FIRST, CONGRATULATIONS to those elected to the Chapter and Group ExComs. Thank you all for stepping forward as leaders in the club to undertake important work for the environment and our planet. (See article on this page for details.)

Votes received up 350%! David von Seggern deserves our special thanks and accolades for the tremendous job he did as Chair of the Election Committee. He was responsible for the difficult task of implementing the new individually mailed ballot procedure. The result was a new high for the Toiyabe Chapter with 587 ballots returned, for an 11.7% return. The 11.7% return was about a 350% fold increase over the response rate in recent chapter elections.

ExCom election results

The 2009 election ballot count was conducted the evening of December 10. Six counters and two observers, including Toiyabe Chapter Chair David Hornbeck, were present. About 460 ballots were counted, representing about 11.7% of the members of the Toiyabe Chapter. This 9% is more than triple the typical return rate in recent chapter elections.

Nominations and voting were handled through the Toiyabe Chapter website. Provisionally elected to Toiyabe Chapter ExCom were 10 candidates for all groups (with all positions to be filled, so all were provisionally elected to the ExCom). For the groups, the following candidates for all groups were automatically elected. For the groups, the following candidates for all groups were automatically elected.

None of the groups had contested ExCom elections only as many candidates ran as were seats available, and so all candidates for all groups were automatically elected. For the groups, the following members will be serving.

- Great Basin Group ExCom: Bob Treger, Jeff Harcastle, Cathy Schmidt, and Graham Stafford.
- Southern Nevada Group ExCom: Maxine Miller, Kristine Cunningham, Scott Stevens, and Thomas Ainley, Jr.
- Range of Light Group ExCom: Rosemary Jarrett, Mary Kay Prentice, and Brigitte Berman.

Kudos to David Hornbeck

David Hornbeck, Chair of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club for the past three years, received the annual Pinecone award in November. Hornbeck was chosen as the outstanding individual in the field of conservation. For the past 22 years, five Pinecone awards have been offered annually at a dinner sponsored by EcoNet.

Dave Hornbeck first served on the Toiyabe Chapter ExCom in the 1980s. He joined the opposition to the proposed MX missile racetrack, which was designed to utilize 45,000 acres in Nevada and Utah. A number of Sierra Club members, along with ranchers, miners, rural communities, and ultimately the Catholic Church, worked together to oppose the project.

During his second term of service on the Toiyabe Chapter ExCom, Hornbeck, in addition to administrative duties, has worked with the Northern Group ExCom to undertake important work for the environment and our planet. (See article on this page for details.)
DONALD HUBER, 81, of Truckee and Carson City, passed away on October 30. He joined and became a lifetime member of the Sierra Club in the 1950s, often staying at the Clair Tappaan Lodge on Donner Summit. During his early tenure with the Sierra Club, he assisted in the construction of some of the Sierra Club huts lining the crest of the Sierra Nevada. He was also involved with the design and creation of the Pacific Crest Trail around Lake Tahoe. To see his full obituary, go to <http://www.sierrasun.com/article/20090115/NEWS/91105997/1034&parentprofile=1036>.

CONSERVATION

**Motorsports racetrack near Poppy Reserve?**

**BY KATHERINE ALLEN**

The staff of the Los Angeles County regional Planning Commission has recommended approval of a plan to build a motorsports racetrack next to Fairmont Butte, 1.5 miles north of California State Poppy Reserve in Antelope Valley. There will be at least one more Commission hearing on the proposed project, which is incompatible with the rural nature of the area. Development would have a negative impact on the property values of nearby residents, and would draw additional illegal off-road activity to the area. Both this development activity and the racetrack itself would destroy prime areas for wildflowers, negatively impact Please see POPPY RESERVE, page 5.

**ORIENTATION**

**continued from page 7**

**DESERT TRIPS**

continued from page 3

Dome. Primitive camp at Sunrise Rock. Sunday morning, visit museum/visitor center at Kelso Depot then hike Kelso Dunes. These dunes have various nicknames including “singing dunes” and “moaning dunes” due to sounds that they often make. Whatever you call them, they’re impressive. Option to spend another night camping at Granite Mountains. Reservations: contact leader, Carol Wiley (desert1ly@verizon.net, 760-245-8734).

**CRUISE DE LA VIE**

APRIL 25-26 (SAT-SUN)

ROCK ART IN EASTERN CALIFORNIA

Comfortable spring weather is ideal time to go exploring. Saturday, visit three rock art sites in S Owens Valley area bordering Cosyp Mountains. Sunday, we’ll be escorted to (the as- tempting) Little Petroglyph Canyon on Lake Valley Naval Weapons Station. As government restrictions apply here, all arrangements and confirmations must be completed by April 1 (no joke). High clearance 2WD sufficient. Day hiking; Saturday eve potluck. Group limit, 14. Reservations: contact leader, Craig Deutsche (310-477-6670, craig.deutsche@gmail.com).

CNRCC Desert Committee

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**From the Chair continued from page 12**

members for five Chapter ExCom positions.

**New election procedure.** This very effective election procedure resulted from budget constraints on national Sierra Club revenues due to the current economy. These constraints meant it was necessary to reduce the Toiyabe Trails publication schedule from six to four issues this year.

A paperless Trails? With coming changes to Chapter funding by the national Sierra Club, your Chapter leaders have been discussing whether someday there will need to be a change to a digital, paperless Toiyabe Trails. The Chapter ExCom will be discussing this further in 2010, but rest assured, if this happens, consideration will be given to our members who prefer a paper Trails.

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**In Memoriam**

DONALD HUBER, 81, of Truckee and Carson City, passed away on October 30. He joined and became a lifetime member of the Sierra Club in the 1950s, often staying at the Clair Tappaan Lodge on Donner Summit. During his early tenure with the Sierra Club, he assisted in the construction of some of the Sierra Club huts lining the crest of the Sierra Nevada. He was also involved with the design and creation of the Pacific Crest Trail around Lake Tahoe. To see his full obituary, go to <http://www.sierrasun.com/article/20090115/NEWS/91105997/1034&parentprofile=1036>.
Winter Desert Trips

The CNRCC Desert Committee’s purpose is to work for protection, preservation, and conservation of California/Nevada desert. All Desert Committee activities, unless stated otherwise, are suitable for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. The average car or high clearance vehicle will be adequate for most trips. For a good guide to desert travel we recommend the Sierra Club book, *Adventuring in the California Desert*, by Lynne Foster.

For questions about, or to sign up for, a particular outing, please contact leader listed in write-up. For questions about Desert Committee outings in general, or to receive outings list by e-mail, please contact Kate Allen (kjallen@wildblue.com, 661-944-4056).

**Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee**

**MARCH 13-14 (SAT-SUN)**
**FENCE REMOVAL, HIKING: CARRIZO PLAIN CAR CAMP**
Help remove fences on Cal Dept. of Fish & Game Reserve. At this time of year, Carrizo may be turning green, if rains are good this year, meaningful work. Saturday morning, meet in Escalante, Utah Sunday morning, March 14, caravans to trailhead, then hike in. Work four days, day hike one day, hike out Saturday morning, March 20. Expect knee to thigh deep river crossings, overnight lows near freezing, mild temperatures during day. Participants responsible for their own leather gloves, warm clothes with thick layers from all western states will gather at the University of California, Berkeley, California. Visit the conference website: [www.westernwilderness.org](http://www.westernwilderness.org). Solve the problem of which one cares about the wild places of the West—this is one event not to miss! This is your opportunity to give back, to make a difference and to help secure the grand wild places of the American West for future generations. Dynamic speakers, workshops, music, meals, outings! It’s all part of the celebration of the West’s wild places.

Although the event takes place in the San Francisco Bay Area, wilderness organizations and advocates from around the West are invited to participate in this grand event. Some 600 to 800 participants from all Western states will gather to focus on the role of wild lands in an era of global change. Plenary sessions, dynamic speakers and intensive workshops will help connect wild places with climate change and give lessons on how to advocate more effectively. Music, films and fun.

The CNRCC Desert Committee offers 22 Sierra Club western chapters which are already conference sponsors. Other sponsors nearby are Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Nevada Wilderness Project, and Friends of the Inyo.

What you can do. Register online at [www.westernwilderness.org](http://www.westernwilderness.org). “Early bird” registration fee is $100. Some scholarships available; contact Vicky Hoover, Planning Committee Co-chair, vicky.hoover@sierrclub.org, 425-977-5527.

**APRIL 17-18 (SAT-SUN)**
**EXPLORE MOJAVE NATION’S PRESERVE**
Maybe bash tamarisk along Owens River, but this could change. Work on desert wildflowers, exploring riparian opportunities on Sunday. Camp at Diaz Lake just S of Lone Pine. Group potluck Saturday night. Bring all camping gear, or stay in motel in nearby Lone Pine. Info: contact leaders, Cal & Letty French (805-259-7373, lettyfrench@gmail.com).

Santa Lucia Chapter / CNRCC Desert Committee
Officer changes. Rosemary Jarrett is our new ExCom member. We thank retiring ExCom member Dick Baggett for his service to the group. Dick continues to lead our Wednesday evening hikes. Also note that CD Ritter has replaced Mary Ann Dunigan as our Publicity Chair. Thanks to Mary Ann for her service and also to retiring Chapter ExCom (and ROLG) member Jean Dillingham.

Schedule changes. ROL ExCom continues to meet on the first Monday of each month, but the time has switched back to 3 pm from 3:30 pm. We rotate meetings among ExCom members’ homes so check with me (wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com, 760-924-5639) regarding location and also to confirm that the monthly meeting has not been canceled. In January, we meet on the 2nd Monday, January 11, rather than on January 4.

Potlucks return. We’ll again be having potlucks before the monthly meetings held at the Crowley Community Center (no potlucks allowed at the Mammoth Lakes library). A poll of members indicated overwhelming support for the potlucks. People also said they were willing to share the work for organizing the potlucks so the burden does not always fall on the same person. The schedule remains the same:

- Third Tuesdays, potluck at 6:30, announcements followed by program at 7 pm. You are welcome to skip the potluck and come at 7 pm.

Conservation. In separate articles or in future newsletters we’ll report on current conservation issues: Sherwin Working Group’s plan for recreation in the area adjoining Mammoth Lakes on the south; proposed expansion by the Mammoth Lakes Geothermal project (topic of our January 19 monthly meeting); the Inyo-Mono County water management plan; and DWP proposals for significant solar facilities in the Eastern Sierra.

Outings. See this page for information on our Thursday morning and Sunday snowshoe and cross-country ski outings which begin in January, snow permitting. If you live near Mammoth, you’ll be glad to know that Mammoth Nordic is resuming grooming cross-country ski trails in the Shady Rest area.

**DEADLINE! MARCH 1**

**FOR APR-MAY-JUNE ISSUE**

**ROL Group Website**

<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/>

**& Chapter website**

<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/>

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**Snow play, cross-country skiing, & snowshoe tours**

**BY BRUCE WHEELER, ROLG OUTINGS CHAIR**

**ARE YOU READY FOR FUN IN THE SNOW?** Come out with us and work off holiday feasting calories. We’re going to have a varied winter outings program of cross-country ski and snowshoe tours. For more info, call or email leaders: John Walter (760 934-1767; salt1143@gmail.com); Jean Dillingham (760 648-7109; jdill@qnet.com); or Bryce Wheeler (760 934-7364; telebry@verizon.net).

**January-April 2010: Thursday and Sunday cross-country ski trips.** First Rol. 2010 x-c ski outing will be Thursday, Jan.7. Meet at ML Union Bank parking lot, 10 am. Sunday x-c ski trips will start Jan.10. Meeting time and place are same for both Thursday and Sunday trips. Winter tours will continue through April or until the snow runs out.

**Thursday morning snow play.** We concentrate on conditioning, technique practice, and learning about our local landscape and critters. All skill levels welcome. We like to help beginners get started. Bring water, lunch or snack, ski equipment or snowshoes; wear sunscreen, hat, gloves and layered clothing. Thursday treks will last about two hours.

**Sunday trips.** These will be easy tours (about 5 miles) and are open to both snowshoers and skiers; however, snowshoers must be able to keep up. Sunday outings will usually be longer and could be described as snow hiking, as we won’t usually be on groomed trails. Most Nordic track or touring skis will do, although waxless, patterned skis are preferred. The new, lightweight snowshoes are preferable. Rental equipment is available locally if needed. Dress in layered clothing to be prepared for unpredictable weather. Wear sunscreen, hat, and gloves and bring water and lunch or snacks.

Weather and snow conditions determine where we go. If you have a favorite trip, let us know and will try to put it on the list. We would like to have more trips scheduled out of Bishop and involve more local people there. We would welcome more winter outings leaders. Getting out in the forest in the winter offers opportunities to see tracks of animals seldom seen, such as pine martin and other elusive critters, and enjoy the serenity and spectacular beauty of our public lands.

Unfortunately, sometimes we encounter snowmobile traffic in wilderness areas where such intrusion is illegal. We hope to educate the public by assisting the Forest Service in putting up signs to discourage illegal entry.

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**You’re Invited!**

**Range of Light Group Monthly Meeting**

Everyone welcome!

**Jan. 19 (Tues)**

**Full Potluck & Social 6:30 pm!** New Crowley Lake Community Ctr (next to Crowley Lake Store)

Please bring your own non-disposable table setting and a dish for 6-8 people.

**Program 7:30 pm**

“**What’s New at the Geothermal Plant**” with Ron Leiken, Environmental & Regulatory Affairs Mgr. at Ormat

Ron will present the basics of geothermal energy, describe operations at the Mammoth Lakes geothermal plant, compare geothermal energy plants with other types of non-renewable and renewable energy plants, and discuss possible expansion plans at the facility.

**Feb. 16 (Tues)**

**Full Potluck & Social 6:30 pm!** New Crowley Lake Community Ctr (next to Crowley Lake Store)

Please bring your own non-disposable table setting and a dish for 6-8 people.

**Program 7:30 pm**

“**Roof Pendants of the E. Sierra**” with Brigitte Berman, ROL ExCom Officer & Resident Geologist

Roof pendants are remnants of ancient sedimentary and volcanic rocks into which Sierra Nevada granite was emplaced. Brigitte will focus on the Mt. Morrison and Mt. Ritter pendants: their history and implications. Brigitte will focus on the Mt. Morrison and Mt. Ritter pendants: their history and implications.

**Mar. 16 (Tues)**

**Full Potluck & Social 6:30 pm!** New Crowley Lake Community Ctr (next to Crowley Lake Store)

Please bring your own non-disposable table setting and a dish for 6-8 people.

**Program 7:30 pm**

“**Devils Postpile: Challenges**” with Deanna Dulen, Supt., Devils Postpile VM

The Postpile is known for its striking basaltic columns, but there is much more to this small jewel. Surveys of the park’s resources reveal it is situated at a significant crossroad of ecological diversity. Deanna will discuss these findings.

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**Range of Light Calendar**

**ALL OUTINGS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES!**

All phone numbers are 760 unless otherwise noted.

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.
Eastern Sierra Land Trust coming events
BY MARY MCGURKE, ESLT DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH DIRECTOR
For a close up look at the Eastern Sierra’s winter landscape and how we are preserving it, please come to one of our upcoming events. Visit our new website at <www.eslt.org> for more information.

In January, ESLT will host a Volunteer Orientation Evening. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved with the amazing community of ESLT volunteers! Learn more about how as an ESLT volunteer you can contribute to preserving exceptional lands in the Eastern Sierra.

In February, join ESLT for a Moonlight Ski Tour on lands that have been permanently preserved by an ESLT conservation easement. We will quietly swish through beautiful meadows and end the evening with warm drinks and dessert. This is an exclusive opportunity to see first hand the beauty and value of preserving the Eastern Sierra’s working and wild lands.

In March, join ESLT for a Wildlife Migration Corridor Field Trip. Local biologists will share their knowledge and research on Eastern Sierra wildlife and migration corridor habitats. Experience first hand the importance of the migration corridor and wildlife habitat that has been permanently protected for plant communities and wildlife.

What you can do. Visit ESLT’s new website (address above) for more information, event details, and other opportunities to connect with our treasured lands. Also, please join our e-mail mailing list for monthly updates (info@eslt.org) or give us a call (760-873-4554).

POPPY RESERVE . . . continued from page 2
important prehistoric sites on Fairmont Butte, and disrupt a sensitive ecological area for birds of prey.

What you can do. The next hearing is scheduled for February 6, 11 - 5 pm at the Regional Public Library, 601 W. Lancaster Blvd., Lancaster, CA.

For more information and to find out where to write to support a NO vote on this project, visit the Save the Poppy Reserve website at <www.s2o2.com/savethepoppyreserve>.

DEADLINE! MARCH 1 FOR APR-MAY-JUNE ISSUE

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park
May 7-9; Jul 16-19; Aug 6-9; Sep 10-12, 2010
California’s Channel Islands are Galapagos USA! Marvel at the sight of whales, seals, sea lions, rare birds, and blazing wildflowers. Hike the wild, windswept trails. Kayak the rugged coastline. Snorkel in pristine waters. Discover remnants of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or just relax at sea. These 3 and 4-day, live-aboard fundraiser cruises are sponsored by the Angeles Chapter Political Committee and Sierra Club California Political Committee.

Depart from Santa Barbara aboard the Truth. Fee ($590 for May and Sep; $785 for July & August) includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, and beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes on each island and point out interesting features.

To make a reservation, mail a $100 check payable to Sierra Club to leaders: Joan Jones Holtz & Don Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leaders for more information (626-443-0706; jjholtzhln@aol.com).

Announcement: Golden Trout Wilderness Camp 2010
The nonprofit Golden Trout Wilderness Camp is a rustic walk-in camp located in the southern Sierra in Golden Trout Wilderness near Mt. Whitney. Three one-week natural history sessions will be held this summer. The $495 tuition includes all meals, canvas tent cabins with cot, and daily guided naturalist-led hikes. Please go to <www.goldentroutworkshops.org> for detailed information.

SHERWIN WORKING GROUP CONSENSUS OVERTURNED . . . continued from page 1
ary (UGB) to the top of the Sherwin Range, with motorized use to the east and non-motorized use to the west.

On Oct 13, a furious winter storm blew into Mammoth and turned away many regular participants. As a result, the six-month consensus was negated. For some reason, no minutes of the meeting were sent in the past. In an e-mail a few days later, the facilitator said the final draft would be put into subcommittee to work out some changes and final details.

Facilitators violate proper procedure. The full committee received the “final draft” via e-mail on a Friday, October 30, just 3 days before the final committee meeting on Tuesday, November 3. No new substantive changes were allowed. Rather, a celebratory party was planned, to approve the subcommittee consensus and end our work.

In the final draft, the subcommittee had deleted the heart of the winter plan: the boundary separation of motorized use to the east and non-motorized use to the west.

The reason for this was calls from the snowmobile community. To appease those who had come to the original consensus, the subcommittee enlarged a section to include a non-motorized “developed” zone only in the meadow and only after a ski trail system could be developed sometime in the future.

Those who had agreed on the original consensus believe proper procedure was violated. The subcommittee did not present the final draft to the full committee, but simply asked the facilitator to explain its rationale at the final meeting. The committee consensus was altered at the 11th hour by outside phone calls and e-mails from the snowmobile community.

Non-members overturn consensus. Thus, the consensus was altered by people who did not participate in the open committee. Why did the facilitators allow this to happen? An official public comment period by the USFS was always to be a part of the process.

Note that the committee had always been completely open to all user groups. The nearly 70 of us who volunteered believed we would forge a difficult consensus by the presence and participation of all user groups. The committee recommendations would than go to the USFS for the open public comment period.

What you can do. We’ll keep you alerted! The plan is called SHARP (Sherwin Area Recreational Plan). When you get our alert please tell the Forest Service to “reinstate the original committee consensus to separate motorized and non-motorized winter use in Mammoth Meadow and the Sherwin Range.” This is urgent!

* a volunteer citizens’ committee, convened by the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Lakes Trails & Public Access (MLTPA)
20th anniversary celebration of Nevada wilderness

BY MARGE SILL

On December 5, 1989, the Nevada Wilderness Protection Act designating 733,400 acres of forest service wilderness was signed into law. This marked the end of a 25-year effort to achieve wilderness in Nevada which previously had only one small wilderness area: the Jarbidge in northeast Elko County.

Hearings were held in nearly every Nevada community and in Washington, D.C. This legislation was introduced by Jim Bilbray in the House and Harry Reid and Dick Bryan in the Senate; it was signed by President Ronald Reagan.

Areas designated were Alta Toquima, Arc Dome, Boundary Peak, Currant Mountain, East Humboldt, Grant Range, Mount Charleston, Mount Moriah, Mount Rose, Quinn Canyon, Ruby Mountains, Santa Rosa, Table Mountain, and the Jarbidge Extension.

Many Sierra Club members worked tirelessly to achieve this victory. Among these were Roger Scholl, Karen Boeiger, Dennis Ghiglieri, Rose Stackland, Glenn Miller, Kirk Peterson, Bert Young, Ann and Greg Ebner, Ross Smith, Don Molde, Pete Serrazza, and particularly Lois Segel and her water conservation group in Las Vegas. Sadly, many of the key players in the effort are no longer with us, including Sally Kabisch, Jean Ford (first Executive Director of Friends of Nevada Wilderness), Catherine Smith, and Amy Mazza.

What you can do. Anyone who worked on this bill is invited to submit memories to Marge Sill (msill@juno.com) who is compiling a short history of Nevada wilderness and its heroes.

Seniors & disabled to lose Forest Service benefits

BY MARGE SILL

The U.S. Forest Service has announced in the December 1 Federal Register that it will begin to ask seniors and disabled persons who apply for holders of the Golden Age, Senior, and Access (disability) passes. This will apply to all concession-operated Forest Service Campgrounds.

Free day use of sites will also no longer be available to holders of these lifetime passes. Comments on this change (which evidently has been brought about by lobbying from large concession companies) will be accepted by the Forest Service until Feb. 1.

What you can do. For further information, please contact Kitty Benzar (wsnofe@gmail.com). Those of us who will be affected by this change should also contact our Senators and Representatives.

Huge court victory in water wars

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

On October 19, 2009, Judge Norman Robison overturned the Nevada State Engineer’s granting of water rights to the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) in three remote dry valleys in eastern Nevada. The judge bluntly ruled that the state official “abused his discretion” and “acted arbitrarily, capriciously and oppressively.”

Attorneys for the Great Basin Water Network had appealed the decision on behalf of local farmers, ranchers, residents, and conservationists. These groups feared removal of 6 billion gallons of groundwater per year from Cave, Delamar, and Dry Lake Valleys would significantly diminish their water rights and also harm the threatened and endangered species dependent on rare desert springs supported by the groundwater aquifer.

The judge found that the state engineer “arabited increased the estimated rate of water available in the valleys without specific empirical data. The judge also noted that the engineer “simply hoping for the best while committed to undoing the decision at the worst occurs.”

According to testimony at the water hearing, the state engineer had cut the amount of water to be reserved for future growth as required by the interbasin water transfer requirements in state water law. The engineer also decided that no specific protection of existing water rights was needed since pumping impacts would not likely impact the downflow basins for at least 75 years, although the Nevada state water law requires the state engineer to protect senior water rights, his vacated ruling would have meant that local residents whose livelihoods are based on access to scarce water resources would have to see the SNWA each time its pumping adversely affected their wells and springs. This court “remedy” would repeatedly pit rural residents against the apparently unlimited financial and legal resources of the water authority.

An SNWA spokesman quickly attacked the court ruling, claiming it was biased and “flat wrong” and threatening an appeal to the Nevada Supreme Court. In a press release from the Great Basin Water Network, Susan Lynn responded to SNWA’s attack on the Judge by saying “Such a response is consistent with SNWA management’s inability to engage in self-critical reflection about its astronomically expensive, utterly misguided, and environmentally catastrophic pipeline project.”

What you can do. For more details on the water wars, see the Chapter website at www.toiyabe.sierraclub.org and the GBWN website at www.greatbasinwaternetwork.org.

International Symposium on Terminus Lakes

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

FOR THREE DAYS in October, 2009, over 150 scientists, government agency officials, tribes, lawyers, and conservationists listened to presentations on research done on Walker Lake and other rare lakes all over the planet which have no outlet. Walker Lake is now on the brink, so scientists should be reminded of the fate of our Nevada lake (which is threatened with declining lake levels and rising levels of salts) with similar lakes in Antarctica, Uzbekistan, the middle east and China. Most of the research done in Nevada was conducted as a part of the Walker Basin Project, a federally funded project, with Senator Harry Reid’s assistance.

Participants learned that Walker Lake waters originate in the East and West Walker Rivers in California. These rivers then flow into Nevada, combine to form the Walker River in Mason Valley, and ultimately flow into Walker Lake near Hawthorne, in central Nevada. These waters support agriculture, recreation, fish and wildlife. Walker Lake is one of only three desert closed lakes with a freshwater fishery in all of North America.

Some questions addressed by the researchers included: What are the best ways to deliver water, purchased from willing sellers, to Walker Lake? How can water deliveries be managed to sustain both the economies of local communities and the river-lake ecosystem? Are alternative crops feasible agriculturally? How best can water conserved by switching to alternative crops be delivered to Walker Lake under existing federal and state water laws?

What you can do. Find more information on these and other research questions at the GBWN Chapter website, www.toiyabe.sierraclub.org.

Wildlife management: What does it mean?

BY DON MOLDE

A FEW YEARS AGO, the Nevada legislature passed a law which assesses sportsmen a special $3 fee when a license/tag is purchased. That fee goes to the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to be used for predator management. The theory, espoused by some sportmen, is that predators (coyotes, cougars) are the direct cause of Nevada’s “low” mule deer population (100,000 instead of twice that, last seen about 30 years ago). Therefore, they argue, killing predators will enhance deer populations and the state will increase NDOW revenue through license/tag sales.

Although NDOW biologists published a definitive study in 2004, looking at 100,000 independent “cases” showing that degraded habitat conditions/drought/fire are the primary reasons for current population levels, some sportmen and politically appointed Wildlife Commissioners were not persuaded. They have spent about $2,000,000 since FY 2000 to kill coyotes, cougars and ravens (thought to be a threat to sage grouse). Despite that expenditure and the fact that there has been no increase in deer numbers, the theory lives on. And NDOW has over $600,000 in its predator management budget to start FY 2010. NDOW does not kill coyotes and cougars directly. Rather, it contracts with APHIS/ Wildlife Services (formerly ADC) to do so in areas where NDOW thinks a “benefit” might occur. NDOW has made modest attempts to monitor game populations, pre/post killing, but without scientifically valid study designs, the results are inconclusive.

A persistent irritant for those sportmen and Commissioners has been an inability to obtain higher numbers of cougar kills (currently about 150/year). Recently, Commissioner suggested decimating the cougar from game species (can’t be hunted by air) to “varmint” status so it could be hunted/killed by fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter.

What you can do. For further information, contact me at skyshrink@aol.com.
The richest values of wilderness lie not in the days of Daniel Boone nor even in the present, but rather in the future. — Aldo Leopold

Wild horse preserves in the Midwest
BY TINA NAPPE
SECRETARY OF INTERIOR KEN SALAZAR proposes creating two wild horse preserves in the Midwest to maintain approximately 6000 horses. The cost of acquiring and developing these preserves will be $93-96 million. Salazar proposes five additional horse preserves in partnership with non-profit organizations.

Wild horse advocates have wanted up to 2500 horses in discrete herds, but capable of mixing gene pools. However, the Great Basin Desert is drier than plains grasslands, which are adapted to multitides of grass grazing animals like horses or bison. In the Great Basin Desert, the highly nutritious bunch grasses adapted to sustaining large numbers of hoofed animals like sheep, cattle, or horses is absent. Instead, Great Basin grasses evolved in the absence of heavy grazing. Grass in the Great Basin doesn’t grow year round. After being cropped once or twice, a bunch grass dies and is replaced with sagebrush (which is virtually unplatable) or annual grasses like cheat grass (which is minimally nutritious and highly flammable).

Salazar is also proposing that some Herd Management Areas (HMAs) be for geldings only. When horse roundups occur, horses returned to public lands might have sex altered (or annual grasses like cheat grass (which is minimally nutritious and highly flammable).

The purpose of the conference was to search for (1) practical solutions to the overuse of public lands, (2) ways to increase the health and number of feral horses and burros in the U.S. The conferencewas organized by the Society for Range Management and co-sponsored by the Sierra Club; it was held in Sparks and included a tour of wild horse facilities north of Reno.

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New National Monument proposal in Las Vegas Valley
BY YUKI TAKAGI
Nestled between RED ROCK National Conservation Area and Desert National Wildlife Refuge, just a stone’s throw away from the Las Vegas metropolitan area, lies Piute paleontological sites in Upper Las Vegas Wash (also known as Tule Springs), away increased federal protection.

The area, with nearly 600 identified fossil sites, is scientifically noted as one of the largest and most diverse paleontological sites in the United States. The time period extends from 200,000 years ago until about 7000 years ago. As no other fossils, the fossil beds and surrounding fragile desert ecosystem are threatened by urban sprawl, ongoing daily trips along the Pyramid Highway (and their carbon emissions), and perhaps returning to a more sensible regional plan.

Spring Mountain green community location. We would be interested in working with the developer to find alternatives to his plans for building a green community. They say Spring Mountain will be the world’s first off-grid energy powered community. As we build a new green economy that can begin to put people back to work, we want to harness this positive part of the Spring Mountain developer’s plans. Our issue is not the development, but where it is located. We want to direct growth towards our traditional urban cores.

Don’t forget to visit the Chapter website <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>

Conservation news of Northern Nevada
BY ERIC HOLLAND, CHAPTER EXCOM MEMBER AND A PRESIDENT OF VOTERS FOR SENSIBLE GROWTH

Sustainable water supplies. Here in Northern Nevada, we successfully passed WC3, an initiative that ties growth to known and sustainable water supplies. We are now working on getting that language into our regional plan. Unfortunately, officials continue to insist language allowing the region to “find more water.” Translation: import water from nearby counties. The latest attempt is to incorporate the language of WC3 into the regional plan, but include a “decision tree” in which one decision could be to “find more available water.” The initiative was silent on water import, so the regional plan should also be silent.

Leapfrog annexations. Sparks has recently begun a series of leapfrog annexations, which Voters for Sensible Growth has been challenging through the administrative process. Legal action may follow.

Up-zoning in Winnemucca Ranch. Our lawsuit on Reno’s up-zoning on the distant Winnemucca Ranch will go to the Nevada Supreme Court. The Board of NR 2000 January - February - March 2010
Mountain of trash may come to the most mountainous state

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN

I n the high desert 28 miles west of Winnemucca, Nevada, is a site now named as the proposed Jungo Landfill. A California company called Recology (formerly NorCal) is attempting to develop the landfill. It has been discussed for several years but is only now receiving intense attention by local activists and civic-minded citizens of Humboldt County.

The landfill, if permitted, will bring in 8 million tons (4000 tons) of non-recyclable trash (including hazardous waste) from the Bay area of California five days a week, via train, for 95 years. The project now encompasses one full section of land, but the company has options on three adjacent sections. This would undoubtedly become Nevada’s largest landfill.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection has expressed their intent to issue an air-quality permit for the site. As an indication of how inadequate Nevada law is with respect to air quality, the developer is not required to have any permanent air monitoring equipment at the site.

The merits of this site are doubtful. Local residents have pictures of the proposed site being underwater in years with wet spring weather. The dominant west winds would certainly carry the odors to the nearest town of Winnemucca. In all, it’s one more attempt by outside forces to dominate and control the residents of this beautiful area.

Please see TRASH MOUNTAIN, page 9.

JANUARY 1 (FRIDAY)

Annual New Year’s Day Assault on Prison Hill

Time: 7:30 am program Location: Carson City

The Carson Valley Trails Association (CVTA) has been awarded a technical assistance grant from the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance program. The grant will provide the assistance and expertise of a National Park Service (NPS) outdoor recreation planner to work with CVTA for one to two years.

The NPS planner will help CVTA create strategies for working together with both the private and public sectors to reach the organization’s goal of establishing the Carson Valley Trail, a continuous, non-motorized recreational trail system circling the Carson Valley. When completed, this trail will implement most of Douglas County’s Comprehensive Trails Plan.

In 2008, CVTA received a $396,378 Nevada Division of State Lands Question 1 Grant for the Genoa Foothill Trail System project to fund two-thirds of the approximately 24-mile trail system near Genoa, Nevada. This project proposes two general loop trails, a connecting trail up Sierra Canyon to the Tahoe Rim Trail, and a connecting trail to the Kingsbury Grade in Pine Basin area. Environmental studies for this trail system have begun and are expected to continue through most of 2010, with trail construction expected to begin during spring of 2011.

CVTA’s annual meeting will be held on Monday, January 18, 2010, at the Genoa Town Hall in Genoa and (2) a month-long “Hike for Health” Challenge beginning on April 22 and ending on May 23, 2010. Complete details about both events will be posted on the CVTA website early in 2010.

The Carson Valley Trails Association is a nonprofit volunteer-based organization working with partners to provide access to public lands through a recreational trail system for present and future generations to enjoy. More information about the organization is available online at www.carsonvalleytrails.org.

GREAT BASIN GROUP PROGRAMS

BY VALERIE ANDERSEN

For more information on any program, contact Valerie Anderson (775-339-3002, mtnval@sierraclub.org). All programs are open to the public unless otherwise noted.

JANUARY 4 (SATURDAY)

Beginner’s Cross-Country Ski.

Location: Mt. Rose Meadows

Join a wildlife biologist and a local cross-country ski expert for an informative discussion on Nevada’s black bear population. Lackey is a well-known black bear specialist from the Nevada Department of Wildlife and has overseen the bear control program for more than 13 years. His work was featured in a National Geographic Channel program titled “The Animal Exterminators” in 2006. Lackey will offer a brief overview of the natural history of bears in our state, including basic biological information. He will then discuss bear management issues, threats, and opportunities. With wildfires, drought, and human encroachment into their habitat, bear encounters are no longer uncommon. For a preview of the information to be covered, check out the Wildlife & Habitat section of the NWDW website, http://www.nwdw.org/.

Carl has produced and posted many fascinating reports, including a 46-page booklet, “Ecol- ogy & Conservation of Nevada’s Black Bears,” as well as historical and current statistics on black bears.

Photo: Jim Nelson.

Please see GB PROGRAMS, page 9.

“River of Hope: The Truckee River Chronicles”

Jan. 14, 2010 (Thursday) Time: 7:30 pm program Location: Barton Ranch Park, Reno

Frank X. Mullen, Jr., author of “The Truckee River Chronicles” and an investigative reporter for the Reno Gazette-Journal, will explore the geologic and environmental history of the Truckee River with an audiovisual look at his book-in-progress, “River of Hope: The Truckee River Chronicles.” The Truckee River created our valley and has nurtured life from time immemorial. Only a few decades after emigrant pioneers began using it as a highway in 1844, the once-pristine stream had become an open sewer—an odorous “Reno chowder” – depleted of fish and bird species. If considered at all, the Truckee was often seen as bight on the community and a flood hazard, to be walled off in concrete and ignored. Today, things have changed. Slowly, the insults to our river are being corrected. Anyone who has enjoyed Frank Mullen’s performances as a Chautauqua character knows this talk promises to be dynamic! Mullen has also been the author of “The Donner Party Chronicles: A Day-by-Day Account of a Doomed Wagon Train,” 1846-47.

“Be Bear Aware!”

February 11, 2010 (Thursday) Time: 7:30 pm program Location: Barton Ranch Park, Reno

Join wildlife biologist Carl Lackey for an informative discussion on Nevada’s black bear population. Lackey is a well-known black bear specialist from the Nevada Department of Wildlife and has overseen the bear control program for more than 13 years. His work...
9am, return 3pm. Ascend off-trail 600-700 ft through forest from just N of Little Tamarack Lake. A little steep in places. Coming up rounded backside of promontory we’ll be on top of large granite wall 300ft above valley, halfway between Mt Rose & Tamarack Peak. About 3 mi. Expecting to need snowshoes. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hanneman (775-336-7698; gphanneman@charter.net). Mod. easy.

JANUARY 16 (SATURDAY)

JANUARY 23 (SATURDAY)
Buckland’s Station (S of Silver Springs) Day Hike. Meet 8:30 am. Loop of about 10 mi on flat ground. Start at historic Buckland’s Station, proceed downstream along Carson River, enjoy riparian habitat. Some recent beaver activity visible. Return on segment of Pony Express Trail route. Learn some history of area. State Park walk-in fee is $1 per person. Option to tour remains of Fort Churchill on your own after hike. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Moderate.

JANUARY 24 (SUNDAY)

JANUARY 31 (SUNDAY)
Jumbo Grade Shuttle. Meet 9 am. An easier Jumbo Grade hike with great views of Washoe Valley and Slide Mountain. About 10 mi one way with shuttle; about 950 ft gain. DL. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763; dinversin@yahoo.com). Moderate.

JANUARY 31 (SUNDAY)
GB GROUP PROGRAMS . . . continued from page 8

bear mortalities and complaints.

“Renewable Energy Projects In Northern Nevada”
March 11, 2010 (Thursday)
Time: 7 pm social, 7:30 pm program Location: Bartley Ranch Park, Reno Where is our energy in the future? Where is it coming from? When will it be renewable energy? Hear answers and ideas from Dr. Jason Geddes, Reno’s first Environmental Services administrator and the former Environmental Affairs manager for the University of Nevada, Reno. Dr. Geddes will describe the city’s current energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, including solar photovoltaic systems, wind turbine demonstration programs, solar thermal heating systems and lighting retrofits. He will also detail the current status of recycling in Reno, where he leads the Green Team, implements action plans, and communicates with the public. In 2002, Dr. Geddes served in the Nevada Legislature on the Education, Judiciary, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining committees, and sponsored legislation dealing with sustainability. He is also a member of the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, where he currently serves as Vice Chair.

GB GROUP PROGRAMS . . .
continued from page 8

TRASH MOUNTAIN . . .
continued from page 8

siders to flush their problems in Nevada, as with the nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain.

Local activists have recently received an opinion poll mailed to an unbiased sample of 198 registered voters. The results were: favor the landfill = 14%, oppose the landfill = 78%, undecided = 8%. The next step will be to use whatever legal means possible to override the county commission’s approval of the site.

Independent petition committee of concerned citizens has recently been formed. The committee’s purpose is to place an initiative on the 2010 general election ballot to block the project. The board of county commissioners (Humboldt Co.) paved the way for this project two years ago by making two minor changes to the County Code allowing for a second landfill and the import of toxic waste.

Nevada Against Garbage (NAG) leaders became aware of the true scope of the project in August 2008 and began sounding the alarm. Those in opposition have been heartened by a recent rider attached to an appropriations bill by Senator Reid in October. This rider directs the U.S. Geological Survey to do a thorough hydrological study of the proposed site. View more information at <http://nolandfill.wordpress.com>.

SPOONER SUMMIT NORTH ON TRT.
Meet 9:30am, return 3pm. Start at TRT. About 4 mi, 800 ft gain. All members welcome to join us to help plan outings for April-May-June. Bring potluck dish to share. All beverages provided. Call Yvonne for directions; leaders will receive email with directions. ND. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (851-3043; yvonne@clearwire.net). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Easy.

JANUARY 27 (SATURDAY)
Spooner Summit North on TRT. Meet 9 am. Snowshoe N along Tahoe Rim Trail starting from Spooner Summit. Spectacular views of Tahoe in winter; cozy place for lunch. About 1000 ft gain, 5-6 mi. This is equivalent to 8-9 mi hiking. Learn about TRT. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Co-Leader: Vesna Koracan (324-4092). Moderate.

FEBRUARY 28 (SATURDAY)
Centennial Park Carson City to Mound House Loop. Meet 9 am. Follow trail off side east of Carson City up to ridge line overlooking Mound House and new V & T Railroad Line. If no one has deposited a toilet, it will get us to view an interesting piece of ‘folk art’ along way. About 5 mi, 500 ft gain. DL. Leader: Donna Inversin (775-315-6763; dinversin@yahoo.com). Mod. easy.
**Southern Nevada Group Calendar**

All phone numbers are 702 unless otherwise noted.

(Please use email when leaders state that they prefer email, especially if you have a long distance telephone number.)

**January 1, 2010 (Friday)**

*Pinto Valley, LMNRA.* Begin this 8 mi loop at Mile 18 on North Shore Rd. See a spring, narrow canyons, rock formations. What makes various colors? Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhawks@embargo-mail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

**January 4 (Friday)**

*Hangover Hike: Valley of Pillars in Rainbow Gardens.* Start New Year right by joining your fellow hikers on a moderate but scenic 4-mi RT hike in Rainbow Gardens. Spectacular desert scenery with rugged sandstone buttes and volcanic mountains. Leave late morning. Leader: Geologist Nick Saines (896-4049).

**January 2 (Saturday)**

*Blue Diamond Trails and Velvet Canyon, RRNCNA.* Hike begins in Blue Diamond, over a ridge and to Velvet Canyon where we may see orde. Then back by a series that Blue Diamond. What are main evergreen shrubs? About 10 mi. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhawks@embargo-mail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 3.

**January 3 (Sunday)**

*Horset Loop. Begin near Mountains Edge development, then across an open area and into a rather narrow canyon which leads to a high ridge. After lunch, follow ridge down to another canyon and back to cars. Are there fossils in rocks here? About 5 mi. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhawks@embargo-mail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

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* ExCom member

**January 3 (Wednesday)**

*General Program Meeting.* Time & Place: 7:30p; NV Energy Bldg. (see next). Program: TBA. Learn about many issues 5. NV Group is involved in and how you can get involved. Light dinner, refreshments. All members, friends, guests welcome. Contact: Jane Feldman (feldman.jane@gmail.com).

**January 13 (Wednesday)**

*Nevada Conservation Meeting.* Time & Place: 6-7p, before General Meeting; NV Energy Bldg. (see next). Program: TBA. Learn about many issues 5. NV Group is involved in and how you can get involved. Light dinner, refreshments. All members, friends, guests welcome. Contact: Jane Feldman (feldman.jane@gmail.com).

**Help protect Gold Butte**

**BY TERRI ROBERTSON, FRIENDS OF GOLD BUTTE**

**GOLD BUTTE, SOUTHERN Nevada’s piece of the Grand Canyon puzzle, has yet to achieve the designation it deserves. Sandwiched between the Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument and Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Gold Butte is recognized for critical desert tortoise habitat, unique botanical and scenic resources, and stories of our history and prehistory.**

**What makes various colors?** Leader: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhawks@embargo-mail.com; e-mail preferred).

**What you can do.** Please take a moment of your time to join/assist our group as we work to protect and preserve the beautiful Gold Butte Area. All of us have a responsibility to care for our public lands for ourselves and for future generations. Stewardship, writing letters, and volunteering: all of these actions are ways that you can help and are essential to protecting Gold Butte.

**How you can help.** You can call the Board of County Commissioners in support of a Gold Butte resolution (702-455-3500). In addition, you can call or write Congresswoman Diana Tuck and ask her to protect Gold Butte by designating it a National Conservation Area with Wilderness. Congresswoman Tuck can be reached at 8215 S. Eastern Ave., Suite 205, Las Vegas, NV 89123 or 202-225-3522.

For information on Friends of Gold Butte, contact Terri Robertson, Las Vegas Outreach Coordinator (702-459-7613), Nancy Hall, President (702-346-3723), or e-mail us at friends@goldbutte@gmail.com. You can also check our blog at <http://friendsofgoldbutte.blogspot.com/>.

Just think about those beautiful places we all enjoy, like the Grand Canyon, Red Rock NBA, Weep Humid Wild National Area, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and how much they enrich our lives. Our work on Gold Butte will result in our having another beautiful place to enjoy for generations.

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**Mt. Charleston’s butterflies:**

On the way to extinction?

By LAUNCE RAKE

As the weather turns colder and the winter snows blanket the Spring Mountains west of Las Vegas, visitors to the National Recreation Area can take comfort in the explosion of flowers and butterflies that the mountain meadows will bring in the spring. Unfortunately, there will likely be fewer butterflies next spring than the last. The latest trend has seen the likely extinction of at least one subspecies in the mountains (Mountain Charleston blue butterfly) and could see extinction in others.

I first wrote about the threats to the tiny butterflies on the mountain four years ago while a Newer for the Las Vegas Sun. In 2005, conservationists with the Urban Wildlands Group petitioned the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for emergency protections for the Mount Charleston Blue butterfly, a pastel blue denizen of the range’s alpine meadows. The federal agency ultimately refused to provide endangered species protections to the Mount Charleston Blue.

One of the major researchers of Lepidoptera in the Springs Mountains fears that the Blue is now extinct, and others are in real jeopardy.

All nine major species in the mountains are now at risk, says Bruce Boyd, a researcher who has studied butterflies and their habitats in the Spring Range for three decades. This fall, Boyd filed an emergency petition to list the Chlo-

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**Group News**

**Monthly meetings**

The next ExCom meeting dates are Mondays, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, and Mar. 1. All members welcome. Info: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832).

The next NEW & PROSPECTIVE MEMBER ORIENTATION will be on Feb. 10. It precedes the general meeting in the same room at 7 pm. Info: please call Taj Ainlay (882-9361).

**Making an announcement.**

To put an announcement in our local monthly announcement sheet (available at the General Meeting), please send a brief e-mail to Rita (rita.ransom@hotmail.com) no later than Tuesday afternoon before the meeting. To make a brief announcement at the meeting, check with Rita, Gary, or another officer before the meeting.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARs:**

For the second Wednesday of every month (except August and holidays) for the MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING at 7:30 pm. Come socialize, learn what’s going on in the environmental community, and hear and see an interesting, educational slideshow program. See the Calendar (pages 10-11) for dates and details.

**Conservation Committee Meeting**

This precedes the General Meeting in the same room from 6-7 pm. The next ConsCom meetings are Wednesdays, Jan. 12 and Mar. 10. Contact: Jane Feldman (janefeldman@cox.net).

**Group EXCom meetings**

6-8:30 pm on the first Monday of each month, except August, when the first Monday is a holiday. Location: Sierra Club Office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass Ave.), Suite 220B (upstairs), Las Vegas.

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**Don’t forget to visit the Chapter website**

<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>
Boulder City. Sharon recently served as artist-in-residence for prestigious Antarctic Polar Arcs Program. Join Sharon in this multimedia presentation as she shares her sketches, photographs, memories of her extraordinary experience with penguins in icy Antarctic wilderness. She will have some of her artwork for sale. All members and general public are welcome. Refreshments, announcements, free literature, too. Info: Gary Beckman (648-2983).

JANUARY 16 (SATURDAY)


JANUARY 17 (SUNDAY)

*Blue Diamond Hill Loop, RRCCNA. We begin at horse station and end there, going up a series of trails to top, then down Bomb Voyage Trail. About 7 mi. Do elk live here? Leader: David Hardy (875-4549), hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

JANUARY 17 (SUNDAY)

Sunday Walk & Waffles: Henderson Trail System. Third in our winter program of monthly 2-hr Saturday walks along Valley’s award-winning urban park trails, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. We’ll choose an excellent Henderson trail. Leaders: Ann Cronin (737-5758) and Nick Saines (896-4049). Level 2.

JANUARY 23 (SATURDAY)

*Fire Wash, LMNRA. About 6-8 mi RT in Bowl of Fire area. How can you tell a fresh footprint from an old one? How long does a footprint last in desert? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

JANUARY 24 (SUNDAY)

*North Peak, RRCCNA. Start at Willow Spring about 10 mi RT, 2000 ft+ gain. Beautiful views on trip that feels remote even though so close to city. What evidence do you see of Red Rock’s microclimate on this trip? Leader: Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548). Level 4.

JANUARY 26 (SUNDAY)

*North Peak, RRCCNA. Start at Willow Spring about 10 mi RT, 2000 ft+ gain. Beautiful views on trip that feels remote even though so close to city. Leader: David Hardy (875-4549), hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 2-3.

FEBRUARY 1 (MONDAY)

Group ExCom Meeting. Time & Place: 6-8:30p, local Sierra Club office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass Ave.) Ste. 200B. All members welcome. Contact: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832, krissyjsyake@gmail.com). Level 2-3.

FEBRUARY 5 (SATURDAY)

*Cross-country Skiing & Snowshoeing for Beginners. (W) 7:30a RT, 17 mi 3 hrs. Includes lesson about the history and techniques of skiing and snowshoeing. Leader: Vicky (415-977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierracub.org). Level 1-2.

FEBRUARY 6 (SUNDAY)

*Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up Volunteers. (W) Jack Borden, Rosie, Shomari, Susan, Billy Jean, Sandee, Irving and Bob. Missing from the shot were 13 year-old Sam, his dad Randy, and Jack Sawyer. Join the next Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up on March 14! (Photo: Jack Sawyer.)

FEBRUARY 10 (WEDNESDAY)

New & Prospective Member Orientation. Time & Place: 6-7p before General Program Meeting; NV Energy Bldg. (see next). All welcome. Contact: Taj Ainlay (682-9361). Level 1.

FEBRUARY 10 (WEDNESDAY)


FEBRUARY 15 -17 (MONDAY-WEDNESDAY)

Gold Butte Introductory Tour. What’s this mysterious region of southern Nevada being proposed for a National Conservation Area, with wilderness? Find out by joining Vicky Hoover in a car camping trip right after the Shoshone desert wilderness meeting. Central commissary, petroglyphs, Joshua trees, a peak scramble. Info: contact Vicky (415-977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierracub.org).

FEBRUARY 20 (SATURDAY)

*Snowshoeing on Bristlecone Trail, Lee Canyon. Bring own equipment. Snow day (hopefully)! Time and distance will be adjusted to abilities of participants. Why does Lee Canyon have more snow? Leaders: Jack Sawyer (228-3857), Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548) and Eric Blumenasaadt (75peeder@cox.net). Level 1-2.

FEBRUARY 20 (SATURDAY)

*Arrow Canyon Exploratory. About 6-7 mi RT. Up past retention dam to see what we find. Are these pictographs or petroglyphs? Leader: Bill Marr (433-0743). Level 3-4.

FEBRUARY 21 (SUNDAY)

*Bowl of Fire to Anniversary Narrows. Go past N end of Bowl of Fire, over a low pass into a large wash, over another pass into drainage that leads to narrows. Long hike, about 14 mi, requires unusually early start. How did narrows form? Leader: David Hardy (875-4549), hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred). Level 4.

FEBRUARY 26-28 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

*Death Valley NP Service Trip. Join us for our annual service project in largest National Park in lower 48. Work with park personnel on various projects Friday and Saturday. Park staff has a lot we can do. Check SNG website for updates. Stay as guests of park in beautiful Breakfast Campground. Park staff also promote some great hiking, including Sunday morning hike before heading back that afternoon. Come for all or part of weekend. Dogs not encouraged as they must be on leash and cannot go on hikes. Be ready for a great time – doing a good project for park, getting to know more about Park’s resources, Park employees, issues facing Park. Carpooling encouraged. Leader: Par Rasmusson (215-9119, Par@mvdsl.com).

MARCH 1 (MONDAY)

Group ExCom Meeting. Time & Place: 6-8:30p, local Sierra Club office, 732 S. 6th St. (at Gass Ave.) Ste. 200B. All members welcome. Contact: Kristine Cunningham (285-6832, krissyjsyake@gmail.com). Level 2.

MARCH 6 (SATURDAY)


MARCH 7 (SATURDAY)

*Wildflower Hike. If rains have been good, find one of best areas for about a 7 mi hike in Lake Mead National Recreation Area, with wilderness? Find out by joining Vicky Hoover in a car camping trip right after the Shoshone desert wilderness meeting. Central commissary, petroglyphs, Joshua trees, a peak scramble. Info: contact Vicky (415-977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierracub.org).

MARCH 10 (WEDNESDAY)

Conservation Meeting. Time & Place: 6-7p, before General Meeting; NV Energy Bldg. (see next). Program: TBA. Learn about many issues S. NV Group is involved in and how you can get involved. Light dinner, refreshments. All members, friends, guests, are welcome. Contact: Jane Feldman (felmanjane@gmail.com). Level 2.

MARCH 10 (WEDNESDAY)

General Program Meeting. Time & Place: 7:30p; NV Energy Bldg., 6226 W. Sahara (E. entrance, Wengert meeting room). Program: “Wildflowers of Mojave Desert,” by Bob Peloquin, retired Biology professor, Red Rock interpretative naturalist, Master Gardener. Learn about general wildflower features of Mojave Desert and comparisons with other deserts, between north and south Mojave. Local Spring Mountain Range, one of most biologically diverse of more than 90 mountain ranges of Mojave, will also be discussed. All members and general public are welcome. Refreshments, announcements, free literature, too. Info: Gary Beckman (463-8548).

MARCH 15 (SATURDAY)

*La Madre Spring-La Madre Peak, RRCCNA. Start together, but at Spring some can choose to go up, some to go down. Why does spring emerge here? Leaders: Jack Sawyer (228-3857) for Level 1-2; and Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548) for Level 4-5.

Please see SN CALENDAR, p. 12.
T his new full-color celebration of the John Muir Trail presents the most comprehensive photographic essay treatment of the Trail since Ansel Adams’ treatment in 1938. Over the course of three decades mountaineer-photographer John Dittli has captured the stunning scenery and spirit of wilderness along the summit of the Pacific Crest.

Walk the Sky features 85 spectacular large format color plates (including 18 double-page panoramas) and four thoughtful essays by Eastern Sierra writer Mark Schlenz on the history of the trail, John Muir’s early 20th century wilderness advocacy, the joy of walking the watersheds and passes the trail traverses, and the wilderness ethics of High Sierra hiking.

Completed in 1938, the John Muir Trail traverses more than 200 roadless miles through Yosemite National Park, the Ansel Adams Wilderness, the John Muir Wilderness, and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. In Walk the Sky, the reader journeys with John Dittli’s spectacular images north to south – from Yosemite Valley to Mount Whitney – along John Muir’s 221-mile namesake route through the wilderness areas at the heart of the Sierra Nevada. This is an extraordinary walk: each hiker encounters high passes, stream crossings, mountain meadows and lakes, thunderstorms, and daunting physical challenges along with awesome beauty and the camaraderie of the trail.

Those who hike the JMT (or take it on as part of a Pacific Crest Trail journey) devote months to advance planning and weeks to walk these mountain miles. The experience inspires passionate enthusiasm for the John Muir Trail – and precious wilderness preserved in the High Sierra – among hikers around the world. John Muir inspired countless others to share his passions for walking and wilderness conservation. A century later, no person who has walked his trail remains unchanged.

The stunning collection of photographs by a Sierra mountaineer who knows this country intimately throughout the seasons will appeal to all who have walked the John Muir Trail (and anyone who hopes to walk it) as they follow Muir’s trail and “walk the sky.”

A hardcover coffee table book, Walk the Sky: Following the John Muir Trail, retails for $49.95 and is available at Spellbinder (and anyone who hopes to walk it) as they follow Muir’s trail and “walk the sky.”

(available only from photographer John Dittli at john.dittli@earthlink.net)

Ansel Adams Wilderness, Yosemite – from Yosemite Valley to the camaraderie of the trail.

Walk to live for a week in isolated area serving as a settlement for people afflicted with Hansen’s disease (leprosy) since 1866. Google maps: Service trip to Kalaupapa National Historic Park.

*Historic Railroad Tunnels, LMNRA. To learn more about Kalaupapa. Trip limited to 12 participants; moderate. Leader: Linda Beckman (648-2983).

On island of Molokai, Hawaii (5 days), to work with National Historic Park. *Grand Circle, RRCNCA. Do bunny hop through part of this long, 12-mi walk. Connect dots with new views of RR escarpment, maybe some early wildflowers. Leaders: Jack Sawyer (228-3857) and Peppe Sotomayor (463-8548). Level 3-4.

*Tarsa (775-530-2935). Mod. strenuous.


Moderate.

525-2050; johnide1@yahoo.com). Mod. strenuous.


MARCH 14 (SATURDAY)

MARCH 28 (SUNDAY)
Climb to “C” in Carson City. Meet 9 am. Climb up to visit “C” and flag that overlook Carson City and capture some great views of city and eastern mountains. About 5 mi, 1000 ft gain. ND. Leader: Donna Iversen (775.315.6763; dinversin@yahoo.com). Moderate.

MARCH 27 (SATURDAY)
Relay Ridge Snowshoe. Meet 8:30am, return 3:30pm. Starting at 8800 ft, take snowshoe shortcut to snow-buried service road. Then, high above Tahoe Mead-ows, pass frozen-over pond and join Tahoe Rim Trail. Following TTR, top 10,000 ft at ridgeline near Relay Station. If conditions permit, continue snowshoeing up to summit of Relay Peak for even more spectacular vistas. About 12 mi. DOK. Leader: Gary P Hhammer (775-336-7698; gphhammer(at) charter.net). Co-Leader: John Ide (321-525-2050; johnide1@yahoo.com). Mod. strenuous.

MARCH 27 (SATURDAY)
Tibbie Peak. Meet 8 am. Peak is in Flowery Range near Dayton. Day hike to top (7277 ft). About 6 mi on an in and out with about 2400 ft gain. Parts are off trail with steep ascents and descents. Learn some history of area. Great overviews. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). Mod. strenuous.

APRIL 17-18 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)
*Bonanza Peak Trail BackPack. Start at Cold Creek, go up to beautiful views from ridge, camp at Wood Springs, meet up with drive-around party on Bravissileone Trail. The drive-around’s will hike from or back to Cold Creek Sunday and from or to Bravissileone on Sunday. Join in either or both with Gracie if you don’t backpack! North two-thirds of trail offers fresh wilderness experience over 15 mi, also feeling of alpine remoteness much like Sierra. Can you see Telescope Peak from this ridge? Leaders: Eric Blumensaadt (746-6880,7speeder@cox.net). Level 2-3.

MARCH 29 (SATURDAY)
Valley of Fire Exploration. Follow a beautiful sandstone arroyo for 5-6 mi. Leader: Eric Blumensaadt (370-1836,7speeder@cox.net). Level 2-3.

MAY (DATE-TBA)
*In works: Service trip to Kalaupapa National Historic Park. On island of Molokai, Hawaii (5 days), to work with National Park Service on natural and cultural resource projects. A rare opportunity to live for a week in isolated area serving as a settlement for people afflicted with Hansen’s disease (leprosy) since 1866. Google learn more about Kalaupapa. Trip limited to 12 participants; moderate. Leader: Linda Nations (L.L.Nations@pbj.com).

JUNE 29-JULY 5
(COYOTE GULCH, ESCALANTE UT. Leave Las Vegas about 6 am, June 29. Each day we’ll be in awe as we hike along Coyote Creek. Easy to moderate over mostly flat canyon bottom; total about 30 mi with backpack. Limit 12. Info: David Hardy (875-4549, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com; e-mail preferred).