



## PCT Through-hike program highlights annual Loo Wit holiday party

Loo Wit/Sierra Club members are encouraged to mark their calendars for the annual holiday party, which will feature a program detailing a singular accomplishment.

**Time & Date:** 5 - 8:30 pm Saturday December 5th

**Location:** Unitarian Church of Vancouver, 4505 E. 18th St (same location as last year).

### A hiker living his dream

Many backpackers have dreamed of doing one of America's "long trails" -- the Appalachian, Continental Divide or Pacific Crest. A relative handful go several steps further and live their dream.

Anthony Mannello of Vancouver is among the few. During spring, summer and early fall of 2015, he "walked his dream," backpacking the Pacific Crest Trail from the U.S.-Mexico border to Canada, starting from the small town of Campo, California -- a distance of 2,650 miles. Anthony says he had been backpacking for only a few years when he decided to take the plunge and do a thru-hike on the PCT. "I knew what the PCT was, but had never pictured myself on it," he explained. "After the idea entered my head, the fire was started and nothing was going to stop me from hiking it." Anthony said the greatest challenge, besides the distance, was the weather. "I had to respect the intense heat (of the desert stretches) and the snow (of the Sierras). Weather had to be respected, but it also made for a spiritual connection to the Trail and the nature it passes through."



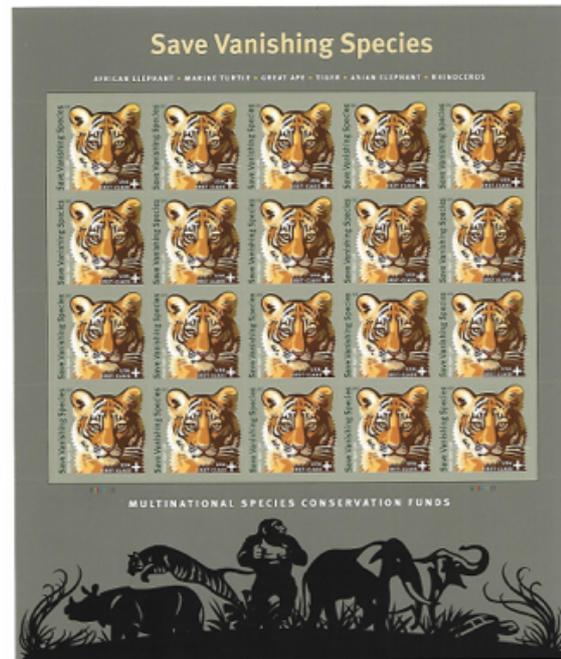
**Outing leaders meeting:** Loo Wit and Columbia Group (Portland) outing leaders will meet prior to the party, from 3:30-5 p.m. in the church library. If you have an interest in outings or becoming an outings leader, you're welcome to attend.

**Other popular activities:** In addition to the program, the party will include the always-popular silent auction and raffle drawing, Sierra Club 2015 calendars and merchandise sales, and recognition of Loo Wit's 2015 executive committee. If you're looking for a Christmas gift or two, you might find them.

More party details on pg 2 of this newsletter. See you on Dec. 5!

## More on the Holiday Party:

In an effort to cut down on non-recyclable waste, members are urged to bring their own plates, cups or glasses and utensils. Finger food, desserts, coffee and tea will be served, and tickets may be purchased to buy wine by the glass.



## Calendar of Events:

**Saturday December 5th:**  
Loo Wit Holiday Party

**Tuesday January 5th:** Loo Wit  
ExCom Meeting

## Loo Wit ExCom Leaders:

**Mark Leed** - Chair

**Don Steinke** - Vice Chair/Oil &  
Coal

**Steve Foster** - Treasurer/Sales

**Mary Lynch:** Legislation

**Mike Newsham:** Outings  
Liaison

**Alona Stienke:** Oil & Coal / at  
large

**Lehman Holder:** At large

Loo Wit is seeking volunteers to be Programs Chair, Conservation Chair, and also Newsletter Editor. If you'd like to contribute contact Mark at [markleed02@gmail.com](mailto:markleed02@gmail.com) or Lehman at [tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:tripsguy@aol.com)

## Holiday party auction features unusual item

Have you ever collected stamps? If so, you might be interested in an unusual item that will be included in the silent auction at Loo Wit's holiday party on Dec. 5.

The item is a front-and-back full sheet of 20 U.S. Postal Service wildlife stamps. Note that these aren't just any stamps -- while you can use them for postage, they are one of only two "semi-postal" stamps ever issued by USPS (the other being a breast cancer stamp). "Semi-postal" means that the stamps cost 60 cents each, with the amount above the regular first-class postage rate being donated to saving wildlife. As a point of interest, the breast cancer stamp has generated millions of dollars for cancer research.

Unlike most stamps, both of these stamps are available indefinitely, but rarely at local post offices that don't have special philatelic counters.

The stamps are a donation to the auction by Loo Wit secretary Dave Bybee. Thank you, Dave!

If you wish to order your own sheet of stamps with a credit card, call (800) 782-6724 or visit The Postal Store, [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). The stamps will be sent to you via Priority Mail.

## 2016 Sierra Calendars Available at Holiday Party

The beautiful and functional Sierra Club calendars will be offered for sale at the holiday party:

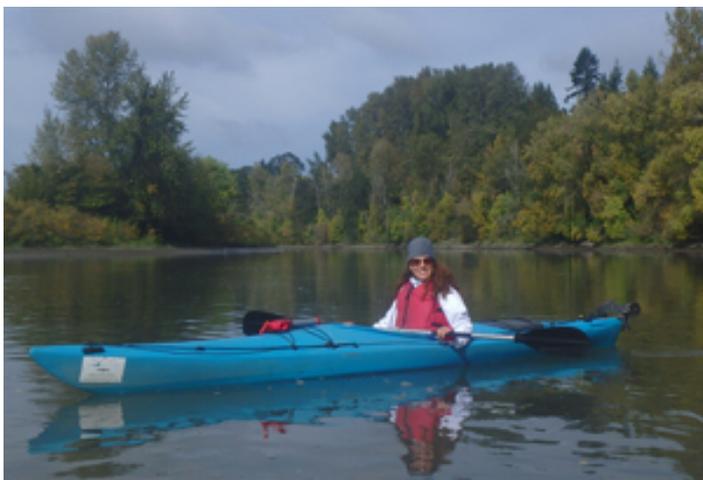
Wall \$13.95  
Engagement \$14.95

If you are interested, but not attending the party, please contact: Steve Foster  
[siberman88@aol.com](mailto:siberman88@aol.com)  
360-607-8076  
Delivery can be arranged  
Checks made out to the Sierra Club are preferred

## Nordic ski outings set if snowfall is decent

After a terrible snow year last winter with no Nordic (cross-country) skiing, fingers are crossed for this winter. Six Nordic outings have been scheduled by outings leader Lehman Holder, two each in January, February and March. Two will include instruction, suitable for brand-new skiers. Others will focus on "advanced beginners and up," meaning that participants should be able to move forward (diagonal stride), turn and stop.

Preliminary outing dates are Jan. 10 (Sun) and Jan. 23 (Sat), Feb. 7 (Sun) and Feb. 20 (Sat), Mar. 6 (Sun) and Mar. 19 (Sat). The Jan. 23 and Feb. 20 outings will include instruction. If snowfall is decent, you're invited to join longtime outings leader Lehman Holder for any or all of these outings. Lehman is a former instructor in the Mazamas Nordic ski school. If you have questions, contact Lehman at: [tripsguy@aol.com](mailto:tripsguy@aol.com)



## How to join outings using Meet Up

To join the Portland/Vancouver Sierra Club Outings and Events Meet Up, you must first have a registered Meet Up account.

If you have not created a Meet Up account, click on the following link <http://help.meetup.com/customer/portal/articles/615400>.

At the Sign Up screen, fill in your name, your email account and pick a password.

After you've created your account, you will get a confirmation email verifying your account.

Then you can click on "Find a Meet Up" next to the Meet Up logo at the top of the page.

This will take you to the page that has a gray box near the upper middle part of the page.

Type in "Portland/Vancouver Sierra Club Outings and Events Meet Up" in the section of the gray box that has the words "All Meet Ups." This will take you to our Meet Up Group.

Joining our Meetup Group is pretty simple. Just click the "Join us!" button on the right side of the navigation bar.

You'll be taken to a page that will ask you to fill in your Group profile for our Meetup Group. You may need to add a photo or answer a few questions.

Our Meetup Group is open to anyone. You'll receive an automatic email when your membership in our Meetup Group has been approved.

Once you have reached this point, create a shortcut to our Meet Up group for your desktop so you can see all the latest postings quickly, or get the Meet Up app to get instantaneous notice of Meet Up outings.

Beginner/novice sea kayak outing in October  
Photos by Karen Cornell

## South Sister Climb 2015

The second weekend in September found four intrepid Loo Wit mountaineers on their way south to ascend the South Sister, the third highest mountain in Oregon. The group (Andrea Heldsinger, Terri Irland, Roberta Mansfield, and Mike Newsham) got an “alpine start” by arising at 4:00 AM Saturday morning. The stars were stunning. You never realize how much light pollution there is in the city until you camp out in a relatively remote location.

Our goal was to hike and climb 12 miles round trip, while gaining 5,200+ feet, to reach the summit and more importantly, return to our camp safely. At first the hiking was pretty straightforward. At 3.7 miles the hike turned into a climb. In .7 of a mile we gained 1,600 vertical, topping out at a saddle, overlooking the small lake at the foot of the Lewis Glacier. For many of the day hikers around us, this was their turnaround point.

After a short rest, we started up the increasingly steep summit trail, Cinder Ridge, looking to gain 1,560 vertical feet in the final mile. We all made it to the false summit, where we took in the view of Teardrop Pool, Oregon’s highest lake.



The actual summit

is on the opposite side of the caldera. From there we had a stunning vista of the Middle and North Sisters. Beyond you can see Mts. Washington, Jefferson, Hood, St. Helens, and if you really squint on a clear day, you may see (or think you see) Mt. Adams. To the south you see Broken Hand, Mt. Bachelor, and Diamond Peak. We were not so lucky. We could see no further than North Sister to the North, due to the ever present smoke from any number of burning forest and range fires.

After refreshing ourselves with the view and lunch, we prepared for the long grueling 6 mile descent. We returned to camp tired but happy to have made the round trip in 11 hours, including our lengthy summit stop. It was a great climb and a great day.

top: Summit Team at the top (L to R: Roberta, North Sister, Mike, Terri, and Andrea)  
Photo by T. Irland.

middle: Teardrop Pool from false summit. Actual summit is in upper right hand corner.  
Photo by A. Heldsinger

bottom: Andrea coming up to the false summit.  
Photo by M. Newsham

# Oil campaign news

by Don Steinke Loo Wit Vice Chair

## Tesoro to Houston: We have a problem!

Tesoro's concern: Vancouver voters elected an anti-oil terminal candidate to the Port of Vancouver commission and the Portland city council voted to oppose the project. The opposition is growing and appears to be having fun. What do we do? Signed, staff at Tesoro's outpost in Vancouver.

One big reason the above happened is due to the tremendous help given to Eric La Brant's campaign by terminal opponents, especially Maddie Foutch of Washington Conservation Voters (WCV). Without the intense six weeks of effort put into Eric's campaign by Foutsch and WCV, the result might have been different. Moral: Please support WCV.

## Statewide coalition

Sierra Club is part of a statewide coalition called Stand Up to Oil, which recently helped organize hearings in Grays Harbor, Lynnwood, Mt. Vernon and Anacortes. It's now helping opponents to the oil terminal in Vancouver organize for the Tesoro-Savage hearings here, tentatively scheduled for the first week of January. If you'd like to get involved in these efforts, consider subscribing to all of the following -- they're free.

Stand Up to Oil Coalition: [www.standuptooil.org](http://www.standuptooil.org) Listserv: [oiltransportcampaign@npogroups.org](mailto:oiltransportcampaign@npogroups.org)  
SW Washington options: [www.cascade-loowit-cons-forum@lists.sierraclub.org](mailto:www.cascade-loowit-cons-forum@lists.sierraclub.org)

Or, contact Don and Alona Steinkie, [crvancouverUSA@gmail.com](mailto:crvancouverUSA@gmail.com) .

Remember, bad projects are stopped when we speak up and show up. The last day to speak up on the proposed oil terminals in Grays Harbor is Nov. 30. Please do it now, and do it often. Go to Dept. of Ecology's website to post your comment: [www.public.commentworks.com/csx/westwayimperiumcommentform/](http://www.public.commentworks.com/csx/westwayimperiumcommentform/) Here are some thoughts you might consider:

Dear Consultants, Ecology and City of Hoquiam,

Your draft environmental impact statement for the proposed terminals in Grays Harbor is deeply flawed. It ignores or downplays so many credible risks that we believe it needs a major rewrite. First, do the math:

- \* How many non-yard miles have oil trains traveled in the past three years?
- \* How many non-yard trains derailments have there been?
- \* Of those non-yard derailments, how many involved a tank car puncture and oil spill?
- \* Of those spills, how many were ignited?
- \* Compute the rate and use it to forecast the likely number of non-yard derailment spills the project is likely to generate.

Please address the following concerns in the draft EIS, so that the people of SW Washington will not see increased exposure to dangerous oil tank cars:

- \* How many derailment spills will the terminals generate in 30 years?
- \* How many of those will result in an explosive incident?
- \* Describe the impacts of an oil train explosion on nearby people and properties.
- \* Discuss the impacts of an oil train explosion on all potential communities, critical habitats and critical aquifers and maritime commerce on the Columbia River.
- \* Discuss the economic impacts of an oil train spill on residents.

Conclusion: The projects proposed by Westway and Imperium will have unavoidable and significant adverse impacts in every county through which oil trains pass.



## more Oil campaign news...

### KXL pipeline rejected

Good News! On Nov. 6, President Obama announced that he had rejected the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, thus ending the political fight that has gone on for much of his presidency. Stretching from Canada to Texas, this 1,179 mile pipeline would have carried 800,000 barrels a day of tar sands oil to the Gulf Coast. The President cited climate change and the fact that this pipeline would not have created a significant number of new jobs, nor would it have lowered gas prices. He said It also would not have significantly reduced American dependence on foreign oil.

This is indeed good news, however, right here in our back yard, we have projects proposed that would equal 5 or more Keystone XLs. Join us as we oppose these projects.

-- Alona Steinke

### How to subscribe to Don's Coal and Oil Forum:

Send an email from your email account to:

[Listserv@lists.sierraclub.org](mailto:Listserv@lists.sierraclub.org)

Then leave the subject line blank, and in the message field . . . paste the following message.

SUBSCRIBE CASCADE-LOOWIT-COAL-FORUM

If you don't subscribe, you might not get any updates for two months.

When we contemplate the whole globe as one great dewdrop, striped and dotted with continents and islands, flying through space with other stars all singing and shining together as one, the whole universe appears as an infinite storm of beauty.  
- [\*Travels in Alaska\*](#) by John Muir, 1915, chapter 1, page 5.



Find Loo Wit on the web:

[www.sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit](http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit)

Find and like us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/loowit.group](http://www.facebook.com/loowit.group)

## Four of Loo Wit's five endorsed candidates win

by Cathy Morton  
Political chair

The big news for Loo Wit is that Eric La Brant won election to the Port of Vancouver commission.

Loo Wit endorsed five candidates in the Nov. 3 election, and four were elected. In addition to Eric, Joyce Lindsay will be on the Washougal city council, Bart Hanson was returned to Vancouver city council, and Ty Stober won a first term on Vancouver city council.

The port commission race pivoted on the oil terminal issue and was a strong statement from voters to Gov. Inslee about our hopes for Vancouver's future and global climate change. Gov. Inslee will make the final decision on the terminal after the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) sends its recommendation to him in 2016.

Loo Wit members are encouraged to become active for the 2016 political year, with a number of very critical races at the local, state and federal level. Contact Cathy or Lehman Holder, as this is a volunteer activity that is calling to you. Together, we can make a difference.

Congratulations to all!

## Many thanks to our sign wavers!

A big thank-you to the volunteers who waved signs for Loo Wit endorsed candidates this past October. The weather cooperated and everyone had a good time. Sincere thanks to Alice Linker, Holly Swofford, Dave Bybee, Mark Leed, Lehman Holder, Jan Verrinder, John Goldfinch and Lynn Stiglich for their participation. It's extremely important to elect environmentally-friendly candidates, and sign waving aids the cause.



## How to vote for 2016 Loo Wit ExCom Members – see pg 8 for candidates' statements

Voting is easy! To vote by email, simply email your choices to Loo Wit's Election Committee Lynn Stiglich at: [Lynn.Stiglich@gmail.com](mailto:Lynn.Stiglich@gmail.com)

If you do not have internet access, you can mail a copy of the ballot page or a note with your choices to: Loo Wit Group P.O. Box 13 Vancouver, WA 98666

You may vote for all four, or fewer. Ballots must be emailed or snail-mailed no later than Thursday, December 31st. ExCom will certify election results on Jan 5th. Thank you for your participation!

## Ballot and Candidates' Statements for Loo Wit ExCom Elections for 2016

### Steve Foster



I seek reelection to the Loo Wit ExCom. I currently serve Loo Wit as ExCom member and treasurer, also handling Sierra Club calendars and merchandise. I'm a regular participant in outings and lend my help on conservation issues. I'm passionate about the Sierra Club's mission of exploring, enjoying and protecting the environment as well as protecting endangered species.

### Lehman Holder



I ask your vote to continue my service to Loo Wit's executive committee (ExCom). Clark County is currently in the biggest environmental fight in its history, the proposed Tesoro-Savage oil terminal at the Port of Vancouver. Loo Wit Group has been in the forefront of this intense issue, and as chair in 2013-14, I worked with other members of our ExCom to oppose this terminal. If reelected to ExCom, my efforts will go to see the terminal defeated, and ensuring that Clark County and SW Washington maintain the excellent quality of life we all value, appreciate and enjoy. Protecting and preserving our environment is critical to everyone who lives here and I'll work to achieve that end.

### Don Steinke



I'd like to serve on the executive committee because I want to help keep the excom in the loop regarding local climate initiatives, Stand Up to Oil coalition, and the Power Past Coal Coalition, and because I like to be connected with state and national leaders in the club, and with our local membership.

### Holly Swofford



As a daughter of a Coast Guard officer, I have been fortunate to live in many beautiful and diverse parts of the country including Hawaii, Alaska, Virginia, California, Oregon and Washington. Our family relocated to the Pacific Northwest when my father retired in 1984 because both my parents grew up in Hood River and all of our family is here.

Clark County has been my home now for over 30 years. I think it's a wonderful place to raise a family and enjoy the great outdoors. I want to do everything I can to help protect this area and keep it fresh and green for my future grandchildren.

Growing up I enjoyed swimming in the ocean, horseback riding in the Appalachians, making snowmen in Alaska, camping, hiking, and exploring all over the country. My childhood instilled in me a lifelong affection for nature and wildlife.

I'm new to the Sierra Club but have been a self-proclaimed environmentalist my whole life. I am a paralegal by day so many of my professional skills would positively transfer over into the activities of the Loo Wit ExCom. I'm in a position in my life where I have the time and desire to do what I can to make a difference and advocate for our environment. I believe that we are the stewards of the Earth and it is our duty to care and protect it for future generations.

## Holiday Party Helpers Needed!

Loo Wit's annual holiday party has been scheduled for Saturday, December 5, 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, 4505 E. 18th St. We could use some extra volunteer help in several areas, such as:

- \* Kitchen help and setting out food and beverages
- \* Setting up silent auction and raffle items, and selling raffle tickets
- \* Setting up and taking down tables and chairs
- \* Serving wine
- \* Cleaning up after the party

If you'd like to lend a hand, please give me a call at (360) 735-9451. I also encourage you to participate in our holiday party planning meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 6:30 PM at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1220 NE 68th St. in Hazel Dell.

Cheers,

Mark Leed  
Loo Wit Group Chair  
(360) 735-945



SIERRA  
CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

Southwest Washington  
Sierra Club  
**Loo Wit Group**  
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Vancouver, WA 98666-0013