



# SIERRA CLUB

## SAN GORGONIO

### In This Issue

**Contacts for Chapter Office and Groups; Chat With the Chair** ..... 2

**Calendar of Outings, Meetings, Events** ..... 3-11

**Group News: Big Bear, Tahquitz; November Chapter Meeting** ..... 6

**Group News: Santa Margarita; Sierra Club 2018 Calendars for Sale** ..... 7

**Group News: Mojave and Moreno Valley** ..... 8

**PS Form 3526; Group: SB Mountains** ..... 9

**Group News: Los Serranos**..... 11

**Dec Chapter Mtg; Political Planning for 2018; Sierra Club Membership Application** ..... 12

### Membership Meetings

**Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> • 7:30 PM**  
*“Nature Photography:  
 How Not to Take Bad Photos”*  
*By Steve Kaye*  
*(See write up on Page 6)*

**Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> • 7:30 PM**  
*“Bhutan and Cambodia”*  
*Presented by Gail and Ladd Seekins*  
*(See write up on Page 12)*  
**Programs are held at the  
 San Bernardino County Museum,  
 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands**  
*(California St. exit off 10 Fwy)*

# Palm and Pine

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

Volume 47 Number 6

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

Nov-Dec 2017

## Chapter ExCom Election Information

By Dave Barrie, Chapter Nominating and Election Committee Chair

**L**et's look at the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) election ballot and your voting options.

On Page 11 you will find the Chapter “paper ballot” that you can cut out, complete, and mail in. Or, as you will see on the ballot, you can go to the Chapter website –

<http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org> and vote online. And that is a first for us at the Chapter level.

A note about online voting: The Sierra Club has a policy of ballots being secret ballots but says about online voting – “Because it is not possible with current technology to verify one-member/one-vote without an Election Committee member having access to each member’s voted online ballot, the requirement to maintain strict ballot secrecy has been removed. We still expect that



members’ votes will be kept confidential by the individual examining the online voting record.” And that is how we will treat your ballot.

You will notice that we have three candidates and three positions to fill. That’s not too competitive is it? Next year we could use more volunteers to run for ExCom positions so that there are more choices available than there are positions to fill.

But, even though the election will only result in three winners (and no losers), you can help us to test our online voting system by voting online. And just because you can vote for all three candidates that doesn’t mean that you must vote for all three. If one candidate gets more votes than the others it tells us that perhaps the voters want to recognize that candidate’s particular contribution to the efforts of the Chapter.

All of our ExCom members are volunteers who give many hours of their time to the efforts of the Sierra Club and San Gorgonio Chapter. Please take a little of your time to vote in this year’s election.

*Continued on Page 9 >>>*



## Sierra Club Day at Whitewater Preserve on Saturday 12/2

**J**oin us for Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter Day at Whitewater Preserve, organized by the Los Serranos Group. Saturday, December 2, come out from 9:00 am into the afternoon for a day in this beautiful Preserve, part of the new Sand to Snow National Monument. Late fall is the perfect time to visit – cool days, early snow on the surrounding mountains, and autumn leaves.

Hike leaders from Los Serranos Group will be on hand to lead two different hikes starting out from the Ranger Station at 10:00 am. Check the Outings Calendar in this paper or online for hike details. John St. Claire will lead one hike up over the Canyon Loop trail, climbing south on



part of the Pacific Crest Trail up and above the river with striking views of the canyon. Jeff Warhol

is leading a hike North on the PCT, a less strenuous walk up the river canyon leading to an interesting rock formation and views up towards Mt. San Gorgonio. Both hikes are 3.5 – 4 miles, the first hike is steep and more challenging.

Come out to learn from the Indigenous neighbors about culture and history native to this beautiful area. If you don’t feel like hiking, enjoy exploring the area around the Preserve headquarters with trout ponds, fall trees, and the year-round river – and be sure to pack your binoculars and camera. Bighorn Sheep are often seen on the canyon walls just above the Ranger office. Bring your picnic lunch and snacks, refillable water bottles and your time to enjoy a lovely day outside. Look for more details on our website and Facebook page as we get closer to 12/2.

## Helping Your Chapter as a Monthly Donor is as Easy as 1-2-3

1. Go to <http://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org> and hit the “Donate” button:
2. Pick your monthly amount \$3? \$10? \$20? you choose, any amount is appreciated;
3. Hit “submit” for a big



from San Gorgonio Chapter!

## Contact Us . . .

**San Gorgonio Chapter Website:** <http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org>

### San Gorgonio Chapter Excom

**Chair**.....Mary Ann Ruiz  
.....909-815-9379  
.....ruizmaryann@gmail.com

**CCL Delegate**.....Steve Farrell  
.....951-777-9150  
..StevenFarrell@sangorgonio.sierraclub.org

**Secretary** .....Kim Floyd  
.....760-680-9479

**Treasurer**.....Ladd Seekins  
.....909-825-4427  
.....ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com

**Conservation Chair**.....Kim Floyd  
.....760-680-9479  
.....kimffloyd@fastmail.com

**Litigation Chair**.....Joan Taylor

**Membership Chair**.....Mike Millspaugh  
.....951-653-2068  
.....mmillspaugh@verizon.net

**Outings Chair**.....Ralph Salisbury  
.....951-686-4141  
.....ralphsalisbury@att.net

**Political Chair**.....Jono Hildner  
.....760-861-5365  
.....jono@hildner.com

### CNRCC Delegates

George Hague .....951-924-0816  
Kim Floyd .....760-680-9479

**Wilderness Skills/Leadership Training:**  
.....ralphsalisbury@att.net

### Group Representatives To Excom

**Big Bear Group:**  
.....Ellen Kesler 909-585-1062  
.....jcricket47@yahoo.com

**Los Serranos Group:**  
.....Brian Elliott  
.....brianelli@aol.com

**Mojave Group:**  
.....Susan Stueber 760-900-5330  
.....susanquintin.stueber@gmail.com

**Moreno Valley:**  
.....George Hague 951-924-0816

**San Bernardino Mtns. Group:**  
.....Dave Barrie 909-337-0313  
.....barriemail@mac.com

**Tahquitz Group:**  
.....Jeff Morgan 760-324-8696

**Santa Margarita Group:**  
.....Pam Nelson 951-767-2324  
.....sierraclubsmg@gmail.com

### Chapter Conservation Issue Chairs

**Desert Issues – High Desert**  
.....Kim Floyd 760-680-9479  
.....Kimffloyd@fastmail.com  
.....Brian Baker 760-242-6526  
.....bb1769@hotmail.com  
.....Jenny Wilder 760-345-4001  
.....jensoasis@aol.com

**Desert Issues – Low Desert**  
.....Joan Taylor  
.....palmcanyon@mac.com  
.....Jeff Morgan 760-324-8696  
.....jckmorgan@aol.com

**Desert – Eagle Mountain**  
.....Jeff Morgan 760-324-8696  
.....jckmorgan@aol.com  
.....George Hague 951-924-0816

**Forestry Issues – Mountaintop RD**  
.....East—Ed Wallace 909-584-9407  
.....West—Steve Farrell 951-777-9150  
.....StevenFarrell@sangorgonio.sierraclub.org

**Forestry Issues – San Jacinto RD**  
.....Joyce Burk 760-220-0204

**Forestry Issues – Cleveland NF**  
.....Pam Nelson 951-767-2324  
.....sierraclubsmg@gmail.com

**Forestry Issues – Front Country RD**  
.....Joyce Burk 760-220-0204  
.....Mary Ann Ruiz 909-815-9379  
.....ruizmaryann@gmail.com

**Water Issues**.....Steve Farrell 951-777-9150

### Group Directory

**Big Bear Group:**  
**Chair – Ellen Kesler** 909-585-1062  
jcricket47@yahoo.com  
Meets 3rd Thursday, Discovery Center  
North Shore, 6:30 p.m.  
[www.sierraclub.org/san-gorgonio/big-bear](http://www.sierraclub.org/san-gorgonio/big-bear)

**Los Serranos Group:**  
**Chair – Brian Elliot** brianelli@aol.com  
Meets 3rd Tuesday Upland Presbyterian  
Church, Ed Building 7 p.m.

**Mojave Group:**  
**Chair – Susan Stueber** 760-900-5330  
susanquintin.stueber@gmail.com  
Meets 2nd Wednesday except Jul. & Aug.  
Sterling Inn, Regency Room,  
17738 Francesca, Victorville 7 p.m.  
(just north of Bear Valley and Ridgecrest)  
(also contact earthingwiley2000@yahoo.com)

**Moreno Valley Group:**  
**Chair – Michael Millspaugh** 951-653-2068

**Mountains Group:**  
**Chair – Dave Barrie** 909-337-0313  
barriemail@mac.com  
Meets 2nd Monday 7:00 p.m.  
Except Aug. & Dec. St Richard's  
Episcopal Church, 28708 Hwy 18, Sky Forest

**Santa Margarita Group:**  
**Chair – Pam Nelson** 951-767-2324  
sierraclubsmg@gmail.com  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thur., 6:00 p.m. except July &  
August at Temecula Valley Library,  
30600 Pauba Road, Temecula

**Tahquitz Group:**  
**Chair – Jeff Morgan** 760-324-8696

### Palm and Pine

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### Sierra Club

San Gorgonio Chapter

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### Member Change of Address

Sierra Club, Change of Address

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### Submission Information

The *Palm and Pine* is published six times per year January/February, March/April/ May/ June, July/August/ September/October and November/ December. Submit all articles to the Editor by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the Month prior to issue. Preferred format is electronic mail. The Editor reserves the right to edit all work for reasons of space, clarity or libel. If you wish to have your photos or disks returned, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Outings must be submitted to the appropriate Outings Chair.

### Member Change of Address

Sierra Club, Change of Address

PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

(Be sure to supply Membership number)

### Membership Information

There is a membership coupon in this issue and address change information above. For other questions, contact the Sierra Club at (415) 977-5500 or ralphsalisbury@att.net



## Chat With The Chair . . . by Mary Ann Ruiz

**One Year.** As you read this it will have been a year since our electoral system left us with a popular vote losing President. We now have a cabinet effectively dismantling years of social and environmental progress. Whatever you think of Mr. Trump and his interpretation of his job as President of the United States, it is obvious that his appointees are falling in line with interests of big business and wealth rather than a brighter future for our country's people and resources.

We have seen many setbacks – pulling out of the Paris Climate agreement; challenges to our National Monuments and Public Lands; rescinding DACA, and attempts to diminish health care and public education. Bullying and

racist comments from Mr. Trump divide us and alarm our allies. Another year of tragic gun deaths with no action to prevent this epidemic.

In the face of these challenges, you have not given up. Sierra Club volunteers have worked harder. Donors have understood the importance of the work we do, and have been generous in helping both locally and nationally.

So, at the end of this trying year, I want



to say thank you.

Thank you to the volunteers putting in countless hours traveling to meetings, telling their stories to policymakers, reading through pages of Environmental Impact Reports on questionable development projects.

Volunteers spending the time to learn about their local politicians, to understand what happens at City Council, County Supervisor and State

Legislature levels. Volunteers reaching out to their communities at countless events and outings, taking the time to make a difference. Thank you all for your generous donation of your personal time.

Thank you also to our donors, those who give what they can, whether it is \$5 or \$500, every donation helps. Thank you to our sustaining donors who give monthly – that \$5 or \$10 per month adds up and helps us know we have sustained funding. Thank you to our members and supporters who read the emails, respond to the actions, make that phone call or send that letter.

**Thank you all for the difference you are making. Let's continue working to turn the Inland Empire Green in 2018!**



# Calendar of Outings, Meetings, and Other Events

## NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2017

The outings calendar is on the Internet at <http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org/>

### CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

**DEADLINE:** Items for the January/February 2018 Calendar are due by December 1, 2017.

**FORMAT:** items like those below. Send items electronically if possible.

**OUTINGS:** Send outings write-ups to your group or section Outings Chair.

**MEETINGS & other events:** Send electronically to Ladd Seekins at <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com>

**GENERAL INFORMATION/RULES/DISCLAIMERS** – All Outings Leaders are Chapter Certified Leaders having appropriate Outings Training Courses, First Aid Courses, and experience for the Outings they lead. Leaders may exclude individuals from participation if they believe they may not be qualified. Non-Sierra Club members may join outings unless otherwise stated in the write-up. All participants agree to abide by the Leader's rules. Participants should **CALL THE LEADER AHEAD TO SIGN-UP**. Many Outings specify items to be carried by **EACH** participant. Do not attend Outings without the specified items unless you have first discussed it with the leader. Often the **TEN ESSENTIALS** are required. They are: 1) Map 2) Compass 3) Flashlight 4) Knife 5) Windproof/waterproof matches in waterproof case 6) Fire starter 7) First aid kit 8) Extra food and water for emergency use only 9) Extra clothing including rainwear 10) Sun protection including sunscreen/sunglasses/hat. Carpooling is encouraged, but solely the responsibility of individual participants. The Sierra Club and its leaders may facilitate carpooling, however they will not assign. Drivers should have adequate insurance coverage and their vehicle should have no safety defects. For Sierra Club facilitated carpooling, drivers agree to not consume any alcoholic beverages. It is customary for riders to share expenses with the driver. The above information applies to Sierra Club Outings and Activities only. Non-Sierra Club activities may be listed in a separate location as a courtesy. Please be sure to read the disclaimer that accompanies these activities.

**\*\*ADVENTURE PASS SPECIAL NOTICE** – Outings occurring in the San Bernardino, Angeles, Cleveland, or Los Padres National Forests may require a Forest Service "Adventure Pass" for each vehicle. The Forest Service designates where the passes are required. Generally, areas that have developed parking and may include toilet facilities, interpretive signs and trash cans require passes and unimproved areas do not require passes. Outings that require passes usually will be preceded by \*\* in the listings that follow and/or the leader may indicate the need for Adventure Passes. While leaders try to provide accurate information, ultimately it is the vehicle's driver that assumes responsibility to adhere to all rules, regulations, and laws - not the Sierra Club. The permits cost \$30 per year or \$5 per day; however, they may not be obtainable the day of your outing. As a passenger, you are expected to share some of the cost of the daily passes along with a mileage contribution along with the others in the vehicle. Golden Eagle Passports and Golden Age Passports may be used in lieu of the Adventure Pass.

**CARPOOLING POLICY** – In the interests of facilitating some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club assumes no liability for carpooling arrangements. Carpooling, ride sharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

**LIABILITY WAIVER** – To participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please visit the San Gorgonio Chapter website at [sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org](http://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org) and click on Disclaimers under the Outings tab.

### RECURRING MONTHLY MEETINGS (LOOK IN CALENDAR FOR DATES)

**(1ST MON) 6:00 PM MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCOM MEETING**  
Alpine Conference Room 27236 Blue Jay Mall on the first Monday of selected months: Feb. 6, Apr. 3, May 1, Oct. 2, Nov. 6. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313.  
MOUNTAINS GROUP

**(1ST TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING**  
Monthly chapter meeting. PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS [ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com](mailto:ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com). (909) 800-3911.  
CHAPTER

**(1ST THU) LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCOM MEETING**  
Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov). PLACE: For meeting time & place, contact BRIAN ELLIOTT, [brianelli@aol.com](mailto:brianelli@aol.com) LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**(2ND MON) 7:00 PM MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard's Episcopal Church, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313.  
MOUNTAINS GROUP

**(2ND TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, [kimffloyd@fastmail.fm](mailto:kimffloyd@fastmail.fm) (760) 249-5385.  
CHAPTER

**(2ND WED) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING**  
The meeting place rotates. CONTACT: ELLEN KESLER, 909-585-1062, [jcricket47@yahoo.com](mailto:jcricket47@yahoo.com)  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**(2ND WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: SUSAN STUEBER, [susanquintin.stueber@gmail.com](mailto:susanquintin.stueber@gmail.com)  
MOJAVE GROUP

**(2ND THU) 6:30 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except July & August. The public is welcome. Doors open at 6:00 PM, meeting starts at 6:30. PLACE: Temecula Valley Library, 30600 Pauba Road, Temecula. INFO: PAM NELSON (951) 767-2324 [sierraclubsmg@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubsmg@gmail.com)  
SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

**(3RD TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly except July & August. Please join us for an informative program. PLACE: Goldy B. Lewis Center, Central Park, 11200 Baseline Rd., Rancho Cucamonga. INFO: BRIAN ELLIOTT, [brianelli@aol.com](mailto:brianelli@aol.com) LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**(3RD THU) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except January, February and December. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site <[sierraclub.org/san-gorgonio/big-bear](http://sierraclub.org/san-gorgonio/big-bear)>. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. INFO: ELLEN KESLER, 909-585-1062, [jcricket47@yahoo.com](mailto:jcricket47@yahoo.com) BIG BEAR GROUP

**(4TH TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING**  
Chapter governance meeting. Monthly except for December. PLACE: The meeting is by teleconference. If you wish to participate, contact Mary Ann for instructions. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, [ruizmaryann@gmail.com](mailto:ruizmaryann@gmail.com), (909) 815-9379. CHAPTER

### WEEKLY RECURRING FITNESS ACTIVITIES Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings

**MON 6:00 PM RIVERSIDE MT. RUBIDOUX ONE HOUR FITNESS WALK**  
MEET: Ninth Street entrance to Mt. Rubidoux. INFO: JUDY SMITH 951-369-5117.  
CHAPTER

### OCTOBER 23– OCTOBER 29 Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings (Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

**OCT 24 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING**  
Chapter governance meeting. Monthly except for December. PLACE: The meeting is by teleconference. If you wish to participate, contact Mary Ann for instructions. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, [ruizmaryann@gmail.com](mailto:ruizmaryann@gmail.com), (909) 815-9379. CHAPTER

**OCT 27 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE HIKE**  
Join us on a 3-5 mile easy/moderate hike around the Green Valley Lake area of the San Bernardino Mountains. Learn about the history and ecology of this region. Well behaved dogs on leash are welcome, but don't forget your doggie poop bags. MEET in Green Valley Lake across the street from the post office (33271 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR layered clothing and hiking shoes. BRING snacks and water. CALL to check on weather conditions. Inclement weather will cancel. LEADER SANDY ELLIS, 909-867-7115 (no text), [fsellis67@gmail.com](mailto:fsellis67@gmail.com)  
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**OCT 27-29 (FRI-SUN) DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION SERVICE**  
Join us as we continue the clean-up of a grow site in this beautiful National Park. We will hike about 3 miles up a rugged canyon to gather and carry out the trash left behind in an illegal grow site. Participants should bring an old backpack if they have one. Sturdy trash bags will be supplied to protect packs. Details on meeting time and camping location have not been finalized. Potluck Saturday night. LEADER: KATE ALLEN, [kj.allen96@gmail.com](mailto:kj.allen96@gmail.com), 661-944-4056. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

**OCT 28 (SAT) 8:00 AM SPLIT ROCK HIKE**  
On this loop hike with Split Rock in the middle, we will see many interesting rock formations. There will be some off-trail hiking so shorts are not recommended. A high clearance vehicle is needed to get to the trailhead. RATED: Moderate, there is some elevation gain at the beginning of the hike and at the end. This hike is approximately 4 miles long. BRING: water, a snack/lunch, binoculars, camera, and sun protection. WEAR: sturdy shoes/boots and dress in layers. MEET: Victor Valley Museum, (11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley 92308) at 8:00 AM. LEADER: QUINTIN LAKE, (951) 315-7691 or [qlake15@gmail.com](mailto:qlake15@gmail.com)  
MOJAVE GROUP

**\*\*OCT 28 (SAT) 8:00 AM SOUTH RIDGE TRAIL HIKE**  
Enjoy an early morning hike to Tahquitz Peak Lookout Tower. MEET: At the "Fort" in Idyllwild between Jo'Ans and the coffee shop at 8:00 AM so we can caravan to the starting point. We will hike from the beginning of the Forest Road to the trail-head on a 9 mile out and back hike to Tahquitz Peak Lookout Tower. The hike is moderately difficult with about 2500 ft of elevation gain. This trail in the on the way up is shaded by pines, oak in the early morning by the mountain ridge. The views along the trail and from the Tower provide fabulous vistas from the Garner Valley all the way to the ocean in the West. DIRECTIONS: From the "Fort" where we will meet in Idyllwild drive south on highway 243, turn left at Saunders Meadow Rd (Mile High Cafe) and left again on Pine (Forest Route 5S11, Mountain Center, CA 92561, 33.735415, -116.696089) Adventure Pass not needed if you park on the side of the road at the junction of Forest Rd 5S11. I will obtain Wilderness Trail pass for those that register for the hike in advance. There is no fee for this pass. BRING: 5 liters water; Snacks; Ten Essentials, and layered clothing. RAIN CANCELS. To register for the hike or if you have questions about the hike contact LEADER GARY MARSALONE at [hikesie@gmail.com](mailto:hikesie@gmail.com) SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

Continued on Page 4 >>>

Calendar . . . Continued from Page 3

**\*\*OCT 28 (SAT) 8:30 AM HANNA FLATS HIKE**  
This is a moderate 8 to 9-mile round trip with approximately 800 elevation gain. This hike starts at the Gray's Peak trailhead. We will hike part of the way up the Gray's Peak Trail then turn north and hike toward the Hanna Flats campground. We should see beautiful fall colors. Since the Butler fire of 2007, there has been much new growth from the many pine tree seedlings that were planted. MEET: at the Gray's Peak trailhead on North Shore Drive, 2.7 miles from the dam going towards Fawnskin. You will need an Adventure Pass to park at the trailhead. BRING: 2 liters of water, snack/lunch, sun protection, hiking boots, hat and trekking poles. RESERVATIONS: Contact hike LEADER CHARLOTTE WATTS, momscampsite@gmail.com or call 909-866 7423. BIG BEAR GROUP

**OCT 29 (SUN) 3:00 PM BOX SPRINGS TOWERS HIKE**  
Moderate 4-mile round trip hike to the towers via Spring trail. Approx. 400 ft elevation gain. We start promptly at 4:30 p.m. BRING: water, flashlight and sturdy shoes. MEET: from 60fwy in Moreno Valley go north on Pigeon Pass about 4 miles where road veers left and turns into Box Springs Mountain Road (mostly dirt road). In 1.2 miles you reach the parking area on the right. COST: Parking fee \$5/car. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: CHRISTINA TORRES (951) 318-7503 or cmt.teck@gmail.com MORENO VALLEY GROUP

### OCTOBER 30– NOVEMBER 5

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings  
(Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

**NOV 1 (WED) 4:30 PM TERRI PEAK HIKE**  
Difficult 4-mile roundtrip hike to Terri Peak, overlooking Lake Perris, with 1,000 ft elevation gain. Trail starts on a path behind homes and has some steep sections as it follows an old dirt road to the top. BRING: water, flashlight, and sturdy shoes. MEET: 60fwy in Moreno Valley, exit south on Moreno Beach Drive. Follow road for 3.4 miles, then turn left on Via del Lago. Park in the dirt area on right side of road just past the housing tract, do not enter Lake Perris Park. Rain cancels. INFO and LEADER: BEATRIZ VINDIOLA (562) 713-4470. MORENO VALLEY GROUP

**NOV 2 (THU) LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCOM MEETING**  
Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov). PLACE: For meeting time & place, contact BRIAN ELLIOTT, brianelli@aol.com LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**NOV 3 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MTS GREEN VALLEY LAKE AREA HIKE**  
Join us on a 4-6 mile easy/moderate hike around the Green Valley Lake region of the San Bernardino Mountains. MEET: in Green Valley Lake across from the post office (33271 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR layered clothing. BRING snacks and water. LEADER SANDY ELLIS, 909-867-7115 (no text), fsellis67@gmail.com Please CALL to check on weather conditions. CO-LEADER: KARLA KELLEMS 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**NOV 4 (SAT) 8:00 AM SPLIT ROCK HIKE**  
This is a loop hike with Split Rock in the middle. There will be some off-trail hiking so shorts are not recommended. Come find out why this is one of our favorite places to hike to in Juniper Flats. RATED: Moderate, there is some elevation gain, the terrain is up and down. This hike is approximately 4 miles long. BRING: water, a snack/lunch, binoculars, camera, and sun protection. WEAR: sturdy shoes/boots and dress in layers. It can get windy up there. MEET: Victor Valley Museum, (11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley 92308) at 8:00 AM from there we will carpool to the trailhead. LEADER: QUINTIN LAKE, (951)315-7691 or qlake15@gmail.com CO-LEADER: SUSAN STUEBER, (760)900-5330 or sstueber16@gmail.com MOJAVE GROUP

**NOV 4 (SAT) 8:30 AM SKYLINE TRAIL HIKE**  
This hike begins just west of the Bear Mountain ski slopes and the golf course. The newly minted trail was carved out by many mountain biking enthusiasts just a few years ago. It leads us west and just south of the Snow Summit slopes giving us many views of both the San Gorgonio wilderness and Big Bear Valley and the Lake. RATED: easy to moderate with a 600 foot elevation gain. It is a seven mile in and out hike. BRING: The ten essentials including a good pair of hiking boots, layered clothing, sunscreen, sun glasses, snack/lunch and two liters of water. MEET: Saturday 8:30 AM at Vons parking lot. We will car pool to the trailhead. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER PETER MICHELSEN at petermichelsenor@gmail.com or call 760-333-3103. BIG BEAR GROUP

**NOV 4 (SAT) 9:00AM SB MTS SPLINTERS TO DEVIL'S HOLE PCT HIKE**  
A moderate 7-mile round trip hike with a 600ft elevation gain. Follow the popular Pacific Crest Trail along beautiful Deep Creek. BRING hiking boots, jacket, lunch and 2 bottles of water. WEAR layered clothing. MEET: ) Call for meeting place and details. LEADER: HEATHER SARGEANT 909-336-2836 (no text). SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**NOV 5 (SUN) 7:30 AM MECCA HILLS EXPLORATION HIKE**  
Explore 3-7 miles up a Mecca Hills canyon; no trail, just enthusiasm and willingness to "wing-it", take in sights, & enjoy the canyon geology/flora. RATING: Moderate with uneven footing, no trail, and exposure. MEET: base of TA Travel Stop sign, 46155 Dillon Road, Coachella CA 92236, carpool to the canyon & park along Box Canyon Road about 2.4 miles northeast of Painted Canyon Road. BRING: Water & snacks for 4-5 hours' hiking, trekking poles, wind/sun protection (hat, sunscreen, protective clothing), personal first aid supplies; No Trace Hiking supplies (TP/plastic bags) WEATHER: Desert winter days can be warm or cold; check forecast prior to the hike. RAIN OR SNOW CANCELS. RESERVATIONS: Email LEADER LJ FOSTER at eljayeffhiker@yahoo.com or leave name, contact number at (951) 845-9440. BIG BEAR GROUP

**NOV 5 (SUN) 8:30 AM SANTA ANA RIVER TRAIL HIKE**  
Join me for a lovely autumn hike on Santa Ana River trail from Glass Rd. We will hike approximately 4 miles in, have a break, then return on the trail the same way. The leaves

should have turned and we will have a carpet on the trail, along with views, pines, oaks, junipers and the sound of the river below us. Weather cancels. RATED: Moderate. MEET: at the trailhead on Glass Rd. or plan to carpool from the Mill Creek Ranger Station in Mentone. BRING: 10 essentials, 2 liters of water, snack/lunch, sun protection, wear layered clothing, hiking boots, trekking poles and camera. RESERVATIONS: LEADER JUDY ATKINSON (909) 289 1932, judy5723@gmail.com BIG BEAR GROUP

### NOVEMBER 6 – NOVEMBER 12

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings  
(Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

**NOV 6 (MON) 6:00 PM MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCOM MEETING**  
Alpine Conference Room 27236 Blue Jay Mall on the first Monday of selected months: Feb. 6, Apr. 3, May 1, Oct. 2, Nov. 6. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. MOUNTAINS GROUP

**NOV 7 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING**  
Monthly chapter meeting. PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com. (909) 800-3911. CHAPTER

**\*\*NOV 8 (WED) 8:00 AM SUNSET PEAK HIKE**  
This will be a moderate 7-mile round trip hike on a fire road up to the top of Sunset Peak (elevation 5796 ft), with 1300 ft. elevation gain. Great panoramic views in all directions from the peak. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, snack, sunscreen, layer clothing appropriate for the weather. Adventure Pass will be required for parking at the trailhead. MEET: Contact John St. Clair to confirm and for directions to trailhead and carpooling meeting place. LEADER: JOHN ST. CLAIR at 909-983-8501 or john@stclairs.us LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**NOV 8 (WED) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING**  
The meeting place rotates. CONTACT: ELLEN KESLER, 909-585-1062, jcricket47@yahoo.com BIG BEAR GROUP

**NOV 8 (WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: SUSAN STUEBER, susanquintin.stueber@gmail.com MOJAVE GROUP

**\*\*NOV 9 (THU) 8:30 AM CHANTRY FLATS LOOP HIKE**  
This will be a moderately strenuous 10-mile loop hike from Chantry Flat, through Sturtevant Falls, Spruce Grove & Hoegees Campgrounds, returning via Upper Winter Creek Trail. This is a very scenic trail following creeks, mostly forested, with an elevation gain of 1800 feet. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, lunch & snacks, sunscreen, hat, and layer clothing appropriate for the weather. Adventure Pass is required for parking at trailhead. CONTACT Kathy Viola to confirm and for directions to trailhead OR carpooling from Upland. LEADER: KATHY VIOLA, 909-346-9653 or kviola826@gmail.com LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**NOV 9 (THU) 6:30 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly meeting except July & August. The public is welcome. Doors open at 6:00 PM, meeting starts at 6:30. PLACE: Temecula Valley Library, 30600 Pauba Road, Temecula. INFO: PAM NELSON (951) 767-2324 sierraclubsmg@gmail.com SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

**NOV 10 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE HIKE**  
Join us on a 3-5 mile easy/moderate hike around the Green Valley Lake area of the San Bernardino Mountains. Learn about the history and ecology of this region. Well behaved dogs on leash are welcome, but don't forget your doggie poop bags. MEET in Green Valley Lake across the street from the post office (33271 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR layered clothing and hiking shoes. BRING snacks and water. Inclement weather will cancel. Please CALL to check on weather conditions. LEADER SANDY ELLIS, 909-867-7115 (no text), fsellis67@gmail.com CO-LEADER: KARLA KELLEMS 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**NOV 10 (FRI) 9:30 AM OAK GLEN, WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY HIKE**  
Easy to moderate 4-mile loop along trees, a creek and mountain views. Bring water, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, snack. Possible lunch opportunity afterwards. MEET: take the Oak Glen exit of the 10 Fwy in Yucaipa north until you reach Los Rios Rancho Apple Ranch. Park near the main entrance of the Montane Botanic Garden. Or from Moreno Valley quick route through Live Oak Canyon. Rain cancels. RSVP by 7 pm on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>. INFO and LEADER: CHRISTINA TORRES (951) 318-7503 or cmt.teck@gmail.com MORENO VALLEY GROUP

**NOV 11 (SAT) 8:00 AM PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, HIGHWAY 173 HIKE**  
This is a 6-mile outing rated moderate due to some elevation gain and an area where we will explore off trail through a burn area. Views across the historic Summit Valley are spectacular. BRING water, a snack and layered clothing. Strong footwear is a requirement. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum, Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308 by 8am. LEADER: NORMAN BOSSOM 760-912-3725. coachnorm@yahoo.com MOJAVE GROUP

**NOV 11 (SAT) 8:30 AM CRYSTAL LAKE TO MT. ISLIP HIKE**  
This is a fun loop hike to the top of 8080' Mt. Islip. Total distance is more than 7 miles

Continued on Page 5 >>>



*Calendar . . . Continued from Page 4*

w/2250' of elevation gain. Well-conditioned hikers only, please. BRING layered clothing, sturdy hiking boots/shoes, 2.5 quarts of water, and lunch. MEET in the City of Azusa at 8:30 AM. Park on Santa Fe St. just E. of Azusa Ave., one block N. of Foothill Blvd. (Turn right just before the railroad tracks.) It's 50 miles to/from the trailhead, so ride sharing is encouraged. LEADER: BILL JOYCE (909) 596-6280 bill@rollingtherock.com  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**NOV 11 (SAT) 8:30 AM JOSHUA TREE EUREKA PEAK HIKE**

Although you can take a dirt road nearly to the top of 5600 ft. Eureka Peak, we will do it the fun way on this semi-loop hike on the western end of Joshua Tree, with great views of the surrounding valleys and peaks. We'll take the Burnt Hill trail to the Peak trail, with a short segment on the CR&HT for the return. The hike is generally well graded, but has some short steep sections near the peak. Distance is 9.6 miles, with a climb of 1600 feet. RATED: Moderate. MEET: Visitor's Center, 9800 Black Rock Canyon Road, Yucca Valley, CA 92284. No entrance station, no fee. BRING: ten essentials, layers and sun protection, lunch, and 2.5-liters of water RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER DAVE MELTON at (760) 408-2456 or dmelton61@yahoo.com or CO-LEADER DAVE NEUMANN at (208) 892-3001.  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**NOV 11 (SAT) 9:00 AM HELLHOLE CANYON COUNTY PRESERVE HIKE**

Join us on a 8.2- mile hike of one of San Diego's spectacular wildlife Preserves. The hike will start at 19324 Santee Lane Valley Center, CA. 92082 and should take 4-5 hours to complete. I rate the hike as borderline difficult, but not relentlessly so. There is over 2000' of elevation gain/loss. WEAR: dress in layers, wear comfortable hiking shoes. BRING: Snacks a lunch, and 3 liters of water. Much of the hike is exposed so do not forget the sunscreen. Steady rain cancels. Email for more detailed version of this hike. REGISTER for this hike by emailing the LEADER BOB AUDIBERT at bob.takeahike1@gmail.com or call (951)302-1059.  
SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

**NOV 12 (SUN) 8:00 AM INDIAN PALM CYN TRAIL-STONE POOLS HIKE**

Beginner hikers welcome! Come join us for a 4 to 5-mile round trip hike following the Indian canyons through the main oasis. RATED: Moderate hike with little elevation gain to Stone Pools. MEET: After leaving the toll gate, stay on the South Palm Canyon road to the Parking lot. Meet at the trailhead at the main parking lot, not the Indian Canyon Trading Post. BRING: The ten essentials, hat, camera, lunch or snacks. several bottles of water for the hike plus a frozen one in the car, as the weather will most likely be hot. Afterwards you are welcome to spend some money at the trading post. ADMISSION: is \$9:00 for adults and \$7:00 for seniors and students. RESERVATIONS: Contact APPRENTICE LEADER DAVID HOLTEGAARD 909-881-1329 or d10olie@aol.com or LEADER ED CALIENDO 442-242-4103 or dogs111@msn.com  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**NOVEMBER 13 – NOVEMBER 19**

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings  
(Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

**NOV 13 (MON) 7:00 PM MOUNTAINS GROUP MEETING**

Monthly program meeting. No meeting in August or December. PLACE: St. Richard's Episcopal Church, 28708 Highway 18, Sky Forest. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313.  
MOUNTAINS GROUP

**NOV 14 (TUE) 9:00 AM THE CLAREMONT TRIANGLE HIKE**

That's what I call east on the Thompson Creek Trail, north on the Pomello Trail and south on the Sycamore Canyon Trail, to return to the Thompson Creek Trail. Please join me on this moderate 3 miler with a mere 800' elevation gain. BRING: water, sturdy boots, layered clothing and hiking poles. Rain cancels. MEET: Please email by 5:00 PM 13 Nov. for the meeting place. LEADER: JEFF WARHOL jmwandjjw@hotmail.com  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**NOV 14 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, kimffloyd@fastmail.fm (760) 249-5385.  
CHAPTER

**NOV 14 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING**

Monthly except July & August. Please join us for an informative program. PLACE: Goldy B. Lewis Center, Central Park, 11200 Baseline Rd., Rancho Cucamonga. INFO: BRIAN ELLIOTT, brianelli@aol.com  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**NOV 16 (THU) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING**

Monthly meeting except January, February and December. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site sierraclub.org/san-gorgonio/big-bear. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. INFO: ELLEN KESLER, 909-585-1062, jcricket47@yahoo.com  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**NOV 17 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE HIKE**

Join us on a 3-5 mile easy/moderate hike around the Green Valley Lake area of the San Bernardino Mountains. Learn about the history and ecology of this region. Well behaved dogs on leash are welcome, but don't forget your doggie poop bags. MEET in Green Valley Lake across the street from the post office (33271 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR layered clothing and hiking shoes. BRING snacks and water. Inclement weather will cancel. CALL to check on weather conditions. LEADER Sandy Ellis, 909-867-7115 (no text), fsellis67@gmail.com CO-LEADER Karla Kellems, 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com  
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**NOV 18 (SAT) 8:00 AM OZZIE'S TRAIL HIKE**

This 6-mile hike in the Juniper Flats area of the San Bernardino Mountains is rated moderate due to initial elevation gain. This lovely area has panoramic views across the Victor Valley.

BRING water, a snack and layered clothing. Strong footwear is a requirement. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum, Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308 by 8 am. LEADER: NORMAN BOSSOM 760-912-3725. coachnorm@yahoo.com  
MOJAVE GROUP

**\*\*NOV 18 (SAT) 8:30 AM GRANDVIEW POINT HIKE**

This hike starts at the Aspen Glen Picnic area in Big Bear. It's a 6.5 mile out and back hike through pines, firs, juniper and oaks. Grandview Point we will be our snack/lunch break. There are breathtaking views from the point! From there we will retrace our steps back. Bad weather cancels. RATED: Moderate in difficulty. BRING: 10 essentials, 2 liters of water, snack/lunch, wear layered clothing, hiking boots, trekking poles and camera. MEET: At the Aspen Glen Picnic area on Millcreek Rd on the west side of Big Bear, an Adventure Pass is required to park there. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER JUDY ATKINSON (909) 289-1932, judy5723@gmail.com  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**NOV 19 (SUN) 8:30 AM GOLD MOUNTAIN HIKE**

The Holcomb fire in June reached as far south east as the PCT trailhead to Gold Mountain. The forest ranger closed the trailhead for a year. I will find an alternate route and inform everyone which I have chosen. RATED: Moderate with a few steep stretches. Elevation gain is about 1,200 feet. It is a 7-mile in and out hike. BRING: The ten essentials including layered clothing, sunscreen, sunglasses, snack/lunch, a good pair of hiking boots, and two liters of water. MEET: Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM at Vons parking lot. We will carpool to the trailhead. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER PETER MICHELSEN at petermichelsenor@gmail.com or call 760-333-3103.  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**NOVEMBER 20 – NOVEMBER 26**

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings  
(Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

**NOV 22 (WED) 9:00 AM INTO LAKE PERRIS HIKE**

Moderate 6-mile hike along hills into Lake Perris. BRING water, snack, sunscreen, sturdy shoes. Rain cancels. MEET: Ridgecrest Park at 28506 John F. Kenney Dr., Moreno Valley. Carpool to trailhead. INFO and LEADER: CHRISTINA TORRES (951) 318-7503 or cmt.teck@gmail.com  
MORENO VALLEY GROUP

**NOV 24 (FRI) 10:00 AM SB MTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE ARTISAN TOUR WALK**

Explore the community of Green Valley Lake on a moderate 3-mile walk around town with stops to visit local artisans. Our own hiking leader Sandy Ellis will open her home to the tour. This is a great opportunity to get some exercise, and some Christmas shopping done. BRING snacks, water, and money for shopping. MEET in Green Valley Lake across the street from the post office (33271 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR layered clothing and walking shoes. Inclement weather will cancel. LEADER KARLA KELLEMS karlakellems@gmail.com, 909-939-5790 (no text).  
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**NOVEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 3**

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings  
(Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

**NOV 28 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING**

Chapter governance meeting. Monthly except for December. PLACE: The meeting is by teleconference. If you wish to participate, contact Mary Ann for instructions. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, ruizmaryann@gmail.com, (909) 815-9379.  
CHAPTER

**DEC 1 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MTS, ARROWHEAD RIDGE HIKE**

Come join us on this moderate 2-mile hike. Explore massive ponderosa pines in this lush forested area. After the hike check out the Veterans Monument, an Eagle Scout project. MEET: trail head on Grass Valley Road across the street from the Lake Arrowhead Country Club. Look for the boulder with a carved Arrowhead on the right. WEAR layered clothing and hiking shoes. BRING snacks and water. Inclement weather or poor trail conditions will cancel. LEADER KARLA KELLEMS 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com  
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**DEC 2 (SAT) 8:00 AM BONITA VISTA HIKE**

There are beautiful views from the top and numerous other trails from this trailhead. There are short strolls of a mile or less to 6 or more miles. This hike, called the "Ridge Loop," is over 2 miles. RATED: Easy to Moderate, there is elevation gain in the beginning. BRING: water, a snack/lunch, binoculars, camera, and sun protection. WEAR: sturdy shoes/boots and dress in layers. MEET: Victor Valley Museum, (11873 Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley 92308) at 8:00 AM from there we will carpool to the trailhead. LEADER: QUINTIN LAKE, (951)315-7691 or qlake15@gmail.com CO-LEADER: SUSAN STUEBER, (760)900-5330 or sstueber16@gmail.com  
MOJAVE GROUP

**DEC 2 (SAT) 8:30 AM HOPALONG CASSIDY TRAIL HIKE**

The trail starts at the Bump and Grind trailhead and contours through the hills and side canyons west of Highway 74 in Palm Desert, eventually joining the Art Smith trail and coming out at the national monument visitor center on CA-74. Portions of the trail have the city in view, while other sections feel quite remote. With a short car shuttle, we will hike the entire trail. The 1600 ft. cumulative elevation change and 10-mile distance make this a substantial hike. Optional late lunch gathering afterwards. RATED: Moderate-Strenuous MEET: Starbucks at the SW corner of Highway 111 and Monterey/Highway 74. 73030 El Paseo, Palm Desert, CA 92260. BRING: ten essentials, layers and sun protection, snack, 3-liters of water RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER DAVE MELTON at (760) 408-2456 or dmelton61@yahoo.com  
BIG BEAR GROUP



## Big Bear Group

By Ellen Kesler, Group Chair

Our Big Bear Group had an excellent turnout on September 21<sup>st</sup> for a “Free Popcorn and Movie Night” where we showed the documentary “Breaking Point” about the Salton Sea. There were many questions asked following the movie with a good discussion. Even received a wonderful article about it in our local newspaper, the *Big Bear Grizzly*!

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, we have Dr. Hugh Bialecki speaking about the Nestle Co. taking water from our mountain’s Strawberry Creek at our General Meeting. Our General Meetings are held in the Discovery Center at 6:30 pm with free refreshments.

Our ExCom is looking for new faces to join our board. We are eager to welcome new ideas and enthusiastic support of our activities in the Bear Valley. Our meetings are once a month in the evening with flexible dates (to accommodate everyone’s schedules).

If you’d be interested in helping us promote the Sierra Club mission up here, please contact me at jcricket47@yahoo.com. I’m looking forward to hearing from you!



### From Outings Chair, David Melton –

We have two new Hike Leaders who are completing provisional hikes:

David Holtegaard, who took the training class in June, has been connecting with Ed Caliendo and Peter Michelson. He has scheduled two provisional hikes in Nov/Dec, both with Ed supervising and Dave Melton as the back-up.

Janet Roy has one provisional lead scheduled for Nov/Dec with Peter supervising.

David Newmann, who was approved as a Hike Leader several months ago, is back from Oregon and is going to lead a December cross-country hike through Smith-Water Canyon in Joshua Tree where he volunteers. He is also going to lead half of the CA Riding and Hiking Trail series of four hikes in Jan/Feb with probably Dave Melton leading the remaining two.

Check the list of hikes in this newsletter because we have 17 hikes scheduled for Nov/Dec!

Continued on Page 9 >>>

## November’s Chapter Program to “Focus” on Nature Photography: How Not to Take Bad Photos

Please join us on November 7<sup>th</sup> for a special presentation by Steve Kaye on nature photography. The program starts at 7:30 PM at the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane in Redlands. Steve will show how to use space, light, and time to capture nature’s extraordinary beauty. This is a program for everyone.



Steve will cover both basic photographic concepts plus advanced techniques. And he’ll show over a hundred photos to illustrate how to take beautiful, memorable photos. This is a fast

paced, condensed version of his half-day seminar. So be prepared to think fast!

Steve Kaye has been taking photos since 1965. He uses his photos in articles and in talks, such as Local Birds and Meet the Birds, two presentations he gave to our chapter in 2013 and 2016. His goal is to inspire respect for nature so that people take better care of our wonderful outdoors. Find more of Steve’s photos at [www.stevекaye.com](http://www.stevекaye.com)

## Tahquitz Group

Submitted by Joan Taylor

### Tahquitz Group Executive Committee Election

This year’s Nominating Committee (Gary Gray and Rob Taylor) wants you to know that if you want to be considered for nomination, or know someone that you want to present for nomination you can contact either one of them ([mountaintracker47@gmail.com](mailto:mountaintracker47@gmail.com) or [junipertree@mac.com](mailto:junipertree@mac.com)). Before you do, however, please look over this year’s Election Rules.

#### Election Rules

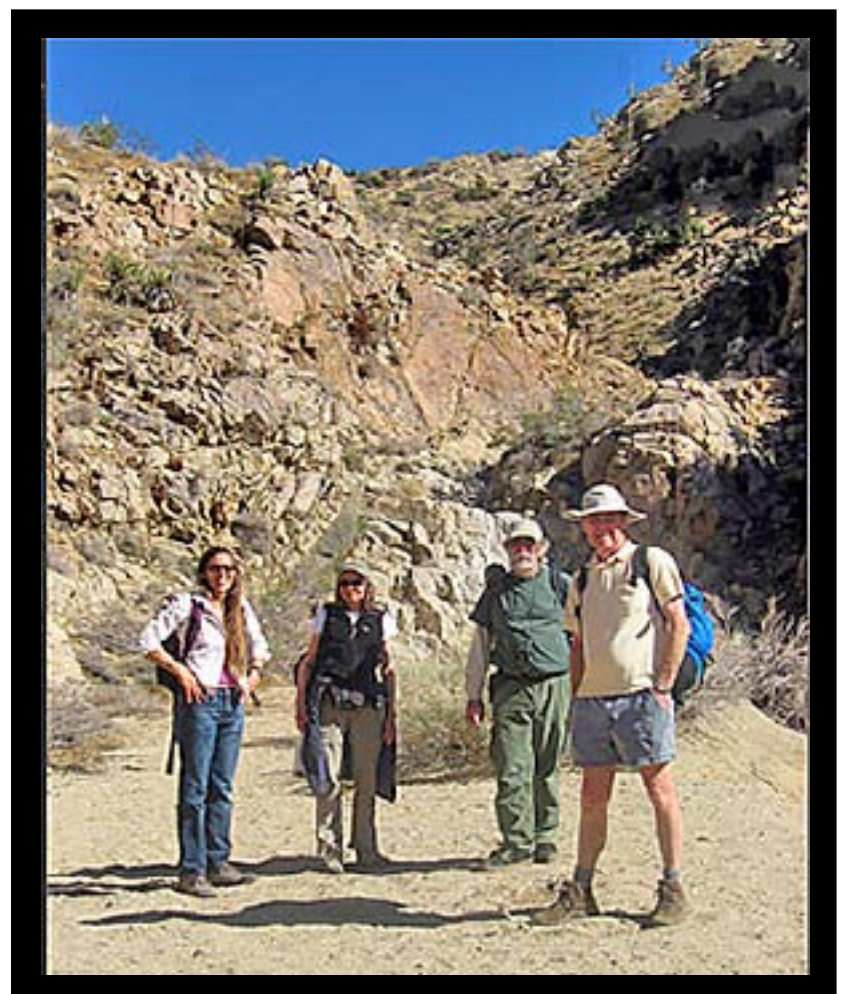
- Nominees must be Tahquitz Group members who give their consent to be nominated.
- Requests for nomination must be received by November 20, 2017.
- If the Nominating Committee chooses not to place a willing candidate on the ballot as a nominated candidate, the candidate may seek placement on the ballot as a petition candidate.
- The name of any Tahquitz Group member may be proposed by written petition (with candidate approval) containing the signatures of at least 10 Tahquitz Group members. Petitions with valid signatures must be received at PO Box 4944 Palm Springs CA 92263 by 6:00 pm on November 20, 2017.
- All Tahquitz Group members as of December 5, 2017, shall be sent ballots.
- Ballots will be mailed (as part of the Palm and Pine) by approximately December 20.
- Final receipt date for ballots shall be January 24th at 12 noon.
- Ballots will be verified, opened, and counted at 11:30 am on Monday, February 12, 2018, at Starbucks Coffeehouse, 67760 E Palm Canyon Dr, Cathedral City, CA.
- The 2-year term of office for the newly elected Excom members will commence on Feb 12, 2018, and will run through December 31, 2019.

*Last month with the passing of Jeff Morgan, Chair of Tahquitz Group, we lost a wonderful friend and great champion of the California desert.*

*Ever since Jeff moved to the Coachella Valley over two decades ago, he worked tirelessly to fight development and OHV threats to the desert’s special places. With wide-ranging experience around the globe as a mountaineer, spelunker, engineer, contractor, and finally property appraiser, Jeff brought many skills to the table. He could decipher maps and plans, and judge feasibility of development with expertise that often stymied our opponents when they tried to pull the wool over our eyes! True to his mountaineer background, Jeff always remained cool and undaunted in the face of adversity.*

*Jeff worked on a number of environmental issues, but is especially known for his leadership in the Pine Mountain, Shadowrock, and Paradise Valley battles. The former two battles were consummated and the areas preserved in perpetuity. But the “new town” of Paradise Valley next to Joshua Tree National Park is still being processed by Riverside County. It will be very tough to fill Jeff’s shoes on that project, but we will try.*

*Jeff was no armchair environmentalist. He loved to explore desert peaks, archeological sites and canyons, often discovering unique routes into hard-to-reach destinations. A “Renaissance man,” Jeff was indeed a very special compatriot – he will be greatly missed.*





# Santa Margarita Group

By Pam Nelson, Group Chair and Michael H. Momeni, PhD - Environmental Nuclear Scientist

Many topics are being addressed by our Group this fall. Proposed housing developments, wildlife corridor/crossing fragmentation, homeless impacts, partnering with educational and Reserve entities and traffic problems are a few. Of course, we have a bit of fun and exploration while we are doing these things.

Remedies for freeway traffic are on the fore-front of Michael Momeni's efforts, the advocate for creation of a regional mass-transit system. He has worked for a good part of the year to bring leading members of the community and officials together to discuss the need for an electric train connecting Ontario to San Diego. His workshop will take place in Temecula on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. For more information link to:

<http://sierraconservation.blogspot.com/2017/03/riverside-to-san-diego-commuter-train.html>  
And ... <http://sierraconservation.blogspot.com/2017/02/transportation-workshop-rapid-mass.html>

Work on the local wildlife crossing at I-15 and Temecula creek continues. This summer I, Pam Nelson, put together two meetings with the "agencies" and non-profits with participation of mountain lion expert, Winston Vickers. This included field tours and strategy sessions. Our ground cleanups are in process to improve the habitat. Homeless camps and graffiti artists make this a complicated job.

Our intern program has gotten off the ground. An early summer meeting with representatives from Mt. San Jacinto Community College and SDSU, local land managers and educators resulted in a format for success. We now offer a variety of opportunities for students to work in the field and on Group efforts and earn college credit.

Our educator's network, Stewards for Environmental Education (SEED), met in August at the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve (SMER) to review the field opportunities available to local educators. The nature trail, the operations building and docents make this an ideal place for outdoor studies.

Our general meeting speaker series looks exciting for this year. We had an eye-opening overview of how water and sewer can be used to make a sustainable supply for our region at our last meeting. Eastern Municipal Water District's Joe Mouawad explained the innovative method the District is using that includes desalination and fuel-cell technology.

Our October presentation by The Nature Conservancy (Trish Smith and Cara Lacey) will tell us about wildlife connectivity in So. California. The next month will be Maria Serrano showing her artistic and creative nature photographs.

We are planning some fun social events as well. We will be repeating our Holiday Party at the Vail Lake Resort on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars!

By Pam Nelson, Chair

## Congested Interstates Traffic Through the Temecula Valley: Options

The average daily traffic through Temecula Valley was about 165,000 vehicles during 2015 (source Caltrans: 159,000 to 169,000). This number was projected to increase to 250,000 by 2030 at the junction of the Riverside and San Diego county line. A review of construction expansion within the Interstates 15 and 215 corridors would indicate that the 2030 projection is expected to be much larger. Interstates 15 and 215 connect San Diego to Ontario and to Riverside, respectively. To reduce traffic on Interstates 15 and 215, several options have been presented. Among these are an improvement of California State Route 79 from Highway 8 to Aguanga, north to Hemet connecting to Highway 10 and 60 at Beaumont. It would allow an alternative route for trucks and cars passing through the region to the north and east of Temecula Valley.

The second option is improvement of both Interstate 15 and 215. These improvements would include the addition of traffic lanes and an extension of the express lanes from Escondido to Ontario and Riverside. This option relies on the concept that once a highway is expanded by adding more lanes, the problem of the congested road will evaporate. This concept is fully false. Indeed, expansion of Interstate 15 in Temecula may make the commuting time shorter but it allows more distant places such as Hemet to become more desirable because of the affordability condition:

<http://sierraconservation.blogspot.com/2017/09/dealing-with-traffic-on-interstate-15.html>

### SANTA MARGARITA GROUP ELECTIONS

This year's Nominating Committee (Michael Momeni, Bob Audibert and George McMackin) wants you to know that if you want to be considered for nomination, or know someone that you want to present for nomination, you can contact any one of them ([sierraclubsmg@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubsmg@gmail.com)). Before you do, however, look over this year's Election Rules:

#### Election Rules

- Nominees must be Santa Margarita Group members who give their consent to be nominated.
- Requests for nomination must be received by October 25, 2017.
- If the Nominating Committee chooses not to place a willing candidate on the ballot as a nominated candidate, the candidate may seek placement on the ballot as a petition candidate.
- The name of any Group member may be proposed by written petition (with candidate approval) containing the signatures of at least 10 Group members. Petitions with valid signatures must be received by 6:00 pm on Oct 25.
- All Group members shall be sent ballots in the Jan/Feb 2018 issue of the *Palm and Pine* newsletter.
- Final receipt date for ballots shall be January 31, 2018.
- Ballots will be verified, opened, and counted on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> by the election committee.
- The 2-year term of office for the newly elected Excom members will commence on February 15, 2018, and will run through December 31, 2019. Everything accomplished by the Group is done by volunteers and this is one way that you can help make a difference. If you want to know more about the duties of an Executive Committee member please feel free to contact Pam Nelson at [pamela05n@yahoo.com](mailto:pamela05n@yahoo.com)

The third option is the creation of a commuter train linking San Diego to Ontario and Riverside:

The creation of a regional commuter train connecting East Ontario to San Diego has been previously reported here (*Palm and Pine* Publication, September/October 2017, page 3) and will be the topic of a Regional Transportation Workshop on October 25<sup>th</sup> in Temecula and sponsored by the Santa Margarita Group.



Any of these options must be subjected to detailed analysis of the environmental impacts as well as cost-benefit analysis prior to approval.

By Michael H. Momeni  
Environmental Nuclear Scientist

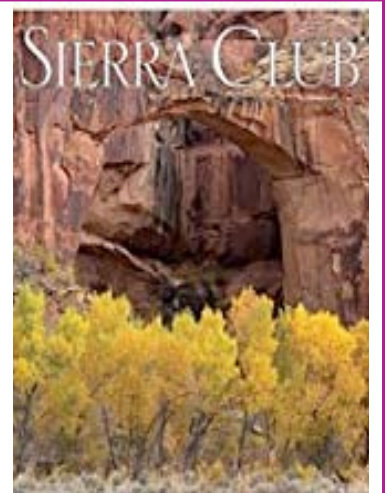


## SIERRA CLUB 2018 CALENDARS



### Sierra Club 2018 Wilderness Wall Calendar

Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.



### Sierra Club 2018 Engagement Calendar

Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.

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Wilderness Wall Calendar	\$14.95	\$13.50	\$12.50	_____	_____	_____
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Over ten calendars: Contact Ladd for a freight quote; 909-800-3911, or [ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com](mailto:ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com)

Make checks payable to **Sierra Club** and mail this coupon to:

**Sierra Club Calendars, PO Box 5425, Riverside, CA 92517-5425** **Total** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Cost includes all applicable sales taxes computed to the nearest mil)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Mojave Group

By Susan Steuber, Group Chair &  
Brian Baker, Conservation Chair

### Conservation News for Mojave Group

The Sierra Club reached an agreement with Big Lots to settle our lawsuit regarding their proposed warehouse in Apple Valley. This was code-named the “Jupiter Project” during its proposal phase. The Club sued over the lack of a comprehensive environmental review under the state’s CEQA law. The warehouse is one of what could be many in northern Apple Valley’s industrial zoned area. The Inland Empire has seen huge numbers of warehouses built in recent decades, with significant environmental damage to habitat, air quality, light and noise pollution, and contributions to greenhouse gases. We hope to limit these environmental impacts in the High Desert as much as possible.

As a result of negotiations, Big Lots agreed to install a significant solar PV system on the roof of the warehouse. We hope this leads to even more “distributed” solar on buildings, rather than decimating large sections of the desert with solar farms. We were also able to secure other improvements to the warehouse, such as better tree cover in the parking lot, electric vehicle charging stations and increased use of electricity instead of fossil fuels. Big Lots also agreed to make donations to two local conservation groups for habitat conservation purposes. Even though a new warehouse will mean impacts on the environment, at least we were able to reduce those impacts through Club action.

### National Public Lands Day in Juniper Flats

The Barstow BLM office held this year’s National Public Lands Day in Juniper Flats, an area that is south of Apple Valley in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains. The Friends of Juniper Flats, along with several other volunteers, were able to choose from three projects.

1. Installation of interpretive signs at Arrastre Falls, trash cleanup, fix the fence if needed and talk about wildlife and Riparian areas.
2. Installation of interpretive signs, restoration project nearby, followed by a short hike led by the Friends of Juniper Flats. The hike was led by Jenny Wilder the coordinator for the Friends of Juniper Flats. Hikers were given information about the vegetation, history and rock formations of the area.
3. General clean-up of trigger trash off of JF3253. (A road that leads to one of our favorite hiking areas.)

It was a beautiful day, sunny and a bit on the windy side. Following National Public Lands Day the Friends of Juniper Flats held their annual membership meeting. There are a lot of exciting things happen in the Juniper Flats area. We are making some headway at having hiking trails designated in one of the WEMO alternatives. We are planning ways to get more attention from community leaders on the uniqueness of the area.

If you are interested in getting involved please contact Jenny Wilder at jensoasis@aol.com or Susan Steuber sstueber16@gmail.com.

### Mojave Group Executive Committee Election

This year’s Nominating Committee (Quintin Lake, Bryan Baker and Norman Bossom) wants you to know that if you want to be considered for nomination, or you know someone that you want to present for nomination to the Mojave Groups Executive Committee you can contact Quintin Lake at qlake15@gmail.com or Norman Bossom at coachnorm@yahoo.com. Please look over the following election rules.

#### Election Rules

- 1) Nominees must be Mojave Group members who give their consent to be nominated.
- 2) Requests for nomination must be received by November 27th.
- 3) All Mojave Group members will be mailed ballots as part of the January/February *Palm and Pine*.
- 4) Ballots must be received by January 26<sup>th</sup> or you can submit your ballot at the January 10, 2018, Mojave Group general meeting.
- 5) Results will be published in the March/April *Palm and Pine* and will be announced at the February 14th Mojave Group general meeting.
- 6) The new members 2 year terms will start on February 1, 2018.



## Moreno Valley Group

By Ann McKibben, Secretary  
Moreno Valley Group  
Executive Committee Election

This year’s Nominating Committee (George Hague, Kathleen Dale, John Myers) wants you to look over this year’s Election Rules:

#### Election Rules

- Nominees must be Moreno Valley Group members who give their consent to be nominated.
- Requests for nomination must be received by October 20, 2017.
- If the Nominating Committee chooses not to place a willing candidate on the ballot as a nominated candidate, the candidate may seek placement on the ballot as a petition candidate.
- Each of these petition candidates must have the signatures of at least 15 Moreno Valley Group members—including their own. Petitions with valid signatures must be received by 6:00 p.m. on November 3, 2017.
- All Moreno Valley members as of November 3, 2017, shall be sent ballots.
- Ballots will be mailed (as part of the fall issue of the Moreno Valley Group newsletter) by November 10, 2017.
- All completed ballots need to be mailed to the Moreno Valley Group, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325. Only ballots received by December 8, 2017, shall be counted.

- Ballots will be verified, opened, and counted at December 10, 2017, 3:00 p.m. in the patio area of Starbucks located at 12751 Moreno Beach Dr., Moreno Valley, CA 92555.
- The 2-year term of office for the newly elected ExCom members will commence at their first meeting of 2018, and will run through December 31, 2019.

Elected members of the Moreno Valley Executive Committee (ExCom) are all volunteers and there is no compensation provided. If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Dale at (951) 941-3883 or kdalenmn@aol.com

### MORE MORENO VALLEY GROUP NEWS

Our fall group hikes continue with the November 1<sup>st</sup> Terri Peak Hike. For complete information and a list of our hikes, please go to: [http://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org/groups/moreno\\_valley](http://sangorgonio2.sierraclub.org/groups/moreno_valley)

**Ironwood Village Project (IVP):** The Moreno Valley Planning Commission and the city’s Recreational Trails Board have unanimously rejected the IVP at their meetings. The developer did not file the required appeal of the planning commission denial, but the item was scheduled to be put on the city council agenda. In August the developer asked to have the project postponed indefinitely. Local residents group, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, have organized in opposition to the project. Residents are concerned about the small lot sizes and loss of rural land uses, compromising the city’s general plan, increases in traffic, and elimination of city public multi-use trail. The city has done a mitigated negative declaration which does not include a complete analysis of the project.

**Moreno Valley Logistics Center (MVLC):** The project proposes four warehouses totaling about 1.8 million square feet. One building of 1.3 million square feet is planned close to existing homes with truck docks lining the wall facing the homes. Of major concern is the effect that poor air quality, noise, and traffic will have on the adjacent neighborhood. The project proponent wants to reduce the setback from 300 feet to 100 feet further endangering local residents. The project was unanimously approved by the city planning commission in July. The city council hearing has been continued to November 7, 2017. Comments may still be submitted to the planner, Julia Descoteaux at juliad@moval.org. The environmental documents can be found at the city’s web page: <http://www.moreno-valley.ca.us/cdd/documents/about-projects.html>

**World Logistics Center (WLC):** A coalition of environmental groups (San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society, Center for Biological Diversity, Sierra Club and other groups) are being represented by Earthjustice. The appeal hopes to reverse the decision of a Riverside County Superior Court judge who denied the request by the coalition to block two Moreno Valley city initiatives which may allow the city to circumvent state environmental laws in analyzing the environmental impacts of the WLC project. Our California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) challenge to the WLC will be heard in court during the first week in January 2018.

**Villages of Lakeview (VOL):** The final environmental document was released on August 2017. The Riverside County Planning Commission hearing on the project was held on September 6, 2017, and continued to October 4, 2017. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors could hold hearings on the project as soon as November. The proposed VOL housing project (11,350 units) is planned on the southern boundary of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. The current hearing process includes a modified project for 8,725 housing units referred to as Alternative 7. You can contact planner Russell Brady at rbrady@rctlma.org or (951) 955-3025 for more information and to be put on their mailing list.

**Donations Needed:** Please note that our group fall newsletter will be sent out in early November. There will be a self-addressed, self-stamped envelope that can be used to return our group election ballots and make a donation if you wish to challenge the latest version of the Villages of Lakeview project and continue to help with the World Logistics Center litigation. You can make checks out to the “Sierra Club” with the notation WLC/VOL and send your donations to: Sierra Club—Moreno Valley Group, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325. Thank you to all who have already donated.

**The Riverside County General Plan Update aka GPA 960:** Some of our concerns include GPA 960’s impact on greenhouse gases, agricultural lands, the San Jacinto Wildlife Area’s at-risk species as well as promoting sprawl. A separate lawsuit was filed on the Housing Element (HE) because it has similar problems as GPA960. Successful settlement talks on the greenhouse gas issues for GPA 960 were recently finalized with important gains to strengthen the County’s Climate Action Plan. Settlement talks continue regarding other areas of the lawsuit, but the litigation is also moving forward with our opening brief filed on September 27.

**Mid County Parkway (MCP):** The six-lane MCP between the cities of San Jacinto and Perris is designed to allow projects like the Villages of Lakeview to be built. While we lost in court, the Center for Biological Diversity has filed an appeal on the federal decision on behalf of the Sierra Club and other groups and is reviewing the potential for an appeal of the State Superior Court decision.

Moreno Valley Recreational Trails Board hike, Saturday, October 28, 2017. Hike to Box Springs M Trail (DIFFICULT); meet at 7:30 a.m. parking lot on the west side of campus; Canyon Springs High School, 23100 Cougar Canyon Drive, MV. (Approx. 4.8 miles round trip.) Call (951) 413-3703 to confirm all information.



Sept 13<sup>th</sup> Two Trees Trail Hike  
Photo by Christina Torres



Sept 17<sup>th</sup> Oak Glen Preserve  
Wildlands Conservancy Hike  
Photo by Christina Torres



**PS Form 3526, Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

*San Gorgonio Chapter Elections . . . Continued from Page 1*

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  - Editor: Jo Ann Fischer, Post Office Box 5425, Riverside, CA 92517-5425
  - Managing Editor: Ladd G. Seekins, Post Office Box 5425, Riverside, CA 92517-5425
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13. Publication Title: Palm and Pine

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September/October 2017

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation:	Average Preceding 12 Months	Sep/Oct 2017 Issue
a. Total Number of Copies	6333	6500
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Paid Outside County	0	0
(2) Paid In-County	0	0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mail	0	0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS	5663	6151
c. Total Paid Distribution	5663	6151
d. Free or Nominal Distribution by Mail or Outside the Mail		
(1) Outside County	0	0
(2) In-County	0	0
(3) Other Classes Mailed Through USPS	267	150
(4) Free or Nominal Distribution Outside the Mail	229	100
e. Total Free or Nominal Distribution	496	250
f. Total Distribution	6159	6401
g. Copies not Distributed	174	99
h. Total	6333	6500
i. Percent Paid	90%	95%

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed: November/December 2017.  
 Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: /s/ Ladd G. Seekins, 10/2/2017



**San Gorgonio Chapter Ballot**  
 Mail in the ballot (on Page 11) or vote electronically at  
<http://www.san-gorgonio2.sierraclub.org>

**Printed Ballot Instructions**  
 Remember to print your name and address and sign your name on the outside of the envelope so the ballot can be verified. If two ballots from a Joint Membership are enclosed, be sure to print the name and address and sign for both.

**Chapter Ballot**  
Please vote for 3 or fewer.

Kim Floyd

Ladd Seekins

Joan Taylor

**Chapter Ballot**  
Please vote for 3 or fewer.

Kim Floyd

Ladd Seekins

Joan Taylor

(First Ballot)

(Second Ballot - Joint Member)

Mail your ballot(s) to: Sierra Club, PO Box 651, Blue Jay, CA 92317  
**Ballots are due no later than November 26 at 6:00 pm.**



*Big Bear Group . . . Continued from Page 6*

**Executive Committee Election**

This year's Nominating Committee wants you to know that if you want to be considered for nomination, or know someone that you want to present for nomination, you can contact Ellen Kesler at [jcricket47@yahoo.com](mailto:jcricket47@yahoo.com) or mail to P.O. Box 3048, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315. Before you do, please look over this year's Election Rules:

**ELECTION RULES**

- Nominees must be Big Bear Group members who give their consent to be nominated.
- Requests for nomination must be received by November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- If the Nominating Committee chooses not to place a willing candidate on the ballot as a nominee, the candidate may seek placement on the ballot as a Petition Candidate.
- The name of any Big Bear Group member may be proposed by written petition (with candidate approval) containing the signatures of at least 10 Big Bear Group members. Petitions with valid signatures must be received by 6pm on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Ballots will be mailed as part of the *Palm and Pine* newsletter by December 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Final receipt date for ballots shall be January 8, 2018.
- The two-year term of office for the newly elected ExCom members will commence on February 1, 2018, and will run through January 31, 2019.

Everything accomplished by the Big Bear Group is done by volunteers and this is one way that you can help make a difference. If you want to know more about the duties of an Executive Committee member, please feel free to contact Ellen Kesler.



**Mountains Group**

*By Dave Barrie, Chair*

**Mountains Group Ballot**

Not sure if you are a Mountains Group member? Except for a few special cases, you are a Mountains Group member if you are in the following ZIP code areas: 92317, 92321, 92322, 92325, 92326, 92341, 92352, 92378, 92382, 92385 and 92391.

**Printed Ballot Instructions**

Remember to print your name and address and sign your name on the outside of the envelope so the ballot can be verified. If two ballots from a Joint Membership are enclosed, be sure to print the name and address and sign for both.

Mail in the ballot (below) or ....

you can vote electronically at

<http://www.sierraclub.org/san-gorgonio/san-bernardino-mountains>

For additional information about online voting please see the Chapter Excom Election information on Page 1 of this issue.

**Mountains Group Ballot**  
Please vote for 3 or fewer.

Chris Del Ross-Risher

Debby McAllister

Dave Barrie

**Mountains Group Ballot**  
Please vote for 3 or fewer.

Chris Del Ross-Risher

Debby McAllister

Dave Barrie

(First Ballot)

(Second Ballot - Joint Member)

Mail your ballot(s) to: Sierra Club, PO Box 651, Blue Jay, CA 92317  
**Ballots are due no later than November 24 at 12 noon.**



Calendar... Continued from Page 5

**DEC 2 (SAT) 10:00 AM WHITEWATER CANYON SOUTH VIEW LOOP HIKE**

A 3.5-mile moderate loop trail with excellent views of the canyon and surrounding mountains. This trail leaves from the Whitewater Preserve Ranger Station and follows the Pacific Crest Trail heading south. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, snack, sunscreen, layer clothing appropriate for the weather. CONTACT John St. Clair to confirm and for directions to trailhead and carpool meeting place. LEADER: JOHN ST. CLAIR at 909-983-8501 or john@stclairs.us  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**DEC 2 (SAT) 10:00 AM WHITEWATER PRESERVE NORTH TO RED DOME HIKE**

Hike along the PCT. From Whitewater Preserve Ranger Station hike north, 2 miles to Red Dome, an interesting rock outcrop. There are views to Sand to Snow National Monument, maybe even some snow on the mountains. RATED: Easy, 4 miles RT, level. BRING hiking boots, layered clothing, 2 liters of water, and snacks. Exposed hike, hat and sunscreen advised. MEET: Whitewater Ranger station. LEADER JEFF WARHOL 909-985-7686  
jmwandjjw@hotmail.com  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**DEC 2 (SAT) 9:00 AM CHAPTER DAY AT WHITEWATER SOCIAL**

Explore Whitewater Preserve in Sand to Snow National Monument with fellow Sierra Club friends and guests. We will have two hikes to choose from beginning at 10:00 am. We will have a table with San Gorgonio Chapter info, group picnic after the hikes (bring a picnic lunch!), education on cultural awareness from indigenous tribe members, and welcoming info for new members. See hike details on this date and *Palm and Pine* article on front page for further details. INFO: Contact MARY ANN RUIZ, ruizmaryann@gmail.com or 909-815-937.  
SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER

**DEC 3 (SUN) 8:00 AM LOST PALM OASIS TRAIL, JOSHUA TREE NP HIKE**

This oasis has the highest concentration of native California palms in Joshua Tree. Visit via a 7.4-mile round-trip hike with 460 feet of elevation gain from Cottonwood Springs. Climb over rocky ridges and follow narrow sandy washes, passing many cacti and large groups of monzonite boulders. MEET: From Interstate 10 15 miles east of Coachella, exit 168 Cottonwood Springs Road, turn left (north) for 7 miles, turn right (east) before visitor center, and 1 mile to trailhead at end of road on the right. COST: Entrance fee or pass required. RATED: Moderately difficult. BRING: Ten essentials, hat, sunscreen, 2 liters of water, and hiking poles. RESERVATIONS: Contact APPRENTICE LEADER DAVID HOLTEGAARD 909-881-1329 or d10olie@aol.com or LEADER ED CALIENDO 442-242-4103 ordog111@msn.com  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**DEC 3 (SUN) 8:30 AM EYE OF GOD VIA PCT HIKE**

This hike is through a dense forest of Pinyon pines dotted by the occasional Joshua tree. After about a mile the tree canopy opens up into the high mountain desert. Then take an access road to the Eye of God, a rose colored quartz boulder held sacred by the Serrano Indians. RATED: Easy. It is a five mile in and out hike with an elevation gain of 400 feet. BRING: The ten essentials including layered clothing, sun screen, hat, sun glasses, snack/lunch, hiking boots and two liters of water. MEET: Vons parking lot at 8:30 AM. We will car pool to the trailhead. RESERVATIONS: CONTACT LEADER PETER MICHELSEN at petermichelsenor@gmail.com or call 760-333-3103.  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**DEC 3 (SUN) 8:30 AM WILDWOOD STATE PARK/OAK GLEN HIKE**

This lovely state park in Yucaipa has about 5 miles of trails. Join the approximately 5-mile, little elevation gain hike. See broad grasslands, interior live oaks, threatened chaparral and sage scrub. For those who are interested, there will be a one-mile second hike in the Wildlands Conservancy in Oak Glen and optional lunch at Los Rios Ranch. Bad weather cancels. RATED: Moderate hike in difficulty. MEET: Wildwood State Park 12241 Canyon Dr., Yucaipa 92399. BRING: 1.5 liters of water, snacks, wear layered clothing, hiking boots, trekking poles and camera. RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER JUDY ATKINSON (909) 289-1932, judy5723@gmail.com  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**DECEMBER 4 – DECEMBER 10**

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings  
(Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

**DEC 5 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING**

Monthly chapter meeting. PROGRAM: See front-page notice. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com. (909) 800-3911. CHAPTER

**DEC 6 (WED) 7:30 AM NORTH VIEW LOOP TRAIL, JOSHUA TREE NP HIKE**

Seven mile loop on the trails: North View, 2.7mi; Maze, 1.2mi; Window Rock, 1.9mi; 1.2mi back to cars Varied views and terrain. Don't forget your camera! RATED: Moderate; short ascents/descents; a few hundred feet total elevation gain/loss overall. Some sand; some rough footing. MEET: Joshua Tree Visitor Center parking lot, 6554 Park Boulevard, Joshua Tree CA 92252. Extremely limited trailhead parking; we'll take as few cars as possible. The trailhead is about 1.7mi from the West Entrance Station BRING: Water & snacks for 4-5 hours' hiking, trekking poles, wind/sun protection (hat, sunscreen, protective clothing), first aid supplies WEATHER: Desert winter days can be warm or cold; check forecast prior to the hike. Rain or snow cancels. RESERVATIONS: Email LEADER LJ FOSTER at eljayeffhiker@yahoo.com or leave name, contact number at (951) 845-9440.  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**DEC 6 (WED) 9:00 AM UPPER MARSHALL CANYON HIKE**

This moderate rated hike goes through a convoluted trail, 4.5-mile R/T with a 750' elevation gain at the top. Plenty of foliage and views on this one thanks to the regional park. BRING: water, sturdy boots, layered clothing and hiking sticks. Rain cancels. MEET: Please call LEADER: JEFF WARHOL to confirm by 5 DEC. 5:00PM or e-mail jmwandjjw@hotmail.com  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**DEC 9 (SAT) 8:00 AM DEEP CREEK CANYON, SOUTHERN SECTION HIKE**

An 8-mile round trip through this beautiful and historic canyon, RATED moderate only because of the distance. Minor elevation gain in one section. There will be an historic commentary BRING water, a snack and layered clothing. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum, Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley, CA 92308 by 8 am. LEADER: NORMAN BOSSOM 760-912-3725. coachnorm@yahoo.com  
MOJAVE GROUP

**DEC 9 (SAT) 8:00 AM JOSHUA TREE NP, SMITH WATER CANYON HIKE**

A beautiful, narrow, and lush canyon with steep walls. Thickets of desert willow and cottonwoods choke the bottom making for an interesting hike. In the lower part, a clump of boulders 20' tall spans the wash requiring a small section of boulder climbing. Distance is 8 miles with an elevation gain of 2,300 feet. RATED: Moderate-Strenuous. MEET: At the Applebee's on Hwy. 62, 57796 Twenty-Nine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley 92284. BRING: ten essentials, layered clothing including long-sleeve shirt that can withstand thorny brush, sun protection, lunch, 2 liters of water. RESERVATIONS: CONTACT LEADER DAVE NEUMANN at (208) 892-3001 or CO-LEADER DAVE MELTON at (760) 408-2456 or dmelton61@yahoo.com  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**DEC 9 (SAT) 8:30 AM PCT SEC D SEG 1, CAJON PASS/SWARTHOUT CYN HIKE**

A short 5.5-mile segment begins Section D of the Pacific Crest Trail, starting near Cajon Pass on I-15 and going west to Swarthout Canyon Road. A shuttle hike with a 560' elevation gain. Those hikers completing all of Section D are eligible to receive an achievement patch. RATING: Easy. MEET: McDonald's Restaurant, just east of the Cajon Pass, at the junction of I-15 and State Route 138. 3230 Wagon Train Rd, Phelan, CA 92371. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, 1.5 liters of water, trail snacks, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat. RESERVATIONS: Contact APPRENTICE LEADER JANET ROY at (909) 702-4519 or email janetroy2@yahoo.com or LEADER PETER MICHELSEN at petermichelsenor@gmail.com or call 760-333-3103  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**DECEMBER 11 – DECEMBER 17**

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings  
(Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

**\*\*DEC 12 (TUE) 8:00 AM STODDARD PEAK HIKE**

This is a moderate hike up Barrett Canyon to the 4624-ft. top of Stoddard Peak, 6 miles round trip with 1100 ft. elevation gain. The hike in Barrett Canyon is easy and goes past some charming cabins. The last half mile up Stoddard Peak is a steep scramble. Rain cancels. BRING: sturdy boots, water, snack, sunscreen, layer clothing appropriate for the weather. Adventure Pass is required for parking at the trailhead. MEET: Contact leader to confirm & for directions to trailhead or carpool place in Upland. LEADER: KATHY VIOLA at 909-346-9653 or kviola826@gmail.com  
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**DEC 12 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, kimffloyd@fastmail.fm (760) 249-5385.  
CHAPTER

**DEC 13 (WED) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING**

The meeting place rotates. CONTACT: ELLEN KESLER, 909-585-1062, jcricket47@yahoo.com  
BIG BEAR GROUP

**DEC 13 (WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING**

Monthly meeting except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: SUSAN STUEBER, susanquintin.stueber@gmail.com  
MOJAVE GROUP

**DEC 14 (THU) 6:30 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING**

Monthly meeting except July & August. The public is welcome. Doors open at 6:00 PM, meeting starts at 6:30. PLACE: Temecula Valley Library, 30600 Pauba Road, Temecula. INFO: PAM NELSON (951) 767-2324 sierraclubsmg@gmail.com  
SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

**DEC 15 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE HIKE/SNOWSHOE**

Join us for a 2-3 mile easy/moderate hike/snowshoe around the Green Valley Lake area of the San Bernardino Mountains. If we have enough snow we will snowshoe. All levels welcome, and no experience is required. MEET in Green Valley Lake across the street from the post office (33271 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR layered clothing. BRING snacks and water. LEADER Sandy Ellis, 909-867-7115 (no text), fsellis67@gmail.com Inclement weather will cancel. Please CALL to check on weather conditions. CO-LEADER KARLA KELLEMS, 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com  
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**DEC 15-17 (FRI-SUN) MECCA HILLS, PAINTED CANYON CAR CAMP**

Camp in the desert. The Mecca hills were formed by plate tectonics along the San Andreas Fault. This geological marvel has some of the best slotted canyons in California. Easy canyon walks to difficult hikes including the popular "Ladders" will be on the agenda, fun for the whole family. The primitive campsite on BLM land is free. CALL to RSVP and for details. LEADER KARLA KELLEMS, 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com  
SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**DEC 16 (SAT) 8:00 AM DEEP CREEK CANYON, NORTHERN SECTION HIKE**

This 6 mile trip through the Canyon is rated moderate because of some elevation gain and off trail hiking. The area has much historical interest and a commentary will be provided. If there is water in the Mojave River be prepared to get your feet wet. A small hand towel is recommended. This is a fun adventure. BRING water, a snack and layered clothing.

Continued on Page 11 >>>



Calendar... Continued from Page 10

MEET at the Victor Valley Museum, Apple Valley Road, Apple Valley by 8am. LEADER: NORMAN BOSSOM 760-912-3725. coachnorm@yahoo.com MOJAVE GROUP

**DEC 16 (SAT) 8:30 AM PAINTED CANYON/LADDER CANYON LOOP HIKE**  
The Painted Canyon/Ladder Canyon Loop is in the northeast corner of the Coachella Valley in the Mecca Hills. It cuts through twisted and exotic Painted Canyon and uses a series of ladders to climb the Painted Canyon area. A five mile hike taking 4 – 5 hours to complete. RATING: Easy/moderate. MEET: Take I-10 to Spot Light 29 Casino, Dillon Road off-ramp and look for TA Travel Center gas station signage. Meet in parking lot under the TA Travel sign. 46155 Dillon Rd, Coachella, CA 92236 BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, 2-liters of water, lunch/snack, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. Hikers should wear long pants or 2-in-1 pants. RESERVATIONS: Call LEADER, ED CALIENDO (442) 242-4103 or dogs111@msn.com BIG BEAR GROUP

**DEC 16 (SAT) 9:30 AM SANTA ROSA PLATEAU HIKE**  
Moderate 6 to 7-mile hike along oak trees and meadows to the historic adobes. BRING 2 liters water, snack/lunch, sunscreen, sturdy shoes. FEE: \$4.00 entrance fee per person. MEET: at Visitor Center parking 39400 Clinton Keith Rd., Murrieta. RSVP by 7 pm Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. INFO and LEADER: CHRISTINA TORRES (951) 318-7503 or cmt.teck@gmail.com MORENO VALLEY GROUP

### DECEMBER 18 – DECEMBER 24

Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings  
(Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

**DEC 19 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING**  
Monthly except July & August. Please join us for an informative program. PLACE: Goldy B. Lewis Center, Central Park, 11200 Baseline Rd., Rancho Cucamonga. INFO: BRIAN ELLIOTT, brianelli@aol.com LOS SERRANOS GROUP

**DEC 20 (WED) 9:30 AM WILDWOOD CANYON STATE PARK HIKE**  
This 5-mile loop has some steep areas, follows a ridge and oak trees. BRING: water, a snack, sunscreen, sturdy shoes. MEET: Exit 10 Fwy at Oak Glen Rd (north), Right turn at 1<sup>st</sup> intersection onto Calimesa Blvd (east), turn left on Wildwood Canyon Rd, follow 4.3 miles, turn left on Canyon Drive to parking lot/equestrian area. Free entrance. Opportunity for lunch at German market/deli. RSVP by 7 p.m. Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. INFO and LEADER: CHRISTINA TORRES (951) 318-7503 or cmt.teck@gmail.com MORENO VALLEY GROUP

**DEC 22 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MTS STRAWBERRY PEAK WALK**  
Join us for a 1-mile easy hike on the Strawberry Peak Trail. This interpretative trail by Garden Works has an impressive “Harry Potter” like tree, fun for the whole family. After the hike, check out the views at the Strawberry Peak fire lookout tower (road conditions permitting). Meet at the Strawberry Peak trailhead on HWY 189 across the street from the Pinecrest Christian Conference Center, 1140 Pinecrest Rd. Twin Peaks, CA 92391. WEAR layered clothing and hiking shoes. BRING snacks and water. Inclement weather or poor trail conditions will cancel. LEADER KARLA KELLEMS, 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**DEC 23 (SAT) 7:30 AM MECCA HILLS EXPLORATION #2 HIKE**  
Explore 3-7 miles up a Mecca Hills canyon; no trail, just enthusiasm and willingness to “wing-it”, take in sights, & enjoy the canyon geology/flora. RATING: Moderate with uneven footing, no trail, and exposure. MEET: Base of the TA Travel Stop sign 46155 Dillon Road, Coachella CA 92236, carpool to the canyon & park along Box Canyon Road about 2.6 miles northeast of Painted Canyon Road. BRING: Water & snacks for 4-5 hours’ hiking, trekking poles, wind/sun protection (hat, sunscreen, protective clothing), personal first aid supplies; No Trace Hiking supplies (TP/plastic bags) WEATHER: Desert winter days can be warm or cold; check forecast prior to the hike. Rain or snow cancels. RESERVATIONS: Email LEADER LJ FOSTER at eljayefferhiker@yahoo.com or leave name, contact number at (951) 845-9440. BIG BEAR GROUP

### DECEMBER 25 – DECEMBER 31

Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings  
(Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

**DEC 29 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE HIKE/SNOWSHOE**  
Join us for a 2-3 mile easy/moderate hike/snowshoe around the Green Valley Lake area of the San Bernardino Mountains. If we have enough snow we will snowshoe. All levels welcome, and no experience is required. MEET in Green Valley Lake across the street from the post office (33271 Green Valley Lake Rd, Green Valley Lake, CA 92341). WEAR layered clothing. BRING snacks and water. LEADER Sandy Ellis, 909-867-7115 (no text), fsellis67@gmail.com Inclement weather will cancel. Please CALL to check on weather conditions. LEADER KARLA KELLEMS, 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

**DEC 31 (SUN) 8:30AM NEW YEAR'S EVE, JOSHUA TREE, WARREN PEAK HIKE**  
A 7-mile loop combines easy wash walking in pretty Black Rock Canyon; an occasionally steep trail through the aptly named Panorama Loop; a short, steep, occasionally loose walk-up ascent of Warren Peak; followed by a longer descent on a use trail off the north side of the peak. Vegetation includes some nice larger pinyon, juniper and oak. Starting elevation of 4000 feet with 1100 foot gain. RATED: Moderate MEET: Visitor’s Center, 9800 Black Rock Canyon Road, Yucca Valley, CA 92284. No entrance station or fee. We should be back to the trailhead by 3:00 pm. BRING: ten essentials, hiking pole, layers and sun protection, lunch, and 2.5-liters of water RESERVATIONS: Contact LEADER DAVE MELTON at (760) 408-2456 or dmelton61@yahoo.com or CO-LEADER PETER MICHELSEN at petermichelsenor@gmail.com or call 760-333-3103. BIG BEAR GROUP

### COMING UP

Please read “LIABILITY WAIVER” preceding these listings  
(Also, refer to Weekly Recurring Outings and Activities)

**\*\*JAN 5 (FRI) 9:00 AM SB MTS, HEAPS PEAK ARBORETUM WALK**  
Here’s your last chance to get the kids out into nature before the end of winter break. Join us for a 1-mile easy walk on the family friendly Sequoia Trail. The interpretive trail is an educational opportunity to learn the names of local plants and animals. MEET: Heaps Peak Arboretum on Highway 18. Adventure Pass recommended. WEAR layered clothing and hiking shoes. BRING snacks and water. Inclement weather or poor trail conditions will cancel. LEADER KARLA KELLEMS 909-939-5790 (no text) karlakellems@gmail.com SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

### NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES

The following activities, meetings 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 only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

### NON-SIERRA CLUB

#### RECURRING WEEKLY & MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

**(EVERY MON) 7:00 AM SANTA ROSA PLATEAU OR NEARBY TRAIL HIKE**  
**NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT VOLKSWALKING IN SO. CALIFORNIA**  
Come walk with Kathy every Monday for a 3-4-mile hike on the beautiful Santa Rosa Plateau or on another interesting trail nearby. No hikes on Christmas and New Year’s Day. Noncompetitive hiking for fun, fitness, and fellowship, Volksmarch is a worldwide movement that started in Germany in the 1960s on air force bases. “Volks” means “people” in German. MEET to carpool at 7:00 AM sharp at Barons Market, 32310 Clinton Keith Road, Wildomar 92595. WEAR sunscreen, a hat and BRING plenty of cold water and a snack. INFO: KATHY BUNDY 951-218-3755. See also the meetup.com page: Volkswalking in So. California Open to Everyone! [MEETS NOV 6, 13, 20 & 27 & DEC 3, 11 & 18]

**(1ST & 3RD FRI) 8:30 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE**  
**NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB**  
International folk dancing: Greek, Israeli, Serbian, Turkish, etc. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$3 donation to help pay for the room. PLACE: Highgrove United Methodist Church, 938 W. Center St., Highgrove. DIRECTIONS: Take the Center St. exit from Interstate 215. The church is one half mile east of the freeway on the right. INFO: GAIL SEEKINS (909) 825-4427 lgseekins@sbcglobal.net or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-2309 [MEETS NOV 3 & 17 AND DEC 2 & 16]

**(3RD WED) 6:30 OR 7:30 PMAUDUBON SOCIETY MEETING**  
**NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
PROGRAM: A guest speaker presents an illustrated program on wildlife or natural science. Come early to browse the gift, tables & socialize. The June and December meetings are potluck dinners and start at 6:30 p.m. LOCATION: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I10 at California St. INFO: DORI MEYERS, (714) 779-2201. [MEETS NOV 15 AT 7:30 PM & DEC 20 AT 6:30 PM]



## Los Serranos Group

Submitted by Brian Elliott, Chair

### Los Serranos Group Executive Committee Election

This year’s Los Serranos Nominating Committee (Brian Elliott, Mary Ann Ruiz, and Dave Thorne) wants you to know that if you want to be considered for nomination, or know someone that you want to present for nomination to be on the Los Serranos Executive Committee, you can contact chair Brian Elliott at brianelli@aol.com or Mary Ann Ruiz at ruizmaryann@gmail.com. Please review this year’s Election Rules that follow:

#### Election Rules

- Nominees must be Los Serranos Group members who give their consent to be nominated.
- Requests for nomination must be received by November 10.
- If the Nominating Committee chooses not to place a willing candidate on the ballot as a nominated candidate, the candidate may seek placement on the ballot as a petition candidate.
- The name of any Los Serranos member may be proposed by written petition (with candidate approval) containing the signatures of at least 10 Los Serranos members. Petitions with valid signatures must be received by 6:00 pm on November 24.
- All Los Serranos members as of December 1, 2017, shall be sent ballots as part of the *Palm and Pine*.
- Ballots will be mailed (as part of the Jan/Feb 2018 *Palm and Pine*) by December 20. Cut the ballot from the *Palm and Pine* and mail it in to the address that is indicated on the ballot. Your name(s) should be on the envelope.
- Final receipt date for ballots shall be January 24, 2018, at 12 noon.
- Ballots will be verified, opened, and counted at Last Name Brewing in Upland on January 29, 2018.
- The 2-year term of office for the newly elected Excom members will commence on March 1, 2018, and will run through Feb 28, 2019. Everything accomplished by the Los Serranos Group is done by volunteers and this is one way that you can help make a difference. If you want to know more about the duties of an Executive Committee member please feel free to contact Brian Elliott at brianelli@aol.com or Mary Ann Ruiz at ruizmaryann@gmail.com



## End-of-the-Year Travel Program: Come Along With Gail and Ladd Seekins as They Share With Us Their Trip to Bhutan and Cambodia

**G**ail and Ladd will share their wonderful adventure at the December 5<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting. The original color slides from 2004 have been digitized and newly edited to highlight these two unique nations.

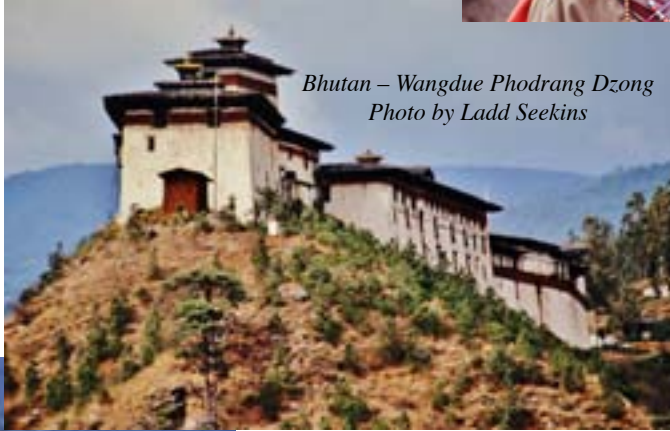
The adventure started with a landing in Kolkata (Calcutta) due to mechanical difficulties, unexpectedly adding a fourth country to the itinerary. The trip ended with a short stay in Bangkok.

The Seekins based their Cambodia activities in the tourist city Siem Reap, renting bicycles to visit the nearby temples despite the intense heat and wilting humidity. The temples, including Angkor Wat, Angkor Thom, East Baray, and several others, are the crumbling



sensibly hired a tuk-tuk and driver to tour the more remote temples and visit one of the floating villages on Tonle Sap, Southeast Asia's largest freshwater lake.

The heart of the tour was Bhutan, the only remaining Himalayan Buddhist kingdom, where the Seekins joined a



Bhutan – Wangdue Phodrang Dzong  
Photo by Ladd Seekins

group organized by a friend. Their Bhutanese guide was a university-educated biologist who had worked at the International Crane Foundation in Wisconsin. Bhutan has one of the world's 15 species of cranes. Like many crane species, it's endangered from

habitat loss. Bhutan's forests contain 40 species of rhododendrons. Except for two or three, the Seekins saw them all in bloom.

remains of the great capital city of the Kmer Empire of the ninth through sixteenth centuries. The next days they



Birdwatching was a frequent activity.

Bhutan is a study in contrasts. The state religion is a branch of Tibetan

Buddhism which is not under the Dali Lama. The country is rural and one of the least densely populated in Asia. Imposing Dzongs dominate the landscape. They're a combination administrative centers and monasteries dating from the time Bhutan was a theocracy and fragmented into fiefdoms. The present royal family united the

country by force in the nineteenth century. The tour visited several dzongs in the drive across Bhutan.



Cambodia – Khmer Temple • Photo by Ladd Seekins

To preserve Bhutanese culture, television and the internet were banned until 1999. National costume, gho for men and kira for women, is compulsory for schoolchildren and adults in public. The government runs tourism and the number of visitors is strictly limited. Tourists pay a flat fee per day regardless of the size of the group, their itinerary, or the comfort of their accommodations. The fee includes the compulsory guide and all meals and lodging.

In 2005, the king ushered in a constitutional monarchy, resulting in national parliamentary elections for the first time in 2007. Drivable roads are very limited. Health care is good but often far away. The government's goal is to increase "gross national happiness." It's a nation of less than 800,000, yet the 1990s saw a forced removal of possibly 100,000 Bhutanese of Hindu Nepali ethnicity.

The highlight of the Seekins tour was the Paro Tschechu, a four-day religious festival featuring ritual dances by monks

in costumes representing demigods and daemons. Toward the end, a gigantic thangka, a textile painting of the Buddha, is revealed, said to bring instant enlightenment to all who view it. The Seekins met Michael Palin of Monty Python fame who was in the audience with a crew filming his documentary on travels in the Himalayas.



## Political Planning for 2018

By Jono Hildner, San Gorgonio Chapter's Political Chair

**O**n Saturday, September 23, members of your Executive Committee and Political Committee, under the leadership of our Excom Chair, Mary Ann Ruiz, spent most of the day in a face-to-face meeting on the campus of the University of Redlands to plan our use of limited resources and volunteers to make the largest possible political impact for the environment and environmental justice in 2018.



by district, we are going to see a lot of opportunities in 2018 for young, progressive, environmentally conscious people of color to finally take control of their own communities. We need to be

there, helping to make it happen. While this is happening all over the place in our two counties, it is clear that we just don't have enough members who are willing to get involved in all these races and we need to focus on just a few areas.

After sharing lots of local political intelligence with the group, we determined that we could have the greatest impact if we focused on the races in San Bernardino County Supervisor Districts 2 and 4 and in Riverside County District 2. This means that, while we won't ignore important races in other parts of the counties, our focus will be on the far western area of our Chapter.

We will be working on refining the specific races that are most winnable for us in these areas and adopt a specific plan at our Excom meeting in January. Mary Valdemar, Gaby Cruz and Mark Rush will take the lead in identifying the specific races and in looking for member volunteers who might take a lead role in the endorsement process in those races. They could use your help, so let them know.

Looking forward to a very productive start of 2018 when we will continue to **TURN THE SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER GREEN!!**

We discussed the famed and feared "SIERRA CLUB POLITICAL TEAM COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES" and talked about the changes that we are likely to see in the new edition. Our emphasis for that portion of the day was on the Endorsement process. Not only on how to comply with the guidelines, but the nuts and bolts of making an endorsement move smoothly and be effective for the endorsed candidate. We intend to make many more endorsements in 2018 than we have in the past and **I URGE ANY MEMBER WHO WANTS TO GET INVOLVED IN ENDORSING CANDIDATES IN STATE OR LOCAL OFFICE RACES, CONTACT YOUR GROUP POLITICAL CHAIR OR SEND AN EMAIL DIRECTLY TO ME: JONO@HILDNER.COM.**

Because so many cities have recently been threatened with lawsuits if they don't start electing their council members



**JOIN NOW**

**Membership**

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

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### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
Introductory .....	\$15	
Regular .....	\$39	\$49
Supporting .....	\$75	\$100
Contributing .....	\$150	\$175
Life .....	\$1,000	\$1,250
Senior .....	\$25	\$35
Student .....	\$25	\$35

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