Minority Report

By Leslie Krinsk

(Editors note: The Marine Interest Group of San Luis Obispo County is an advisory body convened in January 2003 to assess coastal marine resources and recommend actions to sustain and enhance the viability of local marine wildlife and habitat. When the MIG Working Committee issued its one-year progress report, the Committee facilitator refused to include the statement at-large member Leslie Krinsk, who is also a member of the Conservation Committee of the Santa Lucia Chapter. This is the full text of her suppressed statement.)

I have been honored to be a member of the Marine Interest Group (MIG) Working Committee during the last year. Elected as a member-at-large, I sought to represent the interests of the people of San Luis Obispo County as a whole, and not any particular group. I believe that the American people literally hold in trust the marine life of our coastal waters and that it is our primary charge to conserve the environmental health and ecological integrity of the ocean as an inalienable right that trumps all others. We bestow the right—to extract marine resources for the common good or to use those resources for personal satisfaction. Overarching this use must be the responsibility to conserve the marine resources and recommend actions to sustain and enhance the viability of local marine wildlife and habitat. When the MIG Working Committee issued its one-year progress report, the Committee facilitator refused to include the statement at-large member Leslie Krinsk, who is also a member of the Conservation Committee of the Santa Lucia Chapter. This is the full text of her suppressed statement.)

I believe that the conservation perspective met with serious resistance from the consumptive users on the Committee, who perceive their use of ocean resources as an inalienable right that trumps the interests of the public. Members of the Committee were told point-blank that certain regulatory options, specifically the designation of our stretch of coast as a National Marine Sanctuary, would not be politically acceptable unless the fishermen went along with it. This view was held by even the most conservation-minded people who oversee our activities and who had connections to Washington—home of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is responsible for marine sanctuaries. This chilling announcement and the desire to reach some kind of consensus jeopardized the fundamental integrity of the process.

“No group ever volunteers to be regulated, and all point to lack of data as an excuse for delay.”

Gimme Shelter from the Storm

By Jim Patterson, Supervisor-elect, 3rd District

The words of both Mick Jagger and Bob Dylan expressing the basic human need for shelter ring truer today than they did when first sung. Undeniably, the lack of affordable housing is the single most critical local issue facing residents of San Luis Obispo County. The lack of affordable housing in the cities and county of San Luis Obispo is having adverse impacts that permeate all sectors of our society. Whether the issue is education, jobs and the economy, health services, public safety, preservation of open space and agricultural lands, transportation or keeping our loved ones close by; nothing goes untouched by this problem. If we are to create a community with character and diversity and maintain the quality of life we currently enjoy, then we must work collectively and aggressively to resolve the affordable housing crisis.

Educational opportunities are lost as schools struggle with budget deficits that are a direct result of declining enrollments. Teacher layoffs and program closures fall victim to budget cuts. Recruitment and retention of qualified personnel also affects the quality of education and is a significant factor in providing adequate health services and meeting the needs of business and industry. We hear repeatedly from the business and health care communities that prospective employees resist coming to the area because they cannot afford the price of housing. In many instances, qualified employees leave the area because they cannot afford to buy a home. Several businesses have moved away because of the lack of a trained workforce, a condition again attributed to the lack of affordable housing. Losing businesses is a trend...
“Every good thing, great and small, needs defense.” — John Muir

Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

CARRIZO PLAIN: WILDLIFE AND MORE

The Carrizo Plain is our Chapter’s only National Monument. Far from any urban center, it is a lovely, beautiful basin bounded by the Caliente Mountain range on the west and the Tembor range on the east along the San Andreas fault. Within its boundaries is a rich variety of animals and plants from Soda Dry Lake to the top of Caliente Mountain. Come see pictures of this wildlife, particularly the photographs of graceful pronghorn antelope by researcher Alice Koch. The Bureau of Land Management is completing their Resource Management Plan for the Monument, and a member of the staff will present the plan and answer questions. Pat Yevesart will also help us understand the complexities of the plan.

This will be a great meeting to learn about “our Monument.” Sierra Club members and the general public are invited to this interesting and informative meeting. Bring your friends. Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, July 20, 7:00 p.m.  Meadow Park Rec Center  San Luis Obispo

Save the date!!

Speaking Up for Carrizo

by Sarah Christie

On Saturday, May 22, the Carrizo Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) held a public meeting at the historic Washburn Ranch to discuss various proposed alternatives for protecting natural resources, Native American cultural sites, and public access on the 250,000-acre Carrizo Plain National Monument. The Committee is charged with making recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management about how to proceed in updating the Resource Management Plan (RMP) to reflect the Clinton administration’s designation of the area as a National Monument. The Monument is home to the highest concentration of Threatened and Endangered species in California and the RMP is the plan that will guide the BLM’s management decisions in the years to come.

More than a dozen concerned citizens from the county and beyond attended the meeting and participated in a lively and well-informed discussion about Carrizo’s future. The RAC took several decisive actions that reflected their commitment to protecting the Monument. After lengthy consideration and an impassioned and articulate presentation from Native American Representative Michael Khus, the RAC voted to recommend closing the sacred Painted Rock site to the public, except for guided tours, until the BLM hires adequate numbers of staff to patrol the area. Vandals at Painted Rock have greatly diminished since the BLM took over management, but still remains a concern.

The RAC also funded an attempt by BLM staff to water down efforts to better control grazing on the monument. Of the four alternatives ranging from status quo to total prohibition on grazing, they had previously favored “Alternative 3” as the “preferred alternative.” This alternative would convert the traditional grazing leases, which have led to extensive over-grazing and erosion, to “free use” permits which would be managed by biologists to benefit native plants and animals. Selecting Alternative 3 would mean that, in the future, all grazing on the monument would be managed for biological purposes.

But at the meeting, BLM staff made a new proposal, Alternative 3a, which would make the conversion voluntary. This would have resulted in no change in current status, and was essentially worthless. The public unanimously supported Alternative 3, as did the Department of Fish and Game. “The benefits of this proposal are illusory,” said RAC member Bob Binniwies. “We have endorsed Alternative 3 before and I don’t see any reason why we would consider changing that.” Nobody else did, either.

The Bakersfield Field Office has a new manager, Ron Huntsinger, who appeared to be unhappy with the recommendations of the RAC. He attempted to justify the 3a proposal by saying that BLM attorneys have questioned whether or not the agency has the authority to convert grazing leases from one type to another. If the BLM ultimately takes this as an official position, it will likely face a legal challenge by environmental groups.

The Sierra Club does not support any grazing on public lands in areas of low rainfall. However, Alternative 3a may be consistent with this position, as it allows the monument managers the flexibility to make grazing decisions based on changing biological conditions. Several threatened and endangered species in the area like burrowing owls, kit foxes, blunt-nosed leopard lizards, mountain plovers, and giant kangaroo rats are dependent on bare ground or low vegetation for their survival. The proliferation of non-native plants in wet years poses a real threat to these species since their habitats have been significantly reduced. Grazing is a tool used to keep non-native plants under control.

The RAC also held strong on the question of road closures and protecting wilderness values on the Monument. These recommendations will be conveyed to a group of BLM staff from Washington DC who are coming out to visit the Monument. After that visit, BLM will release the Public Review Draft of the RMP. It will be up to the State Director to decide which alternatives are identified as the preferred alternatives in the document. To request a copy of the Draft RMP, call Monument Manager Marlene Braun at (661) 391-6119.
Sierra Club’s Grapes Are Just Fine, Thanks

by Tarren Collins, Chapter Chair

Though it has been a favorite trope of local op-ed writers, it is time to lay to rest the oft-repeated “sour grapes” charge leveled at the Sierra Club over our supposedly having been passed over for participation in the negotiation of a conservation deal on the Hearst Ranch. The Sierra Club is not a land trust. We never had any expectation of negotiating a deal with the owners of this land nor have we sought to do so. That’s not what we do. Rather, we work to get the best deal we can for the public and the environment when such deals are proposed or negotiated.

The Sierra Club’s position on the conservation of the Hearst Ranch, like all our policies, was arrived at via the democratic process, which means a majority vote of our membership or their elected representatives. Every one of our members doesn’t always agree with every position we take, but the vast majority of Sierra Club members at every level - local, state and national - wholeheartedly support the position we have taken on Hearst Ranch. Tim O’Keefe, author of the latest “sour grapes” broadside to erupt from the Tribune, is, like any other Sierra Club member, entitled to his opinions. But it is not appropriate for anyone to cite their Sierra Club membership in an attempt to undermine specific positions, policies, and work of the Sierra Club. This is especially true of somebody in a leadership position in the Club.

For the record, our position on this important issue is that:

A transparent, meaningful public process should occur prior to closure of the proposed Hearst Ranch conservation deal;

there should be ongoing public involvement in, oversight of, and enforcement of the terms of the conservation easement;

those terms should state in clear language that the purchase agreement and easement do not imply development potential or entitlements;

the easement language should specifically prohibit intensified agricultural use and future subdivision of the ranch, and require rezing of lands planned for intensive commercial development back to Open Space on the west side of Highway One, and back to Agriculture on the east side;

private beaches should be prohibited;

public access to the historic Mission San Antonio trail and to Port Hunter Liggett should be preserved.

We believe these are the kinds of terms that should be included in a $86-million deal that will consume a large chunk of the public’s money and set the precedent that A transparent, meaningful public process should occur prior to closure of the proposed Hearst Ranch conservation deal.

the easement language should specifically prohibit intensified agricultural use and future subdivision of the ranch, and require rezing of lands planned for intensive commercial development back to Open Space on the west side of Highway One, and back to Agriculture on the east side;

private beaches should be prohibited;

public access to the historic Mission San Antonio trail and to Port Hunter Liggett should be preserved.

We believe these are the kinds of terms that should be included in a $86-million deal that will consume a large chunk of the public’s money and set the bar for land conservation nationwide for decades to come. On behalf of the public interest and in support of our mission — to explore, enjoy and protect the planet — we will continue to work for a good deal for the public and the environment.

First GreenEarth Festival a Hit in SLO

1400 turn out for celebration of sustainability and activism

The June 5 debut of the GreenEarth Festival brought out over a thousand attendees who took advantage of workshops and network opportunities with activists and local businesses promoting environmentally sustainable practices. Kudos to Lucinda Nichols of GreenEarth Promotions and Bob Banner’s HopeDance Media for putting it together.

The theme of the day was summed up by event keynote speaker Kevin Danaher, co-founder of Global Exchange. “Every natural system on the planet is in a state of collapse, but it’s easy to say ‘everything sucks’,” said Danaher. “We are spending too much time talking about Them and not enough time talking about Us. We have all the components of sustainability, everything we need to make it happen right now. We’ve got to stop spending all our energy critiquing a sinking ship, build our own ship, pull up alongside, and I guarantee you people will jump off that sinking ship and onto ours without our having to say anything. "The social justice and environmental movements are coming together. And that’s what’s got to happen. We’ve got to get together and make a movement: otherwise, we’re nowhere."

Nominating Committee: Call for Members

Chapter elections will be held this fall. We are seeking volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee, which will draft candidates to run for the chapter Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee will meet by e-mail and telephone through mid-September. Nominating Committee duties include naming a slate of nominees and preparing their biographies for the ballot. We also have available seats on the Election Committee, which runs the election. This can be a one-time commitment. Committee members will be appointed by Chapter Chair Tarren Collins and approved by the Executive Committee.

Members interested in serving on either the Nominating or Election Committee should contact Chapter Coordinator Andrew Christie, santa.lucia.chapter@sierrclub.org, 543-8717, or Nominating Committee Chair Letty French, LMrrench@tcsn.net, 805-239-7338.
Minority Report

and its goal of maximizing marine ecosystem protection. Despite the fact that poll after poll shows that Californians want more, not less, environmental protection, the politics of compromise and accommodation inevitably led to a lowest-common-denominator outcome. Our accomplishments were essentially without merit, but far weaker than the shared hopes and goals of the Committee, as set forth in the majority report and on the MIG website, would logically have yielded.

Thus in conforming the extractive users and keeping them at the table diverted our attention from the need to act protectively and proactively on behalf of all our citizens, now and in the future. The committee’s strategic compromise minimization of our charge and compromising both the principles we set as a beacon and the basic goals we wanted to achieve. In accepting the crumbs of compromise, as Coastal Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas has called the outcome of a politics of achieve. In accepting the crumbs of compromise, as Coastal Commission

The fisheries told us there were plenty of fish for everyone and that fishing regulations imposed by both state and federal fishery agencies were extreme, unsupported by science, and excessively burdensome. I cannot believe that we

logically have yielded. The plethora of data collected from oceans worldwide that show a general decline in the health and diversity of our oceans was dismissed by the committee as not relevant to our slice of paradise. How arrogant!

On May 25th, a bare majority of our County Board of Supervisors voted to move toward a County Plan Amendment allowing commercial motorcyle and other off-

road vehicle racing as a permitted use in agriculturally zoned land in the unincorporated area. The issue will come back to the Board during or after September, after a newly-formed committee of “stakeholders” develops recommendations.

It is already legal for farmers and ranchers and informally invited guests to use ORV’s to traverse their agricultural holdings. However, the demand for open space racing where ORV’s can stage and practice for large “events” is growing. McMillan, who runs cattle in Gills Canyon east of Shandon, testified that when such an “event” occurred near his property, his cattle stayed back in the hills and refused to come down to water. Since vineyardists and strawberry growers are unlikely to allow their planted acreage to be torn up, it is our county’s rangeland, which accounts for much of our wildlife habitat, that would bear the brunt of this policy change. The county is under active consideration. We should not forego the opportunity.

“THE POLITICS OF COMPROMISE AND ACCOMMODATION INEVITABLY LED TO A LOWEST-COMMON-DENOMINATOR OUTCOME”

by Eric Greening

On May 25th, a bare majority of our County Board of Supervisors voted to move toward a County Plan Amendment allowing commercial motorcyle and other off-

road vehicle racing as a permitted use in agriculturally zoned land in the unincorporated area. The issue will come back to the Board during or after September, after a newly-formed committee of “stakeholders” develops recommendations.

It is already legal for farmers and ranchers and informally invited guests to use ORV’s to traverse their agricultural holdings. However, the demand for open space racing where ORV’s can stage and practice for large “events” is growing. McMillan, who runs cattle in Gills Canyon east of Shandon, testified that when such an “event” occurred near his property, his cattle stayed back in the hills and refused to come down to water. Since vineyardists and strawberry growers are unlikely to allow their planted acreage to be torn up, it is our county’s rangeland, which accounts for much of our wildlife habitat, that would bear the brunt of this policy change. The county is under active consideration. We should not forego the opportunity.

Motocrops?

by Eric Greening

On May 25th, a bare majority of our County Board of Supervisors voted to move toward a County Plan Amendment allowing commercial motorcyle and other off-

road vehicle racing as a permitted use in agriculturally zoned land in the unincorporated area. The issue will come back to the Board during or after September, after a newly-formed committee of “stakeholders” develops recommendations.

It is already legal for farmers and ranchers and informally invited guests to use ORV’s to traverse their agricultural holdings. However, the demand for open space racing where ORV’s can stage and practice for large “events” is growing. McMillan, who runs cattle in Gills Canyon east of Shandon, testified that when such an “event” occurred near his property, his cattle stayed back in the hills and refused to come down to water. Since vineyardists and strawberry growers are unlikely to allow their planted acreage to be torn up, it is our county’s rangeland, which accounts for much of our wildlife habitat, that would bear the brunt of this policy change. The county is under active consideration. We should not forego the opportunity.

Motocrops?

by Eric Greening
Shelter
continued from page 1

we must reverse if we are to maintain a viable local economy.

The housing affordability crisis did not occur overnight nor is it unique to San Luis Obispo County. Many communities have been grappling with this issue for years with varying degrees of success. There is no single, simple solution. Some have suggested that market forces alone will solve the problem. I am convinced that market forces will not resolve but only exacerbate the problem. Community residents, public officials and the building industry must work cooperatively to find creative solutions to this growing problem.

There are a number of reasons given for the lack of new affordable housing. Most common among them are the high cost of land, lack of appropriately zoned land, an arduous and time-consuming permitting process, environmental regulations, adverse public opinion about increased density and high demand for more profitably larger single-family homes. There are many tools available to address these issues, and the county and several cities have begun to implement some them.

Perhaps the most widely used program to date is the inclusionary housing ordinance. Programs of this type, while varying in detail, give builders incentives to build affordable units. The incentives often include permit streamlining, fee reductions or waivers, density bonuses and exemptions from the growth cap. To maximize the effectiveness of these programs, cities have made them mandatory for all residential developments of a certain size. Other criteria to improve the effectiveness of inclusionary housing programs include the assessment of in lieu fees when the units are not constructed, the construction of units off site, donation of land by the developer for affordable housing, deed restrictions to insure the long-term affordability of the units and requiring that preference is given to buyers that work or live in the area. Following is a list of several additional programs being used by various jurisdictions to promote the construction of affordable housing.

• Increased density. More units per area bring the cost of construction down as the land and infrastructure costs are spread among more units.
• Affordability by design. Building smaller units that are appealing to single professionals, young families, first-time homebuyers and seniors looking to downsize.
• Reduced development fees and permit streamlining. Helps reduce development costs and gets the units built more quickly.
• Allow for mixed use in areas not previously zoned for residential development. A common example is putting apartments over retail stores and offices.
• Seek state and federal grants to help defray the cost of infrastructure and development and impact fees.
• Seek state and federal grants and loans to assist builders and homeowners with financing and purchase costs.
• Support community-based non-profits and other agencies that advocate for and provide low cost housing. Examples include People's Self-Help Housing and the Housing Trust Fund.
• Encourage institutions such as Cal Poly and Cuesta College to develop housing for their students and staff.
• Have commercial development help financially or otherwise with the costs of developing affordable housing.
• Exempt affordable housing from growth caps.

The variety and number of options available to address the affordable housing crisis is limited only by our imagination. We can use this opportunity in a positive way to shape the future of San Luis Obispo County. To succeed, we must engage in the process that leads to the decisions on how we will grow, who can live here and where they will live. Building livable communities that integrate the needs of society with those of the environment is our challenge. The future will measure our success.

New Zealand’s Wild Places

December 9-23, 2004: Join the Palos Verdes - South Bay group on an unforgettable Sierra Club journey to premier hiking destinations in New Zealand’s North and South Islands during the summer season “down under.” Experience lush native rain forests, dramatic volcanic formations, emerald lakes, snow capped mountains and glacial formations. The trip leader lived in New Zealand for 10 years and has extensive hiking experience there. You can choose short hikes (2-4 miles) or longer hikes (6-12 miles) during the trip. You may arrange optional activities on your own, such as visiting museums and galleries, kayaking, trout fishing and jet boating. Depending on exchange rates, trip price is about $3,300. Includes: round-trip airfare from LAX; motels w/bath (double occupancy); some meals; all transport within NZ; and group bikes. Refunds require a 60-day cancellation policy. To reserve a place on the trip, send 2 SASES and a $250 check made out to PVSB to Robert Baldwin, 7500 Wystone Ave. Reseda, CA 91335. Ldr: Robert Baldwin
rbaldwin@unex.ucla.edu. (Contact leaders for an itinerary and for more information about an optional trip extension to Australia.)

Housing Element Update

by Jan Marx

Due to the hard work and testimony of the Housing Committee of the Santa Lucia Chapter in collaboration with ECOSLO and Residents for Quality Neighborhoods (RQN), the San Luis Obispo City Council has revised the draft Housing Element, removing many harmful policies promoted by the building industry.

The draft actually would have resulted in fewer affordable housing units built, and limited the time those units would have remained affordable. It would have eliminated inclusionary housing in-lieu fees for residential and commercial projects. It would have exempted “moderate income housing (almost all the housing built in the city) from the 1% growth cap and exempted such housing from impact and in-lieu fees as well. It would have subjected existing neighborhoods to “retroactive rezoning,” producing crowded conditions with no improvements to the infrastructure. It would have made numerous unspecified changes to the general plan, including ending the crucial policy that “development must pay for itself.

The City Council wisely decided not to undermine the City’s longstanding growth management policies, and, to a large extent, heeded the Sierra Club’s advice. The final version of the Housing Element maintains most of the policies promoting affordable housing, making development pay for itself, protecting the neighborhoods and preserving the environmental protections of the City’s General Plan.

The Housing Committee, comprised of Jan Marx, Carla Saunders and Richard Schmidt, has disbanded. Its work is done, until the Housing Element is revised again in another five years.
Lobbyist for a Day

by Andrew Christie

Want to be a lobbyist? (Don’t answer yet!)

Here’s all you have to do:

Step one: Plydrive to our fair state’s seat of government — or more precisely, the offices of Sierra Club California, about four blocks east.

Step two: Spend a Sunday afternoon getting a briefing on pending legislation, Sierra Club California’s State Legislative Director, Bill Allayaoud, and Senior Legislative Representative, Bill Magavern, will tell you how the system really works and how to work within that system. You will also hear from other SCC staff about the bills we’re backing and about how the day will go.

Step three: Spend the evening going over the details of the Senate or Assembly bill you’ve chosen to champion.

Step four: Hit the ground running with your designated group on Monday morning and spend the day hustling support from senators and assembly members — or their legislative staff and secretaries (You are not expected to pay for the pleasure: You are reimbursed for the cost of travel, meals, and lodging.)

Somebody’s gotta do it. Specifically, the Sierra Club’s gotta do it because the guys in the $1000 suits with unlimited expense accounts are doing it all day, every day, on behalf of legislation we very much want to go away and in opposition to legislation that we and all other fans of forests, wildlife, wetlands, open space and clean air and water very much want to pass into law.

And the staff charged with this task needs all the help they can get. Hence: Spring Lobby Day 2004 at Sierra Club California. On Sunday, May 16, about twenty Club members from eight chapters — Lobby Day veterans and newbies — reported for duty at Sierra Club California’s Sacramento offices. And we’re glad we did!

TAKE ACTION

- Sierra Club’s next Sacramento Lobby Day is Monday, August 9, with training on the Sunday before. Contact Legislative Aide Marianne Batchelder at batchelder@sierraclub-sac.org

- Join Sierra Club California’s Legislative Action Network http://cal-legalert.sierraclubaction.org

You, too, can be a Sacramento Insider! Get up-to-the-minute Action Alerts on pending legislation and breaking news from the State Capitol.

- Meanwhile, your state legislators spend every Friday in their home district. Call to make an appointment. Then call Sierra Club California for talking points. In politics as in life, no form of contact beats the live, in-person kind.

The Sierra Club California Convention was held the weekend of June 5-6. Every California Chapter financially supports the legislative work of our Sacramento office through the direction of the Sierra Club California Executive Committee.

At the forum to introduce the candidates for Sierra Club California Executive Committee and Chair (left to right): Alan Carlton, Margaret Pennington, Judy Anderson, John Wilks, Richard Miller, Andy Sawyer (standing); Richard Miller (standing), Michelle Perrault, Gayle Eads, Steve Bloom and Michael Anderson.

Congratulations to winning candidates Alan Carlton (Chair), Judy Anderson, Steve Bloom, Michelle Perrault, Richard Miller and Andy Sawyer.

The ExComm will meet on October 3, 2004, after the California-Nevada Regional Conservation Commission meeting in San Luis Obispo at Rancho El Chorro.
Last Chance for California Forests

Your comments due August 11

by Dave Chipping, Conservation Director, California Native Plant Society

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the management of the four National Forests in Southern California – Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino, and Cleveland – is open to public comment until August 11. It is absolutely critical that everyone comment on these plans, as the Forest Service has selected a “preferred alternative” for the Los Padres, San Bernardino and Angeles forests that is absolutely the very worst as far as the protection of the environment is concerned.

Of the six potential plans, the Sierra Club-backed option is Alternative 6. The preferred Alternative 4 of the Forest Service “emphasizes recreation” and “includes the most backcountry motorized areas” of all the alternatives. One has to dig into the tables at the end of the DEIS to uncover the effects, as there is no qualitative comparison of the actual impacts to species in the text.

Out of a total 197 animal species, Alternative 4 is assessed as a threat to 89 species, or 40% of all listed species. Under Alternative 6, five species are potentially impacted. In a threat assessment of impacts to plant species of conservation concern, the Alternative 4 versus Alternative 6 score is 136 to 0.

A convenient way to make comments is to visit the Southern California Forests Campaign web site at http://www.sierracul.org/casocalforests. Everything you need to make effective comments will be provided, including background materials and key points to make. Click on “comments” to email written comments directly to the Forest Service from the web site. It should take less than 5 minutes.

By taking a few minutes now, you will influence plans that will guide the future of the forests for 15-20 years.

Contact John Monsen at john.monsen@sierraclub.org or 213-387-6528 x203 if you have any questions or need assistance with comments.

A Beautiful Day on Morro Bay

by Jack Beigle

This has been the windiest spring that I can remember. The weatherman forecast a calm day but fifteen minutes before launch time the wind picked up from the northwest. This was about two hours earlier than we expected. We changed our float plan and paddled into the wind across the estuary. We found a spot for lunch in the lee of a large sand dune. Out of the wind, it was warm and cozy. After a good picnic lunch and good conversation several paddlers suggested that we all recline on the dune and soak up the wonderful sunshine. It was warmer than the average summer day in Morro Bay.

A paddler mentioned that she had seen a colony of living sand dollars in a cove just north of our lunch spot. After a good picnic lunch and good conversation several paddlers suggested that we all recline on the dune and soak up the wonderful sunshine. It was warmer than the average summer day in Morro Bay.

PADDLER'S CORNER

This has been the windiest spring that I can remember. The weatherman forecast a calm day but fifteen minutes before launch time the wind picked up from the northwest. This was about two hours earlier than we expected. We changed our float plan and paddled into the wind across the estuary. We found a spot for lunch in the lee of a large sand dune. Out of the wind, it was warm and cozy. After a good picnic lunch and good conversation several paddlers suggested that we all recline on the dune and soak up this wonderful sunshine. It was warmer than the average summer day in Morro Bay.

A paddler mentioned that she had seen a colony of living sand dollars in a cove just north of our lunch spot. We all launched our boats and headed for the sand dollars. We found them by looking along the shoreline. This has been the windiest spring that I can remember. The weatherman forecast a calm day but fifteen minutes before launch time the wind picked up from the northwest. This was about two hours earlier than we expected. We changed our float plan and paddled into the wind across the estuary. We found a spot for lunch in the lee of a large sand dune. Out of the wind, it was warm and cozy. After a good picnic lunch and good conversation several paddlers suggested that we all recline on the dune and soak up this wonderful sunshine. It was warmer than the average summer day in Morro Bay.

A paddler mentioned that she had seen a colony of living sand dollars in a cove just north of our lunch spot. We all launched our boats and headed for the sand dollars. We found them by looking along the shoreline. This has been the windiest spring that I can remember. The weatherman forecast a calm day but fifteen minutes before launch time the wind picked up from the northwest. This was about two hours earlier than we expected. We changed our float plan and paddled into the wind across the estuary. We found a spot for lunch in the lee of a large sand dune. Out of the wind, it was warm and cozy. After a good picnic lunch and good conversation several paddlers suggested that we all recline on the dune and soak up this wonderful sunshine. It was warmer than the average summer day in Morro Bay.

A paddler mentioned that she had seen a colony of living sand dollars in a cove just north of our lunch spot. We all launched our boats and headed for the sand dollars. We found them by looking along the shoreline. This has been the windiest spring that I can remember. The weatherman forecast a calm day but fifteen minutes before launch time the wind picked up from the northwest. This was about two hours earlier than we expected. We changed our float plan and paddled into the wind across the estuary. We found a spot for lunch in the lee of a large sand dune. Out of the wind, it was warm and cozy. After a good picnic lunch and good conversation several paddlers suggested that we all recline on the dune and soak up this wonderful sunshine. It was warmer than the average summer day in Morro Bay.

A paddler mentioned that she had seen a colony of living sand dollars in a cove just north of our lunch spot. We all launched our boats and headed for the sand dollars. We found them by looking along the shoreline. This has been the windiest spring that I can remember. The weatherman forecast a calm day but fifteen minutes before launch time the wind picked up from the northwest. This was about two hours earlier than we expected. We changed our float plan and paddled into the wind across the estuary. We found a spot for lunch in the lee of a large sand dune. Out of the wind, it was warm and cozy. After a good picnic lunch and good conversation several paddlers suggested that we all recline on the dune and soak up this wonderful sunshine. It was warmer than the average summer day in Morro Bay.
The Club’s California Solar Project Coming Soon

by Carl Zichella and Woody Hastings

The Sierra Club’s “California Solar Project” (CSP) is coming to the Santa Lucia Chapter. If you’ve ever considered installing a solar power system on your home or building, now is the time to check. California currently offers rebate and tax incentives that make installing a system economical, and the Club has partnered with labor unions to offer high-quality, union-built systems to Club members. The CSP will assist you in obtaining these rebates and with other aspects of installing a solar power system.

The CSP is a combined effort of the Sierra Club, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Service Employees International Union, and the Union of Needletrades, Industrial & Textile Employees (UNITE!). It’s a blue-green alliance that was initiated in the spring of 2002 when a strong coalition of labor and environmental leaders came together to take action against global warming in a way that creates good jobs. Its mission is to increase and expand union representation in the solar industry by installing solar power systems on labor-union-owned buildings and member homes.

Why is the Club involved? For starters, every kilowatt of solar electrical power produced displaces between 2 to 3 lbs of CO2 from the atmosphere when displacing coal-fired power, according to the Department of Energy, and coal accounts for 52% of U.S. energy production. In addition, on the employment front, for every megawatt of solar power installed, about 35 full-time jobs are created for a full year according to the Renewable Energy Policy Project. Sierra Club members, as early adopters of this technology, help on both of these fronts by advancing the viability of the solar photovoltaic market.

Why go solar? Although solar power for home applications has been around for over thirty years, cost has kept it largely something used for folks who live outside of urban power grids, where there is no choice. State law passed in the late 1980s established incentives for solar and allows homeowners to legally tie into the grid, turning the utility into a huge “battery” for the solar home, where the homeowner/producer “sells” the power produced during the day back to the utility. These programs have increased the number of systems installed in urban and suburban areas, but even so, when you ride your bike around your neighborhood, you don’t see panels on every roof, or even every tenth one.

In many suburban areas, but even so, when you ride your bike around your neighborhood, you don’t see panels on every roof, or even every tenth one. Solar is a wise investment that will ultimately save you thousands of dollars in energy costs.

The CSP’s operations partner, the National Photovoltaic Construction Partnership (NPCP), the CSP optimizes the power of bulk purchasing from one of the best manufacturers in the business, BEBW-organized Sharp Solar, and offers bridge financing via Amalgamated Bank to minimize out of pocket up front costs, and long-term low-interest financing for the balance. NPCP was founded in 2002 to help facilitate solar electric construction nationally. All of the CSP’s installations are performed by BEBW workers, which ensures the highest possible construction standards, offer quality workshops by a highly trained and skilled workforce that gets the job done right the first time, which is important.

Please check with the Chapter office for upcoming presentation dates on the California Solar Project. This will be your opportunity to learn the details of what the CSP has to offer, and to schedule a site visit to determine your solar potential. We hope that you are able to attend and urge you to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the California Solar Project.

If you just can’t wait for the presentation, or if you know of a Sierra Club event at which the California Solar Project should have a presence, please contact Woody Hastings, CSP Project Director, at 415-681-1110, or e-mail: whastings@californiasolarproject.org

A Beautiful Place to Live: For People and Birds

by Letty French

Lush meadows with grazing cattle next to green cottonwood riparian areas cover the floor of the South Fork of the Kern River upstream from Lake Isabella. Our CNRCC outing visited Audubon’s Kern River Preserve both to find birds and to find out about the conservation activities happening in this idyllic valley. A classic dichotomy exists here between residents desire for peace, quiet, a natural surrounding and a continuation of their rural lifestyle; and their interest in having a local Wal-Mart. Leadership towards land planning comes from the Audubon folks and local government. Additionally, valuable habitat is quietly being acquired by cooperation with many groups, like the Ca Dept of Fish and Game. While walking the fields at sunrise we were excited by the site of a large land purchase from the flat meadow far up a north running canyon. A potential exists for the purchase of the Ovmx Ranch which stretches in a checkerboard fashion 130 or more miles south to Butterbretch Spring. As habitat, this land is invaluable. Migratory birds are funneled up past the Spring, a rare water source in the desert environment and then into the food-rich flood plain of the S. Fork Kern.

I know it’s a flood plain after seeing it in flood. A couple of Novembers ago, we visited directly after a storm. The river had surged out of its banks, flooding roads and shaking bridges that were underwater. The Kern River Preserve had a foot of water covering the nature centers stilted. Excellent for the cottonwoods, which need flood, waters to help germinate new little cottonwoods. After our morning’s walk, and enjoying sightings of many birds, we traveled south down the Kelso Valley Road, then drove up dirt roads into the Jeffrey pine forest of the Mt. Piute area. Camp was an open forest area near French Meadow. By now a chill wind whipped through the trees. We drove, then hiked the last mile to Inspiration Point and looked out on proposed wilderness areas with Lake Isabella in the far distance.

Jenne Fontaine, former chair of the Sierra Nevada EcoRegion, pointed out the various wilderness proposals: Kern River, Domeland additions, Brightstar additions. These southern Sierra are wild, steep mountains, certainly deserving of wilderness designation. They are threatened by logging, as evidenced by traces of old logging roads all over the place; and Off Highway Vehicles, as both 4x4s and motorcycles roared noisily past on the road (in this case). Both mountain residents and visitors primarily from Jawbone Canyon enjoy this area, to the consternation of other visitors and the Forest Service. These proposed wilderness areas will require a lot of support to become wilderness; Joe is working very hard with Kern County supervisors and everyone to reach this goal. We stopped by an old mine and investigated several pieces of equipment, speculating on how they functioned. Private land and fences dot this non-wilderness area where we camped.

Early the next morning we traveled farther south to Butterbretch Spring. Cold wind became a warm breeze and we enjoyed the sunshine. Multitudes of birds flew through the cottonwoods and willows including all kinds of flycatchers. We had a wonderful look at 3 great horned owl juveniles lined up on a branch watching us. Another thrill was a good look at a rosy boa.

Sadly, after lunch it was time to leave. We continued south down into Jawbone Canyon, a State Off-road Vehicle Site. The hillsides are channeled with trails in all directions. It is a devastated area. Many groups were camped in the canyon bottom with their wheeled weapons of destruction. We continued to Highway 14 as fast as possible.

We had traveled the distance from a threatened valley with wonderful biological resources to high mo, a rare water source possibilities to dry desert motorized recreation. Hopefully, there can be places for people to recreate without the destruction of nature.

For more information about the Kern River Preserve and its many activities, go to the Audubon-California’s website at www.kernriverpreserve.org

To get involved with the wilderness campaign, become a member of the California Wilderness Campaign, Wilderness Council, Wildland Council, Wilderness Society. Call 559-226-2570. Outings leaders are needed; we need to get lots of people to visit these areas and understand the value of wilderness. Letters to Senator Feinstein and your local representative are also valuable.
Classifieds

Classified ads are $10 and are limited to 20 words. They are due by the first week of the month of publication (next deadline is August 1, 2004). Please submit your ad and payment to:

Mariko Fujinaka
1418 Vine St.
Paso Robles, CA 93446
mariko1@pacbell.net

Local Government Meetings

City of SLO: 1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00
Arroyo Grande: 2nd & 4th Tues., 7:00 pm
Atascadero: 2nd & 4th Tues.
Grover Beach: 1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 pm
GB Planning Commission: 2nd Tues.
Morro Bay: 2nd & 4th Mon.
Paso Robles: 1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00
Pismo Beach: 1st Tues. 5:30 pm
Los Osos CSD: BOD - 1st Thurs.
& 2nd Mon., may vary
California Coastal Commission: 3rd Tues., may vary.
SLO County Board of Supervisors: every Tues.
SLO Council of Governments: SLOGOC Citizens Advisory Committee: 1st Wed. every other month, 6:00 pm
SLOGOC Board: 1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 am
Fee-Demo: The Malady Lingers On

by Scott Silver

Authorized in 1996 as a rider to the Interior Appropriations Bill, the Recreation Fee Demonstration program was to have been a three-year test. Seven years and many extensions later, fee-demo still fester, threatening public lands and wild places with a sepsis Ed Abbey called “Industrial Tourism” and “Wreckreation.”

The good news is, this issue may be resolved before the end of the year. The bad news, it may not be resolved to your liking. For better or worse, fee-demo is in political play with legislators hoping to resolve this issue before they adjourn. Toward this goal, Congress has recently held three fee-demo hearings. The Senate has already passed legislation that would make recreation fees permanent for the National Park Service only (S.1107) while a more wide-ranging and much more harmful bill (H.R.3285), received minimal support in the House.

Meanwhile, the Bush Administration is applying maximum pressure to ensure that permanent interagency fee authority is granted to six federal agencies. Likewise, the recreation industry, lead by the American Recreation Coalition, is pressuring Congress to authorize an entirely new ‘Phase Two’ demonstration program: a program of 6-year duration intended to maximally commercialize, privatize and motorize the Great Outdoors.

To complicate the situation, several powerful Western legislators have emerged in strong opposition to charging basic access fees for use of the public lands while several Eastern legislators are lobbying for enhanced fee authority to support ever more Disneyfied outdoor recreation and tourism.

Some legislators are concerned that fee-demo discriminates against low-income persons and creates a barrier separating the public from their lands. Others look favorably upon the possibility of selling recreation products as an alternative to resource extraction. Some are eager to see fee-demo bring about increased recreational development and public-private partnerships. Others are insisting upon solid guarantees that fee-demo will not be used to perpetuate the “build it and they will come” attitude which pervades the land management agencies.

The motorized recreation community speaks with many voices. While a growing number of users and user groups oppose the pay-to-play concept, most industry associations actively support fee-demo, believing that the more economic value that can be attributed to their sports, the more access motorized recreation will be granted.

The non-motorized recreation community is no less conflicted. Those who enjoy the public lands have witnessed the failure of fee-demo to produce meaningful benefits. They have seen Congressionally allocated funding disappear only to be replaced with revenues generated by fees. On the other hand, organizations which benefit from Congressional largess or look upon themselves as ‘agency partners’ passively accept fee-demo, believing that the more economic value that can be attributed to their sports, the greater are the risks of its infection spreading. And where it is true that in polite circles you do not point to such blemishes, in political circles the rules of engagement require that you do. In politics, decisions are made by those who show up and no-shows suffer the consequences.

The motorized recreation community speaks with many voices. While a growing number of users and user groups oppose the pay-to-play concept, most industry associations actively support fee-demo, believing that the more economic value that can be attributed to their sports, the more access motorized recreation will be granted.

The non-motorized recreation community is no less conflicted. Those who enjoy the public lands have witnessed the failure of fee-demo to produce meaningful benefits. They have seen Congressionally allocated funding disappear only to be replaced with revenues generated by fees. On the other hand, organizations which benefit from Congressional largess or look upon themselves as ‘agency partners’ passively accept fee-demo, believing that the more economic value that can be attributed to their sports, the greater are the risks of its infection spreading. And where it is true that in polite circles you do not point to such blemishes, in political circles the rules of engagement require that you do. In politics, decisions are made by those who show up and no-shows suffer the consequences.

Smokestacks, Impacts & Talkbacks

Honest dialogs about Bush Administration policies

Come to an exciting, interactive event unlike any other Sierra Club meeting you’ve been to before. “Smokestacks, Impacts & Talkbacks” will have dialogs and opportunities for exchange, not one-way presentations with speakers, forums, and rallies.

This event is for people who are concerned about the environment and what the Bush Administration is up to, but don’t feel they know enough to really talk with confidence about what’s going on. We’ll be focusing on what’s going on with air pollution, Administration policies that let polluters keep on polluting, concerns about asthma and mercury, and how we can do something about it here locally.

Join us!
7 p.m. Friday, July 9

Centennial Park
meeting room in Paso Robles.
Just south of Lewis Middle School on Creston Road.
Turn on Nickerson
Drive and look for the park on the left.

Call Cal French at 239-7338 or e-mail ccfrench@tcsn.net so we can plan on your arrival and to get more information or directions.
By Andrew Christie

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission That Couldn’t Shoot Straight

The structural engineer had had enough.

Seated on a folding chair alongside twelve colleagues from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, facing nearly 200 locals in various stages of irritation and outrage, he had been getting pummeled for the last twenty minutes or so by Rochelle Becker of the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, relentless critics of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and all its sins. Becker and the other 200 local citizens turned out for the June 9 town hall meeting on Diablo Canyon safety and security issues — the first of its kind anyone could remember — with a few questions.

She wanted to know why the NRC has licensed PG&E’s proposed expanded nuclear waste dump without the benefit of any hearings on the durability of the storage casks, rated for only 20 years of life, or on the adequacy of site security against potential acts of terrorism. Why, before they picked out their nuclear waste site, had they chosen to rely on 13-year-old seismic data rather than information gleaned from last December’s San Simeon earthquake? Why, despite their insistence that the storage facility be destroyed by terrorists as it is operating license? She ran through a list of questions that had been asked previously, along with the NRC’s previous inadequate responses.

The 13 technocrats arrayed before her had been assembled here this evening largely to make up for the NRC’s last attempt at a public meeting on Diablo Canyon issues four months prior, at which a lack of subject specialists had led to vagueness and a marked lack of answers to pointed questions like these.

The NRC structural engineer had been combative from the beginning of the meeting. Now it was time to smite the foe. He rose to his feet.

“I have to say,” he intoned, “I take serious exception with your statement that the San Simeon earthquake was caused by a blind threat fault. I do not know where you could have gotten such information, and I must question your conclusion.”

At the podium, Becker held up the paper she had been reading from. “I didn’t say that,” she replied, “I’m quoting from the NRC. That was one of the answers the NRC gave us in its May 28th response. This is the information your agency is putting out.”

There followed a few moments of mild chaos as several of his colleagues started laughing at once in a rescue attempt, the hapless engineer repeated several times that the NRC’s attempt at a friendly public face comes in the midst of the 9th Circuit Court’s hearing of a historic case filed by Mothers for Peace, the Sierra Club, and local residents in response to the nuclear establishment’s disdain for public process, public hearings, and the public in general in taking the position that PG&E and the Feds need no local permission to continue the build-up of spent nuclear fuel at Diablo Canyon, wherever and however they may see it fit. The appeal is supported by the Attorney General of California, Massachusetts, Utah, and Washington.

Each day, Diablo Canyon produces high-level radioactive waste on an earthquake active coastal zone. For years the public has been promised this lethal waste stored in pools would be a temporary situation. Now PG&E and the NRC are seeking to expand storage of nuclear waste on California’s coast, knowing full well that a safe, permanent radioactive waste storage site does not exist. Even if it did, over 7 million Californians live within one mile of proposed nuclear transport routes.

“The NRC issued a statement last week that announced the Yucca Mountain [central storage facility] deadline to open has ‘slipped’ again,” said Santa Lucia Chapter Chair Tarren Collins on June 9, “so we need to plan on this radioactive waste being stored here forever…that is, of course, unless the storage facility is destroyed by terrorists. As it is currently proposed, 138 casks will be above ground in a bowling pin formation, a perfect target for jet-liner-hijacking terrorists. But despite all of the evidence to the contrary, the NRC has concluded that the ‘possibility of a terrorist attack [on a proposed nuclear facility]…is speculative and simply too far removed from the natural or expected consequences of agency action to require a study under NEPA.’”

Becker’s conclusion was wrong, Becker repeated several times that the conclusion he objected to was made from his own agency, and growing ripples of laughter spread from the audience.

A few minutes later, an NRC safety inspector met the same fate, when, in response to the point that the San Simeon quake had put nearly half of Diablo Canyon’s warning sirens out of commission for three to five hours, he attempted to explain that the sirens actually had a good record because, you see, their performances is reviewed every quarter, and they were, in fact, available and functional for most of the fourth quarter of 2003…except for when they were knocked out by that earthquake, and that was only about five hours. So, expressed as a ratio, it really was not so bad.

At that point, decision started mixing with incredulity, then turned to murmuring dismay when the NRC staff seismologist, Yong Li, took the floor. In response to a question from Collins, he asserted the Hosgri Fault that runs past the plant can generate an earthquake in the range of 6.0 to 8.8 on the Richter scale. Ten minutes later, he said the Diablo Canyon plant was built to withstand a “worst case scenario” quake of magnitude 7.2. One of his colleagues attempted to correct him in stating that Diablo Canyon was built to withstand a 7.5 quake. Another later said the Hosgri Fault was rated as capable of generating a quake no greater than a magnitude 7.2 to 7.5.

An audience member asked Dr. Li, in view of the fact that the presence of the Hosgri Fault was not even detected until nearly ten years after the Diablo Canyon plant was built next door to it, could he guarantee another fault would not be found? And did he believe the seismically active coast of California was the best place to build a long-term nuclear waste dump? Yes or no?

Dr. Li blinked and swallowed and the NRC facilitator smoothly stepped in. “He can’t be forced into a yes or no answer,” he said, “let’s take a question over here.”

Just before a break in proceedings, a local resident stood up to say that he wasn’t terribly interested in another evening of being “listened to” by the NRC, and would rather hear how PG&E and the NRC were going to materially address their concerns. A County Supervisor followed with the comment that it was nice that the NRC was being so attentive, but after you’ve done all your listening, will you be coming back to tell us what you’re actually going to do?

The deputy administrator replied that any questions answered tonight would have answers posted on their website.

“Fime,” said the County Supervisor, “but what will you do?”

“We’d be happy to come back for another meeting,” the administrator said.

Expanded Storage for Diablo Canyon’s Waste Appealed to Coastal Commission

Expanded storage of high-level nuclear waste at Diablo Canyon will violate at least seven sections of the California Coastal Act and is a clear violation of the Coastal Commission’s mandate “to preserve, protect, and where possible, to restore the resources of the coastal zone for the enjoyment of the current and succeeding generations.”

The appeal of Pacific Gas & Electric’s permit to expand waste storage was filed May 25, 2004, on behalf of the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club.

“…there is no doubt that the waste currently in overcrowded and vulnerable pools could be stored in a much safer manner, but the expanded nuclear storage site should be limited to existing nuclear waste inventory,” said Rochelle Becker of Mothers for Peace.

“Local and state agencies in Minnesota, Vermont, Connecticut and Wisconsin have courageously protected the health, safety, environment and economy of their citizens, ignoring utility threats of preemption. We believe the California Coastal Commission should follow their example.”

In October 2002, the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission wrote to the NRC that “We feel that the conservative, precautionary approach of requiring ISFI [Independent Spent Fuel Installations] and MRS [Monitored Retrievable Storage] installations to meet the same design standard as a nuclear power plant is most appropriate…A finding must be made that the proposed ISFI will minimize risks to life and property in areas of areas of high geological hazard and assure stability and structural integrity of the proposed development.”

The definition of “temporary” is “lasting for a limited time.” By definition, a project to store high-level radioactive waste on our coast, which will impact generations of residents, is not temporary. PG&E’s nuclear waste storage must be limited until a permanent nuclear waste facility is open and is operating safely — asserted Fred Franck, local Sierra Club representative.
Outings and Calendar Activities

All of our hikes and activities are open to all club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter’s outing policies or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Leader Gary Felsman (473-3694). For information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader. Outings Leaders please get your outings or events in by the 1st for the next month’s outings.

Hiking Classifications:
- Distance: 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 2-3 mi., 3 = 3-5 mi., 4 = 4-10 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.

Elevation Gain:

Sun., July 4, 8 a.m., HAZARD PEAK: Join us for this 3 hour, 6 mile roundtrip hike with over 1,000 feet of elevation gain. Bring water, sturdy hiking shoes, and dress for the weather. Everyone is welcome, but beginners will fall behind due to the elevation gain of the hike. Meet at the junction of Pecho Valley Road and the Horse Camps dirt road turnoff, 1/10th of a mile beyond the entrance to Montana de Oro. Do not meet at the Ridge Trailhead, as we will be hiking the back route to the peak. Leader Al (534-0462) and change, always contact the leader. JIM 937-6766 (AR)

Sun., July 11, 9:30 a.m., MOUNTAINS TO SEA TRAIL: This will be an exploratory hike going from the Dunes Center to the Pacific. Meet at Dune Center ready to explore. Bring lunch, water, windbreaker, compass and a desire to see new places. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or <bdennen@slonet.org>.

Sun., July 18, 9:30 a.m., PISMO DUNES PRESERVE: Meet at Melodrama in Oceano. Drive about a mile to a secret way to spectacular dunes to a remote dried-up lake. Total distance about 4 miles. Slide down steep dune faces. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or <bdennen@slonet.org>.

Sun., Aug. 1, 9:30 a.m., POINT SAL: Meet at the end of Brown Road. Hike 2.5 miles to ‘saddle’ and then decide: hike to ocean, Point Sal or turn around. Bring lunch, water, dogs that do not chase cattle, windbreaker and optional Mt. Bike. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or <bdennen@slonet.org>.

Wed., Aug. 4, 11, 21, 28, 5:30 p.m., Informal 2-hour hikes around San Luis Obispo. Check web site at http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/index.html, or e-mail gfselman@oneemail.com for meeting location.

Sat., July 10, 9:30 a.m., CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY DINNER PICNIC: This is an evening paddle on the bay and a beach dinner. Relax on the bay and a beach dinner. Confirm a few days before at details at 929-3647. Please check the web page www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for more details.

Sat., Aug. 14, 10:45 a.m., CANOE/KAYAK TO A MOZART CONCERT: This leisurely paddle leads to the Baywood Pier but this time we anchor off the pier and run our bows up on the beach, to eat lunch while we listen to a Brass Ensemble play Mozart. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker, warm clothing and a picnic lunch. HIGH TIDE: 11:29 a.m. 4.2’ LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY STATE PARK MARINA: LOW TIDE: 4:22 p.m. 2.2’ Put in 5 p.m. Jack Beigle 773-2147.

Sun., Aug. 15, 9:30 a.m., PISMO DUNES PRESERVE: Meet at Melodrama in Oceano. Drive about a mile to a secret way to the spectacular dunes. Total distance about 4 miles. Slide down steep dune faces. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or <bdennen@slonet.org>.

Sun., Aug. 22, 9:30 a.m., BICYCLE GUADALUPE to OCEAN: Meet at Dune Centre Parking lot with bike and helmet. An easy, educational tour of Guadalupe and then to Pacific. Confirm a few days before at 929-3647 or <bdennen@slonet.org>.

Fri-Sun., Aug. 27-29, White Mountains Carcamp: Escape from the heat and the crowds. We will stay at Grandview Campground, spend one day visiting Bisnitecone Pines at Shulman Grove, spend another day touring out of the Patriarch Grove and (roads and vehicles permitting) visiting the Cottonwood Basin area. Sunday’s plan will depend upon wishes of the group (backroad driving, dayhike, or leisurely return through Oceano Valley). Views from these mountains are spectacular. Cameras are a necessity. For info and reservations contact: Ldr: Craig Deutsche, deutsche@earthlink.net, (310-477-6670). CNRCC Desert Com

Sun., Aug. 29, 9:30 a.m., POINT SAL: Meet at the end of Brown Road. Hike 2.5 miles to ‘saddle’ and then decide: hike to ocean. Point Sal or turn around. Bring lunch, water, dogs that do not chase cattle, windbreaker and optional Mt. Bike.

Sun., Aug. 29, 2004

Santa Lucian • July/Aug 2004

This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter.
Please check the web page www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.