warm jacket, a hat, and gloves. The weather can vary greatly during the course of the hike, so check out the forecast here: <http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lon=-119.31059&lat=34.63590> and bring layers accordingly. Meet at 8:30am at the Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). If you're coming from Santa Barbara, meet at the Bank of America on State St. and Hope at 8am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 1-805-479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

RAY MILLER TP THE OVERLOOK TRAIL: Spring Wildflower hike. Meet at the Ray Miller trailhead at 9am. 9000 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu, CA 90265. We'll start up the Ray Miller and then follow the Overlook trail to Sycamore canyon and walk back along the beach to our cars, hopefully spring will be in the air and the wildflowers will be starting to bloom. We'll hike at a moderate pace for 8 miles with 1200 ft. of elevation gain. Bring 2 liters of water, snack, hat, sunscreen and anything else you might need. Rain cancels. For more info. Contact GERARD 1-805-212-0798 baileygerard@hotmail.com (VEN)

March 17

LIZARD'S MOUTH BACK ROUTE: Have fun exploring this popular spot! Beautiful rock formations and wind caves are a pleasure to enjoy! We will enter the "back way" which may be new for some! Short Easy hike with some boulder hopping and some agility required. Bring a snack and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 1-805-685-1283/event@swt.org (SB)

March 19

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND: We'll go as a group to Santa Cruz Island for a day trip via Island Packers, 1691 Spinnaker Dr. #105B Ventura. I've been there in March and the fields were green with abundant wildflowers including bright yellow coreopsis. We'll leave the boat for a five-mile hike up to Potato Harbor where we can stop for lunch, enjoy the ocean views, then return via the North Bluff Trail to the campground and visitor center. Bring your camera, I hear the Island foxes pose for pictures. You're responsible for purchasing your own ticket for the boat ride. General cost \$59, seniors are \$54. Tickets can be purchased from Island Packers at 642-1393 or here:

www.IslandPackers.com

Arrive 45 minutes before the 9:30am departure to Scorpion Harbor; we return late afternoon. There is no food or water on the Island so bring your lunch and drink. The galley on board offers refreshments for purchase. Please RSVP on the Ventura Sierra Club Meetup website: <https://tinyurl.com/SCruzDayTrip> Contact MAUREEN at 657-8735. (VEN)

March 24

CAMUSA CONNECTOR TRAIL: We'll hike a short portion of the trail starting from the SY River and ending at a great lookout spot for a light lunch. Great views of the Lower Santa Ynez recreation area. 3 mrt. 800 ft elevation gain. Bring a light lunch, water a sun protection. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. Rain cancels. GERRY 1-805-964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

March 25

COZY DELL: Spring is the best time of the year for this trail as the wildflowers are beautiful! We'll hike 2 miles with a 700 foot elevation gain up a single track trail to the end of the Cozy Dell Trail/Sheldon Canyon. Here, those who would like can turn around and return to their cars. The rest of us will turn left and continue to the Pratt Trail and take a narrow path back to the Cozy Dell Trail for a 7-8 mile hike. Meet at 9am in the dirt parking area across from the trailhead. There are no facilities available. Directions: From Ojai drive 3.5 miles north on HWY 33. The trailhead is just south of the Friends packing house on the right side of HWY 33 across from a dirt parking area. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

March 30

FIR CANYON: Long car pool to Davy Brown camp behind Figueroa Mt. Steep hike up the most beautiful canyon in the area to near the top of Figueroa Mt. Moderate 6.5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B off A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 1-805-451-1239 (SB)

SULPHUR MTN ROAD TRAIL: 8am - 1pm. The 10.4 mile trail with roughly 2500' in elevation gain is ranked moderate and is moderately trafficked near Ventura. Trail is great for viewing wildlife flowers and accessible year around. This is a leave no trace hike. Bring warm enough clothes that can be removed if hot. Bring 1-2L of water and a high caloric snack. We will be moving at a moderate pace. Please make sure you are in shape enough to keep up and go the distance. Parking is found on Sulphur Mountain Road. I'll be waiting near the trailhead lot. For more info, contact VICTORIA at victoria.a.perez@gmail.com. (VEN)

March 31

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. water. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 1-805-455-4212 (SB)

April 6

NINETEEN OAKS RIDGE ROUTE: Hike along a stream with impressive exposed cliffs to 19 Oaks camp for lunch. Return via a low ridge and dirt OHV service road with great views. Moderate pace 6 mrt. Long commute to Upper Oso trail head, plan on late afternoon return. Bring water, lunch, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes. Rain cancels. Contact the hike leader for meet up details. MURRAY 1-805-967-8770 (SB)

April 7

PINE MOUNTAIN LODGE: Strenuous 13 mrt hike with 3000' elev. gain/loss - experienced hikers only. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring lots of water, snack, lunch. The weather can vary greatly during the course of the hike, so check out the forecast here: <http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lon=-119.17796&lat=34.61501> and bring layers accordingly. Meet at Ventura carpool lot at 8:30 AM (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). If you're coming from Santa Barbara, meet at the Bank of America on State St. and Hope at 8am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 1-805-479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

EAVESDROPS

"Only if we understand, can we care. Only if we care, will we help."

~ Jane Goodall, quoted in National Geographic which in 2018 declared "our ultimate goal is to catalyze action to achieve a planet in balance."

April 13

RATTLESNAKE to FLORES PEAK: Hike up Rattlesnake canyon to Gibraltar Road (1500'). We will follow the road to a steep, primitive trail and scramble up 700 feet to Flores peak. We'll have a short break at the top for lunch. Strenuous 7 mrt. There is some rock scrambling and exposure involved so must be comfortable with heights and ledges. Bring 2-3 liters of water. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

April 14

GAVIOTA CAVES EXPLORATORY: Hike from Gaviota beach to the caves and wind tunnels in the ridges above. Includes off-trail cross-country exploration on a challenging route! Some rock scrambling, bush-whacking and agility required. About 5 mrt. Wear long pants and bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 1-805-685-1283/event@swt.org (SB)

April 20

RATTLESNAKE TRAIL - ROCKY PINE: Hike up Rattlesnake Trail and the Tunnel Trail Connector to an old primitive trail leading to Rocky Pine Ridge for lunch. Some rock scrambling. Strenuous 7 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 1-805-451-1239 (SB)

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LOS PADRES CHAPTER
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Snow Food! If you're lucky this winter, that is. We did get a dusting on the mountains in January. These are friends at lunch, including Mary Looby of Ojai Search & Rescue. (Photo by Craig Carey)

Click for dream trip

The Sierra Club's full 2019 trip roster—featuring over 300 itineraries spanning the States and across the globe—is now available and ready for reservations.

The club is committed to helping find the outdoor experience that speaks to you, whether that means family adventures, backcountry journeys, volunteer vacations, international treks, or something else entirely. This year, you'll find several specialty trips, including for adults under 50, women, seniors, and LGBT+ people.

In addition, we've got an expanded selection of trips for younger travelers, including scholarships for adults ages 18-35. There are over 60 service trips in most states, which offer lower cost for volunteer work with lots of time to play.

Browse the full lineup by trip type or destination, search for specific trips, and much more.

As always, you can book your reservation online or call (415) 977-5522 to secure a spot by phone. Check out all the trips here:

<https://tinyurl.com/TripRoster2019>

Wild animal help lines

The fires and floods that have ravaged our region have also disturbed wildlife who are right in the thick of it.

Wildlife Care of Southern California handles a lot of questions relating to animals after storms and fires, but even in more normal seasons its advice holds up.

"Be aware that wild animals may be passing through or taking a break in your yard or drinking from your pool. Don't haze them away, just be extra vigilant about keeping your small pets inside and allow wildlife the time and space they need to recover. If the animal is injured call a wildlife rehabilitation facility."

In our Los Padres Chapter area, rehab facilities include (all 805-area code):

- ~ SB Wildlife Care Network: **966-9005**
- ~ Santa Ynez Valley Animal Rescue Team: **896-1859**
- ~ La Cumbre Canyon Wildlife Care: **687-9980**
- ~ Wildlife Care of SoCal: **581-3911**
- ~ Camarillo Wildlife Rescue: **482-7617**
- ~ Ojai Raptor Center: **649-6884**

GREETINGS FRIENDS

Nature nurtures hope

By Jim Hines

We live in challenging times; in fact, overwhelming times it seems. Many of us face day-to-day challenges such as health, financial and emotional issues, let alone the problems our nation is facing.

But no matter how bad things seem we find hope in our natural world, Nature heals us. Here's some prescriptions:

~ The Sierra Club works with veterans who have been traumatized by war in our Walking Off the War nature outings held across our nation.

~ Feeling lonely? Then join one of our great Sierra Club group hikes and you will find instant friends who share the same hopes and goals that you do (see pgs 6&7).

~ Sierra Club programs allow financially disadvantaged youth

attend nature field trips, giving them a positive way to learn, express themselves and appreciate nature and themselves.

~ Feeling overwhelmed after a hard day at work? Take a quiet walk along the beach and allow the positive feelings of the ocean lift your spirits.

~ Bond with nature and you bond with yourself, the most important person on earth. For if we cannot bond with ourselves, stand up for ourselves and find our inner strengths we will not survive as a positive, healthy person.

~ Time spent out in the natural world allows each of to renew, relax and reconnect with what is important in our lives. Our society seeks natural places now more than ever, we need wild things to be a part of our lives whether our passion is day hiking, overnight camping, wildlife viewing or habitat restoration projects.

There are endless ways for each of us to use our talents and passions to help protect wild things and places and to allow yourself to make a positive contribution to saving our planet and to feel good about yourself at the same time.

Outings in nature bond friends and families; our hope as a positive forward-moving society lies in our positive relationship with the healing power of nature.

... for the wild, Jim.

