



SIERRA CLUB

SAN GORGONIO

Palm and Pine

A publication of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club
Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

Protect America's Environment For our Families . . . For our Future

Volume 53 Number 2 | March - April 2023

California Deserts Update

San Gorgonio Meetings Are Back!

Join us May 9 at 7:00 pm at the San Bernardino County Museum for our first in-person meeting in three years. We are excited to join with our members again for an evening of updates about our deserts and Chapter happenings, as well as some time to mingle with Sierra Club friends.



Photo by Mary Ann Ruiz

Moises Cisneros, Sierra Club's Our Wild America Campaign Organizer for our deserts, will be our speaker. Moises will fill us in on a recent win regarding the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, and bring us up to date on what is happening regarding 30x30 in the desert region and the importance of our deserts as our "lungs", sequestering carbon to slow climate change. We will also hear the latest about the proposal for the Chuckwalla National Monument, and how we can help with this and other desert issues.

RSVP [HERE](#) or at the Chapter's Website under the Outings & Events page!

April 2023 Trail Talk: Mojave Road

Wed, April 19, 2023 7:00 PM

Mojave Group Outings leader Norman Bossom will present a slideshow about the Mojave Road in the Mojave Desert. The Mojave Road runs from Fort Mojave on the Arizona side of the Colorado River 140 miles across the Mojave Desert, west, to Camp Cady near the I-15. There is evidence of habitation in this area dating back 10,000 years. The Road was a route used by Native Americans for trade and travel. The Road has survived the Spanish, Mexican occupation, United States Army, immigrants and even camels. It could not survive the railroads which came to the area in the 1880's. The Road is traveled by many for the purpose of recreation. The area is beautiful, fascinating, wild and full of history.

Norman Bossom is has been the Outings Chair as well as the Political Chair for the Mojave Group for the past 6 years. He was born in England and lived there his first 45 years before moving to the US, and has been an activist in our political program, in habitat protection and in getting people outside as a Mojave Group Outings Leader.



[RSVP HERE!](#)

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Outings Highlight: Joshua Tree Stargazing Car Camp

Date & Time: Sun, Jun 18, 2023 - Mon, Jun 19, 2023

Location: Sheep Pass Campground, 74485 National Park Dr, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277, USA

Outings Leader: Mary Ann Ruiz

Contact: ruizmaryann@gmail.com

Bring: water, food, camping gear

Online Registration [HERE](#)

Camp under the stars on a new moon night, with warm summer breezes and dark skies. We will set up camp in the afternoon at our Sheep Pass Group Campsite, and enjoy the quiet and cooling afternoon air. Joshua tree is hot in the summer, but early summer evenings are comfortable and mornings are cool. We'll have a campfire if allowed, enjoy sharing dinner and stories around the campfire. As it gets dark, we will watch the stars come out and find constellations and maybe some meteors streaking across the night sky. Tent camping only, or sleep under the stars. Bring enough water for two days - this is a dry campsite with no water available and vault toilets. Carpooling will be necessary as we have spots for 15 cars but can accommodate 50 campers, so come out with your friends! Bring dinner for Sunday night and breakfast for Monday morning, your binoculars and cameras! Telescopes welcome. Joshua Tree entry fee is \$30 per car or a current National Parks pass. Campsite per night is \$5 per camper. More info closer to the event.



Photo by Mary Ann Ruiz

Outings Leader Training June 3



LTC participants practicing map & compass training, photo credit John St. Clair

Outings are back! After a COVID hiatus, outings resumed late last year. Now's the time to step up and become a San Gorgonio Chapter Outings Leader. Request an application now for the June 3 training class.

Our Leadership Training Course (LTC) is designed to cover all the leadership skills required by the Sierra Club to lead outings. It will include some online training, the June 3 class covering medical considerations, map and compass as well as the Psychology of Leadership. There is an additional field exercise tentatively scheduled for June 10.

Early enrollment is encouraged to allow time to complete the online section and review the materials which will be mailed to you. For an application please email Ralph Salisbury, LTC Chair at ralphsalisbury99@gmail.com. Alternately you may mail a request to: Ralph Salisbury, 2995 Floral Ave, Riverside CA 92507.

You can also register online [HERE!](#)

Your Vote Counts!

2023 Sierra Club Board of Directors Elections

As the top-most governing body of the Sierra Club, our volunteer-led Board of Directors is responsible for critical decisions, including establishing the Club's conservation priorities and internal policies, as well as adapting and implementing our annual budget. Their strong leadership and dedication are critical to the ongoing effectiveness of the organization. As a Sierra Club member, you have a voice in choosing these leaders. Your vote matters!

The annual election for Sierra Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Each year, 5 of the 15 members of the Sierra Club Board of Directors end their three-year term. A list of candidates is selected by a combination of a nominations process and a petition process. Sierra Club members have the opportunity to vote on 5 candidates to fill the empty seats. A democratic Sierra Club demands grassroots participation. Voting in the Board of Directors election is a privilege, and important responsibility of your membership.

Ballots will be sent to eligible voters this March. To be eligible to vote, you must have been a Sierra club member for at least one year as of January 31st, 2023. If you joined SIerra Club less than a year ago, you will be eligible to vote next year. If you pre-registered to vote online, you'll receive an email from sierraclub.mg.electionservicescorp.com. Paper ballots will arrive in the mail to all other voters. Please note: the paper ballots are sent out in batches from the East Coast, voting members will receive them at different times throughout the month.

Help us to get a record voter turnout this year. Typically, less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when membership participation is high. That means your participation is needed in the voting process. Cast your vote early and encourage other members you know to do the same. Ballots must be received by 12:00 PM Eastern Time on April 26th.

Each candidate has prepared a [short video](#) introducing themselves and speaking about why they want to be a Sierra Club Director. Check them all out on this [YouTube playlist](#)



More information about the candidates, including their bios, statements, and answers to forum questions can be found on the [Board Election Information Hub](#).

You can also learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know.

Voting is Quick and Easy!

If you received a paper ballot but would like to vote online, you can use the registration numbers you received in the mail to login to the e-voting site (vote.escvote.com/sierra). If you vote online, please do not also send in your paper ballot.

If you have not received your ballot by March 31st please contact Sierra Club's Member Care team at 415-977-5500 or member.care@sierraclub.org.

To request a replacement ballot, or receive assistance to vote online, contact Election Services customer service at sierraclub@electionservicescorp.com or phone 1-866-720-4357.

Your ballot must be received by no later than 12:00 PM Eastern Time on April 26th. If you're voting by mail, please drop off your ballot with enough time for it to reach the facility in New York.

Questions? All the details about the election, the candidates, and how to vote is available online (sierraclub.org/board/election). Additional questions can be directed to member.care@sierraclub.org.

Palm and Pine

Moreno Valley Group News

By Christina Torres, Outings Chair and George Hague, Conservation Chair

Our Moreno Valley Group outings this year were off to an interesting start with a lovely hike in Moon Country at Thousand Palms Oasis, Coachella Valley Preserve.

Although very few people came, the ones there totally enjoyed the hike in perfect weather. We followed that with a wonderful 9 mile hike around Lake Perris.

Unfortunately, I was unable to lead the next hike at Tahquitz Waterfall due to a sudden family health emergency and I must thank Joe Amador from the Big Bear Group for being able to take over leading that hike for me. My favorite, La Quinta Cove trail, hike had to be canceled due to rain.

Our latest was a campout at Mission Creek Preserve, a collaboration between the Moreno Valley Group and the Big Bear Group. While just a few people braved the tent camping (it was rather chilly), several others showed up for our day hikes on Saturday on the PCT and Sunday at Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. We lucked out with a break in the rain for that first weekend in March. We're hoping to get out to enjoy some of our local wildflowers soon.

Please use the following link to the San Geronio Chapter website to learn more about Outings/Hikes & Activities: (<https://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org/outings-activities>).

Happy trails! Christina Torres, Outings Chair

On Thursday March 9, 2023 the Moreno Valley Planning Commission voted to approve the Cottonwood & Edgemont warehouse which is only 17 feet from one family home and 19 feet from another. There are other homes within 30 to 50 feet. This vote will be final unless it is appealed to the city council by March 20th. Thanks to your donation we will be able to afford the required \$750 to appeal this warehouse near family homes. The city's failure to cover the massive warehouse roofs with solar, to require zero emission equipment, install many operational Level 1 and Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers among many other things continues and is so sad.



Photo by Chris Torres

Please consider making a donation to our local Sierra Club (P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325) to challenge these unhealthy warehouse projects being built near people's homes. Thank you to all of you who have already donated to help us make them less harmful to Moreno Valley residents, especially children.

Moreno Valley Business Park Warehouse (MVBWP): The Moreno Valley Business Park warehouse is proposed at the southeast corner of Ironwood Avenue and Heacock Street, in the same shopping center as the new Sprouts. The warehouse's diesel trucks will significantly impact not only family homes as they travel on adjacent roads, but also the SR-60/Heacock interchange as well as the entrance to the shopping center. The administrative record needed for litigation is complete and our attorney is beginning to prepare the brief.

Moreno Valley Business Center (MVBC) Warehouse: This poorly located warehouse would be located at the SE corner of Alessandro Blvd and Day St. On the east side of the project, homes are adjacent to the site; north are a few homes across a narrow two-lane road; and to the west a few homes are across a narrow two-lane road. The census tract containing this project site shows its residents are in about the worst 1% of areas in all of California for air pollution and other socioeconomic impacts. The project site is owned by the city. Both the Sierra Club and CCAEJ filed appeals on July 25, 2022.

We were not given extra time as normal to present our appeal during the Dec 6th council meeting, but instead our out-going mayor Gutierrez allowed us only two minutes each and would not accept our request for a continuance. Council members Edward Delgado, Elena Baca-Santa Cruz and Mayor Gutierrez (elected our new Supervisor in November 2022) voted in favor while council members David Marquez and Ulises Cabrera (our new mayor in November 2022) voted against it. On Thursday Jan 5, 2023 our Sierra Club attorney submitted case for filing a lawsuit on this poorly placed warehouse. Your Moreno Valley Sierra Club volunteers are currently in settlement talks with the developer and their attorney. Thanks to your donations we hope to make this project have less impact on the environment and nearby families.

MoVal 2040—Moreno Valley General Plan Update (GPU) & Climate Action Plan (CAP): On July 15, 2021 our Sierra Club filed a lawsuit against the city of Moreno Valley on their approval of the GPU and CAP. The big part of the litigation is pointing out the need to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts on the health of people—especially children and the elderly—as well as the environment. Hopefully litigation will correct and/or improve the environment for Moreno Valley residents. In June 2022 the California state attorney general, Rob Bonta, joined our litigation. He issued a press release in which he stated, “We’re intervening today so that those communities do not continue to bear the brunt of poor land use decisions that site warehouses outside their doors.”

Your Moreno Valley Sierra Club volunteers and our attorney, the city, as well as the attorney general’s office are as of March 2023 currently in settlement talks. As you read this, we have a new mayor and council member which could change the direction of our settlement talks — perhaps for the better.

Compass Danbe Centerpointe Warehouse : The Sierra Club filed our lawsuit on this project on February 17. The 389,603 square foot project site is located south of Alessandro Boulevard between Frederick Street and Graham Street. The warehouse is across the street from a charter school, apartments and homes. The project’s Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) indicates that trucks accessing or exiting the project site may also use the city-designated truck routes along Frederick Street, Heacock Street and Alessandro Boulevard to travel to and from State Route 60. Nine schools are located within 1/4 mile of City-Designated truck routes that could/would be used by the proposed project. We continue our settlement talks to try to make the project have less impacts on people and the environment, but if we are not successful, we will be in court.

Please take time to check out the Lake Perris State Recreation Area (LPSRA) Facebook page where they post information on events they sponsor. In December they had their first bald eagle count of the season. They also post information about interesting presentations at the Ya’i Heki’ Regional Indian Museum which is located at Lake Perris. <https://www.facebook.com/Lakeperris/>

Contact us: San Gorgonio Chapter Website: <https://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org>

Palm and Pine
(ISSN 1090-9974)17-5425

The Palm and Pine is published by-monthly
Published by Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter
P. O. Box 5425, Riverside, CA 92517-5425

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or call our office at 951-684-06203

Not a member? Join online through our website : <https://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org>
or call our office and we'll mail you a membership form.

For all other inquiries, check our website or email chair@sangorgonio.sierraclub.org.

Santa Margarita Group Update

The Santa Margarita Group will host it's monthly speaker series **March 31st at 6:30pm through Zoom.**

Building Resilient Communities Neighborhood-by-Neighborhood

Redlands in action! See what one city-wide non-profit is doing about the Climate Crisis---

Accelerated Neighborhood Climate Action (ANCA) is a Redlands Climate Action Group is making an impact. Join us to hear how ANCA is addressing climate change impacts in their city. They are attempting to reduce green-house gas emissions and are building a climate-resistant community.

And hear about their upcoming Earth Day event:

A Day of Climate Action in Redlands

Saturday, April 22

About our speaker, Richard Cornielle:

Richard is a licensed civil engineer who worked as a consultant on water projects throughout Southern California for over 30 years. He worked for the City of Redlands as their first Utilities Director responsible for the City's water and wastewater facilities for several years. He has been an elected Board Member of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District for 16 years. He has lived in Redlands for 44 years. He has become interested and concerned about climate change, since his retirement in 2012. He has researched the subject extensively and wrote a detailed paper titled "Climate Change is Real and Seriously Impacting our Earth- Can We Save the Planet" for the Fortnightly Club of Redlands. He also wrote a paper for the Fortnightly Club in 2015 titled "Climate Change and Redlands Water Supply". He has made presentations on climate change to several professional groups and service clubs. He notes that he is not an expert on climate change, but a student of the issues and solutions.

Since last year he has been an active leader in the new Redlands voluntary non-profit called Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action (ANCA). He has helped organize and presented at ANCA's series of community workshops on resilient living. He is currently the chair of ANCA's Coordinating Council which oversees all of ANCA activities He is on the planning committee for this year's Celebrate 2023 Earth Day- A Day of Climate Action in Redlands. He is here today to discuss the Redlands ANCA organization and activities, and to describe the April 22 Redlands Earth Day events, how climate change is impacting Southern California communities, how communities affect climate change, and to invite the Sierra Club host a project in Redlands.



Explore, Enjoy and Protect

For 130 years, Sierra Club members and supporters have been exploring, enjoying and protecting our home here on Earth. As we begin the next decade, it seems a good time for a reminder of our entire mission statement:

Sierra Club Mission Statement

To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth;
To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources;
To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.