



THE ALAMO SIERRAN

THE ALAMO GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER - VOL. 42 No. 11 DEC 2008

The Alamo Sierran Needs You

Each December we ask you for a little extra money, chiefly to pay for this newsletter. Volunteers write, edit, and publish it, but the printing and mailing are expensive. The newsletter keeps you posted and gives you a unique environmental perspective on events-the side you're not likely to hear elsewhere.

This year we're asking for a contribution of \$10. Your money will be well spent and deeply appreciated.

Please send your donation to Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 6443, San Antonio, TX 78209. You can use the enclosed envelope for both your donation and ballot for the Executive Committee election.

Thanks for your continuing support and environmental activism.

An Opening for Recycling Chair

It is with regret that I have to announce that our Recycling Chair, Patricia Martinez, has stepped down as of November 2008. On behalf of the Alamo Group, I want to thank Patricia for all the hard work and dedication that she has given to our campaign to get the city to place recycling bins in apartment complexes.

Any member wishing to continue this campaign, or work on a variety of recycling issues, should submit their contact information to Jerry Morrisey at jlmorrisey@aol.com. You need only be an active Sierra Club member. At its discretion, ExCom will appoint a member to fill this position.

Loyd Cortez

A Word from the Chair by Loyd Cortez

I want to personally invite you to the annual Holiday Party. The winter season is a great time to meet new friends and mingle with old ones. Come on out and get to know your fellow Sierrans while sharing a wonderful meal. Bring your wife, husband, family member, or friend, and don't forget to bring that special dish so that I can sample it before it disappears!

On behalf of the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, I want to wish you and your family a joyous holiday and a safe and wonderful new year. Let's hope that 2009 will be filled with peace and tranquility, along with major and long-delayed progress on environmental protection. With your help and support, the Club will continue to fight for our children's right to clean air, clean water, big trees, expansive wilderness, and abundant wildlife.

General Meeting: 7:00 P.M., 3rd Tuesday each month at the Witte Museum located at 3801 Broadway just south of Hildebrand Ave. Socializing begins at 6:40, program at 7 P.M.

December 16, 2008: Annual Holiday Party

6 PM to 8:30 PM at Lions' Field, 2809 Broadway. Please note early start time and location. Bring a potluck dish to share while celebrating the season with fellow Sierrans from around San Antonio.

January 20, 2009: What's New in Electric Cars

Alfonzo Ranjel, president of the Alamo City Electric Automobile Association, will give us an update on progress in electric vehicle technology, including conversions.

Alamo Group ExCom Elections

Don't forget to vote. See Candidate Bios and Ballot inside.

Join us Tuesday, December 16th at the Alamo Group's Holiday Party

The event will be held from 6-8:30 PM at Lions' Field, 2809 Broadway. It's a potluck, so bring something yummy to share. We'll see you at the party!

Alamo Group Members at Workshops

Several members of the Alamo Group attended two workshops in Austin on November 14 and 15. Barbara McMillin, N.J. Menchaca, and Loretta Van Coppenolle attended the Bullseye Media Training put on by the Sierra Club and other organizations on Friday the 14th. The workshop taught communication strategies for activists as well as use of new media - blogging, social networking sites, and how to make Youtube videos.

Randy Carroll-Bradd, Hector Gonzalez, Dave Klar, N.J. Menchaca, Karen Seal, Loretta Van Coppenolle, and David Wells participated in the Sierra Club's Legislative Workshop that took

Continued on Page 2

COSA Sustainable Community Workshops

The San Antonio Office of Environmental Policy held a series of four workshops October 27 through 30 to, in its own words, "elicit the ideas and best thinking of experts and stakeholders about actions and best practices" to enable the city's Sustainable Development Plan. The plan, announced by Mayor Phil Hardberger last June, will be finalized in January 2009, around the time of the City's State of the City address.

Each workshop had a different slant, though there was overlap. Workshop 1 focused on "Greenonomics:" How to incorporate industrial ecology, green

Continued on Page 2

Workshops - Continued

place on Saturday the 15th. Attendees learned how the legislature works, how to influence it, and what to expect from the coming legislative session that begins in January.

There will be a Citizen Lobby Training session on February 17, 2009, again in Austin, featuring Van Jones. The theme will be "Making Texas a Winner in the Clean Energy Economy." The training will be followed by lobbying and conferencing the next day.

The Texas legislature meets every two years for only 150 days per session.

For more information on coming lobbying activities, call 512-472-3903 or 512-477-1729.

COSA - Continued

jobs and education into the city's plan. Workshop 2 had as its focus, "Clean and Efficient Use of Energy and Water," encompassing local government, utilities, agencies, businesses and households. Workshop 3 dealt with "Efficient Access and Mobility:" transportation issues and solutions appropriate for San Antonio. The final workshop, on "Sustainable Building," elicited ideas on how to attain green construction and retrofitting for the private as well as the government sector.

Present at the workshops were two sustainability consultants from California and two from Vermont. Both states are regarded as among the most progressive in the country on issues of sustainability. Workshop participants included members of the public, government, and private sectors with some expertise or interest in issues of sustainability. Five Sierra Club members, Bill Barker, Barbara McMillin, Russell Seal, Loretta Van Coppenolle, and Jane Ward, attended the workshops and gave input.

The ideas that came out of the workshop were many and varied. Most were ideas known to have worked in other communities. Participants urged that the public be kept informed and educated on green initiatives and that there be some system of reward and punishment for businesses that comply or do not comply with city directives. Incentives for compliance were proposed. Enhanced recycling, to include recycling facilities nearby and return-to-manufacturer provisions, was

discussed. A goal of reducing local energy demand by 15 percent by 2015 was proposed. It was urged that the greater San Antonio area be included in sustainability efforts as well as school districts, universities, etc.

A summary of ideas generated by the workshops is available from the Office of Environmental Policy. Those who did not attend the workshop and would like to offer suggestions to the city may do so. Please contact Laurence Doxsey, Director, at 207-1721 or W.Laurence.Doxsey@sanantonio.gov to obtain the summaries or offer further input.

Executive Committee Election

Candidate Bios

The following Club members are candidates for positions on the Alamo Group Executive Committee (ExCom) this year. The ballot appears on page three.

Margaret (Peggy) Day

I have an M.A. in environmental planning, specializing in education for sustainability. A Club member since 2002, I first served as a Puerto Rico Chapter founding director. Now on the Alamo Group Conservation Committee, I am one of its representatives to the Citizen's Energy Coalition for lobbying and education outreach. In Puerto Rico we had expert advisors and training. It was a complete immersion in Club policy and practice. I served concurrently as treasurer for four years, as outings chair one year, and monthly meeting organizer for 11/2 years. I also translated the bylaws, contributed to regular campaign matrix and strategic planning, helped organize the Student Coalition and its training, membership outreach, and social and conservation campaign activities. I hope to contribute this wealth of experience to the Alamo Group.

Wendell Fuqua

I have been a Sierra Club member for three years, am an avid hiker and backpacker, ride the bus to work every day, drive a Honda Civic, hang out my clothes to dry, and am a strong advocate of the Sierra Club's environmental efforts. I currently work as Director of Media Production at UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures. My job allows

me to combine my interest in history with my love of filmmaking. I have two bachelor's degrees from the University of Texas at Austin: one in journalism, the other in art. I believe the Sierra Club can do a great deal to help legislators create the green revolution we desperately need. The time is right to generate a national, state, and local movement toward energy conservation and preservation of our natural resources. Through my work with the Sierra Club, I would like to be a part of that movement.

MaryEllen Garcia

MaryEllen Garcia is a native of Los Angeles, California and moved to San Antonio in 1988 for a faculty appointment in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at UTSA. She teaches linguistics. Over 20 years, she has seen the city grow in terms of people, homes, and cars, but notes that one constant has been that most San Antonians show very little environmental awareness. Wanting to be pro-active on this front, she joined the Recycling Committee. An apartment dweller, she wants to work toward putting the city's recycling services in place for apartment complexes so that everyone can 'reduce, re-use, recycle.' She believes that it all boils down to having respect for this planet that we live on and a responsibility to the generations that come after us. If elected, she will support this effort as well as the whole of the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club's agenda.

Sierrans Named to CPS Committee

Randy Carroll-Bradd and Loretta Van Coppenolle were recently named to the newly formed CPS Energy Green Ribbon Committee on Efficiency and Conservation. Carroll-Bradd will represent the CPS Citizens' Advisory Committee and Van Coppenolle the Sierra Club. The committee is composed of about 18 members representing various sectors of the community.

The purpose of the committee, which had its first meeting October 22, is to provide "input to CPS Energy's energy efficiency, demand response and conservation efforts," according to the utility. CPS Energy has publicly committed itself to meeting 60% of peak demand growth through efficiency by 2012 and to reducing electricity demand by 771 MW by 2020.

Sierra Club Calendars Are in.

You can pick up calendars at our monthly meeting. The price for either will be \$15. Fill 2009 with beautiful photos of our natural heritage, while contributing to its preservation. These calendars make great gifts. If you can't attend the general meeting, contact loydcortez@earthlink.net or 674-9489 to make other arrangements.

My newsletter contribution of

_ \$10 _ \$25 _ \$50 _ \$100 _ Other \$_____ is enclosed.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support the Sierra Club's effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Executive Committee Ballot

Please vote for three (3) candidates. If you have a joint membership, both you and your spouse may vote.

	Individual	2nd (Joint) member
Margaret (Peggy) Day	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wendell Fugua	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Ellen Garcia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Vote for no more than three candidates.

Must be postmarked on or before January 2, 2009

OUTINGS

SUN, DEC 14: MITCHELL LAKE DAY HIKE

Enjoy hiking and viewing the waterfowl at Mitchell Lake. Meet at the Leaper House at the lake at 9:45 AM, or call the leader for possible carpool arrangements. Flat, easy 2-hour hike. Entrance fee. Donations to the Sierra Club accepted. Leader: Jerry Morrissey at 382-2614 or jlmorrissey@aol.com

SUN, JAN 4: WALKER RANCH DAY HIKE (DOG FRIENDLY)

Get out and enjoy an easy hike to start a great outing season. Meet at the park on West Avenue at 10 AM. Dogs on leashes are welcome. Donations to the Sierra Club accepted. Leader: Jerry Morrissey 382-2614 or jlmorrissey@aol.com

WED, JAN 7: OUTINGS COMMITTEE MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER

Bring something to share for the potluck and meet at 7 PM for dinner prior to the Outings Committee meeting. Contact Lee Dodge at lsg999@earthlink.net or 275-3355 for details.

SUN, JAN 11: MISSION TRAIL BIKE RIDE

This bike ride follows paved trails and roads along the San Antonio River that lead from mission to mission in the southeast part of San Antonio. We'll stop to take quick walks through some of the missions along the way. Distance may be up to 18 miles round-trip, depending on participants. Pace will be "no riders left behind." Minimum age is 12. Helmets are required. Be ready to ride by 9:30 AM in the grass parking lot southeast of the paved parking lot in front of Mission Concepcion on Mission Road. Difficulty: MODERATE. Fees: donations to Sierra Club accepted. Contact leader Lee Dodge lsg999@earthlink.net or 647-0216 before the outing as start time might change.

SAT, JAN 17: BASTROP STATE PARK DAY HIKE

Join us for a hike in the Lost Pines, a loblolly pine and hardwood forest isolated from the Piney Woods of East Texas by over 100 miles. We'll hike 10-11 miles on a soft and generally level trail. As usual, sufficient water should be carried as there are no sources on the trail.

This is a dog-friendly outing and carpooling is an option. Entrance fees are the responsibility of each hiker. Donations to the Sierra Club are greatly appreciated. Leader: Scott Wolfe at papawolfe@sbcglobal.net

SUN, JAN. 18: STONE OAK PARK DAY HIKE

Enjoy a brisk winter walk on the Recharge Zone on the north side of San Antonio. Meet at the park on Stone Oak Parkway at 10 AM for an easy to moderate hike. Donations to the Sierra Club accepted. Contact leader Jerry Morrissey 382-2614 or jlmorrissey@aol.com for directions.

SUN, FEB 1: MUD CREEK DAY HIKE (DOG FRIENDLY)

Discover or renew your acquaintance with a quiet north-central San Antonio park just inside Hwy 1604. This easy to moderate 3-mile hike begins at 10 AM. Boots are recommended due to some rocky trail sections. Dogs on leashes are welcome. Donations to the Sierra Club accepted. Contact leader Jerry Morrissey 382-2614 or jlmorrissey@aol.com for directions.

FRI-SUN, FEB 13-15: GOOSE ISLAND CAMPING AND WHOOPING CRANE TRIP

Leader: Ellen Clegg, eclegg@els.edu or 283-5045 (work).

Sierra Socials

(Contact Loyd Cortez 674-9489 or loydcortez@earthlink.net if planning to attend.)

DEC 12, CANDLELIGHT COFFEE HOUSE, 3011 N. ST MARY'S, 6-8 PM

We had such a good response last time at this place that we decided to hold another social event here. Hopefully the weather will be pleasant enough to sit outside. The good food and quiet atmosphere make CCH a great place to get together.

JAN 16, AZUCA NUEVO LATINO, 713 S. ALAMO, 6-8 PM

We have not held a social here before. If you like Mexican cuisine, and have not tried Azuca, check it out. If it is not too cold, we may try to sit outside. The restaurant can be reached at 225-5550.

MEETING DATES AND CONTACT INFO

General Meeting:	3rd Tuesday 7 p.m.	Jerry Morrissey	497-5470
Executive Committee Meeting:	3rd Friday, 7 p.m.	Loyd Cortez	674-9489
Newsletter Submissions:		Fred Wills	fredwills@att.net
Political Committee Meeting:	2nd Thursday, 7 p.m.	Russel Seal	289-9008
Newsletter Mail Party:	2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m.	Jim Stewart	692-0727
Outings Committee Meeting:	1st Wednesday every 2 months, 7 p.m.	Lee Dodge	647-0216
Conservation Committee Meeting:	1st Thursday, 7 p.m.	L. Van Coppenolle	492-4620

ALAMO GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS & MEMBERS

Loyd Cortez	Chair Person	674-9489
Ellen Clegg	Secretary	283-5045
Jerry Morrissey		497-5470
Sandy Redmond		872-5390
Jane Ward		829-5575
Hector Gonzalez		226-6069
Paula Stone		393-7351
Fred Wills		673-9566
Scott Wolfe		724-2707
Sharon Dukes (non voting) Treasurer		828-3721

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACTS

Programs	Eloise Stoker	828-0919
Fundraising	Paula Stone	393-7351
Membership	Sandy Redmond	872-5390
Publicity	Teresa Ronquillo	844-8720
Mailings	Jim Stewart	692-0727
Newsletter	Fred Wills	673-9566
Website	Richard Alles	494-2088

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Outings Chair	Lee Dodge	647-0216
Political Committee	Russell Seal	289-9008
Outreach & Education ..	Carolyn Wells	271-0640

CONSERVATION CONTACTS

Conservation Chair	L. Van Coppenolle	492-4620
Assistant Chair	R. Carroll-Bradd	216-6125
Endangered Species	Fred Wills	673-9566
Fluoridation	L. Van Coppenolle	492-4620
Organic Gardening	Dave Klar	495-2148
Recycling	Patricia Martinez	454-5920
Tree Conservation	Richard Alles	494-2088
Volunteer Coordinator ..	Jerry Morrissey	497-5470
Water Issues	Jerry Morrissey	497-5470

U.S. CONGRESSPERSONS

Charlie Gonzalez (210) 472-6195
 Lamar Smith (210) 821-5024
 Henry Cuellar (210) 271-2851
 Ciro Rodriguez (210) 922-1874

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor: Phil Hardberger; 207-7060;	mayor@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 1: Mary Alice P. Cisneros; 207-7279;	district1@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 2: Sheila McNeil; 207-7278;	district2@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 3: Jennifer V. Ramos; 207-7064;	district3@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 4: Phillip A. Cortez; 207-7281;	district4@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 5: Lourdes Galvan; 207-7043;	district5@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 6: Delicia Herrera; 207-7065;	district6@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 7: Justin Rodriguez; 207-7044;	district7@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 8: Diane G. Cibrian; 207-7086;	district8@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 9: Louis E. Rowe; 207-7325;	district9@sanantonio.gov
Dist. 10: John G. Clamp; 207-7276;	district10@sanantonio.gov

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Alamo Group website address
www.alamosierraclub.org

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Alamo Group of the Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 6443
 San Antonio, Texas 78209

PERIODICAL

Membership

Yes, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

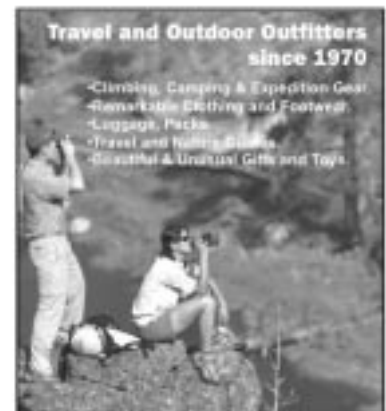
	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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