



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

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>

June 2018

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!

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

******MONTHLY MEETINGS/EVENTS** – *"If by some fiat I had to restrict all this writing to one sentence, this is the one I would choose: The summit of Mt. Everest is marine limestone."* [John McPhee](#)

- No June program – stay tuned for details of speaker scheduled for Tuesday, July 17.

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

****The Blue Diamond steering committee met and has laid out plans for fine tuning, marking a new route, and mapping a master plan for the blue diamond routes. Please respond to marmikeshore@gmail.com if you would like to help. Work will be scheduled on some Fridays, Saturdays, or Mondays. Let us know your preference. Exact dates to come.*

ROLG Spring Outings: *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 (not always accurate), and contact leaders.

WHAT TO BRING ON SPRING OUTINGS: Prepare for a variety of conditions. Bring water, lunch and snacks, layered clothing, hats, gloves, sunglasses, insect repellent, appropriate sturdy footwear as well as skis/snowshoes if appropriate. **ALL OUTINGS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES!**

****Please note that Time and Place of outing meetups are NOT included in the following descriptions because we want interested participants to call to reserve a space. That way, the leaders will know ahead of time how many people to expect. Requiring an RSVP call or email ahead of the outing is an experiment which we will continue through July. More: Dick, 760-709-5050, rhinn@skidmore.edu.

- **Thursday, June 7, (late afternoon), Explore the Geology of Doe Ridge.** A geologist will join us for a 1.5 mile walk in the rolling terrain of Doe Ridge, featuring geologic phenomenon and beautiful views. There will be some cross country so wear sturdy shoes, bring water and if you have binoculars bring them. To RSVP and for further information contact Mary 805-217-5563, marymikesore@gmail.com.
- **Sunday, June 10, (morning), Coldwater Campground to Red Lake.** Begin at the Coldwater campground in the Mammoth Lakes Basin, and hike on use/game trails to Skelton Lake, pass some mining ruins to explore before arriving at Skelton Lake, then hike gently uphill along a creek to Woods Lake, then down to Red Lake, and back down to Skelton Lake via another stream which often has lots of trout visible. There are also several beautiful meadows, a couple of waterfalls, and possibly wildflowers. From Skelton Lake either return to trail head via same game/use trails, or via the Duck Lake trail if participants prefer. Total hike will be around 7 miles, elevation gain is approximately 1300 ft. A significant portion of this hike is off trail. To RSVP and for more information, contact Melissa 760-937-0499, melissal@verizon.net.
- **Thursday-Sunday, June 14-17, Mono Lake Committee Bird Chautauqua** (No Outings)
- **Sunday, June 24, (morning), Mt. Watkins:** Take in great views and wildflowers while hiking from Olmsted Point to Mt. Watkins, across from Half Dome with a view of Yosemite Valley. Start at 8,300', go down 300' and then gently climb 500' to Mt. Watkins at 8,500'. RT 6 miles, intermediate, but a great one for getting warmed up for summer hiking. To RSVP and for more information, contact Lynn 760-914-9016, amazinglyynn@yahoo.com.
- **Thursday, June 28, (late afternoon), Snow Ponds Hike and Tostada Dinner:** Meet late afternoon in June Lake, hike up a short but steep trail to a mostly level trail and to the ponds which should be filled and beautiful this time of year. Enjoy vistas of June Mt., then hike down another steep trail to the cars. Tostada supper follows at Jean's house. Bring a beverage to share. To RSVP and for more information, contact Jean 760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com.

******TAKE ACTION** – “*We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act but a habit.*” Aristotle

- The State Mining and Geology Board has opened the discussion for changes to the state's **backfill requirements for metallic mining** (i.e. gold mining). Opening up the current regulations to change will most likely loosen regulations, not strengthen them. Reclamation regulations appropriately require mining companies to clean up their toxic wastewater, fill in the pits, and lower the height of the waste mounds for safety. Companies are to grade the slopes to match the natural contour as much as possible and replant so the land can be re-purposed. Any loosening of these regulations will invite more pit mining in California. **The next public meeting is June 13, 9am-12 pm**, in Sacramento. Please come if you can! For information or to carpool, contact Fran at fran.hunt@sierraclub.org. More and how to submit comments: <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/smgf/Pages/Rulemaking/Package-11.aspx>
- **Write Mayor Garcetti** and ask him to not reduce or eliminate irrigation on their Mono County lands. LADWP initially notified ranchers, who lease DWP property in Long Valley, Little Round Valley, and Round Valley that they may not irrigate their fields. Then LADWP backed off and will allow the ranchers to irrigate this summer with a reduced amount until they can prepare an environmental assessment. ROLG is monitoring this issue and is preparing a letter to the LA Mayor in response. Write to: Mayor Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, and send a copy to, Mel Levine, President, Board of Commissioners, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Room 555-H 15th floor, 111 N. Hope Street, Los

Angeles, CA 90012. More: <https://www.sierrawave.net/mono-supervisors-gird-for-toe-to-toe-with-ladwp/>

- Join the **Ready for 100-Mammoth** action team and help fight climate change in the Eastern Sierra! The goal is for the Mammoth Town Council to sign on to 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and to 100% renewable energy by 2050 and then get there. You do not have to live in Mammoth to help. Contact Lynn 760-914-9016, chairrolg@gmail.com. And sign the petition asking the Mammoth Town Council to commit to 100% clean energy – they need to know you want this: <https://www.addup.org/campaigns/mammoth-is-ready-for-renewable-energy>. Join us! “Make America Green Again” bumper stickers: <https://store.sierraclub.org/make-america-green-again-bumper-sticker-p344.aspx>.
- **Visit Conglomerate Mesa!** It is a wonderful place adjacent to a forest of Joshua Trees. The BLM decided to allow exploratory drilling here but is requiring the mining company to bring in drilling equipment by helicopter. Water will be trucked in once a day. Although this phase of the project has a smaller impact on the environment (noise, night lights, and dust), it could lead to a pit mine with cyanide heap leaching that will destroy the mesa morphology, its unique geology, and wilderness qualities. See the Briggs Mine in Panamint Valley for an example of what Conglomerate Mesa could turn into. More: <https://www.sierrawave.net/groups-residents-oppose-mining-at-conglomerate-mesa/>; <https://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/blog/2017/11/conglomerate-mesa-worth-more-gold>; <https://www.calwild.org/portfolio/fact-sheet-conglomerate-mesa/>; <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/projectSummary.do?methodName=renderDefaultProjectSummary&projectId=91166>

*****CONSERVATION** – “The power of imagination makes us infinite.” John Muir

For more information on any of the following items, contact Malcolm, ROLG Conservation Chair, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com.

- *Good News:* The **American Pika** has often been regarded as seriously threatened by climate change pushing the species to higher and higher elevations in order to survive until they had nowhere further “up” (and cooler) to go to. New studies show the cute animals can adapt better to hotter and drier as well as colder and wetter habitats than previously thought. More: https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/news/2018/20180501_americanpika.shtml.
- In the latest development to the conflict of the Mammoth Community Water District with Ormat’s **geothermal expansion**, including new drilling, MCWD has requested the reopening of the Environmental Review of Ormat’s already approved drilling plan. MCWD cites new evidence that (they say) provides conclusive evidence that geothermal fluids are in Mammoth’s groundwater basin. More: <https://www.sierrawave.net/mcwd/>.
- Responding to lawsuit by four environmental organizations, federal judge Joseph Spero has rejected the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s 2015 decision not to list the as endangered the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of **Greater Sage Grouse**. Total population of Bi-State sage grouse is estimated at a little under 10,000 individuals in a few adjacent counties in California and Nevada. USFWS had cited the collaborative plan developed by federal, state, and county leaders (including ranchers and energy producers) to preserve the species. The judge noted the elements of the plan were not mandatory and did not ensure the preservation of the species. The judge did not mandate endangered listing but ordered a hearing to address steps to be taken in the light of his decision. More: http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2018/bi-state-sage-grouse-05-15-2018.php.
- In May, California became the first state to require that almost all new single-family homes have **solar panel power** starting in 2020. Currently about 20% of new homes include solar panels.

More: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-solar-panels-homes-20180508-story.html>;
https://insideclimatenews.org/news/09052018/california-solar-panel-mandate-new-homes-energy-standards-efficiency-climate-change-impact?utm_source=EHN&utm_campaign=b01562c61b-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8573f35474-b01562c61b-9947189.

- After extremely **high tree mortality** in California forests over the past two years due to the combined effect of drought and Bark Beetles, the Bark Beetle forecast for 2018 foresees significantly less tree mortality. The estimate is between 3 and 26 million projected tree deaths in 2018 compared to 27 million in 2017 and 62 million in 2016. More: https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/topics/tree_mortality/california/bark-beetles.shtml.
- On April 28, California met 73 % of its **electric power needs from renewable energy** sources. This does not include electricity from residential solar panels on home roofs. This was the highest percentage from renewable power to date in California. More (click on “deep read”): <https://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2018/0524/Is-ditching-fossil-fuels-entirely-a-reasonable-goal>.

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

- Although funding for the **Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository** was deleted from the Trump’s final budget, the issue is back in the news with proposed legislation sponsored by California Representative Darrell Issa that would re-start the development of the repository and increase its capacity from 70,000 to 110,000 metric tons. Inyo County Supervisors have been concerned about reopening the project located 17 miles from the Inyo/Nevada border. More: <https://www.sierrawave.net/yucca-mountain-repository-back-in-the-news/>.
- The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is sponsoring the fifth annual California **Invasive Species Action Week** from June 2 to June 10. More: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/invasives/action-week>.
- Gordon Martin has been appointed as the **District Ranger** of the Mammoth and Mono Lake Ranger Districts, starting July 8. He has been with the Forest Service for 35 years, most recently serving in New Mexico. More: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/inyo/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD581714>.
- Due to a delay in the biological opinion from US Fish and Wildlife Service, the new estimated release date for **the Inyo National Forest Final Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Forest Management plan** has been pushed back to August 2018.
- **Thursday, June 14, 1:00pm, The High Sierra Responds To A Changing Climate**, Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center auditorium, speakers Char Miller, Connie Millar, Geoff McQuilkin and film *Saving Snow*. Join in a day of education on high elevation climate issues in the Eastern Sierra. Bird enthusiasts are invited to spend an extra day in the area, and attend a series of afternoon talks from experts in climate issues. No charge and open to all. More: Lynn 760-914-9016, chairrolg@gmail.com.
- A beautiful area to explore is up Summers Meadow Road off of the Green Creek Road just south of Bridgeport, with views of the Bodie Hills, Sweetwaters, and Sierra crest. The Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Service is considering opening **grazing allotments on Conway Summit** to the west of Hwy 395 to cattle from the Jordan Basin to Twin Lakes, including the Summers Meadow Road area. More: https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/104868_FSPLT3_4292730.pdf.
- Want to hear Canyon Wrens as you hike? Check out Clark Canyon in the Bodie Hills before June 15, when the cattle are brought in – it’s an interesting place. For a description of the hike and directions, contact Lynn 760-914-9016, chairrolg@gmail.com.

******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

- **Volunteers Needed:**
 - For **Programs Chair** position, to arrange member meetings, (a speaker or slideshow, a picnic or potluck, or a discussion among members).
 - We want to pass on our love of the outdoors and nature to our children. The ROLG is looking for someone to set up a scholarship, campership, or other program related to **youth conservation education**.
 - If interested in helping out, contact Lynn Boulton at 760-914-9016, chairrolg@gmail.com.
- **ROLG Survey** – Please tell us how you find out about ROLG outings and events. Click on this link and take the survey in only 1 minute. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KBN2LTQ>
- The next **ROLG ExCom meeting**: Thursday, July 12, 5:30 - 7:30 pm at the Clark’s home. Open to all members. Contact wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com for directions. Please come and give us your input. More: Lynn chairrolg@gmail.com, 760-914-9016.
- **Toiyabe Chapter**: Anne Macquarie is the new Toiyabe Chapter Chair. There are some positions open at the Chapter level. More: Lynn: 760-914-9016, chairrolg@gmail.com.
- The next **Toiyabe Chapter ExCom meetings** – Teleconference call meetings at 7pm: July 26, October 25. In person meetings: September 15 (Tahoe/Reno/Carson City area), February 9, 2019 (Las Vegas). All members are welcome to attend. More: Lynn: 760-914-9016, chairrolg@gmail.com.
- **Next deadline** for submissions to the Chapter newsletter, *Toiyabe Trails*, September 1. More: Lynne, lfoster@schat.net.
- **Outings Leaders Wanted**: Always room for additional leaders! Certification available. More: Dick, 760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu.
- **Join Our Conservation Team and help save your favorite Sierra places!** More: Malcolm wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com, 760-924-5639.
- Join the team of people who make the Range of Light Group work – the **ROLG ExCom**. More: Lynn chairrolg@gmail.com, 760-914-9016.
- **ROLG now has a donate button up and running on the website.** Tax deductible donations go to the ROLG Foundation account, non-deductible donations go directly to the ROLG as unrestricted funds. Check it out!

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

- Letter from Sacramento: **Endorsement List for Upcoming Primary Election**. If you are interested in which candidates the Sierra Club endorses, check out the list here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/california/2018-endorsements>
- Contact SC’s executive director, Michael Brune, michael.brune@sierraclub.org and read [Michael Brune's blog](#) “Coming Clean.”