

MEETING DATES AND CONTACT INFO

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------|
| General Meeting: | 3rd Tuesday 7 p.m. | Jerry Morrissey | 497-5470 |
| Executive Committee Meeting: | 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m. | Loyd Cortez | 674-9489 |
| Newsletter Submissions: | | Fred Wills | fredwills@att.net |
| Political Committee Meeting: | 2nd Thursday, 7 p.m. | Russell 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 |
| Peggy Day & MaryEllen Garcia | Secretary | |
| Margaret (Peggy) Day | | 829-5632 |
| Wendell Fuqua | | 373-0748 |
| Hector Gonzalez | | 226-6069 |
| MaryEllen Garcia | | 344-1581 |
| 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 |
| Publicity | Teresa Ronquillo | 844-8720 |
| Mailings | Jim Stewart | 692-0727 |
| Membership | Loyd Cortez | 674-9489 |
| 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 | Laurie Posner | 510-917-0097 |
| 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: Philip 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

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

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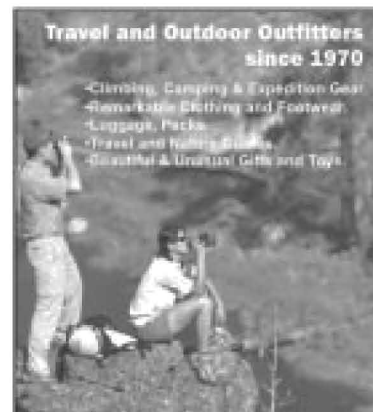
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

| | 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 |

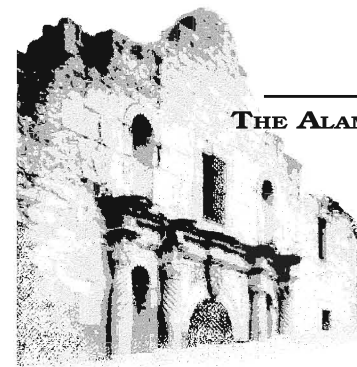
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THE ALAMO SIERRAN

THE ALAMO GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB NEWSLETTER - VOL. 43 No. 5 JUN & JUL 2009

Sierra Club Supports STEP

Several Sierra Club members spoke in favor of CPS Energy's request for funding of its STEP program, which passed at the May 21 San Antonio City Council meeting by a vote of 8 to 2. The two dissenters were Councilman John Clamp and Councilwoman Lourdes Galvan. Councilwoman Jennifer Ramos was absent. Clamp cited numerous concerns about fiscal responsibility though he endorsed the concept of energy efficiency, which the STEP program addresses. He expressed the hope that in another year he will be able to approve STEP after seeing that the program is well-managed and bears fruit. Galvan's concern was the burden the program would put on her lower-income population in District 5, which largely covers the near west side of San Antonio.

STEP, which stands for Save for Tomorrow Energy Plan, entails a small

Continued on Page 2

Political News

Members, we are pleased to report that 100% of our endorsed candidates either won their races or made it to the run-off. Now that we have our endorsed candidates in office, our members need to work with these leaders to achieve our goals. From our endorsed mayor, Julian Castro, to the diverse council members, all embrace a vision of sustainability. CPS energy and the city have discussed sustainability in a statement that says "... in meeting our needs today, we cannot compromise the ability of future generations of San Antonians to meet their needs." The city and CPS are now actively inviting our input. We may not totally agree with CPS and the city on how to implement the details of sustainability but we are beginning to move in the same direction. The city has supported Mayor Hardberger's outline of Mission Verde and the Alamo Group stands firmly

Continued on Page 2

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.

June 16, 2009: Government Canyon State Natural Area Update

John Koepke, park interpreter, will talk about current opportunities for recreation at GCSNA and bring us up to date on park programs

July 21, 2009: Volunteer Appreciation Potluck Social

Come meet and mingle with fellow members. Bring your favorite covered dish to share. Please bring your own plate, cup, and utensils as well. Iced tea will be provided. Please note the early start time: 6:30 PM.

August 18, 2009: Fall Organic Gardening

Citizens' Environmental Advisory Committee

On April 2, San Antonio City Council unanimously approved the formation of a city-based Citizens' Environmental Advisory Committee to oversee Mission Verde and CPS Energy environmental programs. The committee was the brainchild of District 7 Councilman Justin Rodriguez.

At this writing, only 3 of the 11 members to make up the committee have been named: Diane Lang, named by Councilwoman Lourdes Galvan (District

Continued on Page 2

Join Our Team and Voice Your Concerns

Sign Up For E-mail Action Alerts stand and be counted

Make your voice heard! City council decisions, regulatory actions, legislation in Austin — we need to be ready to act at a moment's notice to support the good and stop the bad. Sometimes all it takes is a simple phone call or email message to sway the opinion of our elected leaders and other officials. Contact Loyd Cortez at loydcortez@earthlink.net to be added to the Alamo Group Action Alert email list.

STEP Continued

increase to the fuel adjustment charge in ratepayers' utility bills. The increase for the first year of implementation would be a net of \$0.03 per month, after expected fuel savings are deducted. For the second year, the net would be \$0.38 per month, and in the third year, \$0.95 monthly. The total package would involve a revenue sum of \$849 million that is calculated to save the utility - and ratepayers - a total of 771 megawatts of electricity by 2020 as well as the construction of one new generating facility.

STEP will restore rebates, primarily those for solar energy installation, and permit free weatherization of low income owner-occupied homes in San Antonio. It will include the switch to programmable thermostats across the city. The program will also address commercial lighting and retrofitting, an industrial program that will involve 25 companies a year, and a school lighting change-out program that has already begun.

The Sierra Club, along with environmental allies Public Citizen and the SEED Coalition, both of which have a large San Antonio membership, were concerned that the monies involved in STEP and other CPS monies be properly expended and accounted for. To that end, representatives of the three organizations met with CPS and City of San Antonio officials to hammer out an attachment to the STEP request that would address these concerns.

The eight-point document finally agreed to states in part that "CPS Energy must maintain documentation of all STEP expenditures, by customer class and other measures deemed necessary by the City." Details to be included in a quarterly report to the city were "number of kW saved by customer class and program type; the number of participants and contractors; geographic area and council district program activity; and total costs/expenditures by program type." The document also stipulates that "A quarterly report detailing information shall be made available to the public with sufficient protection regarding confidential information as deemed necessary by the City."

Sierran Christel Villarreal in her statement to City Council stated that it was her belief that if CPS makes a fully concerted effort to effect energy

savings, the amount saved can be double the CPS estimate. Conservation Chair Loretta Van Coppenolle, who delivered the club's endorsement, reminded Council that climate change is the issue of greatest concern in the demand for heightened efficiency. Executive committee member Margaret Day also spoke on behalf of the club, as did former Alamo Group chair Dave Klar.

According to the San Antonio Express-News, details of the finalized STEP program will be posted on the CPS website, www.cpsenergy.com, by June 1 and customers can call 210/352-2SAV for more information.

At the June 18 City Council meeting, CPS Energy is expected to reveal its cost estimate for the expansion of the South Texas Nuclear Project. Energy expert Clarence Johnson in April released a capital cost estimate of between \$20 and \$22 billion.

Political News Continued

behind that vision. The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club's concept of sustainability includes having a strong economy, which can also be the greenest economy.

I want to thank all who responded to our action alerts and reinforce why your participation was so important to the election process. By sending emails, making telephone calls, and writing to our representatives, you enable our mayor and our council representatives to espouse environmental objectives. Your correspondence is effective not so much to change a person's mind, but to protect good representatives politically in the next election. Your correspondence is evidence of community support for an issue.

Contact the conservation committee to see how you can help. Add your name to the Action Alert list (loydcortez@earthlink.net) so you know when to make contact for these critical issues. We need to grow membership one person at a time. Please invite friends, neighbors, relatives, church members, and others to add their names to our rolls. Our strength is in our membership numbers. We want especially to encourage young adults to join so that the local environmental community itself becomes sustainable.

Russell Seal, Political Chair

Advisory Committee Continued

5); Loretta Van Coppenolle, appointed by former District 8 Councilwoman Diane Cibrian; and Jose Rodriguez, named by former District 9 Councilman Louis Rowe.

Appointment to the committee is by council district and entails the completion of an application prior to selection by councilperson. The appointment is for a term of office to begin June 1, 2009, and to expire May 31, 2011. If you live in San Antonio, wish to apply for a position on the committee, and have a great concern for the environment and some knowledge of local environmental issues, you may contact your councilperson to ascertain if your district seat has been filled and if not, complete an application on-line by going to <http://epay.sanantonio.gov/boardcomm/Vacancies.aspx>. You may also call the Office of the City Clerk at 207-7253 for more information. Committee appointees are unpaid; committees generally meet once a month, often during the day.

King William Parade Wrap-up

A fine time was enjoyed by about 20 Sierra Club members at the King William Parade on April 25th. The marchers carried signs and props and shouted slogans that supported Mission Verde, the sustainability plan for San Antonio which was crafted by Mayor Phil Hardberger, his Chief of Staff, Larry Zinn, and the staff of the City of San Antonio. Mission Verde has been approved by the City Council of San Antonio. It is partly the outgrowth of an Alamo Group effort beginning in the summer of 2007 that developed a green energy plan which was presented to the City of San Antonio and CPS Energy in November 2007.

A young entrepreneur, Luke LaBorde, drove his converted electric car in the parade. Randy Carroll-Bradd once again used his electric lawn mower to generate the power to light a compact fluorescent bulb on his hat. Other participants who carried Sierra Club banners, props and signs included Loni Carlson, Ellen Clegg, Loyd Cortez, Elinor Froemsdorf, Wendell Fuqua, Angela Garcia, Mary Ellen Garcia, Bill Hurley, David Klar, Bill Livermore, Barbara McMillin, Ben Morrisey, Jerry Morrisey, Barbara Murray, Jim Stewart, and Karen Weehler. A short video of part of our group at the parade is on the Alamo Group website, alamosierraclub.org/



SAT, JUN 13: GOVERNMENT CANYON

DAY HIKE

Beat the heat. Arrive at Park Headquarters (12861 Galm Rd) at 7:15am for a 7:30am sharp departure. Walk the beautiful Wildcat Canyon route, returning via Sendero Balcones with a side excursion to South Bluff Overlook. State Park Pass or \$6.00 fee required; donation to Sierra Club suggested. Difficulty: moderate (6.5 miles, heat). Bring lots of water and wear hat. Contact leader Stan Drezek 493-0939 for further details. Assistant leader: Chris Anderson.

SAT, JUL 18: COMAL RIVER FLOAT TRIP

Come refresh yourself this summer as you float effortlessly down the 3-mile Comal River in New Braunfels. The river is spring-fed, maintains a temperature of 70 degrees, and features a limestone bottom and a tube chute through a dam. Only tubes and swimmers are allowed on the river. The entry point is located across the street from the tube rental in Landa Park. Shuttle service is provided from the last public river exit back to the tube rental. After the trip, meet at a local restaurant to recount our adventures. Children 12 and older with a parent are welcome. Donation to Sierra Club is suggested. Tube rental fee is \$10. Contact Terry Platt at taplatt@earthlink.net for more information and reservations.

AUG 3-12: HIGH SIERRA BACKPACK TRIP

This will be a 7-day backpack (Aug 4-10), but including travel days it will cover August 3-12. It will cover over 60 miles in the Southern Sierras. Only experienced backpackers should consider this hike as we will go over 3 mountain passes (Bishop, Muir, Piute), totaling over 7000 ft of elevation gain. We will travel through Dusy Basin, LeConte Canyon, Evolution Valley, and McClure Meadow. Those considering this hike must be self-sufficient in the art of high-altitude wilderness travel and all the preparatory work involved. Everyone is responsible for their own travel and food. Limited to 6-8 people. For information, contact Scott Wolfe 724-2707.

Special thanks are due the following people who contributed to making the props: Bill Hurley, Bill Livermore, MaryEllen Garcia, Stacy Berlfein, David Klar, Erica Zeitz, and Jerry Morrisey.

Please provide your energy and ideas next year to help us develop another fine entry to the King William Parade.

Fun at the Zoo

Some young volunteers and myself spent a wonderful day at the zoo manning a Sierra Club tabling event. It was the zoo's International Migratory Bird Day Celebration (Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats and People). Our table was in front of the eagle enclosure which two bald eagles now call home. One eagle was nearly blind and the other had been shot, so their wings had been clipped to prevent them from flying. Regulations do not allow injured birds to be released to the wild. It was good to see how many zoo visitors stopped by the eagle enclosure to marvel at such magnificent birds. If you have not been to the zoo in a long time, I recommend you visit. It is such a wonderful place to spend the day with the kids. I want to thank Stacy Berlfein, Teresa Ronquillo, Jamie King and Christopher Wilbraham for helping out. Be sure to visit our website to see a picture of the volunteers.

Loyd Cortez

SAWS Board Application

Thanks to all the Alamo Group members who contacted their City Council member in support of my application to be seated on the SAWS Board of Trustees. Although our efforts were not ultimately successful, we helped to open up the process and give more applicants an opportunity to be interviewed by the City Council during the B session.

Jerry Morrisey

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Contact Loyd Cortez at loydcortez@earthlink.net

Sierra Socials

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

JUNE 26, Bombay Bicycle Club, 3506 N. St Mary's, 737-2411, 6-8 PM

An old but good place suggested by a member. Known for its burgers and chicken salad.

JULY 24, La Tuna, 100 Probandt, 224-8862, 6-8 PM

Good assortment of food to wash down with a beer. Join us outside and enjoy San Antonio's beautiful warm weather under the trees.

AUGUST 28th, Blue Star Brewing Co., 1414 South Alamo, 212-5506, 6-8 PM.

Good choice of cold, micro-brewed beers to complement the food.



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