

Vol. 19, No. 5 of 6

October - November 2019

Condor Call

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



© Photo by Robert Bernstein

'Patriots' & leaders... Gag orders... Wins, Strikes... Volunteers... Get out

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Condor Call

October - November 2019

KICKIN' ADDICTION

Renewables get real

By Katie Davis

Fires an' Spills

In my inbox this week I see a 2,100-gallon oil spill into a creek area in Orcutt AND a 2-acre wildfire in Cat Canyon just across the 101 on "Old Rig Road" in northern Santa Barbara County.

While it's too early for the cause of the fire to be reported, recent fires in Cat Canyon have been caused by oil operations there. Orcutt and Cat Canyon just happen to be the two locations in Santa Barbara County where energy-intensive cyclic steam oil production is currently occurring to access the thick, difficult tar-sands oil we have left. Cat Canyon is also where a massive expansion of said cyclic steaming is proposed.

AERA, the limited-liability operation owned by Exxon and Shell (designed specifically to take risks its parent companies wouldn't take), and a couple of small speculators are proposing to drill over 750 oil wells through the Santa Maria groundwater basin, a primary source of

drinking water for the region. Opposition to these projects has been slowing them down. The fires and spills are a reminder that we need to stop them for good.

Oily Oceans

This week I also got news that Pier 421 on Ellwood beach in Goleta has finally been plugged and abandoned, and platforms Hogan and Houchin in federal waters off of Carpinteria are ceasing operations as of Sept. 30. In addition, a ban on new offshore oil leases passed Congress thanks to the work of sponsors such as our own Congressman Salud Carbajal.

These are positive signs that we are finally protecting our

ocean from oil drilling.

However, we are not so naïve to think Trump will sign such as bill. In fact, his administration has plans to sell many new ocean oil leases, including in the Santa Barbara Channel, only they are holding the lease plan until after the 2020 election so as not to fan the flames of opposition.

In addition, Exxon is proposing to restart its offshore oil platforms that have been shut down since the 2015 Plains Pipeline oil spill on Refugio beach and transport the oil via 70 tanker trucks, 24 hours a day along the 101. That stretch of the Gaviota coast falls in Supervisor Joan Hartmann's district, a seat the oil industry will be targeting for takeover in 2020 in order to ensure its projects get approved and oversight is kept to a minimum. The fate of our Channel hinges on the 2020 election in more ways than one.

Sun and Wind

Despite these threats, I have never felt more optimistic about our energy future.

The Strauss Wind Energy Project near Lompoc is moving forward. It would generate enough clean, renewable energy to power nearly 45,000 homes each year. During the approximately 30-year life of the Strauss project, it would prevent more than 6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from polluting the atmosphere — the equivalent of eliminating nearly 16 billion

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EAVESDROPS

"You are failing us ... you're not mature enough to tell it like it is ... I shouldn't be up here; I should be back in school. You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words."

~ Just a few of the salient remarks, AKA righteous anger, by 16-year-old Greta Thunberg at the UN Climate Summit on Sept. 23. Hear a video of her speech here:

<https://tinyurl.com/GretaSpeaks>



Condor John went on the Sierra Club's national website and found literally hundreds of Climate Strike events that teenagers organized on a school day, Friday, Sept. 20 to protest inaction by our government. This was a favorite sign seen in DC and resonates with the older generation! (Photo by Miranda Erlich).

Gun-toting 'Patriots' think we're the enemy

Editor's Note: when our national lands rep Jim Hines sent this out to a few thousand people, it was reshared by hundreds and put in various newsletters. While it is a dark subject that not everyone is comfortable talking about, it needs to be heard. Many activists must sometimes put up with violence when working to protect our national public lands.

By Jim Hines

Sometimes you must dodge bullets to protect the environment.

What an eerie feeling to walk into a meeting hall in southern Utah where some in the crowd wore sidearms and those sitting in the back had rifles by their chairs. Yes, it was a patriotic meeting; there were American flags, but they were flying upside down (the international signal of a nation in distress) and the gun-wearing attendants are part of the American Patriot Militia Movement (APMM).

We were there to hear speakers rally the crowd about the "enemy", which they see as the United States Government. I attended a similar rally in Montana as well.

The APMM is not just a bunch of right-wing radicals who oppose federal government ownership of land, they are large in numbers across the western U.S., very well organized and most importantly have powerful friends in the right places such as state houses around the west, in Congress, Dept. of the Interior and the White House.

This is the dark side of America which so many people do not want to talk about, but friends, it is real. I read about this in the news and now I have seen with my own eyes the power the APMM has and it is alarming.

Here in the progressive central coast region we bask in our environmental success, speak out

at public hearings without fear and are applauded.

But speak out in Utah and Montana, among others, and your life gets threatened, your car vandalized, and you are followed home from the hearing and harassed. Frightening time to be a protector of America's national parks and other national public lands units in 11 western states.

And the fact that the APMM has regular meetings with certain members of Congress, Interior executive staff and White House officials tells us that we have to work even harder to be the voice for protection of YOUR national parks and lands.

I will continue to be there to be that voice, to counter and meet with the officials I mentioned above, will YOU?



Tony Biegen and Diane Soini, a dynamic duo of the backcountry and authors of the online Santa Barbara Hikes page. Our long-time Sierra Club hike leader Tony holds John Muir's words close to his soul. Read Dianne's tribute to him below. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

Outings leader extraordinaire did it with heart and BBQ

Editor's Note: One of our major leaders for Sierra Club's free hikes, trail maintenance and trail issues has been Tony Biegen, our titular Santa Barbara Outings Chair. Well, he's giving up the Chair for ... a chair? A party was recently held to honor him, and the author below read a glowing tribute to one of our chapter's Giants.

By Diane Soini

Twenty years ago, Keith was the outings chair. The internet was new. The iPhone did not exist. Tony became outings chair.

We had our own sign up waiver written by Jim Vanyo. The only criteria to become a leader was you had attended a hike or two with us.

Since becoming chair, Tony has barbecued countless tri-tips for us using oak bark collected on our trails. We appreciate his generosity feeding us so much delicious food.

Tony shepherded our group through the mountain bike wars. He represented the Sierra Club position to the local trail community and the local hiking community's interests to Sierra Club National.

Eventually the issue died down, the bikers became more responsible and trail building became a larger trail community commitment. The trail community is much larger now and Tony had a hand in that. Tony protected Jim Vanyo's interests in

where his money would be used and donated \$10,000 to the Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA) for the purchase of equipment for trail restoration after the Rey fire destroyed the Santa Cruz trail.

The LPFA has raised close to \$20,000 but the damage is so extensive more work is required to achieve full restoration. Jim Vanyo would be pleased because Jim was a trail builder and old timer who had spent decades in our backcountry. Tony made sure the local group did not forget Jim's wishes for the money he left.

Tony did a lot of trail maintenance work himself. A lot was

done on Lost Valley and Hurricane Deck, but he went to many volunteer days and did his own unofficial volunteering. His commitment to our trails always went further than the requirements of the outings chair job description.

Tony was instrumental in writing the replacement to Art Benkaim's \$5 book of hikes, a replacement book that never came to be. Much of his efforts on that project are on his website:

www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com

Tony was there through the transition to more stringent requirements for leaders helping to lead new leaders into the new

process.

As a hike leader himself he frequently drove the newcomers. We met many foreigners, tourists from all over the world, new students and researchers and new residents to Santa Barbara. Tony introduced them to our wilderness and welcomed them, sharing local natural history and stories.

Making the schedule was always like herding cats. Early on the schedule was published in the *Condor Call*, the *SB Independent* and the *News Press*. Maybe also the *Valley Voice*? Each paper had their

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In a victory that denied expansion of an oil field that would encroach upon an Oxnard low income neighborhood, CFROG thanked the county supervisors Sept 24. Climate First Replacing Oil and Gas partnered with Food & Water Watch to continue pressure during appeals on the project spanning years. Thank the supervisors voting to deny: Bennett, Zaragoza, Parks and Huber (Kelly Long vote NO, so no thanks to her). CFROG stated: "When we contacted these residents to let them know of the impending new oil wells in their back yard, they told us that nobody listens to them. We are happy to report that this time somebody did." (Photo courtesy CFROG)

Attend CA Deal summit

Over more than two decades, Sierra Club California and our allies have been pushing state agencies and the legislature to accelerate adoption of zero-emission vehicles, and a summit on Oct. 26 in Pasadena will assess the present and future.

Los Padres Chapter Chair, Katie Davis, will attend as part of the panel on "Transportation for All" during the afternoon session.

We've seen progress. There are nearly 50 models of zero-emission light-duty vehicles in the California market, and more are expected with

a driving range for some models of gasoline vehicles.

The technology is no longer restricted to light-duty vehicles. A robust market for electric transit buses is blossoming here, and medium- and heavy-duty trucks are now commercially available in electric models.

Are all those new vehicles leading to the clean air goals? Are new, family-supporting jobs coming along with these technologies and how can we do better in California?

Sierra Club California's one-day Summit in Pasadena on Oct. 26 was created to answer these questions along with labor and justice organizations. The summit will address a specific theme, the California Deal.

Tickets to attend the summit are just \$20 in advance and covers lunch and a reception. You must register in advance to attend at: <http://SierraClub.org/California/Summit>

SB recycling Styrofoam

There is now free Styrofoam recycling in Santa Barbara thanks to Heal the Ocean and MarBorg Industries, called "a powerful attack on an exceptionally destructive source of ocean pollution" by HTO.

The pilot program will "densify" Styrofoam into viscous material that is reformed into useable products such as mirror and picture frames and packing material.

"We hope the public will help make it successful by using the free drop-off locations, and by only bringing in clean Styrofoam of any size and shape," noted a program flyer, but those pesky packing

'peanuts' are not included because they gum up the machines.

Drop-offs are at 20 David Love Place in Goleta and 132 Nopalitos Way in Santa Barbara.

"BIG kudos go to Brian Borgatello of MarBorg," said Hillary Hauser, HTO executive director.

Ventura does not yet Styrofoam recycling; however, Supervisor Steve Bennett was successful in having the county board prohibit use of the at the county Harbor, parks, government center and county-sponsored events. It's a technique that cuts them off from the source.

Interior doesn't want your voice

By Jim Hines

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior has issued what is essentially a "gag" order to all federal land management agencies when it comes to commenting on proposed energy projects, which would have negative impacts on America's national parks and lands.

The order directs that all local federal land managers must submit any concerns they have to Interior for review prior to providing any comments on mineral projects such as mining and drilling in or close to national parks. That office will decide if comments should be part of the official record.

This would, of course, affect Channel Islands National Park (CINP). In late 2020 the Administration plans to roll out a plan to dramatically increase offshore oil drilling in federal waters in the Santa Barbara Channel surrounding the park. While we all know that there will be horrendous impacts to the marine environment surrounding the park, this new Secretarial order will prevent CINP staff from commenting on those impacts!

That leaves it up to people like us to ensure that CINP concerns to are made available to decision makers. This is a delicate issue as we don't want dedicated national park service employees to be penalized, but the Sierra Club in other areas such as southern Utah and New Mexico has quietly worked with national park managers and it was the Sierra Club which ultimately presented their concerns without the official involvement.

Also expected is a similar order given in regard to national forest lands around the western U.S. which includes the Los Padres National Forest.

The Forest Service is within the Dept. of Agriculture, but there are regular meetings between Interior and Forest staff in DC on ways to work together to dismantle or weaken environmental protection rules and regulations.

The Administration would ultimately like the Forest Service to become part of Interior, but no official move has yet been made. It also wants the National Marine Sanctuary System moved over to Interior.

I am growing increasingly concerned that when the offshore drilling expansions plans are officially released that there will not be any local public hearings and a very limited written public comment period.

EAVESDROPS

"Our government continues to ignore the seriousness and causes of the climate crisis ... It's pure evil."

~ Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia with his wife Malinda (Ventura residents), announcing he will give another \$10 million in profits on its books that accrued from Trump's "irresponsible corporate tax cut" from 35% to 25%. Instead, the money will go to grassroots groups fighting climate change.

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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Renewables...

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vehicle miles or the burning of almost 15 million gallons of oil.

It would also provide hundreds of jobs and infuse tens of millions of tax dollars into our county. It shows that we do have real alternatives to oil development.

Too, SB County Board of Supervisors just adopted a Strategic Energy Plan that shows huge solar potential in our area, and it plans to remove impediments to solar development. Battery storage projects are slated to replace gas-fired power plants in Oxnard, and renewables are cost-competitive with fossil fuels across the board. They also already employ five times more people in California than fossil fuels.

Kickin' Addiction

All this means I see the path opening up to kick our addiction to fossil fuels.

We have ambitious master bike plans, a commuter train between Ventura and Santa Barbara, long-range electric cars and charging stations wherever you go. Our buses are going electric and the county fleet is going electric.

I myself have been driving electric for nine years now, and I don't expect to buy another gas car ever. Join me in the pledge to drive electric or not at all:

<https://tinyurl.com/NextCarEV>



Outings leader...

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own rules and publishing deadlines. Once published the schedule was fixed in time. Things changed with the advent of the internet. Like many things the internet changed our relationship to the community and ability to reach an audience. MeetUp was at once a competitor and a useful tool and a frustrating app that never quite fit our model of many cat-like leaders. Nobody yet has a bulk upload tool.

Santa Barbara Hikes, at one time considered a divisive threat to Art's book and to the replacement book that never came to be, became what I always hoped it would be, which was an easy place to find the schedule. It has a clear, new approach, but maybe it's time for

someone new to bring that into fruition. Check it out here:

www.santabararahikes.com

Tony with his wit, his stories, his big smile and big heart has been our leader for so long it is hard to imagine the Sierra Club without seeing his face. We are all deeply grateful for all he did for us. Thank you for the commitment you showed to the Club, to our trails and to all of us all these many years.

POSTSCRIPT on the future: "The plan is that I'll be working with Kristi Kirkpatrick and Alejandro Andreatta to take over the role. They'll be doing more and more in the coming months. I expect that the transition will be complete before the end of the year. They are dividing up the responsibilities, so it is not a large burden for a single person."

Saving our natural world

By Carla Bollinger

A wide-ranging meeting covering topics of wildfire, sustainable growth, poison free lands, park conservation, wildlife corridors, recognition of a historic Native American passage through our area and toxic politics were all connected by the theme: *Saving our Natural World*.

The event homed in on our own area and gave specifics at the Aug. 24 meeting. It brought together a range of speakers imparting important information. Here's a summary of what they said:

~ Jim Hines (Sierra Club) covered the mounting political fight of the Trump Administration and agencies gutting environmental protections and parks, which are



Links to 805 EV agencies

Join the movement to bring all-electric transportation solutions to our region via:

www.electricdrive805.org

This coalition of agencies is working with businesses, government, property owners and the public to lead local action to increase access to today's cleaner, more efficient electric vehicles. The coalition includes:

~ Community Environmental Council innovates and incubates real life solutions in areas with the most impact on climate change. Its programs provide pathways to clean vehicles, solar energy, resilient food systems and reduction of single-use plastic.

www.cecsb.org

~ The SLO County Air Pollution Control District's mission is to realize and preserve clean air for all.

www.slocleanair.org

~ Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District works to protect the people and the environment from the effects of air pollution.

www.ourair.org

~ Ventura County Air Pollution Control District is tasked with improving the quality of our air and health of our residents.

www.vcapcd.org

~ Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance's mission is to establish Ventura County and neighboring regions as the leader in developing and implementing durable, sustainable energy initiatives that support sensible growth, healthy environment and economy, and greater self-reliance for the region.

www.vcenergy.org

~ Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (knows as C-5) is a group of local stakeholders whose mission is to expand the use of alternative fuel vehicles and fueling infrastructure throughout the Central Coast.

www.c-5.org

While not a formal part of the coalition, the Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club works in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties to encourage and foster clean transportation options (along with other clean air, water and earth issues). Join us at:

www.SierraClub.org

A very active private (volunteer non-profit) organization is the EV Advocates of Ventura County, which also helps in Santa Barbara County. Find them on Facebook and Twitter.

typically non-partisan. But he added that there are groups such as the American Patriot Militia Movement working against our national parks and land who have the ear of Trump appointees.

However, he did remind us that there are wins: Gov. Gavin Newsom did sign the Wildlife Protection Act of 2019, which bans all trapping of mammals for their fur in California, and the 14-year battle over a 150-acre development above PCH in Malibu, proposed by U2's popular guitarist known as "The Edge" was upheld by the CA Supreme Court.

~ Dennis Arguelles (National Park Conservation Assn.) reviewed its support against any lawsuits that are filed since the Ventura County Wildlife Overlay Zone Ordinance (WOZO) passed. He discussed commitment to the Rim of the Valley expansion of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by Rep. Adam Schiff and U.S. Senators Diane Feinstein and Kamala Harris.

~ Merrill Berge's presentation covered the Save Open Spaces and Agricultural Resources (SOAR) initiative which passed in November, 2018, and was of special interest to the attendees from the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association. While the Ventura supervisors passed the WOZO initiative, lawsuits and outside political agitators are in the shadows to disrupt the intent to protect wildlife migration and habitat.

~ Joel Schulman, Poison Free Malibu, discussed the AB1788

ban of Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide (SGAR), which was killed by strong lobbying from the Pest Control industry. However, the unintended killing of non-target wildlife from SGARs is a battle lost but the war isn't over.

~ Carla Bollinger proposed either a Ventura County or State Historic landmark designation of the historic passage of the Native Americans and Spanish and stagecoach trail from Santa Barbara through the Simi Valley side of the Santa Susana Pass. Research is needed for the project. -

~ Scott Quirarte, Battalion Chief, Ventura County Fire Department brought a special interest for locals with coverage of the Thomas and Woolsey Fires. He emphasized the need for homeowners, schools and businesses to be aware of the "Ember Zone" and how to retrofit structures to protect from the embers. He handed out copies of "READY, SET, GO!", a Wildfire Action Plan for Ventura County residents.

More information on any of these topics is available:

Jim Hines, Sierra Club

JHCasitas@gmail.com

Dennis Arguelles

www.NPCA.org

Joel Schulman

www.PoisonFreeMalibu.org

Scott Quirarte

www.VCFD.org

Merrill Berge

www.SoarVC.org

Carla Bollinger

www.PlanOpenSpace.org

The magic of Autumn

By Jim Hines

Greetings Friends:

The Autumn season is upon us. What a delightful time to be out and about enjoying our natural world here in the Los Padres Chapter region ... sunny warm days topped off by bright starry nights allow us to experience nature in so many ways.

The cooler nights of Autumn are allow for the turning of color of some of our native trees in the high country areas such as Mount Pinos and Figueroa Mountain and our inland valleys such as the Santa Ynez, Ojai and Lockwood Valleys.

On the trail I am seeing the berries on the native Toyon shrub turning red as well as Autumn blooming CA fuchsias with their gray foliage and bright orange flowers which are loved by hummingbirds. The creeks are still flowing, adding a delightful sound.

We are just starting to see a few over-wintering bird species arrive from the colder north, but our local birdlife abounds from small songbirds to the large birds of prey such as hawks, eagles, osprey and falcons.

I am seeing lots of deer in areas of open fields and saw several foxes in the Lake Casitas area recently.

And don't forget that beach walks are great this time of year.

The Autumn season in our home gardens finds us planting what are known as cool season vegetables such as edible pea, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussel sprouts, spinach and lettuce varieties. In the cool season flower gardens you will find the delightful colors of fragrant sweet peas and stocks. Also pansy and viola varieties as well as stately snapdragons, colorful calendulas and Iceland poppies all of which do well when planted at this time of year and will produce and bloom right through next Spring.

It is also bulb planting time as well, tulips, narcissus, hyacinths, daffodils, crocus, freesias, Sparaxis and iris bulbs can all be planted now.

So, whether you are spending Autumn out in our natural world or just around your home, there is plenty to enjoy in this ever delightful season. Enjoy.

Blog spots & Photo shots

Our chapter and two of its groups have blogs that are fun and informative to read. Also, check out our Wilderness Basics Course photo library about how much fun it is to take our hikes.

Chapter:

<https://LosPadres2.SierraClub.org/blog>

SB Group:

<https://tinyurl.com/SBGroupBlog>

Ventura Group:

<https://tinyurl.com/VenturaSierraClubBlog>

WBC photo library:

<https://tinyurl.com/WBCphotoLibrary>



Part of 'Saving our Natural World' event is the 100-year-old National Parks Conservation Assn. at: www.NPCA.org (Photo by Erick Adino)

Help sustain our work via Member Circle

Support the Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter of the Future by becoming a member of our new Sustaining Member Circle.

Official rollout is Oct. 13 and you can become one of the first to join. All it takes is pledging \$20 a month or more to support our local chapter.

With your help, we will be able to expand our ability to address local challenges, from preserving important wildlife habitat to protecting public access to promoting green jobs and sustainable land use decisions and advocating for clean, renewable, locally controlled energy sources.

Sustaining Member Circle contributors will receive advance notice of events, regular updates on local environmental advocacy, a subscription to *Condor Call*, an invitation to an annual Circle outing, and a gift. If you are already a monthly donor at the \$20 per month or more, you will automatically become a member.

By joining our Circle, you are directly supporting the local work our chapter is doing on the ground in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Your commitment allows our chapter to be nimble, to respond where we are needed, when we are needed. The steady flow of income provided by Sustaining Members keeps the chapter's focus on advocacy, outreach

and growth because we know our monthly expenses will be covered by your recurring contributions.

It's easy to join, just go to:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

You'll be at the donation page, so simply choose the amount that works best for you and be sure to click the "Make My Gift Monthly" box on the middle right of the page. Once you complete your payment, you will be automatically enrolled, and more information will be sent to you by email.

EAVESDROPS

"Into the forest I go. To lose my mind and find my soul."

~ John Muir, Sierra Club co-founder.

Monthly giving is an easy way to make a big difference in your backyard, from the mountains to the sea. Your gift provides the resources to sustain long-term campaigns that lead to the permanent protection of our most precious local resources.

Please feel free to contact Emily Engel with any questions at:

EmilyAEngel@gmail.com

Our main website will show you the vast scope of our local programs and actions preserving our neighborhoods:

<https://lospadres2.sierraclub.org>

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

Our North County Group would like to restart regular meetings and programs. Keep informed 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

EVENTS

Oct 13: **Shoreline Picnic** with optional beach hike has become an annual Santa Barbara Group tradition for all members and guests. It's a potluck, bring enough to share. This is a Leave No Trace event; club will provide water and soft drinks from 9-11am, located at Shoreline Dr & Santa Rosa Place, Santa Barbara.

Oct 20 **Santa Barbara Wild**, our friends at Los Padres ForestWatch are conducting their 15th annual fundraiser from 3-6:30pm at the 2300 Garden Street Academy Playing Field. For details and tickets go to: www.SBWild.org

Oct 23 **Local Impacts** of climate change for Goleta area and what we can do about it features our own Chapter Chair, Katie Davis. Event starts at 7pm at the Encina Royale Clubhouse, 250 Moreton Bay Lane, Goleta. Part of the Climate Reality Project; details here: <https://tinyurl.com/GoletaClimate>

Oct 26 **'The California Deal: Making it Stronger and Greener for Everyone'**, a special all-day conference sponsored by Sierra Club and featuring our Chapter Chair, Katie Davis, speaking on transportation. See story pg 2. For details and registration go here: www.sierraclub.org/california/summit



See Topper the owl at ORC. (Photo Ira Myer)

Nov 3: **Ojai Raptor Center** will open its doors to the public for a rare opportunity to meet raptors and tour the Center from noon to 4pm on a sunny Sunday, 3670 Baldwin Rd., Ojai. For details go to: www.OjaiRaptorCenter.org

Nov 10 **'Mud & Dust'**, an illustrated climate talk by local professor Jim Danza (also a Sierra Club member) that will also feature his film "Alaska is Melting." Starts 7pm at Oxnard Community College's Performing Arts building.

Nov 14 **'Marine Mammals, Sentinels of Ocean Health'** is a lecture by Dr. Samuel Dover with information that "They are barometers for current and potential negative impacts on individual and population levels, ocean and human health." at 7pm SB Maritime Museum, 113 Harbor way. Details at: <https://sbmm.org>

Nov 20 **Alternative Uses of Oil Platforms**, an "Expo" with tabling and presentations along with a keynote speaker, from 1-5pm SB Maritime Museum, 113 Harbor way. Details at: <https://sbmm.org>

Nov 20 **Green Jobs** issues will be a conversation with local labor union and Sierra Club members are participating via its Climate Reality Project. Starts 5:30pm at the IBEW Local 413 meeting room, 100 Thomas Rd., Buellton. For more info go to: www.ClimateRealityProject.org KDavis2468@gmail.com



It has taken months to craft the unique Ethnobotany Native Plant Interpretive Garden and trail at the Fillmore Fish Hatchery and you can help spruce it up before the official opening Nov. 2. See story below. (Photo by Sergio Flores)

Unique garden opens Nov. 2

It might have a long name, long history and was a long-time coming, but the Ethnobotany Native Plant Interpretive Garden at the Fillmore Fish Hatchery is going to officially open with a ribbon cutting, native plants for sale, locally-grown refreshments and experts who can identify plants and the connection to the native Indians of the region.

It happens from 10am to noon Saturday, Nov. 2 at the site, 612 E. Telegraph Road in Fillmore (on the entry road to the fish hatchery).

But before then, there are two work events that will spruce up and enhance the garden before the opening. Please come and volunteer. They are:

Oct 12 from 9am to noon, a Saturday pull-a-weed, plant-a-plant event.

Oct 26 from 9am to noon, another Saturday fun activity that will include weeding, trail work, planting and planning for the gala opening Nov. 2.

The land, historically part of the Santa Clara River riparian area,

is undergoing transformation from neglected weed lot to restored habitat. You will gain a sense of ownership and satisfaction caring for and learning about the native species, bugs, birds, amphibians, mammals that are reappearing and which start with these plants.

During the work events, wear sturdy shoes, long pants, a hat and clothes you are happy to get dirty! We'll have water and snacks but it's always good to have your own water and sunscreen. We'll have gloves and tools but bring your own if you'd like.

Friends of the Santa Clara River received grant funding for this wonderful interpretive garden and trail from the California State Coastal Conservancy, which USCB and the Santa Clara River Conservancy supported along with Sierra Club volunteers.

Many of the plants share a long history with the local Chumash and Tataviam peoples of the area who used them for food, medicine, and building materials.

Wins for wildlife

Editor's note: The author is part of Sierra Club California/Nevada Wildlife Team and is vice-chair of our Los Padres Chapter.

By Jim Hines

Whew, we are worn out, lot of wins for wildlife the past few weeks. We have been walking the halls of the state capitol of California and Nevada, speaking at public hearings, holding public rallies and giving tours of wildlife areas we would like protected to various decision makers.

Our meetings with the Governor and his staff have been productive and have led to his signature on banning the hunting of bobcats and banning the trapping of mammals for fur.

The Governor also supports our top priority wildlife highway crossing, the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overpass over the very busy 101 freeway in the Agoura Hills area of western Los Angeles county. An ordinance favoring it was recently passed by Ventura County Supervisors called Wildlife Overlay Zone Ordinance, affectionately called WOZO. However, it is expected go under judicial review by opponents.



We have been meeting with CA Fish and Game Commission (F&G) staff to designate as 'critical habitat' for mountain lions for various open space land areas within the tri-counties and Los Angeles. Hopefully

a decision will be made this Fall.

Members of our wildlife team routinely speak at F&G and Nevada Board of Wildlife meetings on various wildlife issues. Our seat on the Wolf Management Team has allowed us to be part of the stakeholders who are working on a plan to protect gray wolves and their habitat in northern California. Our rally in Sacramento in May drew hundreds of people supporting their protection.

We have joined a national Sierra Club lawsuit to stop the Trump Administration from dismantling the federal endangered species act.

We also joined our national Sierra Club office in a lawsuit to stop the construction of the U.S./ Mexico border wall which would impede wildlife crossing in the areas where the wall is proposed.

Offshore we are engaging the U.S. Government over the use of long line nylon drift nets, which are used in the commercial ocean fishing industry to catch a targeted fish species, but also entangle and kill hundreds of whales and other marine mammals each year. Plenty of meetings with the feds but no real results yet.

I had a meeting with the President's new Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and conclude that she is going to take the it in a direction which is NOT friendly to our nations wildlife. Not the best meeting I've had recently.

And finally, after two years of myself and members of our wildlife team appearing before the F&Game asking for a ban on the use of lead bullets in hunting in California, that ban is now in effect, just as the deer hunting season began in our local backcountry. Only steel shot can be used in hunting in this state now.

Our paws are tired, but all of us along with your help have been a powerful voice for the voiceless among us, our precious and endangered wildlife.

EAVESDROPS

"Leonardo was a great lover of Nature and animals, and would buy birds in the market and release them from their cages."

~ Quote from the Leonardo da Vinci exhibit held recently at the Reagan Library in Simi, showing his genius embraced the mechanical and natural worlds.

Solar deal

Sierra Club is partnering with SunPower to make it easy for anyone (member or not) to go solar and save money with a proven company backed by the club.

This is especially critical in the Ventura area which has joined the Clean Power Alliance, an advantage for lower prices. Santa Barbara County residents can also save money simply by having solar.

You'll receive a \$1,000 mail-in rebate while the Sierra Club get \$1,000 to support its work for clean energy.

Condor John (editor, *Condor Call*) took advantage of the club's deal three years ago. "NextDoor is full of comments today about how residents' bills have gone up since Ventura joined the CPA because of new pricing methods. But guess what, my bill for August was \$11 even after I chose the 100% clean energy tier. That's because I have Sierra Club solar. Even with my 10-year loan to buy it, my bill is less than it would be without solar."

Click on the link to get a free quote and find out how much you can save: <http://tinyurl.com/SClubSolarQuote>

Climate strikes: we were there



Sept 20 Climate Strike nationwide (three days before UN Climate Summit) was heavily attended by our Sierra Club members at Mission Park with hand-made signs by youth, and Father Serra looking on when it marched on City Hall. Below: A week later at De La Guerra Plaza another large crowd convened with Sierra Club in the thick of it. Other strike locations were Libbey Park in Ojai, Camarillo's Constitution Park, Westlake Village, De la Guerra Plaza in Santa Barbara. Girsh Park in Goleta and on the street in Carpinteria! WHAT? No North County Santa Barbara? (Photos by Condor John (above) and Emily Engel (below).

SIGHTINGS

Action on climate, EVs, wildlife

By John Hankins

Activity sure picked up in the August-September period and our Los Padres Chapter volunteers put in weeks if not months of volunteer activity ... enjoying it all the time.

Just scan the list below and see that we've been up to the Sierra Club's motto of Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet. Or *EEPP!* if spoken out loud.

We act like this all year and still we find time to enjoy the outdoors. 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, read the stories on page 3 and back page or go directly to: www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Sept 27 **Dirty Duo** of disgraced former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and local oil mouthpiece Mike Stoker were 'greeted' with a large group of protestors when they came to participate in a Republican fundraiser. This rally for the environment was hosted by Los Padres ForestWatch, Sierra Club and Food & Water Watch.

Sept 27 **Global Climate Strike** was held locally at De la Guerra Plaza in Santa Barbara, following the successful Sept. 20 strike by students. Sierra Club was a sponsor for www.ClimateStrikeSB and we had action items, such as asking attendees to pledge that their next car will be electric, calling SB Supervisors to oppose fracking in the North County and Exxon's oil truck proposal, as well as supporting wind energy project (Lompoc has one pending). Strike ON!

Sept 23 **Town Hall** in Ojai on reducing pesticide use and the transition to organic farming was co-sponsored by the Sierra Club.

Sept 22 **Peace Festival** in

Ojai featured our Chapter Vice-Chair Jim Hines, who notes that while it is one of the smallest towns in Ventura, "it has more environmental groups than some states." In fact, it was the first city in this county to declare a climate emergency. He spoke along with Marie Lakin of CFROG

Sept 1 "**Can solar Grease Oil's Wheels?**" an article by Maya Chiodo is "an impressive job of showing the oil industry's greenwashing techniques," said our Chapter Executive Director Jon Ullman, in a rebuttal that was published on the *SB Independent's* online news. The article was about Cat Canyon oil industry wanting to offer a 3-megawatt solar plan, Ullman called it "window dressing" and cited county staff analysis.

Aug 29 **Bucking Trucking:** Not only do coastal cities oppose ExxonMobil's plan to truck its offshore oil to refineries (due to the shutdown of Plains Pipeline causing Refugio oil spill in 2015), so do businesses and some Chambers of Commerce. So noted our Chapter Chair Katie Davis in a letter rebutting the Goleta Chamber's endorsement of the trucking. Go here for details: www.DefendThePacific.org

Aug 31 **Ormond Beach** Restoration and Public Access Plan was attended by Ventura Sierra Club reps and were part of workgroups which gave input and ranked preferences. See the plan at: <https://ormond.scc.ca.gov/>

Aug 31 **Watershed Coalition** for Ventura County attended by Ventura Sierra Club chair Nina Danza who earmarked two projects of local interest: Hanson Nature Center and Santa Clara River Riparian Restoration: includes a public access building/shelter, trails, rustic amphitheater, parking, bathroom and the Southwinds Flood Control Project, Oxnard (J Street Drain).

Aug 30 **Gov. Gavin Newsom** toured and approved of the site of the future Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overpass above the 101 freeway in the Agoura Hills with Sierra Club Wildlife Team, wildlife groups and officials.

Aug 24 **PLAN Network** had an action meeting where our Chapter vice-chair Jim Hines spoke about current threats to public land locally and nationally. Read story on pg 3

Aug 20 **Edhat Coverage** of one of our

free Sierra Club hikes featuring hike leader Gerry Ching, Outings Chair Tony Biegen and photographer (and also hike leader) Robert Bernstein. Event was at the Arroyo Hondo Preserve managed by The Land Trust on the Gaviota Coast.

Aug 17 **Wild & Scenic** Film Festival sponsored by the Ventura Land Trust had Sierra Club presence via a booth and numerous members attending this annual fundraiser.

Aug 15 **Green New Deal** rally in front of Rep. Julia Brownley's office at 223 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd was sponsored by 350.org but included Sierra Club members actively participating.

Aug 14 **Risky Business:** Our Chapter Chair Katie Davis was quoted in *Noozhawk* about TerraCore purchasing ERG and intending to expand oil drilling operations in Cat Canyon but maybe with a solar component. Davis said: "You can dress it up with solar panels and pretty words, but this is a risky, dangerous and speculative project with class one significant and unavoidable impacts that should be denied sooner rather than later." Read the story here: <https://tinyurl.com/OilSolarPlan>

Aug 13 **Summer Potluck** by Ventura Sierra Club in which we put up a couple canopies, added lawn chairs, mixed in a bocce ball set, sprinkled with conversation and topped it off with the Rincon Rovers barbershop quartet.

Aug 8 **Forest Protection editorial** by our Arguello Group Chair Rebecca August (also of Los Padres ForestWatch) appeared in the *Ventura County Star*. To read the Op-ed and/or submit a comment, visit www.LPFW.org/saveNEPA

'Big job' cleaning coast, rivers

Editor's note: Pregnancy test, electric scooters and way too much plastic stuff were among the estimated 251 tons of debris and recyclables found during the 35th annual CA Coastal Clean-up Day Sept 21 that coincided with a similar international event. There were a thousand clean-up sites in virtually all counties, the largest in the event's history. Over 60,000 volunteers participated, and although the full figures are not yet tallied, here's what happened at one of the sites in Ventura County.

By Sam Marin

"You only got one country and if you don't take care of it, your loss," said a volunteer named Len during a warm Saturday morning at the Santa Clara River near Johnson Drive in Ventura.

Total of 86 volunteers lined up by the Sierra Club tent including Friends of the Santa Clara River and about half were Oxnard College students, all of whom cleaned up a total of 550 pounds. Most unusual item this year: A Lionel Ritchie LP, according to organizer Nina Danza.

Most of these students were there for extra credit like any student would, but some also had the passion to help the environment. Surprisingly, it was their first time being at the location and none of them knew that part of the Santa Clara River was so close.



A heart placed at Santa Barbara Harbor commemorating the loss of 27 people during the fire that happened on the dive boat Conception Sept. 2. Two local residents died: Kendra Chan, 26, Oxnard and Alexandra Kurtz, 26, Santa Barbara. The full list can be seen here: <https://tinyurl.com/BoatFireVictims> Sierra Club cruises aboard Truth Aquatics boats have been cancelled until further notice. (Photo contributed)

River trails a dream

By Sam Marin

A successful night happened at the Venture(a) Out event Sept. 10 on the importance of preserving the Santa Clara River, featuring Professor Jim Danza who tantalized the group with ideas for a bike path and native plant walkways.

While the audience wasn't as large as those who showed up for the summer film "Gaviota", younger people in their 20s to early 30s attended. Seems like more of the young adults are hearing about the Sierra Club and wanting to get involved. There were so many people that some brought out fans to keep cool.

Danza is professor of geography and environmental science for Oxnard College, Chair of Friends of the Santa Clara River, and a Ventura Sierra Club member. He was informing people how important it is that more should help preserve the river.

At mid-lecture, he had the audience's full attention about having a bike trail along the river. It would be a safer way to get around town without having to worry about traffic. He admires the unique bike trails in places where he has traveled and explained the many benefits for the communities.

"New York built an elevated trail that used to be a train line. They built a beautiful native plant garden walkway for the public to just walk on. All because one guy said he wanted to do this," he said.

It was an example to inspire people to step up for what they want to change; that it's possible to make an idea a reality.

Danza has a way to make an audience laugh, such as inserting onto his slides some cartoon characters and

even some jokes. Just to make sure that the audience was still awake and not daydreaming, he said:

"I know it's getting late so I wanna make sure you're awake. It says 85 percent are awake. Oh, looks like someone dozed off; it dropped to 84. Alright you all laughed so you're all wide awake." Danza said.

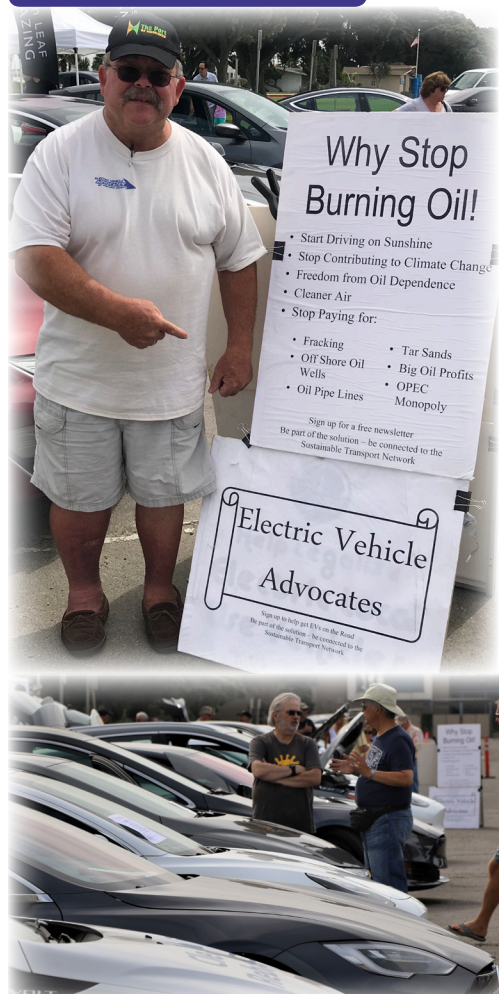
He shared a trailer for a film he made called "Alaska is Melting". It was very cinematic, leaving people wanting to see more and might go to watch it.

That opportunity will happen at 4pm Nov. 7 at Oxnard Community College in the performing Arts building. His talk is entitled "Mud & Dust" where he will also show his film "Alaska is Melting".

For more information or questions, email him at: jdanza@vcccd.edu



Jim Danza made the audience learn and laugh during Ventura Sierra Club's regular Venture(a) Out series Sept. 10, this one about the Santa Clara River. (Photo by Condor John)



Active, wonderful, well attended Electric Vehicle shows were extremely popular during Drive Electric Week in September; covering our local region well, from Solvang to Goleta, Ventura and Oxnard. Those responsible included Sierra Club, EV Advocates of Ventura County, SB Community Environmental Council and VC Regional Energy Alliance. Above is Kent Bullard of EV Advocates (Photo Condor John) and a long line of EVs at the Oxnard show (Photo Michael Taylor)



A large crew for Coastal Clean-up Day sponsored by the Ventura Sierra Club starts its day under the bridge along the Santa Clara River. Photo by Sergio Flores



Take a Hike!

LOS PADRES CHAPTER

UPDATES: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>

Panorama above Goleta by Robert Bernstein

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.

October 5

THREE POOLS BEYOND SEVEN FALLS: Difficult but short 5 mrt. Primitive trail with a 10-foot boulder to climb and lots of boulder hopping along Mission creek to reach a beautiful pool. Bring swimsuit, lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 1-805-451-1239 (SB)

OLD CABIN SITE - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 5½ mrt hike with 700 ft. elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at Satwiwa Trailhead in Newbury Park. Take Lynn Road east to a left turn at Via Goleta and drive to last parking lot. JOANNE SULKOSKE 1-805-492-3061. (CJ)

October 6

RAY MILLER TRAIL: Moderate out and back 5 mile hike with 1,000 ft elevation gain. Bring water, layers, snacks, sunscreen, 10 essentials.

Meet at the picnic table near the trailhead at 8:30am. Park in lot for a fee or free on PCH. HEATHER D'ANNA (VEN)

October 7

ARROYO VERDE DOUBLE LOOP: Meet at 8:30am in the first parking area beyond the park entrance off of Foothill Rd. Parking is free during the week. The hike will consist of 2 loops for a total of 5 miles with a 700-foot elevation gain. The first loop has some steep sections but the second loop is easy. Leashed dogs are allowed. Prepare for sun by bringing a hat and water. The hike leader is SUZANNE TANAKA. suzanne@hiplaces.org (VEN)

October 12

SATWIWA LOOP TRAIL TO OLD BONEY: Fossil and Upper Sycamore Loop. 9am. Meet at Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa, 4121 Potrero Rd, Newbury Park, CA 91320, drive down to the furthest parking lot where the road ends. We'll hike at a moderate pace for 7 miles with 1700 ft. of elevation gain. There are some steep sections so this hike is not recommended for beginners. Bring 2 litres of water, snack, hat, sunscreen and anything else you might need. For more info, contact GERARD 1-805 212 0798 or baileygerard@hotmail.com Rain or excessive heat cancels. (VEN)

October 12

ETHNO-BOTANY GARDEN WORK DAY: Fillmore Fish Hatchery (612 E. Telegraph Rd.) 9am - 12pm Helping hands needed for weeding, trail work, planting in the garden and planning for a grand opening in early November. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, a hat and clothes that can get dirty! Bring sunscreen, water and snacks (some will be available). Helpful to bring your own gloves and spade, some will be available. Kids under 14 with adult welcome. No dogs. Q: sierraclubventura@gmail.com (VEN)

October 13

SHORELINE PARK PICNIC AND WALK: Share a potluck breakfast. Bring food to share. Coffee and fresh squeezed orange juice provided. Meet in the middle of Shoreline Park at 9am. Beach walk follows led by ROBERT 1-805-685-1283/ event@swt.org (SB)

October 14

LOOKOUT PARK & TORO CANYON: Meet at 9am at Lookout Park in Summerland (use Evans Ave offramp from HWY 101) This is a 6 mile moderate level hike with an 800 foot elevation gain. We will hike to Toro Canyon and along the

Polo Club Trails to the Greenwill Preserve. From there its uphill for views of Summerland and the ocean and then down Evans Ave to our cars. Coffee at Red Kettle Coffee in Summerland post hike. Bring a qt. of water, poles and sun protection. Temp greater than 85F or rain cancels. Led by LORA & PHIL 1-805-218-2103 (VEN)



EAVESDROPS

"We came all this way to explore the Moon, and the most important thing is that we discovered the Earth."

~ William Anders, Apollo 8 astronaut, who took the iconic Earthrise photo on Dec. 24, 1968 from space.

October 19

DOWNTOWN OXNARD URBAN WALK: 9:15am to 12:30pm. Walk for 3 to 4 hours to some of the still existing historical spots from the 1920. Bring money for a Heritage Square tour donation (\$3), a shopping bag for some local, ethnic shopping and optional lunch. This is a flat, 6-block radius historical, urban walk around old, downtown Oxnard on B St, 4th St, 7th St, and Oxnard Blvd. We will visit Heritage Square, the Art Deco Vogue theater (indoor Hispanic swap meet), Plaza Park square, the old Woolworth building, Otani's Japanese Seafood restaurant (1950), Asahi Asian market, Golden Chicken Inn (1929), and discuss illicit activities of the now defunct China Alley. Meet at 9 Heritage Square Visitor's Center 715 S. A St. Wear comfortable shoes, bring hat and water; limited to 10 people. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

October 20

SWEETWATER TRAIL: A hike

from the Bradbury Dam lookout to the Lake Cachuma County Park. We'll explore a portion of the park before retracing our steps. Easy 5mrt. Bring a light lunch and water. Meet behind the Bank of America on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Email me (gching@cox.net) for instructions. GERRY 1-805-964-5411 (SB)

GRIDLEY TRAIL is 11.1 miles heavily trafficked exposed out and back located near Ojai; start time is 8am, back by 1pm. Features beautiful wildflowers and is rated as difficult as it gains over 2,600 feet in elevation. Please practice Leave No Trace. Anything brought on the trail will come off the trail. Bring a layer in case of cooler temperatures, 1-2 liters of water and a snack for the top of the ridge. Parking is found at the end of Gridley road coordinates 34.46903, -119.22371. I will be waiting near the road to prevent any confusion. For more info, contact VICTORIA (VEN) at victoria.a.perez@gmail.com.

October 21

CARPINTERIA STATE BEACH: A 3.4 ft low tide is forecasted at 09:54. We will begin with a climb to the bluffs, walk to Linden Ave. and return to our cars along the shore. Hopefully we will make it around the point with dry feet. This may be the last time until next June we can walk the entire way along the shore, as the seal sanctuary will be closed 12/31 for the birthing season. This is an approx. 6-mile hike with a slight climb up to the bluff. Meet at 08:45 in the Bates Beach parking lot at near the restroom. Check the weather and dress appropriately for the beach. There are both water and facilities the along the route. Led by MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

October 25

VENTURA MARINA HARBOR & BEACH WALK: Meet 4pm at 1449 Spinnaker Dr. at the entrance to Andria's Seafood restaurant. Walk the pavement for about ½ mile at Harbor Marina Village to the Channel Island National Park Visitor's Center. Cross the street to walk the beach for about 2 miles to the estuary of the Santa Clara River. Return to parking lot and meet for happy hour at the Copa Cubana (1575 Spinnaker Dr) in Harbor Village. The walk is about 2 ½ miles at a leisurely pace from 4 - 6pm. Add on the happy hour time. Wear shoes that can manage pavement and sand walking; dress in a layered manner for cool or windy weather and bring water. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

October 26

MISSION RIDGE: We'll hike up 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 9am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

October 28

SULPHUR MT. ROAD: Meet at 8:45am at the end of Sulfur Mt. road just north of Casitas Springs

off of HWY 33. Parking is limited. We will walk for 3 miles along the private access road through grazing pastures to the overlook. Here we'll pause to take in the view and refresh, then turn and return to our cars. This hike can be cool in the beginning and warm at the end. Layers are recommended. Leashed dogs are allowed. There are no facilities or water along the way. Led by MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

October 29

SIERRA CROSS, Ventura Pier evening walk: Meet at 4pm at the Mission Buenaventura fountain at 211 E. Main St for a 2 hour, 5-mile

EDITOR'S PICK

November 2

GRAND OPENING DAY: Ethnobotany Native Plant Interpretive Garden Fillmore Fish Hatchery (612 E. Telegraph Rd.) 10am - 12pm. Gala public opening and tour of this new environmental gem. The garden is officially a project of Friends of the Santa Clara River under grant funding from the California State Coastal Conservancy, with USCB and the Santa Clara River Conservancy support efforts. Sierra Club has participated for about 3 years building the site along with volunteers from the public. Enjoy the trail through the garden and learn about our local ecology, wildlife and habitat restoration along the Santa Clara River. Many of the plants share a long history with the local Chumash and Tataviam peoples of the area who used these plants for food, medicine and building materials. We'll have locally grown refreshments, native plants for sale to take home and more! Kids under 14 with adult welcome. No dogs. Q: sierraclubventura@gmail.com (VEN)

loop, 300-foot gain and loss from the Mission fountain, up to the Sierra Cross, down to the Harbor Pier and back to the fountain. This is a slow walk at a leisurely pace. Check the weather forecast and dress accordingly in layered clothing. Wear appropriate shoes for pavement hiking/walking. Rain cancels. Leashed dogs are welcome. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

November 3

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

PIEDRA BLANCA TRAIL TO TWIN FORKS CAMP: Easy pace. Take Hwy. 33 to Rose Valley turnoff. Trail head at Lion Campground at the end of the parking lot. Carpoolers meet at Von's parking lot, Ventura, Harbor Blvd. entrance 9am. Hike starts 10am. 5 miles + RT/600' elevation gain. Bring 10 essentials, food/water, warm gear. Rain forecast on Friday, high water

continued next page

Conditions

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

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://LosPadres.SierraClub.org>
www.SBSierraClub.org
www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com
www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com
www.LPFforest.org
www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
<http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

Meetups & Ongoing Outings

Santa Barbara

Meetup site by the Santa Barbara Group is a place for people to find all sorts of local activities, including hikes, and you can post or see photos too. Go to: www.meetup.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara

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, 770-7656. (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

in Sespe Creek, or 85 degrees cancels. KIM 1-805-983-2147. (VEN)

November 4

SISAR CANYON: Let's do this before it rains this year. We hiked it last spring with swollen creeks leaving us with some wet tales to tell. Meet at 08:30 in the Corner Market, which is at the corner of Sisar Rd. and HWY 150 midway between Ojai and Santa Paula. Please park along the fence on the right side of the parking lot so we don't take space from the market shoppers. This is a 6 mile out and back with a gradual incline to the overlook. We will pause here for a short break and return to our cars. Leashed dogs are allowed. Led by MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

November 7

SURFER'S POINT BEACH AND CITY WALK: From 9am to 11 or 12 enjoy a 5 mile, 2 to 3 hour leisurely-paced walk that includes the Ash St. pedestrian overpass, the walkway along Surfer's point beach, the Ventura River Estuary and the paved Ventura River walk/bike way to Main St. Then traverse the historic district on E. Santa Clara St. to the parking lot on S. Ash St. If interested join the group for an early lunch (\$8 to \$15) at the Traveler's cafe on E. Front St. This walk will be predominantly pavement walking except for uneven beach walking at the Ventura River Estuary. Leashed dogs are welcome. Wear appropriate walking shoes, hat, sunscreen and bring water. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

November 10

FISH CREEK: Long carpool to Nira Campground, then up the Manzana to Fish Creek Camp, continuing up Fish Creek to a small swimming hole. Moderate 9-mile round trip. Bring lunch, snacks, plenty of water, hat, and a swimsuit if you want to take a dip in the pool. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 1-805-479-7063 or 1-805-644-6934 (SB).

PRATT TRAIL is a 9.6 mile moderately trafficked exposed out and back located near Ojai, meet at 8am and expect a 1pm return: Pratt Trail is Features beautiful wildflowers and is rated as difficult as it gains over 3,000 feet in elevation. Please practice Leave No Trace. Anything brought on the trail will come off the trail. Bring a layer in case of cooler temperatures, 1-2 liters of water and a snack for the top of the ridge. Parking can be found in the dirt lot near the trailhead or on the road. I will be waiting in the dirt lot near the trailhead. Coordinates 34.46038, -119.242927. For more info, contact VICTORIA at victoria.a.perez@gmail.com. (VEN)

November 11

VENTURA CROSS TO THE

PIER: We will start the hike in the Vons Shopping center on the corner of Ventura Ave. and Main St. Meet at 8:30am and park near O'Reilly's Auto Parts facing Main Street. From here we will hike to the Cross, through the Botanical Gardens, down Kalorama to the pier. We'll walk to the end of the pier, then along the Promenade and River back to our cars. Total distance is 5 miles and flat except for the moderate climb to the cross. Wear comfortable walking shoes, a hat and bring water. Well-behaved leashed dogs are allowed. Led by MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

November 16

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 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)

THE OVERLOOK TO RAY MILLER TRAIL: Meet at the Ray Miller trailhead at 9am. La Jolla Canyon. 9000 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu, CA 90265. We'll start by hiking along the Beach to Sycamore canyon, then up the scenic trail to the overlook trail and return on the Ray Miller trail to our cars. 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. For more info, contact GERARD 1-805-212 0798 baileygerard@hotmail.com Rain cancels. (VEN)

November 17

MIDLAND SCHOOL LOVERS LOOP: We'll explore one of the Midland School trails on this moderate 3 mrt hike. This partially shaded trail has great views of Grass Mt. Bring water, a light lunch and sun protection. This hike involves a 1 hr drive to the trailhead on Figueroa Mtn Rd. Rain cancels. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Email me for instructions. GERRY 1-805-964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

November 18

VENTURA RIVER PRESERVE: We tried this last spring and couldn't cross the river. This year we'll try again...before the rains. Meet at the Rice Rd. trailhead in Ojai at 8:30am. We will do the 5 mile Wills Rd-Rice lollipop loop with a 500ft. elevation gain.



This powerful and alluring photo of a Bristlecone Pine won a big award during the Ventura County Fair and we show it here with pride that it was taken by Suzanne Tanaka, hiker extraordinaire who is also a key member of our Wilderness Basics Course.

There is spotty shade but is otherwise exposed. No water or facilities available. Leashed dogs are permitted. Led by MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

November 23

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. 9am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

November 25

MARINA PARK TO VENTURA HARBOR: Meet at Marina park near the bathroom at 08:45. We will walk through the Ventura Keys, to the docks, and on to the Harbor. Distance is about 5.5 miles and flat. There are facilities and water at the Harbor. Leashed dogs are ok. Prepare for sun exposure and bring water. Led by MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

December 8

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 9am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

December 14

LA CUMBRE PEAK VIA

RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Beautiful views from the highest peak on the front range. Strenuous 11 mrt hike with 3200 feet elevation gain/loss. Experienced hikers only. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 1-805-479-7063 or 1-805-644-6934 (SB)

December 14

TOPA TOPA BLUFF ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK: Strenuous 16-mile out and back hike with 4,487 ft. of elevation gain to Topa Topa Bluff (elev. 6,300 ft). Fun revelry and scenic views of the Oxnard Plain and Channel Islands.

Light snow is possible. Please bring 10 essentials and food or drink to share with the group. Meet at Sisar Canyon Road gate at 7:30am. Dog friends welcome. Rain cancels. Leader: STEPHEN BRYNE 1-805-794-1150. (VEN)

December 16

PLAN YOUR OUTINGS: Take a break from your holiday shopping to plan your outings for the next Condor Call outings schedule. It will cover Feb-May plus 2 weeks into June. Then get your writeups to your Group Outings Chair. Questions? Email Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net).

Forest fees abused?

FOREST ALERT FOR VISITORS: there have been reports of the private concessionaire collecting fees improperly.

All the campgrounds and most improved day use areas in the Los Padres National Forest are managed by a concessionaire and they are authorized to collect fees. However, they are not supposed to collect fees for areas outside of the campgrounds and day use areas.

Access to most of the Lower Santa Ynez Rec Area is controlled at the first crossing by use of kiosk, staffed on weekends. Several representative at this kiosk have been demanding payment of the day use fee for any area beyond the kiosk. Reports claim they have been

threatening forest users with fines and worse if the day use fee is not paid.

Gerry Ching of the Sierra Club and Alasdair Coyne of Keep the Sespe Wild are talking to the forest service about putting signs up that would more clearly define when the day use fee is appropriate and demanding that the concessionaire retrain their personnel. They are also working with Rep. Salud Carbajal's office to ensure proper management.

A key step is to educate forest users about their rights. A memo about visitor rights has been drafted that includes a 'script' if the concessionaire staff is insistent.

The script is printed below, cut it out and keep it in your car.

Cut out this script...

I refuse to pay any Parks Mgt day use fee as I will NOT be utilizing any area managed by Parks Mgt (Concessionaire), as defined in the Special Use Permit issued by the Los Padres NF. Parks Mgt is prohibited from collecting day use fees for areas of the Los Padres NF not listed below.

Monterey Ranger District: Arroyo Seco family and Group Campground, Arroyo Seco Day Use Area, Bottcher's Gap Campground, Kirk Creek Campground, Nacimiento Campground, Plaskett Creek Family and Group Campground, Ponderosa Campground, Mill Creek Day Use Area, Pfeiffer Beach Day Use Area, Sand Dollar Day Use Area, China Camp Campground, White Oaks Campground, Escondido Campground, and Memorial Park Campground.

Santa Lucia Ranger District: Cerro Alto Campground, Davy Brown Campground, Figueroa Campground, Nira Campground, La Panza Campground, Navajo Flat Campground/OHV Staging Area, and Turkey Flat OHV Staging Area/Day Use.

Santa Barbara Ranger District: Fremont Campground, Los Prietos Campground, Paradise Campground, Sage Hill Group Campground, Upper Oso Campground, Falls Day Use Area, First Crossing Day Use Area, Live Oak Day Use Area, Lower Oso Day Use Area, Red Rock Day Use Area, Sandstone Day Use Area, White Rock Day Use Area, and Red Rock Trailhead.

Ojai Ranger District: Wheeler Gorge Campground, Holiday Group Campground, Wheeler Gorge Campground, Pine Mountain Campground, Reyes Peak Campground, Middle Lion Campground, and Rose Valley Campground.

Mt. Pinos Ranger District: Ballinger Campground, McGill Family and Group Campground, Mt. Pinos Campground, Reyes Creek Campground, Campo Alto Campground, and Chuchupate Campground.

Hike leaders train for your safety

The public and members often just see the Sierra Club's free hike listings and enjoy the ambiance, company and nature.

But there's so much more behind the scenes, notably the fact that our hike leaders are not only trained in navigation and often flora and fauna, but most importantly first aid ... which requires refresher courses.

So, it's great to know that 38 Los Padres Chapter hike leaders and provisional leaders participated in a half day Wilderness First Aid class on Sept. 21, held at Church of the Foothills in Ventura.

One participant reported that "this was the best first aid class I've ever attended." Other leaders

expressed similar thoughts and thanked the Los Padres Chapter for funding it.

Notables participating included ExCom Secretary Gerry Ching, Santa Barbara Group Outings Chair Tony Biegen, and eight other Santa Barbara hike leaders. Conejo Group Chair Hugh Warren and 10 other hike leaders from that eastern Ventura County region made the trek. Chapter Outings Chair Stephen Bryne, Ventura Group Outings Chair Teresa Norris and 15 other Ventura hike leaders completed the total.

Matt May, founder of 4Points Expeditions, presented this intensely interesting learning experience. He presents the

information from the point of view of someone who has been a paramedic and firefighter and is very knowledgeable in wilderness experiences.

The class fulfills the basic first aid course required every two years for hike leaders.

We were especially happy to have ten provisional leaders take part. They have already completed the Sierra Club's Outings Leader Training 101 and will be leading their provisional (test) hikes in the near future.

Speaking of which, the chapter's Wilderness Basics Course is in the planning stages and will open enrollment for its February - March classes before Dec. 1.

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Dreaming of pure air along Rincon bike path

By Jon Ullman

I'm riding on what could be the most stunningly beautiful bike path in America, the Rincon Bike Trail.

To my left, I breathe in the cool breezes of the Pacific Ocean. To my right, I inhale six lanes of nauseating auto exhaust. I'm hoping the ocean breezes push out the car fumes, but I'm not too sure.

It's Sunday afternoon and Angelinos are returning home after a fun Santa Barbara weekend. Their car air is being filtered or they are moving so fast, exhaust fumes don't hit them. Not the same for me.

The noise is different too. I hear their cumulative engines. I hear their steel piercing through air. I hear the rubber hitting concrete. I hear all of it.

Should I wear headphones next time? Should I wear a 3M mask or just turn my head to the ocean? What if all the cars were electric? How long will that take to happen?

Then my thoughts turn toward more immediate battles we're fighting, such as the 70 trucks a day Exxon wants to add to the 101 on the Gaviota Coast. The trucks are to restart three oil platforms halted in 2015 after the onshore pipeline burst and spread oil for miles on the Pacific coast. Exxon will be pushing for those early next year, and we're going to have to fight hard to stop them. We're also going to be fighting Exxon and Shell's subsidiary AERA, which wants to expand drilling onshore too.

But it's not just stopping dangerous oil expansion. We at Los Padres Sierra Club are moving our communities to carbon-free living faster than ever.

The changes are coming fast. Thanks in large part to our activists, Community Choice clean energy has blanketed Ventura County

and soon will be in Santa Barbara County. Our volunteers are fighting to bring new all-electric buildings codes to our cities. We're pushing to expand solar, wind and battery storage. And through car shows, we're proving that electric cars are now mainstream. Many can be purchased or leased at a reasonable price with electricity costing a third of gas.

Is all this happening fast enough? We won't know until we get there.

As the sun sets in front of me on the 101, I dream of riding my bike on this path when the air is pure.

It's going to happen.

Editor's note: Jon is the Los Padres Chapter's executive director.



Rincon Bike Trail offers both beautiful views of the SB Channel and an important alternative to US 101 for bicyclists as our executive director Jon Ullman found out. Trail begins at the SB County line but runs through Ventura County and is part of a larger network called the California Coastal Trail, spanning 1,200 miles from Oregon to Mexico. (Photos by Jon Ullman)



EAVESDROPS

"The only other times climates have changed this fast here on Earth are associated with the occasional asteroid impact. There's never been anything like it in all of human history."

~ Bill Nye, the Science Guy.w

Year-end gift give

As 2019 comes to a close, please remember the Los Padres Chapter in your year-end giving.

And for those over the age of 70 1/2 who must take out required minimum distributions (RMD) from an IRA account, we are a particularly good place to spend it!

If you don't take out your RMD by the end of the year, you'll get a 50% federal penalty tax. Hot tip is to donate directly to our non-profit Sierra Club foundation so it won't be counted as income, or take the money out and donate to the foundation for a tax deduction.

Your generosity supports advocacy and outreach that protect, preserve, and promote the wild lands of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. In 2019, our volunteers worked to put an end to the last oil lease in state waters off Santa Barbara County, to secure commitments from the cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta and Carpinteria to achieve 100% clean energy by 2030, to get the Santa Barbara MTD to set a goal of 100% electric buses by 2030, and to stop the Puente gas-fired power plant in Oxnard.

None of this work would be possible without support from donors like you. Look for our Year-End letter in your mailbox. If you can't wait to support your local chapter, do it today at:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000