



Palm and Pine

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



Volume 39 Number 1

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

JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2009

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Order the SC 2009 Wilderness or Engagement Calendars and receive a discount

Membership Meetings

Tuesday, January 6

Mount Zirkel Wilderness

Mary Ann Ruiz, Chapter member and Chair of the Los Serranos Group will present the stunning scenery of the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness she experienced during her 9-day backpack last summer.

Tuesday, February 3

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Most know the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians is located above Highland, but few know much about their history and culture. James Ramos, Chairman of the Band will bring a wealth of information featuring song, culture and history.

Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. at the San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands
(California St exit 10 Fwy)

Interview With Dennis Schramm...Superintendent of Mojave National Preserve

By David Lamfrom

A Brief Introduction to Mojave National Preserve: To millions of drivers en route to or returning from Sin City, the Mojave National Preserve is a large green or brown area on a map, a desolate, rugged, barren landscape to be traversed. To those who have come to know "the Preserve" it is a 1.6 million acre desert mountain wonderland, teeming with wildlife, wildflowers, and wilderness; a place containing singing sand dunes, sweeping vistas, and arguably the finest night sky viewing in Southern California. The Mojave Preserve is a significant reservoir of cultural history dating back 8,000 years or more and is a haven of wilderness within a developing world, allowing current and future generations the opportunity to experience the vastness and diversity of the Eastern Mojave Desert.

Introducing Mr. Dennis Schramm

Dennis Schramm has been the superintendent of Mojave National Preserve for almost three years. He is a professional botanist who grew up in the Mojave Desert and has witnessed firsthand the population boom that impacts desert wildlands. Dennis has worked for the

NPS for 31 years and has worked in Alaska as well as Santa Monica Mountains NRA. I have posed questions to Dennis in order to share the work being done at Mojave National Preserve. The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) would like to thank Dennis Schramm for taking the time to discuss the Mojave National Preserve with us.

David: Speaking to those who are unfamiliar with the Preserve, what is significant about Mojave National Preserve?

Dennis: Well, from the perspective of the enabling legislation, it is the natural and scenic resources including transitional desert elements that all come together here; it is the human history and the resources associated with Native Americans and westward expansion; and it is the opportunities for compatible outdoor recreation and to promote understanding of the Mojave Desert.

From my personal perspective I think the most significant thing is the preservation of 1.6 million acres of prime Mojave Desert ecosystem and the vast landscapes that are encompassed within the Preserve. Considering the develop-



Craig Deutsche/Desert Committee

The South Entrance to a National Treasure

ments being proposed today in the Mojave, it is so important that a large expanse of the Mojave Desert is permanently protected for future generations.

Your favorite destination in the Preserve?

Wow, that's kind of hard. There are so many different landscapes and vegetation types to explore. But I would have to say that the hike into the Castle Peaks is definitely one of the tops on my list.

In your lifetime, how has the Mojave Desert changed?

Population growth and the way peo-

(Continued on page 2)

Mount Zirkel Wilderness Area



Bighorn Lake

Mary Ann Ruiz/Los Serranos Group

The Mount Zirkel Wilderness Area in Colorado is located in Routt National Forest and includes 160,000 acres between the elevations of 7,000 to 12,180 feet.

One of the five original Colorado wilderness areas designated by the 1964 Wilderness Act, Mount Zirkel was greatly enhanced by additions in 1980 and 1993 which augmented the eco-

logical integrity of the wilderness by combining vital low-elevation forests and rivers with the rocky alpine spine of the Park Range.

Major rivers flow from countless glacial lakes along this northernmost stretch of Colorado's Continental Divide. Mount Zirkel and its lakes owe their current shape to Pleistocene glaciation 15,000 years ago.

One significant attribute of Mount Zirkel lies in its miles or river valleys. The two major rivers in the wilderness, the Elk and the Encampment have both been proposed for official designations as wild and scenic rivers by the Forest Service, and offer many miles of lovely valley hiking.

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians



James Ramos, Chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The program will feature the song, culture, history and present status of the San Manuel Band, which has lived peacefully with Mother Earth for thousands of years. The land they inhabited has helped to shape their culture, traditions and present lives. The people at the San Manuel reservation trace their ancestry to the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys, and mountains who the Spaniards collectively called the Serrano, a term meaning highlander. The Serrano looked to nature and the land to provide the necessities of life including shelter, clothing, food and plants used for medicine. Those Serrano who lived at Yuhaviat, an area of pine trees near present day Big Bear Lake were called the Yuhaviatam or the People of the Pines. Members of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians are descended from the Yuhaviatam and - like their ancestors - they maintain a special connection to the land.

In 1891 with passage of the Act for Relief for Mission Indians the San Manuel reservation was established and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. The San Manuel reservation was named in honor of its courageous leader, Santos Manuel, and henceforth the tribe was recognized as the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Today the San Manuel reservation is just over 800 acres and is located in the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains in California, just north of the city of Highland.

Sierra Club's Climate Recovery Agenda

By Carl Pope

Our Next Steps: In 2008, Americans chose change. "New Energy for America" trumped "Drill, Baby, drill," marking a major change across the country.

Now that the celebrations are done, we must roll up our sleeves and get to work. Barack Obama's top priority is investment in clean energy and energy efficiency in order to jumpstart our economy, create green jobs and make us more secure - and the Sierra Club's Climate Recovery Agenda closely follows that priority. Energy is now a national priority, and it's clear that the steps we need to take to help our economy recovery will also help our climate recover.

The Sierra Club's

Climate Recovery Agenda: Fixing our economy, transforming our energy future, slowing and ultimately reversing climate change and its consequences will require a clear agenda and aggressive timetable that will allow us to repower, refuel and rebuild America.

The Sierra Club's Climate Recovery Agenda will help our economy recover, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, cut carbon emissions 80% by 2050, and protect our natural heritage, communities and



(Continued on page 2)

CLIMATE

(Continued from page 1)

country from the consequences of global warming.

Putting our planet on the path to economic and climate recovery will require Congress, working with the Obama Administration, to:

- Invest \$150 - 500 billion in clean energy to create millions of new, high quality jobs.
- Reduce our dependence on oil by increasing vehicle fuel efficiency, increasing the use of alternative fuels, and deploying innovative transportation technology like plug in hybrids.
- Move America to 100% renewable energy for electricity and dramatically increase the efficiency of our buildings and homes.
- Tackle global climate change by establishing an economy-wide cap on carbon emissions. Ensure that carbon permits are auctioned.
- Take action that acknowledges the consequences global warming is already having and the need to protect vulnerable communities, wildlife and their habitat from drought, intense flooding, wildfires and the other changes we are already experiencing.

Congress' first step working with Obama Administration should be serious investments in high performance technologies and energy productivity improvements that will create millions of immediate jobs. Public and private building energy upgrades, mass transportation improvements and grid modernization should also be part of any economic recovery package.

America can lead by example. By taking actions at home, we can provide leadership on the international stage to both work with and be competitive with other nations. This agenda will be hard work, but the good news is that these are proven ways to face our economic and environmental challenges – and the solutions help everyone.

DENNIS SCHRAMM

(Continued from page 1)

ple use the desert have changed a lot. Of course Las Vegas has grown substantially since I went to school and college there in the 60's and 70's. This surge of people has caused unprecedented development in the Vegas valley and the Victor Valley/Lancaster areas.

Have attitudes towards the Mojave changed?

I'm not sure if attitudes overall have changed, but a lot more people seem to be interested in motorized recreation, whether it is jet skis on Lake Mead and the Colorado River, or four wheel drive vehicles in OHV areas. There is still a core population of folks who prefer a more intimate experience with the desert, but their voices don't seem as loud as in the 60's.

In your tenure, what do you consider to be the greatest victories or achievements attained?

Well, I have to include in my tenure my first seven years here as the planner and management assistant. Of course, my first major accomplishment was completion of the General Management Plan in 2001. During those first years we also removed 4,000 feral burros and around 8,000 cattle (all with donated funds!). Restoration of the Kelso Depot and opening it as our main visitor center has been a significant achievement and remains a tremendous opportunity for visitor contact. Mojave achieved a 99% visitor satisfaction rate last year and a lot has to do with the Kelso Depot and staff that work there.

I'm also proud of the work we are doing to reduce our impact on the environment. We now have eleven solar systems operating around the Preserve and this year will eliminate the last diesel generator from the Preserve. This year we also converted all our maintenance equipment to bio-based fluids and greatly expanded our recycling program. Finally I would have to say that the

staff we have hired are among the best around and we accomplish a great many things each year due to their hard work and dedication.

What do you consider to be the greatest threats to Mojave National Preserve?

I think most of our threats today are originating outside the Preserve, some from sources that you wouldn't have suspected. Obviously, the proposed Southern Nevada Supplement Airport just north of Primm poses major threats to the natural quiet of the Preserve if it is built. Then there are the hundreds of solar and wind energy applications filed all over the desert. Mojave has nine proposals surrounding it in California. The Ivanpah Solar is moving rapidly through the permitting process. It lies on the bajada just east of Clark Mountain. They propose to clear nearly 9,000 acres for solar energy development, the majority of which is wet solar. They would heat water to produce steam by pointing mirrors at several 450 foot tall towers. Then they would burn natural gas at night to keep the water warm. We've learned recently that some of the projects are proposing new utility rights of way through the Preserve to connect with grid.

Why? How can these challenges be best addressed?

The public needs to speak up at the hearings for these projects. As a federal agency we can only do so much. We raise our concerns at every opportunity, but we are also thinking ahead to mitigation if the projects do get built. It is important for the public to learn the details about these proposals and know how these projects will affect the future of the Mojave Desert.

Looking forward, what are your goals and priorities for improving Mojave National Preserve?

This could go on for a while! There are several areas that we have identified for the future. One obvious opportunity is the National Park Service Centennial Celebration in 2016. A major initiative is already under-

(Continued on page 11)

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Preserve The Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

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planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Group and Section News

Moreno Valley Group

By Ann McKibben

According to Moreno Valley city planning staff, the Highland Fairview Corporate Center project will probably go before the city's planning commission early next year. The city released the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) in August 2008; comments were due on September 19. The project proponent wants to build a 2.42 million square foot logistic center for Skechers Shoes along the southern edge of Highway 60 between Redlands Boulevard and Theodore Street in eastern Moreno Valley. Concerns are: increased truck traffic which will occur if this project and two other logistic centers are built along Highway 60. Also, increased air pollution, diesel particulates and their effects on local air quality is a huge concern as are health effects. Please contact project planner Mark Gross, Moreno Valley Planning Department, (951) 413-3222 to confirm dates and times for the public hearings. Also, please take time to attend the Planning Commission hearing and Moreno Valley City Council meeting and let them know that you are concerned about the severe health effects, traffic, and changes in land use designations this project will have. You can call Mr. Gross for more information on the project. And you can also call George Hague, Group Conservation Chair at (951) 924-0816, or e-mail the Moreno Valley Group at: movalleygroup@yahoo.com for information on when the Planning Commission and/or City Council hearings will be held. Planning Commission and city council meetings agendas can be found at: <http://www.moreno-valley.ca.us/>

Two new city council members were elected in Moreno Valley's November election. Robin Hastings was elected to represent Moreno Valley's 3rd District (which covers the eastern portion of Moreno Valley where the Highland Fairview project is proposed to be built). She replaces Frank West who has served for many years. Ms. Hastings is chief of staff for Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley. Jesse Molina was elected to represent the 1st Dis-

trict defeating long-time city councilmember Charles White. Both Mr. West and Mr. White were targeted by the Moreno Valley Taxpayers Association who claimed that traffic and crime had risen Districts 1 and 3. According to a November 5, 2008 article in The Press-Enterprise, the Moreno Valley Taxpayers Association spent over \$350,000 to unseat both West and White. Apparently, crime and traffic issues only occur in Districts 1 and 3 of the city and stay within council district lines. Councilmember William Batey was unopposed and won reelection for the 5th District. He was not targeted by the group. According to an October 17, 2008 article appearing in The Press-Enterprise, the Moreno Valley Taxpayers

Association accepted \$263,000 from Highland Fairview developer Iddo Benzevi and \$100,000+ from local real estate businessman Jerry Stephens of Diversified Real Estate. The treasurer for the Moreno Valley Taxpayers Association is Moreno Valley Planning Commission member Michael Geller. Mr. Geller is also a law partner with Moreno Valley City Councilmember Richard Stewart. In other election news, the Moreno Valley Utility User's Tax overwhelming passed in the November election. McAnally Chicken Ranch Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 3512 is on the fast track for approval by Riverside County. According to planning staff, the project will bypass a hearing before the Riverside County Planning Commission and will go directly to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors for approval. No reason was given for fast-tracking the project. The Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley sent a letter to the Riverside County Planning Department Director Ron Goldman and Supervisor Marion Ashley requesting that the project be heard before the county Planning Commission. No one replied to the request. The ranch, if approved, would house 2.2 MILLION chickens adjacent to the San Jacinto Wildlife Area where thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds winter each year. Major concerns regarding the project are the spread of avian flu, water quality degradation, locating an industrial scale poultry facility next to the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (a cornerstone reserve in the Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan) plus locating such a huge facility adjacent within feet of the flood plain of the San Jacinto River. Comments on the draft environmental impact report were due on November 9, 2008. In order to build The Villages of Lakeview project the developer (Lewis Operating Corp) has to relocate an existing chicken ranch. It will be merged with another facility and relocated to the Bridge Street location if the approval process goes forward. If you have questions regarding the project, please contact: Matt

for updated information. The Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley also have information posted on their web site: www.northfriends.org

The Riverside County Planning Commission held an all day workshop on The Villages of Lakeview project at their October 15, 2008 commission meeting. Planning staff spent the morning hours giving presentations on various aspects of the project.

freeway and expose them to high levels of air pollution. The 'old' Cajalco Road would remain in place, meaning that Cajalco and the Mid County Parkway would be parallel routes and disrupt the rural landscape for homeowners. You can log onto the web site for the project at: <http://www.midcountyparkway.org/> You can also review DEIR documents at their web site. For more information call the RCTC at (951)



Janet Deen/Moreno Valley

Moreno Valley Group hike to Olive Mountain Peak in Moreno Valley.

After a lunch break the Lewis Operating Corp (LOC), proponents of the project, spent the afternoon touting the virtues of LOC and explaining the quality and value of their project. The workshop completely ignored talking about any issues related to placing 3,000 high density units between the San Jacinto Wildlife Area and the Ramona Expressway or how locating these units would be beneficial to the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. There was no discussion of putting compatible land uses adjacent to the wildlife area and existing homeowners in Lakeview. Around 3:30 in the afternoon the public was allowed to make comments on the proposed project with 3 minutes allotted to each person speaking. George Hague, Group Conservation Chair, made comments as did Ileene Anderson from the Center for Biological Diversity, Tom Paulek, conservation chair for the Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley, and Ann McKibben from the FNSJV. Members of the UCCRC citizen's group in Nuevo and other members of the public made comments expressing their concerns about the project and how it would affect existing landowners in the community. A few people spoke in support of the project. For more information on the project, contact project planner Matt Straite, Riverside County Planning Department at (951) 955-8631. You can check for planning commission agendas at: http://www.rctlma.org/planning/content/hearings/pc/current_pc.html The Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley have information posted at their web site: www.northfriends.org According to county planning staff, the draft environmental impact report for the project will be released in the summer of 2009.

The draft environmental document for the Mid County Parkway (MCP), a Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) project which plans to expand the Ramona Expressway from the city of San Jacinto to the city of Corona as a six to eight lane road, was released on October 10, 2008. Three public meetings were held in October and two public hearings were held in November. Because of the large number of documents to review for the project, the deadline for comments was postponed until January 8, 2009. The preferred project route would displace about 100 homes, a fire station and businesses in the city of Perris. It would leave existing homes next to the new

787-7141. Project manager is Cathy Bechtel. Or you can call George Hague, Group Conservation Chair at (951) 924-0816, or e-mail the Moreno Valley Group at: movalleygroup@yahoo.com for updated information.

Save Our Skyline: Box Springs thru the Badlands is a group based in Moreno Valley committed to preserving the city's northern skyline. Meetings are the third Tuesday of every month at the Coffee Grinder, 23580 Sunnymead Blvd. For more information, call Dan Clark at (951) 924-2545 or e-mail saveourskyline@roadrunner.com

For current outings offered by the Moreno Valley Group, please check our web page at: <http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org/moreno-valley/index.html>

The Moreno Valley Group is selling Sierra Club calendars to support our activities. Please contact Theresa Carson at (951) 242-4752 or e-mail us at: movalleygroup@yahoo.com if you would like to buy some calendars.

The city of Moreno Valley Parks and Community Services Department Recreational Trails Board is sponsoring a "Hike to Terri Peak" on January 24, 2009. They will meet at 8:30 a.m. at Landmark Middle School, 15261 Legendary Drive. Please call the department at (951) 413-3702 for more information.

Winter provide wonderful opportunities for bird watching, hiking, and wildlife photography in the northern San Jacinto Valley. To visit the wildlife area take Interstate 215 south past the March Air Reserve Base, exit at the Ramona Expressway; drive east to Davis Road in Lakeview; go north 2.2 miles until you come to the wildlife area entrance gates (17050 Davis Road, Lakeview). The wildlife area is open from dawn to dusk seven days a week. Wetland areas are closed for hunting all day Wednesdays and Saturdays through February 7, 2009. Please call the wildlife area office for more information at (951) 928-0580. Please check www.northfriends.org for current nature walks at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area.

The Moreno Valley Group has many issues to follow, and we are looking for more volunteers. Any amount of time you could contribute would be appreciated. For more information on group meetings and volunteering with the Moreno Valley Group, contact Ann McKibben at (951) 924-8150, Theresa Carson, (951) 242-4752 or George Hague at (951) 924-0816 or e-mail us at: movalleygroup@yahoo.com.



George Hague/Moreno Valley

Scenic view of Lake Perris State Recreation Area

trict defeating long-time city councilmember Charles White. Both Mr. West and Mr. White were targeted by the Moreno Valley Taxpayers Association who claimed that traffic and crime had risen Districts 1 and 3. According to a November 5, 2008 article in The Press-Enterprise, the Moreno Valley Taxpayers Association spent over \$350,000 to unseat both West and White. Apparently, crime and traffic issues only occur in Districts 1 and 3 of the city and stay within council district lines. Councilmember William Batey was unopposed and won reelection for the 5th District. He was not targeted by the group. According to an October 17, 2008 article appearing in The Press-Enterprise, the Moreno Valley Taxpayers

Straite, Riverside County Planning Department, 4080 Lemon Street, 9th Floor, P.O. Box 1409, Riverside, CA 92502-1409, (951) 955-8631. Please take time to voice your concerns about this project and the effects it will have on the northern San Jacinto Valley and the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. You can also help by attending the public hearing before the board of supervisors. If you are following this project, you can check the Board of Supervisors' web page for their agenda at: <http://www.clerkoftheboard.co.riverside.ca.us/agendas/2008.htm> You can also call George Hague, Group Conservation Chair at (951) 924-0816, or e-mail the Moreno Valley Group at: movalleygroup@yahoo.com

Group and Section News

Mojave Group

By Jenny Wilder

Mojave Group ExCom Election Results

Many thanks to the dedicated members who submitted their ballot in a timely manner. We all give Melody a warm welcome to the Mojave Group Excom. Melody takes over from Bill as the Outings Chairperson in January. We hope to continue to be inspired by Bill's outings, Highway Cleanup and leadership for the Wednesday Evening Walks. Our current Excom is as follows: Jenny Wilder, chair; Carol Wiley, vice Chair; Kim Floyd, Conservation; Estelle Delgado, Membership & Chapter Excom delegate; Bryan Baker, Treasurer/website; Adriana Durbin, Secretary; Melody Nichols, Outings Chair.

We also have a great mix of outings leaders and volunteers who help to keep the Mojave Group moving along smoothly. Our ExCom meeting on January 7, 2009 will be an annual planning meeting and all members are welcome to attend. We seek a "Hospitality Chairperson" for our regular monthly meetings (2nd Weds of the month). The Hospitality Chairperson is a volunteer who is responsible for making sure we have refreshments at our monthly meetings. This can be done by making a roster of people willing to take their turn or by providing the refreshments him/herself with the aid of a donation can and/or group funds.

Hacienda at Fairview Valley Proposal

On November 18, 2008 the County of San Bernardino and Strata Equity

Use Services Dept. in San Bernardino. It will also be posted on the SBLUSD website at www.sbcounty.gov/landuseservices. There will be a public hearing, the date of which will be sent to all property owners and residents within 1,300 feet of the proposed project and other persons expressing an interest in the project. Notice of Completion of the Draft EIR starts a 45-calendar day public review period.

The environmental consequences of this project are HUGE, and are not confined to 1,300 feet of the project boundary. The issue of water alone is of concern to all residents in the Victor Valley, but especially to those whose water is supplied by Apple Valley Ranchos Water Company.

This is a current description of the proposed project: "The Hacienda at Fairview Valley Specific Plan encompasses 1,557 acres and proposes a master planned residential community with opportunities for equestrian, family-oriented, and active adult (55+) lifestyles. The Specific Plan provides a mix of approximately 3,114 residential units, 15 acres of Neighborhood Commercial uses, and approximately 336 acres of Parks/Recreation/Open Space. The land uses would be linked together through a network of multi-use trails and pedestrian paths, parks, greenbelts, water features, and natural open space. In addition, the project proposes three overlay districts to allow opportunity for expanding uses, including a Golf Course Overlay, and Equestrian Overlay, and a commercial Overlay."



Kelso Dunes, largest field of eolian sand deposits in the Mojave Desert.

Group held a public meeting called an EIR Public Scoping Meeting. They did a good job of describing the public process for this project to be able to move forward. The next step is for the county and independent EIR consultants (RBF consulting-John E. Gifford) to prepare and distribute the DRAFT EIR. This document will be distributed to the appropriate state, regional and local agencies for their review and comment.

The Draft EIR will also be available for public review at the San Bernardino County Library (Apple Valley Newton T. Bass Branch on Dale Evans Prky), and at the San Bernardino Land

The zoning at present is for rural lifestyle, and most of the surrounding lots are 2.5 acres or more and have their own well. Some of the subject property shares a boundary with public lands. If all the lots were 1 acre there would perhaps be 1,557 houses. This area is not within the Town of Apple Valley limits, it is in the County area. Many projects such as this one require a change in the County General Plan. This seems to happen rather suddenly, but in fact it happens because neighbors are not generally aware of the environmental consequences, they don't have time, or simply feel that they are alone and can't do anything

anyway. You are not alone. Write to the county to express your interest in the project and to get on their list so that you are informed about updates: Doug Feremenga, AICP, Senior Planner, 385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182 or call (909) 387-4147 or email dferemenga@lusc.sbcounty.gov. Mojave Group members may also email Jenny at JensOasis@aol.com to get updates on meetings etc.

Update from the Friends of Juniper Flats

The Juniper Flats Area is an important trans-mountain habitat with numerous seeps and springs which attract wildlife as well as humans. At least three streams have year round

The designated vehicle routes in the region have been signed with open route markers. Unfortunately, this means little to some ATV riders who like to engage in hill climb activity and making their own trails. The Friends of Juniper Flats have developed an Adopt a Trail program to document and report this illegal activity. Each trail takes about 4 hours to complete in the field and there is an expectation that you would do so 2-4 times a year.

Please become a paying member of the Friends of Juniper Flats (\$5), enjoy the area and perhaps adopt a trail so that we can adequately document the damage to the habitat and especially in the riparian areas. Some of the trails require hiking or use of a motorcycle.



Mojave River in Afton Canyon Natural Area

surface water in places along their stretch in most years (2008 was no exception). This area is located to the south of Apple Valley east of the Mojave River to where Highway 18 runs past the Mitsubishi Cement Plant and north of the San Bernardino National Forest.

The area is managed by the Bureau of Land Management and represents a major 'open space' for residents of the Victor Valley. The area has been devastated by several fires including the Devil Fire and more recently the Willow Fire in 1999. Junipers that survived the fires are just now recovering significantly and other vegetation including trees such as ash and cottonwood in the riparian areas are gaining height and strength. 3 types of Yucca, a virtual wealth of wildflowers and native bunch grass contribute to the exceptional beauty of the region.

As if that is not enough, you will enjoy tremendous views of the valley and surrounding mountains as well as fields of huge boulders to clamber over and which provide shelter on a hot, cold or windy day! The area has been used by humans for thousands of years and some important archaeological sites are protected by the designation as the Juniper Flats Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). An ACEC is the BLM's highest level of management for an area.

We will enjoy a hike in the upper section of Arrastre Canyon on January 11, 2009 and in the ACEC on February 28, 2009. We are also planning a service day to pick up trash (more of a 4x4 activity). See the Outings Calendar for more information and updates and join us to discover the serenity and beauty of the Juniper Flats Area!

Others may be driven in a car and some require 4x4. If you are unable to volunteer in the field, but you have ability for organizing, we need someone to then document the findings from each Adopt a Trail visit (computer use required). Contact Jenny Wilder JensOasis@aol.com or 760 220 0730 for a map of the open route system and more information. Please send your membership dues \$5 to Friends of Juniper Flats, Treasurer, P.O. Box 83, Apple Valley, CA 92307.

Youth in the Desert Hikes

We continue to offer hikes for families and often they fill up fast. Early registration for the hikes and campouts is highly recommended. Visit the Calendar section to see where we are going in January and February! Contact Melody Nichols at Labelady@msn.com or 760 963 4430 to join the email list for updates. Thank-you Melody! We also encourage families to call the leader of regular Sierra Club Outings to see if their hike is youth/child friendly. Explore, Enjoy, Protect!

4x4 Adventures

Estelle and a select group of volunteers monitor designated Wilderness Areas in the Mojave Desert. Designation as Wilderness takes an act of Congress and is not lightly done. The areas have unique qualities that may not always be apparent. They are well worth exploring! Thank you Estelle. To find out more about this monitoring effort and/or to join the team of volunteers (which could be called the Mojave Group 4x4 Rovers) contact Estelle at estelledelgado@verizon.net 760 241 7327.

Calendar of Outings, Meetings, and Other Events

JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2009

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

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE: Items for the MARCH/APRIL 2009 Calendar are due by February 5.
 FORMAT: Items similar to those below. Send items electronically if possible.
 SUBMISSIONS: Except for below, send to ralphsalisbury@att.net
 OUTINGS: Send outings write-ups to your group or section Outings Chair.
 MEETINGS and other events: Send to iwfladd@eee.org

GENERAL INFORMATION, RULES AND 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.

WHAT TO BRING

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, and 10) sun protection including sunscreen/sunglasses/hat.

ADVENTURE PASS SPECIAL NOTICE

Outings occurring in the San Bernardino, Angeles, Cleveland, or Los Padres National Forests require a Forest Service "Adventure Pass" for each vehicle. These Outings will be preceded by ** in the listings that follow. Be sure to contact the leader regarding permits. The permits cost \$30 per year or \$5 per day, however they may not be obtainable the day of your outing. If you arrive at the meeting place without making arrangements with the leader and you don't have a pass or find a ride in a vehicle with a pass, you will not be able to attend the outing. You are expected to share the cost of the daily passes equally with the others in the vehicle. A \$.50 contribution from everyone in the vehicle is reasonable for annual passes (above normal mileage contribution). America The Beautiful Interagency Passes may be used in lieu of the Adventure Pass.

CARPOOLING POLICY

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. Drivers should have adequate insurance coverage and their vehicles should have no safety defects. Drivers of carpools agree to not consume any alcoholic beverages. It is customary for riders to share expenses with the driver. Ten cents per mile per person for short trips is suggested while six cents per mile per person over 100 miles is usually reasonable.

LIABILITY WAIVER

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign the following liability waiver.

Sign-In Sheet & Acknowledgment of Outing Member Responsibility, Express Assumption of Risk, and Release of Liability

I understand that during my participation in this Sierra Club Outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards and risks, foreseen or unforeseen, which are inherent in each Outing and cannot be eliminated without destroying the unique character of the Outing. These inherent risks include, but are not limited to, the dangers of serious personal injury, property damage, and death ("Injuries and Damages") from exposure to the hazards of travel and the Sierra Club has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries and Damages can occur by natural causes or activities of other persons, animals, trip members, trip leaders and assistants or third parties, either as a result of negligence or because of other reasons. I understand that risks of such Injuries and Damages are involved in adventure travel such as Sierra Club Outings and I appreciate that I may have to exercise extra care for my own person and for others around me in the face of such hazards. I further understand that on this Outing there may not be rescue or medical facilities or expertise necessary to deal with the Injuries and Damages to which I may be exposed.

In consideration for my acceptance as a participant on this Outing, and the services and amenities to be provided by the Sierra Club in connection with the Outing, I confirm my understanding that:

- I have read any rules and conditions applicable to the Outing made available to me; I will pay any costs and fees for the Outing; and I acknowledge my participation is at the discretion of the leader.
- The Outing begins and ends at the location where the Outing officially commences with leader and participants in attendance, as designated by the Sierra Club ("Trailhead"). The Outing does not include carpooling, transportation, or transit to and from the Trailhead, and I am personally responsible for all risks associated with this travel. This does not apply to transportation provided by the Sierra Club after the commencement and before the end of the Outing.
- If I decide to leave early and not to complete the Outing as planned, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to leave and waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision. Likewise, if the leader has concluded the Outing, and I decide to go forward without the leader, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to go forward and waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision.
- This Agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by law. If any provision or any part of any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid or legally unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and fully enforceable.
- To the fullest extent allowed by law, I agree to **WAIVE, DISCHARGE CLAIMS, AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY**, and to **INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS** the Sierra Club, its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders from **any and all liability** on account of, or in any way resulting from Injuries and Damages, even if caused by **negligence** of the Sierra Club its officers, directors, employees, agents, and leaders, in any way connected with this Outing. I understand and intend that this assumption of risk and release is binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, and includes any minors accompanying me on the Outing.

I have read this document in its entirety and I freely and voluntarily assume all risks of such Injuries and Damages and notwithstanding such risks, I agree to participate in the Outing.
 Note: If the participant is a minor, the minor's guardian must sign on the minor's behalf.

RECURRING MONTHLY MEETINGS

(LOOK IN CALENDAR FOR DATES)

(1ST MON) 6:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCOM MEETING
 Lake Ridge Escrow Conference Room 27236 Blue Jay Mall on Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Nov & Dec. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

(1ST TUE) LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCOM MEETING
 Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov). PLACE: For meeting time and place, call MARY ANN RUIZ 909-815-9379, ruizmaryann@gmail.com
 LOS SERRANOS GROUP

(1ST TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING
 The meeting place rotates. INFO: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP

(1ST TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING
 PROGRAM: See front-page notice. Afterwards, SAN GORGONIO SIERRA SINGLES will adjourn for food and drink. COST: \$1 donation requested. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS 909-888-0161 <iwfladd@eee.org>. CHAPTER

(2ND MON) 7:00 PM SB 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. SB MOUNTAINS GRP

(2ND TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
 (In July only the meeting will be the 3rd Tuesday, July 18.) Monthly meeting. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please come: we need your help! PLACE: San Gorgonio CHAPTER Office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, kimfloyd@verizon.net, (760) 249-5385. CHAPTER

(2ND WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING
 Monthly meeting except for July and 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: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, earthlingwiley@aol.com MOJAVE GROUP

(3RD TUE) 6:00 PM SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONS COMMITTEE MEETING
 Monthly conservation meeting. The public is welcome. LOCATION: Call or email for location and directions. CONTACT: SHAULI ROSEN-RAGER, (951) 767-2203, gardens@netzon.net. SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

(3RD TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
 Monthly meeting. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. CONTACT: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP

(3RD TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
 Monthly meeting except August. The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served. PLACE: Educational Building, Upland Presbyterian Church, Euclid Ave. at 11th. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, (909) 628-1285. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

(3RD THU) 6:00 PM TAHQUITZ GROUP MEETING
 Monthly meeting except June to September. PLACE: Portola Community Center, 45480 Portola, Palm Desert (Three blocks south of 111 at Shadow Mountain) Enter parking lot from Shadow Mountain east of Portola. INFO: MICHAEL HOWARD (760) 323-1050. TAHQUITZ GROUP

(4TH TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
 Chapter governance meeting. PLACE: The San Gorgonio Chapter office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: RICK ESTES 951-314-3328 <rickestes_92595@yahoo.com> CHAPTER

WEEKLY REOCCURRING 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. SAN GORGONIO SIERRA SINGLES

WED 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP, VICTOR VALLEY WALK
 Conditioning walk every Wednesday except Group meeting night on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Walks are paced for participants. Enjoy the evening air, river breeze, sunsets, stars and moon on a three mile walk around Jess Ranch and along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum in Apple Valley. INFO: BILL SPRENG (760) (951) 4520, bspreng@verizon.net or JENNY WILDER (760) 220-0730, JensOasis@aol.com. MOJAVE GROUP

DECEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 21

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
 (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

DEC 15 (MON) 7:00 PM APPLE VALLEY CONDITIONING HIKE HIKE
 Please join me for a 6-mile fast paced conditioning walk along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road. The path along the river bed has now been graded & is hard packed, which makes for nice evening walking conditions. BRING flashlights, jacket, & wear comfortable walking shoes. Rainy/Foul weather cancels walk, so please call if questionable. LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com> MOJAVE GROUP

DEC 16 (TUE) 6:00 PM SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONS COMMITTEE MEETING
 Monthly conservation meeting. The public is welcome. LOCATION: Call or email for location & directions. CONTACT: SHAULI ROSEN-RAGER, (951) 767-2203, <gardens@netzon.net> SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DEC 16 (TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
 Monthly meeting. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. CONTACT: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP

DEC 16 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
 Our annual Holiday Dessert Potluck is always a fun evening with delicious treats & good company. We will have some winter holiday music along with our usual meeting. Bring your favorite holiday dessert. Coffee & beverages will be provided. PLACE: Educational Building, Upland Presbyterian Church, Euclid Ave. at 11th. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, (909) 628-1285. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

DEC 18 (THU) 6:00 PM TAHQUITZ GROUP MEETING
 Monthly meeting except June to September. PLACE: Portola Community Center, 45480 Portola, Palm Desert (Three blocks south of 111 at Shadow Mountain) Enter parking lot from Shadow Mountain east of Portola. INFO: MICHAEL HOWARD (760) 323-1050. TAHQUITZ GROUP

DECEMBER 22 – DECEMBER 28

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
 (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

DEC 28 (SUN) SUNSET PEAK HIKE
 Once again we hope to see the San Gabriel Range covered with snow from this vantage point. The last two years we have been let down - we hope for more snow this year! This is a nice 7 mile round trip with about 1350 ft of elevation gain. From the top the view of the whole San Gabriel range, on a crisp & clear winter day is fantastic! BRING: Sturdy shoes, water, lunch. Rain or snow cancels. MEET: For time & place, contact LEADER: MARY ANN RUIZ <Ruizmaryann@gmail.com> (909) 815-9379. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

DECEMBER 29 – JANUARY 4

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
 (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

DEC 29 (MON) 7:00 PM APPLE VALLEY CONDITIONING HIKE HIKE
 Please join me for a 6-mile fast paced conditioning walk along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road. The path along the river bed has now been graded & is hard packed, which makes for nice evening walking conditions. BRING flashlights, jacket, & wear comfortable walking shoes. Rainy/Foul weather cancels walk, so please call if questionable. LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com> MOJAVE GROUP

DEC 29-JAN 3 MON-SAT CARRIZO PLAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT SERVICE
 Celebrate the end of one year & the beginning of the next in one of our new National Monuments. The Carrizo Plain, west of Bakersfield, is a vast grassland, home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, kit fox, & a wide variety of birds. A welcome hike Dec. 29, three & a half days of service modifying barbed wire fencing, & a full day for hiking & exploring are planned. Use of accommodations at Goodwin Ranch included. Limited to 12 participants. COST: \$30 covers five dinners. RESERVATIONS & INFO: LEADER: CRAIG DEUTSCHE, <deutsche@earthlink.net> (310) 477-6670 or CO-LEADER MELINDA GODWATER <mgoodwater@sbcglobal.net> (408) 774-1257. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

JAN 3 (SAT) BUTCHER'S CAVE HIKE
 (Joshua Tree National Park) I don't know what to call this hike. We pass by a place we call 'Butcher's Cave' but it's just a reference point. Midway though the hike we'll be rooting around for an Indian site that we've only heard about. You can help us look. If there are enough of us, we'll form a horizontal line as we go forward & look in all the most likely places. We'll try to give you some clues as to what is a likely place. This is all directly behind Queen Mt. to the north. This is a very seldom-explored yet beautiful area of the park. The hike will be a bit strenuous with some bouldering. We think about six hours long depending on our search. BRING lots of clothing choices in your car & we'll all figure out what we need depending on what kind of day it is. WEAR good boots though & BRING a couple of liters of water & a hearty lunch. MEET: Call LEADERS ANN & AL MURDY (760) 366-2932 (We don't return calls) or email <al.murdy@gmail.com>
 TAHQUITZ GROUP

JAN 3 (SAT) PCT – CEDAR SPRINGS TO HWY 173 HIKE
 Please us for a 9 mile hike along the Pacific Crest Trail starting at Cedar Springs & ending at the 173 PCT parking area. This will be a shuttle. BRING jacket, sturdy hiking boots, lunch, snacks, & plenty of water. Please dress in layers for weather conditions. However; Rainy/Foul weather cancels walk. MEET: Call LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 or <Labelady@msn.com>. CO-LEADER BILL SPRENGS.
 MOJAVE GROUP

JAN 3 (SAT) 9:00 AM SANTA ROSA ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE HIKE
 "New Member" hike (all are welcome though) Enjoy an easy 5 mile roundtrip hike to the Original Ranch Adobe. While you're there, meet local Group leaders & learn about your local Santa Margarita Group (under the shade of ancient oaks trees). RESERVATIONS & INFO: Call LEADER RICK ESTES (951) 393-4071 <rickestes92595@gmail.com>
 SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

JANUARY 5 – JANUARY 11

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
 (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

JAN 5 (MON) 7:00 PM APPLE VALLEY CONDITIONING HIKE HIKE
 Please join me for a 6-mile fast paced conditioning walk along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road. The path along the river bed has now been graded & is hard packed, which makes for nice evening walking conditions. BRING flashlights, jacket, & wear comfortable walking shoes. Rainy/Foul weather cancels walk, so please call if questionable. LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com >
 MOJAVE GROUP

JAN 6 (TUE) LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCOM MEETING
 Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov). PLACE: For meeting time & place, call DAVID THORNE, (909) 949-8046.
 LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JAN 6 (TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING
 The meeting place rotates. INFO: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006.
 BIG BEAR GROUP

JAN 6 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING
 PROGRAM: See front-page notice. Afterwards, SAN GORGONIO SIERRA SINGLES will adjourn for food & drink. COST: \$1 donation requested. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS (909) 888-0161 <iwfladd@eee.org>.
 CHAPTER

JAN 10-11 (SAT-SUN) EL PASO WILDERNESS RESTORATION
 Assist the Ridgecrest BLM in protecting this wilderness area from OHV abuse by helping to block off & disguise illegal routes. MEET late Friday afternoon north of the wilderness area & car caravan to our camping area near Sheep Springs or meet near the work site on Saturday morning. Saturday evening happy hour & potluck. INFO: Contact LEADER: KATE ALLEN <kj.allen@wildblue.net> (661) 944-4056.
 CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

JAN 11 (SUN) 7:30 AM CAHUILLA MOUNTAIN HIKE
 Starting near Juan Diego Flats, this popular trail will take us through chamise-dominated chaparral, open meadows, & mature black oak forest to the 5,635 feet peak. 5.5 miles RT, 1200 feet elevation gain/loss. Excellent views, mostly well graded trail, comfortable pace. Kids 9 & older welcome. BRING: Hiking boots, lunch, a snack, 3 liters water, sun and/or warm hat, sunscreen. DRESS in layers for unpredictable weather. Binoculars recommended. MEET: For carpooling: 7:30 AM at Paloma de Sol Park, Temecula (behind Home Depot on Rt. 79), & 7:30 AM at And Henry's parking lot, Hemet. MUST REGISTER by Friday, Jan 9. INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS: SHAULI ROSEN-RAGER (951) 767-2203 <rosenrager@gmail.com>
 SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

JAN 11 (SUN) 8:30 AM JUNIPER FLATS HIKE
 Hike from Coxey Truck Trail to the lovely Arrastre Stream riparian area near the historical VP Mine. Approx. 4 - 5 miles with beautiful views. MEET at 8:30 a.m. at the Victor Valley Museum near the corner of Bear Valley Rd. & Apple Valley Road. BRING lunch, water, snacks & layered clothing. INFO: Contact Carol Wiley <earthlingwiley@aol.com> (760) 245-8734.
 MOJAVE GROUP

JAN 11 (SUN) 8:30 AM HIDDEN SPRINGS HIKE
 Enjoy the local hills & hopefully see some burros with an approximate 3.5 mile loop hike on the Hidden Springs trail & arroyo. Trail has some ups & downs but basically follows the base of the hills & then returns through the arroyo of the housing tract, where we may see lots of birds. BRING: Water, sturdy shoes. MEET: Box Springs Park. DIRECTIONS: From 60 freeway go north on Pigeon Pass Rd. to left on Hidden Springs Dr. Driveway into Box Springs Park is on the left off Hidden Springs Drive. We will meet in the parking area up the gravel road near the picnic tables. INFO & LEADERS: THERESA CARSON (951) 660-7246 & JANET DEEN (951) 616-4759.
 MORENO VALLEY GROUP

JAN 11 (SUN) 6:00 PM MOONLIGHT HIKE HIKE
 Come for a 2 to 3 hour evening hike in the foothills to enjoy the full moon. (Actual full moon is tonight, January 11.) Hikes are moderately paced. Between 4 & 5 miles round trip, 400 to 1200 ft elev.. Hike locations will vary. MEET: North parking lot of PFF Bank, Claremont, at NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds... BRING: Jacket, flashlight, water, & wear sturdy shoes/boots. RAIN CANCELS. INFO: LEADERS PATTY & DAVID THORNE (909) 981-5813
 LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JANUARY 12 – JANUARY 18

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
 (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

JAN 12 (MON) 7:00 PM APPLE VALLEY CONDITIONING HIKE HIKE
 Please join me for a 6-mile fast paced conditioning walk along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road. The path along the river bed has now been graded & is hard packed, which makes for nice evening walking conditions. BRING flashlights, jacket, & wear comfortable walking shoes. Rainy/Foul weather cancels walk, so please call if questionable. LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com >
 MOJAVE GROUP

JAN 12 (MON) 7:00 PM SB 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.
 SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

JAN 13 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
 Monthly meeting. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please come: we need your help! PLACE: San Gorgonio CHAPTER Office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, kimfloyd@verizon.net, (760) 249-5385.
 CHAPTER

JAN 14 (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: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, <earthlingwiley@webtv.net>
 MOJAVE GROUP

JAN 15 (THU) 6:00 PM TAHQUITZ GROUP MEETING
 The meeting topic will be natural lands recreational resources in and around the Coachella Valley. Please bring along any information about natural lands around the Valley that you have enjoyed. Depending on attendance, this may be the last Tahquitz Group monthly meeting. Starting February, meetings may be discontinued. Please call to confirm. PLACE: Portola Community Center, 45480 Portola, Palm Desert (Three blocks south of 111 at Shadow Mountain) Enter parking lot from Shadow Mountain east of Portola. INFO: MICHAEL HOWARD (760) 323-1050.
 TAHQUITZ GROUP

JAN 17 (SAT) 9:00 AM YOUTH IN THE DESERT - RODMAN MTNS HIKE
 We will explore the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in the Rodman Mountain Wilderness with the BLM Barstow Office Archaeologist, Jim Shearer. This ACEC was established to protect sensitive, ancient cultural sites that include petroglyphs & intaglios. This moderate hike will be about 5 miles round trip with an optional climb to the top of a nearby hill to get a lovely view of the Cady Mountains & surrounding desert. WEAR good hiking shoes/boots & layered clothing. BRING plenty of water, snacks, lunch, & hat. Don't forget your binoculars & camera! The drive is about 11/2 hours & requires high clearance. Early REGISTRATION & carpooling highly recommended. Group size is limited & preference will be given for folks bringing youths. INFO Contact LEADER JENNY WILDER <JensOasis@aol.com> (760) 220 0730.
 MOJAVE GROUP

JAN 17 (SAT) 9:00 AM OWL CANYON LOOP HIKE
 Please join me for a 8 to 10 mile loop hike in Owl Canyon, a great hike through the foothills north of Barstow with great views of the surrounding valleys. BRING your spirit of adventure & 2 to 3 qts of water, sturdy boots, lunch/snacks. INFO: Call LEADER TERRENCE MC CORKLY, home (760) 252-2194, cell (760) 412-1683 <oldhikerdude@verizon.net>

JAN 18 (SUN) 9:00 AM CEDAR GLEN HIKE
 This hike will be part of the East San Gabriel Mountains Campaign to add wilderness acreage to Cucamonga Wilderness. We will write postcards to Congressman David Dreier on a break. Cards & mailing will be provided. This will be an uphill hike on Chapman Trail up Cedar Canyon through oak, spectacular stands of incense cedar, yucca, chaparral, sugar pine, & ponderosa pine to Cedar Glen. Cedar Glen is just inside the Cucamonga Wilderness. Not for beginners, but not all that hard. 4.4 miles round trip, 1460 ft elev. gain. MEET: North parking lot of PFF Bank, Claremont, at NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds. We will carpool to Ice House Canyon Trail trailhead. BRING: extra warm layers, gloves, water & extra snacks; wear sturdy shoes/boots. Rain/snow cancels. INFO: LEADER: DEAN SHIMEK, <dtierra@msn.com> (909) 899-2795.
 LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JANUARY 19 – JANUARY 25

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
 (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

JAN 19 (MON) 7:00 PM APPLE VALLEY CONDITIONING HIKE HIKE
 Please join me for a 6-mile fast paced conditioning walk along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road. The path along the river bed has now been graded & is hard packed, which makes for nice evening walking conditions. BRING flashlights, jacket, & wear comfortable walking shoes. Rainy/Foul weather cancels walk, so please call if questionable. LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com >
 MOJAVE GROUP

JAN 20 (TUE) 6:00 PM SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONS COMMITTEE MEETING
 Monthly conservation meeting. The public is welcome. LOCATION: Call or email for location & directions. CONTACT: SHAULI ROSEN-RAGER, (951) 767-2203, <gardens@netzon.net>
 SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

JAN 20 (TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
 Monthly meeting. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. CONTACT: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006.
 BIG BEAR GROUP

JAN 20 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
 Dr. Susan Shenck from the Claremont Colleges will speak about the Robert J. Bernard Biological Field Station at the Claremont Colleges. She will tell us about the research that is done there along with information about the plant and animal life that can be found at the station. The station consists of 86 acres of primarily coastal sage scrub, Riversidean alluvial fan scrub, live oak forest, and grassland. In addition, an artificial lake with surrounding riparian woodland and several created vernal pools add to habitat diversity. The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served. PLACE: Educational Building, Upland Presbyterian Church, Euclid Ave. at 11th. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, (909) 628-1285.
 LOS SERRANOS GROUP

JAN 24 (SAT) 8:00 AM S B MTS, PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, SILVERWOOD LAKE HIKE
 We will hike West from State Highway 173 to Cedar Springs Dam, Silverwood Lake. Distance: 9.5 mi. Elevation gain: 500 ft. BRING: Water, lunch, 10 essentials. MEET: As this hike requires a car shuttle, call LEADER HEATHER SARGEANT (909) 336-2836.
 SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

JAN 25 (SUN) 8:30 AM SYCAMORE CANYON HIKE
 Approximate 3 mile hike through Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park in Riverside. Trails have some ups & downs but overall there is little elevation gain. BRING: Water, sturdy shoes. MEET in the Sycamore Canyon parking area on the south side of Central Ave. between Canyon Crest Drive & the 215/60 Freeway. INFO & LEADERS: THERESA CARSON (951) 660-7246 & JANET DEEN (951) 616-4759.
 MORENO VALLEY GROUP

JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 1

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
 (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

JAN 26 (MON) 7:00 PM APPLE VALLEY CONDITIONING HIKE HIKE
 Please join me for a 6-mile fast paced conditioning walk along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road. The path along the river bed has now been graded & is hard packed, which makes for nice evening walking conditions. BRING flashlights, jacket, & wear comfortable walking shoes. Rainy/Foul weather cancels walk, so please call if questionable. LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com >
 MOJAVE GROUP

JAN 27 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
 Chapter governance meeting. (No December meeting.) PLACE: The San Gorgonio Chapter office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: RICK ESTES (951) 314-3328 <rickestes_92595@yahoo.com>.
 CHAPTER

FEB 1 (SUN) 7:30 AM BIRDING AT LAKE SKINNER BIRDING
 We will spend the morning exploring the riparian, chaparral, shores & lawns, observing the many residents & wintering birds. Conversational pace with many stops. Children 10 & older welcome! Some binoculars will be available. Stay for the whole morning or as long as you wish. BRING: Binoculars, bird book, snack, water. DRESS in layers for unpredictable weather. MEET 7:30 at the park entry road off Warren. DIRECTIONS: From Temecula, take Rancho California north 10 miles until it becomes Warren. Park entry road on right. Call for carpooling if coming from Hemet. Please REGISTER for this outing by Friday Jan. 30. INFO & RESERVATIONS: Call LEADER: SHAULI. ROSEN-RAGER (951) 767-2203 <rosenrager@gmail.com>
 SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

FEBRUARY 2 – FEBRUARY 8

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
 (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

FEB 2 (MON) 6:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCOM MEETING
 Even numbered months plus November (Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., Nov. & Dec.). LOCATION (Unless otherwise noted): Lake Ridge Escrow Conference Room 27236 Blue Jay Mall. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313.
 SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

FEB 2 (MON) 7:00 PM APPLE VALLEY CONDITIONING HIKE HIKE
 Please join me for a 6-mile fast paced conditioning walk along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road. The path along the river bed has now been graded & is hard packed, which makes for nice evening walking conditions. BRING flashlights, jacket, & wear comfortable walking shoes. Rainy/Foul weather cancels walk, so please call if questionable. LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com >
 MOJAVE GROUP

FEB 3 (TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING
 The meeting place rotates. INFO: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006.
 BIG BEAR GROUP

FEB 3 (TUE) 7:30 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER MEETING
 PROGRAM: See front-page notice. Afterwards, SAN GORGONIO SIERRA SINGLES will adjourn for food & drink. COST: \$1 donation requested. PLACE: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: LADD SEEKINS (909) 888-0161 <iwfladd@eee.org>.
 CHAPTER

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

FEB 7 (SAT) PCT – CEDAR SPRINGS TO HWY 173 HIKE
 Please us for a 9 mile hike along the Pacific Crest Trail starting at Cedar Springs & ending at the 173 PCT parking area. This will be a shuttle. BRING jacket, sturdy hiking boots, lunch, snacks, & plenty of water. Please dress in layers for weather conditions. However; Rainy/Foul weather cancels walk. MEET: Call LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 or <Labelady@msn.com>. CO-LEADER BILL SPRENGS. MOJAVE GROUP

FEB 7 (SAT) JOSHUA TREE NP - MAZE TRAIL HIKE
 The maze trail started out as a horse trail but is interesting enough to have attracted hikers & some of the loose footing may have detracted the equestrians. There are many adventures along the way with lovely overviews & unusual rock formations. February is a good camera month in the park. There's a daring little peak to climb for the foolsh. I will if you will. The hike will take about five hours; I'd guess it's about seven miles long. This is a moderate to strenuous hike depending on what condition you're in. BRING: Have a variety of clothes in your car & we'll decide at the meeting place what is apropos for the weather. Otherwise, good boots, lunch & two liters of water should about do it. MEET: Call for meeting place and time. LEADERS ANN & AL MURDY (760) 366-2932 (we don't return calls) <al.murdy@gmail.com> TAHQUITZ GROUP

FEB 7 (SAT) 8:30 AM S B MTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE SNOWSHOE
 Green Valley Lake has some of the best snow in our local mountains, so come & join me for a day of fun. You need to provide your own equipment, & prior experience on snowshoes is required. MEET in the parking lot behind Lloyd's restaurant on Hwy 18 in Running Springs at 8:30 am to carpool. WEAR layered clothing. BRING lunch & adequate fluids. RESERVATIONS: To sign up, call LEADER HEATHER SARGEANT (909) 336-2836. No snow cancels. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

FEB 7 (SAT) 9:00 AM SANTA ROSA ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE HIKE
 "New Member" hike. (All are welcome, though.) Enjoy an easy 5 mile roundtrip hike to the Original Ranch Adobe & while you're there, meet local Group leaders & learn about your local Santa Margarita Group (under the shade of ancient oak trees). RESERVATIONS & INFO: LEADER RICK ESTES (951) 393-4071 <rickestes92595@gmail.com> SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

FEB 8 (SUN) 6:00 PM MOONLIGHT HIKE HIKE
 Come for a 2 to 3 hour evening hike in the foothills to enjoy the "full" moon. (Actual full moon is February 9.) Hikes are moderately paced. Between 4 & 5 miles rt, 400 to 1200 ft elev. Hike locations will vary. MEET: North parking lot of PFF Bank, Claremont, at NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds. BRING: Jacket, flashlight, water, & wear sturdy shoes/boots. RAIN CANCELS. INFO: Leaders PATTY & DAVID THORNE (909) 981-5813 LOS SERRANOS GROUP

FEBRUARY 9 – FEBRUARY 15

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
 (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

FEB 9 (MON) 7:00 PM APPLE VALLEY CONDITIONING HIKE HIKE
 Please join me for a 6-mile fast paced conditioning walk along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road. The path along the river bed has now been graded & is hard packed, which makes for nice evening walking conditions. BRING flashlights, jacket, & wear comfortable walking shoes. Rainy/Foul weather cancels walk, so please call if questionable. LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com > MOJAVE GROUP

FEB 9 (MON) 7:00 PM SB 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. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

FEB 9-11 (MON-WED) GOLD BUTTE MIDWEEK MAGIC EXPLORATORY TOUR
 You've heard about the new bill for a national conservation area in Gold Butte, & you wonder where IS this place? To find out, join our exploratory tour. Petroglyphs, peak scrambling, redrock & granite, Joshua trees, old mining ruins. Car camping with central commissary by Vicky Hoover. INFO: Contact VICKY HOOVER (415) 977-5527 <vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org> CNRCC WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

FEB 10 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
 Monthly meeting. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please come: we need your help! PLACE: San Gorgonio CHAPTER Office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, kimfloyd@verizon.net, (760) 249-5385. CHAPTER

FEB 11 (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: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, <earthlingwiley@webtv.net> MOJAVE GROUP

FEB 15 (SUN) YOUTH IN THE DESERT – AFTON CANYON HIKE
 Join us for a cross-country hike through a rugged landscape & winding slot canyons just north of Barstow. Our hike will take us through lands that were utilized by Native Americans as a water source. Jedidiah Smith & Kit Carson traveled through here in the early 1800's. We'll start in Afton Canyon, often called the Grand Canyon of California, with the beautiful red, gold, brown & purple striped walls. This area is one of the few places where the Mojave River flows above ground, & the surface water attracts a variety of wildlife. We'll hike roughly 4 miles, keeping a look out for bighorn sheep & other animals. DRESS for the weather, wear sturdy shoes or hiking boots, BRING 2 liters of water & lunch. Don't forget your camera. LEADER CAROL WILEY. INFO: LAUREL WILLIAMS <llwilliams@calwild.org> (909) 260-8833. MOJAVE GROUP

FEBRUARY 16 – FEBRUARY 22

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
 (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

FEB 16 (MON) 7:00 PM APPLE VALLEY CONDITIONING HIKE HIKE
 Please join me for a 6-mile fast paced conditioning walk along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road. The path along the river bed has now been graded & is hard packed, which makes for nice evening walking conditions. BRING flashlights, jacket, & wear comfortable walking shoes. Rainy/Foul weather cancels walk, so please call if questionable. LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com > MOJAVE GROUP

FEB 17 (TUE) 6:00 PM SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONS COMMITTEE MEETING
 Monthly conservation meeting. The public is welcome. LOCATION: Call or email for location & directions. CONTACT: SHAULI ROSEN-RAGER, (951) 767-2203, <gardens@netzon.net> SAN JACINTO VALLEY (HEMET) CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

FEB 17 (TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
 Monthly meeting. INFO: For current program information, please visit the Group web site www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org. PLACE: Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Dr. (Hwy. 38), Fawnskin. CONTACT: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP

FEB 17 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
 Monthly meeting except August. The Program this month is to be determined at press time. The public is welcome. Refreshments will be served. PLACE: Educational Building, Upland Presbyterian Church, Euclid Ave. at 11th. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, (909) 628-1285. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

FEB 19 (THU) 6:00 PM TAHQUITZ GROUP MEETING
 Depending on attendance at the January meeting, this and future meetings might be cancelled. Please call

to confirm. PLACE: Portola Community Center, 45480 Portola, Palm Desert (Three blocks south of 111 at Shadow Mountain) Enter parking lot from Shadow Mountain east of Portola. INFO: MICHAEL HOWARD (760) 323-1050. TAHQUITZ GROUP

FEB 21 (SAT) 8:00 AM S B MTS: LAKE GREGORY IN WINTER BIRD WALK
 See wintering birds as we walk part way around the lake. Optional breakfast after. MEET: South Shore parking lot, just east of the water slide. LEADER: BILL ENGS (909) 338-1910. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

FEB 21-22 (SAT-SUN) E CALIFORNIA DESERT CLEAN-UP SERVICE & HIKE
 Immediately north of Trona, CA, Great Falls Basin borders on a Wilderness Study Area that has been subject to ORV abuse. On Saturday we will assist Marty Dicks with the BLM to build a fence closing off an illegal vehicle hill-climb. Sunday is reserved for hiking & exploring into the washes, dry falls, & nearby ridges. Carcamping & potluck Saturday evening. MEET: For time & place, contact LEADER CRAIG DEUTSCHE <craig.deutsche@gmail.com> (310) 477-6670. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

FEB 22 (SUN) 8:30 AM SYCAMORE CANYON HIKE
 Approximate 3 mile hike through Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park in Riverside. Trails have some ups & downs but overall there is little elevation gain. We will try to explore some different trails than the previous hike. BRING: Water, sturdy shoes. MEET in the Sycamore Canyon parking area on the south side of Central Ave. between Canyon Crest Drive & the 215/60 Freeway. INFO: Call LEADERS: THERESA CARSON (951) 660-7246 & JANET DEEN (951) 616-4759. MORENO VALLEY GROUP

FEB 22 (SUN) 9:00 AM CHAPMAN TRAIL - ICE HOUSE CANYON TRAIL LOOP HIKE
 This hike will be part of the East San Gabriel Mountains Campaign to add wilderness acreage to Cucamonga Wilderness. We will write postcards to Congressman David Dreier on a break. Cards & mailing will be provided. This will be an uphill hike on Chapman Trail up Cedar Canyon through oak, spectacular stands of incense cedar, yucca, chaparral, Sugar pine, & Ponderosa pine to the junction with Ice House Canyon Trail. We will loop back on Ice House Canyon Trail. Moderate. 8.2 miles Round Trip, 2000 ft elev. gain. MEET: North parking lot of PFF Bank, Claremont, at NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds. We will carpool to Ice House Canyon Trail trailhead. BRING: Extra warm layers, gloves, water, & extra snacks; wear sturdy shoes/boots. Rain/snow cancels. INFO: LEADER: DEAN SHIMEK, <dtierra@msn.com> (909) 899-2795. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

FEBRUARY 23 – MARCH 1

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
 (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

FEB 23 (MON) 7:00 PM APPLE VALLEY CONDITIONING HIKE HIKE
 Please join me for a 6-mile fast paced conditioning walk along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road. The path along the river bed has now been graded & is hard packed, which makes for nice evening walking conditions. BRING flashlights, jacket, & wear comfortable walking shoes. Rainy/Foul weather cancels walk, so please call if questionable. LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com > MOJAVE GROUP

FEB 24 (TUE) 7:00 PM SAN GORGONIO CHAPTER EXCOM MEETING
 Chapter governance meeting. (No December meeting.) PLACE: The San Gorgonio Chapter office, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside. INFO: RICK ESTES (951) 314-3328 <rickestes_92595@yahoo.com>. CHAPTER

FEB 26 (THU) 6:00 PM DINNER ON THE TOWN SOCIAL
 Join us for an evening of fun & food. Your Sierra Club friends are planning another "Dinner on the Town" at a surprise location. This event to be announced on the LSG website. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ (909) 815-9379 <ruizmaryann@gmail> LOS SERRANOS GROUP

FEB 28 (SAT) 9:00 AM SB MTS, PACIFIC CREST TRAIL, SILVERWOOD LAKE HIKE
 As we hike 8 miles on the Pacific Crest Trail, from the park office to Cedar Springs Dam & return, we will have great views of the water & the park. Elevation gain & loss: about 500 feet. WEAR: hiking boots. BRING: water, snack, lunch, layered clothing. MEET: call for meeting place & RESERVATIONS. LEADER, BILLIE WOLFF (909) 338-2534. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

FUTURE OUTINGS & EVENTS

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings
 (Also refer to Weekly reoccurring Outings & Activities)

MAR 2 (MON) 7:00 PM APPLE VALLEY CONDITIONING HIKE HIKE
 Please join me for a 6-mile fast paced conditioning walk along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road. The path along the river bed has now been graded & is hard packed, which makes for nice evening walking conditions. BRING flashlights, jacket, & wear comfortable walking shoes. Rainy/Foul weather cancels walk, so please call if questionable. LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com > MOJAVE GROUP

MAR 8 (SUN) 6:00 PM MOONLIGHT HIKE HIKE
 Come for a 2 to 3 hour evening hike in the foothills to enjoy the "full" moon. (Actual full moon is March 11.) Hikes are moderately paced. Between 4 & 5 miles rt, 400 to 1200 ft elev.. Hike locations will vary. MEET: North parking lot of PFF Bank, Claremont, at NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds. BRING: Jacket, flashlight, water, & wear sturdy shoes/boots. RAIN CANCELS. INFO: Leaders PATTY & DAVID THORNE (909) 981-5813. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

MAR 14-15 (SAT-SUN) GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA CARCAMP
 Come with us to this spectacular desert landscape near Death Valley to explore the ruins of California's colorful past. Camp at the historic ghost town of Ballarat (flush toilets & hot showers). On Sat, do a very challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with expert Hal Fowler who will regale us with tales of this Wild West town. Later we'll return to camp for Happy Hour, a potluck feast & campfire. On Sun, a quick visit to the infamous Riley town site before heading home. Group size strictly limited. RESERVATIONS: Send \$8 per person (Sierra Club), 2 SASE, H&W phones, email, reshare info to LEADER: LYGEIA GERARD, P.O. Box 294726, Phelan, CA 92329; (760) 868-2179.CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

MAR 20-22 (FRI-SUN) CA DESERT WILDERNESS IN SPRING SERVICE
 Enjoy our traditional spring equinox fling in far-eastern California desert helping the BLM Needles office wilderness coordinator Mona Daniels restore & improve wilderness. Car camping with central commissary by Vicky Hoover. RESERVATIONS & INFO: Contact VICKY HOOVER, (415) 977-5527, <vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org> MOJAVE GROUP

APR 5-10 (SUN-FRI) FENCES & FLOWERS IN THE CARRIZO PLAIN SERVICE
 This National Monument is famous for open spaces, for abundant wildlife, & for its springtime wildflowers. Fences significantly restrict the movement of the resident pronghorn antelope, & our service will be in modifying & removing fences for their benefit. We will plan a welcome hike on April 5, three & a half days of service, & a full day for exploring the monument. Use of accommodations at Goodwin Ranch is included. Limited to 12 participants; \$30 covers 5 dinners. RESERVATIONS & INFO: Contact LEADER: CRAIG DEUTSCHE <deutsche@earthlink.net> (310) 477-6670, or CO-LEADER MELINDA GOODWATER, <mgoodwater@sbcglobal.net> (408) 774-1257. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

APR 18-20 (SAT-MON) FURNACE CREEK, NEVADA BACKPACK
 On the east side of the White Mountains near Dyer, Nevada, Furnace Creek is a beautiful stream, threatened by plans to rebuild a road that washed out sometime in the 80s. We'll backpack up the creek on Saturday, do a day hike beyond the head of the canyon at Tres Plumas Flats on Sunday, and backpack out on Monday. Water is available near our campsite. This is an easy to moderate trip with ample opportunity to explore and enjoy. We should be back at our cars by late morning on Monday. LIMITED to 12 participants. RESERVATIONS & INFO: Contact LEADER: JOHN WILKINSON (408) 876-8295 <johnfw1@mac.com> CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

Thank you for Remembering
 Your financial contribution means a lot to us. By supporting this chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your back yard. This makes you an important part of our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Other Outings & Outdoor Classes
 In addition to the Natural History Classes and Outdoor Field Study Classes listed elsewhere in the Palm and Pine under The Desert Institute, UCR Extension and Rancho Santa Ana, you can find additional outings and classes at www.desertreport.org

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NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES

The following activities, meeting & events are neither sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities & 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 MEETINGS (LOOK IN CALENDAR FOR DATES)

(1ST FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB
 Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$2 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>

(1ST SUN) 3:30 PM RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE
 Join us in for an afternoon of contra dance to live music. Dance Instruction at 3:30. Dance from 4:00 to 7:00. Refreshment will be served at the break. Potluck at 7:00, so bring a dish to share. COST: \$9 general admission, \$7.00 students with ID. PLACE: All Saints Episcopal Church, 3847 Terracina Dr., Riverside. DIRECTIONS: The church is on the corner of Terracina & Magnolia between 14th St. & Central Ave. From the 91 freeway, exit on 14th St., go north to Magnolia & turn left. The church will be on your right. Alternatively, exit at Central Ave., go north to Magnolia & turn right. The church will be on your left. Caller/Band Coordinator: PATTY MCCOLLOM (714) 267-4567 or <mccollom@sbcglobal.net> INFO: CAITLIN ST. JOHN (951) 522-2473 <caitlinstjohn@yahoo.com> Riverside Contra Dance Website: <http://bees.ucr.edu/riversidedance/cdclink.html>

(3RD TUE) 6:30 PM SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS OPEN SPACE MEETING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS
 Help us preserve Moreno Valley's northern skyline & secure a natural open-space corridor between the Box Springs Mountains & the Badlands, including the upper basin of Reche Canyon. We meet at the Coffee Grinder, 23580 Sunnymead Blvd., Moreno Valley. INFO: DAN CLARK, (951) 924-2454 <saveourskyline@roadrunner.com>

(3RD WED) 7:30 PM AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
 PROGRAM: A guest speaker presents an illustrated program on wildlife or natural science. Note that the December meeting will be a potluck holiday dinner starting at 6:30 PM. Come early to browse the gift tables & socialize. LOCATION: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I 10 at California St. INFO: DORI MEYERS, (714) 779-2201.

(3RD FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB
 Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$2 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>

NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

DEC 16 (TUE) 6:30 PM SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS OPEN SPACE MEETING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS
 Help us preserve Moreno Valley's northern skyline & secure a natural open-space corridor between the Box Springs Mountains & the Badlands, including the upper basin of Reche Canyon. We meet at the Coffee Grinder, 23580 Sunnymead Blvd., Moreno Valley. INFO: DAN CLARK, (951) 924-2454 <saveourskyline@roadrunner.com>

DEC 17 (WED) 6:30 PM AUDUBON SOCIETY MEETING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
Come & Celebrate the Holidays. Our traditional potluck dinner will be held at the San Bernardino County Museum, on Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. Turkey, ham and beverages will be provided. Please bring your own table service & your favorite dish to share: a salad, vegetable, casserole, side dish, or dessert. Plan to do a little last minute holiday shopping at our bookstore. For our program please bring fifteen of your favorite nature slides to show. Come early to browse the gift tables & socialize. LOCATION: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I-10 at California St. INFO: DORI MEYERS (714) 779-2201.

DEC 19 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB
 Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$2 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>

DEC 20 (SAT) 8:30 AM BIG MORONGO HIKE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION
 Join CWC for a leisurely hike through biologically rich riparian forest & Mesquite forest, & a foray into desert hills for a potential opportunity to view desert bighorn. This family-friendly hike will give us ample opportunity to view some of the over 240 species of birds that utilize Big Morongo as a refuge. BRING 2 liters of water per person, sturdy walking shoes or boots, hat, sunscreen, snacks & a picnic lunch. Stroller & wheelchair accessible. REGISTRATION: If you are planning on joining us. Please leave a message in advance for LAUREL WILLIAMS at <lwilliams@calwild.org> or (909) 260-8833.

JAN 2 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB
 Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$2 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>

JAN 4 (SUN) 8:00 AM SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA BEGINNING BIRD WALK
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT FRIENDS OF THE NORTHERN SAN JACINTO VALLEY
 Co sponsored with the San Bernardino Audubon Society. Check <www.sbvas.org> for current information. A slow-paced walk to introduce participants to basic birding techniques & identification skills so you will feel comfortable birding on your own or joining Audubon's longer birding trips. Do not drive on Davis Road if the road is muddy. COST: Free. BRING: Binoculars, bird book, sturdy shoes, hat, plenty of water, lunch, snacks, non-toxic insect repellent. MEET: San Jacinto Wildlife Area headquarters, 17050 Davis Rd, Lakeview. DIRECTIONS: From Interstate 215, take Ramona Expressway east to Davis Rd. in Lakeview; north on Davis Rd. 2.3 miles to headquarters. Davis Rd. is closed from Moreno Valley. Only entrance to wildlife area is from the Ramona Expressway. INFO: DOUG KARALUN (909) 425-5355.

JAN 4 (SUN) 3:30 PM RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE
 Caller: Jonathan Southard (from Santa Barbara). Band: Atlantic Crossing (Georgiana Hennessy - fiddle; Patty McCollom - banjo; Matt Tonge - guitar). Join us in for an afternoon of contra dance to live music. Dance Instruction at 3:30. Dance from 4:00 to 7:00. Refreshment will be served at the break. Potluck at 7:00, so bring a dish to share. COST: \$9 general admission, \$7.00 students with ID. PLACE: All Saints Episcopal Church, 3847 Terracina Dr., Riverside. DIRECTIONS: The church is on the corner of Terracina & Magnolia between 14th St. & Central Ave. From the 91 freeway, exit on 14th St., go north to Magnolia & turn left. The church will be on your right. Alternatively, exit at Central Ave., go north to Magnolia & turn right. The church will be on your left. Caller/Band Coordinator: PATTY MCCOLLOM (714) 267-4567 or <mccollom@sbcglobal.net> INFO: CAITLIN ST. JOHN (951) 522-2473 <caitlinstjohn@yahoo.com> Website: <http://bees.ucr.edu/riversidedance/cdclink.html>

JAN 16 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB
 Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$2 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>

JAN 18 (SUN) 9:00 AM SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA BEGINNING BIRD WALK
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT FRIENDS OF THE NORTHERN SAN JACINTO VALLEY
 Join us for a morning of birding & learning about the natural resources at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Tom Paulek & Mike McKibben will talk about the ecology & geology of the wildlife area & northern San Jacinto Valley. Do not drive on Davis Road if the road is muddy. COST: Free. BRING: Binoculars, bird book, sturdy shoes, hat, plenty of water, lunch, snacks, non-toxic insect repellent. MEET: San Jacinto Wildlife Area headquarters, 17050 Davis Road, Lakeview. DIRECTIONS: From Interstate 215, take Ramona Expressway east to Davis Rd. in Lakeview; north on Davis Rd. 2.3 miles to headquarters. Davis Rd. is closed from Moreno Valley. Only entrance to wildlife area is from the Ramona Expressway. INFO: ANN MCKIBBEN, (951) 924-8150 or SUE NASH, (909) 228-6710.

JAN 20 (TUE) 6:30 PM SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS OPEN SPACE MEETING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS
 Help us preserve Moreno Valley's northern skyline & secure a natural open-space corridor between the Box Springs Mountains & the Badlands, including the upper basin of Reche Canyon. We meet at the
 (Continued on page 9)

Chapter Executive Committee

San Gorgonio Chapter Website http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org	Group Representatives	Forestry Issues — Mountaintop RD East—Ed Wallace 909-584-9407 West—Steve Farrell 909-338-2637 spamsqf@verizon.net	Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville 7 p.m. (just north of Bear Valley and Ridgecrest) (also contact earthlingwiley@aol.com)
Chair *Rick Estes 951-314-3328 rickestes_92595@yahoo.com	Big Bear Group *Don Jordan 909-585-8786 donjordan@silvercloud.net	Forestry Issues San Jacinto RD Holly Owen 951-303-7922 Joyce Burk 760-252-3820	Moreno Valley Group Chair—Michael Millsbaugh 951-653-2068
Vice-Chair Open	Los Serranos Group *Mary Ann Ruiz 909-815-9379 ruizmaryann@gmail.com	Forestry Issues Cleveland NF Gene Frick 951-689-2283 gfrick@cosmoaccess.net	Mountains Group Chair—Dave Barrie 909-337-0313 barriemail@mac.com
Secretary Kim Floyd 760-249-5385	Mojave Group *Estelle Delgado 760-241-7327 estelledelgado@verizon.net	Water Issues Steve Farrell 909-338-2637	Meets 2nd Monday 7:00 p.m. Except Aug & Dec. St Richard's Episcopal Church, 28708 Hwy 18, Sky Forest
Treasurer *Ladd Seekins 909-825-4427 lgseekins@sbcglobal.net	Moreno Valley *George Hague 951-924-0816	California Wild Heritage Campaign Joyce Burk 760-252-3820	Tahquitz Group Chair — Jeff Morgan 760-324-8696
Conservation Chair *Kim Floyd 760-249-5385 kimffloyd@verizon.net	San Bernardino Mtns. Group *Dave Barrie 909-337-0313 barriemail@mac.com	Group Directory	Section Directory
Conservation Education Chair Open	Tahquitz Group *Joan Taylor	Big Bear Group Chair—Christie Walker 909-866-5006 Meets 3rd Tuesday, Discovery Center North Shore, 6:30 p.m. www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org	Sierra Singles Chair — Ralph Salisbury 951-686-4141 Meets 1st Tuesday, San Bernardino County Museum
Membership Chair *Bill Cunningham 909-793-9558	Wilderness Skills/Leadership Training Ralph Salisbury 951-686-4141	Los Serranos Group Chair — Mary Ann Ruiz 909-815-9379 ruizmaryann@gmail.com Meets 3rd Tuesday Upland Presbyterian Church, Ed Building 7 p.m.	Natural Science Section Co-Chairs —Janice/Brian Elliott 909-985-2395
Outings Chair *Ralph Salisbury 951-686-4141 ralphsalisbury@att.net	Chapter Conservation Issue Chairs	Desert Issues — High Desert Kim Floyd 760-249-5385 Kimffloyd@verizon.net	
SC Council Delegate *Rick Estes 951-314-3328 rickestes_92595@yahoo.com	Desert Issues — Low Desert Joan Taylor	Desert — Eagle Mountain Donna Charpiet 760-392-4722 laronna@earthlink.net	
CNRCC Delegates *George Hague 909-924-0816 Sid Silliman 909-946-5027 gssilliman@csupomona.edu			

THE DESERT INSTITUTE CLASSES

(Continued from page 12)

review camera basics and how to combine traditional photography skills with digital techniques to create dynamic images in the classroom session and then focus the field sessions on exploring the landscape using boulder towers, outwash plains, panoramas, close ups, and Joshua trees as subjects. Downer will teach participants to develop their personal photography styles against the backdrop of the Mojave Desert and how to optimize images using Adobe Photoshop including an introduction to creating professional quality multimedia presentations, how to stitch together panoramas and improve photographs.

February 27-28/March 1, 2009 Rocks & Minerals of Joshua Tree National Park - Learn the geologic story of tectonic plates, magma & time that formed the building blocks of Joshua Tree National Park. Bruce Bridenbecker will explain the critical principles that shaped the rocks and minerals of this area into the blonde granite and pre-Cambrian gneiss which are iconic of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts. During this combined three-day lecture and field class, participants will focus on identification of the three basic rock types: igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary and then apply their knowledge in the field by exploring examples of rock types, contact zones, and unique geologic formations like polka dot granite and pink feldspar megacrysts.

March 1, 2009 Secrets of a Desert Oasis - Explore the largest stretch of palm trees in Joshua Tree National Park with Mark Wheeler. The class will travel to an isolated canyon on the park's south boundary that has over 110 palms! Participants will walk through Munsen canyon to reach Munsen Oasis - a high secluded stand of 35 palms with the back drop of Eagle Mountain. Along the way the class will learn about the ecology of the Colorado Desert, geology of the Eagle Mountains, the importance of oases, the threats to the south boundary and the complexity of washes. The class may even see some big horn sheep who are known to occasionally inhabit this haven for wildlife. Persons attending must be in good physical condition, and comfortable spending the day walking and rock scrambling up to twelve miles in the park.

March 6-7, 2009 Archaeological Surveying - Uncover Joshua Tree National Park's historic past through archaeological surveying. During the classroom sessions, Wanda Raschkow will provide a background on historic archaeology and teach survey techniques. Participants will learn basic map and compass skills, artifact identification, and the use of transects. The class will then apply their new mapping skills and record an archaeological site in the park. Participants will document their findings and draw conclusions to create a picture of the people who inhabited the park. This is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience with archaeological field methods. Field sessions will focus on historic period sites.

March 7, 2009 Basic Desert Survival - Learn the essential "big four" skills needed to safely explore the sometimes harsh and often challenging desert landscape of Joshua Tree National Park. Tony Nester, survival expert and author of Desert Survival Tips, Tricks and Skills, will teach the physical skills and mental processes that will prepare participants to discover some of the most beautiful and most dangerous habitats of the world. Nester will offer suggestions and strategies to manage your mind in survival situations and how to set priorities when stakes are high. Some of the topics covered include: survival kits, edible and dangerous plants, stellar navigation, as well as desert hazards such as flash floods, venomous creatures, and heat-related injuries. The class will also engage in mock survival scenarios. This class is not to be missed if you plan on spending any time in the desert!

March 8, 2009 Primitive Skills: The Universal Tool Kit - Join Paul Campbell to delve into one of the oldest skills known to man: making and using stone tools in this all-day field class. The universal tool kit is the secret tool kit of primitive technology. It makes survival possible without a store-bought metal knife or hatchet. Campbell will discuss the process our ancestors used to pick up naturally fractured rocks or with a few deft strokes turn cobbles into basic tools that are rarely pictured or documented in the archaeological record. Then the class will get to feel the thrill of working directly with rock by breaking, shaping, and creating primitive tools. The tools will then be used to cut wood, haft simple flake knives and make a basic spear

March 8, 2009 Rare Species of Joshua Tree National Park - Joshua Tree National Park is a land of diversity, with ecosystems of the high, cool Mojave Desert and the low, hot Colorado Desert all within its boundaries. Katie Barrows, botanist specializing in endangered species, will explain what animals and plants are considered rare, threatened, or endangered and why in this one-day field class. Starting with a classroom session, Barrows will discuss the basics of what rare or endangered means from a legal and biological perspective, what plants, animals, and insects fall into those categories in the park, and whether extinction is a natural process or the current rate of plant and animal loss around the world is something to be concerned about. During the field component, participants will learn what is being done to ensure that rare species populations remain healthy and prosperous and the 'value' of rare or endangered species while exploring some of the habitats that are home to Joshua Tree's rare plants and animals. The class will also discuss some of the issues involved in conservation efforts in southern California. If lucky, participants may encounter one of the park's best loved residents - the threatened desert tortoise.

March 14, 2009 Malapai Hill's Fantastic Geology - Investigate the natural architecture and origin of Joshua Tree National Park's fantastic volcanic geology with Richard Hazlett. Starting in the classroom, participants will be introduced to basic geologic principles, and then Hazlett will focus on one of the park's spectacular examples of volcanism - Malapai Hill. Malapai Hill is a basalt tower that stands 400 feet tall in the middle of Pleasant Valley and contains unique features of olivine-rich peridotite intrusions called lherzolite. Hazlett will discuss this ancient volcano and how its formation provides a window into Joshua Tree National Park's geological past. The class will then travel to Malapai Hill for a field session. Participants will learn about differential erosion on the way to see the magnificent columnar jointed basalt formed by magma that rose 30 miles through the earth before solidifying at the top of what is now Malapai Hill. For those new to geology or experienced geologists, Hazlett will make learning about this complex and unique landscape comprehensible and fun.

March 14, 2009 Drypoint Prints from Jumbo Rocks - Discover the fun of printmaking with visual artist Gretchen Grunt. Grunt will guide participants in a day of creativity through the process of making drypoint prints. The class will start with a field trip to Jumbo Rocks Campground in Joshua Tree National Park where participants will begin the printmaking process by scratching on a plastic plate with a needle. The class will finalize their art pieces in a printing session at the Twenty-nine Palms Creative Center. The use of inks and an etching press will complete the magical process of making unique drypoint prints. A variety of techniques will be demonstrated using brushes, brayers, Q-tips, scratching, cheese cloth and multiple colors. All art materials will be provided and no previous experience required.

March 15, 2009 Desert Literature - Be inspired by the literature of the desert! Michel Walker, who has taught numerous classes in environmental literature from Texas to Nevada, will present excerpts from some of the most influential authors in this one-day seminar. Walker will introduce participants to famous desert writers including: Abbey, Austin, Bowden, Harjo, Kingsolver, and Ronald while visiting unique locations within Joshua Tree National Park. There is no better way to read and discuss these famous writings than surrounded by the Joshua trees, vast vistas, and desert sand that create this unique landscape. Students will also have the opportunity to write their own nature inspired compositions during the class.

March 15, 2009 Southern California Rock Art - Pictographs and petroglyphs provide a fascinating glimpse into humanity's ancient past. Daniel McCarthy will discuss the universal media of rock art that serves as a testimonial for the ancient voices from the past. This one-day field class will include trips to three archaeological sites with representative rock art from Southern California. Class discussions will focus on who made these timeless images, how they were created, and their importance. McCarthy will guide participants to these fragments of the past that provide a valuable record of ancient societies. This is a great opportunity to learn about rock art's communication through stylistic imagery with an expert archaeologist!

March 20-22, 2009 Flora of Joshua Tree Park - Learn the secret of how plants survive in some of the hottest deserts in the world in this two-day field class offered by the Desert Institute. Stefanie Ritter and Mark Wheeler will guide the class in the identification of desert flora while unfolding the story of how plants have adapted to flourish in a land with little rain. The class will walk through the Joshua trees, getting up close and personal with the spring blossoms and perennial shrubs. Participants will learn the identification characteristics, indicator species and the importance of plants in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts.

March 21, 2009 Watercolor Painting in the Park - Indulge your creativity with a day of painting in Joshua Tree National Park. Participants will be immersed in the desert landscape and learn the observational skills that are essential to painting nature. Audrey Gillick will help students shift the desert scenery to paper with watercolor paint. Participants will learn basic methods for transforming nature into art through techniques that maintain color clarity and high quality value difference with glazes, washes, wet-on-wet, and dry brush. Learn how the characteristic transparency of watercolor painting brings landscapes to life by allowing light to pass through the film of paint and reflect back off the white paper to give brightness and sparkle to the artwork that matches the sunlit desert environment. This pleasant non-intimidating class provides ample time to relax, investigate and paint.

March 22, 2009 Light & Color: Oil Painting in JTNP - Capture the vitality of Joshua Tree National Park in this all-day plein air painting class with international art instructor Diane McClary. McClary will teach signature oil painting techniques such as 'fat over lean,' tone adjustment, underpainting, glazing, and ability to conceal brushstrokes while participants are immersed in the beauty of a desert spring. Participants will have the opportunity for individual instruction on effective use of light and shadow, defining values, and composition in oil. McClary is known for her unique use of color and will also share her approach to color harmony. This pleasant non-intimidating class requires no previous experience and provides ample time to relax, investigate and paint.

March 27-28, 2009 Photography Up Close & Personal - Record the beautiful intricacy of the desert using macro photography in this two-day field class. Spelman Evans Downer will teach participants the secret of small scale picture composition and encourage the development of unique photographic styles. During the classroom session, Downer will review basics such as exposure, shutter speeds and depth of field, and how to combine digital camera techniques with traditional photography skills. The field session in Joshua Tree National Park will explore the landscape focusing on flowers, insects, and detail oriented composition. A tripod is strongly recommended for this class. Downer will emphasize formulating personal images of this much photographed landscape.

(Continued from page 8)

Coffee Grinder, 23580 Sunnymead Blvd., Moreno Valley. INFO: DAN CLARK, (951) 924-2454 <saveourskyline@roadrunner.com>

JAN 21 (WED) 7:30 PM AUDUBON 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. LOCATION: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I 10 at California St. INFO: DORI MEYERS, (714) 779-2201.

FEB 1 (SUN) 8:00 AM SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA BEGINNING BIRD WALK
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT FRIENDS OF THE NORTHERN SAN JACINTO VALLEY
 Co sponsored with the San Bernardino Audubon Society. Check <www.sbvas.org> for current information. A slow-paced walk to introduce participants to basic birding techniques & identification skills so you will feel comfortable birding on your own or joining Audubon's longer birding trips. Do not drive on Davis Road if the road is muddy. COST: Free. BRING: Binoculars, bird book, sturdy shoes, hat, plenty of water, lunch, snacks, non-toxic insect repellent. MEET: San Jacinto Wildlife Area headquarters, 17050 Davis Rd, Lakeview. DIRECTIONS: From Interstate 215, take Ramona Expressway east to Davis Rd. in Lakeview; north on Davis Rd. 2.3 miles to headquarters. Davis Rd. is closed from Moreno Valley. Only entrance to wildlife area is from the Ramona Expressway. INFO: CATHY TOBIN, (951) 684-9613

FEB 1 (SUN) 3:30 PM RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT RIVERSIDE CONTRA DANCE
 Caller: John Rogers. Band: Molly and the Moonlighters (Evan Anderson, Marie Bruno, Barbara Whitney, Patty McCollom). Join us in for an afternoon of contra dance to live music. Dance Instruction at 3:30. Dance from 4:00 to 7:00. Refreshment will be served at the break. Potluck at 7:00, so bring a dish to share. COST: \$9 general admission, \$7.00 students with ID. PLACE: All Saints Episcopal Church, 3847 Terracina Dr., Riverside. DIRECTIONS: The church is on the corner of Terracina & Magnolia between 14th St. & Central Ave. From the 91 freeway, exit on 14th St., go north to Magnolia & turn left. The church will be on your right. Alternatively, exit at Central Ave., go north to Magnolia & turn right. The church will be on your left. Caller/Band Coordinator: PATTY MCCOLLOM (714) 267-4567 or <mccollom@sbcglobal.net> INFO: CAITLIN ST. JOHN (951) 522-2473 <caitlinstjohn@yahoo.com> Riverside Contra Dance Website: <http://bees.ucr.edu/riversidedance/cdclink.html>

FEB 6 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT UC RIVERSIDE FOLK DANCE CLUB
 Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$2 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 <lgsseekins@sbcglobal.net>

FEB 17 (TUE) 6:30 PM SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS OPEN SPACE MEETING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS
 Help us preserve Moreno Valley's northern skyline & secure a natural open-space corridor between the Box Springs Mountains & the Badlands, including the upper basin of Reche Canyon. We meet at the Coffee Grinder, 23580 Sunnymead Blvd., Moreno Valley. INFO: DAN CLARK, (951) 924-2454 <saveourskyline@roadrunner.com>

FEB 18 (WED) 7:30 PM AUDUBON 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. LOCATION: San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. DIRECTIONS: Exit I 10 at California St. INFO: DORI MEYERS, (714) 779-2201.

FEB 20 (FRI) 8:00 PM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOLK DANCE
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 Join us for international folk dancing. This is the same group that used to meet at UCR. Meetings are twice monthly: on the 1st & 3rd Fridays. COST: \$2 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 <lgsseekins@sbcglobal.net>

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Natural History Classes & Field Trips

The Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont has an extensive list of classes and field trips including Horticulture and Botany classes, Natural History classes and field trips and Art classes. For a complete description and fees go to www.rsabg.org and click on "View Full Calendar" or contact Cotton Coslett at ccoslett@rsabg.org or 909-625-8767, ext. 224.



Earth ShareSM
OF CALIFORNIA

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One Simple Way to Care for it*

Join us in protecting the future by doing your share today.

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Now there's a way to help not just one, but all these things. It's called Earth Share of California - the world's leading environmental and conservation charities working together.

Through Earth Share of California you can make a one-time gift, or a payroll deduction donation that helps every day to preserve and protect the environment - locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

Earth Share is not part of your employer's workplace giving campaign? We'd like to do something about that. Call Ladd Seekins at 909-888-0161 weekdays or 909-825-4427 evenings and weekends. Address e-mail to iwfladd@eee.org.

Art at the Oasis

Joshua Tree National Park Art Festival

Seventeenth Annual Joshua Tree National Park Art Festival

April 3, 4 & 5, 2009 (9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day)

Joshua Tree National Park Visitor Center

74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

(760) 367-5500

Enjoy the arts in an outdoor setting at the Oasis of Mara Visitor Center. The Sixteenth Annual Art Festival will be held at Joshua Tree National Park's Headquarters in Twentynine Palms on April 3, 4, and 5, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You'll have the pleasure of seeing the work of more than twenty artists under the visitor center patio next to the .8 mile historic Oasis of Mara nature trail. A love and respect for the Joshua Tree National Park is the common bond between these artists and you can't escape the feelings of camaraderie that exist at this festival! Each artist will have work for sale and enjoy sharing their very personal interpretation of the Joshua Tree National Park with you.

Painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, and jewelry are some of the media included in this year's Art Festival.

Joshua Tree National Park Association, sponsor of the Art Festival, is a non-profit organization that provides support and assistance to the Park's interpretive, educational and scientific programs. Open to the public, there is no fee to attend the Art Festival.



Huts and Lodges

Want to escape to the mountains? Try visiting one of the Sierra Club Huts or Lodges. Stay overnight at the best rates in town.

Keller Ski Hut, built in 1938 is at an elevation of 6800 feet on Highway 18 between Running Springs and Big Bear in the San Bernardino Mountains, across from Snow Valley Ski Area. An adventure pass is required. There are two rustic living/dining rooms; fully equipped kitchen with cookware, dishes, utensils, stove, refrigerator; two dormitory sleeping lofts with 30 sleeping pads on floors; and bathroom. On open weekends or work parties/overseer training, call Jacqueline Meese (714-427-0457). Keller rates (SC): \$3.00 Day; \$8.00 overnight.

Harwood Lodge, built in 1930 to honor Aurelia Harwood, the first woman president of the Sierra Club is located in the San Gabriel Mountains on Mt. Baldy at 6000 feet elevation. It is about 2 miles after Icehouse Canyon and across from Snow Crest Park on the way up Mt. Baldy Road. The driveway on the right is shared with the Zen Center. There is a fully equipped kitchen, dormitory sleeping facilities and restrooms with showers. On Open Weekends, no reservation is required. Check in with the Overseer between 10:00 a.m. Saturday until 3:00 p.m. Sunday. SC Rates: \$5.00 Day; \$12.00 overnight.

San Antonio Ski Hut, built by the Ski Mountaineers in 1937. At 8200 feet, it is reached by a steep 3 mile hike with 2200 feet of gain. Rates: \$1.00 Day; \$10.00 overnight.

Open weekends/Work Parties/Overseer Training for these huts and lodges can be found by visiting the Angeles Chapter Website (access through sierraclub.org) or in the Angeles Schedule of Activities.

How California Can Achieve A 33% Standard For Clean Renewable Power

By Jim Metropulos, SC California

California once led the world in renewable energy. Now, and we have the power to take back the lead.

As it stands, our state's three Investor-Owned-Utilities – PG&E, Southern Edison, and San Diego Electric & Gas - probably will fall short of the state's current renewables target, 20% by 2010.

That's why Sierra Club California believes the state should reform our renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) law. Improving this law will help us meet AB 32 climate protection goals, improve the quality of the air we breathe, and reduce our reliance on depleted fossil fuel resources.

Other states have adopted RPS laws and made significant strides in building renewable energy. In 2007, Texas reached a total installed wind capacity of over 5,000 megawatts. That same year, California only built about 60 megawatts of wind turbines – a dismal performance. Making California a leader again will require significant reforms in the RPS law to remove current regulations that have a built-in bias against renewable energy, and replace these with rules that support the state's goals for clean energy.

Although efforts to pass legislation to boost the RPS goal and to make reforms in the program failed this year, Sierra Club California continues to lobby for more renewable power. We are pleased that Speaker Karen Bass has appointed an RPS working group to develop legislation for 2009. Despite the end of the legislative session, this group of lawmakers, which includes Assembly members Krekorian, Blakeslee, and Levine, continues to meet regularly with Sierra Club California and other stakeholders in Sacramento, soliciting our ideas and listening to our concerns about reforming the RPS law.

We have a lot to say about RPS. First, Sierra Club California believes that California needs to adopt a 33% renewable power goal now. To meet our current goal, and work to 33% by 2020 and then 50% or more renewable power generation in the future, Sierra Club California supports and advocates for the following:

Eliminate Market Price Referent.

Currently, state regulators stack renewable power contracts against future natural gas prices by applying the Market Price Referent, meaning natural gas is used as the basis for competition. This outdated practice discourages capital investment in renewables consistently underestimating future gas prices at the expense of renewable power prices.

Adopt Feed-In Tariffs.

Feed-in-Tariffs, which set fixed contract terms and prices for each green technology, would provide a more stable incentive structure, freeing investors and developers from risks and uncertainties. Feed-in-tariff programs have achieved remarkable

success in increasing renewable energy generation in Germany, Spain and France.

Include municipal utilities in the RPS.

Municipal utilities like the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and Sacramento Municipal Utility District should achieve the same renewable power levels as the Investor-Owned-Utilities.

Expand RPS Definition to Allow for Innovation and Energy Recovery Systems.

The RPS should include innovative, less well-known technologies to foster breakthroughs, and all thermal, kinetic, pressure, osmotic sources of electricity using little or no fossil fuel.

Expand Community Choice

Sierra Club activists favor community choice clean energy plans that would allow cities to get over half their electricity from renewables. The RPS law should help and not hinder these local efforts to increase renewable power generation.

Above all, in upgrading California's RPS law we must guard against efforts to undermine it in the name of reform. First, we oppose changing the definition to allow more hydropower to be considered as renewable. California offers very limited protection in its current renewable law, but does restrict the size of small hydros to 30 megawatts, and forbid new impoundments of water – hardly sufficient to protect water resources and aquatic life.

Second, we do not think utilities should get renewable power credit for their energy efficiency efforts. While we have always supported energy efficiency, we believe the RPS should instead encourage investment in new sources of clean renewable power while other programs focus on energy efficiency efforts.

We should also keep in mind that not all energy sources labeled under current law as "renewable" are equally sustainable in terms of environmental impacts or energy supply. Even renewable energy can have adverse impacts; poor environmental practices at the Altamont wind site in Northern California resulted in excessive bird kills. The impact and sources of biofuels, large-scale development of solar power in the desert, toxic materials in certain types of solar panels, and other issues should be addressed and standards developed for proper use of resources. Unfortunately, utilities don't always consider those problems during environmental review.

As we power up California's standards, we need to ensure we do not lose valuable resources, and that we do nothing to harm the environment we are striving to protect and improve. As lawmakers address our concerns, we move closer to a RPS for California that leads the way toward sustainable, smart development of renewable energy.

Rock Climbing

(Continued from page 12)

had never led a pitch. (A pitch is the distance a climber can cover in one rope length.) Always I had been belayed from above. On a "multi-pitch" climb, it is more efficient to climb as a two person team and to alternate leads. If a third person (non-leader) is added to a party, he can be belayed from above. To advance, I had to learn the technical skills of leading.

On a Class 5 climb, the leader does not have the security of a top belay. Instead, on ascending he places "protection;" pitons pounded into cracks, nuts jammed into openings and other anchoring devices; to which is attached a snap link, for the rope to run through. Contrasted with the top belay, if the leader falls, he will drop twice the vertical distance he has climbed above the last protection point before being caught by the rope. The other part of the system is the role of the belayer. Now the belayer, in a secure stance at the bottom of the pitch, must be prepared to break a fall that has built up energy. The procedure is dynamic, that is, when the rope suddenly tightens, it needs to slide around the belayer's body, friction absorbing most of the energy of the fall, as he brings the climber it a controlled stop.

To learn the leader techniques I enrolled in the Advanced Climbing Course taught by Helen and Carl Weisner. The class goal was to learn to lead multi-pitch climbs-where there is exposure (that means if you free fall, you are likely to get hurt), so the leader needs "protection." We learned piton placement, rope management, lower belay technique, rappelling and safe practices.

One day, at Indian Rock, for a simulated leader fall, they tied a heavy (about 50 pounds) iron weight to one end of an

old climbing rope, fed the rope through a pulley fastened high up in a tree and hauled the weight all the way up. Below, the trainee, a person took up a lower belay stance on the ground. A few feet of the belay rope was gathered and tied off to form a slack section so that when the weight was cut loose, it fell free (the slack distance) before the belayer felt the pull. Each student caught a "fall." When it was my turn to perform, I felt what it was like to execute a dynamic belay.

We had "hands-on" practice during climbs in the Valley. Proper rope management was always stressed. One route finding principle I remember was, when we can't find where the route goes, "Always look around the corner." For graduation, we divided into teams and climbed Arrowhead Spire (5.5) to demonstrate what we had learned. After the course, Bob Smith and I repeated the climb. I remember leading a steep pitch and feeling very shaky up there. We reached the top.

In the 1960's, the function of climbing clubs was changing. If I remember correctly, it had been a Yosemite National Park rule that a person needed to be qualified to sign out to do a climb in the Valley. That meant that either you were known to the Climbing Ranger or that you were member of a climbing organization and had passed the group's climbing tests. In time more and more parties were able to sign out on their own, so that the attraction of groups like the Sierra Club Rock Climbing Sections (RCS) became less.

Toward the latter 1960's I was elected chair of the S F Bay Chapter RCS. I remember the installation dinner. I was asked to get up on the stage and make an acceptance speech. As soon as I had finished what I had to say, I was smacked in the face with a cream pie, and there was much laughter. That was the end of the tradition. To my memory we never mounted any outings to the Valley afterward, and the chapter RCS faded out.

I never returned to do climbs in the Valley: my energy was focused elsewhere. I opted to spend my outing time on backpacking and peak climbing. Looking back, I realize that if I was ever going to be a skilled rock climber, and have fun, I would have to had to rock climb on about every weekend. Lacking that interest, though, by the 1990's I felt that I had become a more skilled climber than I was in the 1960's. I have no doubt that the what I learned in the '60's helped me climb the big mountains, and in instances where there was exposure, to do it safely.

Sierra Student Coalition



Students: Check out <http://www.ssc.org>

DENNIS SCHRAMM

(Continued from page 2)

way to get the parks ready for this milestone event. Mojave has identified a number of proposals, and we will continue to refine our thinking in conversations with the public. One major initiative that needs to be supported is the relevancy of parks to future generations. This means connecting kids with parks and with the outdoors in general. We are working on this initiative with several of our sister parks. Restoration of disturbed lands and ensuring safe visits for the public at all of our abandoned mine lands is a priority for us, and for all the desert parks. Reducing our carbon footprint is a major priority for all of us. We will be looking for opportunities to implement meaningful actions that contribute to this goal. This is just one aspect of dealing with climate change. Protecting Mojave from invasive species rates high as well. Surprisingly, given the

long grazing history, Mojave has few issues with the major weed species. After the Hackberry Fire I would have expected lots of exotics to invade the area, and that has not happened. It is important to guard against these invasives making inroads into the Preserve. I also think it is important that we get some wayside exhibits with short accessible trails at four or five key areas along the main paved roads through the Preserve. Providing opportunities for the public to experience areas like the lava beds and cinder cones, the diverse Mojave scrub vegetation in Granite Pass, and the Joshua Tree community on Cima Dome are important to helping people connect first hand with the resources and not just have a drive through experience. Finally, we are anxious to move forward with a tortoise headstart facility in Ivanpah Valley. This facility will help us and other land managers learn more about juvenile tortoise survival and to jumpstart the population recovery with reproductive age tortoises that have been protected from predation. Getting

more juveniles to reproductive age in the population is critical to tortoise recovery.

What opportunities exist for the conservation community and the local community to support the efforts of Mojave National Preserve?

Opportunities are almost endless. Obviously volunteers and donations are very important to our operation, and these tend to come from the local communities and members of conservation groups. Being an active voice for National Parks and being a participant in the public review of development proposals that are threatening to further fragment the desert. Teach the children to love the outdoors!

I would like to offer you the last word, is there anything you would like to impart to those reading this article?

Mojave National Preserve is a very special part of the Mojave Desert. Many people worked very hard to create the Preserve and it is up to all of us to ensure that

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future generations can enjoy this place as we do. Most of all, get out and enjoy the quiet, enjoy the dark night skies, enjoy the smells after a desert rain, and enjoy the vast open spaces and spectacular landscapes. This is your national park!

David Lamfrom is the Cal Desert Field Rep for NPCA's Cal Desert Field Office. David is a relative newcomer to the Cal Desert and pursues his passions of conservation, wildlife photography, hiking, and herpetology throughout the Mojave.

Editor's note: This article was reprinted with permission from The Desert Report - the news of the desert from Sierra Club California/Nevada Desert Committee.

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The Desert Institute Classes

Experience Nature with the Desert Institute at Joshua Tree National Park. Joshua Tree National Park, CA, February 5, 2008 – The Desert Institute offers exciting, short outdoor courses in cultural history, natural science, survival skills and the arts where adults can explore the wonders of the park with expert instructors. Each student will have an intimate learning experience with the natural world. This is a great way to visit Joshua Tree National Park and the surrounding area, where sunshine is plentiful in this fascinating backdrop of ancient rock formations and desert vegetation. Below is a course calendar for fall 2008. For information on fees, locations etc, please call or email the Desert Institute to request a course catalog at (760) 367-5535 or desertinstitute@zippnet.net. or visit our website at www.joshuatree.org

February 13-14, 2009 Basic Map & Compass Session A - Do you want the confidence to explore the desert and not get lost? Outdoor guide, Karl VonHalle will teach participants how to navigate using a map and compass in this two-day hands-on field class. Participants will learn the basics of topography, map reading, and the history of navigation during the Friday evening lecture and then spend all-day Saturday in the field. VonHalle will teach simple and straightforward map and compass skills separately and then combine them in a route-finding adventure in the wilderness of Joshua Tree National Park. These orientation techniques are potentially lifesaving skills that will allow participants to explore the wilderness and most importantly find their way back home.

February 14, 2009 Mining History of Joshua Tree National Park - Discover the captivating mining history and the unique geology that created the landscape of Joshua Tree National Park. Margaret Eggers will explain the natural processes behind the unique Joshua Tree landscapes and discuss how gold ore was mined and refined in the area. Participants will get to experience the rich connection between the mining and the geological stories in person as the class travels to various historic mining sites within Joshua Tree National Park. During the field session, participants will learn why there are over 250 abandoned mines in the park and how the gold and other minerals were processed and extracted in a harsh but beautiful desert environment created through weathering, erosion, and climate change.

February 15, 2009 Advanced Map & Compass - Hone your route finding ability with this advanced map and compass field class. Under the expert guidance of outdoor guide Karl VonHalle, learn how to plan a cross country route through the wilderness, practice navigation based on land features, calculate triangulation, and the tell the difference between flat terrain miles and energy miles. During this all-day desert adventure you will travel approximately 8 miles, charting a course through Joshua Tree National Park to locate specific rock formations and historical landmarks.

February 15, 2009 Explore Ruby Lee Well - Discover a part of Joshua Tree National Park's rich mining history in this all-day field class. Mark Wheeler will guide the class down a historic mining road that leads from Park Route 11 to the base of the Hexie Mountains. Participants will learn the importance of interior Colorado Desert ecology and Hexie Mountain geology on the journey to Ruby Lee Well. At the Well, Wheeler will explain the cultural history and significance of the site and Ruby Lee Mill. On the way back the class will travel via Porcupine wash and learn about wash ecology, alluvial fans, and maybe see early wildflowers that are unique to that area. Persons attending must be in good physical condition, and comfortable spending the day walking up to twelve miles in the park.

February 20-21, 2009 Tracking in Joshua Tree National Park - Investigate and learn about the natural world in this twoday tracking field class. Jim Lowery will explain how to read the signs and tracks that create natural stories on the desert landscape. The class will then venture into the field where participants will become environmental detectives by identifying and measuring tracks, following gaits, and reading signs to piece together the patterns found in the desert sand. This class provides a solid background for beginning trackers with ample "dirt time" to provide the best and quickest track identification instruction.

February 21-22, 2009 Geology & Paleontology of the Pinto Basin - Discover the prehistoric past of Joshua Tree National Park with paleontologists Kathleen Springer, Eric Scott, and J. Chris Sagebiel in this two-day field class. A lecture describing their geologic and paleontologic research in the park, followed by a full-day field trip will reveal the park's buried riches of Pleistocene fossils. Participants will learn about the new discoveries that have provided scientists a revised hypothesis of the pre-history of the Southern California region. The class will also learn about the methodology of paleontology including discovery, recovery, curation and analysis of specimens.

February 22, 2009 Advanced Wilderness Navigation - Learn how to explore the desert using advanced navigation techniques with Karl VonHalle, wilderness traveler and educator. This all-day class starts indoors then moves to the field for an afternoon in the Wonderland of Rocks. Karl will instruct participants in advanced wilderness navigation by traveling through boulder piles, washes and canyons combining compass, GPS, USGS quads, and UTM coordinates to determine the classes' route. Be prepared to spend a day discovering one of the most scenic areas in Joshua Tree National Park covering up to six miles with moderate boulder scrambling. Prerequisite Map & Compass Basic Skills or prior map and compass abilities, call if you have any questions.

February 27-28, 2009 Photography: Nature to the Digital Studio - Capture the beauty of Joshua Tree National Park through your camera lens and learn how to enhance your images in a digital studio. Spelman Evans Downer will

(Continued on page 9)

Rock Climbing.....My Story

By Bill Engs

Around the time I joined the Sierra Club in 1958, I attended my first rock climbing practice at Indian Rock, in Berkeley where I was living.

I don't recall whether U C Hiking Club or Sierra Club ran the first event I attended, only that I was drawn to it.

At these sessions, we climbed over low angle slopes and boulders while we waited for a chance to ascend the more difficult, steep rock, using ropes for protection.

Before I go on, I want to explain the process and the terminology. The climber is protected from a serious fall by a rope tied around his waist.

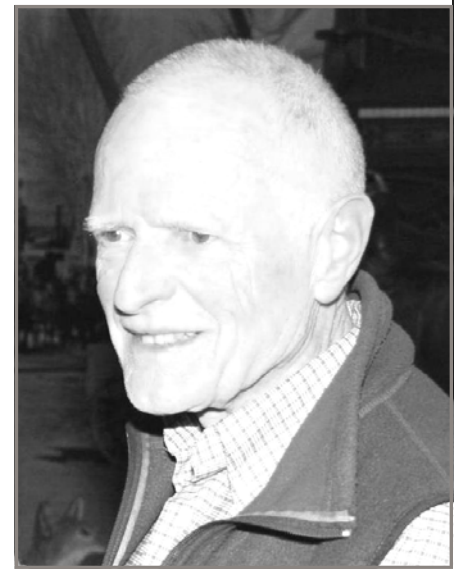
The rope is connected to a "belayer" who sits above (in this case) with the rope running back around his hips, and he gathers in the rope as the climber progresses upward. A climber who "peels off" the rock can be immediately arrested by the rope (unless the belayer has dozed off) and suffers no damage. Simultaneously, the shock of the fall is absorbed by the body of the belayer.

On these Indian Rock outings we practiced easy and difficult climbs, keeping three points of contact (e.g., two hands and one foot) with the rock while making a move. We practiced rappels at Indian Rock, too.

From the top of a climb, climbers often "rope down" by "rappelling." A climber rappels by wrapping a rope (secured at the top by an anchor) around his torso and lowering himself on the rope. The friction of the rope on the body allows the rappeler to control the descent as he varies the amount of friction using one hand. A rappel is done on a doubled rope so that by pulling on one end, the rope can be retrieved from the bottom.

I can see myself, now, doing my first rappel. I was holding on to a rope with my braking hand, walking backward down the rock toward a drop off.

There was no rock below, just space. Getting over the edge felt awkward and somewhat terrifying. Somehow I got over the lip and then



hung free, tending to spin around on the rope, before I could lower myself to the bottom. Later, I learned that most rappels were more stable: I could keep my feet on the rock as I descended. Nevertheless, rappels are the most potentially dangerous part of rock climbing.

My first real climbing experience was on a UCHC trip to Yosemite Valley. We climbed Sunnyside Bench (rated 5.0-the easiest piton protected climb, explained below). I was belayed from above, of course. On later Yosemite outings, with Sierra Club members, I did many of the easier Class 5 routes in the Valley including Monday Morning Slab, lower Royal Arches, Church Tower and Lower Brother. A most memorable climb was on Sentinel Rock (led by Al Steck). It was windy, and the only way to communicate ("up rope" or "slack") was for us to emit toots, like a steam whistle. At one point, while making my way along a ledge, I encountered a three foot section where the rock had fallen away. Straddling the gap, I looked down between my legs and saw a straight vertical drop of over 2,000 feet to the Valley floor. (What was I doing up there?)

In time, I realized that on all these climbs I

(Continued on page 11)

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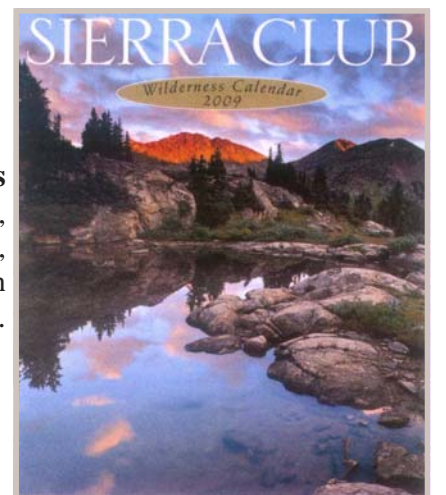
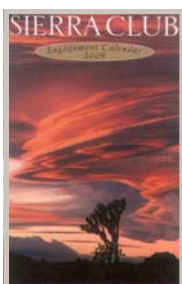
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