

# PEATDUSTER

Newsletter for the Delta-Sierra Group, Mother Lode Chapter

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Volume 46 Number 2 P-1

Printed on Recycled Electrons

June, July & August 2015



This is the Baker Bench Petroglyph Panel, near the confluence of Neon Canyon and the Escalante River. It is in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area of southern Utah. Photo by Paul Plathe.



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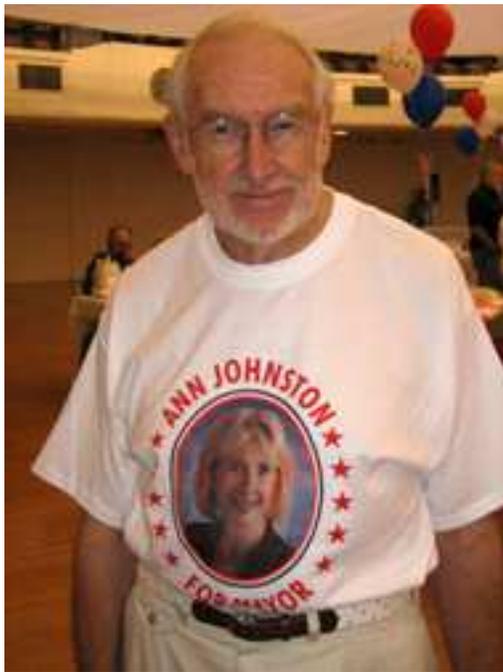
Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

With great sadness, we bid farewell to our friend and long time advocate for our area, Trevor Atkinson.

Trevor Atkinson and his wife Rosemary Moon met on a Sierra Club outing. During their 17 years together they shared a love of the area and became active with Campaign for Common Ground. Trevor will be remembered for his efforts as a slow-growth activist. He was a familiar face at many public meetings where he spoke against urban sprawl. He was a member of the committee that recently helped write the city's first plan to fight climate change. Many will miss his quiet voice of reason and his commitment to problem solving in a non-combative way.

Always a fan of science Trevor was a very active member of the Stockton Astronomical Society. As Alex Breitler wrote about Trevor, he "became the de facto public spokesman on all things Interstellar from blue moons to black holes". He attended most star parties, helped to coordinate telescope-viewing events for the general public, and introduced the universe to many people both young and old. For the past few years Trevor reviewed the Peatduster for errors. He had a keen eye and could find every mistake your editor made.

As a tribute to Trevor, remember to take the time to look at the stars.



Internet Photo



## MEETINGS and EVENTS

**There are no meetings scheduled for May, June and July.**

All General Meetings are open to everyone whether you are a Sierra Club member or not. Meetings are held in the Fireside Room at the Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, across from the UOP Tower.

### **Monday, August 24, 2015 7:00 pm - Caring for our Waterways**

Kathy Grant, Coordinator of the City of Lodi's Watershed Program, will present an evening program focused on the importance of citizen participation and involvement in the stewardship of our local waterways. Beginning with an overview of storm water permit requirements that all California cities face, participants will learn how they can help their community cleanup their rivers and beaches at the largest international cleanup event, known locally as the California Coastal Cleanup, held the third Saturday of every September. Please join us to learn more.

### **Saturday, September 19, 2015 9:00am-12 Noon - Coastal CleanUp**

Trash travels via inland waterways, storm drains, sewers, and then eventually ends up on the coast. If not removed, this debris will end up in the ocean. Ocean trash is a serious pollution problem that affects the health of people, wildlife and local economies. Join the world's largest volunteer effort for our ocean and waterways by participating in the International Coastal Cleanup event.

Our local group will focus on the North West corner of the Calaveras River and Pacific Avenue. Contact Margo Praus [margopraus@msn.com](mailto:margopraus@msn.com)

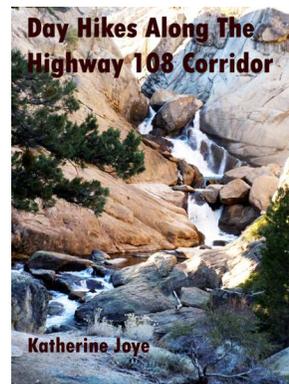
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(Meetings Continued from Page 3)

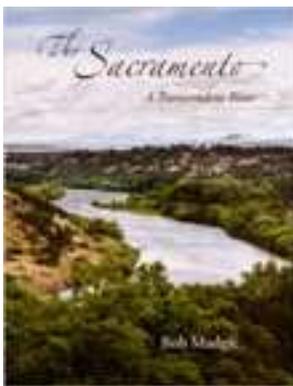
## Monday, September 28, 2015 - Hiking the Highway 108 Corridor

Kathi Joye will be sharing her hiking experiences at a presentation about the area included in her book, *Day Hikes Along the Highway 108 Corridor*. She highlights trails in the area from Knights Ferry to the East side of Sonora Pass and includes not only trails in the high Sierra Nevada (along Highway 108), but lower elevation trails found in Sonora, Jamestown, Chinese Camp and Knights Ferry. She covers hikes that are all located near features such as waterfalls and peaks, and historical or geologic points of interest.



Kathi has been an avid hiker since high school, and has hiked and backpacked in this area since 1985. She has taught science courses to students from 4th grade up through college. She is also a Master Gardener and a certified California Naturalist. (Editor's note: You can purchase her book at this web site: <http://kathijoye.weebly.com>)

## Monday, October 26, 2014 - Watching the River Run



It's that time of year for our annual Audubon-Sierra Club joint meeting.

Learn about the wonder of the Sacramento River as Bob Madgic presents his multimedia program, *Watching the River Run*. Based on his book, *The Sacramento: A Transcendent River*, he traces the river's course from its headwaters to its estuary, and its human history from before Euro-Americans to the present. He conveys the power and beauty of this magnificent river and the creatures it supports and takes his

message to various groups in the region including Audubon groups, the Sierra Club groups, paddlers, Rotary groups, and Fly Fishers Clubs.

(Editor's note: A few copies of his book are available at <http://bobmadgic.com>)



## Mother Lode Chapter Award for Environmental Journalism

What a lovely evening! On May 2, 2015, the Mother Lode Chapter hosted the annual Awards Banquet at the Dante Club in Sacramento. Our local Delta Sierra Group nominated Alex Breitler of The Record for the Mother Lode Chapter Award for Environmental Journalism and several of our members were present as he accepted the award. Dale Stocking, chair of Delta Sierra Group, introduced Alex and highlighted many of the topics Alex covers in his work. Alex accepted with humor and charm and noted that "Journalism has changed a great deal and environmental reporters now consider themselves to be almost as endangered as the species they write about."

While commenting on the water issue in California he mentioned that a journalist's role is to "cut through some of the rhetoric and give people information that they can use, give them facts, and at a time of great confusion in the state, try to have a reasonable discussion about the future of water in California." He went on to say, "Environmental journalists are still relevant in that sense and I intend to keep doing this as long as they allow me to."



Pictured are Dale and Alex.  
Photo by Barbara Leary, from the Sacramento Group ExCom.



## Celebrating Earth Day in Stockton on April 26

After raining on Saturday, Earth Day Festival in Stockton opened to beautiful weather and an energetic crowd. Delta-Sierra Group was there letting people know about the Sierra Club, inviting people to our Monday evening presentation, talking to children and adults about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, and selling reusable water bottles to discourage the use of plastic bottles. What a lovely day!

Many thanks to our volunteers Carol Vallejo, Judy Yucht, Leigh Ramsey, Kathleen Conley, Mike Molomphy, Staci Lavergne, and Dick Abood. And thanks to Dale Stocking and Paul Plathe for setting up the booth and taking down at the end.



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## Plastic Paradise, The Movie

Delta-Sierra Group purchased the licensing rights to screen this movie and can bring it to other organizations who may want to view it. If you know of a group that is interested and has the facilities to show the film, contact Margo Praus to arrange a showing. Contact her at [margopraus@msn.com](mailto:margopraus@msn.com)

We had a great turnout on Monday, April 27 at our general member meeting for our screening of *Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch*. People were concerned about the issue of single use plastics that are prevalent in our society. The ban on single use plastic bags that was signed into law was put on hold when the plastic industry gathered signatures to put the issue on the ballot for November 2016. We will watch closely. It may be time to ask our local leaders to institute a ban as many other municipalities have done.

Thousands of miles away from civilization, Midway Atoll is in one of the most remote places on earth. And yet it has become ground zero for The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, syphoning plastics from three distant continents. In this independent documentary film, journalist/filmmaker Angela Sun travels on a personal journey of discovery to uncover this mysterious phenomenon. Along the way she meets scientists, researchers, influencers, and volunteers who shed light on the effects of our rabid plastic consumption and learns the problem is more insidious than we could have ever imagined.





Photos by Charles Evans



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## Big Sur Service Trip By Elaine Gorman

As I headed west and south on my way to Monterey, the traffic increased. Why? Oh no.....it finally dawned on me that it's spring break for millions, many of them going my way to beautiful Monterey Bay and Big Sur! Oh well, the motor homes and the family-filled SUVs made me slow down and prolong my gaze of the coastal view from Highway 1. After 4 hours of driving from Modesto, I pulled into Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park campground, and met my Sierra Club cohorts -- Sharon and Lenny from New York, Karen from Connecticut, leaders Patti and Charlie from the Seattle area, Brian from Seattle, Stacy from Southern California, and Jo from Bay Area. As we settled into our campsites, I tried to avoid the PROFUSE poison oak. Later, Charlie gave us an orientation for our week of work with the trail crew.



In the morning, we drove to the trailhead, walked about 1/2 mile where we met Johnny and Jim, our State Park crew bosses for the week. After a safety talk, we loaded 8-foot cedar rails onto our shoulders, and headed up and I mean up, about another 3/4 mile toward Pfeiffer Falls, a very popular trail and destination. After several more trips with wood and tools, we began to build a fence to prevent shortcutting on the trail. Most of our time was spent digging post holes, arduous work. But it was fun chatting with hikers while we completed our tasks. On subsequent days, we built 3 sections of stairs in steep, rocky, eroded areas and another fence. Each afternoon my arms and hands ached from carrying wood and pounding rebar.

*(Continue on Page 9)*



*(Big Sur Service Trip Continued from Page 8)*

In the evenings after dinner we had music and singing, and discussed environmental topics. Charlie gave a great presentation on condors, complete with a condor costume! Jo talked about the importance of Lyme disease education. Karen regaled us with her soulful guitar and vocals. Brian shared his knowledge of the natural history of Big Sur. Lenny and Sharon had a knack for politics. Stacy and I shared stories of volunteering in Yosemite Valley.

Other highlights of the week included:



--observing daily the family of 4 acorn woodpeckers in a nearby Sycamore tree at the campsite.

--spending our "free day" hiking in Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park.

--views of the ocean from our work site.

--yummy dinners of pasta primavera, stir fry, salmon burgers, burritos, salads (thanks Patti!)

--words of thanks from the many park visitors on the trails.

--perfect weather every day.

--birthday celebrations with ice cream and cupcakes.

Only a couple of bummers -- noisy, crowded, smoky campground (darn spring break!) and the poison oak. Yes, I did get itchy patches on my elbow, hands, and feet.

*(Continue on Page 11)*



*(Big Sur Service Trip Continued from Page 10)*

Charlie and Patti did their best to make each of us feel comfortable and happy. I appreciate their leadership and dedication to the Sierra Club and the environment. Johnny and Jim are incredibly hard working. It was fabulous to get to know the other enthusiastic and fun participants, I think that we all felt that we were part of a special group. At one point, Brian -- a Seattle Times journalist -- asked us why we are willing to pay to do hard work. I said something about nature and wildness being important to me, and this is a way to "pay back" and to help others enjoy nature.



A Haiku for ya --

Stairs and split rail fence,  
Pick-mattock, muscles, and sweat,  
Must dodge poison oak.

Now....off to Pinnacles National Park for invasive plant eradication with Wilderness Volunteers!

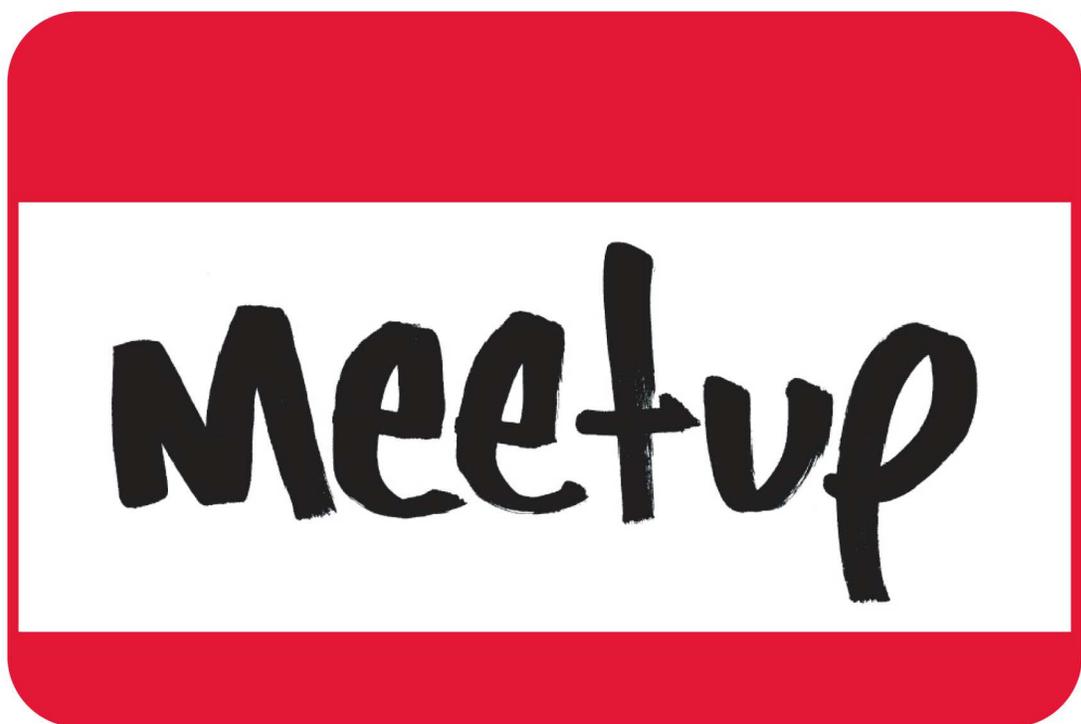


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## **Stockton, Modesto and Sonora Sierra Club**

**Find us at: <http://www.meetup.com/S-M-S-SierraClub>**



**We have been in operation for nearly 4 years and we have 645 members. You can find many of our local Sierra Club activities posted there.**



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## Executive Committee with Email Addresses

Chair & Alternate Chapter Delegate: Dale Stocking  
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Vice Chair & Membership Chair: Paul Plathe  
[gorgescramble@comcast.net](mailto:gorgescramble@comcast.net)

Secretary & Program Chair: Margo Praus  
[margopraus@msn.com](mailto:margopraus@msn.com)

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Your name here! We need your help!  
You can see some persons are filling 4 spots!  
Contact any one of us to learn more.





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## THE LAST PAGE



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problems become easier to  
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harder - and ultimately  
impossible to solve - with  
ever more people.

**David Attenborough**