



TOIYABE TRAILS

APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2018

SPRING
OUTINGS
Issue

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS OF NEVADA AND THE EASTERN SIERRA FROM THE TOIYABE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

New Toiyabe Chapter ExCom

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

AT OUR FIRST Chapter ExCom meeting of the year on February 10, we welcomed five newly elected members to the ExCom.

Your ExCom consists of 9 elected members (4 elected in even years; 5 elected in odd years) and a delegate from each group.

New members. Please welcome Ron Franklin (Reno), Cathy Schmidt (Reno), Alex Jones (Ely), Naomi Lewis (Las Vegas), and Laura Richards (Carson City).

Retiring members. We thank our retiring ExCom members: Laurel Ames (S. Lake Tahoe), Erik Holland (Reno), Richard Cook (Winnemucca), and Laura Martin (Las Vegas).

Continuing members. The four continuing members are: David von Seggern (Reno), Ann Brauer (Indian Springs), Anne Macquarie (Carson City), and Janet Carter (Elko).

New Chair. Anne Macquarie was appointed as Chair of the ExCom; Naomi Lewis as the Vice-Chair; Janet Carter as Secretary, and Jerry Yeazell (outside appointed position) as Treasurer. David von Seggern ended a five-year term as Chair.

Term limits. Due to a bylaws change required by national Sierra Club, ExCom members are now under term limits, with a maximum of three consecutive 2-year terms.



Aerial view of Big Springs Meadow on the Nevada/Utah Border in Snake Valley — an oasis in the desert, illustrating the importance of water. For details, please see *Water Is Life Nevada* article on page 8. Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.

What is your handprint?

BY BRIAN BEFFORT, TOIYABE CHAPTER DIRECTOR

If you spend time considering environmental issues, you've probably thought about your environmental footprint: the sum total of all negative environmental impacts of the resources you consume and pollution you produce while living your life.

Numerous tools allow us to measure our various footprints:

- **Global Footprint Network** has developed an Ecological Footprint tool that measures the ecological resources we consume, compared with nature's ability to supply those resources and manage the waste we create;
- **Conservation International** and **TerraPass** have carbon footprint calculators to help us measure the carbon footprints of our lifestyles and activities;
- **Water Footprint Calculator** helps us quantify and understand not only the water we draw from our taps, but also the water that's required to produce the food we eat and the products we buy.

It can be intimidating, even depressing, learning the sourcing, connections, and impacts of our lifestyles produce. Once again, John Muir's famous quote rings true, "When we

try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe".

But it can also be empowering, because it shows us how and where we can reduce our impacts.

What if we could measure the good things we do for the world? This was an insight that inspired Greg Norris, codirector of the Sustainability &

Please see *HANDPRINT*, page 2.

— Sign up —

for Toiyabe Chapter's monthly e-newsletter

Toiyabe Trails is just part of the story. Catch up with more news, events, and action alerts in the Toiyabe Chapter's new monthly e-newsletter. If you're not getting it already, send an email to toiyabe.chapter@sierraclub.org, and we'll make sure you're on the list.

Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting

Saturday, 9 am

June 2, 2018

Reno, NV

For details, contact the Chair,

ANNE MACQUARIE

annemacquarie@gmail.com

All Toiyabe Chapter members are welcome to attend Chapter meetings. Please contact Chair, Anne Macquarie (annemacquarie@gmail.com), for details.

National Sierra Club Board of Directors election

DEADLINE: April 25, 2018

The annual election for the national Club's Board of Directors is now underway. In March, those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail or by internet a national Sierra Club ballot. Information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's web site will be included.



How to vote. The easiest way to vote is online. Sign on to:

<https://www.esc-vote.com/sierra2018>

Have ready the sequence numbers from your paper ballot (or email if you requested electronic voting). Much easier than trying to find a stamp!

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DEADLINE!
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FOR
JULY - AUG - SEPT ISSUE

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SIERRA CLUB, TOIYABE CHAPTER, P.O. BOX 8096, RENO, NV 89507

Bequests are a way to support Toiyabe Chapter's mission

BY DAVID VONSEGGERN

INTERESTED IN FURTHERING THE GOALS of the Toiyabe Chapter after you are no longer walking those trails? Toiyabe Chapter members can arrange a bequest to the Chapter rather than to the national organization.

By doing this, you will be assured that your gift stays in the Chapter to continue supporting the protections you want for Nevada or eastern California.

Because the language must be stated exactly to avoid misinterpretation, please contact the Chapter Director, Brian Beffort (brian.beffort@sierraclub.org), or the Fundraising Committee Chair, Janet Carter (jkumar167@aol.com), to make sure the language is correct.

Great Basin Gatherings

Great Basin Group

GB Group News

BY KATY CHRISTENSON

GBG Monthly Programs. The Group hosts 7pm monthly programs at Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Center, on the second Thursday of each month. A social hour begins at 6:30pm. A pre-program ACTIVISM session begins at 6:15pm. Please see Outings websites for more details.

ExCom Meetings. The monthly ExCom meetings are held the first Tuesday at 5:30pm, at Swill Wine & Coffee. All are welcome!

Outings. A special thanks goes to all outings leaders who have plowed ahead with winter hikes, whether in boots, snow shoes, or skis! A recent outings report showed over 200 participants on hikes during the past three months.

As the air warms and days lengthen in coming months, hikes offered will include increased evening hikes. The GBG motto is: "We Get YOU Outdoors." Our Group's adventures meet all abilities and interests.

Join us by checking these websites: <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno> and <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin>.

EARTH DAY. Please plan to visit the GBG's booth at the annual Earth Day celebration festival in Reno on Sunday, April 22, 2018, at Idlewild Park. Interested in volunteering for an hour? Call Katy (702-755-2267).

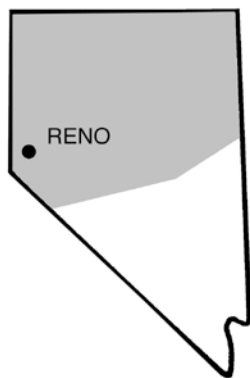
Membership. Eighty (80) new members have joined Great Basin Group of Sierra Club recently. We send postcards to each new member with a welcome message.

Conservation. Despite meetings with Reno City Council members and critical input at a City meeting by Club members and Chapter Director Brian Beffort, a large development of 5000 housing units was approved on the outskirts north of Reno. This planned development called for rezoning and has already broken the update to the Reno Master Plan that Club members participated in during 2016-2017.

Local activism. Local GB Group members and others are involved in activities on the **proposed Washoe County lands bill in Congress**. Local members have mapped known trailheads used for day and evening hikes which lie within about a half-hour of the cities of Reno and Sparks.

There are currently 128 entries in this database, and the county has included them in the lands bill maps. The primary push is to encourage members and others to SPEAK UP and SPEAK OUT.

It isn't necessary to speak from the steps of City Hall. Simply sharing with friends and others the ways you have learned to save energy and/or information on local activism activities works



DEADLINE!
JUNE 1
FOR
JUL - AUG - SEP ISSUE

Outings meeting & desert day hike with new Local Outings Coordinator

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN, VONSEG1@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Sergio Avila, new Local Outings Coordinator for Sierra Club staff, visited Reno on February 13-14, after meeting on previous days with ExCom and Southern Nevada Group people. Sergio is just beginning to develop a strategy for enhancing and diversifying outings in a five-state region (NV,



Great Basin Group hikers enjoy winter hiking weather in Granite Hills north of Reno. Photo: David von Seggern.

WHAT IS YOUR HANDPRINT? ...

continued from page 1

Health Initiative for Net-Positive Enterprise (SHINE) at the Harvard School for Public Health, and chief scientist at the International Living Future Institute (living-future.org).

As Norris writes, "Footprints are the negative consequences of all that it takes to sustain a person or an organization ... the total planetary 'cost' of your presence. Handprints represent the benefits of your presence: they're the positive changes that you bring into the world ... If footprints are what we unavoidably take, handprints are what we intentionally give."

Footprints move the needle into the red; handprints move it into the green. When you switch your incandescent lightbulbs for LEDs, you prevent future carbon dioxide and other pollutants from entering the atmosphere. When we compost our yard and food waste as a community, then use that mulch to grow local food, we are preventing valuable mulch from going into the landfill, while reducing the food-miles we consume. And when the good of our handprints offsets the impacts of our footprints, we are approaching sustainability.

We are challenged with the legacy and convenience of a chemical- and fossil fuel-based industrial economy. But slowly we are learning to replace our most toxic activities and products with more sustainable alternatives. It's my dream that one day, we will live in a true cradle-to-cradle economy, in which every product and byproduct is nour-

to spread the message — one person at a time.

UT, AZ, NM, CO), but he is now mostly in an information-gathering stage. He presented the purpose of his position at our quarterly outings meeting in Reno on February 13, as enthusiastic outings leaders welcomed him. We were amazed by his successes in photographing jaguars near the Mexican border with hidden night cameras.

A Plan B day hike on Valentine's Day was scheduled for the next day to introduce Sergio to Nevada high-desert conditions. Sergio is based in Tucson and passed on Plan A -- a snowshoe trip -- pleading no experience on snowshoes. (We thought the immersive method on winter sports would have been ideal for Sergio!)

A total of 21 people participated in the hike in the nearby Granite Hills, which illustrated some high-desert hiking conditions. Also, unfortunately, it showed up some erosional problems with unmaintained roads-of-use at our urban interface with open lands.

The day hike enabled Sergio to give a brief message about his role with the Sierra Club and also gave many people an opportunity to talk with him about their hiking experiences.

Dan Ellsworth, Outings Chair for the Great Basin Group, demonstrated the maneuverability of a wheeled child carrier over rough roads -- with an oftentimes Promethean effort. After a chilly and windy hike of 5 miles, we were ready for a stop at a local warm place for a brew.

ishment for another cycle of products — just as in nature.

Until we get there, thinking about handprints, as Norris says, "is a wonderful opportunity to try and maximize the gifts that we give to the planet and to one another."

What is your handprint? Read more about Norris and handprints here: <https://www.extension.harvard.edu/introducing-handprints> and <http://www.danielgoleman.info/handprints/>

Read the full version of this article, with live links and sources, at <https://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/blog/2018/03/whats-your-handprint>

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create a Lasting Legacy

By creating a charitable bequest to benefit Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter, you remain in control of your assets during your lifetime and help protect the environment in years to come.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:

Sierra Club
Gift Planning Program
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San Francisco, CA 94105
gift-planning@sierraclub.org • (800) 932-4270

Toiyabe Trails

SERVING NEVADA & CALIFORNIA'S E. SIERRA



Toiyabe Trails is published four times each year by the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 8096, Reno, NV 89507, to help keep our members well-informed and better able to protect the environment—for our families, for our future.

Editor – Lynne Foster (805-239-3829); LFoster@schat.net

Deadlines – Contributions are due by the 1st of the month for publication in the following month's issue: December 1 for January-February-March; March 1 for April-May-June; June 1 for July-August-September; September 1 for October-November-December.

Submissions – Call or e-mail editor before deadline for late submissions. Submit news, story ideas, photos, and letters-to-the-editor to the editor (contact info above). Please include your name, phone, e-mail address, and group with all contributions. Please send your contributions by e-mail. If you don't have a computer, please ask a friend to help you. For photo return, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The *Toiyabe Trails* reserves the right to edit all contributions for reasons of space, clarity, slander, or libel.

Subscriptions – *Toiyabe Trails* is free to all Toiyabe Chapter members. Subscription cost for non-members is \$12 per year. To subscribe, send check for \$12, payable to "Toiyabe Chapter," to *Toiyabe Trails* Subscriptions, Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter, c/o Treasurer. (See Chapter address in first paragraph, above.)

Change of address – Postmaster & Members, please send address changes to Sierra Club, Change of Address, P. O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or address.changes@sierraclub.org.

Membership information – There is a membership coupon in each issue of *Toiyabe Trails*. You can also call a Group Membership Chair (see directories on pages 4, 8, and 10) or the Sierra Club office in San Francisco (415-977-5663).

Other Sierra Club information. Call the Toiyabe Chapter Chair or Conservation Chair (see Chapter Directory online at <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>) or the Sierra Club Information Center in San Francisco (415-977-5653). Also, see group pages for website addresses of groups.



Great Basin Group "Get Kids Outdoors" grants supported field trips for Mamie Towles Elementary School and Lincoln Park Elementary School. Photo shows students involved in Great Basin Outdoor School winter snowshoeing and science activities during recent field trips.

Great Basin Group Outings News

By Daniel Ellsworth

Great Basin Group outings are for everyone

The Sierra Club has, over the past 100+ years, interested itself in helping the American people enjoy and become interested in preserving wholesome outdoor experiences throughout the nation and entire world. It is this interest that drives the club to include people of all abilities and all walks of life in its outings. The Great Basin Group of Northern Nevada is no exception. This Group of the Club funds excursions for school children and takes locals on hikes, snowshoe trips, ski trips, and bicycle trips.

We are always looking for new ways and leaders to help interest everyone in the community in exploring our great backyard of Nevada, the Great Basin, and Sierra Nevada mountains. If you are a regular participant on our trips and know someone that is shy, or might have second thoughts about joining us, please invite them along to join one of our outings.

Children and babies are welcome on many of our outings. If the child is under 18 years old, then a parent or guardian will need to accompany them on the outing (unless otherwise noted in the outing description). If you have any questions about the difficulty of the outing, feel free to contact the outing leader before the day of the outing to discuss any potential special needs, or concerns.

If you are thinking of bringing a baby on one of our easy outings, you should look into equipment that will help you carry the child. Your primary concern will be baby's neck control, what they are wearing, feeding, and potential diaper changes. For children under 6 months old, the body harnesses work great and the baby is supported by your own body.

When the child is over 6 months and has full control of neck muscles, you might want to consider a backpack that carries the baby on top. Also available are strollers with full suspensions and mountain bike tires -- some of these strollers can be converted to bike trailers and pulk sleds for skiing.

Always bring plenty of food and water for the kids when on an outing. If bringing a baby, consider short outings at first and then build up to longer ones as you get more used to your child's routine and you can more easily sync your child's feeding with group breaks during the outing.

When thinking of what the child should wear, make sure they are wearing at least one more layer than you are wearing because they will be stationary and not generating heat by moving like you are. Also make sure the child has total protection from UV rays. Bunting bags are great during colder months of the year.

The outdoors of the Great Basin and Sierra Nevada mountains can provide fantastic first time learning experiences for children. By introducing them to these experiences little by little, you can ensure that they won't have a miserable experience and instead will capture fond memories that they will take with them into their own adulthood.

General Great Basin Group outings info

The Great Basin Group publishes all of



There are several types of equipment on the market that you can use to take your child/ren on Sierra Club outings with you that will help you keep your child safe and comfortable.

its outings online. There are two primary sites -- be sure to watch both of them, as some outings leaders post to one and not the other.

The majority of outings are posted on our Meetup site: <https://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno>

Many additional outings are posted exclusively on the Great Basin Group website calendar here: <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin/outings-and-events>



Great Basin Group bicycle outing in the Genoa, Nevada, area in February 2018.

Great Basin Group outings leaders wanted

Are you an experienced hiker, trail runner, kayaker, bicyclist, rock climber, skier? Do you believe in the Sierra Club mission? Do you want to share your experience with others? If so, consider becoming an outings leader for the Great Basin Group of the Sierra Club. Contact Outings Chair Daniel Ellsworth for more details (danomike@yahoo.com, 775.741.8384).

GREAT BASIN GROUP

OFFICERS

Chair	Katy Christensen*	mabelnv@hotmail.com
Vice-Chair	David von Seggern*	vonseg1@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Sue Jacox*	suejacox@nvtbell.net
Treasurer	Roleigh Martin*	roleigh@pobox.com

Great Basin Peak Section News

Kamma Mountains

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX



A HIKING TRIP LED BY Rich Wilson always provides a fun adventure. When he organized a trip in the Kamma Mountains, I eagerly got out the map to locate this range. Nevada has 314 mountain ranges and I'm always game to explore a new one.

The Kamma Mountains (also called the Rabbithole Range) are a group of three crescent-shaped hills east of the Black Rock Desert. For history buffs, the Applegate Trail, blazed by the Applegate Brothers in 1846, crosses the center of these mountains. Rabbithole Springs was a resting point for already exhausted and thirsty emigrants before crossing the Black Rock Desert.

To reach the

Kamma Mountains, our group met up in Fernley, NV, at 7:30am and then drove about 2.5 hours to start the hike. Depending on how far you plan to explore, topping off gas in Lovelock is wise.

The main dirt roads out of Lovelock were good until we turned up the canyon towards Peak 6099 (also called Rabbithole Mountain). Enroute, we passed two of the metal



Summit of Rabbithole Mountain (Peak 6099). Photo: Dick Kendall.

Applegate trail markers before our turnoff near Rabbithole Springs.

Once we turned off the main road, the road up-canyon was mostly invisible. It was overgrown and had endless washes cutting through it, requiring us to park before Rich's planned starting point. Our hike followed an old road until we reached the saddle and veered towards the summit. Small patches of snow dotted the route.

On the summit we sat between junipers out of the wind and took a leisurely break. After ample time to eat lunch, take photos, and soak in the Great Basin views, we headed back down to explore other parts of these mountains.

Another fine day spent exploring the Great Basin!

Make a tree happy! Get your Trails online

Opt out of the paper *Toiyabe Trails* and walk the Sierra Club talk by saving our natural resources. Email us at "optout@toiyabe.sierraclub.org" (put that address in the "To" line). Then put "optout" in the "Subject" line — that's all you have to do.

Range of Light Reflections

Range of Light Group



Range of Light WINTER PHOTO GALLERY

BY JOANNE HIHN



Knolls Hike/Snowshoe/Ski Outing. In mid-January, we followed the Blue Diamond Route and then went off trail to reach a high point in the Knolls which overlooks the town of Mammoth Lakes and the Sierra. The hikers did some bare-booting in the snow, the snowshoers walked on bare ground, and the skiers took off their skis in sections when there wasn't enough snow. We hoped for more snow!



Deer Mountain Hike. This past February proved to be the perfect time of year to climb Deer Mountain, Inyo Craters, outside Mammoth Lakes. Temperatures on this day were moderate and the predicted high winds were, so far, negligible. We walked around Crater #2 and then bushwhacked up a steep drainage to the top of Deer Mtn, above Crater #3. The last pitch to the top of the mountain proved daunting because of those predicted high winds. I did manage a photo which looks down on Crater #3. The viewpoint offers 360-degree views of Jeffrey Pine forests, the San Joaquin Ridge, and Mammoth Mountain.

Please see WINTER PHOTO GALLERY, page 5.

Range of Light Outings

BY JOANNE & DICK HIHN, ROLG OUTINGS CO-CHAIRS

ROLG SPRING 2018 OUTINGS

ALL OUTINGS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES!

All phone numbers are 760 unless otherwise noted.

CST2087766-40. Registration as seller of travel does not constitute approval by State of California.

We are not able to list all outings for April - June at this time. Please check for outings at the locations listed below.

CHECKING FOR UPDATES. In addition to contact information listed in the *Trails*, check for updates on . . .

- our WEB PAGE at <www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light>
- on FACEBOOK, search "Range of Light Group"
- on MEETUP at <<http://www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/>>
- or in LOCAL MEDIA (newspapers, etc.), where we submit outings information (note that it does not always get included in their calendar of events and sometimes published information is not accurate).

Our **BEST SUGGESTION.** For accurate information about ROLG outings, always check with leader for updated information about an outing you are interested in joining. Remember, you don't have to be a member of the Sierra Club to participate in our outings, but we encourage you to support the good work of the Sierra Club and its many volunteers.

If you are interested in becoming a Range of Light Group Sierra Club leader, please contact Joanne and Dick (760-709-5050, rhinn@skidmore.edu) for more information.

Conservation News

Conway Ranch Update

BY MALCOLM CLARK

MONO COUNTY BOARD of Supervisors is taking steps to bring a limited number of cattle (about 150 max) to graze on Conway Ranch (and may include Mattly Ranch) under a 10-year lease. The advantages are:

- (1) some costs of maintaining Conway Ranch will be offset with grazing fees,
- (2) cattle will keep the grass down across much of the property to a height that sage grouse chicks can travel through,
- (3) cattle will also keep the cheatgrass from going to seed on the majority of the property, and
- (4) grazing maintains the pas-

toral look and feel that reminds people of the 100 years of farming/ranching in the Mono Basin.

However, the cattle option does not improve the biodiversity/conservation potential of the property and limits what the County can do with their Mill Creek water rights, should there be another prolonged drought. The more immediate concern is how the lessee will manage meso-predators (coyotes, gray foxes, bobcats, and mountain lions) that live and pass through the property that might be deemed a threat to the cattle.

More info. Contact Malcolm Clark (wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com).



ROL Group Website
<<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/>>

Range of Light Group

OFFICERS

Chair	Lynn Boulton*	chairrolg@gmail.com
Vice-Chair	Malcolm Clark*	760-924-5639
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LORP & LADWP	Open	
Conservation	Malcolm Clark	760-924-5639
Membership	Shalle Genevieve	760-934-9668
Outings	Dick Hihn	rhinn@skidmore.edu
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Programs	Open	
Publicity	Lynn Boulton	amazinglylne@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Jo Bacon	jo@eccotone.net

* Voting ExCom member

Volunteer Ops & Activities

BIGHORN SHEEP OUTINGS. California Department of Fish and Wildlife together with the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation are offering free outings to view Sierra bighorn.

An outing is planned for Earth Day, April 21, meeting at 9 am, Bishop CDFW parking lot, 787 N. Main St. (Cottonwood Grove Shopping Center, behind El Pollo Loco).

Pre-registration required. Email to register or for more info: contact asksnbs@wildlife.ca.gov.

For more opportunities to view bighorn sheep, go to <https://sierrabighorn.org/news-events/>.

JOIN OUR CONSERVATION Team. Help save your favorite Sierra places! More info: contact Conservation Chair, Malcolm Clark (wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com, 760-924-5639).

JOIN THE ROLG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (ExCom). This is the team of people who make the Range of Light Group work! More info: contact the Chair, Lynn Boulton (chairrolg@gmail.com, 760-914-9016).

DONATE. ROLG now has a “donate button” up and running on the website. Tax deductible donations go to the ROLG Foundation account, non-deductible donations go directly to the ROLG as unrestricted funds. Check it out!

PARTICIPATE IN THE TANGLE LINE Project. Wads of fishing line are accumulating at the bottom of our lakes. Birds and frogs get caught in them and drown. Past cleanup efforts have focused on the shores, but the lake bottoms need clean up too. More info: contact “JB” (esawone@gmail.com).

Range of Light WINTER PHOTO GALLERY

continued from page 4



Watterson Summit Area Hike. *The lack of sufficient snow persuaded us to hike in the high desert area east of Mammoth Lakes. We bushwhacked off of Benton Crossing Road (east of Mammoth Lakes) up a somewhat steep drainage, then onto a ridge leading to a lovely viewpoint. ROLG leaders try to make the best of any weather situation. The lack of snow is no deterrent to enjoying a winter outing. Our Eastern Sierra affords so many opportunities for extraordinary outings, no matter what the season!*



Reversed Peak Hike. *Less than ideal snow conditions led to a hike in the June Lake area. After a steady climb and short rock scramble at the top, we were rewarded with magnificent views of June Lake, Snow Ponds and the Sierra Range.*

Spring Desert Trips

The CNRCC Desert Committee's purpose is to work for protection, preservation, and conservation of California/Nevada desert. All Desert Committee activities, unless stated otherwise, are suitable for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. The average car or high clearance vehicle will be adequate for most trips. For questions about, or to sign up for, a particular outing, please contact leader listed in write-up. To receive outings list by e-mail, please contact Kate Allen (kjallen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).



Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

MARCH 30-APRIL 2 (FRI-MON)

BONANZA SPRINGS TRAIL IMPROVEMENT. Join us in removing a trail from Bonanza Spring wash in the new Mojave Trails NM. Saturday is a work day. Sunday is for hiking and looking for the best hiking route. Optional Central Commissary for breakfasts and dinners (\$20). For details see complete write up at DesertReport.org/outings. Leader: Vicky Hoover (vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org, 415-977-5527).

CNRCC Wilderness Committee/CNRCC Desert Committee

JUNE 17-23 (SUN-SAT)

ESCALANTE BACKPACK. There are two possible trips; water conditions and weather will determine which one we choose. Both trips are mostly moderate, but will be strenuous at times. Limit 12. Trip 1 is 14 mi down 25-Mile Wash to the Escalante River.

There could be several side trips to ruins and slots on this trip, such as Ringtail Slots and Neon Canyon. First day hiking would start early to get to water and trees 4 miles up the wash. Trip 2 is on the Upper Escalante. Hike 3½ miles from town in afternoon to camp. Next day, hike 3.5 miles to Mammie Ck, with an option of backpacking a couple of miles up-creek to Death Hollow. The following day is a long hike up to where Mail Trail meets the canyon. The next day, hike along the river to just below where Sand Creek meets the river. There is also a short day hike to an arch and some ruins. On the last day, hike to cars at bridge on Hwy 12. This possibility would require protecting anything you don't want to get wet. Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com, 702-875-4826, email preferred).

S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

MOUNTAIN LIONS . . .

continued from page 8

two dozen additional cases of lion/trap encounters with mostly unfavorable outcomes for the animal. Combined with the animals noted by the graduate student, it is likely that 40-50 lions have been trapped and injured and have died since 2010, just around Reno.

At least two questions arise from these observations. Is this situation limited to the Reno area, or is it seen state-wide? (Lions and bobcats exist everywhere in Nevada.) Should the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners do something about this? What do you think?

In my view, the answer to the first question is already known from trapper self-reports. There is, unfortunately, no answer in sight for the second question.

100% renewable energy?

BY LYNN BOULTON, ROLG CHAIR

SQUAW VALLEY ALPINE MEADOWS has entered an agreement with Liberty Utilities that will make it the first ski resort to achieve 100% renewable energy, perhaps by the end of the 2018 season.

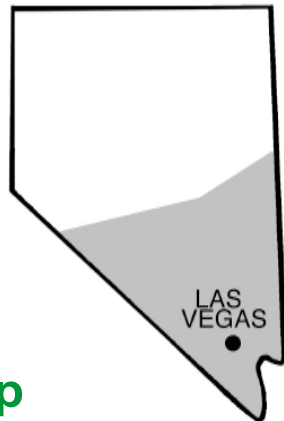
Couldn't Mammoth Mountain and the town of Mammoth Lakes do the same? Perhaps by working with the local Ormat Geothermal facility? And note that Aspen Resorts is the only ski resort to have a Vice President for Sustainability.

Aspen Resorts, along with Mammoth Mountain and Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows, are now all part of Alterra Mountain Company.

Join the *Ready for 100* Mammoth action team. Help work for a responsible energy conservation plan in the Eastern Sierra! You don't have to live in Mammoth to help.

We've done some preliminary research and are asking people to support this project. For info: contact Lynn for details (chairrolg@gmail.com).

The Mojave Monitor



Southern Nevada Group

Group News

Join us at the Clubhouse April 4, May 2, or June 6

ExCom Meetings. Open to all members, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee (ExCom) are typically held on the *first Wednesday of each month*, unless otherwise noted. We meet from **5:30pm to 8pm** at the Sierra Club Office, located just near Springs Preserve and Meadows Mall.

The address of our office is 3828 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89107. There is plenty of free parking in the surrounding lot. Please join us on **April 4, May 2 or June 6.**

Group Membership Events & Program Meetings. Our Group Meetings are quarterly membership events. Our next gathering will be a **Members Orientation** on **Thursday, May 10,**

when we will welcome new Sierra Club members and prospective members with a presentation on Group activities and how to fully participate.

These events are also a great opportunity for existing members to refresh their familiarity with all that we do and introduce friends and colleagues to our organization.

The Member Orientation will start at 6pm at the Sierra Club office. Light refreshments will be provided.

Our Activities. A full calendar of our activities can be found online at www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada. You can also visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sierraclub.sng. Please "like" our page!



ICO participants catching snowflakes at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. Please see article on page 7. Photo: Betty Gallifent.

SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

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Green Burials	Dennis Raatz		runwa2001@yahoo.com
Political	Open		
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Transportation	Jane Feldman*		feldman.jane@gmail.com
Webmaster	Taj Ainlay*	702-576-6815	tajainlay@aol.com

* ExCom member

Southern Nevada Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 702 unless otherwise noted.

All hikes and service projects are led by certified outings leaders.

(Please use email when leaders state that they prefer email, especially if you have a long distance telephone number.)

ALL EVENTS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Nevada Tour Operator – Registration Information, Nevada Tour Operator Ref. No. 2008-0041.

A full calendar of our outdoor activities can be found online at www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada. You can also visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sierraclub.sng, and please "like" our page.

APRIL 9 (MONDAY)

Valley of Fire Yellow Spire (short route). About 5 mi, 500 ft gain, moderate pace. This is a different part of VoF that most people never see: it extends into BLM land outside the park. Most of the hike is either walking in sand, or scrambling over rocks. It's an especially photogenic area. A small part is exploratory, making it into a loop hike. Because there is no trail and a moderate amount of scrambling, I rate the hike "Moderate" with expected pace of 1.5 mph overall. Level 3. Leader: David Morrow (David.brenda.morrow@gmail.com; 702-703-9486).

APRIL 14 (SATURDAY)

March for Science. The Sierra Club will be tabling at this annual event at Arts Park downtown from 10am till 1pm. Let's come together to send a message: we will hold our elected and appointed officials responsible for enacting equitable, evidence-based policies that serve all communities. The rally includes a musical guest appearance from Vesperium; live art by #RecycledPropaganda. Details at marchforsciencelv.com.

APRIL 16-19 (MON-THU)

Joshua Tree National Park, CA. Leave Monday morning, return Thursday evening. Three nights in a nearby motel, optional camping. In this park Mojave Desert meets the Colorado Section of Sonoran Desert. What is the difference? Hiking is in Joshua tree forest through spectacular granitic rock outcrops. This is a semi-exploratory trip. Mod. strenuous hikes and sightseeing. Levels 2 and 3 out of 5. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com; 702-896-4049).

APRIL 21 (SATURDAY)

Come to GREENFest. In the heart of Summerlin, the 8th annual GREENFest will honor Earth Day and celebrate local businesses, non-profits, and government entities championing sustainability and the environment here in Southern Nevada. Sponsorship is provided by the GREEN Alliance and Republic Services in cooperation with Downtown Summerlin & Summerlin, developed by Howard Hughes Corporation. There will be more than

150 booths, educational exhibits, festivities, and fun for the whole family. Look for the Sierra Club and Las Vegas ICO booth among the "Sustainable Communities" between 9am and 5pm. For more information visit www.greenalliancenv.org/ or contact tajainlay@aol.com.

MAY 10 (THURSDAY)

New Member Orientation. Our first orientation of the year is open not only to new and prospective members but also to current members with an interest in learning more about the Sierra Club, the Toiyabe Chapter, and the Southern Nevada Group. We will be meeting for 90 minutes, starting from 6pm at the Sierra Club Office, 3828 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas 89107. Light refreshments will be served. Info: tajainlay@aol.com.

MAY 14 (MONDAY)

Valley of Fire, Northern Hinterlands. About 5 mi, 500 ft gain, 50% exploratory in order to make it a loop. We pass two petroglyph areas and Duck Rock, then loop back to cars x-c through uncharted territory. This is why I am calling it "Moderately Strenuous." Level 4. Leader: David Morrow (David.brenda.morrow@gmail.com; 702-703-9486).

MAY 28 (MONDAY)

Memorial Day Hike to Big Falls, Kyle Canyon. Big Falls -- one of the treasures of the Spring Mountains NRA (Mt. Charleston) -- features a 100 ft high waterfall. We'll examine a possible glacial till exposure on the way up. This is the perfect time of year to be hiking on our beautiful High Country trails. Boulder and log scrambling for two mi unless there is a carpet of thick snow. Have the Spring Mountains been glaciated? If so, what geological features would we expect to find? Strenuous, Level 4 out of 5, 4 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com; 702-896-4049).

JUNE 4 (MONDAY)

Valley of Fire SP. About 4 mi, 400 ft gain, Easy-Moderate pace. Another exploratory hike somewhat off the normal route others take. Start at White Dome parking lot and explore area W of N end of Prospect Trail. This area is visible from Top of the

S. Nevada Group CALENDAR

continued from page 5

World looking W. Meander through the rocks taking the path of least resistance. Weather will probably be hot by this time, which is one reason to take it easy and not try for anything difficult. Level 2. Leader: David Morrow (David.brenda.morrow@gmail.com; 702-703-9486).

JUNE 12 (TUESDAY)

Primary Election Day. Here's your opportunity to vote for candidates who support the environment. Polls will be open from 7am until 7pm at designated locations throughout the state. Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of the solution. Details can be found online at www.clark-countynv.gov/depts/election/Pages/Dates.aspx.

JUNE 17-23 (SUN-SAT)

Escalante Backpack. There are two possible trips. Decision will be determined by water conditions and weather. Both trips are mostly Moderate, (Level 3-4) but will be Strenuous at times. Limit 12.

Trip 1 would be 14 mi down 25-mile wash to the Escalante River. There would be several side trips to ruins and slots. First day hiking would start early to get to water and trees 4 mi up the wash. Will hike to Ringtail Slots and Neon Canyon.

Trip 2 is on the Upper Escalante. Hike 3½ mi from town in afternoon to camp. Next day 3½ mi to Mamie Ck, option of backpacking about 2 mi up creek to Death Hollow. Next day is a long hike up to where the Mail Trail meets the canyon. Day after that is along the river to just below where Sand Ck. meets the river. Short day hike to arch and ruins. Last day to cars at bridge on Hwy 12. This possibility requires protecting anything you don't want wet. Leader: David Hardy (hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; 702-875-4826, email preferred).

JUNE 18 (MONDAY)

Upper Bristlecone Trail, Lee Canyon. Scenic trail in Spring Mountains NRA (Mt. Charleston) from ski area at Lee Canyon to junction with old road. Then take switchbacks up to top of ridge and loop back, reaching an elevation of 10,000 ft. Hike through strange, ancient -- and some say, enchanted -- Bristlecone Forest. Five mi RT, 800 ft gain, strenuous, Level 4 out of 5. How old are the bristlecone pines? Why did President Roosevelt stop construction of the road? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com; 702-896-4049).

Las Vegas ICO youth discover history, cattle, & snow

BY BETTY GALLIFENT

Wickedly cold winter weather finally came to the Las Vegas area, just in time for seven young people from Pearson Community Center to take a trip to Spring Mountain Ranch State Park on Saturday, January 20th. Bundled up with extra layers, plus hats, gloves, and scarves, the group, ages 8-14, was met by Jenn Wyant, an SMR docent, who told them the history of the Jim Wilson family who established this ranch in the 1880s — their descendents lived here until the 1950s.

The young people toured the old blacksmith shop, showing interest in the variety of tools inside, and marveling at cabinetry and a butter churn in the old sandstone cabin. A brisk 45-minute hike up Sandstone Canyon behind the homestead helped get the blood flowing, as did the appearance of the late morning sun.

Hats and gloves came off as students hiked up to the base of Wilson Peak, admiring the abundant desert plant life. An occasional flow of water from groundwater springs crossed the trail and students hopped over rocks to stay dry.

At the high end of the box canyon trail, they discovered a loud shout of "hello" onto the canyon wall produced a resonating echo back, "hello," much to everyone's surprise.

The youngsters visited the Wilson family cemetery and then hiked to the top of the overlook that gave them an aerial view of the entire ranch. The now-warmer temperature called for lunch in the meadow but clouds warned of a brewing storm. Raindrops completed the lunch break so the next visit to the renowned ranch house was welcomed. Again, Jenn gave a brief history of the house under the ownership of Chet Lauck and Vera Krupp.

The discovery of a secret room entered through a closet door appealed to both boys' and girls' "mystery" instincts.

They fantasized about living in this historic place. Standing next to a roaring fire in the living room, they could now see snow falling outside and rushed out for a first-hand view.

With black mittens outstretched and tongues held out, they caught the delicate flakes -- for some it was their first time in a snowfall. They were joyous.



Finding a new bovine friend at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. Photo: Betty Gallifent.

The snowfall was short lived, however, and a call to feed apples to the cows brought everyone over to the fence and pasture that housed the ranch's dwindling herd. A few bold youngsters held apple in hand as Penelope, a large black angus, gobbled it up. She came back for

more even wedging her head through the rails for closer picking.

When Park staff brought more apples, almost all of the girls and boys got in the game. Putting on brave faces, they held out their palms carefully balancing the fruit -- and then the apple was quickly gone! A few discovered that Penelope was quite tame so they got close and posed for pictures with their newfound bovine friend.

With energy levels still high, ICO leaders decided to take another hike through the nearby grove of native trees. But just as the group was about to set out, another burst of snowflakes descended, this time more like a blizzard, with snowflakes so abundant and winds so strong, the group had to hide their faces.

The decision to call it a day and return to the van was met with mixed emotions. This was an experience of a lifetime for them. They laughed, danced, called out, and laughed some more. Outside the van, one girl did a distinctive snow dance salutation before boarding, white flakes covering her black sweatshirt and sprinkled in her black curly hair. A "thorns and roses" closing circle inside the van had SNOW on the top of everyone's list of favorites for the day.

What you can do. To find out how you can help ICO get more Las Vegas urban youngsters into the outdoors, visit their website at: www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/las-vegas-ico.

Understanding composting

BY PETE MCCANN, SNG RECYCLING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER MEMBER

What is composting?

Composting is the natural process of recycling organic materials.

What are the benefits of composting?

Composting reduces our landfills and enhances the ability to grow healthy plants by increasing moisture retention in soil, controlling soil erosion, and making nutrients more easily available to plants. Composting can also reduce carbon dioxide and other powerful greenhouse gases like methane and nitrous oxide, because when the same materials are discarded in landfills they rot anaerobically (without oxygen) and produce more of these gases.

What is the difference between compost and fertilizer?

The easiest way to remember the difference is that compost feeds the soil and fertilizer feeds the plants.

How does composting work?

Composting works by microorganisms eating the food and yard waste in your compost pile and breaking it down into smaller pieces.

What can I compost?

Ideally you should aim for a mix of 75% "brown" materials and 25% "green" materials.

Brown: dead leaves, woody materials, and dried, brown grass or straw.

Green: fruit, vegetables, coffee grounds, tea bags, and fresh grass clippings.

Avoid the following: meat, bones, dairy, peanut butter, pet waste, oil, and fat (they



create foul odors and attract rodents).

What are the steps to composting?

1. Decide how you will store your compost. You can buy a backyard bin from any home improvement store or simply create your own.
2. Keep the bin or pile away from intense sunlight.
3. Build layers, beginning with a base of

twigs or wood chips to help aeration. 4. The next layer should be 4"-6" of additional "brown" material, followed by 2"-3" of "green" material, and continue the layering process.

5. Water can be slowly added if the compost material is dry and flaky, but understand that too much water or wet material will cool the pile and cause organisms to become inactive.

6. Turn the pile approximately every 4-5 days or when new materials are added.

7. The temperature should ideally be 135-160 degrees Fahrenheit. If temperatures begin to fall, add water and turn the pile.

How long does it take?

Finished compost is dark brown and crumbly and the time frame will vary from six weeks to a year, depending on pile type, composition, temperature, moisture and aeration.

What you can do. Home Depot, Lowe's, and local nurseries often offer periodic free classes on composting. Also look for local classes and events hosted by Green Our Planet (www.greenourplanet.org).

For more information on the SNG Recycling Committee please email sn-grecycles@toiyabe.sierraclub.org

Useful websites. Try www.compostingcouncil.org and www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home.

CONSERVATION ROUNDUP

Wilderness Update

BY LARRY DWYER, TOIYABE CHAPTER WILDERNESS CHAIR

Despite the difficult political climate in Washington there are a few things going on with respect to wilderness in Toiyabe Chapter.

Pershing County. First, the Pershing County Public Lands Bill, which includes seven new Wilderness Areas totaling over 136,000 acres, was passed in the House of Representatives on January 16 and is now being considered by the Senate.

Washoe County. Next, a Washoe County public lands bill is being formulated by Nevada's congressional delegation, working with local stakeholders and the Washoe County Commission. Such a bill is likely to include 10 or more new Wilderness Areas.

There are also a number of other threats to wilderness around the Chapter.

Southern Nevada. In southern Nevada the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, home to one of Nevada's largest desert bighorn sheep populations and 1.2 million acres of proposed Wilderness Areas, is in danger of having substantial portions taken over for exclusive use by the military.

Northern Nevada. In northern Nevada the military is also trying to

take over large parcels of land in the Stillwater Mountains, including portions of two Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). For more information on wilderness issues in Nevada see the Friends of Nevada Wilderness website (nevadawilderness.org).

Inyo County, California. In Inyo County there is a significant threat to Conglomerate Mesa from a proposed open pit cyanide heap leach mining operation. This beautiful, remote, de facto wilderness on BLM land is bounded by Death Valley National Park on the east and Malpais Mesa Wilderness Area to the south. For more information on this, check out the December 2017 Words of the Wild, newsletter of the Sierra Club's California/Nevada Wilderness Committee.

What you can do. Be sure to check outings schedules for trips into these areas and other Wilderness Areas or potential wilderness around Toiyabe Chapter. See pages 2, 4, and 6 for outings opportunities!

It's tough being a mountain lion in Nevada

BY DON MOLDE, SKYSHRINK@AOL.COM

THOUGH IT IS ILLEGAL to trap mountain lions in Nevada, many are incidentally caught in bobcat traps. Lions can and do sustain injuries including: missing toes, foot pad injuries, other leg injuries, broken teeth (from biting the trap/chain), and combinations of such injuries. Some survive, some have died by starving to death or by being euthanised.

A University of Nevada, Reno, graduate student obtained her Ph.D a few years ago using mountain lions as her study subject. Her DNA analysis of tissue samples collected over the years from



Photo: Mountain Lion Foundation.

lions brought to the Nevada Department of Wildlife by hunters provided dramatic new evidence regarding "sinks" and "sources" for the animal as it distributes itself across the state.

Please see MOUNTAIN LIONS, page 5.

"Water Is Life Nevada"

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

The winter blahs, both in Reno and in Las Vegas, were lightened by the free dual premiers of the "Water is Life Nevada" short film in mid-March. The beautifully filmed video helps to visualize the story of the water fight in the words of those directly affected, with footage of eastern Nevada landscapes and communities at risk. Last summer, Great Basin Water Network (GBWN), our ally in fighting the water grab, hired a videographer to follow its water tour from Las Vegas to Baker, NV. Now everyone will be able to see the people and places affected by the water grab. The film explores the importance of -- and threats to -- Nevada's water supply. The issue? There's not enough of it.

Many Nevadans watched this film with great interest as it detailed the struggle to preserve rural water from being pumped to Las Vegas to fuel unsustainable growth. However, if you missed the premieres,

follow this link on the GBWN website in order to see Water Is Life Nevada: <https://vimeo.com/257973771>. Please share this video with others!

The free shows were held at the Patagonia Outlet in downtown Reno and at the Clark

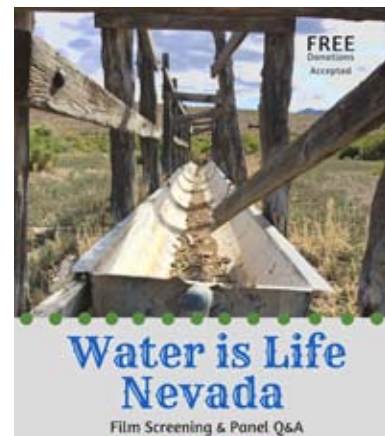


County Wetlands Park Auditorium in Las Vegas. Co-sponsors included Sierra Club, Progressive Leadership Alliance

Nevada (PLAN), Nevada Conservation League in Las Vegas, and Great Basin Resource Watch and PLAN in Reno.

Other news on the Nevada water front

After another two weeks of water hearings last fall, we are awaiting ruling by the Nevada State Engineer on how he will comply with a court remand order. State District Court Judge Robert Estes's ruling in 2013 ordered the State Engineer to (1) recalculate water available for appropriation in Spring Valley to avoid water mining and (2) recalculate water available in Cave, Dry Lake, and Delamar Valleys to avoid conflicts with down-gradi-



A full house at the Reno premier showing of GBWN film: Water Is Life Nevada on March 15, 2018 at Patagonia. Photos: Dennis Ghiglieri.

ent existing water rights. Yes, these administrative and legal proceedings sometimes take a very long time for resolution.

- One action we all can take to oppose the water grab is to ask our state and federal candidates where they stand on sustainable water use, keeping in mind that 2018 is an election year!

- The Snake Valley Festival has been moved to Labor Day Weekend in September 2018. Please put this on your calendars and enjoy the many small town events, including an ice cream social, a 3-block parade, yard and book sales, silent and live auctions, a BBQ dinner, a water fight for the youngsters, a community center breakfast and lunch, and a beer tasting.

What you can do

For more information on the water grab and how we have been fighting it since since 2004, go the GBWN website: <http://greatbasinwaternet.org>.

DEADLINE!
JUNE 1
FOR
JULY - AUG - SEPT ISSUE



With your help we can fight global warming

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America's waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1% of the world's water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

Keep our planet safe. Join Sierra Club.

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Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club
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Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____
Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible. They support our efforts, unless based on advertising and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



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