

Redwood Needles



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Volume 54 Number 4

Newsletter of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club

August/Sept. 2013

Benicia Faces Crude Awakening

BY VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR

Early in July several Sierra Club entities including the Redwood Chapter joined representatives of other environmental organizations to express concern to the City of Benicia about the proposed Valero Crude-by-Rail Project. This proposed rail terminal could significantly impact the Suisun Marsh, reduce emergency response time, and increase traffic and noise. Most alarmingly, it might also lead to imports of very high-sulfur, low-quality crude oil from Canada's tar sands winding up at Valero's Benicia refinery – with predictably negative effects on Bay Area air quality!

The city intends to base project approvals on a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) that was issued on May 31. This level of review is totally inadequate for a project with such great potential to harm air quality, public health, public safety, and the ecology of the area, with risks not only to residents of Benicia but also to the entire region. At the very minimum, a full Environmental Impact Report must be undertaken before allowing this project to forward. For a detailed evaluation of the failings of the MND, see the comment letter available at our new blog, sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com.

At press time, we were encouraging Benicia residents

to find out more by attending a community meeting where the Natural Resources Defense Council planned to present expert research findings on potential environmental impacts, including local air pollution. On July 11 the Benicia Planning Commission had scheduled a formal hearing on the Crude-by-Rail, where they were being asked to assess the project's potential effects on the environment, without the information that only a full Environmental Impact Report can provide. Sierra Club representatives from throughout the region intended to present comments, and— especially!— to request that an EIR be conducted.

**Sierra Club Sonoma Group
Environmental Forum**

Russian River Watershed

September 16th

7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Environmental Center,

55A Ridgeway Avenue, Santa Rosa

The Russian River watershed provides water and other services to a large portion of our county. It is also of great historic and cultural importance locally. Come hear a panel of experts discuss this precious resource.

For more information contact Annabel Ascher:
707-508-9645, annabelascher@yahoo.com

Redwood Chapter Joins the Blogging Community!

The Redwood Chapter is continuing to expand its abilities to communicate with our members. Since the last issue of the Needles announced our entry to the Facebook community, we have created a Wordpress blog and made several postings on subjects as geographically and topically diverse as the Klamath River and Bay Area refineries. Please check it out -- and leave your comments -- at sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com.

By the way our Facebook page has gathered more than 150 followers in the few short weeks it has been in existence. Please check that out too (it's open for public view at facebook.com/SierraClubRedwoodChapter) and click the "like" button to get up-to-the-minute news from all around the North Coast and beyond.



Long-time Humboldt Bay activist Melvin "Cappy" McKinney passed away in June. See the North Group Report on page 6.



Wilderness 50: Calling for Your Photos and Stories

As mentioned in previous issues of the Redwood Needles, the Sierra Club is participating in a nationwide celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act, which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964. Here on the North Coast we're particularly fortunate

to have no fewer than 15 federally-designated Wilderness Areas, located in four of the Chapter's six local Groups. As our contribution to Wilderness 50, we are in the process of preparing a guidebook to these areas that will make basic information about

each of our Wilderness Areas— where is it? why is it special? how to get there? what to do there?— readily available to Club members and the general public.

The basic information has been assembled and most of the volume has been written, but it still needs more photographs, and some personal stories about hikes and other wilderness adventures. To make this volume truly special, we need help from you, our members. Please send photos and written accounts to Victoria Brandon by email to vbrandon@lifelive.info (preferred) or mail them to the Chapter office, P.O. Box 466, Santa Rosa CA 95402. For more information, and to arrange to submit an oral account of your special experience, call Victoria at 707 994 1931.

Volunteer Opportunity Russian River Watershed Cleanup

9:00 a.m.,

Sept. 28th and 29th, 2013

Three locations depending on what section of river you will be working on. The first day we get in the river and clean it up. The second day we sort the trash. Come out and get your hands dirty (or at least wet) cleaning up Sonoma County's largest watershed.

For more information contact Annabel Ascher 707-508-9645 annabelascher@yahoo.com

Redwood Chapter Sierra Club Directory

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Redwood Chapter

The Redwood Chapter is governed by an executive committee, with one (1) member delegated by each of six (6) regional groups and six (6) members elected at large. Each group elects its own executive committee.

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Redwood Needles

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Redwood Chapter & Sonoma Group Office

Location: Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway Ave., Santa Rosa

The Office is staffed most weekday afternoons. Call ahead to confirm, 544-7651. The Office is also open during evening meetings (see listings on last page) and at other times when volunteers are present.

Redwood Chapter Online

Redwood Chapter Website: <http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org>
for Group Websites, add: /napa, /north, /sonoma, /lake, /mendocino, or /solano

Sequoia Paddlers: www.sequoiapc.org

Redwood-Sonoma-Alerts Listserv: Instructions at Sonoma Group Website

Working for Conservation in DC

Late in May I had the privilege of joining Tuleyome Executive Director Sara Husby-Good, Lake County Supervisor Denise Rushing, and Napa County Supervisor Diane Dillon on a trip to Washington advocating for the permanent protection of the Berryessa-Snow Mountain region. This spectacular "hidden landscape" covers some 350,000 acres in five counties, and stretches 100 miles from Snow Mountain Wilderness in the north to Lake Berryessa in the south. Carefully crafted bills designating it as a National Conservation Area have been introduced in both the House and Senate.

We had cordial personal meetings with all three Congressional sponsors, who happen to be Redwood Chapter's wonderful representatives Jared Huffman, John Garamendi and Mike Thompson, and also met with staff members from the offices of Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and from several key committees. Scheduling a committee hearing is the first step towards passage of this legislation, which is strongly supported by the Sierra Club. Although it's impossible to tell the extent to which our appeal advanced the cause, the meetings were all constructive, and highly informative in both directions.

We also benefitted from the happy accident of arriving in Congressman Garamendi's office just as the bells were ringing for a vote in the chamber— a summons that all members must respond to immediately. Instead of leaving us cooling our heels while he went off to perform his legislative duties, Congressman Garamendi invited us to "come along" with him and an aide as they plunged through a series of long tunnels to reach the Capitol itself. After voting, he introduced us to Oregon Representative Peter De Fazio (expected to be the next ranking member of the House Energy and Natural Resources committee) whom we

Chapter Chair Report

briefed (very briefly!) on the proposal, and we had our appointed meeting right there in the corridor outside the Congressional chamber. The Congressman then had to move on to the next item on his schedule, but his aide stayed with us to provide a tour of some of the historic features of the building. I didn't realize till afterwards what a great stroke of luck all this was: it turns out that security is so tight these days the only way to see the Capitol at all is either to be invited by a member as we were, or to sign up long in advance for a conducted tour.

By the way, for more Congressional news, on June 13 Representative Huffman's first bill in Congress— HR 1411, adding the Stornetta public lands on the Mendocino coast to the California Coastal National

Monument— passed the Natural Resources Committee with unanimous bipartisan support. Next stop, the House floor!

Walker Ridge Update

An Environmental Impact Statement for this wind farm proposal (on BLM land on the border between Lake and Colusa counties just north of Highway 20) has been in the works for nearly three years, with a projected completion date that keeps receding every time it is approached. Now Rich Burns, manager of the BLM's Ukiah Field Office, says that the EIS is at a "standstill," with some key aspects of the project

still undetermined. Most significantly, a site for the intertie site where it would connect with PG&E's transmission lines has still not been located.

Nonetheless, a representative of the project developer appeared before the Clearlake City Council on June 13 not only to provide an update but also to request an expression of support. Although renewable energy offers many benefits, this project could also have a number of environmental impacts that need careful mitigation, so it seemed highly premature to ask for support with the environmental review incomplete and with project details still unknown. I asked the Council to wait until all the evidence is in before coming to a conclusion, and am delighted to report that despite a pugnacious counter argument from a former mayor who suggested that the Sierra Club "wants us all to live in caves" all five council members agreed with me.

Klamath River and Klamath Basin

In June, the Redwood Chapter was very proud to have played an instrumental role helping the Sierra Club craft a position paper on Klamath River issues, in time to submit it into the record of a Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee hearing held on June 20. Oregon Senator Ron Wyden chairs the committee. The letter, which was co-signed by seven other environmental organizations, proposes five key elements to address the chronic water crisis in the Klamath Basin, and the damage being done to some of America's most important National Wildlife Refuges:

- Ensure basic survival water levels for the refuges
- Phase out private lease-land agriculture
- Bring demand for water back into balance with supply
- Implement management recommendations based on the best available science
- Reconsider dam removal through the federal relicensing process

The complete letter, which is impassioned, detailed, and authoritative, can be found by following the link on the home page of the Chapter website, www.redwood.sierraclub.org/.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, REDWOOD CHAPTER CHAIR



Victoria Brandon, Sara Husby-Good, Congressman John Garamendi, Denise Rushing, and Diane Dillon in the corridor outside the House Chamber.

Non-Sierra Club Outings

The following activities and events are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

September 28-29 Russian River Watershed Cleanup.

Join over 250 fellow volunteers on September 28-29, 2013 in this fun, inspiring community event. On Saturday we will remove plastic and other man-made materials from the river so this trash does not wash out to the ocean and wind up in bodies of birds, fish, whales, and dolphins or in the Pacific Garbage patch. The clean-up will occur along 55 miles of river between Cloverdale and Duncan's Mill by canoe and by foot. Trash is sorted on Sunday. For more information or to register, go to www.russianrivercleanup.org.

Saturday Saunters for Santa Rosa Area.

Every Saturday. Meets 9 am and usually ends around 11:30. These walks are moderate. Fun way to exercise with friends. For info call Bob Martin 707-539-6300.

Sonoma County Regional Parks trail work days.

On the day of the project you can call 707-548-4424 for an update or if you get lost coming to the park. Your support and dedication to our County's trails really makes a big difference. To RSVP for any of these projects please call John at 707-565-3356. ParksVolunteer@sonoma-county.org

Volunteer Days Riverkeeper Stewardship Park in Guerneville, Every Wednesday.

8:30 - 11:30 am, for all or part of the time. Park is located on the north bank of Russian River directly upstream Guerneville pedestrian bridge. Access entrance from the driveway in front of Sonoma Nesting Co. (16132 Main Street, just east of Armstrong Woods Rd. At bottom of driveway look for blue & white "Russian Riverkeeper Stewardship Park" sign. Bring drinking water & wear sturdy footwear. Light refreshments provided. Info Victoria Wikle 865-2474 VictoriaWikle@usa.net.

If you wish your request to be used locally, be sure to specify "Sierra Club Redwood Chapter" or the name of your local Group in your request.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create an Environmental Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental success over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:
Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
83 Second Street, Second Floor
San Francisco, CA 94107
gift.planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4278



Built by Sierra Club members in 1934, this rustic, hostel-style lodge stands atop historic Donner Pass, just an hour and a half from Sacramento.

Clair Tappaan Lodge is the perfect summer base camp for anyone who enjoys the wide variety of activities offered by the Tahoe area. Explore wildflower gardens and expansive views while hiking the nearby Pacific Crest Trail. Short hikes to secluded mountain lakes begin at the Lodge and are perfect for introducing the family to the mountains. Donner Lake offers great kayaking, swimming, and fishing while Donner Summit has long been a destination for rock climbers and mountain bikers.

Guests enjoy excellent family style meals, a friendly staff and a casual and communal atmosphere.

See you on Donner Summit...



For more information about our special programs or to receive a full schedule and description of Clair Tappaan programs please visit our website at www.ctl.sierraclub.org or call (800) 679-6775.

Outings

Fri.-Mon. July 26-29 - Eastern Nevada Wilderness Service.

Once again, we partner with ranger John from BLM in Ely for a scintillating Wilderness service project in eastern Nevada. We've worked in the Mt. Grafton Wilderness south of Ely, the Highland Ridge, just south of Great Basin National Park, and the Becky Peak Wilderness in the Schell Creek Range north of Ely. Where will it be this time? Sign up and find out. We do know – it will be useful, enjoyable, hard work for wilderness with pleasing camaraderie in a wild, scenic area. Central commissary offered for usual exorbitant fee, contact Vicky Hoover, 415-977-5527, or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org.

Sat. Aug. 10 - Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve in Vallejo.

Our walk takes us along a historic road to the highest point at the south end of Mare Island with spectacular views towards the Carquinez Strait, San Pablo and San Francisco Bays. Perhaps ospreys great blue herons and other raptors including kites and redtail hawks might be seen along the way. There are also various historical features and native plants to be seen. This walk is a fairly easy 3.5 mile r/t walk mostly along a gradually inclined paved road from 9:30-11:00. Class E-4-A. Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take the Mare Island exit just west of Vallejo. Follow

Walnut Ave. south to 'G' St. (1st stop sign) and turn left. Take the 2nd right at Nimitz and go to 15th S. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk where there is ample parking space. Leader Brian Collett 530 220-3121 Participants are free to bring lunch and eat at the Preserve picnic tables and then explore other trails on Mare Island. There are also nearby museums.

Sat. Aug. 17 - North Group Ma-le'l Dunes Cooperative Management Area, Ledik Trail to Du'k Loop Trail.

Come with your kids and explore this BLM and Fish & Wildlife Service Cooperative Management Area and experience a biologically diverse dune community, one of the most pristine in the Pacific Northwest. We will see a coastal forest, sand dunes and the beach. Wear sturdy shoes and bring liquids and lunch. No strollers. Class: E-1.5-A. Meet 10 am Ma-le'l Dunes South parking area, turning off Samoa Blvd (Hwy 255) onto Young Lane, make a left and follow sign to parking lot (park near restroom). Leader Allison 707-268-8767. Rain cancels.

Sun. Aug. 25 - North Group Humboldt Redwoods State Park River Trail.

Starting in spectacular Rockefeller Forest, we'll travel south through a mixed redwood forest to the Park Visitor Center for lunch before returning along the same route.

Highlights include Decker Creek, the ruins of Forest Lodge, and a redwood stump house. Bring lunch, sturdy shoes and plenty of water. No dogs. Class M-9-A. Carpools: Meet 9:30 am Herrick Road Park and Ride. 10:30 am Rockefeller Loop trailhead (off Mattole Road, 1.4 miles west of Hwy. 101). Leader Bill 707-839-5971.

Sat. Sept. 7 - North Group Redwood Creek Levee, Orick.

Blackberries and the beach; hike from Orick to the ocean along the Redwood Creek Levee, then north along the beach towards Mussel Point before returning. Bring water and lunch. Fit, well-socialized dogs with leash and adequate water are welcome. Class M-8-A. Carpools: Meet 10 am McKinleyville Safeway Parking Lot. 11 am in Orick on Hwy. 101 bridge over Redwood Creek. Leader Bill 707-839-5971.

Sat.-Sun. Sept 7-8 - 2nd Benson Hut Work Party.

Benson Hut work party involves hiking 3 miles to the Benson Hut Saturday morning, hut maintenance Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, then hiking back Sunday afternoon. Maintenance involves stocking the hut with wood, repairs, staining and cleanup. Good exercise, wonderful setting and great fun. Friday night stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge included with work party (Dinner Friday night and breakfast Saturday am). Contact leader Jim Gannon (707)-525-1052 jgannon99@sbcglobal.net for sign up or questions.

Sat. Sept 14 - Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve in Vallejo.

Our walk takes us along a historic road to the highest point on Mare Island with spectacular views towards the Carquinez Strait, San Pablo and San

Francisco Bays. Perhaps great blue herons and other raptors including kites and redtails might be seen along the way. There are also various historical features and native plants to be seen. This walk is a fairly easy 3.5 mile r/t walk mostly along a gradually inclined paved road from 9:30-11:00. Class E-4-A. Take U.S. 101, I-80 or Hwy 29 to Highway 37 and take the Mare Island exit just west of Vallejo. Follow Walnut Ave. south to 'G' St. (1st stop sign) and turn left. Take the 2nd right at Nimitz and go to 15th S. stop sign and turn right. Go to Railroad Ave. and turn left. Follow Railroad through the South Gate to the Park kiosk where there is ample parking space. Leader Brian Collett 530 220-3121 Participants are free to bring lunch and eat at the Preserve picnic tables and then explore other trails on Mare Island. There are also nearby museums.

Sat.-Sun. Sept. 14-15 - Bristlecone Pines.

Come with us to the beautiful White Mtns to camp, hike and just relax. On Sat, we'll hike the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest on a moderate 5 mi r/t interpretive trail, followed by a picnic lunch and a short optional hike to a nearby old mining cabin. Back at camp, we'll enjoy Happy Hour, a potluck feast and a campfire. Sunday pack up and head home. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (check payable to Lygeia Gerard), 2 large SASE, H&W phones, email address, rideshare info to Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372; 760-868-2179

Sat.-Sun. Sept. 14-15 - Indian Wells Canyon Service and Hike.

Indian Wells Canyon, north of Ridgecrest and adjacent to the Owens Peak Wilderness, has been impacted by erosion and by illegal

ORV trespass. On Saturday, our group will assist BLM Wilderness Resource Specialist Marty Dickes putting up barriers, concealing illegal routes, and placing signs. If the work has been completed adequately then Sunday will be used for a hike up into the Wilderness and perhaps to Owens Peak itself. The ponderosa forest and chaparral should provide a delightful diversion in the early fall. Leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670; Contact: Tom Budlong, TomBudlong@roadrunner.com, 310-476-1731.

Sun. Sept. 15 - Lake Group Silverado Hike.

Hike to and through the old town site of Silverado which lies within RLS state park on Mt. St. Helena. No buildings remain from the mining town that was home to over 1,000 but the 1960 restoration of the area for tourism left several buildings and the layout of the old mining town is still intact.

Fruit trees and other ornamentals date back to the early 1900's. We will continue to the ridge which divides the Napa River and Russian River watersheds. Class E-2-A Meet 8:00 a.m. at the RLS parking area on the east side of highway 29. Reserve with leader Pete McGee at 942 1373 or Montesol@hughes.net

Fri.-Sun. Sept 27-29 - Service and Hiking in the Carrizo Plains.

This is an opportunity to visit and to assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. There will be an optional and scenic hike high in the Caliente Mountains on Friday. Others may join us for National Public Lands Day on Saturday when we will participate with other volunteers doing trail maintenance. On Sunday we will tour a number of the historic,

Instructions to hikers

Outings will start not later than 15 minutes after scheduled meeting time. The leader is in charge of the trip and is responsible for your welfare and the good name of the Club. He/she must have your cooperation to make the trip safe, pleasant and rewarding. Never charge ahead of the leader and keep within sight or shouting distance of the person ahead of you so you do not miss an intersecting trail. Do not lag behind rear leader: if you need help, the rear leader will remain to assist you. Do not leave the group without the leader's permission.

Be adequately equipped and prepared. You should carry lunch and liquids. Wear footwear appropriate for the outing. In most cases that would be hiking boots.

Guard against fire. Do not smoke on Sierra Club outings. Build fires only with the leader's permission, and extinguish them completely. Guns, pets, or radios are not to be brought on hikes.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Participants assume the risks associated with travel. Reimburse the carpool driver. Carpools are not part of the outing but a means of conserving natural resources.

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Visitors are welcome

All Sierra Club trips are open to the public unless otherwise announced. You are free to bring all members of your family and guests. Children are usually welcome, but please call the leader to make sure it is an appropriate hike.

DIFFICULTY	MILEAGE	ELEVATION GAIN
E - Easy	Actual	A - Less than 1,000
M - Moderate	Mileage	B - 1,000 to 2,000
H - Hard		C - 2,000 to 3,000
S - Strenuous		D - over 3,000
V - Very Strenuous		

The actual mileage will be listed for each trip. Elevation gain will reflect the gain from the start of the hike to the highest point. If you need to know the cumulative gain, please contact the leader.

To submit outings write-ups

Send all outings write-ups to: Carol Vellutini, Outings Chair, (carolvslr@sonic.net) by the 8th of the month. All leaders must coordinate their outings with their Group Outings Chair.

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Mendo Group's Outings are Fantastic!

Leader Jonah Freedman has been leading awesome educational outings. I went on the outing to the UC Hopland Field Station. The Rod Shippey Building is a new green building for students, and most of the work and materials were donated. The rooms are filled with educational specimens and posters. A huge conference room has the biggest ceiling fan I have ever seen. Students come from all over the U.S. to study. Our tour guide, wildlife biologist & HREC superintendent Robert Keiffer, gave us tremendous amounts of information on the research projects in progress. (It was like a classroom lecture.) The tour of the property was on dirt roads through oak woodlands going up to the ridge tops affording us 360 degree views of the landscape. Some wildflowers were still blooming.

Next I went on Jonah's outing to The Angelo Coast Range Reserve. (5 1/2 hour round trip of driving) This property was The Nature Conservancy's first preserve (1959) west of the Mississippi. In 1994 the property was transferred to the UC's Natural Reserve System (a statewide system of biologically diverse natural areas dedicated to teaching & research). After driving all the way up to Laytonville and then turning west on Branscomb to a little road on the right I was hoping we would soon be there. However that road then turned to a narrow dirt road and I prayed that I would not meet anyone coming out as backing up would be interesting. I was lucky and found myself finally at the parking area. Our group was treated to a hike that went by so many beautiful meadows with old growth redwoods and firs circling the grassy areas. I thought that Elder Creek was

the south fork of the Eel River. Elder creek was swiftly flowing and the Eel was barely moving. Crossing the Eel was interesting. No bridges, just wood plank foot bridges to cross the Eel, testing your balance skills. There are many trails in the reserve and each one is a delight. If the old



There are no permanent bridges on trails in the Angelo Coast Range Reserve. Crossings are on planks.

homestead buildings could talk, a great story would be told. Old orchards were by our White house lunch stop. The white house had a green door. (Remember that song?) This trail was where I saw a firecracker flower for the first time. That made my day!! The reserve has forested low mountains ranging in elevation from 1200 feet to the top of Cahto Peak at 4200 feet. Birds, wildlife abound and I hear there are exotic orchids on the reserve. Thank you Jonah for the great Mendo hikes!

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

prehistoric, and geologic sites in the Monument. Leader Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Committee

Sun. Sept. 29 - North Group Redwood National Park, Former Coastal Drive Hike.

Follow the old Coastal Drive roadway along high, wooded bluffs, with several openings affording fine views of the ocean, to our destination, High Bluffs Overlook. Only a very few, brief steep grades. At High Bluffs Overlook, we will enjoy a leisurely break to enjoy the view and picnic facilities before our return by the same route. You may arrange to be dropped at the trailhead and joined at the Overlook by a companion with vehicle and picnic. Class E-6-A. No dogs on hike (OK at Overlook). Carpools: Meet 9 am Valley West Shopping Center. 10:15 am trailhead, the Coastal Drive gate closure about 1.4 mile north of intersection with Newton B Drury Parkway. Leader Melinda 707-668-4275 or mgroomster@gmail.com. Rain cancels.

Sat.-Sun. Oct. 12-13 - Explore and Serve in the Carrizo Plains.

This weekend is part of a continuing project to aid the mobility of pronghorn antelope in the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Our service on Saturday will either remove or modify several sections of fence for the benefit of these ungulates. Sunday will be, at the choice of the group, either a hike in the Caliente Range or else a tour of popular viewing areas in the plains. This is an opportunity to combine car camping, day-hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. CNRCC Desert Committee

Sat. Oct. 26 - Mendo Group Abhayagiri Buddhist Monastery, 1 PM.

Set in the northern reaches of Redwood Valley on Tomki Rd, the monastery is sited on a quiet and peaceful south facing hillside. Taking a total of 2 hours or so, we will be given a tour by one of the monks that will include a 1.5 mile hike on the hillside above

the monastery. This loop trail, though short, has significant elevation changes as we reach the top where we can enjoy great views looking south into Redwood Valley. Ankle high boots recommended along with a hiking pole and layered clothing per the weather and season. Directions: Hwy 101 north through Ukiah and take Exit 557, West Road toward Redwood Valley. Right on West Rd, drive 3.5 miles to Tomki Road, then left on Tomki for about 3.8 miles. Then right into monastery parking lot and walk on up to buildings where we will meet our guide. Meet to carpool at 12:15 pm at the Raley's parking lot in front of O'Reilly Auto Parts or at the monastery at 1 pm. Class M-2-A. Space limited so please RSVP. Leader Jonah Freedman, 4671877, jonahfreedman@sbcglobal.net. Rain cancels. Carpools from Santa Rosa RSVP Carol 546-6308 carolvsr@sonic.net will leave Park & Ride Fulton Rd. 10 am to stop in Ukiah at Schats bakery first & then meet carpool at 12:15.

Sat.-Sun. Oct. 26-27 - Sat.-Sun. Ghost Town Extravaganza.

Spend Halloween weekend with the ghosts of California's colorful past. Primitive camp at the historic ghost town of Ballarat in the eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. On Sat, do a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City and hear tales of this wild west town from historian Hal Fowler. Return to camp for Happy Hour and a potluck feast, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. On Sun, a quick visit to the infamous Riley townsite before heading home. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (check payable to Lygeia Gerard), 2 large SASE, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Ldr: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372, 760-868-2179. CNRCC Desert Committee.

Classified Ads

WOMEN'S TRIPS - Yosemite, Kings Canyon, Sequoia! Visit sierrasisters.net or call Janet at (707)874-2126.

Outings Chair Report

Needed are more volunteers to help with the work parties at Benson Hut. Redwood Chapter is responsible for stocking the hut with wood, cleaning the hut, bringing up water, and readying it for the winter season. Volunteers receive a free Friday night's stay at Clair Tappaan Lodge with a delicious dinner and Sat. breakfast. The hike in is along scenic Pacific Crest Trail. What could be better than that? Next work party is in September. Support your chapter. Contact leader Jim Gannon to register early. See Sept. outings page.

I can't wait to attend Clair Tappaan's fundraiser weekend of August 24th. If you haven't stayed at our Lodge you are missing out on Sierra Cub history. Hope to see you there.

Sadly, horseback riders have been injured in Marin's Indian Tree Preserve and on Folsom's Pioneer Express Trail (not open to mountain bikes) by speeding mountain bikers. These are terrible accidents. I wish the injured a speedy recovery. A similar situation exists with hikers and mountain bikers. Many have been injured. Equestrian riding and hiking are calm passive sports and mountain biking, in many cases, is an aggressive fast sport. On narrow trails with blind corners, and steep ravines it is difficult to maintain a safe environment for slow hikers, horseback riders and fast moving bikers. The demand for recreational use of the roads and trails grows every year, as do conflicts among user groups and impacts from use to the natural environment. If any of you or a family member has



Ready to hike the Walker Meadow Loop, a beautiful, rambling walk to the meadows and redwoods in Mendocino County. See article about Mendocino Group hiking on page four.

been injured while using public trails you know that in many cases recovery is a long process and in some cases changes your life forever. With an aging population who use public trails for recreation and passive exercise, I only hope that managers of public trails will address the growing concern of users for a safe experience. The mountain bikes for 2014 are being advertised as being able to go faster & brake harder (hydraulic disk brakes) with tires 27.5" that will "rip" through trails, especially going around tight corners. I understand that mountain biking is a form of recreation for many people, especially teens. I only hope that park managers will set aside parks for mountain biking only. In doing so, each user group will enjoy their recreational time in the manner that is meaningful to them. Those that choose to bring small children and groups to passively enjoy trails and want to enjoy conversations and look at the scenery without having to jump out of the way of mountain bikes will then have trails to do so safely.

—CAROL VELLUTINI, REDWOOD CHAPTER OUTINGS CHAIR

It's Time to Protect Our Wild Places

What do the awe-inspiring wonder of the Grand Canyon, the ancient beauty of California's Big Sequoia forests, and the smoldering giant Mount St. Helens all have in common?

These national treasures were all permanently protected as national monuments by a sitting President, and that's why we are able to enjoy them without fear that they will be ruined by mining, drilling or clear-cutting.

America is blessed with a great diversity of natural wonders, some of the most amazing archeological, historical, and ecological treasures on Earth. Yet too many of these treasured lands lack the full protection they richly deserve. These are places like the Organ Mountains of New Mexico, the Canyonlands of Utah and the Grand Canyon Watershed of Arizona. These places are too special for us to allow them to be destroyed by mining,

drilling or clear-cutting -- they should be protected as national monuments.

President Obama has already taken steps in the right direction by making Forts Monroe and Ord national monuments-- but there's more to do.

The President can establish his own legacy by making some of our special places national monuments-- starting with a piece of the California Coast, Fort Ord. The site of a former army post, it's one of the last wild places on the stunning Monterey Peninsula: home to mountain lions, golden eagles and red-tailed hawks and prized for hiking and cycling.

Tell President Obama that now is the time for him to establish his Presidential legacy by naming some of our most special wild places as national monuments by visiting <http://content.sierraclub.org/ourwildamerica/national-monuments-and-wilderness> and clicking on the "Tell Obama: Protect wild lands!" button to send your message.

Ratings for Outings Leaders

How fast or slow do you go?

Wonder if an outing leader walks fast or slow? Keep in mind that the leader's speed is but one part of hiking. How high up a mountain the hike starts, the total mileage and elevation gain (up hill) and loss (down hill) greatly affect the difficulty of a hike, regardless of how fast or slow you walk. If you have any doubts about being able to do a hike or have other questions, please call the leader to discuss your concerns. These ratings only serve as a guide and are not a substitute for you being in appropriate physical condition before participating in an outing.

Leaders are grouped according to how fast they normally hike. Please keep in mind that this info is to help you decide if a hike is right for you. The outing rating instructions to hikers is also important for participants to read. Look at the difficulty of the hike. If the rating is moderate with few or more frequent stops a fast pace hiker must hike slower to accommodate that rating.

Fast-pace with few or no stops: Jim Gannon Paul Bozzo Carol Magill

Moderate-pace with few stops:

Penny Proteau Don Anderson Steve Devoto Tiffany MacNeil
Isabelle Saint-Guily Lorrie Lagasse Boone Lodge Chip Bouril
Paul Farley

Moderate-pace with more frequent stops:

Pete McGee Tim Bartice Bill Knight Melinda Groom Val Nordeman
Carol Vellutini Yvonne Kramer Martin Farber Brian Collett
Jean Crossley Carl Inglin Tom McFarling Nanette DeDonato
Jonah Freedman

Slower-pace: Allison Bronkall

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Lake Group Report

List the Hitch under CESA!

On June 12 Lake Group submitted a letter to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife strongly recommending that the Clear Lake hitch (*Lavinia exilicauda* chi) be protected under the California Endangered Species Act. The Sierra Club has been actively involved in hitch conservation efforts since 2004, when volunteers began monitoring the annual spawning migration. Although hitch numbers had already fallen dramatically from their historic levels, at that time substantial spawning runs were still observed in many Clear Lake tributaries where only scattered individuals are now seen. Causes for the decline appear to include streambed barriers, dramatic loss of wetland habitat, both food competition and predation from introduced fish, and impairments to water quality. Add drought to the mix, and it all adds up to a perfect storm: the spawning run was meager in 2012 and nearly nonexistent in 2013.

This fish is under extreme stress, and may indeed have already passed the point of possible recovery. Listing under CESA is the only plausible means available to impose protective restrictions and possibly obtain the financial support needed to mount the substantial effort needed to give the species a chance to recover. In a touch of serendipity the improvements likely to improve the prospects for longterm survival—wetland restoration in particular—will also benefit the entire ecosystem of Clear Lake and the communities that surround it.

To see Lake Group's letter in its entirety, visit Redwood Chapter's brand new blog, sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com

Two Scholarships Awarded

For the second year in a row Lake Group has granted a pair of \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors from local high schools. At the Middletown High School awards ceremony on May 23 Lake Group Executive Committee member Julie Kreis presented an award to Jacob Andrew Gills of Cobb Mountain, who will be attending the University of California at Berkeley as a Society and Environment major. Jacob told the Group, "No matter which college I choose to attend next fall, my education will continue with one goal in mind— to lead the charge on the path towards sustainable energy, safe and healthy communities, and secure wild places." After the presentation ceremony, Julie reported, "Jacob is an energetic young man who has an impressive history of pursuing environmental interests since his middle school years . . . our group will be excited to follow his progress!"

Then on May 30 former Executive Committee member Debi Sally gave a second award to Lower Lake High School senior Benjamin Illia. Ben, who has been active in scouting since he was six years old and is an avid hiker and camper, did a report on solar and wind power in his high school chemistry class that inspired him "to want to use these technologies . . . in a career in the construction or agricultural fields. In furthering my education I would like to learn more about incorporating clean energy into these fields."

Lake Group congratulates all these fine young people, and wishes them every success on the next stage of their journey.

—VICTORIA BRANDON, LAKE GROUP

Sonoma Group Report

Sonoma Clean Power Advances

The Sonoma Group was active in June and July advocating for Sonoma Clean Power. Our efforts, along with those of the Climate Protection Campaign and dozens of other groups determined to get access to community choice power, were successful in convincing the cities of Santa Rosa, Cotati, Sebastopol, and Windsor to join the County of Sonoma in a joint powers agreement to supply electricity to their residents.

It was a testament to our work on this project that a City Council member, Erin Carlstrom, mentioned the Sierra Club by name as one of the environmental groups that convinced her to vote yes on Clean Power. The Santa Rosa council voted unanimously on July 9 to provide the Clean Power choice to its resident rate payers.

We circulated a Group letter in support of Sonoma Clean Power, which was published in the Press Democrat. On an individual level Dan Kerbein and Jessica Jones represented us during public comments at the Sebastopol, Santa Rosa and Cotati City Council meetings, speaking to the benefits of the project. Jessica also attended the Sonoma City Council, and a Santa Rosa Study Session.

Local Advocacy

We voted in accord with the Redwood Chapter in endorsing the 350 Bay Area Climate Protection Plan. We are asking the Air District's Climate Protection Committee to pass a Resolution affirming a commitment to develop a plan to reduce Bay Area GHG

emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

We joined with the Sonoma County Water Coalition in a letter thanking CalPers for dropping its Preservation Ranch plan to clearcut forests around the Gualala River. On a more oppositional note, we also paid out a portion of the court fees for the litigation expenses to halt Artesa Vineyard's plan to clear cut and plant vines.

We voted to become a sponsor of a local Plug In America event, Electric Car Plug In Day in Petaluma on Sept. 29th. There is no cost and we can table at the event. A similar event was done in April in Santa Rosa.

WalMart Watch

We continue to keep an eye on the situation with the Wal Mart Super Store that is proposed for Rohnert Park. Jessica Jones has been attending the meetings of the Living Wage Coalition, and met with Assembly member Mark Levine. WalMart is waiting to submit the EIR for unknown reasons. Related issues of AB80 and AB667, which would require Community Impact Reports, were discussed in conversations with Mark Levine.

Second Growth for Forest Protection Committee

We have been actively inviting community members with some experience advocating for the trees, to join our Forest Protection Committee. Two local residents have expressed an interest, and Suzanne is arranging meetings to get a new revitalized committee under way.

—DAN KERBEIN, SONOMA GROUP CHAIR

North Group Report

Long-time Humboldt Bay activist Melvin "Cappy" McKinney passed away in mid-June. He served for many years on the Executive Committee of North Group Sierra Club. (His photo appears on page 1 of this issue.) A celebration of his life was held on July 10 at the Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary in Eureka, an area he fought hard to protect. An article about Mel's accomplishments will appear in the August/September issue of EcoNews, the bimonthly publication of the Northcoast Environmental Center, which can be found online at www.yournec.org.

Over 50 people attended the 40th birthday celebration of the Patrick's Point Native Plant Garden on June 1. The event was cosponsored by North Group Sierra Club and organized by Tom Leskiw. Some visitors came through via walks led by Gary Lester (Redwood Region Audubon) and Bill Knight (Sierra Club), plus two tours were offered of the Sumeg Village (by Nancy Jo Martin and Skip Lowry). Volunteers from the North Coast Chapter of CNPS served as knowledgeable guides during the 5-hour event (Carol Ralph, Virginia Waters, Jenny Hanson, Sylvia White, Donna Wildearth, Bev Zeman,

Tom Leskiw). Sue Leskiw staffed information tables near the path to the garden.

Volunteer Opportunities

North Group needs a few good volunteers. Please make plans to attend a North Group Executive Committee meeting on the second Tuesday of each month, 6:45 p.m. at the Adorni Center in Eureka. Contact Ned or Gregg for details.

Picnicking with Audubon Sept. 28

North Group (NG) members are invited to mix and mingle with members of the local Audubon

chapter, Redwood Region Audubon, at a picnic organized by NG. The event will be held on Saturday, September 28, at Patrick's Point State Park in Trinidad. It will kick off at 10 a.m. with a bird walk led by Tom Leskiw, followed by a



Donna Wildearth (left) and Carol Ralph (right) show visitors the garden. Photo by Tom Leskiw.

potluck picnic at noon. Bring a dish to share; NG will provide place settings and drinks. There are facilities to grill. The site rental includes 25 day-use entries to the park, so please rideshare to the event. Call Sue Leskiw at (707) 442-5444 to obtain the information needed to get in at no charge (otherwise, there is an \$8 per car day-use fee).

—NED FORSYTH, NORTH GROUP VICE CHAIR

National Plug-In Day

September 29th, Petaluma, Washington Blvd

Learn how you can spare the air every day with today's electric vehicles at September's National Plug-In Day. Dealers will be available for test-drives and owners will be there to share their experiences driving an electric vehicle (EV). This event will be co-sponsored by the North Bay Electric Auto Association (NBEAA) and the Sierra Club's Sonoma Group.

Any Sierra Club members who are also EV or Plug-In Hybrid owners who wish to come and share their driving experience at the event should contact Richard Sachen 707-327-8298 / richard@rsachen.net or Alan Soule (President NBEAA) at alan@asoule.net.



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Kit Carson Lodge
Highway 88 at Silver Lake
www.kitcarsonlodge.com
or call: (209) 258-8500

Thanks to Nancy McCoy, Brian Hoffman, Adam Mangosing, Aaron Kofler and Jane Bogner for staffing the May and June paper shredding.

VALCORE Recycling and Confidential Paper Shredding 2013.

Solano Group will be working every 3rd Saturday of the month at 38 Sheridan Street, Vallejo from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Aug 17, Sep. 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 21). There is a charge of \$10 per twenty pounds of paper shredded. (maximum: 100 pounds). Sierra Club volunteers help tend the money and direct traffic. Once a year is all we ask and you only need work an hour or so. Volunteers get free shredding.

Lori's Native Plant Garden

We continually work at Lori's Native Plant Garden located at 225 Amador St, Vallejo. We weed, plant, prune and mulch year-round. If you have an hour, call Jane and she'll work with you to get you started. 707-319-6398

Wanted:

VALCORE Recycling Board Alternate: You may need to attend one meeting per year.

EXCOM: Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We meet on the

Solano Breeze Corner

Covering Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun, Vacaville and Vallejo
sierraclubsolanogroup@gmail.com 707-319-6398

first Thursday of the month and are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more members to help carry the load. Call Jane (707) 319-6398 or Greg (707) 386-6411 for current meeting info.

Help pay for our LANDFILL LAWSUIT.

(Our attorney's fees are 3000 cans per hour)
Please bring your CRV – CA Cash Refund containers down to VALCORE (38 Sheridan St. Vallejo, Mon - Sat, 10am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 4:30pm.

OR Cash them in at your local recycle center and send us a check for the refund amount.

We recently received donations from Marion Conning, John Kolarik, and others.

Vallejo Update:

Well there is good news and bad news. First the good tidings.

Winco has withdrawn their application to tear down the Elks lodge and replace it with a 70,000 sq. ft. discount supermarket. With the addition of a 50,000 sq.ft. Wal-Mart neighborhood store, and the conversion of Lucky's into a discount outlet, it seems that the market for discount grocers north of Redwood St. is saturated (a position that the Sierra Club has held for years). Winco had been sued and lost in court requiring it to revamp its EIR and correct the deficiencies that the court found.

The bad news is that the Solano Fairground redevelopment will go forward as envisioned by the Board of Supervisors. The ill-fated project has already lost its original developer and cost taxpayers over \$4 million. The Board majority will now be able to issue millions of dollars in bonds over the next decade to fund the development. With no anchor tenant signed, and a very suspect revenue projection, it is questionable whether the fairgrounds will ever generate enough revenue to repay the bondholders. Both the city and the county have approved the project's EIR, and there are no remaining roadblocks to the project. The only elected official to vote against the project was Skip Thomson. Many thanks to Skip.

–CONTRIBUTORS: JANE BOGNER, JOE FELLER

–EDITOR: GREG PETERSON

Mendocino Group Report

Willits Bypass Being Judged

The Willits Bypass has had its day in court and as of that day the judge had 90 days to render his decision. There was a very nice presence from the Willits community in the courtroom. Sierra Club representatives were present as were representatives from the Center for Biological Diversity and EPIC. After the hearing Ellen Drell went to the Commonwealth Club to confront the Director of CalTrans Malcolm Dougherty, who agreed to a sit down with her at a future date.

the process, Parks' latest step was to apply to the County for a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) needed to satisfy coastal regulations. This permit was approved by the planning department but is now being appealed by the Westport Municipal Advisory Council to the Board of Supervisors. The BOS will meet on August 13th in Fort Bragg to consider the appeal.

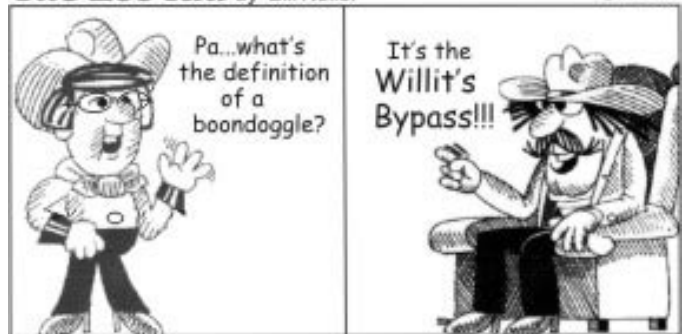
The appeal is aimed in large part at the impacts that removal of segments of haul road will have on public access and recreation. Our group believes that the value of these few remaining natural dune areas, home to rare plants and nesting habitat for the endangered snowy plover, far outweighs the relatively low level of recreational use of this segment, limited as it is by having been partly covered by sand and by having a large chunk washed out by the ocean. In addition, the segment to be removed is separated by almost a mile from the popular hiking and biking haul road that runs through MacKerricher State Park from Ward Avenue to Pudding Creek and that will not be affected by the project.

We urge Sierra Club members to attend the August 13th BOS hearing– check your local papers for time and venue– and/or write letters of support to the Supervisors. Please reference CDP #12-2012 or 10-Mile Dunes. Letters can be addressed to Board of Supervisors, County Administration Center, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah CA 95482 - or send via website email <http://co.mendocino.ca.us/bos/>.

For talking points, please read our comment letter online at <http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org/mendocino>.

–MARY WALSH AND LINDA PERKINS, MENDOCINO GROUP

The Eco Kid by Bill Nellor



Dune Restoration Supported

Our group is reviewing a California State Parks project at the Inglebrook Fen-Ten Mile Dunes Natural Preserve that aims to restore natural processes in the preserve by removing 2.7 miles of an old logging haul road that goes through the dunes and along the beach, and by hand removing invasive European Beach Grass from the dunes.

The project continues to move through a lengthy review process. Having completed and gotten approval for a Mitigated Negative Declaration, the CEQA part of



Angelo Coast Range Reserve Hike. Leader: Jonah Freedman. For more information about this hike, see article on page 4.

Napa Group Report

Members of the Napa Sierra executive committee are at the table as county staff develops two important environmental plans: Climate Action Plan and Groundwater Monitoring Plan.

Climate Action Plan

Napa County has restarted efforts to address greenhouse gas emissions in unincorporated areas. A Climate Action Plan presented in 2012 found disfavor with the Board of Supervisors. In July, the county called back previously active stakeholders like the Sierra Club and also initiated public roundtable discussions to "re-vision" the county's Climate Action Plan. The new approach is expected to focus on incentives and voluntary actions.

Groundwater Monitoring Plan

Napa County Groundwater Monitoring Plan 2013 was released earlier this year. The Groundwater Resources Advisory Committee (GRAC) has been working since 2011 to develop a program that will provide data for improved evaluation of this resource. With the help of volunteer well owners, the county will develop an extensive database that tracks groundwater elevation and groundwater quality. Members of the advisory committee are now knocking on the doors of those whose wells have been identified to meet the criteria for an improved data monitoring system. For most of those living in the unincorporated area, groundwater is the sole source of water supply.

The GRAC also created an ad hoc committee to work on developing Groundwater Sustainability Objectives. This action as well as the monitoring program are guided by Conservation Goals of the county's General Plan. Find more about GRAC at www.countyofnapa.org/planning/GRAC/.

–MARILEE TALLEY, NAPA GROUP CHAIR



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**Lead the Adventure!
Interested in Becoming an Outings Leader?**

Contact your Group Outings Chair (see page 2) or Carol Vellutini at 546-6308 or carolvslr@sonic.net for information.

Redwood Needles

October Deadline: Due September 8

Submit Articles/Reports/Ad Copy via e-mail to:
odavison@comcast.net

Send Outings to Carol Vellutini via e-mail: carolvsr@sonic.net

Send Meetings to Carl Inglin via e-mail: chinglin@sonic.net

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Or at Our New Blog:

sierraclubredwoodchapter.wordpress.com

For more details, see article on page one.

Meetings

Send all Meeting events by the 8th of the month to Carl Inglin: chinglin@sonic.net Sierra Club meetings are open to all members. You are welcome to participate or observe as often as you wish. Meetings are located in Sonoma County unless otherwise noted. Visitors should call the committee chair to verify time and place. The Sonoma County Environmental Center is located at 55A Ridgway Avenue in Santa Rosa (West of Hwy 101, two blocks North of College and 1 1/2 blocks West off of Cleveland Ave, South of Coddington).

Mon. Aug. 5 - Sonoma Group.

Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of three related meetings:

- The Climate & Energy Committee meets at 5:00 p.m., Info: contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

- Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

Thurs. Aug. 8 - Solano Group ExCom.

Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

Tues., Aug. 13, North Group ExCom.

The public is invited to attend the monthly meeting of the North Group Sierra Club's governing committee. Join us for a discussion of local conservation issues between 7:45 and 8:45 p.m., following the Executive Committee business meeting from 6:45-7:45 p.m. Meet at Adorni Center Conference Room on Eureka Waterfront. For

more information, call Gregg at 707-826-3740.

Tues. Aug. 20 - Napa Group ExCom.

7 p.m. Our location varies; it is generally at a member's home. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting should contact the chair, Nancy Tamarisk at nancy@aya.yale.edu

Wed., Aug. 21 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Mon. Sept. 2 - Sonoma Group.

Santa Rosa Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway is the site of three related meetings:

- The Climate & Energy Committee **No Meeting**, Info: contact Shirley, shirlgirl707@yahoo.com, 707-206-1138.

- Sonoma Group Conservation Committee at 5:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

- Sonoma Group Executive Committee at 6:30 p.m. Info: Info: Dan Kerbein, dkerbein@sonic.net

Tues. Sept. 10 - North Group ExCom.

Monthly North Group Sierra Club Executive Committee meeting. See Aug. 13 for details.

Thurs. Sept. 12 - Solano Group ExCom.

Come join us for our monthly meetings which rotate between Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. We are making a positive impact on our county and need a few more people to help carry the load. Call Jane for information. (707)319-6398.

Sat., Sept. 14 - Redwood Chapter ExCom.

Location: Environmental Center in Santa Rosa. Conservation Committee meets at 10 a.m., ExCom meets 1-3 p.m. Info: Victoria vbrandon@lifelive.info

Wed., Sept. 18 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Wed., Oct. 16 - The Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Wed., Nov. 20 - Sonoma Group Water Committee.

7:00 PM at the Environmental Center, 55A Ridgway, Santa Rosa. Contact Len Holt: 707-527-7516 or lholt@sonic.net

Sierra Club Sonoma Group Environmental Forum

CEQA: Protecting the Law that's Protecting Us!

August 29, 2013 at 7 p.m.

Speaker: Gary Patton

Location in Santa Rosa to be determined.

Please email Annabel Ascher at annabelascher@yahoo.com for more information, or visit the Sonoma Group website, www.redwood.sierraclub.org/sonoma/ for updates.

Sierra Club Volunteer/Activist Opportunities

Sonoma Group Hike Leaders: Sonoma Group outings leaders training. Always a need for more leaders for outings. If you would like a training, please email Carol carolvsr@sonic.net or call 546-6308 for info. People are requesting families with children, camping and easy hikes.

North Group Hike Leaders: North Group is desperately seeking hike leaders. Please contact Bill Knight, the Outings Chair, at bill.knight.email@gmail.com.

Meet with the Sonoma Group Water Committee! Your chance to make a difference. Come to our meetings at the Environmental Center at 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of most months. The Water Committee is working on issues related to measures to conserve, save, and reuse this valuable resource. Our goal is to preserve and improve the natural water environment, the responsible use of water by people, and the safe reuse or disposal of our wastewaters. Help protect the quality of our water for people, wildlife, fish and other aquatic life, promote water conservation and intelligent reuse. Recent activities include discussions concerning wells and groundwater studies and plans, creeks and the Russian River, and water issues related to the SE Greenway Campaign. Check for our meeting dates in the Needles. To get on our Water Committee e-mail list, e-mail Len Holt at lholt@sonic.net. If you are not able to attend our meetings, you may e-mail Len Holt with your concerns and ideas.

Get CHARGED by attending the Climate & Energy Committee. Join us on the 1st of the month at 5:00-5:45 p.m. at the Environmental Center in Santa Rosa, learn about what is going on in our community to fight climate change through renewable energy programs. Contact Shirley Johnson-Foell Climate & Energy Committee Forum-Chair. Email: Shirlgirl707@Yahoo.com, home 206-1138, or call office 433-7651.

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