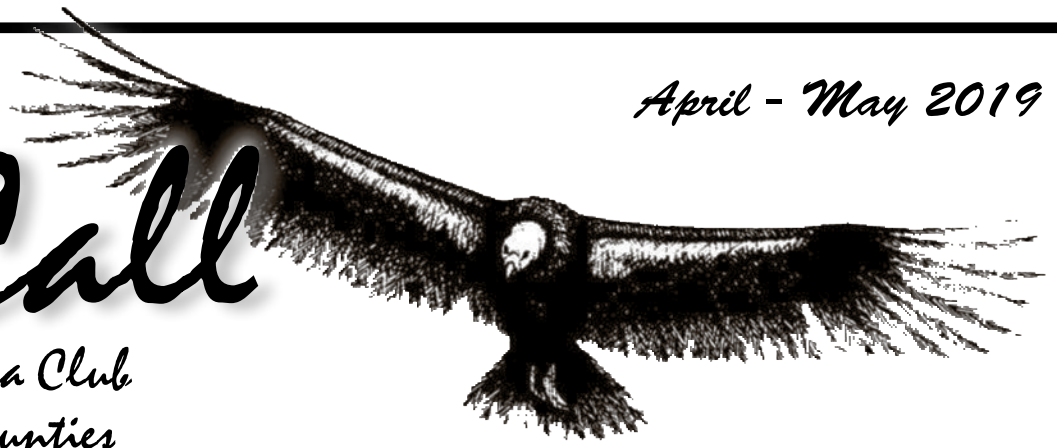


Vol. 19, No. 2 of 6

April - May 2019

Condor Call

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



© Pt. Sal oil painting by Don Crocker, Courtesy Gaviota Coast Conservancy

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Wildlife 'choked' but here's hope

By Carla Bollinger

There's new hope that wildlife may be able to avoid "choke points" that restrict their natural movements, now that Ventura County Supervisors approved an important "Habitat Connectivity and Wildlife Overlay Zone Ordinance" (WOZO) on a



Proof: Ventura Land Trust cleared out and restored part of Ventura River near mouth, clearing a "choke point" for wildlife like bobcat. Photo courtesy of: www.VenturaLandTrust.org

On a roll! Nat Act etc

On March 12 Jim Hines (chapter vice-chair) sent an excited email to the Los Padres Chapter:

The President has just signed S 47 The Natural Resource Management Act of 2019. This bill passed both houses of Congress overwhelmingly; it will protect over 2.5 million acres of wild lands across America.

This bill is the largest land protection measure in over a decade.

I am so proud to be part of the Sierra Club team which worked on getting thousands of acres of land in southern Utah protected, a campaign we have been waging for several years now. Our Protect Wild Utah campaign saw great success with the passage of S 47.

It was not easy, endless hours of meetings with House and Senate members on Capitol Hill and meetings with Administration officials, but in the end we won.

Perfect example of citizens working hard within the boundaries of the Democracy we live in, to get what we felt was right for America's national public lands. Onward to future victories ...

Jim

... And the next day he reported two victories for our animal friends:

We are on a roll, three great environmental victories yesterday (see item above) and:

2) Ventura County Board of Supervisors approved a wildlife corridor protection component to the Ventura County General Plan

3) A state assembly committee voted to send to the floor of the state legislature our legislation to ban once and for all, the commercial trapping of mammals in CA for their fur.

Let's rejoice, celebrate and kick up our heels as we move onward to future victories.

narrow 3-2 vote.

Signaling that it's an important topic – and will be the first planning zone of its kind for Ventura County -- the Jan. 24 meeting with the Planning Commission drew a packed house with over 100 people speaking, followed by the County Supervisors' hearing March 12, also drawing so many people that each had only 1 1/2 minutes to speak.

"The Los Padres Chapter will now be meeting with county planning staff to help develop the actual planning rules to carry out the board's direction," said Los Padres Chapter Chair Jim Hines, who had urged the board to "follow the spirit of SOAR," the county-wide ordinance that was decisively renewed in the November election.

Thanks go to the 'yes' votes by Supervisors Linda Parks, Steve Bennett and John C. Zaragoza. Hines singled out Linda Parks who "worked hard" at drafting the plan.

Agencies involved were as varied as the county's Resource Management Agency, CalTrans, state Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, and National Park Service, among others.

Of special concern were "choke points": roads, freeways, fencing and indirect barriers such as bright night light, loud noise and anti-rodenticide poisoning. Staff emphasized these hearings were a public outreach and they certainly got plenty of feedback.

The passage will protect not only large animals but also smaller critters, from reptiles and amphibians, and the pollinators: birds, bees, and butterflies. All wildlife and native plants need their habitat-homes.

Farmers and ranchers raised their concerns at both hearings, especially the possibility of too many regulations, more cost and erosion of farming rights. The new ordinance will protect waterways, require new "dark sky lighting", change fencing standards, all of which will benefit wildlife. But as the ordinance is fine-tuned, compromises can be reached.

"Approving the wildlife corridor is a small step toward long-term environmental viability. Not only does it work for us locally, it is a flagship for other regions to follow," wrote Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza in the Ventura County Star.

"As our county becomes increasingly urbanized, wildlife is getting squeezed out of areas they have historically used for migration routes," Hines said.

~ Editor's note: Carla Bollinger is a Ventura Sierra Club member and a PLAN Organizer



'Captain' lands on oil beach head

Sierra Club's "captain" (Exec Director Michael Brune, tall man in middle) visited the beach Jan. 27 with Los Padres Chapter members for a picnic where the 1969 oil spill wreaked havoc in 1969. He learned first-hand history of how that disaster was turned into opportunity with the founding of SB Community Environmental Council, Environmental Defense Center and GOO! with the help of Sierra Clubbers.

There, he heard of the 1970 Environmental Bill of Rights crafted in Santa Barbara because of the oil spill (note Jan. 28 sign) that in turn led to the founding of Earth Day.

Afterward he spoke to a packed audience commemorating the 1969 event at the Arlington Theater when he said: "This is a test whether we can turn disaster into opportunity for justice and grace and wisdom," as we had after the spill. Special applause came when he spoke how we can fight the "shameful" Administration and accomplish clean energy.

"Look around the room, look at how powerful we are," he ended to great applause.

Robert Bernstein taped a video of his speech. It's worth hearing, enjoy:

<https://youtu.be/ROPj1FH6FEc>



COVER PHOTO

"Point Sal" oil painting by Don Crocker, just one of so many excellent SCAPE paintings up for sale at the upcoming "Visions of Gaviota Coast" event at the Bacara, April 19 & 20. See details on pg 5.



Drive an EV

You know you want to drive or ride in one, so the Electric Vehicle (EV) Advocates of Ventura County are happy to inform *Condor Call* readers that EV owners now have a program called "EV Drive and Learn."

We have many models to choose from and you should probably try a few different ones. Some will be on display during Earth Days.

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

gene@generubinaudio.com

Why expand oil when renewables are future?

By Katie Davis
Chapter Chair

So many opponents turned out to comment at the ERG oil hearing on March 13th, the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission ran out of time and continued the item to March 27 and then again in two months to May 29.

There has rarely been an oil hearing quite like it, especially in the North Santa Barbara County area known for its oil-friendly supervisors.

At the first hearing, a large crowd of opponents rallied in front of the county building in Santa Maria at 8:30am and stayed all day long. After the staff presentation on ERG's proposal to drill 233 oil wells through the Santa Maria groundwater basin, public comment finally commenced at 1pm and went on for nearly five hours. 85% of whom were opposed to the project.

They represented just a small portion of the hundreds of written comments, the thousands of postcard signers, and the 40+ organizations which signed a group letter opposing ERG's plans.

At the next hearing, March 27, staff was asked pointed questions on the many issues that had been raised and many more people commented in opposition. After much back and forth, the commission adjourned, giving staff two months more to come back with answers on May 29.

"This is probably one of the most important decisions I'll make in my life," commented Planning Commission Chair John Parke. You can help decide the future of Santa Barbara County's oil industry by commenting (see link below).

ERG is the first of three large Cat

Canyon projects seeking permits that would triple onshore oil production in the county drilling through our largest and most important groundwater basin using cyclic steaming, a particularly energy-intensive processes with high well-casing failure rates and air pollution emissions.

If approved, these projects would lock in increased production for the next 40 to 50 years in Santa Barbara County, at a time when we are trying to replace petroleum with more eco-friendly, renewable energy sources.

Commenters brought up ERG's history of oil spills and fires, the risks to groundwater and 99 sensitive species, the 153 tanker truck trips per day, the hazardous materials and natural gas pipeline supplying the project's steam generators, ERG's bankruptcy and shaky financials, a myriad of problems with the environmental impact report and the need to transition away from fossil fuels.

Meanwhile in the audience, employees of AERA, owned by Exxon-Mobil and Shell, observed and plotted strategy. AERA wants to drill another 296 wells adjacent to the site, an even larger and more invasive project to come.

Help ensure the county makes the right decision to deny ERG's project by showing up at the May 29 hearing and/or sending an email to the commission:

dvillalo@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

As Nick Welsh, Executive Editor of The Independent puts it, "Oil D-Day in Santa Barbara Approaches." Read it here:

<https://tinyurl.com/DDayOil>



Sierra Club icon Ada Babine, with two of her paintings as shown at her memorial on Jan. 26. See story on page 3 and more photos by Robert Bernstein here: <http://tinyurl.com/AdaRemembered>

Club has solar deal

SunPower and Sierra Club are working together to make it easy for members to go solar and save money with a proven company backed by the club.

You'll receive a \$1,000 mail-in rebate while the Sierra Club will receive \$1,000 to support its work fighting for clean air and water and protecting the health of our communities.

It's simple, click on the link to get a free quote and find out how much you can save:

<http://tinyurl.com/SClubSolarQuote>

SunPower has more than 30 years of solar experience and a commitment to sustainability. The company was chosen

among many applicants over two years of research, analysis and vetting by the Business Partnerships team.

A key issue was the volatility of the solar market, and SunPower has been stable since its 1985 founding. It works with a network of over 450 local installers and dealers in the 45 states where it operates, including local businesses in our Los Padres area.

Since the Sierra Club's solar partnerships are non-exclusive, each chapter is free to explore an independent partnership with other solar companies. The Los Padres Chapter does not have an independent partnership.



Long, contentious hearings in Santa Maria over Cat Canyon oil expansion and in Goleta over Exxon's plan to use trucks to tanker its offshore oil were greeted by environmental opponents, notably our Los Padres Chapter. Letters and comments were overwhelmingly against. (Photo by Jon Ullman)



Sierra Club gives discounts to top off your roof with solar panels for cleaner energy; helps our chapter too. (Photo by Condor John)

FUEL FOSSILS

Alternatives make head way

By Katie Davis

Ventura Leads

"Community Choice" programs are spreading across California as a popular way to provide cleaner, greener electricity, more choice, and more local investment.

The Clean Power Alliance is the newest one, just rolled out across Ventura and Los Angeles counties, with dramatic increases in renewable energy as a result. Offering plan options with a mix of 36%, 50% or 100% renewable energy, consumers can choose the plan that works for them, some at lower cost than comparable SCE plans.



The best deal in terms of most renewable energy per dollar is the 100% plan, just a few bucks more for a lot cleaner plan, which was introduced as the default and most popular plan in many municipalities (though anyone can switch plans any time).

In one fell swoop, Ventura County just got a lot greener – resulting in new renewable energy projects, more jobs, and cleaner air. Energy experts are asking, "Can they really do that so quickly?"

Yes, that's what we like to call *Leadership*.

Santa Barbara Waits

Santa Barbara County has also been eyeing community choice for years. Voting last summer to create a new program and then putting it on hold pending further analysis, they are in wait-and-see mode.

Meanwhile, the county and cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta and Carpinteria are working on strategic energy plans that will map out ways to increase local solar and storage to help achieve 100% renewable energy and provide resiliency in the event a disaster that impacts powerlines.

One big irony is that oil projects are allowed in oil fields, but utility scale solar is not -- even though the impacts would be far less. The Santa Barbara County regulations restricting solar to limited locations in the Cuyama Valley need to change.

Goleta Rejects Oil

Goleta City Council voted unanimously in February to oppose Exxon's plans to restart their offshore oil platforms and use trucks to transport about 70 oil tankers every day along the Gaviota coast. The Plains Pipeline that was used has been shut down since the 2015 Refugio oil spill.

Opposition to offshore oil is at record highs in California, with majorities of Democrats and coastal Republicans opposed. This is particularly true in Goleta, which is the city closest to the 2015 oil spill. Goleta beaches were shut down; hundreds of animals washed up dead. Trucks are an even less safe way to transport oil than pipelines, spilling more and posing a greater hazard to drivers and roadways – particularly on the 101, a critical transportation corridor. It's already happened: a tanker truck overturned and shut down the 101 during the Thomas Fire when people were trying to evacuate. Ultimately, it is up to the county to approve or deny the trucking application. Goleta, the city closest to the project, hopes their view will prevail.

As Mayor Paula Perotte says, "oil is our past, not our future."

100% Electric Fleet

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously On March 19 to replace 100% of

their fleet cars up for replacement in the next year with Electric Vehicles. They will go from four EVs to 55 in the next year with eye toward eventually electrifying the whole fleet of 1449 vehicles and facilitating charging infrastructure for their 4,600 employees.

This is a significant victory for the Sierra Club and other EV advocates who pointed out the fuel and maintenance savings from an electric fleet, as well as the greenhouse gas and air pollution reduction benefits. EVs now make up 10% of new cars sold in California and the state is on track to meet its goal of 5 million EVs by 2030. This will help reduce oil use, meet our climate goals, and reduce the 20,000 premature deaths every year in California from air pollution.

Yet Oil Looms

Several large onshore oil projects proposed near Santa Maria that would triple onshore oil production in Santa Barbara County are coming up for decision soon. See story pg 1.



Plans to expand oil are not only an environmental issue, but a social justice one as well. Photo taken during Santa Maria hearing, but same worry over water is in Oxnard, too (see story below). Translation: "Our Mother Earth Says: Enough! Our Water is Sacred!" (Photo by Jon Ullman)

Water-oil mixing?

Scientists have found evidence of groundwater well contamination by tar sands oil operations in the Oxnard oil field.

Yet, there are currently 79 new tar sand steam injection wells proposed for this same area, and the company does not want any new review of dangers to water, air quality and truck traffic.

In a landmark study of oil and water wells in Oxnard, United States Geological Survey (USGS) scientist Celia Rosecrans has detected thermogenic gases in water wells that are linked to the cyclic steam oil recovery operations beneath the aquifer. In a report to the State Water Board,

the hydrologist explained the gases could be polluting the water from the wells or the well bores.

Watch her testimony here: <https://tinyurl.com/OxOilPollution>

CFROG (Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas) is demanding a full environmental report of Peak Oil's proposed 79 new wells near multiple aquifers between Oxnard and Camarillo. It wants to go ahead with the project without

To keep up with updates for this and other Ventura County oil projects, sign on at the group's website: www.cfrog.org/

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

Coast access in court

Efforts to secure public access to all 8 ½ miles of Hollister Ranch beaches and to complete the California Coastal Trail are persisting, but because of prolonged court battles, the Gaviota Coastal Trail Alliance is asking for help (see link below).

It isn't alone. Also fighting hard to update an old, restrictive 1982 access program are the Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy, State Parks and State Lands Commission. Also, Assembly member Monique Limón has introduced legislation to keep those revisions from stalling. Our Los Padres Chapter is also on board for full public access and is part of the Naples Coalition.

The Alliance has carried a lawsuit over a proposed settlement of the old 1982 permit, which abandoned all claims to overland access to Hollister's beaches in exchange for boat-only access and an invitational program for select schoolkids, among others. The Settlement Agreement has a "poison pill" that terminates

all public benefits under the Agreement if the State seeks to condemn access anywhere at Hollister Ranch. The Alliance contends the Agreement is unfair to the public and violates state law. While the ranch claims public use will despoil sensitive resources, for 35 years it allowed vehicles on the beach, which was recently stopped due to Coastal Commission enforcement.

Hollister has unsuccessfully opposed the Alliance at every step and has now escalated its opposition to disqualify Judge Colleen Sterne as biased. She has presided over the case for over 5 years and Hollister's motion is now in the hands of a San Luis Obispo judge, halting all further actions until resolved.

The public is closer to gaining reasonable public access to Hollister Ranch's beaches than ever before over 40 years, thanks in large part to the tenacity of the Alliance and its supporters. Please help the Alliance continue this important issue by donating at:

www.gaviotacoastaltrailalliance.org

Club vote

National Sierra Club board elections are underway with a deadline of April 24.

Best way is via the internet where you can find out who is running and vote electronically. Go to:

www.sierraclub.org/board/election

The candidates were asked ten questions, and when you click on their pictures, answers will appear.

Easy right? Yes, but less than 10% of our members vote in a typical year and yet it requires at least 5% of members to validate an election. There are numerous issues we face and simply taking a few minutes to check out the candidates is an education.

Members should've received ballots and information by mail or email by now; if you haven't, go to the link above.

"Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high," the club said, urging members to learn about the issues and the candidates.

There is a total of eight candidates for five open seats, none are from California this time around.



Sue Billig told Brune and crew (see pg 1 photo) about the history of the 1969 oil spill from her and her husband Jim Billig's personal experiences, regaling us with inside stories that led to effective environmental activism ... including a naked man (nameless here) doing eco-work on the islands! (Photo by Condor John)

Bernstein on Brune

Editor's note: Santa Barbara Group activist, hike leader and photographer Robert Bernstein had a chat with Sierra Club's National's Executive Director Michael Brune during his local visit commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1969 oil spill on Jan 27. Here's his takeaway.

This was my first time in meeting Michael Brune and I had no idea what to expect. I wanted to know what was his big vision in terms of his "big ask" to our elected officials.

I noted that when Obama became president, I attended the Sierra Club National ExCom meeting. There I pointed out that it was a once in a lifetime chance to make a big ask. The country was in turmoil after the economic crash. We had a newly elected president with a mandate to lead and a majority in Congress. I was dismayed that the ExCom did not get that this was a time to advance a bold agenda.

Michael Brune said he thought now was a similar opportunity, with people feeling that Trump was a failure and looking for a fresh new direction.

He is a man of few words, so

it took coaxing to get him to offer the issues he cared about most. He agreed that climate change is at the top, but he said other issues are important as well. I asked if he was aware of the massive subsidies for private motor vehicle use as laid out on the Sierra Club website. He was not and asked me to tell him about it.

"America's Autos on Welfare" lays out that a trillion dollars each year in US subsidies goes for private motor vehicle use. A lot of this has to do with land use subsidies that would exist even if cars ran on solar electricity or corn flakes. We would go a long way toward solving climate change just by ending subsidies for the environmental harm. Check it out for yourself:

<http://tinyurl.com/AutoSubsidies>

Brune did not answer. As I say, he seems to be a man of few words. In any case, I very much appreciated the chance to meet him in person. And huge thanks to Katie Davis and Jonathan Ullman for arranging the lunch with him. Check out my photos of the Chapter having a picnic with him on a Santa Barbara beach that was soiled by oil in 1969:

<http://tinyurl.com/BruneBeachin>

GREETINGS FRIENDS

Good water year refreshing!

Editor's note: Rainfall so far in Santa Barbara and Ventura regions are over 100% of normal, but no records broken! But the wildflower blooms. Super!

By Jim Hines

Water, what a year for water! The first drop hits the ground and is absorbed, then more drops and more drops and finally the ground is saturated, and the creeks start to flow. The flow of life begins after a good rain.

Growing up on my family's ranch north of Lake Casitas, our ranch was bordered by two creeks, Santa Ana Creek to the east and Coyote Creek to the west. I would often

watch with fascination as the creeks rose and lowered as rains came and went. I would often play by the creeks, encounter wildlife along their banks and during hot summers wade in the cool creeks.

Water was part of our world, rain was plentiful and after Casitas Dam was constructed, Lake Casitas was formed to supply water to the Ojai Valley and the western part of the city of Ventura.

We had several ponds on our property where wildlife and domestic animals drank.

Water as we all know is so important for life to survive here on planet Earth, we must nurture and protect our precious watersheds, use water wisely in our modern society where the demands for water are

greater than ever, and at the same time we are experiencing more and more periods of drought.

I love water, water renews and refreshes life, allows life to thrive and water is part of our world in so many ways, water for drinking, water for recreation, water for wildlife, water for growing crops, water for industry and water to renew our earth.

For the wild,

Jim

Opportunities for youth 14-28

From the Green New Deal to Climate Strikes to students advocating for better gun regulations, youth activism is rocking this country to its core.

The common thread is powerful young leaders taking a stand.

The momentum is on our side, and now is the perfect time to get involved. Sprog -- the Sierra Student Coalition's one-week summer training -- is a great way for young people ages 14 to 28 to build their activism and leadership! Apply here:

www.ssc.org/Sprog

Participants have described Sprog as one of the most inspiring and transformative weeks of their lives. This one-week crash course teaches tools for environmental and social justice activism to young people across the country. They don't have to be current students.

Editor's note: The Sierra Student Coalition (SSC) is the youth-led chapter of the Sierra Club. Founded in 1991, it is a broad network of high school and college-aged youth from across the country.

EAVESDROPS

"Community response was a labor of love."

~ Marc McGinnes, now an 'elder' treasure during a recent talk about how the 1969 oil spill mobilized the Santa Barbara community to help forge the national environmental movement."

We honor Ada Babine

The Los Padres Chapter mourns the passing of a key member of our Sierra Club since 1958, Ada Mary Babine (1927 - 2018), who died at Serenity House in Santa Barbara on Nov. 28. A memorial in her honor was held on Jan. 26 at the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara.

"Ada was a great leader for the Santa Barbara Group. It's a loss for all of us," said long-time hike leader Tony Biegen.

An avid backpacker, she led her family and friends on many trips into the Santa Barbara backcountry, the Sierras and Big Sur until she was in her 70s. Ada's love for her family and friends was legendary. She was an enthusiastic hostess, and created wonderful Sunday and holiday meals, which were always memorable and intellectually engaging events. She cast a wide net in her community over her six decades of residence and will be missed by a large and diverse community of friends.

Her love for nature and commitment to the environment found expression in the Sierra Club. She served as chair of the Santa Barbara Group, was on the executive committee of the Los Padres Chapter and was our representative to the Naples Coalition. She was also active in

the Audubon Society and Santa Barbara Natural History Museum, serving for a time as president of the Museum League.

She was a charter member of the Pearl Chase Society, a member of the Citizen's Planning Association and the Unitarian Society. A skilled watercolorist and oil painter, she worked as an organizer of Art Walk for ten years.

Born on Sept. 2, 1927 in Delaware, her family moved to San Diego County. She attended Whittier College and trained as a medical lab technician. She married WWII veteran Walter Babine in 1948 and they had five children, four of which survive her.

The family moved to Santa Barbara in 1958 and she returned to school, graduating from UC-Santa Barbara in 1963 with a degree in elementary education, which she pursued for the next 40 years as a teacher of children and then teachers in both Goleta and Santa Barbara schools. She later worked as a substitute teacher well into her 80s.

Her commitment to the highest ideals of teaching inspired generations, and her legacy lives on in so many positive ways.

Read more in the Independent's obituary: <http://tinyurl.com/AdaBabineObit>

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

GREEN NEW DEAL

It's a call for survival

By Jonathan Ullman
Los Padres Chapter Director

There's been a lot of talk lately about a Green New Deal, which is a response to planetary catastrophes of climate change and inequality.

Today's Green New Deal is what we're going to need to survive, just as the New Deal of 1933-1936 was enacted to survive an economic catastrophe: The Great Depression.

The National Sierra Club supports it as a "big, bold transformation of the economy to tackle the twin crises of inequality and climate change," and a way to mobilize vast public resources to help us transition from "an economy built on exploitation and fossil fuels to one driven by dignified work and clean energy."

The Los Padres Chapter has an important role, locally and nationally,

because we are a microcosm of the Green New Deal.

In Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, we have a hazardous oil extraction industry, a lack of equity for low-income residents and people of color, longer commutes in gas-guzzling cars, deadly climate disasters and at-risk wildlife. On the plus side, we have people who want to solve these challenges through clean energy technology and innovative programs to get us there.

First, consider the big oil fights. This year, oil companies want to inject high-pressure steam into the ground at Cat Canyon, in a carbon-intensive scheme to triple oil production in Santa Barbara County. Exxon wants to restart three offshore platforms using 70 oil trucks per day after a pipeline broke at Refugio in 2015. In Ventura, more wells are being allowed by county supervisors without environmental review, and there are 79 new tar sand steam injection wells proposed in the Oxnard oil field.

Meanwhile, oil companies and the Trump administration are plotting to expand fracking and offshore oil drilling on Federal lands and waters surrounding us.

Then there are the climate disasters: fires, flooding and droughts.

We also have tremendous equity issues. We have extremely

high housing costs that are causing more and more of us to drive farther and farther. Last year, Santa Barbara County's carbon numbers went up in part because of longer commutes.

We have great voters, technology and policies. We are pushing the envelope to get off oil and gas in our region.

Residents in Ventura County are now automatically enrolled in the Clean Power Alliance and can choose to receive all renewable energy sources. Santa Barbara County's sedan fleet purchases will be all electric from here on out with many more to come. We have set ambitious goals to get off oil in our cities and our transit.

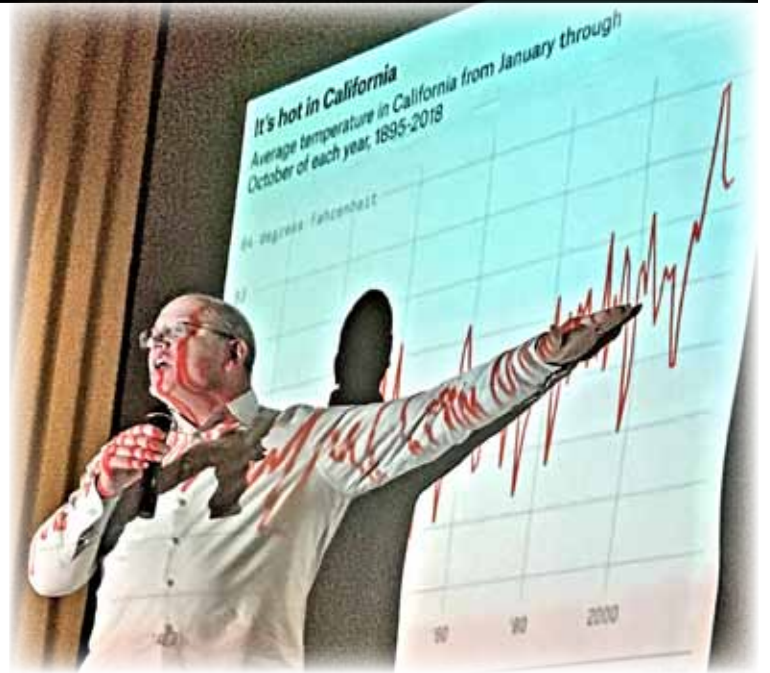
That is why it's so exciting to be here. We are the leading edge of a Green New Deal. If we can get it right here, we'll be a blueprint for the rest of the country. That's what happened in the year after the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill. That's what could happen this year if we all work together.

Here's how: We need volunteers to make phone calls, enter data, write letters, design graphics, attend hearings and more. Send me an email to help:

jonathan.ullman@sierraclub.org

To learn more, type in "Green New Deal" at the search window:

www.SierraClub.org



Man on Fire, or so it seems as Prof. Sean Anderson is ablaze with information showing a graph of how temperatures in California have risen to grave proportions. His talk was entitled, "California's Year-Round Wildfire Season: The New Abnormal" sponsored by the Ventura County Community Foundation and Ventura Land Trust on March 9. Not Climate Change, but Climate Strange, said the Cal State University professor. (Photo by Condor John)

EVENTS

April 6: **Hike with Congress** member Salud Carbajal on the Fremont Ridge trail (5011-5299 E. Camino Cielo) to talk of his new Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, which would expand wilderness protections on the Central Coast. Hike starts at 1:30pm and is 2 miles round trip, though you can further. RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/WalkWithSalud>

April 13: **In Love with Earth** reading by "Environmental Elder" Marc McGinnis who recently published that book from his experiences during and after the 1969 SB Channel oil spill. Includes leaps of faith and acts of service to celebrate the birth of environmentalism. Spend a rewarding Saturday afternoon at Buttonwood Farm Tasting Room from 1-4pm, 1500 Alamo Pintado Rd in Solvang.

April 17: **Lunch & Learn** about the success of having the former Bixby Ranch (Gaviota Coast) granted to the Nature Conservancy. It is the largest land deal for the environment in SB's recent history. Now called the Dangermond Preserve (after the family who donated it), meet its new Preserve Director Michael Bell. Bring your lunch, the event is between 12:30-1:30. You MUST reserve at: jstroh@SBLandTrust.org

April 17: **Climate Crisis** and our Community is a special event by the League of Women Voters, exploring sea-level rise and health impacts, noon to 2pm at SB Main Library.

April 19-20 **SCAPE artists** will have annual benefit for the Gaviota Coast Conservancy, which Sierra Club supports. At the Bacara Resort, 8301 Hollister Ave, Goleta; Friday 2-8pm (artists' reception at 5-8 silent auction) and Saturday 10am-5pm. See story pg 5



May 9: **Adventure of a Lifetime** with Melissa Baffa of Ventura, sharing stories of her adventure aboard Dr. Robert Ballard's research vessel E/V Nautilus during deep sea research. At 7pm, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum 113 Harbor Way; details at: <https://sbmm.org>

June 13: **Channel Islands** talk and show by Dirk Rosen about "Recovery and Demise of Marine Protected Areas in the Channel Islands." Starts 7pm at Santa Barbara Maritime Museum 113 Harbor Way; details at: <https://sbmm.org>



'Protect Our Species' etc

Earth Day is Every Day to the Sierra Club, but we love to participate in the festivals in our Ventura and Santa Barbara region on any date below. The official date for 2019 is April 22 (a Monday here) and the theme (varies locally) of the National Earth Day is 'Protect Our Species' because "unfortunately, human beings have irrevocably upset the balance of nature and, as a result, the world is facing the greatest rate of extinction." Find out more locally and worldwide at: www.EarthDay.org

Sierra Club will have booths and even EV cars at most of the celebrations. Please, stop by for updates on local critical issues and what you can do about them.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

April 27-28: Santa Barbara Earth Day's theme is "Educate. Inspire. Act," held on Saturday (11am-8pm) & Sunday (11am - 6pm), a 2-day inspirational extravaganza since 1970 at Alameda Park, 1400 Santa Barbara St. **Highlights:** Everything! ... like more than 250 green vendors (including Sierra Club) and largest Green Car Show with EV bikes and cars with free rides and drives. Also, Environmental Hero, action projects, education, Zero Waste Zone, sustainable Food Court, Farm-to-Table dinner, Eco-Marketplace etc.

Bonus free evening concert including Beer & Wine Garden on Friday, April 26 from 5- 9pm.

This is our region's oldest and most creative event sponsored by the Community Environmental Council. So much going in we can't list them all, so just go there or here: www.SBearthday.org

April 13: Santa Maria's annual celebration is on a Saturday from 11am – 3pm at the Natural History Museum, 412 S McClelland St. Entertainment includes *A Class Act, Mr. Biggers Ukulele Band*, magician, live animals, booths, nature presentation and lots of family activities. To learn more, go to: www.SMNature.org

April 27: Solvang Chumash Earth Day has a fun-filled Saturday at Kitiyepum' Park, 100 Via Juana Rd. It features activities, crafts, vendors, live music and food. Info at 805-688-7997 or: kdodson@sybmi.org

VENTURA COUNTY

April 27: Ventura Earth Day Eco-Fest brings fun, entertainment, children's activities, exhibits and education to Plaza Park (5th and C Streets) on Saturday 10am - 4pm. Each year this successful community event is attended by over 5000 people and 80 exhibitors, including our Sierra Club.

Also, Green Auto Expo, bike valet, live animals, raffles, education, fun for kids, recycled crafts and amazing food and live bands. Event coordinated by the Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education. Details at: <http://www.venturaearthday.org>

April 22: Fillmore Festival in on the ED Monday, 11am to 3pm at Central Park, 250 Central Ave. Now in its second year it features entertainment, exhibits and education. Details at: www.FillmoreCA.com

April 20: Ojai event on this Saturday is from 11am-4pm, sponsored for its second time by Ojai Valley Green Coalition, at Libbey Park, 210 S Signal St. This beautiful setting is ideal for continuing the conversation about creating a sustainable,

climate resilient Ojai Valley. Expect a variety of interactive activities, demonstrations, dynamic speakers, talented performers, and Earth-conscious exhibitors (Sierra Club!). Details at: www.ojavalleygreencolalition.org

April 13: Oxnard city joins the global celebration on a Saturday from 11am to 3pm at Plaza Park, Fifth and 'C' Streets. Sponsors and exhibitors act locally, with hands-on activities, special children events, comic and musical feature "EcoHero" along with music, food and fun. Info ranges from wildlife protection, conservation and earth-friendly gardening. More details at: www.Oxnard.org/earthday

April 22: Oxnard College Earth Day is on a Monday from 5-8pm with "dynamic workshops" and speakers "to have a more meaningful time and place to spend Earth Day." Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Omar Clay, Environmental Physicist, "On Climate Change and Environmental Justice."

Two Sierra Club members, Prof. James Danza and Irene Rauschenberger, will talk about local issues; other issues feature experts on pesticide safety, sustainable economy, Food and Water Watch and Oxnard Mayor Pro-tem Carmen Ramirez.

April 27: Thousand Oaks combines Earth Day with Arbor Day and this year's event is Saturday from 10am to 2pm at the Grant Brimhall Library, 1401 E Janss Rd. Includes indoor-outdoor activities, films, kid shows, displays, workshops and presentations, notably on sustainability-related questions. More details at: www.toaks.org

~ Compiled by Condor John

Wilderness course celebrates Earth

By Teresa Norris

The Wilderness Basics Course has had another great year at its tenth anniversary, enrolling 60 students, the most ever.

We covered so many important topics during February and March, such as how to dress properly for any weather, navigation, Leave No Trace, trip planning, conditioning, the

Ten Essentials, equipment, hydration and nutrition, basic safety, packing a backpack, water treatment, stoves, food, flora and fauna, geology and local hiking places.

"What a great success story, so great to see so many people taking the course and learning about enjoying the great outdoors in a safe and respectful manner," said Jim Hines who, as an officer of the Los Padres Chapter, spoke to the graduating class in 8 of its ten years.

"While it is important that people learn about the work of the Sierra Club on the political and legal front, it is equally important for people to learn about the values we all need to keep in regard to respectfully enjoying our day hikes, backpack trips and car camps."

"Job well done WBC, I am so proud of you," he concluded.

See photos back page

So too did several students who stood up at the last class March 27 thanking the WBC staff and speakers, asserting, "it was well-run, organized and jam-packed with information," even for those who were experienced backpackers. One said it was "amazing that we can do this program with just volunteers."

Some of WBC's highlights this year included:

~ Five conditioning hikes at Rancho Sierra Vista saw a beautiful sunny day in between all the rainstorms. The creek was higher than usual, so the waterfall splashed vigorously across the rocks.

~ Our Car Camp weekend at Paradise Campground was jam-packed with information, but we also took time to relax under the huge oak trees.

~ Our EventBrite registration system was more seamless this year, and we made helpful changes for classroom comfort at Poinsettia Pavilion, where volunteers provided luscious snacks.

~ While this year a few trips had to be delayed or re-planned due to high water in the creeks or snow, our backpack and trip leaders handled it because of their expertise, the same kind of "be prepared" insights we teach.

~ Can't say enough about our 38 volunteers who worked at essential tasks.

We'll be back in February 2020. Check out all the great photos students and leaders took during the WBC outings here: <https://tinyurl.com/WBCphotoLibrary>

Meanwhile, take advantage of our year-round FREE public outings (see pgs 6-7).

SIGHTINGS

We are the good green deal

By John Hankins

While the oil industry continued its push to expand in our region, our chapter helped more renewable energy come and we supported wildlife corridors, worked on trails, and conducted our tenth Wilderness Basics Course.

It's what we do all year. If any of this resonates, please join us; see Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved. Don't forget to join any of our free outings (see pages 6&7. Oh, and if you want to donate, go to:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

March 27: **ERG oil hearing** was continued to this date from March 13 on its 233 oil well proposal that could threaten Santa Maria's groundwater. Now continued to May 29 you have time to weigh in against it. See story on pg 1.

March 19: **EVs R Easy:** Sierra Club and others convinced SB supervisors to accelerate its fleet to electric vehicles faster than staff had recommended. EV advocates presented facts that would save more money and reduce pollution.

March 19: **Santa Cruz Island** day trip with the Ventura Sierra Club via Island Packers had a good outing with lots of cool pics taken. Let's do it again!

March 16: **Spring Trail work** day was top-heavy with volunteers from our Conejo Group on trails in the Conejo Canyons area, notably to repair erosion damage. Next work day will be April 6 on the Wishbone Trail.

March 13: **Deny ERG's** 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 where Sierra Club held a big rally.

March 12: **'Inspirational Moments'** by Ken McAlpine, culled from 30 years of travelling, ended up at Foster Library sponsored by the Ventura Sierra Club in its own inspirational series entitled Venture(a) Out.

March 12: **Wildlife Habitat Ordinance** passed 3-2, a Very Big Deal. The issue at the Ventura County Board of Supervisors was about designating wildlife and habitat connections and reducing the impacts of lighting, fencing, and development within major wildlife travel. This is considered one of the most forward-thinking wildlife protection policies in the nation and Sierra Club strongly supported the ordinance. See story pg 1.

March 10: **Yes to Wildlife** letter to the editor by Ventura Sierra Club Chair Nina Danza printed in *VC Star*.

March 8: **Baja & Sea of Cortez** "amazing excursion" slide show by SClub hike leader Robert Bernstein at the Val Verde Retirement Center featured gray whale breeding grounds, a certain treat for the public and residents who, Robert said may "move slower than the Sierra Club hikers."

March 6: **Hazardous Oil** projects in the SB North County were

detailed by attorneys from the Environmental Defense Center on behalf of our chapter, which is a client. The public webinar was a great opportunity to learn about three bad oil projects by phone or online. A great concept not to use gas!

Feb 19: **Phase out** of oil and gas resolution was approved by Oxnard City Council; several Sierra Club members testified in support. Also, club members spoke out against the plan to park 5,000 cars imported from Port of Hueneme

Feb 19: **No Trucking Oil**, said the Goleta City Council in a resolution about Exxon's wish to do just that from its three platforms off the Gaviota Coast, due to the shutdown rupture of Plains Pipeline. Club was strongly opposed to using up to 150 trucks per day.

Feb 3: **Plains Pipe-lying**, in the *SB Independent*, published by our Chapter Chair Katie Davis was headlined "What Plains Pipeline Isn't Telling You" and noting its new proposal would extend oil production in the county. Here's the link:

<https://tinyurl.com/PlainsPipelining>

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

Feb 1: **Clean Power Alliance** starts for Ventura County, which aligned with L.A. County to bring residents more power from renewable sources. Residents had until March 31 to opt out and stay with SoCal Edison, which will still provide the distribution service. Sierra Club was a major activist for the CPA.

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



"Welcome to Cat Canyon, a breathtakingly-beautiful California landscape where noisy, nauseating, rusting oil wells are inexplicably allowed in this modern era. Now a bankrupt company and two others want permission to triple production using one of the most dangerous, carbon-intensive processes on the planet. See story pg 1. (Photo by Jon Ullman)

was the title of a special event to assess progress in the last 50 years and a call for renewed action and solutions. Event held at Arlington Theater in SB; Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune was a key speaker there and had lunch at the beach with our local chapter. See story pg 1&3.

Jan 26: **Search & Rescue** teams gathered for a cave rescue

presentation at Casitas Springs and our Wilderness Basics Course people were invited. Several came and learned a lot of info that will be passed onto our students. Thanks to Mary Looby of Ojai SAR for inviting us. See story this page.

Jan 26: **Heartfelt memorial** for Ada Babine, long-time Sierra Club and community activist. See story pg 3.

Rescues are rational

By Alisse Fisher

Upper Ojai Search and Rescue's annual Winter All Team event last year was grizzly in Yosemite and I don't mean bear.

So, I was a little concerned about what this year's presentation would bring, but it was an amazing intellectual action adventure that can be applied to being in the wilderness. You can see it here:

<https://tinyurl.com/SARstress>

It's metacognition on top of harrowing go-pro footage of a cave rescue in raging water ... just my kind of presentation! I was pondering one moment and sweating on the edge of my seat the next.

Andrew Munoz spoke in-between segments of his Alberta and British Columbia Cave Rescue, explaining what things were influencing his thought processes during the 14-hour rescue of his

best friend, who found himself dangerously placed in a narrow passage corking up the water flow.

Munoz took the decision-making process back to deep rooted aspects of our culture and his upbringing. The importance of common biases that make us lean one way or another can get magnified in critical, high pressure, time sensitive, emotional and massively stressful situations. Exactly the type of situations SAR personnel deal in.

He rightly points out that people in positions who are making life and death decisions need to consider how they are prone to make those decisions. The factors influence all decision-making, so everyone will benefit from being aware of them. I'll be applying them in my work with the Wilderness Basics Course and I recommend Sierra Club hike leaders become aware of them.

Benefit for the coast

Escape to the stunning Gaviota coast where SCAPE artists are featured for the annual "Visions of the Gaviota Coast" fundraiser for the Gaviota Coast Conservancy.

More than 150 Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (SCAPE) artists will participate with this seventh annual benefit, juried by artist Ruth Ellen Hoag. Nearly half of all funds raised will assist the Conservancy in continuing successful efforts to protect this majestic 72 miles of open coastline.

Your help provides a pristine habitat for over 1,400 species, including the endangered snowy plover. Our Los Padres Chapter is

a strong supporter of GCC and the Naples Coalition.

It happens at The Ritz-Carlton Bacara Resort, 8301 Hollister Ave, Goleta; Friday 2-8pm (artists' reception and silent auction 5-8pm) and Saturday 10am to 5pm.

Live music, appetizers and local wines are featured at the reception with silent auction 5-8pm Friday and a raffle for an overnight stay and spa treatment at the Bacara. RSVP for reception at: www.GaviotaCoastConservancy.org

On Saturday at 1pm enjoy free screening of the movie: "Gaviota: The End of Southern California." See the trailer here:

<https://tinyurl.com/GaviotaFilm>

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ARTISTS PAINTING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
 Invite You to the 7th Annual
Visions of the Gaviota Coast
The Jewel in Our Backyard
 Benefit for the Gaviota Coast Conservancy
April 19-20, 2019
 Friday 2 pm - 8 pm & Saturday 10 am - 5 pm • Reception Friday, 5 pm - 8 pm
 The Ritz-Carlton Bacara • Santa Barbara

Protecting the rural character and environmental integrity of the Gaviota Coast for present and future generations
April 19 - 20, 2019
 Friday 2 pm - 8 pm & Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
 Free Event
 Reception Friday, 5 pm - 8 pm

- Exhibition and sale of fine art from more than 150 SCAPE artists
- All art features the vast and beautiful Gaviota Coast
- Juried by artist Ruth Ellen Hoag
- Live music, appetizers, and wines from local wineries
- Silent Auction on Friday 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- Special Raffle for overnight stay and spa treatment at the Ritz-Carlton Bacara, Santa Barbara
- Film showing Sat. 1:00 pm "Gaviota - The End of Southern California"

SCAPE THE RITZ-CARLTON BACARA, SANTA BARBARA Gaviota Coast Conservancy
 WWW.S-CAPE.ORG WWW.GAVIOTACOASTCONSERVANCY.ORG
 For more information 805-683-6631 or www.s-c-a-p-e.org

Now is the time to speak up for those who can not!

The many unique ecosystems which make up the Los Padres Chapter region are outstanding places for wildlife viewing ranging from endangered species to marine mammals in the hundreds.

With your help, that's what we defend.

Your donation can help us speak up for and protect these amazing creatures along with their homes in the wilderness and watersheds.

Volunteers help National Park Service examine endangered species like this Island fox (Photo courtesy NPS)

We are working to keep ships from injuring whales in the Santa Barbara Channel. (Photo by Denise DeWire)

Let's take a wildlife viewing trip across our local lands:

There are over 400 mammals and birds in our Region of Riches!

Want to view sea lions? Go up coast to Guadalupe Dunes. For seals, overlook the Carpinteria Bluffs. Endangered snowy plovers glide across the sand on nearly all our beaches.

How about the living symbol of our chapter, the endangered California condor? Go atop Mt. Pinos or join outings to Hopper Mountain and Bitter Creek. Nearby is the Chumash Wilderness where you will find the burrows of the valley kit fox.

Spend time around our reservoirs, Lake Casitas and Lake Cachuma — the 'watering holes' for

wildlife — where deer are numerous, bald eagles build their nests, fish are profuse and nary is heard a discouraging word.

And who isn't thrilled by the largest creatures among us, the big blue whales who ply through the Channel amidst sea lions, otters, dolphins, rays and Leatherback Sea Turtles.

Your generous gift has a direct and positive impact on the flora and fauna right here:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

SIERRA CLUB
 LOS PADRES CHAPTER

Did you get your annual March Appeal letter in the mail? Condor John did and immediately contributed, so this is a gentle reminder. Shown is the color insert in tune with National Earth Day theme: "Protect our Species." If you 'recycled' the letter, no worries, you can contribute any time here: www.SierraClub.org/donate/1000



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.

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)

CREEKS & CONDOR COUNTRY: For the long distance, less elevation hikers. Start at Tar Creek Trailhead parking lot and walk past Dough Flats almost to Cow Spring camp. The first 5.5 miles are on dirt road. Then 2.5 miles on traditional Alder Creek foot trail. Total distance 16 mi, elevation gain 1300'. There are 10 stream crossings each way, give or take a couple! Some wide, some narrow. Be prepared

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.LPFforest.org
www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
<http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

to get wet and muddy. This is a full day hike, 6-7 hours on the trail. Clear weather: MUST be prepared for sun protection and have EXTRA water and food. MUST wear good hiking boots. Rain or temps over 85 (measured in Fillmore) cancels. Meet and form carpools 8am at Delores Day Park, Fillmore (Goodenough Road & 5th St). NO low clearance vehicles to the trailhead. MUST RSVP: NINA, sierraclubventura@gmail.com (VEN)

PALO COMADO: Moderate 6 mrt hike with 600' cumulative elev. gain to pond. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet 8:30am at trailhead. From 101 Fwy. go north 2.1 miles on Kanan Road, turn right on Sunnycrest Drive, go 0.8 miles to the third Public Recreation Trail sign, just past Oak Springs Drive. JOANNE SULKOSKE 805-492-3061. (CJ)

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)

CHUMASH TRAIL to Mugu peak via La Jolla Valley Spring Wildflower hike: Meet at the Chumash trailhead at 9am. 743 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu, CA 90265. We'll start up the Chumash trail and then hike through the La Jolla Valley and loop back to Mugu Peak, spring will be in the air and the wildflowers will be blooming. The initial 900ft ascent up the Chumash Trail is strenuous and is not recommended for beginners, but we will go slow and take breaks as necessary, after that the hike through the valley is easy, followed by the final climb up to the peak for a total of 8 miles and 1800 feet 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)

April 8
ANGEL VISTA: This is a moderate 7 mile out and back, multi-use trail with approximately 1000 ft. of elevation gain. The trail is rocky in places, so wear sturdy shoes and bring poles if you want them for stability. We'll begin with a stroll through an oak grove then ascend to Angel Vista. Views are great! We'll stop for a snack at the bench, then return to our cars. Directions: From 101 southbound, exit Moorpark Rd and turn right. Drive to the end and turn right on Greenmeadow. Follow the road to the end and meet near the bathroom. Start time is 9am. See MeetUp/Ventura Sierra Club for map. Contact MAUREEN at 805-657-8735. (VEN)

April 12
LOWER NEWTON CANYON - BUZZARD'S ROOST: Moderate 8 mrt hike with approx. 1,000' gain and beautiful ocean views. Bring water, food and wear sturdy hiking boots. Meet at trailhead off Kanan Road before third tunnel at 8:30am. LILLIAN TREVISAN 805-498-1623. (CJ)

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. Some rock scrambling and exposure. Bring 2-3 liters of water. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. KRISTI (SB) sbhikergirl@cox.net

April 14
HELL'S HALF ACRE: Moderately paced hike from Cachuma Saddle up a dirt road with fabulous views of the San Rafael wilderness, Lake Cachuma, and interesting rock formations. 7 to 10 miles round trip. Bring lunch, sun protection, sturdy shoes, and plenty of water. Late afternoon return. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. Rain cancels. MURRAY 1-805-967-8770 leave msg (SB).

FOSSIL TRAIL: Satwiwa Natural Area, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and Point Mugu State Park. 6.1 miles. Start in parking lot, to waterfall, then climb toward Boney Mountain, then across

to Fossil Trail and down to road. Strenuous hike and terrain but easy pace. Bring 10 essentials plus food & water. Turn off Lynn Road at Via Goleta in Newbury Park 1/2 mile to the furthest parking lot. Meet by the bathroom at 10am. Rain or 85 degree forecast Saturday cancels. KIM HOCKING 1-805-983-2147 (VEN)

April 15
VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS to the Beach: Meet in the Vons parking lot on the corner of Ventura Ave/Main St at 9am. We'll walk through the Botanical Gardens, down Poli to the pier, and return via the bike path. The hike is about 5 miles and relatively flat except for the climb to the cross. The view from the top is amazing and the walk along the beach is beautiful! Wear comfortable walking shoes, water, and sun protection. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

April 17
EL ENCANTO & PRICKLY PEAR TRAILS: Conejo Open Space Challenge #8. Moderate 3 ¼ mrt in Dos Vientos. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8:30am. Take the 101 Fwy. to Lynn Road southwest to Via Las Brisas, turn right and drive 0.7 mile to Calle Del Prado. Turn right to parking lot at Del Prado Playfields. MELANIE ASHEN 1-805-497-6773. (CJ)

EAVESDROPS

"This will be a costly and lengthy undertaking, with serious ramifications for the natural resources of the Ventura River."

~ Alasdair Coyne of Keep Sespe Wild about ChannelKeeper's lawsuit against the city of Ventura for allegedly taking too much water from its wells near Foster Park. New wrinkle is that management plans are required. To learn more, go to: www.sbck.org
 To lobby the city, go here: <https://tinyurl.com/SaveVenturaRiver>

April 19
ROSEWOOD TRAIL TO ANGEL VISTA, Thousand Oaks: Meet close to a lesser-known trailhead off Lynne Rd. at 1:30pm. Take the Ventu Park Rd. exit south off the 101, 0.5 miles, right on Lynne Rd, 0.3 miles, left on Regal Oak. Park on the street as soon as you make the turn (no parking at trailhead). Canine friends are welcome, but the trail is narrow, and a leash is essential. Moderately easy 4-mile round trip, climbing 850 feet in 2 miles to make this the shortest route to Angel Vista at the top. The trail has lots of foliage and the ceanothus will still be in bloom. At the top, the picnic table at Angel Vista offers great views of the Conejo Valley, the Oxnard Plains, and (on a clear day) a couple of the Channel Islands. Poles are a good idea for the downhill return and wear sturdy shoes, bring sunscreen and water. Plan to be back by 3:30pm. For more info, contact JUDITH LAURENTOWSKI, 805-509-2026 (VEN)

MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK: Moderate 8 mrt hike. Bring water, food and wear sturdy hiking boots. Meet at 8:30am at trailhead. Take Kanan Road, turn left at Cornell Road, cross Mulholland Hwy, quick left into parking lot. LILLIAN TREVISAN 805-498-1623. (CJ)

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 805-451-1239 (SB)

April 21
GAVIOTA CAVES EXPLORE: 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 805-685-1283/event@swt.org (SB)

CREEKS & CONDOR COUNTRY: See April 6 listing for details.

April 22
LITTLE SYCAMORE CANYON/ HIDDEN POND TRAIL LOOP: Meet by 9am in the Satwiwa Nature Center parking lot near the restroom. From Lynn Rd westward, turn left on Via Goleta and follow it to the end. From Potrero Rd. near CSUCI, turn right on Via Goleta off Lynn. This a moderate 7 mile hike with an elevation gain of 1050 ft. The trail is a mix of meadow, creek, and fire road. Be prepared for possible shallow creek crossings. Elevating out of the canyon is via a steep asphalt access road. We take it as slowly as you need. Contact MAUREEN at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

April 24
SAPWI TRAILS: Conejo Open Space Challenge #6. Easy to moderate hike of approx. 5 miles on mixed soil and paved areas. This new community park has various venues. Bring water, food and wear hiking shoes. We will meet in the Sapwi Trails Lower Terrace parking lot at 8:30am. Take the N 23 Fwy. to E Avenida de Los Arboles, turn right; go to N Westlake Blvd. turn right and look for the Sapwi parking lot on your right at the Traffic Light. MELANIE ASHEN 1-805-497-6773. (CJ)

April 26
POINT DUME to PARADISE COVE BEACH WALK - ZUMA BEACH: Join us for a peaceful walk along the waters' edge and to Paradise Cove (tide permitting). Some rock scrambling. Bring water, food and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at beach at 8:30am. Tide at 9am 0.9 feet decreasing; at 10:30am 0.4 feet minimum. Take Kanan to PCH, turn right to Westward Beach Road, drive down to end and meet across from Sunset Restaurant. LILLIAN TREVISAN 1-805-498-1623. (CJ)

April 27
COLD SPRINGS TO LITTLE CALIENTE HOT SPRINGS: Hike down Cold Springs Trail from E. Camino Cielo past Forbush Flat. Hike by a natural spring, across the Santa Ynez River, and through Mono Campground to Little Caliente Hot Springs. Bring swim suit and towel for dip in spring. Strenuous 12 mrt. 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)

continued next page

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

Outings...from page 6

April 28
ROMERO CANYON LOOP: Hike up a trail with trees and a small stream to a lunch spot. Then down an abandoned road with a beautiful view. Moderate 6 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. **CHRISTINE** 1-805-708-5877 (SB)

April 29
CANADA LARGA RD.: We'll take a leisurely stroll up a paved access road, through a rural country area shared with grazing cows and horse stalls. From HWY 33 northbound, exit Canada Larga Rd and turn right. In about .3 miles park along the shoulder near the horse pens. Start time is 9am. Carpooling is advised. The walk is about 5 miles, flat and exposed. See MeetUp/Ventura Sierra Club for map. Contact **MAUREEN** at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

OUTINGS DUE SOON: Group outings chairs should ready their outings for the next Condor Call schedule, covering the Jun-Sep plus the 1st week of October. Questions? Contact **Gerry Ching** (gching@cox.net).

May 4
ALISO CANYON: A leisurely loop from Sage Hill campground on a marked trail alongside a stream Easy 3.5 mrt. Optional descent to Upper Oso adds 1.5 miles to the hike. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. **MURRAY** 1-805-967-8770 (SB)

PRATT TRAIL 8am-1pm. 9.6-mile trail with roughly 3,011 in elevation gain is ranked difficult and is moderately trafficked near Ojai. Great for viewing wildflowers. This is a Leave No Trace hike. Make sure to bring a light warm layer that can be removed when it becomes hot. Bring 2L+ of water and a high caloric snack. Moderate pace; ensure you are in shape. I will be waiting near the trailhead in the dirt parking lot off N Signal Rd. Contact me if you need parking instructions. Questions? Contact **VICTORIA** at: victoria.a.perez@gmail.com

Great island trips await

You're in luck, lots of time to get aboard Sierra Club California's seven 3-day, 3-island trips to the enchanting Channel Islands this year, so pick your season to match your schedule.

The cruises depart from Santa Barbara. Dates are April 7-9, May 5-7, June 9-11, 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

May 5
PLAYGROUND: Explore the labyrinth of boulders forming a natural playground off West Camino Cielo. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Always a new route! Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. **ROBERT** 805-685-1283 (SB)
event@swt.org

RAYMILLER TO THE OVERLOOK TRAIL: Spring Wildflower hike. Meet at the Ray Miller trailhead at 9:00am. 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, Spring will be in the air and

the wildflowers will be blooming. We'll hike at a moderate pace for 8 miles with 1200 ft. of elevation gain. Bring 2 litres of water, snack, hat, sunscreen and anything else you might need. Rain cancels. For more info. Contact **GERARD** 805 212 0798 baileygerard@hotmail.com (VEN)

May 6
FOSSIL TRAIL: This is a moderately strenuous 7-mile loop with an elevation gain of 1700 feet. The trail is steep and rocky in places, with spectacular views of the area. Meet near the bathroom in the parking lot at the end of Via Goleta for an 7 am start time. We will travel down the asphalt access road, up the Fossil trail, connect to the Boney Trail and head back to the Nature center. We should be done by 1pm. Bring water, snacks and sun protection. Wear sturdy boots with good lugs. Contact **MAUREEN** at 805-657-8735. (VEN)

May 10
AFTERNOON HIKE, BATES BEACH LOOP: Meet at the trailhead at 1pm. Take Bates Rd. off Hwy. 101 in Carpinteria towards the beach, and park in the lot on the right. We'll walk along the beach and take a short, steep trail up onto the bluffs to the Carpinteria Seal Sanctuary viewing area. On a clear day, we may have a picturesque view of the islands. The Preserve is home to almost 100 adult seals who give birth to their cubs there; it is one of the four harbor seal rookeries remaining along the SoCal coast. Check the weather and dress accordingly; always bring sunscreen and water. Although dogs are allowed on the walk, they are not allowed in the viewing area. Back by 3:30pm. For more info, contact **JUDITH LAURENTOWSKI**, 805-509-2026 (VEN)

May 11
CATHEDRAL PEAK LOOP II: Head up Mission Canyon trail and then branch off onto a steep and rocky primitive trail to Cathedral Peak for lunch. Spectacular views, including "Three Pools," and echoes from the Canyon. Return down west side to Jesusita trail. Strenuous 6 mrt with hundreds

trips are a fundraiser to support the Sierra Club political program in California.

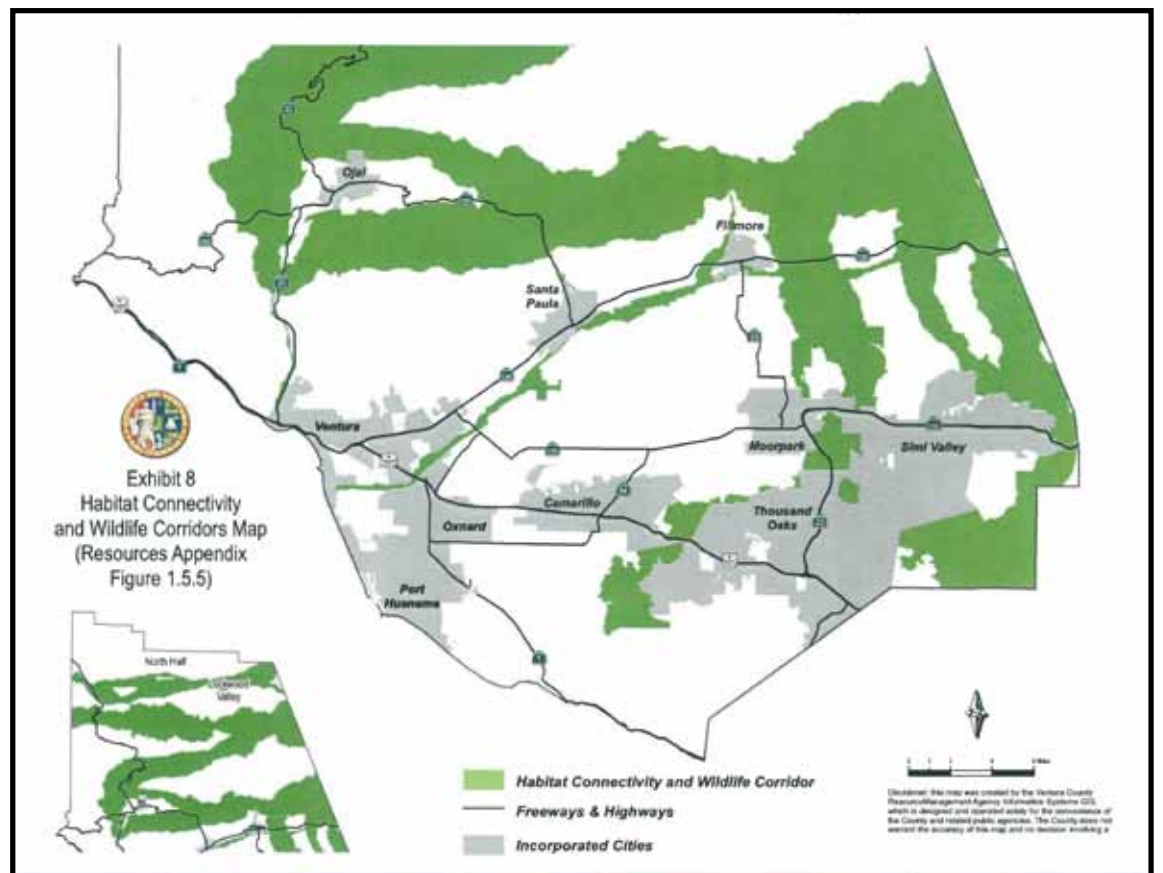
To reserve space, send a \$200 check, written to California Sierra Club PAC, to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact the leaders, Joan Jones Holtz (626) 443-0706 or:

jholtzhl@aol.com
NOTE: July trip filled but our chapter has added another date of July 20-23. Contact for that trip is:
camille.m.collett@gmail.com

of knee-high steps. Some agility needed. 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)

May 13
UPER OJAI BIKE PATH: Meet in the Rotary park and ride for a 9am start time. Parking may be limited so try to carpool from the Ventura area. We'll walk along the bike path from the parking lot to Soule Park golf course, head up to and cross Ojai Rd, travel up to Grand Ave, turn left and loop around back to the bike path. The distance is less than 5 miles and flat. Surface

Wildlife Corridor plans (see story pg 1)



is a mixture of pavement and dirt, so wear comfortable walking shoes. Ojai can be warm. Bring sun protection and water. We can stop for a shade / snack / potty break in Libbey Park if the group wants. Contact **MAUREEN** at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

May 15
OUTINGS DUE: Outings for inclusion in the *Condor Call* are due NOW. All Group outings chairs should send their June-Sep outings to **Gerry Ching**: gching@cox.net

May 18
POTRERO JOHN: Trail follows a beautiful canyon up Potrero John Creek, crossing it several times, winding through pine trees, possibly climbing to a waterfall. 6 miles round trip, 1272 ft gain. Bring hat, sunglasses, water, lunch, sunscreen, and layers. Rain cancels. Meet at 9am at Ventura carpool. **TERESA** 805-746-6030 (VEN)

May 19
ARROYO HONDO: We'll take the scenic West Ridge trail to get good views of the canyon and the coastline. A moderate 3 mrt, 600' gain. After a lunch break outside the historic Adobe, a leisurely stroll around the canyon floor trails will complete our day. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. Rain cancels. **GERRY** 805-964-5411 (SB): gching@cox.net

May 20
VENTURA RIVER Preserve: Meet at the trailhead across from the horse corrals on Rice Rd for a 9am start time. We will cross the hopefully dry Ventura River and travel up Wills to Rice and loop around back to the creek. This 6-mile loop can offer its challenges i.e. flowing water, warm temps, and insects. The elevation gain is about 1100 feet. Bring water plus sun protection. There are no facilities at the trailhead. Contact **MAUREEN** at 805-657-8735. (VEN)

May 25
GAVIOTA PEAK/TRESPASS LOOP: Moderately strenuous 7-mile hike with an elevation gain of 2200. We will ascend the fire road to the saddle and return via Trespass trail. We'll have a short

break at the top for lunch. Bring 2-3 liters of water. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. 8am. **KRISTI** (SB): sbhikergirl@cox.net

May 26-28
BLACK ROCK DESERT MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND: A great first trip to the area about 100 miles N. of Reno. Expect several hundred people at this event co-sponsored by Friends of Black Rock, Nevada Wilderness, BLM and Nevada Outdoor School. Expect guided tours, hot springs, speakers, a Dutch Oven cook-off, and drawings. Come for the weekend or come for the day. Some food but come prepared w/ food, water etc. LNT but we'll have porta-potties. Signup with **DAVID BOOK**, 775/843-6443. (Great Basin Group) For more info visit: www.Blackrockrendezvous.org

May 27
CARPINTERIA MEMORIAL DAY OVERNIGHT: We'll start the day with a 6-mile beach/bluff walk. Meet at 9am in the Rincon Beach parking lot near the bathroom. After the hike, those who plan to camp will check into our group site at the campground, set up tents, and prepare for a BBQ and potluck. Check-in is at 2 so we may have a couple hours for lunch in town if our site isn't available. There is a limit of 25 people and 5 cars in the campsite. Free parking is available outside the park and paid parking inside. The cost per person will be determined by the number of people who show up. The site costs \$180/nite, so if 18 people attend, they will each pay \$10. I have another site reserved for 2 more nites if anyone is interested. Please sign-up on the Ventura Sierra Club MeetUp web page and follow the discussion. Contact **MAUREEN** at 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

May 30-June 4
ESCALANTE BACKPACK: This trip will get to Neon Canyon, starting either at Harris Wash or 25 Mile Wash which is preferred depending upon the information I can find. It will be 30 miles with pack using the Harris route or 34 mrt using the 25 Mile Wash route. Both routes have dramatic scenery including narrows. Ringtail Slot and Neon Canyon will be explored with day packs. Wear shoes you don't mind getting wet as we will be wading much of the

time. Moderate backpack. Limit 10. **DAVID HARDY** 702 875-4826 hardyhikers@embarqmail.com (email preferred). (Southern Nevada Group)

June 2
FLORES PEAK FROM GIBRALTAR ROCK: We will drive to Gibraltar Rock, above the Rattlesnake Trail. We will then hike a steep, little-known trail to Flores Peak. Some rock scrambling and agility required. The Wednesday hikers sometimes call this "The Medicine Circle". Elevation gain is about 700 feet in only a half mile! Please bring a snack or lunch and a liter of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. **ROBERT** 805-685-1283 / event@swt.org (SB)

June 8
MISSION RIDGE: Hike up Rattlesnake trail to the connector onto Tunnel. From there we'll take a primitive trail to a high ridge for a lunch break. From there we'll loop back down to Rattlesnake. Moderately strenuous 7 mrt. Bring plenty of water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. **Alejandro** 805-451-1239 (SB)

June 16-21
PARUNUWEAP CANYON: This is a canyon not frequently visited and is east of Zion. It is not in any park or any other boundary. No permit is needed. This is a 30 mile round trip backpack that is recommended for the middle to late June when the water conditions are best. There are several side slot canyons to explore along the way and the main canyon becomes a narrows similar to the Zion Narrows. Moderate backpack. **DAVID HARDY** 702 875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com (email preferred). (Southern Nevada Group)

July 4-7
FOURTH OF JULY IN THE BLACK ROCK: This will be a busy weekend in the Black Rock as many Burning Man Attendees use this as a "shakedown weekend" for their gear. Possible One-Day Ham License class. Typical events include visits to hot springs and the Emigrant Trail. No firm schedule set at this writing and few facilities, but we'll probably have porta-potties. Signups after 6/15! **DAVID BOOK**, 775 843-6443 (Great Basin Group)

SIERRA CLUB
LOS PADRES CHAPTER
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Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241

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A world to explore (Denise Coulter)



Wonder water (Suzanne Tanaka)



Come along with us (Suzanne Tanaka)



Our 10th year in 2019, another successful training turning out more experienced hikers. See story on page 4.



Miles of smiles (Suzanne Tanaka)



Stick n bow match (Kristi Kirkpatrick)



Where are we? Right by the map (Annette Preciado)



Finally, the fire! (Suzanne Tanaka)