



**SIERRA
CLUB**

Loo Wit Rumblings

Environment, Education, Conservation & Events for Southwest Washington



Holiday Party Program to Focus on Bats, Habitat



If the holidays drive you "batty," take a break and join us for Loo Wit's annual holiday/Christmas party on Dec. 3. The topic is bats -- that's right, those creatures who fly at night and gobble up insect pests.

U.S. Forest Service wildlife biologist Mitch Wainwright will present a program looking at the basic biology of bats, their habitat and how they're being affected by "white nose syndrome." The annual party runs from 5-8:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, 4505 E. 18th St (just west of Ft. Vancouver High School).

Article continues on next page

Mitch Wainwright (above), wildlife biologist for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, enjoys being in the field, assessing impacts to wildlife habitat. He'll be presenting his program on bats at the annual Loo Wit holiday/Christmas party on Dec. 3. (photo provided by Mitch Wainwright)



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Wainwright is currently working in the South Zone of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, which includes the Mt. Adams and Mt. St. Helens ranger districts, and Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. He has served with Gifford Pinchot for 21 years. Specifically, Wainwright's primary responsibility is providing the wildlife habitat impacts analyses that are included in management projects ranging from timber sales to trail realignments. He became GPNF's point of contact for cave management in 2015.

Enjoy renewing acquaintances, good food (help us by bringing your own dinnerware and utensils) and the always-popular silent auction and raffle. Need a holiday gift or two? You may find it here. You can also vote for candidates in the 2017 Loo Wit executive committee (ExCom) election and purchase your 2017 Sierra Club calendars. See you on December 3rd!

Bring extra cash or check (no debit/credit) to the holiday party on Dec. 3 and take home your 2017 Sierra Club calendar and some cool Sierra Club merchandise!

Steve Foster, Loo Wit treasurer, will have several items available:

Hiker T-shirts: **\$12**,
 Graphic & ANWR (Arctic National
 Wildlife Refuge) T-shirts: **\$14**,
 Sierra Club caps **\$6**
 Duffel bags: **\$7**,
 Sierra Club backpacks: **\$10**

Sierra Club 2017 calendars:
 Wilderness wall calendar **\$13.95**
 Engagement desk calendar **\$14.95**

***All proceeds benefit
 the Loo Wit Group!***

Calendar of Events:

Tuesday Nov. 1st—Loo Wit Conservation Committee Meeting 6:00 pm, ExCom Meeting 6:30 pm.

Tuesday Nov. 8th— Election Day!

Saturday, Dec. 3rd—Loo Wit annual Holiday Party
 5:30 —8:30 pm

Sunday, Jan. 8th— Loo Wit Nordic Ski outing

Monday, Dec 19th — Deadline to submit ballots for Loo Wit ExCom Elections (***See pages 5-9 for voting information!***)

Loo-Wit ExCom Leaders:

Mark Leed—Chair

Don Steinke—Vice Chair/Oil & Coal

Steve Foster—Treasurer/Sales

Holly Swofford—At large

Mike Newsham— Outings Liason

Alona Steinke—Oil & Coal/at large

Lehman Holder—At large

Fred Suter — At large

Meetings and Events are open to the public and all are welcome!

Loo Wit Electric Vehicle Event a Success!

The Loo Wit group's first ever electric car show was a huge success. Thank goodness the weather cooperated. More than a dozen electric car owners displayed their vehicles and even let people take them for a spin. Hundreds of people came out to learn more about owning and driving an electric vehicle and the EV owners were more than happy to answer their questions and help educate them.

The electric bike rides were a big hit and many enjoyed the hot dogs served up by BlackDog. All of the participants were well pleased with the turnout. The Columbian did a really nice article about the event which appeared on the front page of the Clark County section the next day.

But the best thing that came out of our event is that Alan Webb Nissan reported selling out of their Nissan Leaf inventory as a result of our event. Even the Steinke's drove away in a new electric vehicle.

Kick gas!



Photo by: Holly Swofford



Photo by: David Bybee



Photo by: David Bybee



Photo by: David Bybee



LOO WIT OUTINGS



Nordic ski, bike, kayak outings great in 2016

It was another fun year for Loo Wit's Nordic ski, bicycle and sea kayak outings in 2016, supporting Sierra Club's motto of "Explore, Enjoy and Protect."

Loo Wit sponsored Nordic (cross-country) ski outings in January, February and March, including an instructional outing for new skiers. Outings leader Lehman Holder counted a total of 36 participants for five outings. In mid-April, bike outings started rolling and by mid-October 91 cyclists had ridden in 12 outings. Eight sea kayak outings included 52 participants. Beginner-novice outings were especially popular.



Great views of Mt. St. Helens this year!

*Top: Lookout Mountain Flag Point Bottom: Sheep Canyon
Photos by: Steve Foster*

Nordic ski outings set to begin on Jan 8

Don't let winter turn you into a couch potato!

Loo Wit Nordic (cross-country) ski outings are set to begin on Sunday, Jan 8. The first outing will be open to "advanced beginners" who are able to move forward (diagonal stride), turn and stop. A later January outing will offer instruction focusing on basic skills for new skiers. Outing dates are snow-dependent -- they'll go if snowfall is decent. So, don't lay around the house waiting for summer. Join us, get some aerobic exercise and have a great time! Outings will be posted on the Portland-Vancouver Sierra Club Meetup site about a week in advance -- you can sign up there, and it's easy.

Not a member of Meetup? It's easy to join, and is free.

Just go to: www.meetup.com/Portland-Vancouver-Sierra-Club-Outings/Events.

Don't miss the fun in 2017 -- join Loo Wit on an outing!



LOO WIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The ExCom directs our Loo Wit Group in forming environmental priorities, making political endorsements, setting budgets, sponsoring outings and publishing this newsletter. Please see current candidate statements and ballot information on the following pages.

Loo Wit ExCom Election Voting Instructions

- Vote by marking boxes to the left of candidate names. Joint memberships may use boxes on the right.
- Postal mail your completed ballot to: Sierra Club Loo Wit ExCom Election. PO Box 13, Vancouver WA 98666 Include your return address and membership number for verification you are a current Sierra Club member.
- You may also vote in person at our annual Holiday Party Saturday evening December 3rd while bringing your member information as mentioned above.
- You may also vote digitally by sending an email to our secretary at DaveBybee@washington.sierraclub.org including same information as for a paper ballot.
- Election will conclude on Monday December 19th.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS & BALLOT ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES



2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Mike Newsham

I have been a member of the Loo Wit ExCom for two terms. I have held the following positions in the Loo Wit Group:

- Newsletter Editor 2007-2009.
- Outings Chair Columbia/Loo Wit Group 2009 - 2015
- Outings Leader 2007- Present
- Outings Liaison 2015-present

I enjoy taking people to places in the outdoors, that they would never go themselves, so they can gain an appreciation of what the Sierra Club is promoting and protecting. Please vote for me for another term on the Loo Wit ExCom.

Alona Steinke

I am a retired RN, and I continue to be concerned about the health of my family, my community, and now, especially, the health of our planet. I believe that if we want future generations to be able to enjoy life as we know it, we have to act quickly. Being involved with Sierra Club and the ex. com. allows us to build community with those who will work with us to bring about change.



SIERRA CLUB

2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Fred Suter

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1996 and previously volunteered with the Loo Wit Group from 2002-2004. I value all that the Pacific northwest has to offer and want to do my part to contribute to a sustainable environment for future generations. As someone who values clean air and water as well as the pristine beauty of nature, I ask for your consideration to serve on the ExCom for the LooWit group.

Mark Leed

I seek reelection to the Loo Wit ExCom so that I can continue helping Loo Wit to be a force for conservation in Southwest Washington. My biggest environmental passion is to fight climate change by keeping fossil fuels in the ground while advocating for a rapid transition to renewable energy. To achieve that goal, we need to educate the public, engage elected officials at all levels, and form alliances with organizations who share our vision of a clean, livable community. All of this requires effort by volunteers, and I hope to build a bigger, more diverse volunteer base. For the last two years, I have served as chair of Loo Wit Group and group delegate to the Washington Chapter ExCom. This has given me the opportunity to engage on statewide environmental issues, help with fundraising, and connect with national club leaders. I'd like to take what I've learned and apply it at the local level to make Loo Wit stronger and more effective.

SIERRA CLUB LOO WIT ELECTIONS
PO BOX 13
VANCOUVER, WA 98666



Please vote. Your ballot must be delivered by **December 19th, 2016** to :

Sierra Club Loo Wit ExCom Election
PO Box 13, Vancouver WA 98666

Please include your return address and current membership number with your ballot

Fold the bottom edge of this page and staple or seal with tape

Leave this top voter identification label open after folding and sealing the ballot

2016 LOO WIT GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT

1. Mike Newsham
2. Mark Leed
3. Alona Steinke
4. Fred Suter

Please vote for up to 4 Candidates

Candidate	Single	Joint
Mike Newsham	[]	[]
Mark Leed	[]	[]
Alona Steinke	[]	[]
Fred Suter	[]	[]



Don't Get Left Out in the Cold... Join Us!



Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group give you the lay of the land. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization offering the most enjoyable outings.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:

Gift Recipient _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____
 Signature _____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<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 effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

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Southwest Washington
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Loo Wit Group
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Vancouver, WA 98666-0013