On Earth Day, Tuesday April 22, 2008, members of the Tehipite Chapter helped to remove over 1,000 feet of barbed wire fence located on the San Joaquin River Conservancy property known as Ball Ranch. The fence served no purpose and was a danger to animals and human users of the property. The fence was unusually hard to remove because there were four or five strands of barbed wire on top of hog wire, buried about a foot into the ground. The fence was fairly old, since square nails were found on a few of the posts. One volunteer brought an electric-powered prototype wheelbarrow, which proved most useful to haul fence posts and wire to where it could be removed by truck.
Chapter General Meeting

“Energy”
presented by Carl Zichella

Wednesday, June 18th at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center
550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno
(across from Fashion Fair)

Regional Director Carl Zichella will present a look at California and western regional energy issues. Zichella, a 21-year veteran of the Sierra Club staff, has worked on energy issues throughout his career and is presently an environmental representative from the California Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative, as well as representing environmental stakeholders in the Western Governors Association Western Renewable Energy Zone project. He will discuss the impacts of global warming on California and the need for and challenges of siting renewable energy projects and transmission lines.

In addition to his Sierra Club work, he serves as a steering committee member of the California Apollo Alliance, is a

See General Meeting, page 6

Conservation & Executive Committees

Wednesday, June 11th, at 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday, September 10th, at 7:00 P.M.
University of California Center, 550 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno
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

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

Agriculture
Charlie Magneson . (209) 394-7045

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

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

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

Merced Group Conservation and Executive Committee Meetings
Thursday, June 5th
Thursday, September 4th
Rod Webster’s home, 7:00 P.M.
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.

Outings
Please see the Tehipite and Yokuts (Modesto area) Chapter listings for outings. Phone Rod Webster at (209) 723-4747 to coordinate carpools.

Merced Group General Meetings
Third Thursday of each month
(no meetings in July or August)
Sierra Presbyterian Church
3603 M St., Merced
(corner of M and Yosemite Blvd)
Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. and are finished by 9:00 P.M.

June General Meeting
Thursday, June 19th at 7:00 P.M.
Possible Meeting Topic, “China and the Peace Corps”
Late yesterday, Senator Barbara Boxer and Rep. Buck McKeon introduced legislation in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives (H.R. 6156/S. 3069) to protect significant portions of the Eastern Sierra and San Gabriel Mountains as wilderness, and to protect portions of three rivers as wild and scenic rivers. The areas and rivers are listed at the end of this message.

Together the proposed wilderness comprises nearly half a million acres of lands that Sierra Club and our coalition partners in the California Wild Heritage Campaign have been working to protect for many, many years. A bill of such significance is truly a remarkable achievement for two Members of Congress who usually do not fall close together on the political spectrum, and is the result of intensive grassroots organizing, phone calling, meeting and hearing attendance, letter writing, and persuasion of elected officials over the past several years by many, many constituents. As staff, we are so proud of our members and those of other organizations, and of the organizers who have worked in this region over the past several years to make this possible.

This bill is also the result of tough negotiations by Senator Boxer and Rep. McKeon and their staffs. While we haven't fully digested the contents, which are just being divulged today, we do know that there is about 51,000 acres from portions of some BLM WSA's that are released in the bill using standard wilderness release language. There is a provision to allow snowmobile access in Leavitt Bowl, which we have opposed vigorously, but with language to manage the area as wilderness in non-winter months. There is some wilderness management language, such as fire-related language, which we may not support.

We recognize that the bill has not been reviewed by any Sierra Club committees yet and that it will need to go through that process. Nonetheless, we believe that this is a very strong package of protections that we must mobilize in support of immediately because we believe the opposition from off-roaders will be large and loud. We feel it is essential to contact our members in the district and urge them to call Rep. McKeon to thank him for introducing this strong package of wilderness and wild rivers. We will be calling all our members in the district over the next few days with a recorded message, telling people about this bill and asking them to call Rep. McKeon in support of it. We will also be sending email alerts to our activist lists.

There will be plenty of time later to work on refining the language and working for improvements. But right now, we need to be ready to show that support for the bill in the 25th district far outstrips the opposition, so we will be organizing to achieve that goal in the short term.

Stay tuned for more details, and thank you all for your efforts on behalf of wild places, wherever they may be.

List of areas and acreage protected:
- Hoover and Emigrant Wilderness Additions: 77,233 acres
- Granite Mountain: 34,564 acres
- Owens River Headwaters: 15,247 acres
- White Mountains: 223,516 acres
- John Muir Wilderness additions: 80,112 acres
- Magic Mountain: 13,709 acres
- Pleasant View Ridge: 28,424 acres
- Amargosa River: 26 miles
- Owens River Headwaters: 19 miles
- Piru Creek: 7 miles
- Wilderness Study Area Release
- 51,000 acres in Masonic Mountain, Mormon Meadow, Walford Springs, and
- Granite Mountain Wilderness Study Areas

Our Tehipite chapter is very pleased this year to award not one, but two $1,000 college scholarships. They will go to two excellent students at CART (Center for Advanced Research and Technology).

One student, Phillip Winklepleck, has been working with hydrologists at Pacific Southwest Research Station, observing the snowpack in the Sierra and measuring the change it has been experiencing. He has been accepted into Humboldt State University, majoring in Biology/Wildlife Management.

The other awardee, James Larkin, has been working with Fresno Wildlife Rehabilitation, and did a study of the San Joaquin river on the biodiversity of macroinvertebrates. He has been accepted into UC Santa Cruz, majoring in Marine Biology.
Sierra Magazine’s 2nd Annual Paddlesport Contest

Enter to win great prizes! June 30th is the deadline for entries in Sierra’s Second Annual Paddlesport Contest. There are only a few weeks left to win a Bell canoe, a Necky kayak, or a paddling trip to beautiful Southwest Florida. Go here to enter: http://action.sierraclub.org/paddlecontest

Lobby Day

Come join us for our annual Lobby Day on Sunday and Monday August 10th and 11th. You will be part of a team that will help us in passing our priority bills during the most exciting and challenging time of the year at the State Capitol. Be prepared for interaction with other activists and our professional lobbying staff, as well as with legislators and their staff.

It is a two-day event with Sunday afternoon consisting of training by our lobbying team about how to lobby and learning about our priority bills so that you can effectively advocate for them. On Monday, you will work the halls of the Capitol as teams, with meetings scheduled from morning through the afternoon. We will focus on key remaining bills as the session winds down; hot issues this year are global warming, renewable energy, outdoor education, toxic chemicals, and reform of transportation and land use planning.

You will find out that it is possible to have fun and save our environment at the same time! Past participants have found it to be an eye-opening and rewarding experience. A co-pay of $25 upon registration will be used towards your lodging and food; some travel reimbursement will also be provided.

For more information, please contact Annie Pham, Legislative Aide at lobbyday@sierraclubcalifornia.org or (916) 557-1100 ext. 107.

Nominations for Tehipite Chapter Executive Committee

by John Flaherty, Nominating Committee Chair

Again it’s time to think about the yearly election for members of your executive committee. This is a chance to bring in new people and keep our club strong and active. If you have any suggestions for people you think might make good candidates, including yourself, let me know. It really is a rewarding opportunity.

John Flaherty
kjohnflaherty@yahoo.com
(209) 742-4668
Outings Schedule

June 14th - Saturday
Day Hike (1A)
Annual hike to Redwood Canyon. Goodies afterward provided by leader.
Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

July 5th - Saturday
Day Hike (1A)
Annual hike to Redwood Canyon. Goodies afterward provided by leader.
Don Redmond (559) 268-1537

July 12th - Saturday
Day Hike (3B)
This is Gerald’s famous Three Peaks hike in one day. Mt. Givens, Mt. Ian McCampbell and Kings Castle. A beautiful place to spend the day. Call for details.
Gerald Vinnard (559) 431-5780

August 2nd - Saturday
Day Hike (1A)
Park Ridge trail at Grant Grove, Kings Canyon Park. Start at Panoramic point.
Don Redmond 559-268-1537

August 8th - 10th, Friday - Sunday
Car Camp and Day Hike
Hike Saturday (2B): Cliff Lake from Courtright Reservoir
Richard Sloan (559) 696-2971

August 16th - Saturday
Day Hike (2A)
Taft Point. Possible full moon hike.
John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

September 20th - Saturday
Day Hike (3C)
White Wolf to Pate Valley. Possible overnight in Porcupine Flat. Call early.
John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

October 10th - 11th, Friday - Saturday
Various hikes (3C)
Hetch Hetchy
Call for details.
John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

November 15th - Saturday
Day Hike (3B)
North Fork Merced. Overnight in Railroad Flat. Call early.
John Flaherty (209) 742-4668

Outings Ratings

<table>
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<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) over 20 miles</td>
<td>E) over 4,000 feet</td>
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</tbody>
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Our Tehipite Chapter Outings Co-Chairs are Carolyn Ordway (559) 449-7780 or jbold606@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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Deadline for *Tehipite Topics* is the second
Friday of each month—August 8th for the
September issue. Submit material to
Topics@BigBaldy.com.

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