Over the past twenty years or so, I have been a member of one Yosemite Committee or another. There has been a committee at the national level created by the National Board of Directors, a committee of the Regional Conservation Committee (RCC) of the National Club, and a committee of the RCC of Sierra Club California. During this time, there has always been some form of Tehipite Chapter Yosemite Committee—sometimes just one person. Yosemite has always been controversial; there are many ways to love the place. The RCC of Sierra Club California has recently chosen to restructure its Yosemite Committee leaving many Yosemite activists without a voice. The Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee has chosen to reactivate the Chapter’s Yosemite Committee by a formal motion. Many of the members that were on the Sierra Club California RCC Yosemite Committee are now appointed to the Tehipite Chapter Yosemite Committee.

Having multiple committees working on Yosemite, I believe, will only im-

See Yosemite Committee, page 2
“National Parks and World Heritage Sites: the Unknown France”
presented by Bill Fjellbo

Wednesday, October 17th at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno
(across from Fashion Fair)

Royal Chateau, the last home of Leonardo da Vinci, prehistoric cave paintings, D-Day invasion sites, the Camargue marshes, Roman ruins and the last resting place of all French Kings (that no Americans ever seem to visit).

From the Atlantic to the Alps, see some of France’s hidden treasures. Thousands of flamingos in France? Yes!

Yosemite Committee, from page 1
prove the chances of Yosemite being preserved for future generations. Yes, at times there may be differing and sometimes conflicting messages. But ultimately it is the Park Service’s responsibility to make the final decisions within the framework of the law. If the Park Service fails to follow the law, I am now doubly certain that there will be requests to the National Sierra Club Board of Directors to take legal action on behalf of the Club. If we need new laws to protect Yosemite, I am sure all members of the Club will step forward to assist in protecting Yosemite. If you have read all of this, you may be Yosemite Committee material. Contact a member from either of the two Yosemite committees.

The Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee resolution:

See Yosemite Committee, page 8

Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, October 10th at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno

Royal Chateau, the last home of Leonardo da Vinci, prehistoric cave paintings, D-Day invasion sites, the Camargue marshes, Roman ruins and the last resting place of all French Kings (that no Americans ever seem to visit).

From the Atlantic to the Alps, see some of France’s hidden treasures. Thousands of flamingos in France? Yes!
Merced Group
Sierra Club
Box 387
Merced, CA 95341

Group Chair
Rod Webster . . . . (209) 723-4747
. . . . . . . . . . . . . . rwebster@elite.net

Group Vice-Chair
Linda Lagace . . . . (209) 384-1354

Group Treasurer
Dave Tucker . . . . (209) 384-1354

Group Secretary
Annette Allsup . . . (209) 723-5152

Member-at-Large
Jule Biesiada . . . juleb13@msn.com

Conservation Chair
JoAnne Armstrong . (209) 726-0636
. . . . . . . . . . . . . . sierrafer@peoplepc.com

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Agriculture
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Membership
Linda Lagace . . . . (209) 384-1354

Publicity
Rod Webster . . . . (209) 723-4747

Population
Tammy Johnson . . . . (559) 665-5507

Conservation and Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 4th at 7:00 P.M.
Thursday, November 1st at 7:00 P.M.
Rod Webster's home, 345 E. 20th St., Merced

Conservation meeting is first and can last 30-40 minutes. Anyone with an interest in local, state or national conservation issues is welcome to attend. Come just to get informed or get as involved as you wish.

Merced Group General Meetings
Third Thursday of the month
Sierra Presbyterian Church
3603 M St., Merced
Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. and are finished by 9:00 P.M.

Upcoming Meetings and Events
Below is a listing of our proposed future meetings. Since planning is still in progress, there may be changes in this schedule.

Thursday, October 18th
General Meeting
Dr. Tom Harmon, Lloyd Carter
Water Forum, with a special report by Merced River Stakeholders’ Jan Mendenhall. Possible outings to fish hatchery and/or gravel mining on the Merced River.

Saturday, October 13th
The Merced River Alliance will host an event at Henderson Park in Snelling from 9-1. For more information, contact Cindy Lashbrook.

Thursday, November 15th
General Meeting
Chad Kister
Global Warming/Climate Change

Saturday, December 1st
Annual Banquet
at Sierra Presbyterian Church
Photographer Sam Roberts

Sam Roberts is an award-winning photographer and writer based in the San Francisco Bay Area. To date, Sam has shot on four continents, usually while pursuing his other passions: mountain climbing, skiing and backcountry travel.

In his 15 years of business, Sam’s files have grown to more than 50,000 images ranging from 1970s Afghanistan to current projects here in California.

Sam’s mission is that his photography evoke an emotional response from viewers and, thus, inspire them to seek out, enjoy and protect the places his photographs represent. Consistent with his mission, Sam is a business sponsor of the California Wilderness Coalition, a member of One Percent for the Environment and a supporter of the Friends of Joshua Tree, where he is on the Board of Directors. You can check out his photos at www.srobertsphoto.com. The estimated price for the banquet is $20. Reservation details will follow in future Topics issues.

Thursday, January 17th
General Meeting
Nick Robinson, Melissa Kelly
Ortega (Asthma Coalition), David Lighthall
Forum on the proposed Wal-Mart and Air Quality
This may possibly be a Special Meeting depending on the timing of the EIR.

Thursday, February 21st
General Meeting
Bill Nicholson and Kim Espinoza
General Plan update for the City and County of Merced

Please see the Tehipite and Yokuts (Modesto area) chapter listings for outings. You can phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 to coordinate carpooling.

Calendars, note and Christmas cards, and planners will soon be available. We are looking for a volunteer willing to sell these items. Contact Rod Webster or Annette Allsup if you are able to help us out.

See Merced, page 7
Dear Sierra Club Members,

If you
• Work or have worked for a dry cleaner;
• Live or work next door to a dry cleaner, or have in the past;
• Live or work down the street from a dry cleaner, or have in the past; or
• Have smelled a sharp, sweet odor from a dry cleaner in your area, either generally in the air or emanating from clothing you have had cleaned;

AND

if you are a member of the Sierra Club,

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Sierra Club and Earthjustice are filing suit against the U.S. EPA over regulations that continue to allow dry cleaners to use perchloroethylene, a hazardous substance that is used by most dry cleaners. We need simple declarations to assure that Sierra Club has standing to make this very important challenge.

Again, we need your help! If any of the criteria above applies to you, please contact

Ethan Elkind, Instructor, UCLA School of Law Environmental Law Clinic
(310) 206-4033
elkind@law.ucla.edu

What is Perchloroethylene?

According to the Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration, perchloroethylene has many names, including tetrachloroethylene, perc, PCE and tetrachloroethene. It is a manufactured chemical compound, most recognizable as a nonflammable liquid at room temperature. It evaporates easily into the air and has a sharp, sweet odor.

How is perchloroethylene used?

Perchloroethylene is a colorless, organic solvent used in dry cleaning solutions and as an industrial solvent. It is also used to degrease metal parts in the automotive and other metalworking industries. It appears in a few consumer products, including paint strippers and spot removers.

What are the health affects of perchloroethylene?

Perchloroethylene is a central nervous system depressant. Inhaling its vapors in closed, poorly ventilated areas can cause dizziness, headache, sleepiness, confusion, nausea, difficulty speaking and walking, and unconsciousness. Those who work regularly with perchloroethylene may experience severe skin irritation from prolonged or excessive contact.

Dry Cleaners
The Community Media Access Collaborative (CMAC) will hold its annual meeting on October 18th, 2007 at 3:00 P.M. at the Cornerstone Conference Center, 1545 Fulton Street, in downtown Fresno. Individuals and community organizations are invited to learn about the benefits of public access media as a viable communications vehicle for their agency, service or message throughout our community, and how they can assist CMAC in bringing this vital resource to Fresno County. CMAC is a volunteer, nonprofit corporation established to support, promote, produce and distribute noncommercial, community-based media programs created by local citizens, nonprofit groups, students, cultural organizations, and others. Board members represent business, education, arts, faith, multicultural, nonprofit and government sectors. There is no cost to attend this meeting. For more information, contact Roberta Barton at (559) 488-1922.

PEG Access

by Lydia Flores, CMAC Board Member

This is important news that will help you get out publicity for your work in community.

PEG (Public, Educational & Government) Access is being negotiated by the County of Fresno and Comcast as well as Community Media Access Collaborative (CMAC). Three channels may be available without censorship by any government agency. There will be guidelines and policy to follow. Once this contract is negotiated and approved, Community Media Access Collaborative (CMAC) will invite organizations and individuals to develop programs to be presented on one of these channels. The presentation will be copied and cataloged to be checked out and viewed as many times as needed at home, at school or your community center. The organization presenting will also receive a DVD for their personal use.

You and your organization will be able to make your own program with the use of the new technology which will guide you to make an entertaining or unique presentation. There will be instructors to help you with equipment and with the format of the program.

With PEG Access you will be able to take your message out to the community for a nominal fee. PEG Access will be as good as your use of its facilities.

Please attend the annual meeting Thursday, October 18th to learn more and to help assist CMAC in bringing PEG Access about.

Documentary Explores Coming Demise of the American Lifestyle

Filmmakers will be on hand for special Fresno screening. What a Way to Go: Life at the End of Empire, a feature length documentary, will be screened October 29th at 6:30 P.M. at the Vineyard Farmer’s Market, located at 100 W. Shaw. The film will be followed by a dialogue with the filmmakers, who are including Fresno in their tour of the Western U.S.

What a Way to Go features interviews with many noted authors and scientists. It looks head-on at our present global predicament, as peaking oil production, climate change, species extinction and overpopulation converge in a “perfect storm” of cataclysmic dimensions. The information presented is not a fuzzy doomsday prophecy, but rather, a strong fact-based assessment that will leave the viewer awestruck.

This independent film explores the cultural stories and assumptions that have brought us to this point, and provides a larger context for thinking about, and feeling our way through, our global situation. It does not propose any quick painless fixes for our global situation—no “five things you can do to save the world.” Instead, filmmakers Tim Bennett and Sally Erickson offer up a heartfelt challenge to face difficult times with courage and integrity.

Suggested donation: $10 (for the filmmakers).

*This event is hosted by Whole Systems Agriculture.*

“If what Gore offered was an ‘Inconvenient Truth,’ What a Way to Go gives us the whole truth.”
- Dan Armstrong, Prairie Fire

“Nothing less than a 123-minute cat scan of the planet and its twenty-first century human and non-human condition.”
- Carolyn Baker, CarolynBaker.org

Contact: True Warner, (559) 822-2216, Warner_T@eml.cc
For reviews, trailers, or more information visit www.whatawaytogomovie.com
An Introduction to Water Quality in the Merced River
Saturday, October 13th, 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
Henderson Park, Snelling

Join the Merced River Alliance for an enjoyable and educational day at the Merced River. This event will introduce the layperson, adults and children, to water quality monitoring. Monitoring water quality is done by many organizations to ensure that the water in our rivers is clean and safe. Come learn how this is done, with hands-on demonstrations by those who do it regularly, and learn why this is so important. There will be presentations on the Merced River, citizen volunteer water monitoring, and learning stations where everyone will have a chance to participate and explore. Lunch will also be provided (ham, turkey or roasted veggie wraps, chips, drink and cookie) for $8. Lunch reservations required. For more information, or to make your reservations, please contact Cindy Lashbrook at (209) 761-0081. See you there!

This event is made possible by funding from the CALFED Watershed Program and administered by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Valley Land Alliance

Alarmed by the current pace of development in the Valley, local dairyman and Sierra Club Merced Executive Board Conservation Chair, Charlie Magneson and local Merced County farmers formed Valley Land Alliance. The Valley Land Alliance mission is to “educated and build alliances to protect our uniquely productive Central Valley farmland.” The Alliance supports policies that ensure a domestic and local food supply, promote the economic viability of farming/ranching, require that future development pay for public services, and protect our natural watersheds.

Currently, the Alliance is taking action to maximize citizen participation in the Merced County and Livingston General Plan updates along with other key land use decisions. The General Plan is really about the creating a road map for the quality of life we want to experience in the next twenty years. Valley Land Alliance is encouraging citizens to get involved in the process. The Merced City General Plan is in full swing, as is the Merced County process. Merced County will sponsor a series of Community Workshops beginning on September 5th. These will run through September 20th. Go to www.co.merced.ca.us for more info (look for General Plan Update) or go to the official websites for announcements regarding Merced, Livingston, Atwater, Los Banos, and Dos Palos city updates.

President Jean Okuye is working with the Farm Bureau and assisting local citizens in planning two Town Hall meetings in Livingston to discuss the now infamous illegal sewer and equally problematic wastewater treatment plant—among other environmentally disastrous decisions. The first meeting will take place on August 20th at 6:00 P.M. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Livingston. The city of Livingston will hold a public meeting on August 21st. We encourage local residents to attend these meetings.

In March, Valley Land Alliance hired Maureen McCorry as its first Executive Director. Maureen was born and raised on a cattle ranch in Merced County and is passionate about VLA’s mission. VLA needs volunteers who are interested in doing research and can attend meetings in these areas.

For more information, contact
Maureen McCorry, Executive Director
Valley Land Alliance
P.O. Box 102
Cressey, CA 95312
(209) 386 3572
www.valleylandalliance.org

pitch a tent with someone you love
**Outings Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Elevation Gain</th>
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<tr>
<td>1) up to 6 miles</td>
<td>A) under 1,000 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) 6 to 10 miles</td>
<td>B) 1,000 to 2,000 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) 10 to 15 miles</td>
<td>C) 2,000 to 3,000 feet</td>
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<td>4) 15 to 20 miles</td>
<td>D) 3,000 to 4,000 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>5) over 20 miles</td>
<td>E) over 4,000 feet</td>
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Our Tehipite Chapter Outings Co-Chairs are Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 or jbobd606@yahoo.com and Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971 or RiverRich1509@aol.com. Please contact them with any questions concerning our outings program. Contact the trip leader directly if you are interested in one of the listed trips.

Tehipite Chapter outings are free and open to the public. All leaders are unpaid volunteers assuming responsibility for a good trip, and your cooperation is mandatory. Please review additional trip and participant requirements at www.tehipite.sierraclub.org/outings.

CST #2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRF) under the California Seller of Travel Act. The TCRF is not applicable to these Outings. The law requires us to advise you that you would not be eligible to make any claim from the TCRF in the unlikely event of default by the Sierra Club. California law also requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. The Sierra Club has such a trust account.

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October 6th - Saturday
Day Hike (2A) Moderate
San Joaquin River Gorge to Temperance Flat—a great view of San Joaquin River.
*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

October 7th - Sunday
Day Hike (2B) Moderate
9.4 mile hike to George Lake via Lower and Upper Twin Lakes in the Kaiser Wilderness. Upper Twin Lakes is a real gem, and if fall has started to do its magic, the aspens should be beautiful.
*Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272*

October 13th - Saturday
Day Hike (3C) Moderate
Walt has his own unique approach to the Dinkey Lakes loop. Cross country, lake to lake to lake. It should be beautiful this time of year.
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

October 14th - Sunday
Day Hike (2B) Moderate
9.4 mile hike to George Lake via Lower and Upper Twin Lakes in the Kaiser Wilderness. Upper Twin Lakes is a real gem, and if fall has started to do its magic, the aspens should be beautiful.
*John Flahery (209) 742-4668*

October 17th - Saturday
Day Hike (2A) Easy
Grant Grove, in Kings Canyon National Park.
*Don Redmond (559) 268-1537*

November 3rd - Saturday
Day Hike (2B) Moderate
Mount Givens, cross country.
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

November 18th - Sunday
Day Hike (2A) Moderate
San Joaquin River Gorge loop.
*Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272*

December 1st - Saturday
Cross Country Skiing—Beginners
Lesson
Location to be determined.
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

December 8th - Saturday
Cross Country Skiing—Intermediate.
Location to be determined, weather and snow permitting.
*Walt Taguchi (559) 435-2818*

December 16th - Sunday
Snowshoeing
Five mile round trip to a beautiful vista at Panoramic Point in Kings Canyon National Park. This trip can be easy or strenuous depending upon snow conditions.
*Karen Hammer (559) 298-5272*

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**Fledglings Outings**

The Fledglings is not a Sierra Club or an Audubon organization. It is just a bunch of people that use birds for an excuse to go outside and appreciate nature. Anyone who is interested, please contact fledglings@sbcglobal.net.

2007
- October - Caswell State Park
- November - Turlock Lake
- December - ?

2008
- February - Pinoche Wildlife Area
- March - Arizona
- April - Arena Plains
- May - River NWR
- June - Del Puerto Canyon

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**Merced Group, from page 3**

We are in need of a laptop to use with our newly acquired projector. It doesn’t have to be fancy. If you are upgrading, please consider donating your old laptop to us for our programs.
Recognizing that the Executive Committee has established the existing Yosemite Committee for the purpose of keeping Yosemite unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations, let it be resolved that

A. The Committee shall be known as the “Tehipite Chapter Yosemite Committee,” and exists pursuant to Section 3.9 (“Chapter Committees”) of the Tehipite Chapter Bylaws.

B. The Tehipite Chapter Yosemite Committee is a Committee of the Chapter.

C. George Whitmore is confirmed as the Chair of the Committee, having been previously so appointed.

D. JoAnne Clarke and Chris Acree are hereby appointed to the Committee.

E. The following list of members are appointed to the Committee, contingent upon their membership in the Tehipite Chapter. Chris Acree (Fresno), Greg Adair (El Portal/Foresta), David Cehrs (Sanger), JoAnne Clarke (Merced), Sam Cogswell (San Rafael), Bridget Kerr (El Portal), Susan Liebermann (Rice, WA), Calvin Mehler (Twain Harte), Barbara Moritch (Boise, ID), Cynthia Peters (West Covina), Marsh Pitman (Merced/Monterey), John Rasmussen (Squaw Valley), Sylvia Robbins (Fresno), George Whitmore (Fresno).