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LIQUIFIED NATURAL GOLD:
The Rush for LNG in New England

Letter from the desk of James McCaffrey, Director

The entrepreneurial rush to build new Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) facilities on all our country’s coasts has only been encouraged by the logjams caused (or revealed) by the hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico. At least 40 proposals have been made by the energy industry throughout North America, and all prior to a legitimate national and regional assessment of our LNG needs. Yet the energy industry claims they may only need twelve facilities. Four of these proposed facilities are along or just off of the Massachusetts’ coastline.

This past summer, the Sierran explained our opposition to the facility proposed for Fall River, and raised questions about another one proposed offshore near Gloucester. The Fall River proposal has already received approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the federal agency responsible for siting onshore LNG proposals. Large scale potentially dangerous industrial facilities do not belong in the heart of economically challenged and densely populated urban areas. FERC’s approval of the Fall River project is an environmental injustice of the worst kind, and the Sierra Club has joined the good citizens of Fall River in opposing it.

We now know that there are two, not one, proposals for facilities offshore near Gloucester. They include potential impacts on some of the region’s richest fishing grounds. Also, such facilities will increase tanker traffic in the migratory habitat for endangered Northern Right Whales. Finally, infrastructure such as pipelines for either proposal may impact or even cross existing marine sanctuaries.

The fourth proposal would take state and federal parklands in Boston Harbor to build an LNG facility. This is only the latest affront by the industry and would forever alter the character and onshore LNG proposals. Large scale potentially dangerous industrial facilities do not belong in the heart of economically challenged and densely populated urban areas. FERC’s approval of the Fall River project is an environmental injustice of the worst kind, and the Sierra Club has joined the good citizens of Fall River in opposing it.

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continued on page 12

On the cover: Snow begins to melt on the Mt. Holyoke Range
Photograph by Elisa Campbell
For years there has been concern and controversy about the possibility of “cancer clusters” and elevated levels of other diseases and conditions on Cape Cod. Specifically, people have suspected that the PAVE PAWS Radar facility might be adversely affecting human health. (PAVE PAWS is a military radar system designed to detect incoming missiles; PAWS is an acronym for Phased Array Warning System.)

This fall, the International Epidemiology Institute (IEI) conducted an epidemiology study of Cape disease rates and their association, or lack thereof, with radiofrequency (Rf) exposure. A second analysis was done by Dr. Richard Albanese, an Air Force scientist acting as a private citizen.

The IEI released a report: “Descriptive Studies of Disease Occurrence and PAVE PAWS Radar” on September 9, 2005. IEI will hold a meeting for the general public in March 2006. IEI's dose/response study showed no elevation in cancer mortality/incidence rates, neurological and autoimmune disease, or low birth weight with increasing PAVE PAWS Rf exposure, while the secular trend study showed no increases in cancer rates at the county level after the system came online in 1978.

The other study, conducted by Dr. Albanese, was a dose/response study of Rf exposures at the town level. Dr. Albanese used a different statistical analysis approach to compare dose with response, measuring adverse health outcomes. Unlike the IEI study, he found statistically significant positive dose/response relationships for female breast cancer and a statistically significant negative relationship for colon cancer in males and females. He also raised concerns about the IEI secular trend study analysis and the exposure levels employed in the IEI dose/response study.

The IEI study was paid for by the Air Force. There has been much controversy on Cape Cod regarding the scope of the health study and whether it should have been overseen by an independent entity with minimal Air Force involvement. The safety standards for non-ionizing radiation, which emanates from AM/FM radios, cell phones, marine/airport radars, as well as military facilities such as PAVE PAWS, have been promulgated by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and are based upon the average and peak power density measured in microwatts per square centimeter or its equivalents in A dialogue … will be required to define “how safe is safe.”

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Forest Reserves
Meetings “Heartening”

by Elisa Campbell

Sierra Club members attending the meetings about the proposed Large Forest Reserves found the experience “heartening,” in the words of Alison Robb, who attended the meeting focusing on the Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth and Carver. All the proposals, which include state forests and wildlife management areas, are designed to preserve or enhance the biological diversity of our Commonwealth. Hiking, bird watching, hunting and fishing currently allowed will continue to be allowed. None of the proposed areas currently allows off-road vehicle use, and no changes are planned in that status. There will be management for species preservation and diversity.

The next steps in this process include rallying support for both the reserve proposal and for sufficient resources (e.g. people and money), for the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) to do the work to make the reserves reality: baseline data studies; developing plans with input by their staff, other professionals and the public; monitoring results; and, of course, enforcement of the rules that exclude destructive uses.

Please join us in this effort! To become one of the Chapter’s Forest Guardians, contact ecampbell@sierraclubmass.org.

Elisa Campbell is Chair of the Chapter’s Public Lands and Open Space Committee, as well as Editor of the Sierran.

Ware River Needs Us: A Volunteer Opportunity

by Elisa Campbell

The Commonwealth’s major water supplier — the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority — gets its water primarily from the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs in mid-state. The watersheds for those reservoirs have official Advisory Committees, and the Sierra Club, by law, is entitled to representation on those committees. I am currently serving as the Club representative on the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee (QWAC). On the Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee (WRWAC) we are entitled to one representative and an alternate — but our seats are empty. We’d like to fill them!

In addition to being important for water supply, the Ware River area is currently proposed to be one of the Large Forest Reserves, so we need someone to work on the details of that proposal. There are also recreational issues, including the Midstate Trail, the Central Mass Rail Trail, (both of which go through the watershed), and balancing use for snowmobiling, horseback riding and biking. There are also Eagle Scout projects and a fledgling “Quiet Area” where motorized vehicles are discouraged.

The Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee is required to meet twice a year. Typically, they meet five or six times, avoiding the summer season. Meetings are usually at the Hubbardston Center School on a Thursday from 7 PM to 9 PM, (they end promptly).

Please contact me if you’d like to volunteer. I prefer email (ecampbell@sierraclubmass.org) but I can also be reached by phone (413-256-4247).

Elisa Campbell is Chair of the Chapter’s Public Lands and Open Space Committee, as well as Editor of the Sierran.
Scientists have been warning us for years about the consequences of global warming. National action is crucial, and we need to keep asking the federal government to act, but local action is necessary too.

In many communities, local grassroots activity has been scant, perhaps because global warming seems overwhelming, or because it is not yet quite real to us, though Hurricane Katrina may have made it more imaginable.

In Massachusetts, however, 21 communities have joined Cities for Climate Protection (CCP). Nationally, 159 communities are members; worldwide, 650. With help from CCP, member communities take an inventory of their greenhouse gas emissions, write a plan to reduce them, carry it out, and monitor the results.

Aided by an advisory committee, Cambridge has created an inventory and a plan. Cambridge’s emissions from transportation are about 13% of the total (a smaller percentage than for suburban communities), and the city already has an extensive, nationally recognized program to promote walking, biking and transit use. Cambridge also has a comprehensive recycling program, (waste accounts for about 1% of emissions). We can do much more in both areas, but since about 86% of our emissions are connected with energy use in buildings, that is our current focus.

All municipal governments have important tools available to them: setting examples, persuading decision makers, and recognizing those who have succeeded. Cambridge uses all three.

Example is clearly key. It’s not useful to ask others to take actions that you aren’t willing to take. Among other measures, the city is making its new construction and major renovations consistent with “green” building standards and is undertaking energy efficiency measures in existing buildings.

We are working with many of the city’s largest employers, bringing them together and informing them of opportunities to make their operations greener. We have instituted GoGreen (business awards to recognize outstanding efforts) and have launched a Climate Leader program, which will both provide technical assistance and give recognition to businesses and institutions that meet standards in recycling, transportation and energy efficiency.

In the residential sector, our efforts are geared toward multifamily housing in which most residents live. Cambridge’s households use less energy than the national average, but there is still a lot they can do: switch to compact fluorescent bulbs, take advantage of utility rebates, trade in old refrigerators for energy-efficient models, and install solar panels. The city publicizes these opportunities; it also sponsors “ecoteams,” small groups that meet to learn about and support steps to reduce their households’ environmental impact.

The good news is that virtually all the actions to tackle global warming have multiple benefits: cleaner air and water, healthier forests and wetlands, more walkable communities, more comfortable living spaces and a stronger economy.

Cities for Climate Protection offers communities a helpful framework, technical help and the exchange of ideas and possibilities for cooperative action. Often, it only takes a handful of advocates to get a community started and help keep it on track. If every Sierra Club member gets involved, we can transform our communities. And that is the surest way to make national change.

Rosalie Anders works on environmental projects for the City of Cambridge, in the Community Development Department. She can be reached at 617-349-4604 or randers@cambridgema.gov.
decibels. There are no federal standards for RF exposure, since there are no perceived adverse health impacts.

Why the results vary with different methods are technical issues beyond my grasp, so only time will tell how the experts resolve these different perspectives. The National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council (NAS/NRC) Panel will discuss these technical issues. One of the problems with the IEI exposure and health effects studies is that they have a technical focus which makes it hard for the public to evaluate the public health implications. Unlike health risk assessments which provide estimates of the likelihood of getting cancer after a lifetime of exposure, the IEI and NAS/NRC dose/response relationships are provided in terms that only epidemiologists can understand. One can't relate these to everyday risks (like dying in a car accident).

A number of local environmental activists wanted the exposure estimates to include both the phase component and the power density aspect of the radar signal. They also wanted an analytical rather than a descriptive epidemiological study, so that one could adjust for confounding factors (like length of residency, alcohol use, smoking, chemical contaminant exposure, etc.). Better models are the Silent Spring Institute's Cape Cod Breast Cancer and Environment Study and the SSI household chemical exposure study.

No further studies are currently recommended, although the PAVE PAWS Public Health Steering Group (PPPHSG) has called for more studies. Thus it will be up to local and state politicians to decide on the health policy implications. Epidemiology is a crude tool for establishing cause/effect relationships between exposure to RF energy or chemical contaminants and adverse health impacts. A dialogue between the public and our political leaders will be required to define “how safe is safe.” This will probably necessitate a science translation effort for the public and political leaders on the implications of the technical studies and a risk communication outreach program on the possible environmental causes of the elevated adverse health outcomes on Cape Cod. The various epidemiological studies conducted on Cape Cod are the starting place for this dialogue.

David Dow is the Acting Chair of the Cape Cod Group.
Massachusetts Chapter and Group Elections

Your membership number must appear on the outside of your envelope in order for your ballot to be valid. 
(An extra ballot is provided for households with joint memberships.)

Voting Instructions and Election Procedures

You, as members, elect the Sierra Club leadership each year. In this issue of the Sierran, you will find candidates’ statements and ballots (on page 10) for three separate Sierra Club Executive Committee Elections: Massachusetts Chapter, Greater Boston Group, and Essex County Group. All Massachusetts Sierra Club members may vote for the Chapter Executive Committee. You may also vote for the executive committee of the group of which you are a member. Please contact the Chapter Office if you have a question about your group membership.

Mail ballots to: Sierra Club Elections, 100 Boylston Street, Suite 760, Boston, Massachusetts, 02116. Ballots must be received by 5:00 PM, Tuesday, January 3, 2006 in order to be counted. Vote for no more than the number of candidates indicated on each ballot.

In order to validate your ballots, please write your membership number on the upper left hand corner of your envelope. Your eight-digit membership number appears on the mailing label of the Sierran. A second ballot is provided for those households with joint memberships so that each member can vote. If you have any questions, please call the Chapter Office at (617) 423-5775.

Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee Candidate Statements (Ballots are on page 10)

DON CARLSON—I became an environmental activist in 1999, starting in the Atlantic (New York State) Chapter. There I chaired group and chapter conservation committees, served on group and chapter executive committees, and was elected chapter conservation chair. I’ve also served on the Sierra Club’s Environmental Quality Strategy Team, where I led the effort to establish a new national toxics committee. Currently I am a contributing member of the Club’s Organizational Effectiveness Governance Committee, where we are planning implementation of the club’s new priorities.

I’m a Boston native, recently returned, and am really looking forward to working on local and state-wide issues. My particular interests are in reducing toxics in our environment, preserving and expanding green space and wildlands, and achieving environmental justice.

DAVID HEIMANN—I serve as Chair of the Chapter Energy Committee. Under my direction Chapter comments were submitted on the Cape Wind DEIS. We have also been working on LNG, community outreach and education, and Green Power.

I am also involved in regional conservation as a chapter delegate to the Northeast Regional Committee (NERC) and in running their Web site. With my support NERC held an energy training in June and a Bi-National Symposium in October. On the national front, I attended the Sierra Summit as a Chapter delegate.

The Summit has identified energy and global warming as priorities, and I intend to support these important issues. On overall Chapter administration, I bring years of Excom experience, including that of past Treasurer, to the Chapter’s varied activities.

DEBORAH HOLT—I joined the Sierra Club as a life member in 1988. Then and now I view the Sierra Club as the organization best suited to effect positive environmental outcomes through its focus on environmental activism and introducing people to the issues and areas that need protection.

My involvement and responsibilities for the Chapter (past and present) include serving on a North-South Rail Link strategy committee, chairing the Chapter outings program, leading outings for the Chapter, authoring articles for the Sierran, and serving on the Greater Boston Executive Committee with the additional duties of Secretary and Chapter Executive Committee liaison.

Chapter effectiveness is facilitated by continuity, experience, and commitment — which I can offer if elected. Please vote, and please give me your vote.

JOHN KYPER—For four years I have served on the Chapter ExCom, and more recently as Chair of its Transportation Committee. A Roxbury resident since 1975, I support an enlightened transportation policy that would reduce our dependence on the private automobile by providing more benign and attractive alternatives. We must expand the frequency and coverage of our often-disjointed public transportation system, as well as redesign our roadways to encourage walking and bicycling.

The long struggle for equity in transportation planning reflects how the state is neglecting the needs of its most transit-dependent citizens. For over a decade I have worked in the Washington Street Corridor Coalition, advocating true, light rail replacement service for the old Orange Line elevated instead of the inadequate “Silver Line” bus.
DON CARLSON—I became an environmental activist in 1999, starting in the Atlantic (New York State) Chapter. There I chaired group and chapter conservation committees, served on group and chapter executive committees, and was elected chapter conservation chair. I’ve also served on the Sierra Club’s Environmental Quality Strategy Team, where I led the effort to establish a new national toxics committee. Currently I am a contributing member of the club’s Organizational Effectiveness Governance Committee, where we are planning implementation of the club’s new priorities.

I’m a Boston native, recently returned, and am really looking forward to working on local and state-wide issues. My particular interests are in reducing toxics in our environment, preserving and expanding green space and wildlands, and achieving environmental justice.

CHRIS HALLGREN—I’ve been a Sierra Club member for over ten years and I would call myself an active member for past four years or so; sitting on the Chapter’s Energy Committee, participating on a national campaign to promote cleaner cars, and, for the past two years, serving on the Greater Boston Group’s Executive Committee. I’m an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys hiking, biking and skiing, but it was really my interest in issues related to energy and transportation that moved me to get more involved with the Sierra Club. I hope to spend more time working through GBG Executive Committee and on various campaigns to help others find opportunities to get more involved and take action on the issues that they find important.

MEG THOMSEN—Since I first became involved with the Sierra Club nine years ago as a canvasser, my involvement has enriched my life both personally and professionally. As a Peace Corps Volunteer in China, I utilized the teachings of the Sierra Club in my environmental education curriculum and have been actively involved in the Massachusetts Chapter since 2003. The Club’s activities have given my work at the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School and my graduate studies in Environmental Policy greater meaning, and I hope to serve the Club with the same dedication that I have given to my roles as a student and a professional.
**Candidate Statements**

**MICHAEL DORSEY**—During grade school I moved from Missouri to the rural farmland of New Jersey. I was appalled by the transformation from a rural area to crowded suburban sprawl in four years. Now living in West Newbury, I see the same process moving through North Shore. For this reason I worked to reactivate the Essex County Group of the Sierra Club.

By profession I am in advertising. I believe this will be an asset. Environmentally speaking, I have been Chair of the Essex Group since its reactivation.

As a board member I hope we can bring in the disparate local environmental groups, citizen groups and recreational groups throughout Essex County together to preserve our heritage and precious wild spaces.

**DEBORAH A. LONGMAN-MARIEN**—As an educator, I have taught about life on this planet at many museums. I now teach the effects of manufacturing on the Merrimac River at a mill museum in NH. I taught about biodiversity at a major museum in Toronto. I also promoted recycling.

Essex County is a special place, rich in natural beauty, which I worry will be destroyed by development and pollution. I helped plan the rebirth of the Essex Group. I have served on the executive committee from the beginning. Currently, I am the group’s Treasurer. I hope to continue to serve on the Executive Committee of the Essex County Group of the Sierra Club to guarantee that residents continue to enjoy the diversity of fields, forests, shore and sea.

**DANIEL E. MARIEN, PH.D.**—I participated in the founding of the Essex Group in 2002 and served as its secretary almost continuously since its inception. I’ve been involved in organizing the Group’s Speaker’s Series and most of its other activities. I teach American and environmental politics at Salem State College and have a solid understanding of organizational, political, and environmental issues. I would like to have the opportunity, and the responsibility, to be elected for a second time to the Executive Committee of the Essex County Group of the Sierra Club. Thank you.

**KEVIN McCARTHY**—I have always been an advocate for protecting the environment and I believe I can be an effective ExCom Member for Essex County Group of the Sierra Club. I bring focus, energy and passion to ExCom and will work with other executive committee members to think creatively about the local issues, engage local members, recruit new members (and their energy) and reach out to like minded groups in the region, working on issues where we can have a greater voice speaking together.

**HEATHER McMANN**—I have 10 years experience in the non-profit sector and a passion for organic food, wildlife and open space. I hope to use my professional experience to support the Essex County Group of the Sierra Club in its work with the local community on such important issues as sustaining our waterways, increasing environmental activism, promoting alternative energy sources and supporting local, organic agriculture. Currently I am a volunteer with the Essex County Group and I want to further support the group by joining the Executive Committee.

**LAUREL MILLER**—We are currently working as a group with issues such as the LNG pipeline and off-shore platforms. This would negatively impact the Gloucester fishermen. Also, the majority of Gloucester residents are against the LNG pipeline.

In West Newbury there is a 1,400 foot log road on Ash St. that is under the protection of the Crane Pond Wildlife Management. We are concerned about the impact of a paved road through this protected area.

Essex County group has sponsored environment talks on Global warming and picnics with speakers on clean fuels and hybrid cars. We are volunteers who care about the planet we live on. Your vote will help me to continue our work in progress.

**RICHARD PETERS, MD, PHD**—As a healthcare professional, I am interested in protecting our environment because of the human health consequences of environmental changes. I believe that protection and preservation efforts begin at the local level and I wish to positively impact decision-makers in our area.

I am a member of the Sierra Club and have volunteered for the Essex County Group of the Club. I am also a member of the Trustees of Reservations.

My professional career is in the healthcare sector where I have held leadership positions at several companies and have held appointments at The Massachusetts Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

In my free time, I enjoy horseback riding and organic farming.

**HEIDI ROBERTS**—It has been a long and challenging process since we started up the Essex group 3 years ago, and I want to thank all of our volunteers who have helped us get established and have helped with our events like the speaker series, hybrid meet and annual picnic.

We are very fortunate that we have many concerned citizens and groups who are already active in Essex County with environmental issues. In order to be most effective in our shared goals, I would like to work together on renewable energy, keeping open spaces and in general keeping our part of the earth healthy for our grandchildren to enjoy.

I am asking for your vote, so that you and I may continue to work towards a healthy planet.
BALLOT
Massachusetts Chapter
Executive Committee Election

Vote for no more than four candidates.

☐ Don Carlson    ☐ Deborah Holt
☐ David Heimann  ☐ John Kyper

MAIL TO: Sierra Club Elections
100 Boylston Street, Suite 760 Boston MA 02116
Your membership number must appear on the outside of your envelope in order for your ballot to be valid.

Ballots must be received by 5:00 pm January 3, 2005 in order to be counted.

BALLOT
Greater Boston Group
Executive Committee Election

Vote for no more than three candidates.

☐ Don Carlson    ☐ Chris Hallgren
☐ Meg Thomsen

MAIL TO: Sierra Club Elections
100 Boylston Street, Suite 760 Boston MA 02116
Your membership number must appear on the outside of your envelope in order for your ballot to be valid.

Ballots must be received by 5:00 pm January 3, 2006 in order to be counted.

BALLOT
Essex County Group
Executive Committee Election

Vote for no more than four candidates
The four candidates receiving the most votes will serve two-year terms; the three next will serve one-year terms.

☐ Michael Dorsey    ☐ Deborah Longman-Marien
☐ Daniel Marien     ☐ Kevin McCarthy
☐ Heather McMann    ☐ Laurel Miller
☐ Richard Peters    ☐ Heidi Roberts

MAIL TO: Sierra Club Elections
100 Boylston Street, Suite 760 Boston MA 02116
Your membership number must appear on the outside of your envelope in order for your ballot to be valid.

Ballots must be received by 5:00 pm January 3, 2006 in order to be counted.
**Highlights of an Extraordinary Experience**

*by R Phillip Dowds*

On September 8th, following months of preparation, 11 delegates from the Massachusetts Chapter joined nearly 700 others in San Francisco for the Sierra Summit 2005 — a first-of-its-kind event for the Sierra Club.

In addition to the official delegates, the four day convention was attended by thousands of visitors, guests, professionals and Club staff from North America and beyond. Along with the customary exhibitors and break-out symposia, highlights included:

- A keynote presentation by Al Gore — whose arrival was a last-minute surprise when his prior engagement, a speech in New Orleans about climate risk management, was unexpectedly cancelled by Katrina;
- A varied fleet of high-efficiency hybrid cars, available for test drives;
- A report by sociologist Marshall Ganz of Harvard, who for more than a year has led a team investigating the dynamics of the Club’s institutional and volunteer culture; and
- The Sierra Showcase, where a hundred Chapters and Groups from around the country displayed and explained their various volunteer projects and conservation initiatives. The breadth, depth and commitment of these diverse activities were remarkable.

The focus of the Summit was a two-session participatory deliberation where delegates sought to develop priorities and a direction for Club efforts for the next five years. Building on preparatory work done at the Chapter level, delegates discussed alternatives as small groups, then operated handheld wireless devices, (“option-finders,” resembling a garage door remote control), for instantaneous real-time polling. Results of these polls, or “votes,” were aggregated immediately and used as input for continuing dialogue. Issues were grouped into conservation priorities, historical effectiveness, and implementation methods for reaching goals and influencing decision makers.

From all this evolved the top priority, “Building a New Energy Future.” This was especially gratifying for the Mass. delegation, which had come prepared to promote energy conservation and climate change as the most urgent challenges confronting both the Club and the world. Runner-up priorities were “Building Vibrant, Healthy Communities,” (interpreted as encompassing a local-action orientation), “Defending Federal Lands/Public Waters,” and “Protecting People and the Planet from Pollution.” In terms of effective methods, delegates favored seeking new allies and building creative coalitions, and influencing the voting public directly (in contrast to pestering environmentally tone-deaf public officials).

But was it “decision-making”? Probably not, at least not directly. Summit leaders indicated that the participation and polling information of the direction-setting sessions would be going back up to the National Board, which sets formal policy. From there, it will take time and effort to resolve divergences. For instance, will building coalitions really upstage litigation as one of our primary conservation tools? How will a national priority for energy reform work its way down to the volunteer group level, where many dedicated Club members have devoted their activist careers to protecting a particular forest or canyon?

We don’t know yet, but most of us returning from the Summit are inclined to agree with delegate Ken Langton (Grand Canyon Chapter, Arizona), when he said the direction-setting was “one of the Club’s finest hours — the most impressive display of democratic, large-scale, collective decision-making I have been involved in all my adult years in this country.”

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**Learning Who We Are**

*by Blossom Hoag*

One of the sessions at the Summit revealed the results of an extensive look at the Sierra Club’s membership conducted by Marshall Ganz of Harvard University. Just what is the Sierra Club? Why be a member? Ganz looked at all sixty-odd chapters, hundreds of groups and all the committees that make up the Sierra Club. He gathered information about Sierrans’ ethnicity, age range and interests. Your Club now has over 750,000 members with broad and diverse agendas. Nationwide, we work on many issues such as preserving the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, land preservation in Puerto Rico (our newest chapter), marine sanctuaries in Hawaii, and monitoring LNG, wind, and other energy proposals in Massachusetts.

There was a Priority Setting Process that met over three days to continue the selection of a major campaign that the Club will address over the next four to six years. The Massachusetts Chapter had reviewed several questionnaires that came from this process as had the Board of Directors, groups and other entities. The Summit was the time for an across-the-board representation of the membership — from new members to ones who had been active for over 50 years, from teenagers to members in their 80s and 90s. As reported by Philip Dowds, the Summit selected “Building a New Energy Future” as the most important priority. This was in agreement with the issue that the Massachusetts chapter had selected as its top issue.

You may go on the national Sierra Club’s web site, [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) to find out more about the process, the people involved and the outcomes.

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*Phil Dowds is a member of the Greater Boston Group and a practicing architect with a long involvement in local development issues.*

*Blossom Hoag attended the Sierra Summit in September. She has been active for years in the Chapter and the Greater Boston Group.*
A Long Strange Story:  
THE SILVER LINE

by John Kyper

The MBTA finally blinked. On August 17th, it responded to growing public outrage, and asked the Federal Transit Administration to remove Silver Line Phase III from its list of projects vying for federal funding.

For years the T has tried to convince Roxbury residents that running a slow, jerky bus through the congestion of Washington Street and calling it the “Silver Line” constitutes suitable replacement service for the old elevated Orange Line that once ran above the street. Phase II opened last winter from South Station and now provides bus service to the Airport. The T proposed to link the two legs of this “line” — Phase III — with a convoluted tunnel snaking through Chinatown — and a bus portal that nobody wants. The project would likely cost over a billion dollars and would not take people where they want to go, forcing them to make an awkward transfer to get anywhere else.

The Washington Street Corridor Coalition (WSCC) was formed in 1987 to link Washington Street to the Hynes Convention center. A little calculating shows there would be 74 buses per hour running through the Core Tunnel Segment between Silver Line Way and Boylston station! This is not a realistic scenario. Other evidence of poor planning includes the location of much of the tunnel in Bay Village, which is built on landfill, and no plan for dealing with water seepage into the tunnels. The T’s normal practice of pumping the water into the sewage system has badly aggravated existing problems with the area’s water tables, endangering many old buildings.

The anger boiled over at a pair of public hearings in late June, when a wide majority of attendees opposed the latest tunnel-and-portal scheme. Representatives from the hospitals, Chinatown, Bay Village and the Back Bay all condemned the plan and its undesirable impacts upon their neighborhoods. The Sierra Club joined the WSCC in supporting the “No Build” alternative. Faced with such massive opposition, the MBTA retreated and announced it would hold off on further

continued on page 14
Generating Your Own Energy
by Linda Raven

The spring 2005 issue of the Sierran had an excellent article discussing the various options Massachusetts residents now have for choosing renewable energy through their regular utility. Massachusetts homeowners also have several options for generating their own renewable electricity on-site. By installing a renewable energy system at your home, you can directly reduce both greenhouse gas emissions and your electric bill, as well as add to the value of your home. In some cases, you can guarantee yourself continuous power throughout power outages.

To make it more affordable to have a system installed, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) is now offering rebates of up to $50,000 for new renewable energy installations on any facility that is connected to an investor-owned utility. These facilities can include municipal buildings and schools; commercial, industrial or institutional facilities; and residential properties, including single-family homes. The renewable energy technologies eligible for rebates are micro-hydroelectric, solar photovoltaics and wind electric systems. The exact rebate amount varies depending on the technology installed, the size of the system and several other factors.

For more information, please visit the MTC on the web at: www.masstech.org/RenewableEnergy/small_renewables.htm

The site includes information on finding a qualified installer, determining the rebate amount for which you are eligible and all of the terms and conditions for the program.

Linda Raven is employed as a Sales Engineer at Beacon Power Corporation, a Wilmington, MA based manufacturer of solar power inverters. She is also passionate about reducing fossil fuel consumption worldwide.

Thank you to our 2005 Donors!

I'd like to say a special thank you to the 525 Sierra Club members who responded to our Annual March Appeal by donating over $20,400. Your chapter contributions provide critical support for the work we do to protect the environment here in Massachusetts!

Thank you!

Mary Ann Nelson,
Chapter Chair
Follow the Leaders:  
Our Neighbors are Cutting Emissions

by Blossom Hoag

When you receive this Sierran, government officials from all around the world will be meeting in Montreal, Canada to negotiate emissions reductions in response to the reality of global warming. It’s a meeting of the “Committee of the Parties” (COP) which developed the Kyoto Protocols; since it’s the eleventh meeting of this group, it’s called COP 11. While the Protocol is not “the answer” to the global warming problem, it is the first step. The United States has not only refused to sign this agreement, it threatened Russia and Canada with retaliation if they signed—which they have. This meeting was purposefully scheduled just across the border to give advocates for U.S. involvement a chance to call for action by the U.S. For background information, see the article by Elizabeth May in the Summer issue of the Sierran. For current information, or to get involved, contact the National Energy Committee chair, Stephen Crowley at scrow@sover.net. Watch the Chapter’s web site for upcoming local activities that will take place on December 3.

Blossom Hoag is a member of the Chapter’s Executive Committee, Chapter Energy Committee and Greater Boston Group Executive Committee.

The Silver Line  
(continued from page 12)

planning for Phase III until it could find a consensus over the proposed portal location. That’s not likely to happen.

The WSCC has long suspected that the T has no serious intention of connecting its tunnel to Washington Street, but is instead interested in building only its “Core Segment” from South Station to Boylston — which would sever the old streetcar tunnel that could provide rail service to Roxbury. Instead, the Club, the Coalition and other allies are calling for the MBTA to amend its application for federal funds to separate the two legs of the misbegotten “Silver Line.” We urge the MBTA to build them both as light rail links that would hook into the existing Green Line in a manner that would save many millions of dollars and make sense for real-world transit users, not a fictional ridership invented to justify federal funding.

John Kyper is chair of the Chapter’s Transportation Committee, and a longtime member of the Washington Street Corridor Coalition, which advocates for light rail service; he is also a regular user of the MBTA.

Charles River Ad

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Conscientious Holiday Shopping

by Kristine Zeigler

The holidays are here and shopping — more specifically, consuming — is on all our members’ minds. There is something that you can do to help your Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club while checking off your gift list. Here’s how:

• **Give a gift to the Massachusetts Chapter** in honor of a loved one. Simply write, “Tribute Gift” on the memo line of your check and tell us the name and address of the honoree. The chapter will send a handsome holiday card to you and your loved one. Suggested minimum: $25.00. *Use the enclosed envelope for speedy processing!*

• **Buy Sierra Club products** — sustainable, animal- and farmer-friendly teas and coffees, as well as beautiful wall and engagement calendars and more. Order your gifts from Karen Zeigler at (781) 395-3310 or send an e-mail to kzeiglermass@yahoo.com.

• **Give the gift of membership.** Introductory memberships begin at $25 and help preserve irreplaceable wildlands, save endangered and threatened wildlife, and protect the environment right here in Massachusetts. Receive a free expedition pack when you buy a gift membership. Buy online at: [https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/gift/](https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/gift/).

Karen Zeigler is a member of the Chapter’s Fundraising Committee.

The Mount Holyoke Range, seen from a Christmas tree farm in Hatfield.
GROUP & CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
December 4
Time: 11:00 – 3:30 PM
Place: Sierra Club Office
All members welcome and encouraged to attend.

GREATER BOSTON GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
December 13
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Sierra Club Office
Upcoming Meetings: January 10, February 14, March 14

ISSUE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CHAPTER POLITICAL COMMITTEE
December 14
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Sierra Club Office
Sierra members who wish to work on electoral and endorsement activities are most welcome! Contact Phillip Sego, Chair, for more information: phil@sierraclubmass.org
Upcoming meetings: January 11, February 8, March 8 at 6:30 PM

NORTH/SOUTH RAIL LINK COMMITTEE
January 17
Time: 7:00 PM
Place: Sierra Club Office
Help strategize to extend the Northeast Corridor national passenger rail service from South Station to North Station, New Hampshire, Maine and beyond. Contact Louise Lewis, Chair, for more information: 617-266-5890

ANNOUNCEMENT
Trail Maintenance Volunteers Sought
Help maintain the Middlesex Fells' Rock Circuit Trail, a 3.7-mile trail that the American Hiking Society has named one of the top-ten U.S. fitness trails. Contact Outings Chair Deborah Holt at holtjd@verizon.net for more information and to volunteer.

PARTIES

PIioneer valley group annual holiday party
December 11
Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Place: Alexandra Dawson, 2 West Street, Hadley MA
Potluck supper: bring some food to share and, if you want, some wine or beer to drink. It’s a great time to meet other Sierrans, to share a great meal, and to see some interesting slides of a trip. For more information, contact PVG Chair, Elisa Campbell (campbell@oit.umass.edu) or the hostess, Alexandra Dawson, (413) 586-5586

CHAPTER HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
December 14
Time: 4:30 PM – 7 PM
Place: Sierra Club Office

Boston inner city outings (ICO) fundraiser: brewfest
February 17, 2006
Place: Boston Beerworks
Time: 6 PM – 10 PM
See the Chapter’s web site for details.

www.sierraclubmass.org
for current information about events and announcements

MASSACHUSETTS

SierrAN

Reaching More Than 26,000
Sierra Club Members in Massachusetts

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