



## Range of Light Group

Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club

Inyo and Mono Counties

P. O. Box 1973, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Email: [rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com](mailto:rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light>

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Range-of-Light-Group/464737966890277>

**December 2016**

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### **TO RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,**

*You are receiving this message because you are a member of the Range of Light Group, have recently attended one of our activities, or have requested our e-newsletter. If you wish to be removed from the list, click reply, and put "remove me from the ROLG list" in the subject line. Please ignore the spam block message you may receive - your message will get through. Thanks!*


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Visit our website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light>

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\*\*\*\***MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETINGS** – “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtfully committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead

**General information (subject to change – check details):** For all potlucks, bring a dish to share and your own non-disposable dinnerware. Potluck and program – you may attend either or both.

- **Tuesday, December 6, Annual Holiday Party, social and potluck, 6:00 pm.** Let's celebrate – Everyone Welcome! Bring finger food to share and your favorite libation. Location: Cathy and Rich's home, 81 Jahan Drive, Mammoth Lakes, 760-934-3266. If possible, please carpool as parking is limited. More: Mary 805-217-5563, [marymikeshore@gmail.com](mailto:marymikeshore@gmail.com).  

- **Tuesday, January 17, Crowley Lake Community Center, social and potluck, 6:15, program, 7:00.** Movie: “Torn” – Cal State University, Chico, Department of Anthropology, tells the story of looters’ destruction of Petroglyphs on the Volcanic Tablelands. Paiute tribal leaders are interviewed and raise awareness of the importance of The Antiquities Act. More: Mary 805-217-5563, [marymikeshore@gmail.com](mailto:marymikeshore@gmail.com).
- **Tuesday, February 21, Crowley Lake Community Center, social and potluck, 6:15, program, 7:00.** “Where will the trails take us?” Joel Rathje, Trails Coordinator for the Town of Mammoth Lakes will talk about what the future holds for the Mammoth Trails System. More: Mary 805-217-5563, [marymikeshore@gmail.com](mailto:marymikeshore@gmail.com).
- *For any of the program meetings, if you would like to join a carpool from Bishop, please contact Dale, 562-704-0287, [hiker395@earthlink.net](mailto:hiker395@earthlink.net).*

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\*\*\*\***OUTINGS, ACTIVITIES** – “In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous.” Aristotle

Watch for information on ROLG WEBSITE (<http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light>), FACEBOOK (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Range-of-Light-Group/464737966890277>), OUTINGS MEETUP (<http://www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/>), and LOCAL MEDIA (although occasionally our submitted information gets published incorrectly).

*Winter outings will resume in January, 2017, with X-C ski and snowshoe trips.*

**Unscheduled Hiking Trips:** These are NOT sponsored by the Sierra Club Range of Light Group but may be possible as weather allows from Oct-Dec, 2016. If interested, contact Joanne and Dick Hihn for details, 760-709-5050, [rhihn@skidmore.edu](mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu).

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\*\*\*\***CONSERVATION** – *“If the biota, in the course of eons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering.” Aldo Leopold*

*For more information on any of the following items, contact Malcolm, ROLG Conservation Chair, [wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com](mailto:wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com).*

- **California spotted owls** are in severe decline, partly due to logging of old forested areas. A lawsuit was filed to halt recently approved logging in Tahoe National Forest. The Forest had issued a “Categorical Exclusion” to avoid NEPA review of the effect of the logging on the owls. In a recent settlement, the USFWS agreed to evaluate by 2019 whether the owls should be listed under the ESA. More: [http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press\\_releases/2016/california-spotted-owl-09-29-2016.html](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2016/california-spotted-owl-09-29-2016.html).
- **Owens River Trail project:** the Architectural Elements on Owens Lake, part of the trail project, received the 2016 Award of Excellence from the Southern California Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. More: <http://www.sierrawave.net/owens-river-trail-project-receives-award-excellence/>. Work on the 6.3 mi trail project will hopefully begin next summer or fall. More: <http://www.sierrawave.net/officials-check-owens-river-water-trail-site/>.
- A study of prehistoric droughts and dry periods in California shows that today’s increasing greenhouse gas levels could result in a **centuries-long period of drought** in the state, and much altered California landscapes 100 years from now. More: <https://www.ioes.ucla.edu/article/pacific-oceans-response-to-greenhouse-gases-extends-californias-drought/>.
- A federal district appeals court ruled that **future climate change effects may be considered** in making decisions regarding listing species as endangered or threatened. The court ruling was against a claim by fossil fuel interests and the state of Alaska. More: <https://thinkprogress.org/bearded-seal-endangered-species-court-decision-995f7213fca5#.xpo0yo6fd>.
- Recent studies conclude that **climate change is responsible for half of increased wildfire damage** and has doubled the size of forest fires in the Western US since 1979. One study notes the exponential effect of increased dryness of fuel with every degree of temperature warming. More: <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/11/science/climate-change-forest-fires.html?e>

- Following upon a surprising USFWS decision not to list the **Pacific fisher**, a weasel-like mammal, under the ESA, four environmental groups filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking to overturn the decision, which many environmentalists regard as the government caving in to pressure by timber companies despite 22 years of studies and efforts to list supported by most scientific studies. More: <http://www.sfgate.com/science/article/Fight-to-protect-Pacific-fishers-moves-into-10072767.php>.

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\*\*\*\* **OF INTEREST** – “*The difference between genius and stupidity - genius has its limits.*”  
*Albert Einstein*

- **Wild & Weird: The Real Lives of Reindeer**



Reindeer, known as caribou in North America, have been around since the time of woolly mammoths and saber-toothed cats. Sadly, reindeer have experienced a **60% decline** in the past three decades due to climate change and habitat destruction. Watch video of real-life reindeer on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).

- Over 190 countries have adopted a plan to **offset air travel emissions** in which airlines will buy credits to offset emissions from individual flights. The agreement will take effect in 2021. More: [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/07/science/190-countries-adopt-plan-to-offset-jet-emissions.html?emc=edit\\_th](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/07/science/190-countries-adopt-plan-to-offset-jet-emissions.html?emc=edit_th).
- A recently unveiled construction project will provide **wildlife crossing tunnels** at two locations under highway 17 in the Santa Cruz Mountains, enabling animals such as deer and mountain lions to cross between two wilderness areas, helping to mitigate habitat fragmentation that endangers sustainability of wildlife. Another wildlife crossing corridor is under consideration across highway 101 in the Agoura Hills of Southern California. More: <http://www.mercurynews.com/2016/10/15/new-tunnels-in-santa-cruz-mountains-will-provide-cougars-safe-passage/>.
- The **world's largest marine reserve** will come into existence on Dec 1, 2017 in the Ross Sea area of Antarctica under terms of a recently reached agreement by 24 nations and the European Union. More: <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/28/world/australia/antarctica-ross-sea-marine-park.html?ref=todayspaper&r=0>.
- The Inyo National Forest announced that the **Travel Analysis Report (TAR) is available for review**. View report at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/inyo/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprd3834316>. More: Deb Schweizer, 760-873-2427, [debraaschweizer@fs.fed.us](mailto:debraaschweizer@fs.fed.us), [www.facebook.com/inyonf](http://www.facebook.com/inyonf)
- A new **geologic map** of the Long Valley Caldera, Mammoth Mountain, and the Middle Fork canyon of the San Joaquin River, including Devils Postpile National Monument, recounts the geologic and volcanic history of the area east of the Sierra Nevada in far greater detail than any previously published report. Geophysical unrest beneath the Mammoth Mountain volcano and in adjacent parts of the Sierra Nevada and Long Valley caldera has generated concern among residents, stakeholders, and geoscientists since at least 1980, when four magnitude-6 earthquakes shook the area. “[Eruptive History of Mammoth Mountain and its Mafic Periphery, California](#),” is available online. More: Leslie C Gordon [lgordon@usgs.gov](mailto:lgordon@usgs.gov), 650-329-4006, **Brandi Stewart** Devils Postpile National Monument [brandi\\_stewart@nps.gov](mailto:brandi_stewart@nps.gov) Phone: 760-934-8170 **Deb Schweizer** Inyo National Forest [debraaschweizer@fs.fed.us](mailto:debraaschweizer@fs.fed.us) Phone: 760-873-2427.
- A new, potentially significant **fault line has been discovered** along the eastern edge of the Salton Sea – parallel to the San Andreas Fault, which could cause a magnitude 6 or even 7 earthquake. More: <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2016/oct/05/san-diego-researcher-discovers-new-earthquake-fault/>

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\*\*\*\* **GREEN LIFE** (From SC National) – “*A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.*” Franklin D. Roosevelt

- If you are looking for something to send to the children in your life, consider the Sierra Club’s **Tomorrow's Planet, Our Children's Newsletter**. Subscribe to your free copy [here](#). Back issues: <http://vault.sierraclub.org/education/newsletter/>
- **Read more green ideas on The [Green Life blog](#)**

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\*\*\***YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** – “*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.*” John Quincy Adams

- **Chapter/Group Executive Committee (ExCom) Elections:** The Toiyabe Chapter is conducting chapter and group elections electronically this year for the first time. There are still details to be worked out that have delayed the election. Members will be informed when the actual election process begins. There will be a paper option. ROLG has three candidates for three ROLG ExCom posts: Lynn Boulton (current & continuing publicity chair), and current members Fran Hunt and Malcolm Clark – so there is no contested seat for ROLG ExCom. At last information, there are more candidates than open seats for Toiyabe Chapter ExCom, so we urge you to read the biographies and vote for your choices for chapter ExCom members. More: Dick, 760-709-5050; [rhihn@skidmore.edu](mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu).
- The **ROLG Executive Committee quarterly meetings** – usually Jan., Apr., Jul., Oct. – are open to all members. Next meeting, at Hihn's, Wednesday, January 18, 5:30 pm. Please inform Dick if attending. For details, contact Dick, 760-709-5050; [rhihn@skidmore.edu](mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu). Send any items requiring formal action by the ExCom to Dick, 760-709-5050, [rhihn@skidmore.edu](mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu) at least four days before the meeting. Any non-action items may be brought to the meeting or submitted for the agenda.
- **Next deadline** for submissions to the Chapter newsletter, *Toiyabe Trails*, March 1. More: Dick, 760-709-5050, [rhihn@skidmore.edu](mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu), or Lynne, [lfoster@schat.net](mailto:lfoster@schat.net).
- **Outings Leaders Wanted:** Always room for additional leaders! Certification available. More: Joanne, 760-709-5050, [jhphotos73@gmail.com](mailto:jhphotos73@gmail.com).
- **Join Our Conservation Team and help save your favorite Sierra places!** More: Malcolm [wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com](mailto:wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com), 760-924-5639.
- Join the team of people who make the Range of Light Group work – the **ROLG Executive Committee**. More: Dick, 760-709-5050, [rhihn@skidmore.edu](mailto:rhihn@skidmore.edu).

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\*\*\***FROM SIERRA CLUB NATIONAL** – “*It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment.*” Ansel Adams

- Contact SC's executive director, Michael Brune, [michael.brune@sierraclub.org](mailto:michael.brune@sierraclub.org) and read [Michael Brune's blog](#) “Coming Clean.”

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¶**VISIT OUR WEBSITE** – “*...rose the mighty Sierra, miles in height, and so gloriously colored and so radiant, it seemed not clothed with light but wholly composed of it, like the wall of some celestial city.... Then it seemed to me that the Sierra should be called ... the Range of Light.*” John Muir

For outings and other information, ROLG website, <http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light> or <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Range-of-Light-Group/464737966890277> or <http://www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup>