

# PEATDUSTER

Volume 53-4 Page 1

Delta-Sierra Group Newsletter

October - December 2022

Visit us at [www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/delta-sierra](http://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/delta-sierra)



"Fight for the things that you care about,  
but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

## RIVER PARTNERS & DOS RIOS RANCH PRESERVE

Presented by Julie Rentner, President River Partners

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 @ 7:30 pm

Joint Meeting of San Joaquin Audubon & Delta-Sierra Group

Hosted by Audubon at the Fireside Room

Central United Methodist Church 3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton

Free and open to the public.

Julie Rentner will share the story of the ecological restoration at Dos Rios Ranch that has been completed over the past ten years. The program will include details about the process to design, permit and fund large-scale ecological restoration. In addition, she will show the outcomes of restoration, from habitats for nesting birds and riparian brush rabbits to water conservation and carbon sequestration. Julie will also bring some of the updated climate projections for flooding that drive ecological functions in the river corridor, with some discussion about what valley residents can expect in the future for birds and other wildlife. Julie Rentner is president of River Partners.



**Please Follow Covid Protocol. Avoid attending if you are sick or exhibit symptoms of Covid. It is recommended that you be vaccinated and wear a mask at indoor functions.**



Photo - River Partners

## Lodi's 14th Sandhill Crane Festival November 4-6, 2022.

The Sandhill Crane, a large water bird, winters every year in the Lodi area, September through late February. Come celebrate the official opening of the Lodi Sandhill Crane after a difficult pause due to the Covid Virus. There will not be a Friday night dinner for the 2022 Festival. However, there will still be the Silent Auction so look for the table featuring Silent Auction items from exhibitors and donors. Bid high and bid lots to Support the Festival!

Sandhill Cranes from as far away as Siberia and Alaska have been returning to California's Delta in the Central Valley to over-winter. Hatched out earlier this summer, the young Sandhill Cranes chicks, or colts, have made their maiden voyage alongside their parents, returning to the Delta wetlands that their ancestors have known for over two million years.

Festival will take place in Lodi at Hutchins Street Square, 125 South Hutchins Street.

In the past the Festival attracted a couple thousand visitors to Lodi from throughout California, and beyond. Close to 90% of Sandhill Crane Festival attendees come from outside San Joaquin County to see the cranes, enjoy festival activities and experience Lodi and the surrounding area.

In addition to the Art Show and vendors like Delta-Sierra Group (Yes, we will be there with T-shirts, calendars and Christmas cards) you can sign up for some very special tours. For example various tours cover Photography, Birding Walks, Cranes and Agriculture, Birds and Wineries (What? Birds drink wine?) and Cosumnes River Preserve Tours, Delta Boat Tours. It is best to explore the website at <https://lodisandhillcrane.org> for a list of tours, schedule and prices.

**Your safety is our primary concern. Currently the San Joaquin County Health Department recommends the following precautions for events such as our festival. Stay current with vaccinations and boosters. Wear a mask in congested indoor spaces. Practice social distancing when possible.**

**Please practice & promote the responsible use of ecosystems & resources.**

## Tales and Trails of California's Mountains Presented by Matt Johanson Via Zoom

Monday, November 28 2022 @ 7:30 pm



Discover little-known waterfalls and scenic outings in Yosemite National Park. Learn secrets to success on the John Muir and Pacific Crest Trails. Experience the exploits of mountaineering legends Royal Robbins, Lynn Hill and Tommy Caldwell. Dare to dream about climbing California's most spectacular mountains, including Half Dome, Mount Whitney and Mount Shasta. Award-winning guidebook author Matt Johanson combines history, photography and decades of personal experiences in *Tales and Trails of*

*California's Mountains*. This unforgettable hour will motivate you to launch your own outdoor adventures.

Matt Johanson enjoys hiking, running, climbing, skiing and writing about the outdoors for California newspapers and magazines. His books include *Yosemite Epics*, *Yosemite Adventures*, *Sierra Summits* and *California Summits*.

Matt's writing has won awards from the International Center for Journalists, California News Publishers Association, Outdoor Writers Association of California and National Outdoor Book Awards Foundation. He is a dynamic teacher at Castro Valley High School and lives in Castro Valley with his wife Karen.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsc-upqT8jHtItvkt9zZdO5JpBxSVZF2Hn>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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## Volunteers are needed for the Sandhill Crane Festival

The Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival is taking place on Saturday November 5 and Sunday November 6. We hope you will join us to help with the tabling. Even if you've never tabled before, think about joining us. We always make sure there is someone working with you to share Sierra Club information and to sell T-Shirts and calendars. It is an indoor event at the Hutchins Street Square in Lodi at 125 South Hutchins Street. If you're willing to share your time with a 2 or 3 hour shift, let us know by emailing Margo Praus at [margopraus@msn.com](mailto:margopraus@msn.com)

## Volunteers are also needed for the Peaceful Holiday Faire

We will also be tabling at the 34th annual Peaceful Holiday Faire on Friday, December 2 and Saturday, December 3. We'd love to share this opportunity with you to help at this joyful event. This is also an indoor event located in the Fellowship Hall at the Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton. A lovely opportunity to shop for homemade and unique gifts for the holidays after a tabling shift. If you're willing to share your time with a 2 or 3 hour shift, let us know by emailing Margo at [margopraus@msn.com](mailto:margopraus@msn.com)

## Sierra Club Calendars for 2023

We sell calendars at the tabling events like the Crane Festival and the Holiday Faire. If for some reason you can't come to these events, please call or text Kathy Hieb at [209-327-1973](tel:209-327-1973) or email her at [kathyhieb@hotmail.com](mailto:kathyhieb@hotmail.com) to arrange your purchase. Wall calendars are \$12 and Engagement calendars are \$13, which includes sales tax. There is a discount if you purchase 5 or more calendars. Kathy also has Sierra Club and Ansel Adams holiday cards for sale and she will make a special effort and deliver them to Stockton or Lodi.



## Terror On The High Sea

On August 30, 2022 an event took place that could be described as ripping a few pages from a Tom Clancy novel. An Iranian ship was towing an American saildrone. Based on the blue color it was a Navy saildrone. Of course you knew that because you looked at the last Peatduster which included a compressive story on these craft.

A Revolutionary Guard support ship, the Shahid Baziar, was discovered Tuesday towing a US Navy Saildrone in the Persian Gulf, according to Coma door Timothy Hawkins, a spokesperson for the Navy's 5th Fleet. The Navy coastal patrol boat, the USS Thunderbolt, as well as an MH-60 Seahawk Helicopter responded, moving to intercept the theft and reach the Shahid Baziar on the radio.



Internet Photo

## ON THE COVER

In our contemporize democratic world where the truth is a lie and lies become the truth, you can twist the facts and say that Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an extremely negative person and you would be correct.



Of 15 voting rights cases that came to the SC, she wrote a dissent on 14 of them. The fact that all 15 cases dealt with restricting your voting rights is often overlooked.

California is the best place in the world for voting. The ballot comes in the mail and postage is paid for its return. If you get mail service at home you could use masking tape to attach your return ballot to your mailbox and the mail carrier will take it. The community mail boxes have a slot for outgoing mail. Please honor her by voting.

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## SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA ENDORSEMENTS 2022

You can find all the endorsements by State at this link:  
<https://www.sierraclubindependentaction.org/endorsements>

U.S Senate: Alex Padilla  
 House, District 2: Jared Huffman  
 House, District 4: Mike Thompson  
 House, District 8: John Garamendi  
**House, District 9: Josh Harder**  
 House, District 11: Nancy Pelosi  
 House, District 12: Barbara Lee  
 House, District 15: Kevin Mullin  
 House, District 16: Anna Eshoo  
 House, District 17: Ro Khanna  
 House, District 18: Zoe Lofgren  
 House, District 19: Jimmy Panetta  
 House, District 24: Salud Carbajal  
 House, District 25: Raul Ruiz  
 House, District 26: Julia Brownley  
 House, District 27: Christy Smith  
 House, District 28: Judy Chu  
 House, District 29: Tony Cardenas  
 House, District 30: Adam Schiff  
 House, District 31: Grace  
 Napolitano  
 House, District 32: Brad Sherman  
 House, District 34: Jimmy Gomez  
 House, District 36: Ted Lieu  
 House, District 37: Sydney  
 Kamlager  
 House, District 38: Linda Sanchez

House, District 40: Asif Mahmood  
 House, District 41: Will Rollins  
 House, District 42: Robert Garcia  
 House, District 43: Maxine Waters  
 House, District 44: Nanette  
 Barragan  
 House, District 45: Jay Chen  
 House, District 46: Lou Correa  
 House, District 47: Katie Porter  
 House, District 49: Mike Levin  
 House, District 52: Juan Vargas  
 House, District 53: Sara Jacobs



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## November 8, 2022 Statewide Ballot Measures

This will be plain and simple without any whoop dee doo. If you want a little more information, Google the web. What is presented here was taken from a website called Cal Matters. You can find it here:

<https://calmatters.org/explainers/california-ballot-measures-2022>

**Proposition 1** - Legislative Constitutional Amendment.

**Constitutional Right to Reproductive Freedom.**

Proposition 1 will put abortion safeguards in the California constitution:

After the news leaked in early May that the U.S. Supreme Court was planning to rule that the federal constitution doesn't guarantee the right to an abortion - and it did reverse the five-decade-old precedent on June 24 - California's top Democrats, vowing to "fight like hell," proposed adding the protection to the state constitution. The proposed constitutional amendment was introduced in the Legislature in early June and was passed with the overwhelming support of both chambers by the end of the month. If approved by the voters, it would bar the state from denying or interfering with a person's right to choose an abortion and contraceptives.

California has long been a safe haven for abortion access. In 1969 the state Supreme Court ruled that the California constitution's right to privacy implies the right to an abortion. Reproductive access is also protected by statute. Supporters hope this amendment will reiterate that policy more explicitly and render it harder to reverse in the future, though some legal scholars say the language is still too ambiguous.

**The Sierra Club urges you to vote YES.**

**Proposition 26** - Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

**Allows In-Person Roulette, Dice Games, Sports Wagering on Tribal Lands.** Proposition 26 is supported by some of the state's tribal governments, and would only legalize sports betting in-person at tribal casinos and designated horse tracks. The measure, which would also allow tribes to offer roulette and other dice games, would raise potentially tens of millions of dollars for the state budget, most of which would be spent at the discretion of the governor and Legislature. The Sierra Club does not take a position on this. A no vote keeps things like they are.

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**Proposition 27** - Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute. Allows Online and Mobile Sports Wagering Outside Tribal Lands. Proposition 27 would allow Californians to bet on sports and other competitions online, but only through certified gaming tribes and large, well-established online betting companies. The measure, funded by industry giants FanDuel and DraftKings, would potentially direct hundreds of millions of dollars in fee revenue to housing and services for homeless Californians. The Sierra Club does not take a position on this. A no vote keeps things like they are.

**Proposition 28** - Initiative Statute.

Provides Additional Funding for Arts and Music Education in Public Schools.

Proposition 28 will set aside school funding for arts and music: Sponsored by former Los Angeles Unified School District superintendent Austin Beutner, this measure would require the state to set aside a share of its revenue — likely between \$800 million to \$1 billion per year — for arts and education classes. The new money would be disproportionately reserved for schools with many low-income students to hire new arts staff. The Sierra Club does not take a position on this. A no vote keeps things like they are.

**Proposition 29** - Initiative Statute.

Requires On-Site Licensed Medical Professional at Kidney Dialysis Clinics and Establishes Other State Requirements.

Proposition 29 changing kidney clinic rules may happen with a third time a charm. This measure slaps dialysis clinics with a host of new restrictions, including a requirement that a doctor, nurse practitioner or a physician assistant be on site during all treatment hours. Centers would also be required to get state approval before shuttering or reducing services and to publicly list any doctors who have at least a 5% ownership stake in a clinic. Sound familiar? That's because the Service Employees International Union and the United Healthcare Workers West, the union supporting this measure, has tried and failed to persuade voters to support new dialysis center regulations twice before, in 2018 and 2020, over vehement and very costly industry opposition. The Sierra Club does not take a position on this. A no vote keeps things like they are.

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**Proposition 30** - Initiative Statute.

**Provides Funding for Programs to Reduce Air Pollution and Prevent Wildfires by Increasing Tax on Personal Income Over \$2 Million.**

**Proposition 30 helps millionaires pay for electric cars: This measure would impose a new 1.75% tax on any individual's income of more than \$2 million per year to rise between \$3 billion to \$4.5 billion each year to fund a collection of greenhouse gas reducing initiatives. Most of the money would go toward new incentives for Californians to buy zero-emission vehicles and to build new electric charging or hydrogen fueling stations. (Lyft, which is required to move toward ZEVs, is a major funder). A quarter of the new money would go toward wildfire fighting and prevention efforts. The Sierra Club does not take a position on this. A no vote keeps things like they are.**

**Proposition 31** - Referendum on 2020 Law.

**It Would Prohibit the Retail Sale of Certain Flavored Tobacco Products.**

**Proposition 31 reconsiders a flavored tobacco ban. In 2020 Governor Gavin Newsom signed a bill banning the sale of all flavored tobacco products, whether smoked, chewed or vaped. The tobacco industry gathered enough signatures to ask voters to overturn the law with this referendum. A reminder: Voting yes is to keep the law; as it is now. Voting no is to get rid of it—sort of like Yes we have No bananas.**

**The Sierra Club urges you to vote YES.**



Photo - Kunte Momberg

## Coastal Cleanup Day

We had beautiful weather and 51 volunteers for this year's Coastal Cleanup Day on September 17. 600 pounds of trash was collected at our site along the Calaveras River and Pacific Avenue and new friendships were made! Besides collecting all this litter you can bet there are 51 people who will always think twice before carelessly tossing and leaving their trash on our planet Earth. Wouldn't it be nice if in future years there were only 6 pounds? Sierra Club member Dick Abood organized this event site and he provided a few photos we would like to share.



## Water Conveyance Systems, a Slice of Time by Robert Evans

The 1960's seemed to be a fabulous period for America, particularly California. It was a time for prosperity, easy employment, education, travel, leisure time activities and changes in politics and culture. However, if you were a lad deployed to Viet Nam or a family member or friend of that person, you might not agree. We lost two Kennedys and one Martin Luther King. Sure, it was a giant step when on July 20, 1969 Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon. Yet I believe we met one of our greatest challenges for that period with a quantum jump when we built and completed the California State Water Project.

Governor Edmund G. Brown, father to Governor Jerry Brown, gets credit for this massive project consisting of 10 storage dams; 4 reregulation dams; 4 hydroelectric dams; 2 flood control dams; and 1 mitigation/conservation dam. That last dam seems out of place since environmental impact statements were not required until the 1970's. Oh yeah, the project had 701.5 miles of aqueduct.

The California Aqueduct is just one piece of the CSWP with a system of aqueducts in the Central Valley. The aqueduct heads south, eventually splitting into three branches: the Coastal Branch, ending at Lake Cachuma in Santa Barbara County; the West Branch, conveying water to Castaic Lake in Los Angeles County; and the East Branch, connecting Silverwood Lake in San Bernardino County. The entire CSWP is suffering from the drought. You can find all the reservoir levels at this link:

<https://cdec.water.ca.gov/resapp/RescondMain>



Internet Photo

I had a summer job with the Department of Water Resources in 1965 conducting soils tests that focused on compaction and sieve analyses on a section of aqueduct near Patterson. I made enough money to cover my expenses for my final year of education. The contractor ran two shifts so for two weeks we worked the day shift then we alternated with other staff for two weeks on the night shift. Patterson was just a dot on the map back then with a population of about 2500 people. It was a delight to drive from Modesto on those vacant country roads to get to the jobsite. Sometimes I would pass the Crows Landing International Airport as we called it for fun and see the yellow two-wing crop duster take off or land. On moonlit nights I could turn off the lights on my bug and dare myself to drive alone in the dark.



The population of Patterson in 2020 was 22,309. Back then California had a population of 18,585,000; today it has 39,185,605 thirsty people!

After graduation I worked for DWR and was assigned to the Tracy pumping station. We were over-staffed. I had a job checking pay quantities on structures like abutments that had already been calculated by another engineer. I could not follow his work, so I made my own calculations. He was always correct. Often on lunch breaks I took an opportunity to drive out and photograph ground owls or look for fossils. A massive amount of soil was removed for the intake structure for the pumping plant and it contained a variety of shell fossils.

Costly mistakes were sometimes made. The survey party staked out a 30 foot 2-lane bridge over a ditch one foot short. That project was rushed back to Sacramento for a redesign. (I was on the survey party with the City of Modesto for a few summers and I joined the survey party for the Washington Department of Fisheries a couple of times, and learned that no matter how many times you checked or set offset markers, mistakes will happen!)

The most interesting mistake occurred when a project engineer decided to compact the soil in the bypass canal around the pumping plant by filling the canal with water. Two culverts about 10-feet in diameter bypassed the plant during this construction stage. At each end of each pipeline, huge outside screw and yoke gate valves were installed. These valves were closed and a crew proceeded to fill the dirt canal with water. Can you guess what happened? Closed pipes can float! Yes, they floated upwards and came apart. I heard one estimate that said it would cost DWR \$100,000. In today's money that's only \$851,066.

Some mistakes waited years to appear. Do you remember in February 2017, heavy rainfall damaged Oroville Dam's main and emergency spillways, prompting the evacuation of more than 180,000 people living downstream?



For what it was worth, I paid off my new 1966 Mustang convertible in 6 months and stayed on another 3 months when good fortune found the job for me that completely changed my life.

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## The Delta Tunnel & Historic Projects

History is repeating itself. The draft environmental impact report for the Delta Tunnel came out in August and the period for comment ends December 16, 2022. It contains 39 Chapters. All the chapters are in PDF format. Chapter 36: List of Preparers and Reviewers is 11 pages. That demonstrates a very qualified team helped prepare this draft.

I would have liked to find a simple index. The glossary could work, but it has no page references. Chapter 28: Paleontological Resources as well as some of the information in other chapters has tremendous educational value. You can download the entire document here:

<https://www.deltaconveyanceproject.com/read-the-document>

The California State Water Project and the Delta Tunnel, when built (not if built) will never draw tourists like similar projects around the world. China has a human built artificial waterway 1240 miles long called the Grand Canal. A section of the canal is shown below and it's 2500 years old. It stretches from the capital city, Beijing to Hangzhou in Zhejiang province. In 2014 it became a World Heritage site. For purposes of comparison, the Columbia River is 1242 miles long.



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The most spectacular aqueduct structure I have seen is Pont du Gard aqueduct near the town of Vers-Pont-du-Gard in southern France. It is an ancient Roman aqueduct bridge built in the first century AD to carry water 31 miles to the Roman colony of Nîmes. It crosses the Gardon River and is the tallest of all Roman aqueduct bridges at 160 feet high, as well as one of the best preserved. It became a UNESCO's World Heritage site in 1985.

The bridge has three tiers of arches made from Shelly limestone. This type of limestone is a highly fossiliferous limestone, composed of a number of fossilized organisms such as brachiopods, bryozoans, crinoids, sponges. The aqueduct formerly carried an estimated 40,000 cubic meters or close to 10,567,000 gallons of water per day over 31 miles (50 kilometers) to the fountains, baths and homes of the citizens of Nîmes. American families use an average of 300 gallons of water per day at home. Romans used more.



Photo - Benh Lier Song

On another trip at a different time, I was in Segovia, Spain. The Roman Aqueduct of Segovia once transported water from the Rio Frio River, situated in mountains a few miles away from the city. It runs 9.3 miles (15 kilometers) before arriving in the city.

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Photo - REE

The construction of the aqueduct follows the principles laid out by Vitruvius in his *De Architectura* published in the mid-first century BC. (You can find a translated copy of the book online in PDF format which you can download free or purchase various editions from Amazon. It makes a wonderful gift for the man that has everything.)

The aqueduct is built of unmortared, brick-like granite blocks. It reaches a height of 93.5 feet (28.5 meters) and includes 75 single arches and 44 double arches (or 88 arches when counted individually), followed by four single arches, totalling 167 arches in all according to Wikipedia. I had a chance to drive out of town and find a spot where I could climb on top of the aqueduct. It was unexpected that I would see a square-shaped channel that was about 1 foot wide and 1 foot deep.

You have to wonder how the Romans built these aqueducts. How long did it take? Where were their staging area? Where was the limestone or granite quarries? How many men did it take? Where did they sleep? How were they fed? Did any workers die? Just endless questions.

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# The World's Water

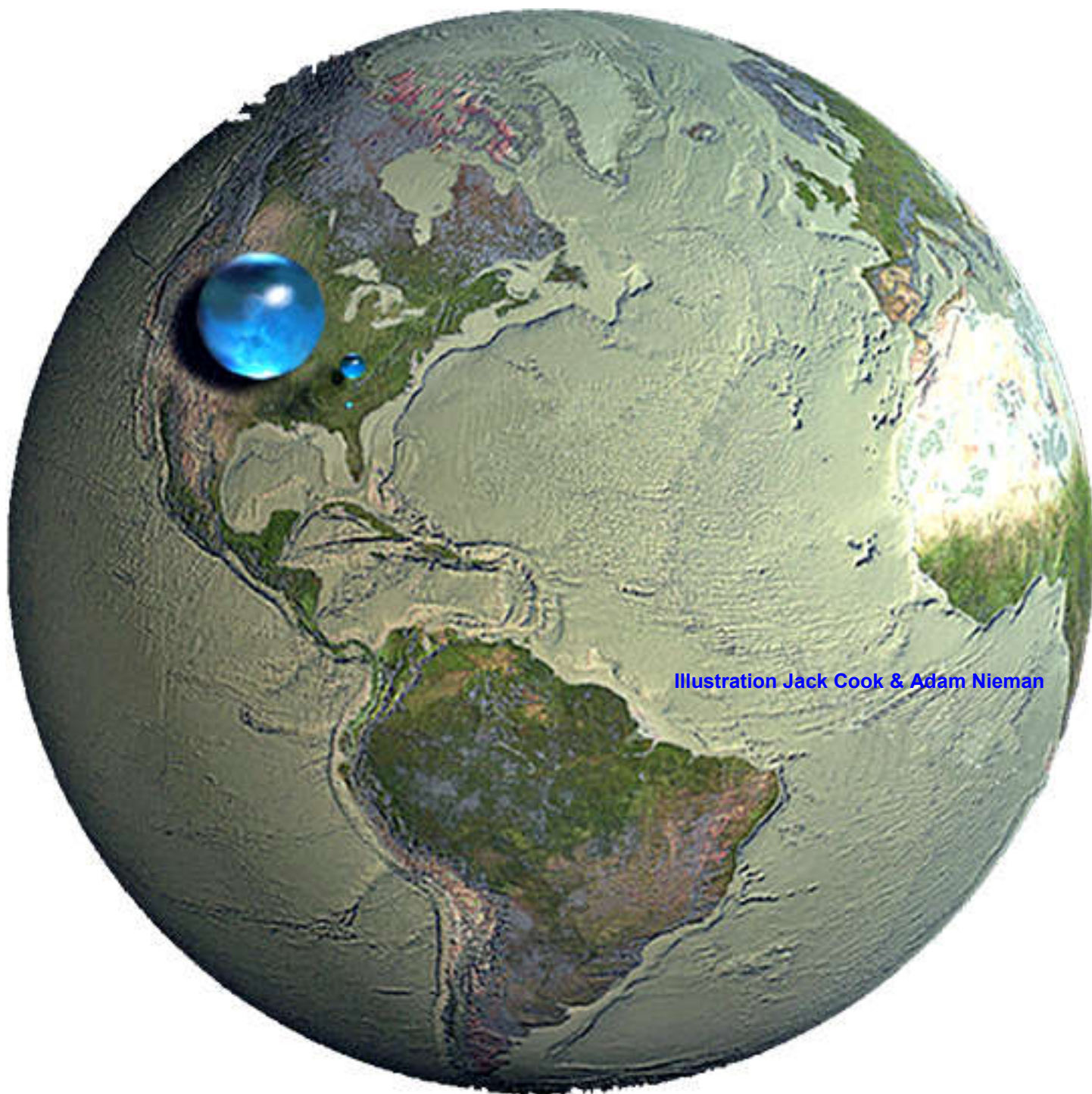


Illustration Jack Cook & Adam Nieman

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## All the Water on Planet Earth

Someone asked how much of planet Earth is made of water? The answer illustrated on the previous page is very little. Although oceans of water cover about 70 percent of Earth, it shows what would happen if all of the water on or near the surface of the Earth were consolidated into a ball. The radius of this ball would be only about 700 kilometers, less than half the radius of the Earth's Moon. The next smallest ball depicts all of Earth's liquid fresh water, while the tiniest ball which is hard to see, shows the volume of all of Earth's fresh-water lakes and rivers. How any of this water came to be on the Earth and whether any significant amount is trapped far beneath Earth's surface remain topics of research. Data source: Igor Shiklomanov.

## A Forgotten Runway

There is no practical way to include a sidebar on Page 13, but if I could I would add some historical information about NASA Crows Landing Airport. It is a private use airport owned by NASA Ames Research. In 1942 the airfield was formerly named Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Crows Landing when operated by the U.S. Navy. As of January 2011 airport status was listed as closed permanently.

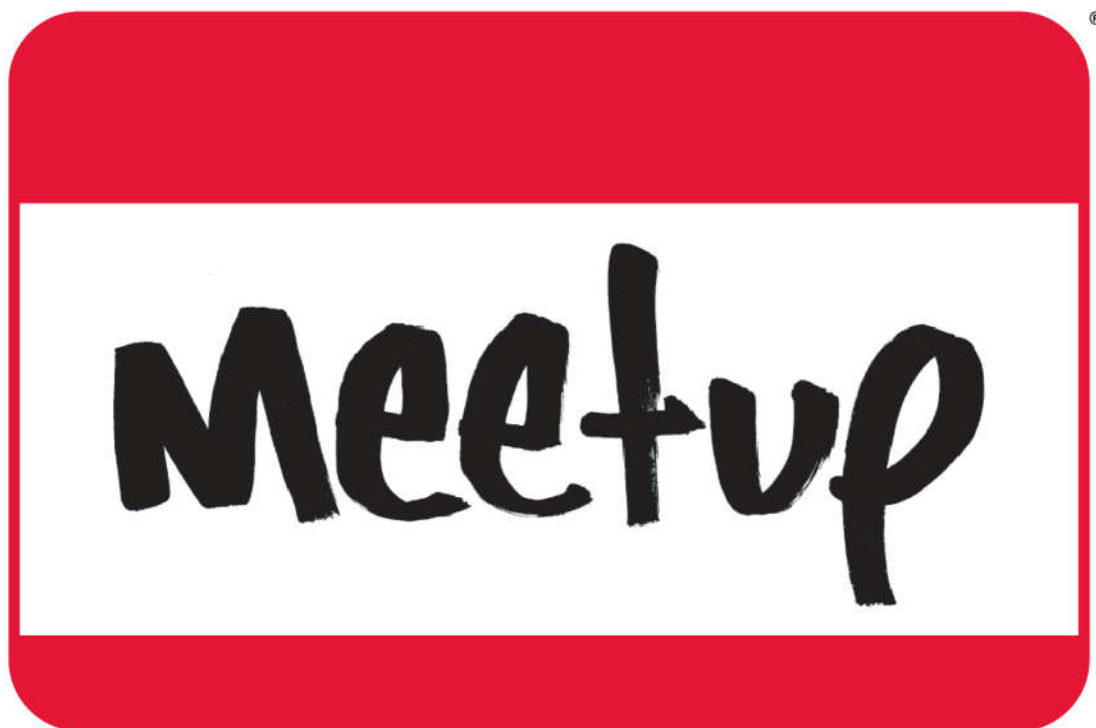
According to Wikipedia in late 1942, the Crows Landing airfield was operated as an auxiliary air station to Naval Air Station, Alameda, and was used to train Navy fighter pilots. Pilots of F4F Wildcats, TBF and TBM Avengers trained here first in Link and Panoramic trainers, then eventually in actual planes. Later, pilots in R4D Skytrains and R5D Skymasters (Navy versions of the Army's C-47 and C-54) trained here. After the war the station was placed in caretaker status.

The father (now passed) of my sister's husband trained there and he later flew Corsairs like in the television series Black Sheep Squadron. By the year 2000, the Navy had completed an EPA cleanup project and transferred most of the facilities to Stanislaus. As of 2013, the County had cleared all of the abandoned and decaying building structures, but saved the historic control tower.

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**Stockton, Modesto & Sonora Sierra Club Groups**  
**Find us at this active link:**

<https://www.meetup.com/S-M-S-SierraClub/>



**We have been in operation since October 2011 and now have 2378 members.**



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## Executive Committee

Please use the following email address to contact any members of your Executive Committee or volunteers. In the subject line please include the name of the person or persons you wish to contact.

**deltasierragroup1@gmail.com**

**Chair & Program Chair: Margo Praus**

**Vice Chair: Paul Plathe**

**Treasurer & Chapter Delegate: Richard Abood**

**Secretary: Open**

**Conservation & Outings Chair, Chapter Delegate Alternate & Website: Mary Elizabeth**

**Committee Member: Knute Momberg**

**Non-Voting Volunteer Positions:**

**Membership Chair: Jeri Bigbee**

**Newsletter Editor: Robert Evans**

**Friends of the Calaveras: Jim Marsh**

**SJVAPCD-CAC: Ned Lebia**

The expiration of Executive Committee member terms are as follows: Margo and the open position terms expire December 2022. Knute and Dick terms expire December 2023. Paul and Mary terms expire December 2024. (The Chair, Vice Chair and Chapter Delegates must be Executive Committee members.)

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**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

DELTA-SIERRA GROUP  
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**THE LAST PAGE**

**Pzzzt**  
**Please mail or**  
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**of the Peatdster**  
**to your friends.**



We're facing growing climate change, more floods, more droughts, more crisis on a planetary level, and the systems we put in place in the twentieth century are just not going to work. We've run out of stuff. Our big problems are going to be energy supplies and food supplies. This is not a right-left issue. It's a people issue, and it cuts across all our categories.



Margaret Atwood

**Explore, enjoy and protect the planet**