



Palm and Pine



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

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

MAR/APR 2011

In This Issue

Contacts for Chapter Office and Groups; Leadership Training	2
Group News	3-4
<i>Big Bear, Mojave, Moreno Valley, San Bernardino Mountains, and Santa Margarita</i>	
Calendar	5-7
Group News	8
<i>Tahquitz</i>	
John Muir: Sketching in the Sierra; EarthShare California; Sierra Student Coalition	9
4th Annual Blue Mt. Walk; Channel Island Hopping; Membership Application	12

Membership Meetings

Tuesday, March 1

“The Proposed Mojave Trails National Monument”

Speaker: James M. “Jim” Conkle
(see write up Page 1)

Tuesday, April 5

“Beyond Lhasa: A Pilgrimage Around Mount Kailash”

Speaker: Karen Bradford
(see write up Page 1)

Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. at the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands (California St. exit off 10 Fwy)

Club Stands Firm For The Mojave Desert

Files Suit Challenging the Disastrous Calico Solar Project

By Joan Taylor, Chapter Excom member and Chair of Sierra Club's California/Nevada Desert Energy Committee

Recently, Sierra Club filed suit to challenge the California Energy Commission's approval of the giant 7-square-mile Calico solar project in the core of the Mojave Desert. Throughout the approval process, the Chapter and the National Club stood firm in their primary objections to this disastrous project: put simply, it is in the wrong place.

Sited on pristine alluvial slopes near the Pisgah Crater, the Calico project poses grave impacts to a rich diversity of wildlife, particularly the threatened desert tortoise, Mojave fringe-toed lizard and bighorn sheep. In addition to the destruction of thousands of acres of pristine desert, the project would obstruct a critical wildlife movement corridor between adjacent protected wildlife habitat areas. Moreover, Calico poses a serious threat to the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan by precluding a conservation of an area that is vital to the long term preservation of Mojave desert ecosystems and species.

The Calico Project site lies in the heart of the Mojave Desert north of I-40, and approximately 37 miles east of Barstow. The site is just south of the Cady Mountains Wilderness Study Area, directly adjacent to the Pisgah Crater Area of Critical Environmental Concern and northwest of the Ord-Rodman Desert Wildlife Management Area, all of which are federally protected for their biological diversity. In this way, the site provides essential connectivity corridors between the Western Mojave recovery unit, the Eastern Mojave recovery unit, and the Colorado Recovery unit of the Mojave desert tortoise. The project site itself is undeveloped and consists of a large alluvial fan that

spreads out from the Cady Mountains to the north across the desert bajadas to the south.

The environmental review for the project acknowledges that the Calico site is an unusually intact area with rich biological resources, including a large and thriving population of desert tortoise, Nelson's bighorn sheep, Mojave fringe-toed lizard, Golden eagle, burrowing owl, desert kit fox, American badger, and sensitive desert plants such as crucifixion thorn and white-margined beardtongue. Most of these species are legally protected and would



Photo by Jeff Ardahl

suffer irreversible harm. Finally, the project straddles a vital wildlife movement corridor that allows bighorn sheep and other species to move between the Ord-Rodman Mountains and the Cady and Bristol Mountains, providing essential connectivity corridors for a host of species. In sum, the Project area is a vital and irreplaceable component of the Mojave Desert's sensitive and fragile ecosystem.

The Sierra Club carefully considered every conceivable option to mitigate the above impacts. Unfortunately, other than relocation to the Daggett triangle or elsewhere, there are no viable options that would adequately protect the numerous biological resources on and offsite. Fundamentally, the Calico project's problems resulted from its poor initial siting. This area never should have been identified for a utility-scale solar project. The Club recognized this fact in deciding to undertake its first ever challenge to a renewable energy project. We trust the courts will agree Calico is a huge mistake.



“Travel” With Us On Next Two Chapter Programs!

On Tuesday, March 1st:

Come and learn about this exciting new proposal from an expert! The Mojave Trails National Monument is one of the cornerstones of Senator Diane Feinstein's just-introduced California Desert Protection Act of 2011. This landmark act



Continued on Page 12 >>>

On Tuesday, April 5th:

As if Tibet itself - mostly closed to outsiders until the last 30 years - wasn't remote enough, Karen Bradford and five friends traveled another five days by Land Cruiser, bouncing along dusty, rutted roads on the north side of the Himalayas to reach their starting point. Their objective? To trek a pilgrimage around sacred Mount Kailash: the center of the universe to Buddhists, the navel of the earth to Hindus.



Tibet! “The Rooftop
Continued on Page 12 >>>



Vital March Fund Appeal Underway

Every year in March the Sierra Club allows the chapter its only opportunity all year long to send a chapter-wide direct mail request for donations. Chapter members should receive this letter soon. The letter outlines the many priorities and accomplishments of the San Gorgonio Chapter.

Now, more than ever, your contribution is vital! Sierra Club cutbacks now have reduced the San Gorgonio return from your annual Sierra Club membership to only about our cost of producing just the *Palm and Pine*. All other expenses and costs to challenge harmful projects must be raised locally. Your contribution will decide whether we can accomplish this year's goals.

There is so much work to be done; it takes time and effort; it's expensive and we can't do it without your help. Please send your gift as soon as you receive your Fund Appeal letter. Our vigilant San Gorgonio Chapter members are now, by far, our greatest source of income.

In case your letter doesn't arrive, remember to make your checks out to: The Sierra Club. Send them to: San Gorgonio Chapter, 4079 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501.



Our Chapter's Executive Committee (Excom) met (see above photo) from 9 am until 3 pm on Saturday, January 15, 2011, to set Strategic Goals for this year and beyond. All Excom members and Group representatives were in attendance at our Chapter offices in Riverside. Rick Estes, Steve Farrell and Kim Floyd used a variety of tools to present information to all of us to discuss. A large portion of our meeting was on creating a fundraising environment. We talked about how much our Chapter gets from National and discovered we receive only enough to produce this *Palm and Pine* for our members. It was then realized how much this March Fund Appeal means to us in our efforts to protect the environment in our two-County area

It was voted on that our Chapter's top conservation priorities would be the Riverside County General Plan Update (GPU) and the San Bernardino County General Plan Update Settlement Agreement Monitoring. These two priorities affect all of our members. Other priorities were voted on which were more local or regional in their impacts, but still very important. We also talked about how we could develop stronger relations with local sister environmental organizations.

While we met Gail Seekins supplied us with a variety of excellent foods and this included a wonderful lunch. Much of the food was made at her home and produce in her own yard. At the end of the meeting she received a round of applause from all.

Contact Us . . .

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<http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org>

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 Meets 3rd Tuesday, Discovery Center
 North Shore, 6:30 p.m.
 www.sierraclubbigbeargroup.org

Los Serranos Group:
 Chair – Mary Ann Ruiz 909-815-9379
 ruizmaryann@gmail.com
 Meets 3rd Tuesday Upland Presbyterian
 Church, Ed Building 7 p.m.

Mojave Group:
 Chair – Jenny Wilder 760-220-0730
 jensoasis@aol.com
 Meets 2nd Wednesday except Jul. & Aug.
 Sterling Inn, Regency Room,
 17738 Francesca, Victorville 7 p.m.
 (just north of Bear Valley and Ridgecrest)
 (also contact earthlingwiley@aol.com)

Moreno Valley Group:
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Mountains Group:
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 barriemail@mac.com
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 Episcopal Church, 28708 Hwy 18, Sky
 Forest

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

Santa Margarita Group:
 Chair – Jim Mitchell 951-506-9607
 sierraclubsmg@gmail.com
 Meets 4th Thur., 7 p.m. at
 Rancho California Water District Hqtrs.
 42135 Winchester Rd., Temecula



HEADS UP! Leadership Training Course Set for June 4-5

by Ralph Salisbury

If you have enjoyed the Chapter's Outings program as a participant, consider now becoming a Chapter Outings Leader. The course involves an overnight stay at Sierra Club-owned Keller Hut near Running Springs and includes classes in Outings Administration, Map and Compass, the Psychology of Leadership, Environmental Considerations and a field exercise. Applicants need to be at least 18 years old and current members of the Chapter. There will be a \$34 fee for training materials, food and the weekend use of the facility. For an application form, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Ralph Salisbury, LTC Chair, 2995 Floral Ave, Riverside, CA, 92507 or contact ralphsalisbury@att.net.



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. For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

John Calaway
 Director, Gift Planning
 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
 San Francisco, CA 94105
 (800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



Palm and Pine Advertising

Display Advertising Rates (Black and White)

Palm and Pine pages are 9-1/2 inches wide by 14-1/2 inches deep. There are four columns per page. Each column is 2-1/4 inches wide. Display Advertising is charged at a rate of \$12.50 per column inch.

Classified Advertising Rates

Personal: \$0.25 per word. \$5.00 minimum.
 Commercial: \$0.50 per word. \$10.00 minimum.

Classified advertising is accepted to a maximum of 8 lines (about 45 characters to the line).

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Deadlines

Deadlines are the 1st of the month preceding the issue date. (Feb 1, Apr 1, Jun 1, Aug 1, Oct 1, and Dec 1)

Submission

E-mail copy directly to ralphsalisbury@att.net

Send payment to: Sierra Club, San Gorgonio Chapter, 4079 Mission Inn Ave, Riverside, CA 92501. Please note that payment is for Palm and Pine advertising and make Attn: Ladd Seekins. Payment must be received by treasurer prior to deadline. Allow at least two (2) weeks.

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Non-Member Subscriptions (\$12.00)

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Member Change of Address

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 (Be sure to supply Membership number)

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Membership Information

There is a membership coupon in this issue and address change information above. For other questions, contact the Sierra Club at (415) 977-5663 or ralphsalisbury@att.net

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Group News

Big Bear Group

by Christie Walker

Outings as a Path to Activism by Ed Wallace, Outings and Conservation Chair

It has long been my belief that successful outings programs can be a strong catalyst that leads participants to a greater appreciation of the natural world around them. Over time this appreciation forms the seeds that sprout activists that will have the desire to protect what they have come to appreciate.

The Big Bear Group has over the past eight years has developed a strong outings program with six certified hike leaders. Day hikes are held for all skill levels. Recently, beginning backpacks suitable for the novice are held in the San Geronio Wilderness. For the more advanced backpacker week long trips are held in the Sierra's each July.

Three years ago, in an attempt to increase local interest in hiking, the group initiated a series of hikes called the Peaks of Big Bear. Leader lead hikes to the five peaks that overlook the Big Bear Valley have been held during the hiking season from spring to late fall. Those that reach all five peaks in a season are given a commemorative patch at a "patch party" held each spring. The program has been highly successful with over a 100 participants over the last three years and 24 patches being awarded. This program will be continued into the foreseeable future.



Hikers enjoying the view from Gold Mountain.

Photo taken by Ed Wallace.

This year the group will embark on a new "patch program." The group will offer a patch to those that complete Section C of the Pacific Crest Trail. Hikes over this portion of the trail that passes on the ridge lines above Big Bear will be offered during the 2011 hiking season. We now are patiently waiting for a few seeds to sprout.

The Big Bear Group will be getting ready for spring with two programs in March and April. The March 15th program will be a presentation on high mountain gardening and composting by Chris Cook and Robbie Bos. Robbie will also have an update on the progress of the Community Garden. At the April 19th meeting, we will be welcoming Spring to the mountains with our annual Spring Fling Pot Luck Feast. Bring a dish to share and a song in your heart for a good ole fashion sing along.

Due to the Easter Holiday, our Earth Day Fair is being moved to Saturday, April 30th. Anyone wanting to exhibit or help out should contact Christie Walker at 909-866-5006.

Mojave Group

by Jenny Wilder

Mojave Group: Explore, Enjoy, Protect Community Beginner Walks

The Mojave Group had a tremendous response in January for Community Beginner Walks. A Local paper published the write up which attracted over 35 new walkers. Beginner walks starting at 1 1/2 miles are on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings at 5.30 & 6 pm. Those that have advanced could join the 3-mile walk at 7 pm walk or do all 6 miles. For those that would like to join in or get additional info email: Melody Nichols at Labelady@msn.com. We continue our weekly Wednesday 3 mile walk (which has been going for decades) and a relatively new 6 mile walk on Monday evenings.

Melody deserves a big applause for the 30+ new walkers that grouped around her on the first day, helped by Carol Wiley's long time efforts to get our hikes/walks in the local newspapers. Carol, among other duties, takes her role as "publicity chair" very seriously! Another applause! Please see the list below with 10 reasons to get out and enjoy a walk/hike and then check out the Outings Section of this and every issue of the *Palm and Pine*.

Mojave Group's Ten Reasons to get out and walk/hike with us:

- 1) It will release endorphins which will make you feel better, improve our mood, and minimize pain.
- 2) It will get you away from the computer, TV and other harmful electronic gadgets
- 3) You will be obeying your doctor's orders to get exercise and fresh air
- 4) You can meet new friends and reunite with old ones
- 5) You can eat and still lose weight
- 6) It will help you re-connect with the natural environment
- 7) You can explore the natural wonders of the High Desert & surrounding mountains
- 8) You will be setting a good example for your children and grandchildren
- 9) No one will sell you anything
- 10) You will have fun!

Mojave Group on Facebook:

Visit the Mojave Group, Sierra Club Facebook Page (no need to log in or "join" Facebook unless you want to leave a comment): <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mojave-Group-Sierra-Club/128853927174168>

If you don't want to join Facebook, but would like to comment or have suggestions, please email Bryan Baker (bb1769@hotmail.com), or Jenny Wilder (JensOasis@aol.com).

We look forward to hearing from you. Would you like to help create a Facebook page

for Local Hikes (around the Victor Valley and Barstow areas)? Please contact Jenny Wilder (JensOasis@aol.com). Let's help to make this area known for its outstanding hikes!

Protection of the Environment has long been a big part of the Mojave Group. Every year for many years, Carol Wiley has joined with the BLM Needles Field Office on a Spring Service trip. She invites you to join her: **MAR 27 - 28 (SAT/SUN) WHIPPLE MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS SERVICE TRIP**

Join the CA/NV Wilderness Committee and Mojave Group on their annual joint outing to help the BLM Needles Office enhance wilderness characteristics in desert wilderness. The Whipples are our planned destination and the rumor is that there will be Saguaro cactus involved. There will be Vicky's central commissary for the main meals. CONTACT Carol Wiley (760) 245-8734 or desertlily1@verizon.net for more information.

Another opportunity to help protect the environment this year is to help with a **Rare Plant Treasure Hunt on April 30:** The Mojave Group is partnering with the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) in an exciting treasure hunt for rare plants. NO experience or plant knowledge is necessary! It is a learning experience and a wonderful opportunity to be in the field with the experts. All rare plant findings are officially entered into the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) which is updated by the Department of Fish and Game. This database is part of the nation's "Natural Heritage Program." There is no better time than now to get involved with this exciting endeavor. The focus for this trip will be the northern slopes of the San Bernardino Mountains, known as

the Juniper Flats Area. This area has an interesting diversity of plants in several different ecosystems and soil types ranging from clay to granitic with limestone outcrops. For photos of this area see Jensoasis page in the flickr photo site: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/25273386@N08/collections/72157617760663191/>. For more about CNPS visit their website (<http://cnps.org/>). We welcome all ages to participate and encourage youth groups, church groups and families to sign up. Please CONTACT Jenny Wilder as soon as possible for more details: Jensoasis@aol.com or call 760 220 0730.

Other ways you can help to protect the environment: The Mojave Group has many openings for people interested in getting more involved with their local surroundings. What is your passion? Would you like to receive more information on a certain issue? Do you have the expertise and time to be a lead the opposition of a proposed change in zoning that allows for an ill-placed mega development, or new highway that runs through your neighborhood? **Current local issues that need your help include:** High Desert Corridor (proposed highway through Apple Valley neighborhoods); HWY 138 as a main highway & Rock Springs Road Bridge; proposed Sprawl developments (Hacienda at Fairview Valley is an example); Yucca Loma Bridge; Mojave River; Renewable Energy development on Public Lands in the Desert; Forest plans; support for Wilderness designations and exploring Wilderness; Monument designations; Wild and Scenic River designations (Deep Creek), Off Road Vehicle (ORV) issues etc.

Join us at the General Meeting and the ExCom meetings to find out more about our activities and how you can "get involved."

Court orders BLM to DO something!

To protect the natural resources and curb rampant illegal OHV riding in the Mojave Desert the BLM has been given specific instructions by the Hon. Susan Illston of the U.S. District Court

Our efforts and those of nine other environmental organizations have paid off with a favorable ruling in a federal lawsuit against the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which manages 2.5 million acres of public land in southern California known as the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA).

On January 29, 2011, the remedies ruling from the Hon. Susan Illston of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California is the follow-up to a 2009 decision in which Judge Illston held that BLM did not adhere to its own regulations and violated the National Environmental Policy Act and Federal Land Policy and Management Act in its 2006 Plan allowing off-highway vehicle (OHV) use on thousands of miles of trails within West Mojave planning area. The court's remedies ruling addresses the status of OHV routes during the pendency of BLM's remand to comply with the court's 2009 decision, and implements measures to protect the desert during that time period.

While we did not get all that we asked for, the January ruling ordered several key protective measures, including: Improved public information and signing with deadlines. Within **60 days** BLM must provide the court with an implementation route signing plan and complete on the ground signing within 180 days of the ruling. Within **90 days** the BLM must provide plans for: maintenance of open route network and installation of informational kiosks at all major OHV access points; additional law enforcement capability for the open route network; monitoring to determine compliance with route closures and whether new illegal routes are being created. Within **210 days** the BLM must update all literature and maps regarding WEMO OHV routes with a notice in the form below:

NOTICE
MOTORIZED USE IS PERMITTED ONLY ON ROUTES SIGNED "OPEN."
ANY ROUTE THAT DOES NOT HAVE AN "OPEN" SIGN IS NOT LEGAL FOR
MOTORIZED USE. MOTORIZED USE OF ANY CLOSED ROUTE WILL RESULT
IN A FINE OR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.

In addition, the BLM shall carry out additional information gathering and monitoring regarding (a) air quality in and around open areas through air quality monitoring, (b) status of the Mojave fringe-toed lizard and its habitat, and (c) riparian areas and UPAs, including new "proper functioning condition" ("PFC") assessments for all of the springs and seeps in the West Mojave planning.

While almost everyone (OHV groups as well as environmental groups) have been politely asking the BLM for decades to provide better signing and information, this court ruling finally gets them heading in the right direction. It provides a legal foundation for curbing destructive OHV use and for protecting the desert habitat and all the creatures that depend on it.

While completing all the plans and signing in the next year, the BLM must complete a new designation of OHV routes by the end of March 2014 with full public involvement.

Farella Braun + Martel LLP, Keyes & Fox LLP and Waltzer & Wiygul represent the following plaintiffs: Alliance for Responsible Recreation, The Wilderness Society, Friends of Juniper Flats, Western San Bernardino Landowners Association, California Native Plant Society and Community ORV Watch. The Center for Biological Diversity and the Stanford Law School Environmental Law Clinic represent four additional plaintiffs: The Center for Biological Diversity, the Sierra Club, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and Desert Survivors.



Hikers on Calico Peak Hike on 1/15/11.

Photo taken by Joe Orawczyk.

Group News

Moreno Valley Group

by George Hague and Ann Turner McKibben, Secretary

The Moreno Valley Group Executive Committee held a meeting on January 23, 2011. Some of the items discussed were: the numerous warehouse projects planned for Moreno Valley, widening of Ironwood Avenue, Perris Dam Remediation Project, housing projects south of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, composting facilities on the southern boundary of the wildlife area, Mid County Parkway and the San Jacinto River Levee Project. Theresa Carson and George Hague were elected to the executive committee. The Moreno Valley Group Executive Committee for the next year is: Mike Millspaugh, Chair; George Hague, Conservation Chair; Ellen Absher, Treasurer; Theresa Carson, Membership Chair; Ann McKibben, Secretary. Theresa Carson, Outings Chair, and Dan Clark will also plan some of the group outings. There are a number of 'issue' positions open: Fundraising Chair, Program Chair, Volunteer Coordinator, Environmental Justice, Parks/Refuges, Waste, and Wetlands. Anyone interested in volunteering for our group can e-mail us at: movalleygroup@yahoo.com or call George Hague at (951) 924-0816.

Please look for our Group outings on our group web site at: <http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org/moreno-valley/index.html> and this issue of the *Palm & Pine*. You can also contact Theresa at: (951) 660-7246 or tcarson22@msn.com and Dan Clark at (951) 924-2454 or dancldr@roadrunner.com

The city of Moreno Valley continues to approve multiple warehousing projects. The Westridge Commerce Center at 943,800 sq. ft. is planned along the south side of Highway 60 in eastern Moreno Valley. One Moreno Valley developer plans to put 35,000,000 sq. ft. of warehousing in eastern Moreno Valley on the northern boundary of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Light pollution, diesel particulates, traffic, and water quality issues are some of the major concerns.

In previous news we have mentioned the Riverside County General Plan Update. The next General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) meeting will probably be held this spring. George Hague and alternate Ann McKibben have represented the environmental community on the committee which is dominated by

those connected to development interests. The GPU will impact all of us within Riverside County as it will lay out land use designations for years to come; address sprawl, global climate change, noise and open space issues. Land use designations will significantly impact the San Jacinto Wildlife Area and open up valuable agricultural lands for development. County planner for the general plan update is Mitra Mehta-Cooper, Riverside County Planning Department, (951) 955-



Photos taken by George Hague.

8514; MMEHTA@rctlma.org

The Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley and the Sierra Club filed a lawsuit in April 2010 to challenge the approval of the Villages of Lakeview (Specific Plan 342) development on the southern boundary of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. The 11,250 unit project will have devastating impacts on the wildlife area and the communities of Lakeview and Nuevo. The project is the centerpiece of Riverside County's plan for a new 'city' in the middle of this rural valley. Please take time to support this lawsuit and make a donation. You can make your check payable to the Sierra Club. Your donation will be used only for the expenses related to fighting this project. No amount is too small. Mail your check to the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 1325, Moreno Valley, CA 92556-1325. **If you wish to have your donation remain**

anonymous, please indicate that and we will respect your wishes. We sincerely thank you for your help. Another proposed project on the southern boundary of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area is the Motte Lakeview Ranch Specific Plan 366. The project would put 2,000 homes adjacent to the wildlife area. The project site is located adjacent to the San Jacinto River flood plain; there are many serious geotechnical issues ranging from large ground cracks, soil compaction to close proximity to the Casa Loma Fault (part of the San Jacinto fault zone, one of the most active in southern California). The resubmitted specific plan may be submitted to the county planning department for internal review (that will take at least 30 days) in early February. There is no information about when the draft EIR will be released. Planner for the project is Matt Straite, Riverside County Planning

Department, (951) 955-8631; mstraite@rctlma.org

The southeastern boundary of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area includes the lands of Mystic Lake and flood plain lands (former agricultural lands) that end at the northern border of Bridge Street. Two composting facilities are located on lands on the south side of Bridge



Street. There are concerns that the facilities (one in the flood plain of the San Jacinto River) will allow invasive and non-native plant species onto wildlife area lands; also of concern are water quality issues and how they will affect the wildlife area. George Hague, Group Conservation Chair, attended public hearings and made comments on the one facility that is operating without a permit.

Heavy winter rains have filled one third of Mystic Lake and greened up the hills at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Spring should be a good time to see migrating birds like swallows and others. The Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley will have a Birding & Bluebird Box Walk on Saturday, March 5, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to noon. For more information, call Sue Nash at (909) 228-6710 or Ann McKibben at (951) 924-8150 or check their web site at www.northfriends.org The wildlife area is north of the Ramona Expressway in Lakeview. Take Davis Road 2.2 miles north to the area headquarters. The wildlife area is open from dawn to dusk seven days a week. For more information: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region6/sanjacinto/> Please do not drive on Davis Road if it has rained or the road is muddy.

The Southern California Regional Bald Eagle Count has been taking place since December 2010. The last count at Lake Perris State Recreation Area will occur on March 12, with training starting at 8:00 a.m. Please call (951) 940-5600 for more information if you would like to take part in this survey.

Information on Lake Perris State Recreation Area please check their web site at: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=651 for their hours of operation, events, and nature walks. Information on Limited Use Golden Bear

Continued on Page 9 >>>

Mountains Group

by Dave Barrie and Bill Engs

In December, Bill Engs led the annual winter bird walk in the Santa Ana River Bottom. They were surprised to see Cedar Waxwings and a Western Kingbird. There were about 40 Cormorants on Lake Evans.

On January 8th Heather Sargeant led nine people on the Pacific Crest Trail from Mojave Forks Dam toward Lake Silverwood. Everyone was surprised by the amount of snow on the trail that winds its way along the north facing slopes. The weather was mostly clear and cool. About half of the trail tread was covered with about 5 inches of snow. Fortunately, others had preceded them, so they did not have to "break trail." When they got about 4 miles in they were confronted by a swollen creek that could not be safely crossed, so they returned to the trail head instead of going to Cedar Springs Dam.

In January, from the 21st to the 23rd, Bill Engs led a three-day car camp at Red Rock Canyon State Park (see photo below). On Friday Bill led a hike to the south end of Hagen Canyon, and returned via the high ridge above. There were had extensive views of the volcanic overlay and the colorful eroded sandstone beneath it. On Saturday morning they hiked the north end of Hagen Canyon to the divide and had closer looks at the rock formations that they had seen from above the day before. In afternoon they hiked up behind the White Cliffs, and were able to view them from below and above. Bird life featured Rock Wren and Say's



The trailhead at Red Rock.

Photo by Valerie Wilson.

February's approval by the San Bernardino County Planning Staff, Commission and Supervisors a coalition of environmental organizations, including the Mountains Group, filed suit to stop the project. And following months of discussion, the Royal Rangers

organization decided that selling their property to the San Bernardino Mountain Land Trust was a better alternative than proceeding with litigation. The process is near completion and we are pleased with the results.

Unresolved however is the question of why the Planning Staff, Planning Commission, and County Supervisors could approve the project in the face of the overwhelming evidence of its lack of conformance to General and Community Plans, its violation of the Development Code and CEQA standards, its opposition by the nearby residents, and the irreparable harm it would have caused to the environment. We provided a 72 page Community Impact Report outlining the violations and problems but they chose political expediency over substantive data. I think that the Royal Rangers and their lawyers were much more willing to see the facts and made an appropriate decision based upon those facts.

The way that San Bernardino County handles projects such as these is detrimental to all involved (except the County) and sends a clear message to each of us... your needs don't matter, conformance to requirements is overrated, and we will always know what is best for you.

Save the dates! Mark your calendars! Earth Day on the Mountain and the Forest Festival are both currently in planning stages. Earth Day on the Mountain is targeted for April 23rd at Rim of the World High School and the Forest Festival will be on June 4 at the ball field near the Hootman Center in Running Springs.

Check out our website at:
www.sangorgonio.sierraclub.org/mountains

There you'll find detailed info on our current topics of interest.

Santa Margarita Group

by Jim Mitchell, Chair

One of the biggest issues facing our Group in the months ahead deals with the proposed Liberty Quarry that Granite Construction would like to dig in the Temecula foothills just south of the city. The key word here is PROPOSED. The final decision whether to grant or deny a required mining permit to Granite Construction is ultimately up to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. But before they make their decision, the highly controversial issue will be heard by the Riverside County Planning Commission at one or more public hearings to be held in Temecula starting in April.

Since we were formed back in 2008, the Santa Margarita Group has been opposed to locating a quarry mine at the proposed location. The following is our official position:

The Sierra Club Santa Margarita Group strongly opposes the proposed siting of Liberty Quarry, southwest of the city of Temecula in the Temecula Foothills, because of the irreversible negative environmental impact to the surrounding area.

At the proposed location, Liberty Quarry will significantly sever the vital wildlife linkage connecting the coastal Santa Ana habitats with the Mount Palomar habitats. Liberty Quarry's run-off and seepage will contaminate the nearby Santa Margarita River, considered one of the most biologically important rivers in the State of California.

Furthermore, Liberty Quarry will irreparably harm the adjacent 4500 acre research and educational field station operated by San Diego State University. And last, but not least, because the

Continued on Page 9 >>>

Calendar of Outings, Meetings, and Other Events

MARCH/APRIL 2011

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

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

DEADLINE: Items for the May/June 2011 Calendar are due by April 1, 2010.
FORMAT items similar to those below. Send items electronically if possible.

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

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

GENERAL INFORMATION, RULES & DISCLAIMERS

All Outings Leaders are Chapter Certified Leaders having appropriate Outings Training Courses, First Aid Courses, & 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 & water for emergency use only, 9) extra clothing including rainwear, & 10) sun protection including sunscreen/sunglasses/hat.

ADVENTURE PASS SPECIAL NOTICE

Most outings occurring in the San Bernardino, Angeles, Cleveland, or Los Padres National Forests require a Forest Service permit for each vehicle (Adventure Pass). 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 & you don't have a permit or find a ride in a vehicle with a permit, you will not be able to attend the outing. You are expected to share the cost of the daily permits equally among everyone in the vehicle or a suggested \$.50 contribution from everyone for annual permits (above normal mileage contribution). America The Beautiful Interagency Passes may be used in lieu of 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 & 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 & 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. Five cents per mile per person for short trips is suggested while three 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, & Release of Liability

I understand that during my participation in this Sierra Club Outing, I may be exposed to a variety of hazards & risks, foreseen or unforeseen, which are inherent in each Outing & 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, & death ("Injuries & Damages") from exposure to the hazards of travel & the Sierra Club has not tried to contradict or minimize my understanding of these risks. I know that Injuries & Damages can occur by natural causes or activities of other persons, animals, trip members, trip leaders & assistants or third parties, either as a result of negligence or because of other reasons. I understand that risks of such Injuries & Damages are involved in adventure travel such as Sierra Club Outings & I appreciate that I may have to exercise extra care for my own person & 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 & Damages to which I may be exposed.

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

I have read any rules & conditions applicable to the Outing made available to me; I will pay any costs & fees for the Outing; & I acknowledge my participation is at the discretion of the leader.

The Outing begins & ends at the location where the Outing officially commences with leader & participants in attendance, as designated by the Sierra Club ("Trailhead"). The Outing does not include carpooling, transportation, or transit to & from the Trailhead, & 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 & before the end of the Outing.

If I decide to leave early & not to complete the Outing as planned, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to leave & waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision. Likewise, if the leader has concluded the Outing, & I decide to go forward without the leader, I assume all risks inherent in my decision to go forward & waive all liability against the Sierra Club arising from that decision.

This Agreement is intended to be as broad & 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 & shall remain valid & fully enforceable.

To the fullest extent allowed by law, I agree to WAIVE, DISCHARGE CLAIMS, & RELEASE FROM LIABILITY, & to INDEMNIFY & HOLD HARMLESS the Sierra Club, its officers, directors, employees, agents, & leaders from any & all liability on account of, or in any way resulting from Injuries & Damages, even if caused by negligence of the Sierra Club its officers, directors, employees, agents, & leaders, in any way connected with this Outing. I understand & intend that this assumption of risk & release is binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators & assigns, & includes any minors accompanying me on the Outing.

I have read this document in its entirety & I freely & voluntarily assume all risks of such Injuries & Damages & 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

Alpine Conference Room 27236 Blue Jay Mall on Feb. 7, Apr. 4, May 2, Oct. 3, Nov. 7.
INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313
SB MOUNTAINS 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 & 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) 800-3911 <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com>.
CHAPTER

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

(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 GROUP

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

(2ND WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, <desertily1@verizon.net>
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 & 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 except December. 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 <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> (909) 815-9379.
LOS SERRANOS GROUP

(4TH 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: RALPH SALISBURY <ralsphsalisbury@att.net>
CHAPTER

(4TH THU) 7:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting. The November & December meetings will be on the third Thursday of the month. The public is welcome. PLACE: Rancho California Water District Headquarters, 42135 Winchester Rd., Temecula 92589. INFO: JIM MITCHELL (951) 506-9607 <sierraclubsmg@gmail.com>
SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

WEEKLY RECURRING OUTINGS & FITNESS ACTIVITIES

Please read "LIABILITY WAIVER" preceding these listings

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

MON 7:00 PM APPLE VALLEY CONDITIONING HIKE HIKE
Please join me for a 3-6 mile *fast paced* conditioning walk along the Mojave River. MEET at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road in Apple Valley. Please bring flashlight, jacket & comfortable walking shoes. BRING flashlight, jacket & comfortable walking shoes. Rainy/Foul weather cancels, so please call before hike. LEADER: MELODY NICHOLS (760) 963-4430 <Labelady@msn.com>
MOJAVE GROUP

WED 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP CONDITIONING WALK
MEET: Victor Valley Museum every Wednesday except second Wednesday of each month. Walks are paced for participants. Enjoy the evening air, river breeze, sunsets, stars & moon on a 3-mile walk around Jess Ranch & along the Mojave River. LEADERS: BILL SPRENG <bspreng@gte.net> (760) (951) 4520 & JENNY WILDER (760) 220-0730 <jensoasis@aol.com>.
MOJAVE GROUP

FEBRUARY 21 – FEBRUARY 27

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

FEB 22 (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: RALPH SALISBURY <ralsphsalisbury@att.net>
CHAPTER

FEB 24 (THU) 7:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting. The November & December meetings will be on the third Thursday of the month. The public is welcome. PLACE: Rancho California Water District Headquarters, 42135 Winchester Rd., Temecula 92589. INFO: JIM MITCHELL (951) 506-9607 <sierraclubsmg@gmail.com>

FEB 26 (SAT) 8:30 AM BLACK ROCK CANYON HIKE
A Joshua Tree National Park area hike along the Black Rock Canyon View and Burnt Hill Trails: a 9.8 mile loop with an estimated 1,000' elevation gain. Outstanding panoramic views of the Coachella Valley. MEET: Trailhead at the Black Rock Canyon Ranger Station. BRING: ten essentials, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, and good hiking shoes. CALL: for reservations. LEADER: ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090.
BIG BEAR GROUP

FEB 26-27 (SAT-SUN) DEATH VALLEY EXPLORATION CAR CAMP
Sample the wonders offered in this national park. MEET 8 AM Saturday morning in Shoshone (a small historic town about 50 miles north of Baker on Hwy 127). Meeting place will be at the arbor area next to the store on the west side of the highway. From there we will start our tour of beautiful scenic views with stops at Badwater, Natural Bridge, Golden Canyon, taking short hikes and lunch along the way. We will Camp at Texas Springs Campground, which is \$14.00 per night (half price with Golden Age Pass) and we can share campsites. Sunday we will rise early and drive to Zabriskie Point, and then stop at the Visitors Center and the museum in Furnace Creek before setting out to visit Salt Creek, which is home to the rare Salt Creek Pupfish, followed by a hike in sand dunes. For those wanting to stay another night we will do a primitive camp at Emigrant Pass. Monday we can hike up Mosaic Canyon. For those wanting to arrive on Friday, there will be a primitive camp on Furnace Creek Road south of Shoshone. Please let me know if you would like to join this camp and what time you will arrive and we can arrange an afternoon hike in Amargosa Canyon. Temperatures this time of year can range from 46 degrees at night to 80 in the day time. BRING

Continued on Page 6 >>>

Calendar . . . Continued from Page 5

warm clothing for evenings and food and water for the entire trip. Entrance fee to the park is \$20.00 per vehicle or free with a Golden Age Pass. You should start with a full tank of gas, however there are two places to purchase gas in the park. More details are also on the Outings page at <www.desertreport.org>. RESERVATIONS: call LEADER CAROL WILEY <desertlily1@verizon.net> 760-245-8734. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

FEB 27 (SUN) 8:00 AM LAKE GREGORY 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, <billengs@yahoo.com> (909) 338-1910. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

FEB 27 (SUN) 8:30 AM CHINO HILLS STATE PARK HIKE
Chino Hills State Park takes you back to early Southern California. Rolling green hills, oak woodlands, rare black walnut trees and early spring wildflowers are all here to enjoy. Hike will be about 8 miles, 1200 ft elevation gain. BRING: sturdy shoes or boots, lunch and snacks, 2 liters water. Rain cancels. LEADER: MARY ANN RUIZ (909) 815-9379 <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> LOS SERRANOS GROUP

FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 6

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

MAR 1 (TUE) 9:00 AM BIG BEAR WALKABOUT SNOWSHOE/HIKE
A moderate to strenuous 6 to 8 mile cross country hike/snow shoe below the southern ridge line of the Big Bear Valley between Bear Mountain and Snow Summit ski resorts. This will be a snowshoe if conditions permit and a hike if they don't. Contact the leader prior to the hike for conditions. MEET at the Vons parking lot in Big Bear Lake to car pool to the trailhead which has limited parking. INFO & LEADER: ED WALLACE, (909) 584-9407. BIG BEAR GROUP

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

MAR 1 (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) 800-3911 <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com>. CHAPTER

MAR 3 (THU) LOS SERRANOS GROUP EXCOM MEETING
Odd-numbered months only (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov). PLACE: For meeting time & place, call MARY ANN RUIZ (909) 815-9379, <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> LOS SERRANOS GROUP

MAR 5 (SAT) 7:45 AM JO POND TRAIL & PINE MOUNTAIN LOOP HIKE
This is a strenuous 11-mile hike with a 1,500' elevation gain within the San Bernardino National Forest. The hike will allow access to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) towards Pine Mountain (approximately 7,000 feet high) and then loop back to Morris Ranch Road. A short one-mile shuttle between starting and ending designations is necessary. MEET: At Jo Pond Trailhead by taking Hwy 74 to Morris Ranch Road in Garner Valley, turn north and follow the signs to Jo Pond Trailhead. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park at the trailhead. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch/snack, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. RESERVATIONS & LEADER ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAR 5 (SAT) 9:00 AM S B MTS: GREEN VALLEY LAKE SNOWSHOE
Green Valley Lake has some of the best snow in our local mountains, so come and join me for a day of fun. You need to provide your own equipment, and prior experience on snowshoes is required. No snow cancels. MEET in the parking lot behind Lloyds restaurant on Hwy 18 in Running Springs at 8:30 am to carpool. WEAR layered clothing, BRING lunch and adequate fluids. RESERVATIONS: Call Heather (909) 336-2836. LEADERS: SANDY ELLIS & HEATHER SARGEANT. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

MAR 5 (SAT) 9:00 AM TENAJA FALLS & SAN MATEO CANYON HIKE
Check out Tenaja Falls. This hike is suitable for an advanced beginner or intermediate hiker as the elevation gain is minimal, however there are likely to be several creek crossings. This hike is a combination of 2 trails in the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness. We will first hike .7 miles (1.5 miles round trip) to Tenaja Falls (240 ft elevation gain). When the water is flowing, Tenaja Falls drops 160 feet over five tiers. Next we will head into the San Mateo Canyon and explore the upper canyon within the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness. This hike will follow the San Mateo Creek through the remote canyon, passing pools and multi-colored rock formations to Fisherman's Camp before returning to the parking area (5.2 miles total - 500 feet elevation gain). There is a short / long option here. Anyone that just wants to visit the falls can take the short option: the 1.5 mile round trip from the trail head (parking area) to the falls and back. Even with this option you must be prepared to cross the creek. MEET at the first trailhead and carpool to the third trail head (the one nearest the falls). Rain Cancels. BRING water, wear comfortable hiking shoes and dress in layers. A Wilderness Pass is required for parked cars, available at sporting goods stores. DIRECTIONS to Tenaja Falls: From I-15, take the Clinton Keith exit. Go west; the road eventually turns into Tenaja Road. Turn right on Cleveland Forest Road. You will see the Tenaja Trail parking lot on the left. Check the Santa Margarita Group web site at <http://sierraclubsmg.org> for more information concerning this and all our upcoming outings. RESERVATIONS & INFO: LEADER BOB AUDIBERT, <bob.takeahike1@gmail.com> (951) 302-1059. SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

MARCH 7 – MARCH 13

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

MAR 8 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, <kimffloyd@fastmail.fm> (760) 249-5385. CHAPTER

MAR 9 (WED) 9:00 AM SNOWSHOE OFF FSR 2N27 SNOWSHOE
Easy to moderate, relatively flat, 3 to 4 mile snowshoe on and off of trails along Sand Canyon Road. BRING sturdy boots, snowshoes, poles, water, snacks and layered clothing. MEET at Vons in Big Bear Lake and we will carpool to the trailhead from there. We may substitute a longer hike for the snowshoe if conditions warrant. INFO & LEADER: DICK BANKS, (909) 866-9232. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAR 9 (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, <desertlily1@verizon.net> MOJAVE GROUP

MAR 12 (SAT) 9:00 AM DEEP CREEK, JUNIPER FLATS AREA HIKE
Join us on a lovely moderate hike to Deep Creek from the Juniper Flats Area, just south of Apple Valley. We begin near Round Mountain and descend approximately 1,350 feet to the Creek, a little upstream from the Deep Creek Hot Springs. Hike is 6 miles round trip with lovely views and a gorgeous location for a picnic beside the gurgling

creek. We will get a chance to admire Deep Creek which is proposed as a Wild and Scenic River in Senator Feinstein's California Desert Protection Act of 2010. We will also check for cattle impacts to the creek by cows straying off the Round Mountain Cattle Allotment. See photos of this at <flickr.com/photos/25273386@N08/sets/72157623657249104/>. WEAR layered clothing, hat. **BRING:** lunch and plenty of water. Don't forget to bring binoculars and camera. **MEET** at the Victor Valley Museum on Apple Valley Road at 9 a.m. LEADER: JENNY WILDER (760) 220-0730. MOJAVE GROUP

MAR 13 (SUN) 8:30 AM PAINTED CANYON/LADDER CANYON LOOP HIKE
The Painted Canyon and Ladder Canyon Loop are located in the northeast corner of the Coachella Valley within the Mecca Hills. This hike cuts through twisted and exotic Painted Canyon and the hiker uses a series of ladders to climb the Painted Canyon area. This is a 5.0 mile hike taking 3 to 4 hours to complete the loop. RATING: Easy/moderate. MEET: Take I-10 to Spot Light 29 Casino, Dillon Road off-ramp and look for TA Travel Center gas station signage. Meet in parking lot under TA Travel sign. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park at the trailhead. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch/snack, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. WEAR: long pants/knee pads. RESERVATIONS & LEADER: ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAR 13 (SUN) 9:00 AM BONITA FALLS HIKE
This hike is part of the SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS FOREVER CAMPAIGN to add wilderness acreage to Cucamonga Wilderness. We will write postcards to Congressman David Dreier on a break. Cards and mailing will be provided. This will be an easy hike to the 90 foot Bonita ("Beautiful") Falls. Easy, about 2.5 miles round trip, slight elev. gain. MEET: Lytle Creek Ranger Station. From Interstate 15 between the 210 and 215 freeways, exit north on Sierra Avenue which immediately becomes Lytle Creek Road. Follow Lytle Creek Road 5.5 miles to the ranger station. We will carpool just around the bend to park across from the green bridge over Lytle Creek. Rain cancels. Adventure Pass required. BRING: water and extra snacks; wear sturdy shoes/boots. INFO & LEADER: DEAN SHIMEK <dtierra@msn.com> (909) 899-2795. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

MARCH 14 – MARCH 20

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

MAR 14 (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

MAR 15 (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

MAR 15 (TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except December. 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

MAR 15 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
Continuing with our sustainable lifestyle theme, March speaker will be Professor Jay Jones from University of LaVerne. He will start the meeting off with a short survey, and lead into his talk about the "Economy, the Environment, and the Quality of Life." For the last 24 years he has served as Professor of Biology and Biochemistry at the University of La Verne where he teaches a diverse array of courses, including an interdisciplinary course entitled, Toward a Sustainable Planet. Travels associated with his teaching and research have allowed Jay to directly observe changes in environment at home and abroad. In recent years Jay has represented the University on the National Council for Science and the Environment, a consortium of Academic Institutions, NGOs, and Corporations, that develop recommendations for legislators and government agencies regarding the environment. Following our February program on sustainable locally farming, this will give us a broader view. Refreshments will be served. PLACE: Educational Building, Upland Presbyterian Church, Euclid Ave. at 11th. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> (909) 815-9379. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

MAR 17 (THU) 8:00 AM SANTA ANA RIVER TO CRAM/MORTON PEAKS HIKE
This 12-mile round trip hike has a 2800 ft elevation gain. Great views of the Santa Ana River drainage. BRING water, layered clothing and hiking boots. MEET: Von's parking lot in Big Bear Lake at 8 AM or Mill Creek Ranger Station at 9 AM. Please call to confirm. LEADER: ED WALLACE, (909) 584 9407. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAR 17 (THU) 5:00 PM OFF-TRAIL RAMBLE BEHIND MV COLLEGE HIKE
Let's celebrate daylight savings time with this late-afternoon ramble in the hills behind Moreno Valley College. 2 hours, 500 to 700 feet of gain. Be prepared for rough and sometimes steep but not dangerous off-trail walking. WEAR: Long pants or gaiters are recommended. MEET: by the flagpole at the front of campus. From the corner of Iris and Lasselle, take Lasselle south and turn left into campus. If no pay parking is available (construction is underway), you can probably park on the west side of Lasselle or down at the shopping center on the corner of Iris and Lasselle. INFO & LEADER: DAN CLARK, (951) 924-2454 <dancrlrk@roadrunner.com> MORENO VALLEY GROUP

MAR 18 (FRI) 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 19.) Hikes are moderately paced. Between 4 and 5 miles rt, 400 to 1200 ft elev. Hike locations will vary. MEET: North parking lot of U.S. Bank, Claremont, at NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds. BRING: Jacket, flashlight, water, and wear sturdy shoes/boots. Rain cancels. INFO & LEADERS PATTY & DAVID THORNE, (909) 981-5813. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

MAR 19 (SAT) 7:30 AM MISSION CREEK TO SAN GORGONIO OVERLOOK HIKE
This hike is an adventure within the Wildlands Conservancy that takes you into exotic spring flowered landscapes and wild, rugged country. Traveling northwest on Mission Creek Trail, we cross the PCT and Catclaw Flats with views of the granite covered San Gorgonio Mountains. This is a 13.0 mile hike with a 1,000' elevation gain, taking 6.0 hours to complete. RATING: Strenuous. MEET: Take I-10 to Hwy 62 north 5.0 miles, turn left (west) on Mission Creek Road and drive until you come to the gated access. Meet at the gate. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park at the trailhead. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. RESERVATIONS & LEADER: ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAR 19 (SAT) 9:00 AM RAINBOW BASIN TO OWL CANYON HIKE
Come join other hikers for a moderate 9-10 mile hike from Rainbow Basin to Owl Canyon in the mountains north of Barstow. **BRING:** 3qrts of water, sturdy boots and lunch/snacks. MEET: Contact leader for more info and meeting place. LEADER: TERENCE MCCORKLE, (760) 252-2194 & (760) 412-1683 (cell) <oldhikerdude@verizon.net> MOJAVE GROUP

MAR 19 (SAT) 10:45 AM SANTA ROSA PLATEAU ECOLOGICAL RESERVE HIKE
Enjoy a rambling loop hike from Visitors' Center to the adobes via the Punta Mesa trail. Step back in time to a

Continued on Page 7 >>>

Calendar . . . Continued from Page 6

California landscape now all but vanished. Eight-mile round trip, level hike on trail and road, moderate pace. COST: \$2 vehicle fee. BRING at least 2 quarts of water, lunch, appropriate footwear, and layered clothing. Dress carefully. Depending on the weather it can be quite hot or quite chilly. MEET at Visitor's Center between 10:30 and 11:00 AM. MapQuest: 39400 Clinton Keith Road, Murrieta, CA. (ALTERNATE MEETING PLACE & TIME: If carpooling from the San Gabriel Valley, meet 9:00 AM at Pomona Fairplex Park and Ride. Directions: Hwy 10 east of Hwy 57. Exit Fairplex and go north, left if coming from the west. Just on the north side of the freeway turn right down a winding road to the Park and Ride.) Rain cancels. LEADER: BILL JOYCE, (909) 596-6280 <bill@rollingtherock.com> LOS SERRANOS GROUP

MAR 20 (SUN) 9:00 AM SANTA ANA MTNS: BEAR CANYON LOOP TRAIL HIKE

In an attempt to add diversity to our group hikes I will add more trails to our hiking venue. Join us on a 6.5 mile hike in the Santa Ana mountains. The Bear Canyon Loop Trail is the first of several hikes I have planned for this area. This is a moderately difficult hike with about 1,000ft. elevation gain. This trail, located just off Hwy 74 and near the famous and friendly Ortega Oaks Candy Store begins with road noise and speeding traffic, but quiet awaits once you enter the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness. 3/4 miles into the hike the trail intersects the Morgan Trail, which we will explore in May. Two miles in we will come to an intersection where we will begin the loop part of the hike. We hike out to Four Corners, an intersection of several trails via the Bear Ridge Rd and return on the Bear Canyon Trail. MEET: From Lake Elsinore travel southwest on Highway 74 venturing into the mountains, then passing the Visitor Center / Fire Station in El Cariso. Proceed another 3.6 miles on Hwy. 74 to reach the trailhead. Parking is available at the San Juan Loop. Across from the Candy Store. Cars parked at the trailhead must display a Wilderness Pass, available at sporting goods stores. Rain Cancels. BRING: water, lunch and dress in layers. INFO & LEADER: BOB AUDIBERT <bob.takeahike1@gmail.com> (951) 302-1059 or check the Santa Margarita Group web site <<http://sierraclubsmg.org/>> SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

MAR 20 (SUN) 6:00 PM FULL MOON, SYCAMORE CANYON HIKE

Approximate 2-hour evening hike in Sycamore Canyon to enjoy the "full" moon. (Actual full moon is March 19). BRING: Jacket, flashlight, water, and sturdy shoes. MEET: Sycamore Canyon parking area on the south side of Central Ave. between Canyon Crest Dr. and the 215/60 Freeway. Rain cancels. INFO & LEADER: THERESA CARSON (951) 660-7246 <tcarson22@msn.com> MORENO VALLEY GROUP

MAR 20-25 (SUN-FRI) WILDFLOWERS & FENCES IN THE CARRIZO SERVICE

This outing will include three and a half days of service to the Carrizo Plains National Monument removing and modifying fences to allow pronghorn to travel more widely. This is the early spring wildflower season, and our schedule allows at least a day for exploring in the monument, either hiking or driving backcountry roads. Because we are privileged to be staying at one of the old ranch houses, our trip is limited to 14 participants. COST: \$30 covers five dinners. RESERVATIONS: contact LEADER: CRAIG DEUTSCHE, (310) 477-6670 <craig.deutsche@gmail.com> CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

MARCH 21 – MARCH 27

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

MAR 22 (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: RALPH SALISBURY <ralphsalisbury@att.net> CHAPTER

MAR 23 (WED) 9:00 AM JACOBY CANYON TO LUCKY BALDWIN MINE HIKE

Moderate to difficult 6-mile round trip with about 1000-feet of elevation gain. BRING sturdy boots, water, snacks and layered clothing appropriate to the weather. MEET: Vons parking lot in Big Bear Lake and carpool to the trailhead from there. For those coming from down the hill, you may want to meet us at the trailhead parking area near the 6000-foot elevation sign off highway 18 (Cushenbury Grade). INFO & LEADER: DICK BANKS (909) 866-9232. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAR 23 (WED) 5:00 PM OLIVE MOUNTAIN HIKE

Enjoy the view from beautiful Olive Mountain with a 3 mile round trip hike. Elevation gain about 1,000 ft. Well behaved dogs on a leash with poop bags are welcome. BRING: water, flashlight, and sturdy shoes. MEET: From the 60 Freeway in Moreno Valley go north on Perris Rd., right on Kalmia, left on Kitching. Park at the end of the road on Kitching. Rain cancels. INFO & LEADER: THERESA CARSON (951) 660-7246 <tcarson22@msn.com> MORENO VALLEY GROUP

MAR 24 (THU) 7:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING

Monthly meeting. The November & December meetings will be on the third Thursday of the month. The public is welcome. PLACE: Rancho California Water District Headquarters, 42135 Winchester Rd., Temecula 92589. INFO: JIM MITCHELL (951) 506-9607 <sierraclubsmg@gmail.com> SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

MAR 26 (SAT) 8:15 AM PALM CANYON TRAIL TO STONE POOLS HIKE

This hike takes you through the lush jungle-like river bottom of Palm Canyon followed by a series of plunging cliffs, waterfalls, and exotic pools of shimmering water through rock gorges. We will return by way of the Indian Portrero where for centuries the Agua Caliente Indians inhabited the lands. This is a 9 mile hike with a 1,000' elevation gain, taking 5 hours to complete. RATING: Moderate/Strenuous. MEET: Agua Caliente Indian Trading Post. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. RESERVATION & LEADER: ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAR 26-28 (SAT-MON) WHIPPLE MTS. WILDERNESS SERVICE

Join the CA/NV Wilderness Committee and the Mojave Group on their annual joint outing to help BLM's Needles Office enhance wilderness characteristics in desert wilderness. The Whipples are our planned destination and the rumor is that there will be Saguaro cactus involved. There will be Vicky's central commissary. COST: For central commissary. RESERVATIONS, INFO & CO-LEADER: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734 <desertlily1@verizon.net>, CO-LEADER: VICKY HOOVER (415) 977-5527 <vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org> CNRCC WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

MARCH 28 – APRIL 3

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

APR 1 (FRI) 8:00 AM SILVERWOOD LAKE TO I-15 NEAR CAJON PASS HIKE

This is one-way hike of 13.6 miles with an estimated gain of 800 feet. This hike is considered moderate, as we will be hiking on the PCT. MEET near the parking lot at McDonalds Restaurant, Highway 138 and the 15 Freeway. We will car shuttle to the trailhead. RESERVATIONS, INFO &. LEADER: JOE WHYTE (909) 949-0899. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

APR 2 (SAT) 8:00 AM DEEP CREEK HOT SPRINGS (ARROWHEAD AREA) HIKE

This is a moderate to difficult, 6-mile hike with about 1000' elevation gain. We will spend a couple of hours at this clothing optional spring, relaxing, soaking and eating lunch before returning to the trailhead. BRING sturdy boots, water, lunch, towel and bathing attire. Water shoes are also useful. MEET: 9:00 AM in the parking lot across Hwy 173 from the Rock Camp Ranger Station in Lake Arrowhead. The parking lot is on the left side, just north of the intersection of Hwy 173 and Grass Valley Road. For those carpooling from the Big Bear area, we will meet in the east parking lot of the Performing Arts Center in BBL at 8:00 AM. INFO & LEADER: DICK BANKS (909) 866-9232. BIG BEAR GROUP

APR 2 (SAT) 8:00 AM HAYFIELD SPRING SCRAMBLE HIKE

Wide washes shaded by ironwood trees, desert flowers, rock art, a spring, and an exciting scramble through a granite wonderland on the southern edge of Joshua Tree National Park. 6-8 hours, about 1000 feet of rugged gain. This is an all-day scramble for the adventurous, somewhat experienced, and reasonably fit hiker. It is all off trail in remote desert on very rugged terrain. You should be comfortable doing A LOT of scrambling with your hands and feet on steep-ish, sometimes loose terrain and on granite boulders (class two with perhaps a class three move or two). Carry at least a gallon of water. No children under 12. No dogs unless you're willing to hand them up and down boulders and ledges. MEET: Chiriaco Summit parking lot (Patton Museum) on Interstate 10, about 30 miles east of Indio, at 8 o'clock (you need to leave Moreno Valley about 6 o'clock). Then we'll caravan on dirt roads to the start of the hike. Please call or email leader in advance. RESERVATIONS, INFO & LEADER: DAN CLARK (951) 924-2454 <dancrlk@roadrunner.com> MORENO VALLEY GROUP

APR 2-3 (SAT-SUN) MOJAVE PRESERVE HIKE & CAR CAMP

MEET Friday afternoon at the Sunrise primitive campground located on Cima Road, 11 miles from the I-15 on the left (just past the Teutonia Peas Trailhead which is on the right). Saturday we will hike to Teutonia Peak, which is 4 miles round trip. Sunday we will go to Hole-in-The-Wall visitor center and take a six-mile hike on the Barber Peak Loop Trail. For those who want to spend another night, we can camp at Mid Hills Campground. Fees are \$12.00 per site (\$6.00 with Senior Access Pass). BRING warm clothes (evenings can be cold), lots of water and food for entire weekend. RESERVATIONS & LEADER: CAROL WILEY <Desertlily1@verizon.net> (760) 245-8734. MOJAVE GROUP

APR 3 (SUN) 7:00 AM PISGAH CRATER/LAVA TUBE HIKE

Come out and explore the underground wonders of the lava tubes at Pisgah Crater. Approximate 3 mile round trip moderate hike over rough terrain. Bring your kids as they really have a great time exploring the various tubes and surrounding lava field. No pets. BRING: sturdy boots, long sleeve shirt, long pants, baseball hat, gloves, flashlight, water and lunch to eat on the trail. MEET: 7 AM at the Mexican restaurant off of the Stoddard Wells exit of Interstate 15 in Victorville. We will pick up the group from Barstow at the BLM office on Barstow Rd. RESERVATIONS, INFO & LEADER: BILL SPRENG (760) 951 4520 <bspreng@verizon.net>, CO-LEADER: TERENCE McCORKLE (760) 252-2194. MOJAVE GROUP

APR 3 (SUN) 8:15 AM RAMONA TRAIL TO TOOL BOX SPRING HIKE

Climb to the top of Tomas Mountain via Tool Box Spring. You will hike 10 miles and experience a 2,000' elevation gain through Manzanita, ribbonwood and sage. The views at the top are of Anza Valley, San Jacinto Mountains and Garner Valley. RATING: Strenuous. MEET: Ramona trailhead, travel 8 miles east from the junction of Hwy 243 and Hwy 74, you will see a trail head sign on the south side of the Hwy. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park at the trailhead. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. RESERVATIONS & LEADER: ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090. BIG BEAR GROUP

APR 3 (SUN) 9:00 AM SANTA ROSA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE HIKE

Join us in our now quarterly hike through this magnificent reserve. Enjoy an easy 5.5 and 6.5 mile hike over various trails in the reserve. We will vary the route to take advantage of blooming flowers at their best. If available we invite guest speakers from the Reserve's staff to enlighten us and give us some background about what we are seeing. COST: There is a \$2 fee for trail use at the Reserve. MEET: Hidden Valley Trail head. Directions: From Interstate 15 in Murrieta, exit southwest on Clinton Keith Rd. Drive 5.8 miles to the Hidden Valley Trail head on the left side of the road. The trail head is located shortly beyond where the road makes a sharp left turn and changes name to Tenaja. Rain Cancels. BRING water, lunch and dress in layers. Check our Santa Margarita Group web site <<http://sierraclubsmg.org/>> for more information concerning this and all our upcoming outings. INFO & LEADER BOB AUDIBERT, <bob.takeahike1@gmail.com> (951)302-1059. SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

APR 3 (SUN) 9:00 AM S B MTS, THE PINNACLES HIKE

Join us on a moderate 6-mile round trip, 1,000 ft elevation gain hike located north west of Lake Arrowhead. This hike includes some rock scrambling to reach the summit, which comprises an imposing stack of large granite boulders. Your efforts will be rewarded with mountain and desert views. BRING lunch, water, good boots and layered clothing. Adventure Pass required. MEET: Call for meeting place to carpool. LEADER: HEATHER SARGEANT (909) 336-2836. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

APR 3 (SUN) 9:00 AM WHITEWATER CANYON RIDGE LOOP HIKE

Come see a beautiful display of spring wildflowers along the hills and ridges above Whitewater Preserve. This is an easy 3.2 mil loop, with 600 ft of elevation gain and beautiful views of both San Gorgonio and San Jacinto peaks. The hike should take only a couple of hours, and you may want to stay around and explore this Wildlands Conservancy Preserve. Part of this route takes us along the Pacific Crest Trail. BRING 2 liters of water, snacks, layers and a camera! Hiking boots needed as there are rocky places along the wash. MEET: 9 am in Ontario Mills Parking lot, east end by Dave and Buster's. Rain cancels. LEADER: MARY ANN RUIZ <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> (909) 815-9379. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

APRIL 4 – APRIL 10

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

APR 4 (MON) 6:00 PM SB MOUNTAINS GROUP EXCOM MEETING

Alpine Conference Room 27236 Blue Jay Mall on Feb. 7, Apr. 4, May 2, Oct. 3, Nov. 7. INFO: DAVE BARRIE, (909) 337-0313. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

APR 5 (TUE) 8:00 AM SILVER PEAK VIA 3N36 HIKE

This 9 mile strenuous hike will use Forest Service Road 3N36 to get us to our final destination 6767' Silver Peak with its spectacular views of the high desert and Bighorn Mountains. BRING at least two quarts of water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. MEET: Von's parking lot in Big Bear Lake at 8:00 AM. Please call to confirm. LEADER: ED WALLACE (909) 584 9407. BIG BEAR GROUP

APR 5 (TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP EXCOM MEETING

The meeting place rotates. INFO: CHRISTIE WALKER, (909) 866-5006. BIG BEAR GROUP

APR 5 (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) 800-3911 <ladd.g.seekins@gmail.com>. CHAPTER

APR 9 (SAT) 8:30 AM BLACK MOUNTAIN TRAIL HIKE

This trail climbs up Black mountain (7772') to give you superb views of the desert valleys below, Banning Pass and the San Gorgonio Mountains to the north. Black Mountain is the northernmost peak in the San Jacinto Range. You will hike 7 miles with a 2,600' elevation gain. RATING: Strenuous. MEET: Vista Grande Ranger Station on Hwy 243. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park at the trail head. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. RESERVATIONS & LEADER: ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090. BIG BEAR GROUP

Continued on Page 10 > > >

Santa Margarita Group from Page 4 . . .

proposed location of Liberty Quarry is in the direct path of the ocean winds entering Temecula Valley through Rainbow Gorge, the approval of Liberty Quarry will pollute our local air quality.

Beauty Mountain Addition includes an essential biological corridor linking the Palomar, San Jacinto & Santa Rosa Mountains. Sierra Club Members, the public and the business community are urged to send letters of support for

The first County Planning Commission hearing is scheduled for April 27th in Temecula. We hope you will attend and express your concerns. If you cannot attend, we encourage you to share your feelings with the Planning Commission by email or letter.

And here are some of the other projects our Group is pursuing:

Pam Nelson, Conservation Committee Chair

Riverside County's Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) was discussed at a special meeting at the City of Murrieta. The Los Alamos community has long complained about their role in the plan and feel they are unfairly targeted with the bulk of the conservation for the City. They say they have to set aside or not develop large portions of their properties without compensation. Their community lies in one of the most sensitive areas of Murrieta due to endangered species and wildlife corridors. The City and the Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) have been working on a way to relieve some of the burden and presented their plan at this meeting. The residents and the city council were not satisfied with their plan and are still trying to make further changes in the implementation of the Plan or have the City withdraw entirely from the MSHCP. Their withdrawal would impact the Plan's conservation throughout the whole of SW Riverside County and would take away millions of dollars for infrastructure in Murrieta.

The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District held a public hearing in Wildomar on Jan. 26th. They described 4 ongoing projects in our area. Our group is particularly interested in the Murrieta Creek Channel-Corps of Engineers project that officially began in February 2001. It covers a seven-mile length of Murrieta Creek starting south of Old Town Temecula and going to Tenaja Rd in Murrieta. There will be environmental restoration, a sports park and pedestrian/bicycle and equestrian trails the full length of the project.

Teri Biancardi, Group Energy Chair and Trail Committee member

I am delighted to report that the Western Riverside Council of Government (WRCOG) has announced it will be offering low interest financing for energy and water efficient retrofits for homes and businesses in Western Riverside County. What is really exciting is that the financing will be paid back through an annual assessment on your property tax bill. So, no up-front cost for you and ideally the savings will pay their way. Solar installations will qualify as well as doors and windows, heating and air conditioning.

To qualify for the program, there are certain requirements: no bankruptcies or mortgage delinquencies, and you must have 20 percent equity in your property. Register for updates on wrcog.cog.ca.us, it is anticipated that they will begin accepting applications in early May.

We have also had our first meeting of our newly formed trails committee. Our group is walking Temecula to see if we can find ways to connect up the various trails that crisscross the city, with a view to linking them to other area cities and regional trails.

Bob Audibert, Group Outings Committee Chair

In mid January, 23 hikers joined me on a 5.2 mile hike (out and back) along the south bank of the Santa Margarita River in Fallbrook and experience one of the last wild rivers in Southern California. It is beautiful terrain and everyone had a good time.

I am making an effort to make our outings more interesting by increasing the number of trails we use for Sierra Club hikes. Therefore I have to make some changes. Instead of having monthly hikes at the Santa Rosa Reserve I will lead a hike to the reserve three or four times a year (every three months). I have two hikes schedule for March. March 5 we will be hiking to Tenaja Falls and along the San Mateo Canyon. On March 20 we have the Bear Canyon Loop Trail. In April we will return to the Santa Rosa Reserve to check out the spring flowers. Looking ahead to May we will visit the Morgan Trail and I am also working on a hike in the Beauty Mountain area. I think we have some fun hikes coming up in the next few months. If anyone has any favorite hiking trails they think we may enjoy, or the trail is tied to an environmental issue contact me by email at bob.takeahike1@gmail.com. Please include as much information as you can and I will scout it out. If I like it I will schedule it. For more information concerning our March and April outings check our Santa Margarita Group web site at <http://sierraclubsmg.org/>

Laurie Webster, Group Activities Committee Chair

Our next Sierra Club outing will be a wonderful trip to the beautiful Torrey Pines State Reserve in Del Mar. We are planning this outing for Sat., Mar. 12th. Torrey Pines consists of 2000 acres of unspoiled land, including a thriving chaparral plant community, the rare and elegant Torrey pine trees, miles of unspoiled beaches, and a lagoon that is vital to migrating seabirds. One can imagine what California must have looked like to the early settlers, or to the Spanish explorers, or even to the first California residents here, the Kumeyaay people. There are 8 miles of trails and a visitor center.

Our last visit to Torrey Pines was in late September 2008, so it will be fun to see the Reserve as it begins to welcome Spring!

I will keep you posted as we plan more fun trips. If you want additional information or have some ideas on local trips you would like us to take, contact me at (Laurie at laurie_r_w@yahoo.com).

Lynn Davis, Group Program & Fundraising Committee Chair

The Santa Margarita Group's first meeting of the New Year closely followed the January 5th introduction of the Aqua Tibia Wilderness Addition and Beauty Mountain Proposed Wilderness Bill, HR 41. Monica Argandona, SoCal Conservation Director of the California Wilderness Coalition, presented Representative Darryl Issa's proposal to add over 21,000 acres to the more than 17,000 acres protected by the Bono-Mack bill of March 2009. The



*Above: An enthusiastic turn-out for our January Santa Margarita River hike.
Below: Hiking along the Santa Margarita River near Fallbrook
Both photos by Kerry King.*



HR 41 to Congressman Issa: 1800 Thibodo Rd. #310, Vista, CA 92081.

BJ's Brewhouse & Restaurant will host our Group's first "Sierra Sunday" fundraiser of 2011 on February 13, 4-6pm. Honoring our motto "sipping, savoring and socializing," members and guests will sip hand-crafted beers, savor BJ's vast menu and celebrate Valentine's Day in one of Temecula's most popular eateries while supporting the Sierra Club!

Jeff Stone, Supervisor 3rd District, Riverside County, will present Temecula's Wine Country expansion plan at our February 17th general meeting. The long-range plan, which is proposed to triple the existing number of wineries, add lodging and entertainment venues, has raised concern among some Wine Country residents over such issues as noise and emissions pollution, traffic & safety, loss of habitat and reallocation of water resources. This is an important opportunity for area residents to learn, question & comment.

If you have questions or program ideas, please contact me at lynncdavis@hughes.net.

Fred Bartz, Environmental Action Committee

LIBERTY QUARRY: The date(s) for the Riverside County Planning Commission hearing have been tentatively set for Wednesday, April 27th, and if needed, Wednesday, May 4th. The hearing was originally planned to be held in the City of Riverside, however, has been moved to Temecula to gain input from those most impacted by any decision on the project. It will be very important that area residents and environmental organizations show up and make their voices heard on the negative impacts of this mega project. For more information, go to: www.nogravelquarry.com or contact me at fjbartz@verizon.net.



Tahquitz Group Ballot
by Joan Taylor

Please vote for three and mail in by March 31st to:
POB 4944, Palm Springs, CA 92263.
Please sign your name on the outside of the envelope.
Thanks.

___ Kathryn Kelley
___ Jeff Morgan
___ Joan Taylor



John Muir: Sketching in the Sierra

Source: Sierra Club's Insider

John Muir not only hiked and sang the praises of the Sierra Nevada — he also sketched what he saw. Many of those drawings first appeared 100 years ago, when he published *My First Summer in the Sierra*.



In 1911, when John Muir was 73, he published a most engaging book, *My First Summer in the Sierra*. This spring marks the 100th anniversary of its publication. Muir kept a journal as he hiked, often tying it to his belt to keep company with his dried bread and tea. For this book he relied on those journals to tell the story of the summer of 1869.

Though a wonderful storyteller, Muir often agonized over his writing: *My First Summer in the Sierra* reveals none of his struggle and reads as if he had simply reprinted the journal itself. All of his journals have been digitized by the University of the Pacific, and you can read the journal that is the basis for the book at [Yosemite Year Book](http://YosemiteYearBook.com).

Muir also used his journals as sketchbooks. Many of his entries fill a page; others only a corner, surrounded by notes. He always used a pencil. "Drawing in the Sierra is difficult because of their grandeur — which is the problem I faced last spring when I tried to capture the scale of these trees outside my cabin window while on a visit to California."

Muir's Sierra drawings are focused on capturing and recording that scale. As you might expect, he drew mountains, glaciers, trees, a few stick figures for scale — but no portraits. He often wrote that he had spent an entire day drawing.



Sierra Student Coalition

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

Get Involved – Whether you're brand-new to activism or you've been organizing for years, the Sierra Student Coalition offers many ways to plug into the youth clean energy movement.

Stay Connected – Sign up for the SSC Update, our monthly newsletter, to stay up to date on the SSC's campaigns and highlights. Join the SSC Energy Forum to receive e-mails about energy campaigns and new opportunities and events.

Get Trained – Learn more about the SSC's phone trainings or summer trainings, where you can get the skills you need to win victories for clean and just energy solutions.

Questions?

E-mail

sierra.student@sierraclub.org



*One Environment . . .
One Simple Way to Care for it.*

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

How can you choose between the eagle and the buffalo? Between the elephants and the whales?

Between drinking clean water and breathing clean air? Between parks and beaches? How can you choose? Would there be a right choice?

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.

Moreno Valley Group from Page 4 . . .

passes can be found at: http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23800 Age 62 and older are eligible for this \$10.00 annual pass which allows access to all state parks. See the link for application and more information.

The city of Moreno Valley Recreational Trails Board will sponsor a Hike to San Timoteo Canyon (5.6 mi round trip, moderate) on Saturday, March 26th. Meet at 7:30 a.m., Moreno Valley Equestrian Center, 11150 Redlands Boulevard. Please call (951) 413-3702 to verify all information.

For more information about our group 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

DEVELOPMENT THREATENS THE SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA

By George Hague



The San Jacinto Wildlife Area has had a long history in the northern San Jacinto Valley. Most of these lands are east of and adjacent to the 9,000-acre Lake Perris State Recreation Area. Currently, the wildlife area is composed of 19,000 acres of Coastal Sage Scrub, grasslands, riparian and wetland habitat. It includes 2,000 acres of the seasonal wetland known as Mystic Lake, the lake that mysteriously appears along Gilman Spring Road when there are heavy rains. The wildlife area also includes many acres of man made wetland areas. The December rains filled about one third of Mystic Lake. Over \$80 million of taxpayers' money have been invested in creating the San Jacinto Wildlife Area.

Now the wildlife values of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA) are under threat from a mega-development approved by Riverside County. Lewis Operating Corp of Upland, CA is planning a 'city' adjacent to the San Jacinto Wildlife Area called The Villages of Lakeview. The 11,200 unit project is on the southern boundary of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area and will impact the threatened and endangered species found on these special lands.

Other impacts and problems expected to be caused by this leapfrog development's 33,000 residents include

light pollution, noise pollution, invasive non-native plant species, feral dogs and cats, inappropriate access to the SJWA, and air quality impacts caused by their projected 15,000 daily commuters.

The San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society identified 154 bird species during their December 2010 Christmas Bird Count. The SJWA has more than 20 species of raptors. (Please look in the outings section of this newsletter for SJWA walks sponsored by the



Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley.)

Also, the project will have devastating impacts on the rural communities of Lakeview and Nuevo. The majority of homes in these two communities have large lots, a rural life-style and residents who keep horses and other domestic animals. Their quality of life will be destroyed.

For many years the San Geronio Chapter of the Sierra Club has been interested in and commented on local planning and land use issues, which affect the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Our Chapter of the Sierra Club has joined with the Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley to file a lawsuit to stop this massive misplaced housing project, and protect all the values of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area.

Calendar . . . Continued from Page 7

APR 10-16 (SUN-SAT) ESCALANTE RIVER CANYON SERVICE BACKPACK
We will work with National Park Service Ranger Bill Wolverton on this ongoing Russian olive eradication program. 40.5 miles of the Escalante River have been cleared. This project will clear more, using loppers, small handsaws, and herbicide. MEET in Escalante Sunday morning, caravan to the trailhead and hike in about 7 miles. Expect knee- to thigh-deep river crossings and some bushwhacking. We work 4 days, dayhike 1 day and hike out Saturday morning. Participants must follow work-clothing requirements, provide their own food and gear on the trail, and travel expenses to the trailhead. INFO & LEADER: PAUL PLATHE (209) 476-1498. DELTA-SIERRA GROUP

APRIL 11 – APRIL 17

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

APR 11 (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

APR 12 (TUE) 7:00 PM CHAPTER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Monthly meeting or conference call. Take part in working on important conservation issues. Please participate: we need your help! INFO: KIM FLOYD, Conservation Chair, <kimfloyd@fastmail.fm> (760) 249-5385. CHAPTER

APR 13 (WED) 8:30 AM HIGHWAY 38 TO WILDHORSE CREEK LOOP HIKE
A moderate, 8-mile, 1400-ft. elevation gain hike. The trail climbs chaparral-covered slopes and descends into a lush forest along Wildhorse Creek. We will return on a seldom used and unmaintained trail along Wildhorse Creek. Great views of San Gorgonio Mountain. A short car scuttle is required. BRING: 2 qts. water, layered clothing, hiking boots and snacks. National Forest Adventure Pass required. MEET: Von's parking lot in Big Bear Lake. INFO & LEADER: ED WALLACE (909) 584-9407. BIG BEAR GROUP

APR 13 (WED) 5:00 PM SYCAMORE CANYON HIKE
Approximate 2-hour hike in Sycamore Canyon from the Alessandro side. We will hike to Sycamore Creek and loop around. Well behaved dogs on a leash with poop bags are welcome. BRING: Jacket, flashlight, water, and sturdy shoes. MEET: U-Store-It storage on Mt. Baldy Dr. From the 215 go west on Alessandro, right on San Gorgonio & right on Mt. Baldy Dr. Park in front. Rain cancels. INFO & LEADER: THERESA CARSON, (951) 660-7246 <tcarson22@msn.com> MORENO VALLEY GROUP

APR 13 (WED) 7:00 PM MOJAVE GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except for July & August. PLACE: Sterling Inn, Regency Room, 17738 Francesca, Victorville. (One block north of Bear Valley Rd. on Ridgecrest.) Enter on Ridgecrest side of the building. INFO: CAROL WILEY, (760) 245-8734, <desertlily1@verizon.net> MOJAVE GROUP

APR 15-17 (FRI-SUN) CULP VALLEY, ANZA BORREGO STATE PARK CARCAMP
Culp Valley, in the Upper Sonoran plant zone, is our base for a hike down the old California Riding and Hiking Trail to Borrego Valley 3000 feet below. We'll see a variety of plants on the way. On shorter hikes we'll visit local springs. We'll see effects of water sources on plant life and check recovery from a 2002 fire. Primitive campground. OK for passenger cars. You may arrive on Friday or Saturday. INFO & LEADER, BILL ENGS (909) 338-1910 <billengs@yahoo.com> SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

APR 16 (SAT) 8:00 AM NORTH FORK OF PCT TO LIVE OAK SPRING HIKE
The north Fork of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) offers a scenic, meandering, gradual climb to the Desert Divide Ridge overlooking the Coachella Valley. Over the 14-mile hike, you will see massive oak trees, manzanita, yucca, juniper and pine trees and experience a 2,000' elevation gain. RATING: Strenuous. MEET: The trailhead is 1/2 mile east of the Hwy 371 and Hwy 74 junction. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park at the trailhead. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. RESERVATIONS & LEADER: ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090. BIG BEAR GROUP

APR 16 (SAT) 9:00 AM GRAYS PEAK & HANNA FLATS HIKE
Come join other hikers for a moderate/strenuous 13-mile hike to Grays Peak and Hanna Flats Campground in the San Bernardino Mts. southwest of Fawnskin. BRING 3-4 qts of water, sturdy boots and lunch/snacks. MEET: For more info and meeting place contact LEADER: TERRANCE McCORKLE <oldhikerdude@verizon.net> (760) 252-2194 or 760-412-1683 (cell). MOJAVE GROUP

APR 16-17 (SAT-SUN) BIRDS, FLOWERS, & FENCES IN THE CARRIZO SERVICE
This is an opportunity to explore and aid an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. On Saturday, we will assist monument staff in the removal of fence wires to allow pronghorn antelope freer access to the range. Sunday is reserved for sightseeing. The views from the Caliente Mountains are spectacular; spring flowers may still be blooming; and the monument is known for the number and variety of raptors present. INFO & LEADER: CRAIG DEUTSCHE (310) 477-6670 <craig.deutsche@gmail.com> CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

APR 17 (SUN) 6:00 PM MOONLIGHT HIKE
Come for a 2 to 3 hour evening hike in the foothills to enjoy the "full" moon. (Actual full moon is April 17.) Hikes are moderately paced. Between 4 and 5 miles RT, 400 to 1200 ft elevation gain. Hike locations will vary. MEET: North parking lot of U.S. Bank, Claremont, at NE corner of Indian Hill & Foothill Blvds. BRING: Jacket, flashlight, water, and wear sturdy shoes/boots. Rain cancels. INFO & LEADERS: PATTY & DAVID THORNE (909) 981-5813. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

APRIL 18 – APRIL 24

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

APR 19 (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

APR 19 (TUE) 6:30 PM BIG BEAR GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting except December. 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

APR 19 (TUE) 7:00 PM LOS SERRANOS GROUP MEETING
Joshua Tree National Park is one of our most treasured places here in Southern California. Come hear more about the park and opportunities to learn about the plants, animals, and geology of this amazing place. We will have a speaker from the Joshua Tree Institute at this meeting. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with our Southern California National Park. Refreshments will be served. PLACE: Educational Building, Upland Presbyterian Church, Euclid Ave. at 11th. INFO: MARY ANN RUIZ, (909) 815-9379. <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> LOS SERRANOS GROUP

APR 21 (THU) 9 AM SB MTS, HEART ROCK SAUNTER!
On John Muir's Birthday, let's honor his exasperated opinion of hiking, "I don't like either the word or the thing. People ought to saunter in the mountains - not hike!" Join us for an easy walk and appreciation of the connectedness of our forest. We will follow the Seeley Creek trail to an overlook of Heart Rock Falls, discovering all along the way. Distance: 2 miles RT. BRING: water, a snack, good shoes, and your curiosity. Adventure Pass required. MEET: For information and meeting place details, contact LEADER STEVE FARRELL (661) 449-2867 or <mr_sqf@yahoo.com>. MOUNTAINS GROUP

APR 23 (SAT) 8:00 AM SEQUOIA TO BLUE QUARTZ MINE HIKE
This is an easy to moderate 6-mile hike with about 400' of elevation gain. There will be some discussion along the way about gold mining operations in the Big Bear area. BRING sturdy boots, water, snacks and layered clothing appropriate to the weather. MEET: Vons parking lot in Big Bear Lake for carpool to the trailhead. INFO & LEADER: DICK BANKS (909) 866-9232. BIG BEAR GROUP

APR 23 (SAT) 9:00 AM SB MTS, GREEN VALLEY LAKE HIKE
Join us for a ridge hike around Green Valley Lake with beautiful views of the high desert. Distance: 6 miles. WEAR: hiking boots, hat. BRING: layered clothing, water, snack. MEET: main parking area in Green Valley Lake at 9 am. Please call to check weather conditions. LEADER: SANDY ELLIS (909) 867-7115 <fsellis67@gmail.com>. SB MOUNTAINS GROUP

APR 24 (SUN) 9:00 AM NORTH ETIWANDA PRESERVE HIKE
This hike will be part of the San Gabriel Mountains Forever Campaign to add wilderness acreage to Cucamonga Wilderness. We will write postcards to Congressman David Dreier on a break. Cards and mailing will be provided. This will be an easy hike around the new North Etiwanda Preserve loop. Easy. About 3.2 miles Round Trip with about 624' elevation gain. This environmental gem is host to native wildlife and plants as well as historically significant sites. Plus the panoramic views are really out-of-sight. MEET: North Etiwanda Preserve Visitor Parking. (Exit Interstate 210 West off Interstate 15 to Day Creek – exit right (North) and follow Day Creek to the end, turn left on Etiwanda Avenue and proceed to Visitor Parking just past the pavement) BRING: Water and extra snacks; wear sturdy shoes/boots. Rain cancels. INFO & LEADER: DEAN SHIMEK, <dsierra@msn.com> (909) 899-2795. LOS SERRANOS GROUP

APRIL 25 – MAY 1

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

APR 26 (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: RALPH SALISBURY <ralphsalisbury@att.net> CHAPTER

APR 27 (WED) 5:00 PM THE BOX SPRINGS MOUNTAIN "M" HIKE
4 mile round trip hike to the "M" on Box Springs. Difficult trail with some very steep areas. Well behaved dogs on a leash with poop bags are welcome. BRING: Water, flashlight, and sturdy shoes. MEET: From 60 Freeway in Moreno Valley go north on Pigeon Pass, left at the light on Hidden Springs Drive. Driveway into Box Springs Park is on the left off Hidden Springs Drive. Drive up the gravel road and park near the picnic tables. Rain cancels. INFO & LEADER: THERESA CARSON (951) 660-7246 <tcarson22@msn.com> MORENO VALLEY GROUP

APR 28 (THU) 7:00 PM SANTA MARGARITA GROUP MEETING
Monthly meeting. The November meeting will be on the third Thursday of the month. The public is welcome. PLACE: Rancho California Water District Headquarters, 42135 Winchester Rd., Temecula 92589. INFO: JIM MITCHELL (951) 506-9607 <sierraclubsmg@gmail.com> SANTA MARGARITA GROUP

APR 29-MAY 1 (FRI-SUN) DEATH VLY WILDERNESS RESTORATION SERVICE
Come help with wilderness restoration in this beautiful and remote desert national park. Current plan is to work in Saline Valley and camp at Warm Springs. May change due to weather/road conditions. MEET Friday at noon and car-caravan to work areas and camping. Happy hour potluck Saturday night. BRING work gloves, camping equipment, and food for the weekend. LEADER: KATE ALLEN (661) 944-4056 <kj.allen@wildblue.net> CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

APR 30 (SAT) 8:00 AM SPITLER PEAK TRAIL HIKE
The views at the top show the panorama of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains with glimpses of the Palomar Range. The first 3-4 miles of this 10 mile hike and 2000' elevation gain are especially scenic and offering great views of Lake Hemet. RATING: Strenuous. MEET: Turn north on Apple Canyon Road off of Hwy 74 and drive north approximately 3 miles and you will see a sign for the Spitzer Peak Trail, park there. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park at the trailhead. BRING: Ten-essentials, layered clothing, adequate water, lunch, sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. RESERVATIONS & LEADER: ED CALIENDO (760) 328-1090. BIG BEAR GROUP

MAY 1 (SUN) 8:00 AM WEST FORK SAN GABRIEL RIVER HIKE
Explore the rugged canyon of the West Fork up into the narrower part of the canyon with steep sidewalls and sheer rock faces. Walk along the shady south bank of the river in spring. The river here forms the south boundary of the San Gabriel Wilderness. This is a moderate hike with elevation gain of up to 800 feet, depending on how far up the river we walk. Depending on the group, 8 to 14 miles round trip. BRING 3 liters of water, snacks, lunch, hiking boots and layers. MEET: Contact leader for meeting place. Rain cancels. LEADER: MARY ANN RUIZ <ruizmaryann@gmail.com> (909) 815-9379 LOS SERRANOS GROUP

FUTURE SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES

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

MAY 14-15 (SAT-SUN) LONE PINE LAKE & MANZANAR HIKE & CARCAMP
Join us at our beautiful creek-side camp in the high desert near Lone Pine. On Sat, we'll hike a moderate 6 mi round trip, 1600' gain from Whitney Portal to beautiful Lone Pine Lake, followed by Happy Hour, a potluck feast and campfire. On Sun, we'll caravan to Manzanar, the WWII Japanese internment camp to visit the museum with its moving tribute to the internees held there during the war. Group size strictly limited. RESERVATION: Send \$8 per person (Sierra Club), 2 large SASE, H&W phones, email address, rideshare info to LEADER: LYGEIA GERARD, P.O. Box 294726, Phelan, CA 92329, (760) 868-2179. CNRCC DESERT COMMITTEE

****JUN 4-5 (SAT-SUN) LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE**
If you have enjoyed the Chapter's Outings program as a participant, consider now becoming a Chapter Outings Leader. The course involves an overnight stay at Sierra Club-owned Keller Hut near Running Springs and includes classes in outings administration, map and compass, the psychology of leadership, environmental considerations and a field exercise. Applicants need to be at least 18 years old and current members of the Chapter. COST: \$34 fee for training materials, food and the weekend use of the facility. REGISTRATION: for application form, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: RALPH SALISBURY, LTC CHAIR, 2995 Floral Ave, Riverside, CA 92507 or <ralphsalisbury@att.net> CHAPTER

Continued on Page 11 > > >

Calendar . . . Continued from Page 10

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> or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-2309

(3RD TUE) 6:30 PM SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT OPEN SPACE MEETING
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. 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> or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-2309

NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

MAR 4 (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> or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-2309

MAR 5 (SAT) 9:00 AM SJWA BLUEBIRD BOX NATURE WALK
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT FRIENDS OF THE NORTHERN SAN JACINTO VALLEY
Check <www.northfriends.org> for current information. The San Jacinto Wildlife Area has about 45 bluebird boxes to help provide habitat for bluebirds & other species that have lost habitat due to rampant urbanization. Samantha Dempster & Dan Lacek will explain the importance of the boxes and what birds use them. Do Not Drive on Davis Road if it is muddy or raining. 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 Road in Lakeview; north on Davis Road 2.3 miles to headquarters. Davis Road Is closed from Moreno Valley. Only entrance to Wildlife Area is from Ramona Expressway. INFO: ANN MCKIBBEN, (951) 924-8150 & SUE NASH (909) 228-6710.

MAR 13 (SUN) 8:00 AM BLUE MOUNTAIN HIKE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT FRIENDS OF BLUE MOUNTAIN
Join us for the 4th Annual Walk on Blue Mountain. The Friends of Blue Mountain is a tax-exempt organization dedicated to the long-term protection of Blue Mountain's natural habitats and open space. Envisioned is a 500-acre wilderness park like the adjacent 2,000 acre Box Springs Reserve. The mountain is in private ownership and closed to the public except for this once-a-year opportunity to explore the charm of this hidden treasure. Last year over 500 exuberant hikers and walkers showed up so don't miss out. Although the official start time is 8:00 a.m., please arrive early as everyone needs to register and you'll have time to visit the Friends of Blue Mountain's booth. Participants must start up the mountain no later than 11 a.m. and should return to the trailhead by 1:00 p.m. Friendly pets are allowed but must remain on a leash and you must clean up any waste. COST: Free, but commemorative T-shirts will be on sale. BRING: Sturdy walking/hiking footwear, water, sunscreen and appropriate clothing for the weather including a sunhat and a windbreaker. MEET: Corner of Palm Avenue and Honey Hill Drive in Grand Terrace. DIRECTIONS: From the 215 Freeway in Grand Terrace, exit East on Barton Road and proceed uphill until Barton begins to veer left. Continue straight on Palm Ave. to the top where it meets Honey Hill Drive. INFO: RALPH SALISBURY (951) 686-4141 <ralphsalisbury@att.net> (E-mail preferred)

MAR 15 (TUE) 6:30 PM SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT OPEN SPACE MEETING
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>

MAR 16 (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.

MAR 18 (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> or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-2309

MAR 19 (SAT) 8:00 AM BOLSA CHICA AND ORANGE COUNTRY COAST BIRDING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
Please join us for what should be a great day of birding in the wetland areas of Orange County. Expect to see a large variety of wintering birds including ducks, shorebirds, grebes, herons, egrets, terns, cormorants, etc. We ought to find gulls and raptors and some song birds. With any luck we will see 50 or more species just in the morning. After birding Bolsa Chica (until around noon) we will go to Newport Back Bay or the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary to eat our lunch and finish the day. MEET at the PCH parking lot of Bolsa Chica at 8:00 am. To reach Bolsa Chica, take the 91 Freeway south to the 55 (Newport Freeway). Continue on the 55 to the 405 and go north towards Long Beach. Exit at Beach Blvd. (south) and continue to Pacific Coast Highway. Turn right and head north on PCH, past Huntington Beach. We will meet in the parking lot of the Ecological Preserve (Bolsa Chica) on the inland side of Pacific Coast Hwy at the signal between Seagate and Warner. BRING a lunch if you intend to stay for the day. Also bring binoculars, bird book and a scope if you have one. It can get cold along the coast in winter so dress in layers. INFO & LEADER: DORI MYERS (714) 779-2201 (h) or (714) 336-1420 (m).

MAR 26 (SAT) 9:00 AM SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA BIRDING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT FRIENDS OF THE NORTHERN SAN JACINTO VALLEY
Check <www.northfriends.org> for current information. A slow-paced walk to learn more about birds found at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Joyce Schwartz, Rosedith Marx, & Sue Nash will lead. Do Not Drive on Davis Road if it is muddy or raining. 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 Road in Lakeview; north on Davis Road 2.3 miles to headquarters. Davis Road Is closed from Moreno Valley. Only entrance to Wildlife Area is from Ramona Expressway. INFO: ANN MCKIBBEN, (951) 924-8150 & SUE NASH (909) 228-6710.

APR 1 (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> or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-2309

APR 3 (SUN) 8:00 AM RANCHO JURUPA PARK BEGINNING BIRD WALK
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
For those of you who are just beginning the wonderful pastime of bird watching, please join us for a fun, slow-paced morning of birding in one of our local wildlife habitats. Our goal will be to teach you enough basic birding techniques and identification skills so that you will feel comfortable birding on your own or joining our longer birding trips throughout the year. We will introduce you to some of our local bird species. You may be surprised at what wonderful birds can be seen! Wear comfortable walking shoes, hats and sunscreen and bring binoculars and water. The walk is free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome. The park is located at 4800 Crestmore Road in Riverside. Please contact Cathy Tobin for further information. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes. You may call ahead to confirm location and time. LEADER: DOUG KARALUN (909) 425-5355

APR 15 (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> or LARRY POWELL (909) 864-2309

APR 16 (SAT) 9:00 AM SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA WILDFLOWER WALK
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT FRIENDS OF THE NORTHERN SAN JACINTO VALLEY
Check <www.northfriends.org> for current information. Dave Bramlet & Patrick Temple will guide us through the wetlands, upland grasslands & riparian woodlands found at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area and share information about native plants; why non-native plants hamper growth of natives; coping mechanisms plants have for surviving drought. We'll also identify birds. 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 Road in Lakeview; north on Davis Road 2.3 miles to headquarters. Davis Road is closed from Moreno Valley. Only entrance to Wildlife Area is from Ramona Expressway. INFO: ANN MCKIBBEN, (951) 924-8150 & SUE NASH (909) 228-6710.

APR 19 (TUE) 6:30 PM SAVE OUR SKYLINE: BOX SPRINGS THRU THE BADLANDS
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT OPEN SPACE MEETING
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>

APR 20 (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.

APR 23 (SAT) 7:00 AM SALTON SEA BIRDING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
SBVAS has the Insane Jaunt (too hot) and the CBC (a bit chilly) but April is just right, the best time to go to the Salton Sea—great weather, shorebirds in breeding plumage en route north, migrant warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, flycatchers. We will bird the shoreline, the open sea, trees, and scrub habitats. We will meet at the "Big Arco" truck stop at the corner of 66th and 86S in Mecca at 7:00 am. Weather will likely be perfect; bring water/drinks and pack a lunch. LEADER: CHET MCGAUGH (951) 781-3699.

APR 30 (SAT) JUNIPER FLATS RARE PLANT TREASURE HUNT SERVICE
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
The Mojave Group is partnering with the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) in an exciting treasure hunt for rare plants. NO experience or plant knowledge is necessary! It is a learning experience and a wonderful opportunity to be in the field with the experts. All rare plant findings are officially entered into the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), which is updated by the Department of Fish and Game. This database is part of the nation's Natural Heritage Program. There is no better time than now to get involved with this exciting endeavor. The focus for this trip will be the northern slopes of the San Bernardino Mountains, known as the Juniper Flats Area. This area has an interesting diversity of plants in several different ecosystems and soil types ranging from clay to granitic with limestone outcrops. For photos of this area see: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/25273386@N08/collections/72157617760663191/> For more about CNPS visit their website: <http://cnps.org/> We welcome all ages to participate and encourage youth groups, church groups and families to sign up. Please contact JENNY WILDER as soon as possible for more details: <Jensoasis@aol.com> (760) 220-0730.

APR 30 (SAT) 7:00 AM BIG MORONGO BIRDING
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
The first week in May is about the best time for observing migrant land birds in Southern California and Big Morongo is one of the best places for it. In addition to migrant warblers, vireos and flycatchers, we expect to see the breeding specialties including Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole and Hooded Oriole. Join us for a morning birdwalk on the trails and roads of the preserve and surrounding areas. We will meet at the preserve parking lot at 7:00 am. To get there, take I-10 to Highway 62, go north ten miles to Morongo Valley, then turn right on Park Avenue to Covington Park. Turn left at Covington Park, then do a quick right-left-right into the preserve. Weather is typically good this time of year. Bring water, snacks and lunch if you plan to make a day of it. Some of us will probably stay out all day. Who knows where the afternoon will lead us? LEADER: CHET MCGAUGH (951) 781-3699

MAY 1 (SUN) FAIRMOUNT PARK BEGINNING BIRD WALK
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
For those of you who are just beginning the wonderful pastime of bird watching, please join us for a fun, slow-paced morning of birding in one of our local wildlife habitats. Our goal will be to teach you enough basic birding techniques and identification skills so that you will feel comfortable birding on your own or joining our longer birding trips throughout the year. We will introduce you to some of our local bird species. You may be surprised at what wonderful birds can be seen! Wear comfortable walking shoes, hats and sunscreen and bring water and binoculars. The walk is free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome. To reach Fairmount Park from downtown Riverside take Market Street north to the signal at Fairmount Park and turn left, then turn immediately to the left towards the tennis courts then right into the parking lot. Follow the lot all the way to the end and park near the bandstand. Please contact Doug Karalun for further information. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes. You may call ahead to confirm location and time. LEADER: DOUG KARALUN (909) 425-5355

MAY 14 (SAT) 9:00 AM SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA BUG WALK
NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENT FRIENDS OF THE NORTHERN SAN JACINTO VALLEY
Check <www.northfriends.org> for current information. Join us while we learn about the importance of bugs and how valuable they are in the cycle of life. This walk is excellent for kids and adults who are interested in bugs and want a hands-on experience. Entomologist Gordon Pratt will be our guide. COST: Free. BRING: Hand lens, 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 Road in Lakeview; north on Davis Road 2.3 miles to headquarters. Davis Road is closed from Moreno Valley. Only entrance to Wildlife Area is from Ramona Expressway. INFO: ANN MCKIBBEN, (951) 924-8150 & SUE NASH (909) 228-6710.

You are invited to the 4th Annual Walk on Blue Mountain

by Ralph Salisbury

Don't miss the 4th Annual Walk on Blue Mountain, Sunday, March 13 in Grand Terrace. This annual event has become very popular attracting 500 participants from all over the Inland Empire. And we anticipate a great floral showcase as you discover the hidden treasures of this highly visible yet little explored Inland jewel. In case of rain, a back-up date of March 27 has been reserved.

Easily accessed, the walk begins at the corner of Palm Avenue and Honey Hill Drive in Grand Terrace. From the 215 Freeway exit East on Barton Road and proceed uphill until Barton begins to veer left. Continue straight on Palm Avenue to the top where it meets Honey Hill Drive. Best to park along Honey Hill Drive and if needed there will be overflow parking available at the Grand Terrace City Hall down Palm before Barton Road. Start time is 8:00 a.m. and the latest you can depart is 11:00 a.m. We recommend you arrive early for sign-in.

Friends of Blue Mountain is a tax-exempt organization dedicated to the long-term protection of Blue Mountain's natural habitats and open spaces. The group's vision is to create a 500 acre wilderness park connecting Blue Mountain with neighboring Box Springs Mountain Reserve. While Friends of Blue Mountain is organizing the event, the city of Grand Terrace and The Foundation of Grand Terrace are co-sponsors and enthusiastically endorse the wilderness park concept.

For those that persevere and make it to the top, you'll enjoy panoramic views of all the signature peaks of Southern California from Mt. Baldy and Cucamonga Peak over to our highest peak, Mt. San Geronio and across to San Jacinto Peak above Palm Springs and looking toward the ocean, the twin peaks of Santiago and Modjeska.

Of course "Blue Mountain" is also two twin peaks separated by 700 feet: Blue Mountain at 2,248 feet and Highgrove at 2,417 feet. And at the top will be a few surprises; some lucky hikers will be rewarded with a gift from the "Friends." Bring your camera as all will have the opportunity to pose with "Lil Star," a llama and the official mascot of the Friends of Blue Mountain.

Hikers should come prepared and bring water, a hat, sunscreen and sturdy footwear. Friendly pets are allowed but must remain on a leash and you must clean up any waste. Unfortunately due to the number of participants, bicyclists and equestrians are not allowed.

For more information regarding the walk or Friends of Blue Mountain please contact ralphsalisbury@att.net or call 909-783-1664.



Photo taken by Ralph Salisbury



Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

• Reserve Early for 2011!! •

May 8-10 • July 16-19 • August 6-9 • September 11-13
• October 16-18

CA's Channel Islands are Galapagos USA! Marvel at the sight of whales, seals, sea lions, rare birds & blazing wildflowers. Hike the wild, windswept trails. Kayak the rugged coastline. Snorkel in pristine waters. Discover remnants of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. These fundraisers benefit Sierra Club political programs in California. Cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68-foot *Truth*. The fee (\$590 for May and Sep & Oct.; \$785 for July & August) includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks & beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and point out interesting features.

To make a reservation mail a \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to leaders: Joan Jones Holtz & Don Holtz, 11826 The Wye St, El Monte, CA 91732.

Contact leaders for more information (626-443-0706; jholtzln@aol.com)



Programs . . . Continued from Page 1

would protect over 1.6 million acres of desert land, largely within San Bernardino County.

The Mojave Trails National Monument would encompass nearly one million acres and would follow historic Route 66 as it swings south of the present Mojave National Preserve and north of the Twentynine Palm Marine Corps Base.

The act would also establish Sand to Snow National Monument connecting Joshua Tree National Park to the San Geronio Wilderness. Additional wilderness areas, national park additions, wild and scenic river designations, and off highway vehicle recreation areas are covered in the act.

Jim Conkle is a lobbyist, speaker and seminar leader on road issues, culture tourism, preservation, historic related issues, and electric vehicles. He was a consultant for Senator Feinstein and has served on the National Parks Advisory Board.

He is an expert in Route 66 lore and is the founder, CEO and Chairman of the Board of several organizations, including the Preservation of Historic Roads & Corridors, the Route 66 Preservation Foundation, the Route 66 Alliance and the Highway 99 Alliance. He is Publisher, General Manager and Editor of the newspaper *Route 66 Pulse*.

In 2004 Jim received the Smithsonian Magazine's top award for preservation. In 2006 he won the Presidential Preserve America Award. He's been a national spokesperson for the Hampton Inns and he won the Silver Anvil, the top award from the Public Relation Society of America, in 2003

Programs . . . Continued from Page 1

of the World. The Land of Eternal Snows. Shangri-la." This is a world whose gentle Buddhist religion inspires rescuing the errant insect that lands in a cup of tea - in case it is someone's reincarnated grandmother! - and reveals a fascinating history of monks, monasteries and spectacular landscapes of unimagined proportion. Virtually visit this fabulous country at Karen Bradford's slide presentation of Mount Kailash and the little-known Guge Kingdom.

Karen Bradford is a freelance writer whose clients have ranged from an archaeology museum to a cyberspace forensics investigator.

Her former jobs include public relations manager and also marketing promotions manager at the *Press-Enterprise*, campus communications officer for University of California, Riverside, and development director for a nonprofit group. She taught public relations at UC Riverside.

Her two degrees are both in communications: a Master of Arts degree in public relations and a Bachelor of Arts in photojournalism.

She has won awards for feature articles, newsletters, video production, script writing and press kits; had her writing and photography published in several regional and national magazines; has won many awards for competitive public speaking; and recently exhibited her photos at California Museum of Photography.

Karen's passions are traveling, serving others through membership in Rotary International, horses and her family.



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