

## ALAMO GROUP MEETINGS

General membership meets 6:30 p.m., third Tuesday each month, Witte Museum, 3801 Broadway.

### Tues., Nov. 16: Zero Waste

Recycling goals for the 21st Century can significantly reduce waste. Learn how we can join other Central Texas communities to create jobs through sustainable production and consumption. Austinite Robin Schneider, Executive Director, Texas Campaign for the Environment, will present.

### Tues., Dec. 7: Holiday Party

Join us for our holiday pot luck supper and silent auction at Lions Field Club House, Broadway at Mulberry, 6 -8:30 p.m.

### Tues., Jan. 18: Peak Oil

Alan Montemayor, formerly active Sierra Club member and formerly Principal Engineer, Southwest Research Institute, will present program: "Peak Oil : What is it, what are the potential consequences and how can we prepare for it?"

## SIERRA SOCIALS

Due to Thanksgiving and Christmas, no Sierra Socials are scheduled for November and December.

# The Alamo Sierran

The Alamo Group of the Sierra Club Newsletter

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NOV-DEC 2010



SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

## October Topic: The Once and Future Electric Car

At the turn of the last century, electric vehicles were a popular form of transportation – so popular that New York City had an electric vehicle charging station available about every 10 blocks. So, why do many of us believe that we don't have the technology available to wean ourselves off gasoline powered cars?

Christopher Ashcraft's job is to dispel such beliefs, and to help the San Antonio area reduce its oil consumption by, among other things, starting to drive electric vehicles. Ashcraft is the Clean Cities Coordinator for the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG). The nationwide Clean Cities initiative is aimed at reducing U.S. consumption of foreign oil, and it focuses its efforts on (1) eliminating the need to use fossil fuels, (2) reducing the demand for fossil fuels through conservation, and (3) replacing fossil fuels with cleaner alternative fuels.

Ashcraft spoke at the Sierra

Club's monthly meeting Oct. 19 in the Witte Museum. He said that Clean Cities programs have "displaced" over 2.5 billion gallons of foreign oil consumption throughout the United States, and he added that, in the coming years, electric vehicles (EVs) will play an increasingly important role in this conservation effort.

Electric cars suffer from a number of misconceptions, according to Ashcraft. Among these are the belief that a nation of electric vehicles would overwhelm our power grid. Not so, says Ashcraft, pointing out that 75 percent of the nation's cars – if electric – could be powered by our existing power-generating infrastructure. Ashcraft also debunked the belief that EVs would simply shift the pollution problem from gas-powered vehicles to the power plants needed to generate additional electricity. Emissions generated by our power grid are 70 percent cleaner than vehicle emissions, Ashcraft said.

San Antonio is making progress toward setting up an EV infrastructure, Ashcraft said. Among other things, the city is streamlining its approval process for installing charging stations in residences and is already beginning to install charging stations in public parking lots and garages.

All these efforts are vital to San Antonio, according to Peter Bella, AACOG Natural Resources Director – who also spoke to our October meeting – because he expects the city to reach "non-attainment" by next summer. This means San Antonio will no longer meet clean air standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and will have to implement pollution control measures that would include testing of pollution control devices on cars.

For more information about San Antonio's Clean Cities effort, visit [aacog.com/cleancities](http://aacog.com/cleancities).

## Annual Election: Alamo Group ExCom Candidates Offer Bios

Please send in your vote for our annual election (ballot on Page 3). Two candidates for our Executive Committee have submitted the following biographies.

**Denali Endicott** was born in Alaska. Her family moved around Alaska until they settled in Fairbanks, where she grew up and learned to love nature. As a child, she was often in the woods, examining plants and enjoying the outdoors. She met her husband, an Army medic, in Alaska and after getting married, they were stationed in Georgia and then in Texas in late 2004. Denali and

her husband loved San Antonio's snow-free winters, food, and abundance of activities and decided to stay. Some topics that she cares about are water issues, homesteading, organic gardening, and xeriscaping.

**Karen Seal** has been an "on and off" member of the Sierra Club since the 1970s. She has worked on campaigns to remove James Watt as Secretary of the Interior and against the nuclear projects -- first in Austin then in San Antonio. She was the attorney for the Rate-payers Protection Coalition that

intervened in the CPS v. NRG suit to bring integrity back to the system.

She joined the Alamo Group in 1987, and worked with the outings group to become an outings leader. She would "like to become active there once again." She has been an avid hiker, camper and kayaker since a teenager. Her goal is to preserve nature and fight the giants who want to destroy it. She says to our members, "I ask for your vote to help me work for you to strive to achieve the goals of the Sierra Club."

*“The poll found lack of information and the up-front costs to be the two biggest barriers to translating high interest into actual (solar) installations.”*

*“Consider giving of your time as a volunteer. Our fundraising, publicity, events, and membership chairs are now vacant.”*

## SSA Program Helps “Bring Solar Home”

**By Lanny Sinkin  
Executive Director  
Solar San Antonio**

In August 2009, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, as part of the Solar America Cities Program, published a poll on San Antonio attitudes towards solar power. The poll showed 40% ready to put solar electric and hot water in their homes.

At that time, there were fewer than 100 solar electric units and only 12 solar hot water units in San Antonio. The poll found lack of information and the upfront costs to be the two biggest barriers to translating high interest into actual installations. Solar San Antonio (SSA) took on the challenge to bridge the gap.

To provide information, SSA redesigned its website ([www.solarsanantonio.org](http://www.solarsanantonio.org)) to make it as simple and user friendly as possible.

To address the upfront costs, SSA worked with the San Antonio Credit Union to design a solar improvement loan, which covers the entire up front cost, offers low interest rates, and has very low monthly costs once the CPS Energy rebate and the federal tax credit are applied to reduce the initial loan. (See <http://www.bringsolarhome.com/incentives-rebates/solar-home-improvement-loan/>.)

On September 7, SSA announced its Bring Solar Home Campaign. Participating in the press conference were Mayor Castro, Commissioner Adkis-

son, Cris Eugster from CPS Energy, the San Antonio Credit Union, and Wells Fargo.

Soon thereafter, billboards, newspaper advertising, media interviews, and other outreach spread the word. SSA established a special microsite at [BringSolar-Home.com](http://BringSolar-Home.com). At the “Get Started” tab, there is an application to be filled out and submitted to SSA.

SSA distributes the application information to three of the participating solar installation companies. Those companies then contact the applicant to make an appointment and provide a bid.

Throughout the process, SSA stays in touch with the applicant to be sure everything is going well.

### *(Continued from Page 3: A Word from the Alamo Group Chair)*

also be available for purchase at all our events.

Gift memberships to the Sierra Club, now for as low as \$15, are also a great way to support our club and your loved ones. Memberships come with club monogrammed backpacks—what a deal. It’s easy to sign up on our website, [www.alamosierraclub.org](http://www.alamosierraclub.org), or write to the membership address on this newsletter.

Another way to help is to donate to our Dec. 7 auction. Get creative. Please offer an hour or two of your professional services, use of a beach or country place, products from your business or studio, or other desirable items. Contact Denali Endicott at 629-2434 until Saturday, Dec. 4 to list your donations. The week before the party, auction items will be listed on the Alamo Group

website, so check them out.

Consider giving of your time as a volunteer. Our fundraising, publicity, events, and membership chairs are now vacant. We could also use your help with the upcoming season of local elections and tabling events and important conservation campaigns.

Note that this will be your last newsletter until January. The Executive Committee chose to save resources and let the newsletter team take a well deserved rest. And remember, there will be no other social event or Tuesday speaker program in December.

On behalf of the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club, I’d like to close by wishing Peace and Prosperity in the New Year to all of you and to offer boundless gratitude to our great team of

volunteers and for your membership support. Thanks a million.

### **Solar Water Heaters Offered at Low Cost**

The Blake, Kimberly & George Rapier Charitable Trust is offering very low cost solar water heaters to homeowners in the San Antonio area. The trust will pay for installation at a net cost of \$1,050. The WellMed Charitable Foundation and the San Antonio Business Journal provide additional support.

Homeowners will pay \$25 per month for 5 years for the water heaters (\$1500). The CPS rebate on the heaters will go to American Sunrise so they can continue the program. For more information call Yolanda at 210/212-2227 or go to [www.americansunrise-sa.org](http://www.americansunrise-sa.org).

# A Word from the Alamo Group Chair

By Margaret "Peggy" Day

Season's greetings Sierrans. It's that time of year again. Where does the time go?

You are all invited to our upcoming annual holiday celebration. We're hosting our party a little earlier than usual, on Tuesday, Dec. 7, to make it easier to attend and help keep stress levels lower.

The event will be at the same spot as last year, Lion's Field Club House, with its charming WPA stonework and fireplace, located at 2809 Broadway, the corner of Mulberry, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. There will be a silent auction to raise funds for our newsletter and campaigns.

Bring your friends, festive and gen-

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
Denali Endicott	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scott Wolfe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Karen Seal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Vote for no more than three candidates.  
 Must be postmarked on or before January 4

each year at this time we ask for your financial support. Please contribute. Even small amounts are welcome. An envelope is enclosed for your donations and election ballots. In addition, consider choosing from the following alternative gifts.

Our 2011 annual Sierra

Club calendar sales have begun. Prices are \$15 for either the engagement or wall calendars. For \$3 more we can send it to the person of your choice with a gift card. The calendars will

erous spirits, and a special dish to share. We will provide diversions, dishware, and drinks. Mark your calendars now, and come celebrate our accomplishments in 2010 and relax for a while together.

As we enter the season to reflect and give back to the community,

(Continued on Page 2, Bottom)

**MEMBERS:**  
 Please mark and mail Executive Committee Ballot (box at far left). Send to address on back (Page 4).

## Alamo Group Outings: Opportunities to Hike GCSNA

### Saturday, Nov. 13: Friedrich in the Fall — Friedrich Wilderness Area

Park located at 21935 Milsa Rd. Take Dominion Drive exit from IH 10 W, mile N on access road and then turn around S on access road to Oak and W to Milsa. Meet 8:30 a.m. in Parking Lot. Difficulty: Moderate 3.5 mile hike with some steep, rocky sections. Completion time approximately 11 a.m. Bring water and wear sturdy ankle supporting shoes. Donations to Sierra Club accepted. Call leader Stan Drezek, 493-0939.

### Saturday, Nov. 13: Government Canyon State Natural Area

Join the Friends of Government Canyon and the Sierra Club for a jointly-led guided hike on one of the many trails at Government Canyon State Natural Area. Length of the hike will range from 4 to 7 miles depending on the group.

Open to ages 13 and over; minors

must be accompanied by an adult; group size limited to the first 12 people; no pets please. Dress appropriately and wear sturdy shoes for hiking over rough terrain; bring two liters of water and a snack.

GCSNA is located at 12861 Galm Rd (Take FM 1560 west from Helotes to Galm Rd). There is a \$6 entrance fee (\$3 seniors). Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater harvesting tower by 8:15 am for an 8:30 am sharp departure with finish by noon. Subject to cancellation. Difficulty: Moderate (some steep/rocky sections). Contact Sierra Club co-leader [Nancy Anderson](#), (210) 370-9459, if you require additional information.

### Saturday, Dec. 11: Government Canyon State Natural Area

Length from 4 to 7 miles depending on group. \$6 entrance fee (\$3 seniors). Meet at Visitors Center by rainwater harvesting tower at 8:15

a.m. for an 8:30 a.m. departure. Finish by noon. Call Sierra Club co-leader Chris Anderson, 838-1952, for more information.

### Saturday, Jan. 8: Government Canyon State Natural Area

See previous Government Canyon outings descriptions, but contact Sierra Club co-leader Stan Drezek (493-0939) if you require additional information.

### Saturday, Feb. 12: Government Canyon State Natural Area

See previous Government Canyon outings descriptions, but contact Sierra Club co-leader Nancy Anderson, 210-370-9459, if you require additional information.

### Saturday, Mar. 12: Government Canyon State Natural Area

Contact Chris Anderson, 838-1952, for more information.

# Meeting Dates and Contact Information

General Meeting	3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.	Peggy Day	829-5632
Executive Committee Mtg.	3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m.	Peggy Day	829-5632
Newsletter Submissions	Deadline, 8th of each month	Wendell Fuqua	734-8281
Political Committee Mtg.	2d Thursday, 7 p.m.	Russell Seal	289-9088
Newsletter Mail Party	2d Tuesday, 7 p.m.	Jim Stewart	692-0727
Outings Committee Mtg.	1st Wed., every odd month., 7 p.m.	Jerry Morrissey	497-5470
Conservation Committee Mtg.	1st Thursday, 7 p.m.	L. Van Coppenolle	492-4620

**Alamo Group of the Sierra Club  
Executive Committee Officers & Members**

Margaret (Peggy) Day, Chair Person	829-5632
Loyd Cortez, Vice Chair Person	674-9489
Wendell Fuqua	373-0748
Hector Gonzalez	226-6069
Mary Ellen Garcia	344-1581
Dave Wells	271-0640
Scott Wolfe	724-2707
Denali Endicott	629-2434
Sharon Dukes (non voting), Treasurer	828-3721

<b>Administrative Contacts</b>	
Programs	Barbara McMillin 734-4170
Fundraising	Vacant
Publicity	Vacant
Mailings	Jim Stewart 692-0727
Membership	Vacant
Newsletter	Wendell Fuqua 373-0748
Website	Richard Alles 494-2088

<b>Committee Contacts</b>	
Outings	Jerry Morrissey 497-5470
Political	Russell Seal 289-9088
Outreach	
And Education	Carolyn Wells 271-0640

<b>Conservation Contacts</b>	
Conservation Chair	L. Van Coppenolle 492-4620
Assistant Chair	R. Carroll-Bradd 216-6125
Endangered Species	Fred Wells 673-9566
Flouridation	L. Van Coppenolle 492-4620
Organic Gardening	Dave Klar 495-2148
Recycling	Carolyn Wells 271-0640
Tree Conservation	Richard Alles 494-2088
Volunteer Coord.	Vacant
Water Issues	Jerry Morrissey 497-5470

**U.S. Congresspersons**

Charlie Gonzalez	472-6195	<b>City Council (Continued)</b>
Lamar Smith	821-5024	Dist. 2: Ivy R. Taylor 207-7278
Henry Cuellar	271-2851	Dist. 3: Jennifer Ramos 207-7064
Ciro Rodriguez	922-1874	Dist. 4: Philip A. Cortez 207-7281
		Dist. 5: David Medina, Jr. 207-7043
		Dist. 6: Ray Lopez 207-7065
		Dist. 7: Justin Rodriguez 207-7044
		Dist. 8: W. Reed Williams 207-7086
		Dist. 9: Elisa Chan 207-7325
		Dist. 10: John G. Clamp 207-7276

**City Council**

Mayor Julian Castro	207-7060
Dist. 1: M. A. Cisneros	207-7279

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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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
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Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club  
 Mastercard  Visa Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

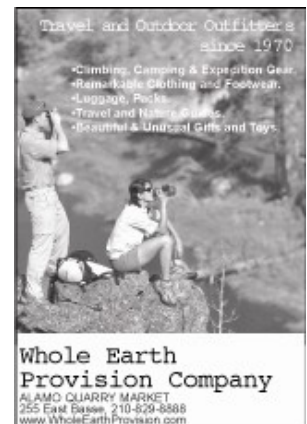
Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

	<b>INDIVIDUAL</b>	<b>JOINT</b>
<b>INTRODUCTORY</b>	<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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**Sierra Club**  
 P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO, 80322-2968

**Join Online!**  
 Join online today and receive a free Expedition Pack! Just go to our website at [http:// Alamosierraclub.org](http://Alamosierraclub.org) and click Join the Sierra Club



**Alamo Group website address  
[www.alamosierraclub.org](http://www.alamosierraclub.org)**

Thanks to Dave Hammeren of The Printed Word, 6502 Bandera Rd., Suite 205, San Antonio, Texas, Telephone 520-5700 for our nominal newsletter cost