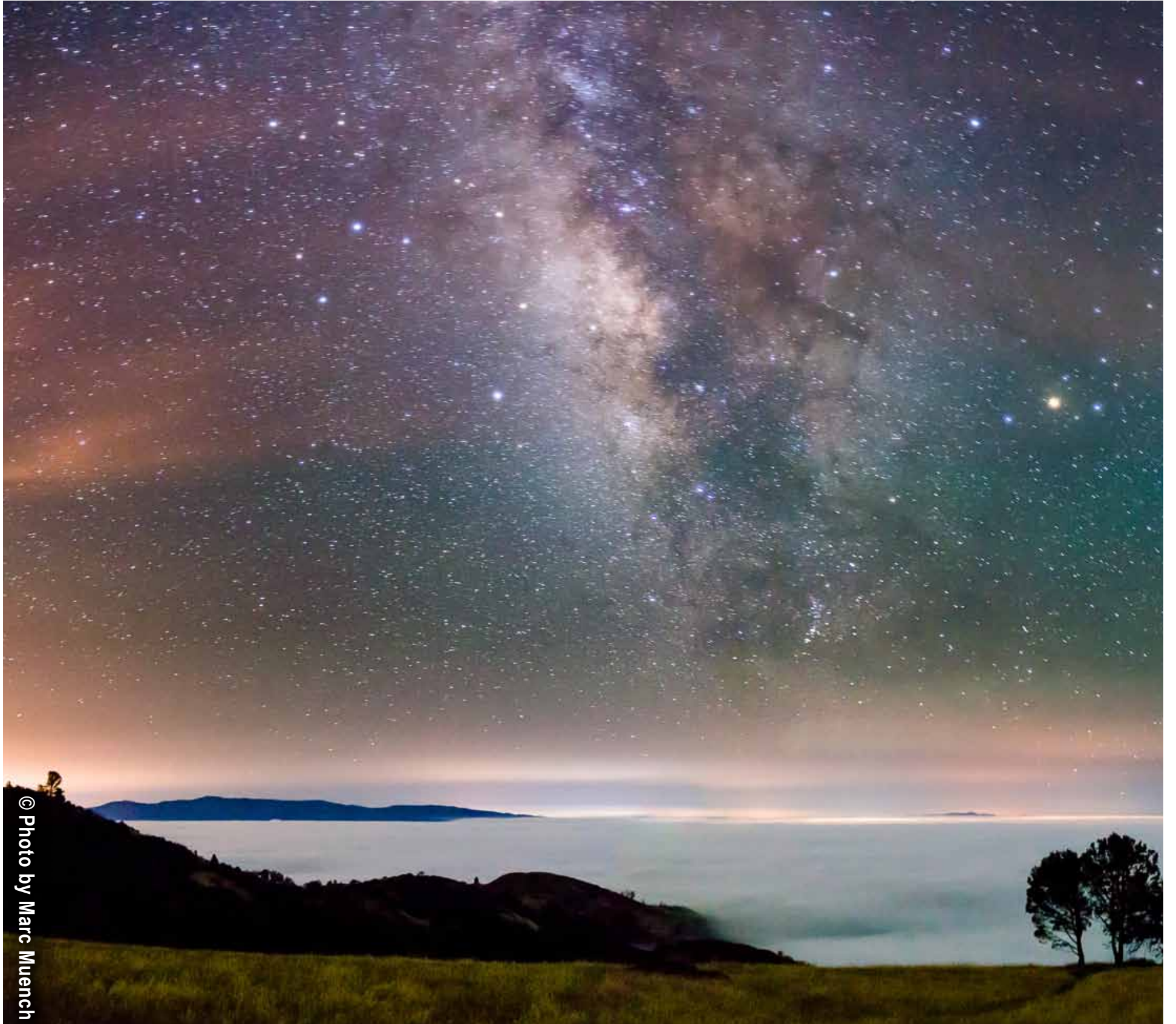


Vol. 19, No. 6 of 6

December 2019 - January 2020

Condor Call

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



© Photo by Marc Muench

Good Year ... WBC opens ... Solutions ... Lions ... Bats ... Ballots
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Dec 2019 - Jan 2020



Strauss wind project designed to power equivalent of 45,000 homes, generating \$40 million in taxes over 30 years. This renewable energy reduces up to 200,000 metric tons of CO2 annually via 30 wind turbines up to 492 feet tall. Location over 2,970 acres east and northeast of Lompoc. (Source: SB County)

Our actions bring results

By Katie Davis

We're ending the year with a round-up of good news on the energy front!

Positive Energy

The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission voted *unanimously* on Nov. 20 to approve the Strauss Wind project, demonstrating that we have real renewable energy alternatives to

proposed polluting oil projects in North County.

Located in the windy hills near Lompoc, it would generate enough clean, renewable energy to power nearly 45,000 homes each year with less than half of the turbines previously approved by the County under an earlier version. The project will include state-of-the-art features such as "active control technology"

that would shut down turbines if large birds are detected on site.

We need power generation in our region to make our grid more resilient and reliable, reducing our reliance on distant energy sources transmitted by long powerlines vulnerable to fires and outages, and to make up for the energy deficit we'll be in with the planned retirement of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in 2025.

The project would double renewable energy generation in our county and help us meet the state's 100% renewable energy goal, all while providing hundreds of jobs, contributing an estimated \$40 million dollars in tax revenue over the life of the project.

Mission Possible

The same week, the CA Department of Conservation

continued on page 2

Member Circle wants YOU!

Support the Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter by becoming a SUSTAINING MEMBER.

All it takes is pledging \$20 a month or more to support our local chapter.

Contributors to the Circle receive advance notice of events, updates on local environmental advocacy, a subscription to *Condor Call*, an invitation to an exclusive annual outing, and a gift.

By joining our Sustaining Member Circle, you are directly supporting the local work our chapter is doing on the ground in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties ... every dollar you donate stays local! Need examples? Read the SIGHTINGS column on pg 4.

Your commitment allows our chapter to be nimble, to respond where we are needed, when we are needed - from advocating at the local level in support of renewable projects like the Strauss Wind Project to advocating nationally, protecting our natural resources such as the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act.

The steady flow of income provided by the Circle keeps the chapter's focus on this 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

Click on the box "Make my gift monthly" at \$20 or more per month. Once you complete your payment, you will be automatically enrolled in the Sustaining Member Circle, and more information will be sent to you by email.

We need at least 50 new members in the first quarter of 2020 in order to sustain our critical environmental advocacy.

We can't do this work without the help from our volunteers - and through the support of sustaining members.

Every dollar you donate stays here in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties to help us transition away from fossil fuels and to protect rivers, forests, and wildlife that depend on us.

Questions? Contact Emily Engel:
EmilyAEngel@gmail.com

COVER PHOTO

"Figuroa Mountain Under the Milky Way" (©) is local photographer Marc Muench's wonderful image featured in Wildling Museum's "Starry Nights: Visions of the Night Sky," an awe-inspiring exhibit starting Feb. 1 (see events on pg. 2). Check out Marc's other photos: www.MarcMuench.com/

We're looking for leaders

In keeping with the Sierra Club's democratic ways, we welcome members to be a nominee or nominate a member to serve on the Los Padres Chapter's Executive Committee.

Help build a legacy of good

work where you can assist our chapter to be effective and inclusive. Nominations close January 15, 2020.

For details or sign up, contact our vice-chair Jim Hines at (805) 340-9266 or email: jhcasitas@gmail.com

Forest act is bold

Editor's note: On Nov. 12 Sierra Club and its partners officially launched a major new campaign to protect the Los Padres National Forest from threats from the Trump Administration. It supports the Central Coast Heritage Protection Act of 2019 (HR 2199), introduced by our local Rep. Salud Carbajal. On Nov. 20 it passed the House Natural Resources Committee; next stop is a full vote on the House floor. Here's the text:

<https://tinyurl.com/HeritageAct2199>

By Jim Hines

As a young boy I would wake up each morning and the first thing I would see out of my bedroom window was the 5000-foot White Ledge Peak, part of the Santa Ynez mountain range as the range across to the Ojai Valley.

That majestic peak is located within the Los Padres National

Forest (LPNF) and my family's ranch bordered the forest. I would often dream that someday all of the Lake Casitas Watershed lands below the Peak would be forever protected for its natural beauty, open space and wildlife habitat.

And now my dream is starting to come true, for these lands are now part of a LPNF land protection bill currently before Congress which would set aside 130,000 acres of wilderness lands within the forest as well as 150 miles of national wild and scenic rivers throughout the counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. The bill also has wilderness protections for the Carrizo Plain National Monument in eastern San Luis Obispo.

There are several current proposals by the Trump Administration to allow oil and gas drilling, logging and mining, including proposed uranium mining

continued on page 2

Early bird entry fee for wilderness course

"Hiking is not escapism; it's realism. The people who choose to spend time outdoors are not running away from anything; we are returning to where we belong."

~ Jennifer Pharr Davis

By Sean and Gina Cole

Do you want to spend more time outdoors in nature? Have you ever wanted to learn more about hiking, camping, and backpacking? Would you like to improve your wilderness skills?

Look no further! You've found the Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course, now in its 11th year.

A dedicated volunteer staff will teach adults and teens the basic skills needed to enjoy the wilderness in eight classroom sessions and guide the students on four exciting outings.

Evening classes will be held

in Ventura starting on Feb. 19 and running through March 8, 2020. The course serves people of all levels from beginners to seasoned hikers who desire to get out and see our beautiful backcountry. Early bird registration is now available at a lower cost (see ad on pg 5).

For information and to register:

<https://tinyurl.com/2020WBCsignup>

You may also call (805) 766-9920, or email for information at:

lospadreswbc@gmail.com

Meanwhile, to see how much fun it is, check us out on Facebook:

[Facebook.com/LosPadresWBC](https://www.facebook.com/LosPadresWBC)

EAVESDROPS

"As potent in its way as Silent Spring. This book will open your eyes to the greed and abuse destroying our public lands. Better yet, it will make you angry."

~ Author T. C. Boyle of Montecito, in a review about "The Land, How Cowboys, Capitalism, and Corruption are Ruining the American West" by Christopher Ketcham. Boyle is the author of "When the Killing's Done," a novel about protecting our Channel Islands and endangered species.



Inspired WBC grad now on staff

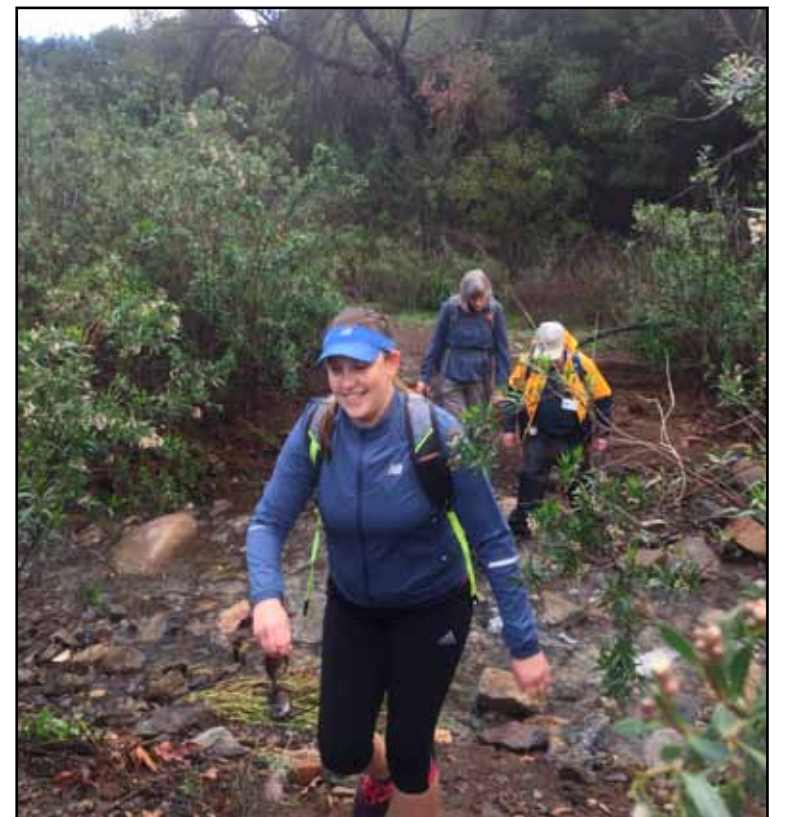
Editor's note: Proof that our Wilderness Basics Course inspires its participants, here's a recent grad who is now on the staff.

By Emily Cansler

Attending WBC was so informative and inspirational that I went home after each class motivated to pour over maps, books, and websites, looking for wilderness trips I wanted to add to my bucket list.

I loved learning about how to use a compass, even though some may think of it as an "old fashioned" skill in the age of GPS and cellphones (both of which may not work in the wilderness).

The speakers were both informative and entertaining. They covered everything from gear to safety to flora and fauna and beyond. Unfortunately, I broke my toe one week into the class and was unable to attend any of the backpacking trips. I'm looking forward to getting a second chance in 2020 to practice the skills I have learned in WBC and to continue making connections with the friendly experts who lead WBC.



Emily Cansler took the 2019 Wilderness Basics Course and loved it so much she got further training and is now a staff member of the upcoming WBC starting Feb. 19, 2020. Here she is on her first conditioning hike, happily crossing a stream on the way to Sycamore Canyon. (Photo: Anna Szymoniak-Chung)

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 Hill Adobe 11 E. Carrillo 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

Vote for SB Group...and Conejo

Robert Bernstein

Our current Executive Committee is a powerhouse team and I would love to continue my service that began in 1998.



We have a positive vision of what we want. While we oppose fossil fuel projects that accelerate the Climate Crisis, we also support Community Choice Energy as an umbrella of such projects. We must lobby for global solutions, but we must also do our regional part.

I envision and work for a more walkable, bikeable and transit friendly community, for social justice as well as environmental reasons. I support accessing nature in a way that enriches us yet minimizes damage to our natural ecosystems.

I was a founding Board member of COAST (Coalition for Sustainable Transportation) and past president of the Bicycle Coalition. I have used my decades of transportation experience as Transportation Chair on the Executive Committee. I have been Group Chair and currently serve as Vice Chair.

I am a hike leader, photographer and occasional writer for the *Condor Call* newspaper. I also write for local regional news services which gives our message a wider audience.

I would be honored to be able to serve our excellent Sierra Club team again for another term!

Alex Pujo

I was born and raised in Argentina and came to Santa Barbara in 1974. My wife and I own a small architecture and planning firm (www.pujo.net). Since 1992 we have been involved in local and regional transportation planning because we believe that auto-mobility is one of the greatest environmental threats facing us.

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

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

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

Luz Reyes-Martin

A steadfast and vocal advocate for the environment and climate action, Luz is passionate about advocating for and working with communities to achieve environmental justice.

The product of public K-12 schools, she attended Stanford University and then went on to obtain Master of Land Use Planning and Master of Public Administration degrees from USC.

She currently serves as the secretary of the Santa Barbara Executive Committee. She often speaks on issues of climate activism and environmental issues to City Councils, community groups and community gatherings.

In the community, she serves on the Goleta Union School District Board. She in her second term, having been re-elected in 2018. In that role, she is a vocal advocate for addressing climate action and environmental issues in all areas under the purview of the School Board: food systems, energy use and generation opportunities, water, sustainability and curriculum.

Luz has worked professionally in the fields of economic development, land use planning, public affairs and communications. She would be honored to continue serving on the ExCom.



Ventura revamps web

Ventura Sierra Club leader Nina Danza has announced a new look to its website with “a big thank you to Samantha Lloyd-Knauf, our new website administrator, for getting it going with a new blogpost.

“Use this tool to put out information at any time instead of waiting for an email blast and spread the link on your social media,” she wrote. The VSC website introduction reads:

Welcome to the official Ventura Sierra Club website! We are one of four groups in the Los Padres Chapter and invite everyone in from Ventura, Oxnard, Camarillo, Ojai, Santa Paula, Fillmore, Piru, Somis, El Rio, Port Hueneme, and all the little places in between. Few groups have the wealth of outdoor environments like ours. Do you treasure Surfer’s Point? or Nordhoff Peak? Ormond wetlands? or the Condor Sanctuary? Come help us protect the waters of the Santa Clara River Valley, the wildlife of the Los Padres forest, the ocean environment to our west and air above us that we breathe.

Included in the front page are ways to get directly involved in local issues. Check out the new blogpost about: “Bike riding is not a contact sport”.

There is also a string of stories from the Sierra Club beyond our borders, such as “Firefighting Goats,” and a “Pig’s Fly” article about the fossil fuel industry’s favorite talking points such as pipelines are safe and coal is strong.

Below is the link to the new format, and on it you can sign up to get an email when new information pops up. Please add this link to your social media:

www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/ventura

Not car lot

Editor’s note: This letter from Sierra Club member Irene Rauschenberger of Oxnard originally appeared in the VC Reporter of Oct 24.

The VC Reporter’s cover page shows the port symbolically flexing its industrial muscles, an impressive gesture of economic expansion. And “A port going green” is an indication of their environmental stewardship at the port; but not so green in the adjacent community where they covet property for parking 5,000 cars.

“The Port of Hueneme is building a pathway to zero emissions, but one project puts community at odds,” this is an understatement! The 34-acre parcel on the corner of Hueneme Road and Perkins is critical for the Oxnard’s Advanced Water Purification Facility expansion and to serve as buffer zone transition onto the Ormond Beach Restoration Plan (OBRP) reserve.

If the port truly wants to reach zero emissions and its impacts, it would need to stop importing gas-powered cars at best, and not store them adjacent to a nature reserve to protect from pollution impacts!

Let’s practice what we preach and recognize the OBRP efforts and the adjacent property essential for a community “Gateway” project.

Indigenous!

The Sierra Club has officially endorsed Oc. 14th as Indigenous Peoples Day AKA Columbus Day.

Supporting the shift is part of the Sierra Club’s ongoing work to confront the legacy of colonialism and oppression, while working to build a future that respects the rights of Indigenous peoples and the connections between equity, justice and the environment.

On the local front, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors passed a motion in September to celebrate Oct. 14 each year as Indigenous Peoples Day.

“The Club has an ongoing relationship with many tribal nations especially in Utah where three nations are part of the Sierra Club Protect Wild Utah campaign,” said Jim Hines, “in fact a year ago one of my lobbying partners in DC was a Navajo woman from southern Utah.”

Katie Davis

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

Today the protection of our ecosystems is more critical than ever. I believe Santa Barbara has a powerful role to play in creating a more sustainable future.

As current Chair of the SB Group, I have enjoyed working on many fronts to secure recent victories, including getting Santa Barbara and Goleta to set a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030 and to start a Community Choice Energy program to advance local clean energy.

I helped get Metropolitan Transit District to set a goal of 100% electric buses and helped build opposition to massive oil expansion proposals in the County. As a member of Sierra Club’s National Marine Team, I am fighting Trump’s efforts to expand offshore oil and reduce or eliminate our national marine sanctuaries.

I am also a trained presenter of Al Gore’s “Climate Reality Project” and serve on the Air Pollution Control District’s Advisory Council.



SB GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

Santa Barbara Group

Executive Committee Ballot (see candidate statements this page)

NOTE: Only members of the SANTA BARBARA GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A 2nd box is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one *Condor Call*. You may photocopy or cut this ballot from the *Condor Call*

Mail ballot by Dec 31 to:

Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 31241, Santa Barbara CA 93130

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

In alphabetical order:	1 st member	2 nd member
Robert Bernstein	_____	_____
Katie Davis	_____	_____
Alex Pujo	_____	_____
Luz Reyes-Martin	_____	_____
Write-in candidate (optional)	_____	_____

Enter your Sierra Club member ID # (from *Condor Call* label or membership card) _____
(Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote; it won't be tied to your name.)

CONEJO GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

Conejo Group Executive Committee Ballot (No candidate statements available)

NOTE: Only members of the CONEJO GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second box is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one *Condor Call*.

Print out and mail ballot before Dec. 31 to:

Conejo Group, Sierra Club, 106 Quails Trail, Thousand Oaks, CA 91361

Vote for NO MORE THAN 4 (four) persons, including the write-in option.

In alphabetical order:	1 st member	2 nd member
John Holroyd	_____	_____
Marcey Pascual	_____	_____
Stephanie Scher	_____	_____
Joanne Sulkoske	_____	_____

Write in candidate if desired: _____

Please write in your Sierra Club member ID # (from your *Condor Call* mailing label or your membership card) _____
(Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name)

SIGHTINGS

Our environmental impacts

By John Hankins

Lots of good news happened in the Oct/Nov period when our Los Padres Chapter volunteers witnessed and helped progress for clean energy and outdoor and wilderness work (and play).

Just scan the list below and see that we've adhered to the Club's motto of Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet.

We do this all the time. 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 (it helps a lot), read the stories on pages 1, 4 & back page or go directly to: www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Dec 2: **Bike Lane** and greener, more river-friendly project for the proposed Olivas Park Specific Plan saw Sierra Club members lobby for such changes at the Ventura City Council. See story this page.

Nov 29: **Ethnobotany Trail** work at the Fillmore Fish Hatchery sponsored by Ventura Sierra Club and featuring REI employees. Great work preparing for next year's grand opening!

Nov 20: **Strauss Wind Project** in Lompoc unanimously approved by the SB County Planning Commission meeting. Our Sierra Club strongly supported this project. We sent out alerts prior to the hearing via our National Add Up action portal, see story pg 1. Check it out at: <https://tinyurl.com/StraussWind>

Nov 20: **Green Jobs** was a big topic when our Chair Katie Davis hosted a conversation with the local electrical workers' union, in Buellton. The union is on board with ongoing paid training to install solar panels and other electrification jobs, go to its website: www.IBEW413.org

Event was part of the Climate Reality Project. For more info: www.ClimateRealityProject.org

Nov 19: **"Reinventing Power: America's Renewable Energy Boom"** was shown at an Arguello Group meeting in Orcutt, a new location for the group hoping that it will be a more central place and closest to the largest city (Santa Maria) in the county. Special thanks

to Rosemary Holmes.

Nov 19: **Major Victory** for the environment sparked by Gov. Newsom's announcement to achieve carbon-neutrality by 2045, followed by Sierra Club mentioned in follow-ups on its own actions (with others) that caused a moratorium on steam injection practices in Ventura County and opposition to SB County's Cat Canyon oil field projects.

Nov 18: **Signed on to appeal** Planning Director's approval of a



Annual potluck at Shoreline Park and beach walk is an annual tradition for the Santa Barbara Group where Chair Katie Davis spoke about the challenges we face locally. (Photo: Robert Bernstein)

car and contractor storage yard for the old Petrochem site off Ventura Avenue. Our chapter was one of 13 organizations participating, ranging from CFROG to Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation.

Nov 14: **Computer Overwhelmed** when our vice-chair Jim Hines sent out an action alert about our Central Coast Heritage Protection Act to around 5,000 email addresses in the tri-counties, resulting in at least 4,000 comments, probably many more due to sharing. Proof that Sierra Club (especially Jim's missives) really motivates people.

Nov 13: **Sierra Club attended** the free Home energy storage workshop about details of pairing solar with battery storage, sponsored by Community Environmental Council, another was held at Ventura's Museum on Dec. 2. For a video and more info go to: www.CECSB.org/home-energy-storage

Nov 12: **Flying mammals** we call bats was the topic of Ventura Sierra Club's Venture(a) Speaker series by naturalist Kris Mashburn who offered insights into these intelligent and mosquito-eating species. See story pg 5.

Nov 12: **Coalition Launched** in Ventura to what may be our largest campaign ever: Central Coast Heritage Protection Campaign (#CentralCoastWild) with dozens of groups signing on already. See story pg 1.

Nov 9: **Chapter Retreat** in which members from our groups gathered in Carpinteria to forge action plans for 2020 and beyond.

Oct 31: **People for Bikes** conference had a strong member presence and leadership thanks to (Professor) Jim and Nina (Vta SClub chair) Danza, along with Bike Ventura, Ch. Islands Bike Club and councilmember Christy Weir.

Oct 26: **'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.

Oct 23: **Local Impacts** of climate change for Goleta area and what we can do about it featured our own Chapter Chair, Katie Davis as part of the Climate Reality Project.

Oct 16: **Rally at Hueneme Rd** site against to the Port of Hueneme's plans to put a 'temporary' vehicle storage for thousands of vehicles on the 34-acres parcel between Perkins and Saviers Roads by a coalition that attracted counter-protesters, many of whom work at the Port. Lead sponsor CAUSE claimed 'intimidation'. The coalition included the Sierra Club, Surfrider, among the dozen members.

Oct 13: **SB Group** annual tradition of a potluck event at Shoreline park and a beach hike celebrating months of activity.



Movers and shakers from our Los Padres Chapter came from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties to create effective plans. We'll become better prepared to resist, persist and head toward a renewable future. Shown are (clockwise from left) Katie Davis, Mike Stubblefield, Jon Ullman, Jim Hines, Irene Rauschenberger, Liz Lamar, David Gold, 'Condor' John Hankins, Gerry Ching, Emily Engel, Martha Sadler and Alex Pujo. (Photo Robert Bernstein)



Need better bike way

By Nina Danza

For 25 years the City of Ventura has planned to extend Olivas Park Drive and connect to Johnson Road at the Hwy 101 southbound ramp (see purple line on map). Not a bad idea, except two accessories of the project are to:

1) Build a levee between the road and the Santa Clara River (brown line on map); and

2) For the purpose industrial use, paving acres of the adjacent land (pink and yellow areas on map).

Really? Haven't we learned anything in the past 50 years?

Levees are a failing technology. It's not IF they will fail but WHEN. Channelizing rivers and streams results in killing the ecosystem and fouling water that just might be your household supply. FEMA bails out flooded properties with your tax money and lets them rebuild over and over.

And how wonderful for the hundreds of thousands of drivers on Hwy 101 to get a view of what the city planning staff will allow for the area ... wait for it ... parked import/export cars!

What a waste of opportunity. Sierra Club wants a more environmentally acceptable vision for the area. We want the Santa Clara

River to be valued, for its north bank to be open as a recreation corridor and to let the floodplain do what it does best: natural flood protection, water quality improvement, and to host plants and animals that are necessary for life on earth.

"The levee is a done deal," according to staff, "it was subject to an EIR and approved by council years ago and nothing is going to change."

If not a complete make-over then, there are three things that would make the plan better:

1) Change the unsafe on-street, painted bike lanes into a 2-way SAFE protected bike lane along the river side of Olivas Park Dr.,

2) Provide access from the protected bike lane onto the levee for river views, birdwatching and education, and

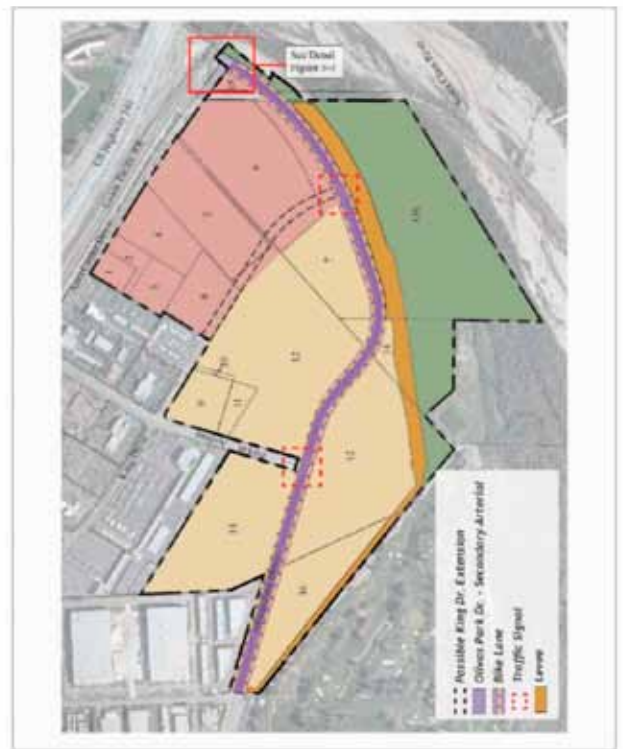
3) Add connectivity from the requested protected bike lane to the Johnson Rd bike transportation infrastructure (see street cross section).

Imagine! Connectivity for people bike riding from where they live almost to the beach!

This is still a work in progress, so please find out more and help by contacting

SierraClubVentura@gmail.com

Olivas Park Specific Plan
Figure 3-1 Circulation Plan



WBC gives \$ back

By Teresa Norris

The Los Padres Chapter Wilderness Basics Course continued its tradition of philanthropic giving in November by deciding how to donate \$5,000 of its earnings to local outdoor organizations.

To the Los Padres Chapter, WBC is giving \$2,000, comprised of \$400 each for Outings and Ventura County Trails Access and \$1,200 for the Chapter to use as it wishes. Also, WBC is sending \$200 to each of the four Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club Groups: Santa Barbara, Arguello, Ventura and Conejo.

The four mountain Search and Rescue groups are getting checks of \$400 each: Upper Ojai, Fillmore, Santa Barbara and East Ventura County.

To the Los Padres Forest Association, we're giving \$300, to Friends of the Santa Clara River \$100 and to Los Padres ForestWatch \$200.

WBC takes pride in giving back to the outdoor communities in our area and hope the donations can help them.

For the 2020 season, there are some administration additions: Sean Cole is taking on the role of co-chair and Annette Preciado the new vice-chair while Murray Ruben is the new outings chair.

Leave a lasting legacy

Make protecting the planet your legacy.

Have you ever wondered how you could do more to protect our wild lands, stop climate change, or advocate for local environmental protections? You don't have to be wealthy to make your mark and protect our local wild places for generations to come. Simply leave a gift to the Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club in your will, trust, or by beneficiary designation.

How You Benefit:

Your gift costs nothing now

You can change your mind at any time

You retain control of your assets during your lifetime

You can provide for loved ones and protect our planet

You can name your gift in honor or memory of someone special

You can leave a gift in any amount; there is no minimum contribution required

Many of you have supported our Chapter over the years. Your generosity has helped thousands of people explore, enjoy and protect Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, and made it a part of your life.

Now, we hope you will consider making the Los Padres Chapter part of your lasting legacy. It's a wonderful way to carry on your passion and to be remembered as a champion for the environment.

If you have already left a gift for us, we hope you will let us know. Notifying us gives us the chance to thank you and ensure that we are honor your wishes for the use of your gift.

To learn more, contact Jon Ullman or Emily Engel today:

Jonathan.Ullman@sierraclub.org

EmilyAEngel@gmail.com

Bats good, but cuddly?

Editor's note: This is part of our popular and free Venture(a) Out! programs featuring the fascinating world outdoors every other month. Next one is Jan. 14; program TBA. Keep apprised of these events at: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

By Nina Danza

For 30 years Kris Mashburn has made bats seem cute and cuddly to anyone who would listen.

"My love affair started simply when visiting Zion National Park and hearing the ranger state that bats are the most hated animal alive," she explained to an attentive



Bat Woman Kris Mashburn brought out a (yes) charming tiny bat to show off. (Photo Nina Danza)



(Photo: Robert Bernstein)

and curious audience. "I just wanted to find out why and have never looked back."

Fascinating photos and anecdotes followed during the hour-long program, held every other month at Foster Library.

She said bats don't flap wings like a bird, they 'swim' through the air, which means they can travel backwards and upside down. They are the only mammals capable of sustained flight, and they do it with their very long spread-out digits covered with a thin membrane.

You may know they eat crickets, but they also sound like a cricket in communicating, and they also consume enormous amounts of insect pests.

One bat baby (called a 'pup') is born to a mother only once a year, and the females live together in big groups sharing childcare. Imagine trying to find your own kid in a big group of hundreds close together. Well, the moms find their own pup by its voice. If a mom does not return any morning to the colony, another mom will adopt it. No pup goes orphaned.

The highlight of the program was a little cute and cuddly bat to show everyone. It was no bigger than 1/3 of her palm, curled up and hiding its face ... scared of us. It absolutely charmed us!

Thank you to Rachel Enevoldsen, our program chair for bringing out wonderful evening programs every other month about local adventures and special things that are found right here in Ventura County.

A journey of love

By Jim Hines

Greetings Friends

The warm morning sun basking upon a small boy as he rode his horse across the grasslands north of Lake Casitas, observing nature in all her glory.

That small boy was me; I grew up in a world of vast natural beauty, my family's ranch part of what is now Lake Casitas and the rest of the ranch lands are part of a U.S. Government owned wildlife and open space preserve north of Lake Casitas.

My love and appreciation for our natural world started at that young age, there on a land which filled me with awe. Daily I would explore the meadows, observe wildlife, wander along the two creeks which formed the boundaries of our ranch (Santa Ana Creek to the east and Coyote Creek to the west). To the north our land was bordered by the Los Padres National Forest and the towering White Ledge Peak (5000 foot elevation) which I awoke to each day as the view from my bedroom window.

Seeing all species of wildlife was the norm in my life: bobcats, rabbits, herons, coyotes, foxes, birdlife, weasels, possums, racoons all came to the pond a few hundred yards from our house. Deer herds were plentiful in the fields. And mountain lions were a common sight as were black bears.

I would often ask myself as

I grew up, "what can I do to help protect nature and all of her wild creatures?" So what did I do, I joined the Sierra Club and started another fascinating journey in my life.

My love of nature and all things wild has taken me to some magnificent and spectacular natural places in our nation and on our planet. The Grand Canyon, Smokey Mountains, Alaska, plains of east Africa and northern India to name a few. But to enjoy and appreciate these special places is only the start

Continued on page 7

Trained hikers saved a life

By Perry Van Houten

Editor's note: A version of this article appeared in the Ojai Valley News; we have added information about the couple's involvement as staff members of the Sierra Club's Wilderness Basics Course (WBC).

A volunteer with the Ojai Upper Search and Rescue (SAR) team and his girlfriend were recognized for their lifesaving efforts in the High Sierra.

On Oct. 3, Ojai SAR volunteer Brandon Nichols of Santa Paula and Heather D'Anna of Oxnard were both presented with a lifesaver award from Madera County and the Cal Office of Emergency Services commendation award, for coming to the aid of two fallen hikers. During Ojai SAR's fundraising event three days later, they were also recognized by their peers to wild applause.

"The couple are enthusiastic WBC supporters as staff members, and they willingly share their impressive wilderness skills with

Our leaders are trained

It's been two years since the last Los Padres Sierra Club (Outdoor Leader Training for backpack leaders (OLT 201) so it was well attended and well scoped by the Wilderness Basics Course which will add more talent to its already skilled group of backpack leaders.

Eight enthusiastic graduates gathered at WBC co-founder Teresa Norris' place for presentations, discussions, problem solving scenarios and role-play with debriefings ... and fresh blueberries and scones.

One advantage of the Sierra Club's training materials for the OLT 201 is it allowed for discussions that inspired varied perspectives which enriched all of our experiences. Some highlights were: a tent set up on top of the fire pit for added warmth (hmmm - glad for the debrief!), lunch at La Fondita with a harrowing backpack Search and Rescue story and finding the missing person - who was so into his role-play curled up by the chimney -- that he bawled me out for finding him.

It was a fun day shared with lovely people who put their heart into the training. Sierra Club is lucky to have them on board and so will our hiking participants. Congratulations to Alejandro Andreatta, Gina and Sean Cole, Heather D'Anna, Kim Hocking, Gabe Valdez, Victoria Vohland, and Vicki Wilson. Also to Teresa for her leadership.

By Allisse Fisher



You can depend on our new hike leaders who've gone through extensive training. They are (top from left): Gabe Valdez, Alejandro Andreatta, Vicki Wilson, Gina Cole, Sean Cole and (bottom row) Victoria Vohland, Kim Hocking, Heather D'Anna. (Photo by Teresa Norris)

students and staff," commented Teresa Norris, co-founder of our chapter's WBC. Heather manages the Facebook page, does its email blast to thousands of recipients, organizes the class raffle prizes and the staff gift. Brandon used his metal shop skills to emboss the staff and speaker gifts.

Brandon and Heather were hiking near Iceberg Lake in Madera County on Aug. 3 when they saw two hikers fall down an icy mountainside above the lake, according to the Ventura County Sheriff's Office. One hiker fell about 300 feet while the other fell more than 600 feet, authorities said.

Because there was no cellular service, Heather hiked out of the area to summon help, while Brandon went to help the hikers. He found that one of the hikers, a 53-year-old Glendora man, had died in the fall. He helped the other victim hike more than a mile to safety and advanced medical care. The pair also assisted Madera County SAR in recovering the body of the hiker killed in the fall.

Authorities said the injured hiker

would have faced a life-threatening situation had it not been for the efforts of Brandon and Heather.

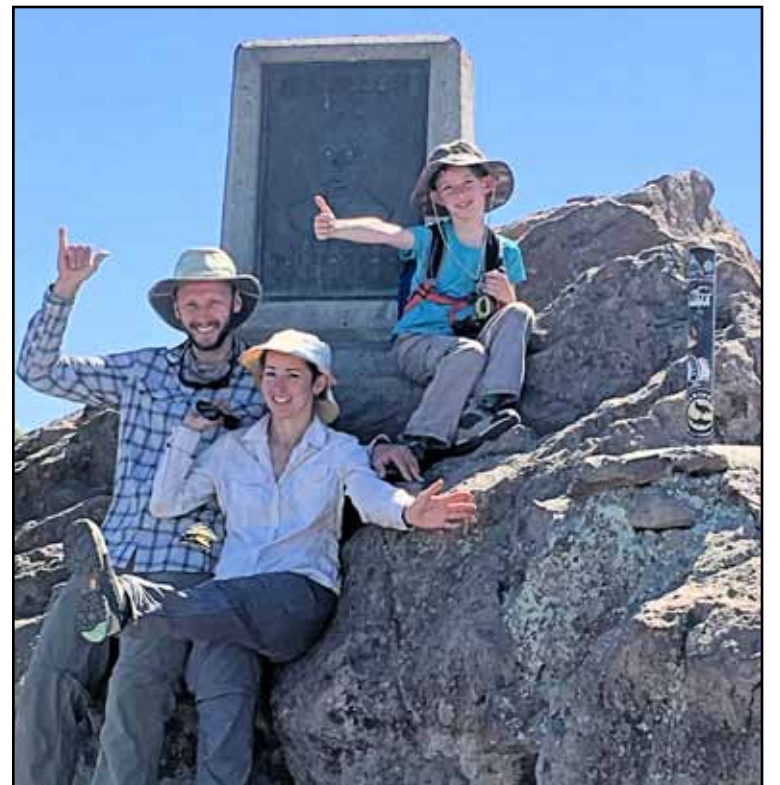
They were presented with the awards at the California State Sheriff's Association meeting in Bass Lake by Madera County Sheriff Jay Varney. Ventura County Sheriff Bill Ayub was also on hand during the award ceremony, as many SAR members are deputies and support SAR.

Brandon is one of 27 volunteers with the Ojai SAR team, founded in the late 1950s to conduct searches, perform rescues and do body recoveries.

SAR members speak about backcountry safety and techniques during the WBC classes, held every year. They have commented that the course is extremely helpful in preventing accidents, and if they do happen, the skills learned just may save their life.

The 2020 classes are from Feb. 19 through April 8 and include eight active lectures and several day and overnight hikes. For details, go to:

<http://lospadreswbc.org>



Brandon Nichols and Heather D'Anna received an award for rescuing a fallen hiker while on vacation. They are shown here with Brandon's son Kurt atop Sandstone peak during a WBC anniversary. (Photo: Condor John)

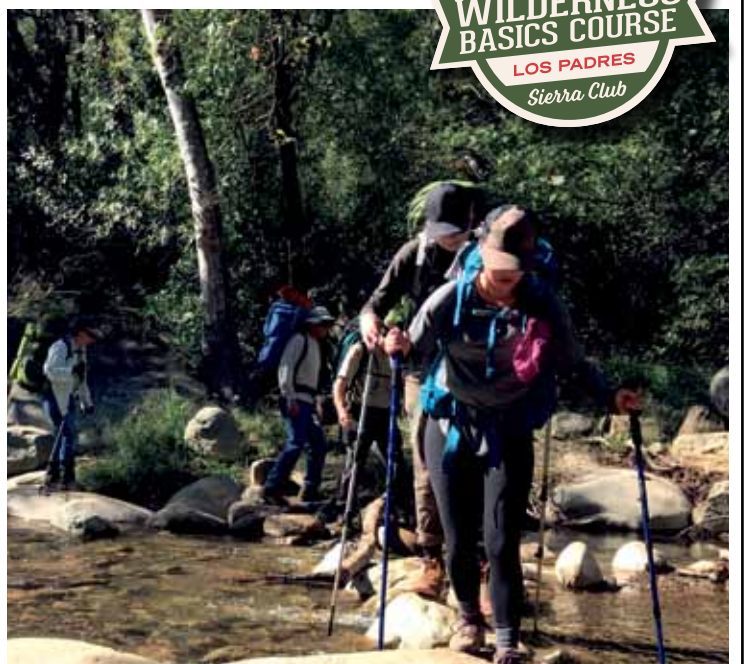
LEARN TO BACKPACK

AN 8 WEEK COURSE IN VENTURA

Wednesdays, 7:00–9:30 PM

+ four exciting wilderness outings!

February 19 – April 8, 2020



Topics covered include equipment, navigation, first aid, cooking, & more!

Early bird prices start at \$175 (student rate available)

All levels welcome

Register at LosPadresWBC.org

lospadreswbc@gmail.com | 805-766-9920

Outings...from page 6

1567 Spinnaker Dr. Enjoy the sunset and then drive or walk to nearby Ventura Harbor happy hour location TBA. Wear or bring protective beach walking attire, water, head or flashlight. Rain or strong wind cancels. Leashed dogs welcome. Note: The leader does not check Meetup comments. Questions will be addressed at the trailhead. ANGELA COLICCHIO (VEN)

December 30
VENTURA HARBOR and Settling Ponds: Meet at 8:45am at the corner of Harbor Blvd and Spinnaker for a 9am start time. The group will be in the parking lot behind Salon Panache. From there we will walk through the harbor to the visitor's center, then turn and walk back towards our cars but make a detour into see the wildlife living in the settling ponds before ending the hike. This is a flat 5-mile hike on both concrete and dirt path terrain. There are facilities and water along the way. Dogs are not welcome in the collecting ponds. Led by MAUREEN HERNANDEZ. 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

January 1
SIERRA CROSS, See Dec. 11 posting for details.

January 2
SANTA ROSA TRAIL - Wildwood Park: Moderate 4.6 mrt hike with 550 ft. elev. gain. Bring water and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the west end of Avenida de Los Arboles in Thousand Oaks. FONTAYNE HOLMES (CJ) 1-805-300-4590 fontayneholmes@att.net

January 4
SB RIVIERA URBAN HIKE: Easy to moderately strenuous hike about 5 miles through a beautiful residential neighborhood in Santa Barbara. Start at the Mission and head up toward APS and Franceschi Park, across Mission Ridge and back. Wear hiking/running shoes, bring 2 liters of water and a snack. Meet at the Rose Garden by the SB Mission on Plaza Rubio at 9am. Rain cancels. KRISTI (SB) info: sbhikergirl@cox.net

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

January 6
SULPHUR MOUNTAIN: Meet at the end of Sulphur Mountain road at 8:45am for a 9am start time. Parking is limited so please try to carpool. We will walk up the access road through the pastures to the overlook and return to our cars. Total distance is about 6 miles with a 500ft gain. It can be cool at the start and warm at the top. Wear layers and prepare for sun exposure. There is no water nor facilities along the trail. Leashed dogs are allowed. Led by MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

OUTINGS LEADERS: WRITEUPS DUE SOON. They should be within the period of Feb-May, plus 2 weeks into June. If you haven't gotten your writeups to your Group Outings chairperson, do so NOW!

January 9
PIUMA TRAIL: Moderate 5 mrt hike with 700 ft. elev. gain. Bring water and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am in the small parking lot on the corner of Las Virgenes (Malibu Canyon) and Pioma Road. FONTAYNE HOLMES (CJ) 1-800-300-4590 fontayneholmes@att.net

January 10
LOS ROBLES TRAIL, Thousand Oaks: My dog loves this trail! Meet at the Los Padres trailhead at 1pm (Moorpark Rd. south off the 101, go 0.3 miles, left on Los Padres for 50ft). The hike is about 4 miles with an

elevation gain/loss 750 ft. Trail leads through a beautiful riparian woodland. We'll do the loop with a short side trip. Hiking poles are a good idea, as well as water (for you and your leashed dog) and sunscreen. Rain cancels JUDITH, 1-805-509-2026 (VEN)

January 11
SAN MARCOS FOOTHILLS PRESERVE. Easy hike on dirt roads and smooth trails 3 mrt A leisurely walk with emphasis on native plants and any wildlife. Wear sturdy shoes, hat and bring sunscreen a liter of water, lunch optional. Rain or muddy conditions cancel. Meet at Bank of America parking lot 3790 State St Santa Barbara at 9am. DALE 1-805-886-1674 (SB)

EDITOR'S CHOICE

January 11
~~May 11~~ BACKCOUNTRY HIKE FOR WOMEN ONLY (Horseshoe Bend): Hike in San Rafael Wilderness will pass through lovely areas of oak woodlands and riparian habitats, with valleys that open out into beautiful meadows. Stop for lunch at swimming hole and return. Moderate 9 mrt with 300' elevation loss/gain. There will be creek crossings. Appropriate for intermediate hikers and beginners with good conditioning, under 18 are welcome but must be accompanied by parent. MUST bring 2-3 liters of water, snacks and sun protection. This is an all-day excursion with 1.5 hour drive to trailhead, 4 hrs of hiking, and the return drive. Carpooling is possible, be willing to share the fuel cost. Meet at 8am in front of Starbucks at La Cumbre Plaza, 3815 State St. Space #G-141. KRISTI (SB) info: sbhikergirl@cox.net

BACKBONE TRAIL to Sandstone Peak and Mishe Mokwa Trail Loop 9am One of the most beautiful hikes in the Santa Monica Mountains. Moderate pace for 6 miles with an elevation gain of 1300 feet. Mishe Mokwa Trailhead Parking Lot, the trailhead is 1.5 miles east of the Circle X Ranch, which is 5 miles from PCH on Yerba Buena Road in Malibu. Or, from Westlake Village, exit on Westlake Blvd from the 101 and follow it south to Mulholland Hwy. Turn right onto Little Sycamore Canyon which becomes Yerba Buena Road. Trailhead is about 3.5 miles (1.5 miles before Circle X Ranch Ranger Station) Bring 2 liters of water, snack, hat, sunscreen. Rain or excessive wind/heat cancels. (VEN) GERARD 805-212-0798 or baileygerard@hotmail.com

January 12
DIVIDE PEAK: Very strenuous 13 mrt hike with 3200 feet elevation gain/loss from Matilija trailhead to Divide Peak. Experienced hikers only. Great views of Ojai and Lake Casitas. On a clear day, all 8 Channel Islands are visible. Wear lug-soled shoes bring at least 3 liters of water, lunch, and snacks. The weather can vary greatly, so bring layers accordingly. Meet at Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor near Chase Bank) at 8am. For those coming from north, meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 7:30am. (note early start time) for carpool. JIM 1-805-479-7063 or 1-805-644-6934 (SB).

January 12
BACKBONE TRAIL: Kanan Rd. to Zuma Ridge: 5 mrt hike with 354' ascent. Easy pace. To carpool meet at the Ventura Von's at Harbor & Seaward parking lot near Harbor entrance at 9am. Otherwise meet at 10am in parking lot on Kanan Rd. across from W. Newton Canyon Rd. KIM HOCKING, 1-805-983-2147. (VEN)

January 13
BUBBLING SPRINGS: Meet at 8:30am in the Bubbling Springs

parking lot, 850 Bard Rd., Port Hueneme. We'll walk to the beach and north to the lighthouse then return to our cars. This is an easy 5.5 mile flat walk. Leashed dogs are allowed. Water and facilities are available at the beach. Led by MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

January 15
OUTINGS LEADERS: WRITEUPS DUE NOW. Send Feb-May outings writeups for the next Condor Call outings schedule to Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net).

January 18
ROCKY PINE RIDGE FROM RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Hike up Rattlesnake Trail and the Tunnel Trail Connector to an old primitive trail leading to Rocky Pine Ridge for lunch. Some rock scrambling. Strenuous 7 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 1-805-451-1239 (SB)

DANIELSON MONUMENT Hike at Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa. Enjoy a moderate 5.5-mile hike with about 1400 ft. of elevation gain/loss. Exit the 101 at Wendy Dr and head south to Lynn Rd and take a right. At Via Goleta take a left and park in the lot at the end of the road. Meet in front of the bathrooms at 8:30am. We'll hike the first mile to Big Sycamore Creek, then 2/10 of a mile past the creek we'll meet the Old Boney Trail and climb 450 ft; then leave the Old Boney Trail and hike to Danielson Monument. After a break we'll return. Bring a lunch, water, sunblock, and wear hiking shoes. PETE (VEN) pchavez33@yahoo.com

January 19
MIDLAND SCHOOL HIGH COUNTRY LOOP: Explore some of the Midland School trails on this moderate 5.5 mrt hike, including the High Country Loop returning via the Red Rock Springs trail. Bring water, a light lunch and sun protection. There is little shade and can be very warm. 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 at the trailhead, email me for instructions. GERRY (SB) 1-805-964-5411 gching@cox.net

January 20
LOS ROBLES LOOP: Meet at 8:45am for a 9am start time. Park near the bathrooms at the end of Greenmeadow Dr. From HWY 101 south, exit Moorpark Rd and turn right. Go to the last street on the right and follow it to the end. This is a 5-mile loop with 700ft gain starting through the oaks and looping around



EAVESDROPS
"The pufferfish, the second most poisonous vertebrate in the world, inflates its spiny body by puffing up to appear larger than it is."

~ Our Chapter Executive Director Jon Ullman, who used the pufferfish as a symbol of "the California oil industry (which) inflates its impact through nostalgia, public/relations, advertising and cherry-picking fact to appear larger than it is." Read the full story here:

<https://tinyurl.com/OilPuff>

Journey continued... continued from page 5

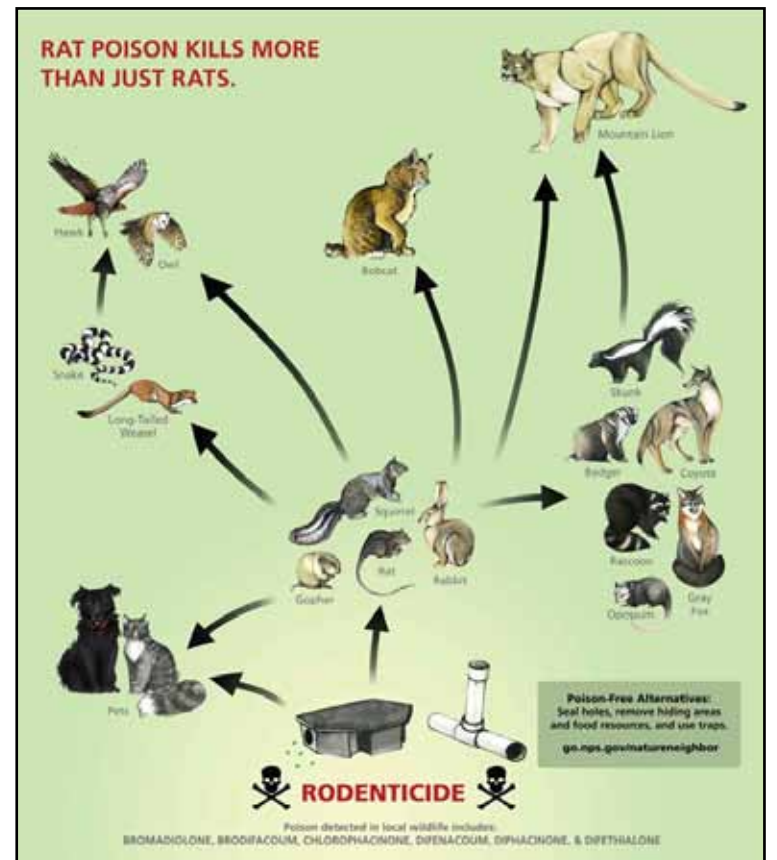
of my journey, for those visits inspired me to get involved with the Sierra Club and work to defend wildlife and wild places.

My journey starting as a small boy in those beautiful meadows has now taken me to walking the halls of power in our nation, walking, ever walking to defend that which cannot defend itself, for wildlife cannot speak

at a public hearing, national parks cannot meet with elected officials but I can, each of us can, we need to for the sake of protecting our national parks and other national public lands units as well as endangered wildlife so that these scenic places and precious wildlife will be around for future generations to enjoy.

For those reading who are not yet part of this journey, start here: www.SierraClub.org

~ For the wild ... Jim



The big cat is on the move for food competing with others. She approaches the freeway at Liberty Canyon and runs the gauntlet of autos. She heads toward Malibu Creek State Park and finds a dead rat, but hours later she weakens, lays down to rest and dies. The rat she ate was poisoned by a rodenticide. Now the Sierra Club is on the prowl in legislative halls to pass the CA Ecosystems Protection Act (AB 1788) in the State Senate due Feb. 2020. Online petition here: <https://tinyurl.com/RodenticidePetition>. The club's wildlife team will also urge Fish and Game to pass a "protected mountain lion habitat" designation in December, affecting our local region. To help all wildlife, join: <https://tinyurl.com/WildlifeTeam>

the hills back to our cars. There is an outhouse at the trailhead but bring water. Led by MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

January 21
FILLMORE FISH HATCHERY: Join Friends of the Santa Clara River as we continue making a Sespe Cienega Ethnobotany Trail next to the Fillmore Fish Hatchery. This project includes weeding, trail work, planting and having fun! Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, hat and bring water. We have work gloves and tools but please bring your own if you'd like. This trail is planned to give insight into our river and its ecology. Schools will use this trail to learn about all aspects of river ecology from fossils to pollinators! Come be part of making something special. Event repeats every 3rd Saturday of the Month 9am - noon. HOLLY. (VEN) hollyjessicawright@gmail.com

January 24
AFTERNOON HIKE, Sulphur Mountain Trail: Meet at trailhead 1pm. Take Hwy 33 thru Oak View, and turn right on Sulphur Mountain Rd., drive to the end. Hike is 6 miles out and back (about 700 ft gain), the trail offers views of the Ojai Valley and surrounding mountains. It's uphill all the way but not too steep. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Leashed dogs welcome, poles are optional. Rain cancels the hike. JUDITH, 1-805-509-2026 (VEN)

January 24-26
BOY SCOUT TRAIL to Willow Hole Extended Route Camp: Stargaze and explore the high desert in Joshua Tree Wilderness. Be prepared to go 17 miles that features wildflowers and rated moderate. Trail moves from open desert through washes, single-track hills and bajadas. Have enough water, there is little to no shade. We will camp about 6.6 miles from the

trailhead and hike an additional 2.2 miles to Willow Hole (no camping allowed) and back. Sunday we will hike out at 9am, should return by 2pm. Cancels for rain, thunder and lightning. Carpool encouraged from park and ride at Los Posas and the 101 in Camarillo on Friday Jan 24 at 6pm. Carpool to Indian Cove Camp and car/camp Saturday. Leave No Trace! VICTORIA (VEN) vic.vohland@gmail.com

January 26
GIBRALTAR ROCK via Rattlesnake Trail: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to Gibraltar Rock. Moderately strenuous 5.5 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 1-805-685-1283 (SB) event@swt.org

January 27
VENTURA CROSS to the Pier: Meet in the Vons Main St parking lot for a 9am start. Hike up to the cross, walk thru the Botanical Gardens to Kalorama St. then head to the beach, walk the pier, and follow the bike path back. It's a 5.5-mile hike with an elevation gain at the beginning. Leashed dogs are allowed. Bring water and prepare for sun exposure. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

January 29
SIERRA CROSS, See Dec 11 outing for details.

February 2
MISSION RIDGE: Hike from Tunnel Trail up to near the Rattlesnake Connector and then up a primitive trail to the top of a ridge. Return via Edison Road trail. Primitive trail, steep at times and some boulder hopping. Moderately strenuous 6 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 1-805-685-1283 / event@swt.org (SB)

SIERRA CLUB
LOS PADRES CHAPTER
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P-77 is the newest cat to join the National Park Service's long-term study of mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains and surrounding region.

Help us help environment

There is no time to waste! As the climate continues to change, the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter is committed to continuing the fight locally and nationally, but we need your support.

As 2019 ends, please remember us in your year-end giving.

Your generosity supports advocacy and outreach that protect, preserve, and promote the wild lands of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties ... and your give stays here.

What happens in our backyard makes a difference – we provide an example for other regions to follow across the country, such as declaring 100% renewable energy goals and providing alternatives to fossil fuels. We conduct hundreds of free hikes, lobby for clean air and energy and more.

You may have already seen our year-end letter in your mailbox; please respond and donate today by mail or:

www.SierraClub.org/donate/1000

Your donation is tax deductible if you give directly to our non-profit Sierra Club Foundation; otherwise it is not BUT your gift supports our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

IRS Required Minimum Distribution

For members over the age of 70 ½ who must take out required minimum distributions (RMD) from IRA accounts, we are a particularly good place to contribute. If you don't take out your RMD by the end of the year, you will get a 50% federal penalty tax.

Here's the best tip: you can have your RMD donated *directly* to our non-profit Sierra Club Foundation, *so it won't be counted as income.* If you take your RMD as income, you will get a tax deduction if it goes to the Foundation.

With your help, we will continue to win the fight – for ourselves and future generations, and for the wild.

WOZO!

On prowl to protect

California mountain lions, notably the big cats of the Santa Monica Mountains, are threatened by habitat loss, rodent poisons and loss of habitat connectivity.

A new film just released in October tells the story of the importance of reducing the barriers to mountain lions, such as freeways. It is produced by our good friend Kate Remsen of UC Davis Wildlife Center. Many of our local mountain lions are featured in the film.

It is called "CA Mountain Lions: The Connection Conflict". See it on YouTube here:

<https://tinyurl.com/MtLionStory>

I am so proud of the work my Sierra Club California Wildlife Team is doing, in partnership the Mountain Lion Foundation, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service and the CA Governor's office. All are working together to protect this important species.

Locally, the Governor 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 passed this year by Ventura County Supervisors called Wildlife Overlay Zone Ordinance, affectionately called WOZO. However, it is expected go under judicial review by opponents.

We are also excited that our formal request to have the state designate as critical mountain lion habitat certain lands in Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties. The issue will be heard by the Fish & Game Commission at its December meeting in Sacramento.

We will be on the prowl at the meeting speaking out for Central Coast mountain lion habitat protection.

~ By Jim Hines

Wild animal help lines

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

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

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

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

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