Big issues on the table

I t’s with reserved pleasure that I have taken on the chair of the Toiyabe Chapter, effective January 26, 2013. In many ways I have prepared myself for this role. I have been extremely active with the Great Basin Group since about 1995 and must say that I have always preferred a role at the local group level where I can meet and interact with my other ExCom people on a regular basis. A 6-year term (2001-2006) on the Chapter ExCom only convinced me to return to group-level activities during 2006-2012. But here we are in 2013, and I feel as though it is my time for Chapter leadership.

TRPA lawsuit. Why Toiyabe & Mother Lode Chapters are supporting it. So, what’s about the “reserved”? I came into this role at the time of a crucial vote to support the lawsuit against the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency over the regional plan update. This was a contentious issue, but the Chapter ExCom finally voted 10-1 to support the lawsuit at the January ExCom meeting. The lawsuit was filed by our legal representatives, Earth Justice, on February 11, 2013.

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Nancy Peterson Walter, Ph.D. 1935-2013

On February 5, 2013, the Range of Light Group lost part of its family with the passing of Nancy Peterson Walter, 77, resident of Mammoth Lakes for the past 19 years, and long-time supporter of the Sierra Club.

Nancy, along with husband John, hosted the ROLG Holiday Party for many years, opening their home to all. Throughout their 55-year-long marriage, Nancy and John traveled the world, with favorite destinations being Kyrgyzstan and China. Their home is a showcase of memories collected in far-away countries.

Born in Rockford, Illinois on December 3, 1935, Nancy achieved her childhood dream of becoming an anthropologist and earned her Ph.D. in 1986, with a focus on the Native Americans of the Owens Valley and the peoples of Central Asia.

It was in the field of education that Nancy undoubtedly made her most lasting impact, as reflected in the inspiration, support, encouragement, and guidance she provided to thousands of students. In 1986, Nancy joined the anthropology faculty at California State University, Northridge, and ultimately became chair of the department.

In 1990, Nancy moved to Mammoth Lakes to help her father, Walter Peterson, with the family business in the Owens Valley. Her expertise as a geologist and historian was invaluable in saving and preserving the huge Peterson Collection of Native American artifacts.

In 1994, the Petersons moved to Mammoth Lakes, where Nancy was the field director of a round-the-globe archaeological research program. In 1996, the family created the Peterson Foundation to support local Native American culture and education. Nancy served as the president of the Foundation.

Nancy was an active member of the Mammoth Lakes Community Planning and Development Commission. She was a staunch supporter of equal rights and a strong advocate for the protection of endangered species and the environment.

In addition to her work in anthropology, Nancy was a respected environmental advocate, serving on the boards of the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Sierra Nevada Group, and the Mammoth Lakes School Board. She was also a member of the Mammoth Lakes Planning Commission and the Mammoth Lakes City Council.

Nancy spent her life dedicated to the preservation of the natural world and the promotion of environmental education. Her legacy will continue to inspire and guide future generations.
with the Mother Lode Chapter of Sacramento, is supporting our local activists at Lake Tahoe.

This action was not done lightly, but there are large impacts for this decision. Because most of the conservation community had reached an accommodation on the updated plan, we were left in the “spoiler” role, and it will take some intense effort on our part to repair the damaged relations with our friends. However, I am convinced that our course is right -- putting the protection of Lake Tahoe above all other considerations. The plan update is simply deficient in this.

Please pay attention as we try to get our message out on why we favored the lawsuit. We are presently engaging professional public relations help, and we are intent on changing the public perception of the outcome of the lawsuit.

SB271 & Nevada’s bi-state compact with California. Many of you know about the notorious SB 271 which was passed in 2011 and would have the effect of wiping out the bi-state compact (with California) which is the basis for the TRPA and for many positive things that have happened at Lake Tahoe over several decades. We do not wish to see the compact dissolved. You may have asked recently to contact your Nevada legislators to support legislation which would repeal the 2011 SB 271 bill. Please respond positively.

D.C. climate rally draws young people. As the lawsuit, the highlight of my first quarter as Chapter chair was attending the climate rally in Washington, DC, on February 17. I do “walk the talk.” I joined two old friends and about 40,000 other people on a cold day just north of the Washington Monument in the staging area to listen to several speeches before the actual march. Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune appeared in a grey stocking hat and gave a great, but short, speech.

We turned out because after an hour or so of speeches and marched along the designated route perhaps 10 to 12 abreast forming a nearly mile-long procession. As you may know, President Obama was away in Florida and did not come out to personally greet me. The whole event was over at about 3 pm as we broke up and hurried to the nearest soup kitchen.

What can 40,000 people on a Sunday afternoon in Washington, DC accomplish? The event only made page 5 of the Washington Post on Monday. My friends noted that this was a small DC rally in comparison to many. However, it is part of the building process for a movement. I was especially warmed (no pun intended) by the presence of so many young people, who made up the majority of the crowd and who often came long distances to participate. This is really their fight, as the effects of global warming will fall heavily on them.

We all anxiously await seeing how John Kerry, will come down on us, State, John Kerry, will come down on us, We all anxiously await seeing how their fight, as the effects of global warm, distances to participate. This is really their fight, as the effects of global warming will fall heavily on them.

MAR 29-31 (FRI-SUN) WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY WITH NEEDLES BLM
Join our annual Sierra Club service trip with Needles BLM Field Office. This season’s task will be to document wilderness characteristics of area adjacent to wilderness that has not been recently studied – exact location still to be determined. We enjoyed similar work last spring just W of Old Woman Mountains. Car camping with optional central concession, usual exorbitant fee. Contact Vicky Hoover or vhoover@ sierraclub.org, 415-977-5527.

CNRRC Wilderness Committee

APR 13-14 (SAT-SUN) SERVE & EXPLORE IN CARRIZO PLAIN
An opportunity to visit and assist in Carrizo Plain Nat’l Monument. Saturday, assist monument staff in removing and/or modifying of fences to allow pronghorn antelope free access to range. Sunday reserved for sightseeing or hiking as group decides. Views from Caliente Mountains are spectacular; spring flowers may still be blooming. Monument known for number and variety of raptors. Contact leader: Craig Deutsche (310-477-6670, craig.deutsche@gmail.com).

CNRRC Desert Committee

APR 13-14 (SAT-SUN, FRI OPTIONAL) JUNIPER FLATS AREA TOUR:
SAN BERNARDINO MTNS
Explore this beautiful area, camp at Rock Springs Ranch (private). Friday (optional), 3-mi RT hike to boulder gardens. Saturday, driving and hiking tour of area (4WD or high clearance vehicle recommended), including springs, waterfall, Cottonwood Spring AACE, oak glen area. Saturday eve, campfire and dinner provided by Friends of Juniper Flats. Sunday, 6-mi hike to Deep Creek, a proposed Wild & Scenic River. Contact: Carol Wiley to reserve (desertlily1@verizon .net, 760-220-0730). More info: contact co-leader Jenny Wilder (JenS oasis@aol.com, 760-220-0730).

 Mojave Group/CNRRC Desert Committee

MAY 4-5 (SAT-SUN) BIRDS, FENCES, HISTORY IN CARRIZO
An opportunity to visit and assist outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. Saturday, assist monument staff in removing fence wires to allow pronghorn antelope free access to range. Sunday, reserved for sightseeing. Views from Caliente Mountains are spectacular; spring flowers may still be blooming. Monument known for number and variety of raptors. Contact leader: Craig Deutsche (310-477-6670, craig.deutsche@gmail.com).

CNRRC Desert Committee

MAY 25-27 (SAT-MON) BLACK ROCK RENDEZVOUS: MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
A great way to experience Black Rock for the first time. This well-attended event has lots of activities to choose from, including speakers, guided tours, kids’ activities, visits to hot springs, potluck dinner, raffles, and more. Trailers and RV’s OK, but no hook-ups. Drive-up camp starts on 5/16. Info: David Book (775-843-6443). Great Basin Group/CNRRC Desert Committee

JULY 4 (THU-SUN) BLACK ROCK DESERT: JULY 4 WEEKEND
This will be a very busy weekend in Black Rock. No specific activities yet planned, but it’s a shame to waste such a long weekend so it’ll probably have a car camp. Possible amateur radio class on Sunday? Info: after 6/15, David Book (775-843-6443). Leader very familiar w/ area and can find plenty to do up there. No RVs or trailers. Dogs on leash. LNT.

Great Basin Group/CNRRC Desert Committee

ROL HIGHWAY CLEANUP …
continued from page 5
The cleanups are on Wednesday morning after our third Tuesday evening monthly group meeting: May 22, July 17, and September 18. Meet at Crestview Rest Area, about 5 miles north of town at 5 am. We will provide required reflective vests, hard hats, and trash bags – along with picker-uppers and gloves. Sometimes there is still too much snow on the roadside and we have to skip May, but that doesn’t seem likely this year.

When 12 people show up, we normally finish by 10:30 and then enjoy some light refreshments together. If the State is too broke to open the rest stop, we’ll meet at the junction of Scenic Loop road and 395, about 2 miles south of the rest stop.

Info. E-mail Rangelight@light .com, contact Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639), check ROL’s web site, or go to Range of Light Group on Facebook.
**Range of Light Group**

**Group News**

**Letter from the Chair**

**BY MALCOLM CLARK** (wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com)

ExCom. Next meeting is Sunday, April 21, 2013, 3 pm, at Malcolm Clark’s home.

**Monthly Program Meetings.** December was our Holiday potluck at the Walter’s. In January we watched the movie “Blue Gold: World Water Wars,” an alarmist view of privatization of water in various parts of the world. In February, snowboarder and Peace Corps volunteer Brandon Sheaffer told 25 attendees about his 2 years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Kyrgyzstan and about educational needs in Kyrgyzstan.

Outings. Joanne and Dick Hihn have volunteered to be Outings Co-chairs & have organized their first set of outings. Thanks, Joanne and Dick!

**Group ExCom meetings**

We usually meet quarterly (January, April, July, October). The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 21, 2013, 3 pm, at Malcolm Clark’s home. All are welcome, but please confirm date, place and time, as meeting date may change in order to assure a quorum at the meeting or because of weather.

Any action items should be submitted to the chair (Malcolm Clark) in time for consideration before the meeting by ExCom members. On items requiring a vote, please include text of proposed resolution (subject to revision by ExCom).

Normally, ExCom acts on proposals in between meetings only when a deadline (e.g., comment letter on BLM or Forest proposal) makes waiting to next ExCom meeting impossible. Submissions or more information: Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com).

**Range of Light Group**

**OFFICERS**

- **Chair** Malcolm Clark* 760-924-5639
- **Vice Chair** Sandy Berndorf* kbhomeadl@aol.com
- **Secretary** Lesley Brown* lestravel@hotmail.com
- **Conservation** Open range@light.sc@gmail.com
- **Treasurer** Mary Ann Dillingham (760-924-9942)
- **Vice Chair** Mike Shearer* mshes@pacbell.net
- **ExCom** Jean Dillingham* 760-648-7100
- **ExCom** Maurice Anderson* ma@skidmore.edu
- **ExCom** Linda Shearer* lesstravel@hotmail.com
- **ExCom** Sandy Berndorf* kbhomeadl@aol.com
- **Chapter Del.** Jean Dillingham (760-648-7100)
- **Editor** Lynne Foster 760-387-2634
- **Webmaster** Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639)
- **Programs** Mary Shore mary.shore@gte.net
- **Publicity** Rosemary Jarrett rosemaryjarrett@gmail.com
- **Webmaster** Jo Bacon jbacon32@verizon.net
- **Webmaster Emeritus** Owen Maly 760-934-0351

* Voting ExCom member

**Range of Light Group now on Facebook!**

TO CHECK US OUT, search “Range of Light Group” on Facebook and “Range of Light Group” on Facebook and “Range of Light Group” on Facebook. (Be sure to include “Group.”) Check Facebook for updates for group outings, group events, and area conservation news.

**ROL Group Website**

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

&

**Chapter website**

<http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org>

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**Range of Light OUTINGS**

**SPRING & SUMMER WEEKLY OUTINGS**

**BY JOANNE HIHN, DICK HIHN, & MALCOLM CLARK**

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.

**APRIL 28 (SUNDAY)**

Mystery Destination IV (to be determined by snow conditions). Dogs welcome. Contact leader: Melissa K (760-934-0355, mkp@ppgpalette.com), Brigette (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com), or Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com).

**JUNE 2 (SUNDAY)**

Lower Rock Creek. Car shuttle required. Moderate 7.5 mi hike from 395 parking area to Paradise, 1900 ft loss. Shorter option available with parking mid-way. See early wildflowers, enjoy fascinating geology. Great hiking season starter. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, hat; dress in layers for changing weather. Meet 8a, ML, Union Bank parking lot, or 8:30a Hwy 395 and Lower Rock Creek Road. Leader: Mary K. (760-934-0355, mkp@ppgpalette.com).

**JUNE 6 (SATURDAY)**


Please see ROL CALENDAR, page 5.

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**Range of Light Group Monthly Meetings Everyone welcome!**

For all potlucks bring a dish for 6-8 people and your own non-disposable table setting. For months with potluck and program, you are welcome to skip the potluck and come only for the program. NO food allowed when we meet at Mammoth Lakes Community Library.

**April 16 (Tuesday)**

Social & Announcements, 6:15 pm
Crowley Lake Community Center (no food, please)
Program: 7 pm
Movie: “Eastern Sierra Land Trust” Learn about the Trust, hear about past history, present activities, and future plans.

**May 21 (Tuesday)**

Social & Announcements, 6:15 pm
Crowley Lake Community Center (no food, please)
Program: 7 pm
“Preview of Summer Outings”
New Outing Co-Chairs, Joanne and Dick Hihn, will give a preview of 2013 summer outings and introduce the Outing Leaders.” A select few photos from the previous season will be a highlight of the program.

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**SUNDAY OUTINGS**

What to bring. For all Sunday outings, winter and summer, bring water, lunch and snacks, layered clothing, appropriate hiking footwear, ski, snowshoes, sunscreen, bug spray in summer, and any desired personal items such as cameras, binoculars, and hiking poles.

More outings info. In addition to contact information listed for individual outings, for updates and more information, check our web page <http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup/>, Facebook search “Range of Light Group”, and local media. We submit outings information to local media but it does not always get included in their calendar of events. Also, sometimes the published information is not accurate, so it’s a good idea to double-check.

**SUNDAY WINTER OUTINGS**

APRIL 7 (SUNDAY)
Mystery Destination I (to be determined by snow conditions). Contact leader: Brigette (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com) for more info.

APRIL 14 (SUNDAY)
Mystery Destination II (to be determined by snow conditions). Contact leader: Mary K. (760-934-0355, mkp@ppgpalette.com) for more info.

APRIL 21 (SUNDAY)
Mystery Destination III (to be determined by snow conditions). Contact leader: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com) for more info.

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**Range of Light**
This eager ROLG met on a sunny morning (Feb. 16, 2013) to search for old blue diamond markers to aid BLM in recreating a ski trail around Obsidian Dome. Photo: Joanne Hihn.

JUNE 14-16 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)


JUNE 16 (SUNDAY)

Bristlecone Methuselah Trail, Schulman Grove. Moderate hike over 4 mi of undulating trails at 10,000 ft. Find the Methuselah tree, the oldest bristlecone in a grove of “ancestors.” Learn about birds, unusual wildflowers that grow in dolomite soils, and tree distribution in the Schulman Grove. Bring plenty of water, good hiking shoes, lunch, dress in layers, and be prepared for all kinds of weather; binoculars recommended. Meet 8a ML Union Bank parking lot, 9a Bishop City Park, or 10a Schulman Grove. Leaders: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com), or Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com). No dogs. More info: ROLG website <http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup>.

WEEKDAY SUMMER OUTINGS (tentative)

Possible Thursday outings. We’re still working on continuing our weekday late afternoon-early evening outings. Tentatively, we are scheduling these for Thursdays, meeting at the Union Bank parking lot in Mammoth Lakes at 5:30p, and back by dark.

Because of restricted time, these will all take place in the greater Mammoth area. The nature of the outing will vary according to the interest of the leader: standard hike, historical hike, bird hike, photography hike, etc. All should be appropriate for all levels including children. Wear appropriate shoes, layered clothing for rain or evening chill, and bring water. Well-behaved dogs OK on most of these, but double check (no dogs on birding hikes for obvious reasons).

Starting date uncertain at present (we hope in May or early June). Some weeks there may be no Thursday hike due to lack of a volunteer leader. If you are uncertain where to go. We especially need certified leaders. To be certified, you need to have successfully completed (1) the Sierra Club Leader Training Course (free on internet – it takes about 3 hours) and (2) first aid certification (which must be current).

If you are not certified but have a great outing you would like to lead, we may be able to pair you up with someone who is certified. You may schedule for any Thursday (May through August) or volunteer to be put on a list to be called upon as needed one to two weeks prior to a specific Thursday. If interested, please contact Dick & Joanne Hihn (518-222-0640; rhihn@skidmore.edu) to volunteer or for more information about outings leader and first aid certification. Of course, additional leaders for Sunday outings, summer or winter, are always welcome.

— Malcolm Clark

Conservation Chair

THANKS TO THE HIHNs FOR responding to our plea in the last issue for an Outings Chair. NOW we have an equal need for a CONSERVATION CHAIR to co-ordinate conservation activities and our conservation committee. This includes:

1) Maintaining relations with BLM, the Inyo National Forest, and various co-operating groups such as the Bodie Partnership Coalition and the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group.

2) Commenting on scoping proposals, environmental assessments and the like (see From The Chair in this issue).

3) Facilitating conservation work days and projects.

4) Convening and chairing meetings of our Conservation Committee.

The chair works with the Conservation Committee, which ideally meets monthly or bi-monthly as needed, to assess current issues, divide responsibility for response, and forward proposals for suggested action to the ExCom for approval.

Also, let us know if you cannot assume the responsibility of “Chair” but want to be involved in our conservation work (e.g., take responsibility for a particular issue in our area such as renewable energy proposals, sage grouse or other endangered species, OHV issues, etc.), and serve on our Conservation Committee.

What can you do. For more information or to volunteer, contact rangeflight.sc@gmail.com or 760-924-5639.

— Malcolm Clark

Highway cleanup

May 22, July 17, & Sept. 18

Who will find the most EXOTIC, UNUSUAL or OUTRAGEOUS trash during this summer’s Range of Light Group (ROLG) highway cleanups?

Find out when you join range of Light group members in the Mammoth area to clean “our” section of Highway 395 north of Mammoth in May, July, and September.

Please see HIGHWAY CLEANUP, page 3
**Conservation Briefs**

**New Federal contacts.** Neil Kornze has been appointed interim director of the Bureau of Land Management, replacing retiring Mike Pool. Neil is from Elko and served for several years in Nevada as wilderness and land use staff person for Senator Reid. Sally Jewell, CEO of REI, has been nominated to replace Ken Salazar as Secretary of the Interior when he retires.

**Nevada Dept. of Wildlife news.** George Tsurukamoto will be acting director of NDOW, replacing Director Ken Mayer, whose resignation was requested by Governor Sandoval. Two new wildlife commissioners have been appointed to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners: Bill Young, former Sheriff of Clark County, and Dr. Karen Layne, retired Professor of Public Administration at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas.

**Nevada Wilderness news.** Bills establishing a Pine Forest wilderness have been reintroduced in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. This wilderness has been endorsed by the entire Nevada delegation and the Humboldt County Commissioners. The Lyon County lands bill, which includes a 48,000-acre Wovoka Wilderness, has been introduced in both the House and the Senate.

Again, this bill is endorsed by the entire Nevada delegation and by the Lyon County Commissioners. Both these bills should be passed in this session of Congress since they have no opposition.

A bill establishing a Gold Butte National Conservation Area with wilderness may be introduced this spring, because it has strong support from both Senator Reid and Representative Horsford.

Sierra Club Board of Directors. The BOD has replaced the former Resilient Habitats campaign with Our Wild America. The focus of the campaign will be on national monuments and outdoor activities, with the second focus on national forest planning. The Sierra Nevada Campaign, under the leadership of Sarah Matsumoto, includes much of the Toiyabe Chapter, particularly the Range of Light Group, the Tahoe Group, and the Great Basin Group. The campaign has been active in forest and national park planning.

**Mining News.** The Environmental Protection Agency has fined three gold mining companies, all subsidiaries of Barrick Gold Corp., for failure to report toxic chemical releases and waste management activities at Cortez Gold Mine near Crescent Valley, Ruby Hill Gold Mine near Eureka, and Bald Mtn Gold Mine near Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The companies will pay $278,000 in penalties and spend an additional $340,000 for an environmentally beneficial project.

At the same time, concerns are being raised about the huge pit lakes which result when a deposit of ore occurs at least partly below the water table. These lakes can be extremely contaminated and have the potential of affecting both the quantity and the quality of water, particularly in the Humboldt Basin.

For further information, please see the article by John Hadder, Executive Director of Great Basin Research Watch, entitled “Nevada’s Pit Lakes: Wasted Water” in the December 2012 issue of DESERT REPORT (see www.DesertReport.org).

**Conservation Roundup**

**Sage grouse in Nevada**

On February 21, a small group of Nevadans gathered at the State Capitol in Carson City to launch the State’s latest sage grouse conservation effort. The State hopes to convince the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service it should not list sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act. The court-ordered deadline of September 30, 2015, for listing is rapidly approaching. (Note: Management of sage grouse habitat on public lands is the responsibility of federal agencies as governed by federal law.)

Last year, the State developed an alternative for the federal Environmental Impact Statement, which is being conducted by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. The State’s alternative is meant to amend its land use plans to incorporate regulatory measures for sage grouse conservation in all of their programs. See <http://sagegrouse.nv.gov/ references/> for more info.

This year, the Governor of Nevada appointed a Sagebrush Ecosystem Council. The Council has nine members — four involved in agriculture and one member each representing mining, energy, and sportswomen and men. The conservation representative is Toiyabe Chapter member, Tina Nappe.

The purpose of the new Council and its staff, according to the Governor’s Executive Order, is to “develop state-specific regulatory mechanisms to conserve sage grouse.” How this would be accomplished is not defined.

**Beautiful Snake Valley vs. massive water exportation**

Have you ever visited Great Basin National Park? If you have, then you’ve been to Snake Valley on the far eastern side of Nevada, a valley shaped by scarce Great Basin desert waters. The striking stalactites and stalagmites in Lehman Caves were created, one drop at a time, by cens of water dripping through the carbonate rocks. Glaciers, one still active in the park, carved the peaks and canyons. Except during unpredictable droughts, winter snows and summer rains provide much-needed precipitation. Streams rushing from the surrounding mountains and groundwater discharging from ancient and more recent aquifers into springs and wet meadows keep the valley green, provide critical habitat to very rare fish and snail survivors from ancient Lake Bonneville, and are the living waters on which wildlife, livestock, wild horses, sagebrush, wildflowers, and the people who make their homes in this remote area all depend.

History. People have long lived in Snake Valley. You may also have visited a GBNP archaeological site — a village once inhabited by the Fremont people who farmed crops and hunted buffalo, elk, antelope, deer, and sage grouse. The Goshute Tribe now lives in the northern part of the valley and Shoshones lived in Snake and surrounding valleys. White explorers and wagon trains passed through, and settlers came to stay in the 1800s. Miners came and went, as did small religious and utopian communities.

The champion of Snake Valley. Dean Baker, patriarch of Baker Ranch, tells the complex story of Snake Valley. The valley’s springs and inhabitants, both wild and human, are totally dependent on the scarce desert waters. All of this is now being threatened by a massive water exportation project proposed by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). Governors, federal, state and local government officials, international media from Germany, France, Italy, the Middle East and Japan, Nevada and Utah citizens, tribes, conservationists, scientists, hunters and fishermen, businesspeople, city folks — all have come to listen to Baker’s story of the devastating threats to Snake Valley from SNWA’s groundwater mining project.

Baker has led tours for hundreds, if not thousands, of visitors since 2004. He shows them springs that have already been depleted or have disappeared just from the impacts of pumping groundwater for local farms, ranches and small communities. A dewatering disaster in the making. Pumping and exporting 16 billion gallons of groundwater per year through SNWA’s 94-inch pipeline will disrupt fragile ecosystems and the ancient balance of life in eastern Nevada. According to the Bureau of Land Management’s EIS on the pipeline project, over 4000 square miles in 40 basins will suffer dewatering to a lesser or greater extent.

A DVD of Dean Baker’s story is now being developed. Check <www.greatbasinwaternetwork.org> for availability.

Dean Baker, on right in blue shirt and ball cap, giving a tour of Snake Valley, with the mountaineous Great Basin National Park in the background. Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.

Tina Nappe is third from the left at the table of Sagebrush Ecosystem Council members, meeting in the Kenny Guinn room of the Nevada State Capitol in Carson City on February 21, 2013. Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.
SAGE GROUSING . . .

continued from page 6

the responsibility of the Nevada Department of Wildlife. However, the Governor has just fired the director of NDOW, Ken Mayer, a nationally recognized expert on sage grouse. In addition, NDOW has been effectively excluded from the State’s current conservation planning. The provisions of the 2004 Sage Grouse Conservation Plan—which was developed in a large broad-based local, state, and federal effort over three years—is largely absent from the new State alternative. See <http://www.ndow.org/wild_conservation/sagegrouse/> for info on this plan.

Therefore, it remains a mystery what regulatory mechanisms are available to the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. Also, Nevada long ago privatized the great majority of state lands and prides itself on not regulating private lands. Conservationists await the sorting out of the federal, state, local, and private roles in conservation of both sage grouse species and the protection and restoration of critical habitat in Nevada.

What you can do. For more information on Sage Grouse conservation in Nevada, visit Toiyabe Chapter website, <toiyabe.sierracub.org/>. You may also contact Rose Strickland (775-329-6118).

Conservationists’ input to Sagebrush Ecosystem Council during public comments

Rose Strickland referred Council members to the State’s 2004 Conservation Plan and how it addressed threats to sage grouse populations and habitat, most of which still exist, saying the Plan should be updated to address threats from climate change, oil and gas exploration, energy and transmission developments, and dewatering projects in eastern Nevada.

Dennis Ghiglieri told of hunting with his father and uncles in northern Nevada in the 1950s and always seeing many large flocks of sage grouse. He asked the Council to restore sage grouse populations and habitat to their former abundance, not to just do the minimum in order to avoid listing.

Karen Boeger of the Backcountry Hunters & Fishers urged the Council to use the best available peer-reviewed science on which to base its work and not be afraid to make the hard decisions about what changes need to be made to help stop the loss of sage grouse habitat.

Deadline! June 1

For July-Aug-Sept issue

Winter Recreation Collaboration in Lake Tahoe

BY LAUREL HARKNESS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SNOWLANDS NETWORK

THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE (USFS) Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) has been hosting a series of “Winter Recreation Collaboration” sessions over the last couple of years. Snowlands Network has been an active participant representing the interests of human-powered winter recreation.

The range of topics includes wilderness trespass, noise and pollution, environmental impact, parking, and education. The group is not addressing the highly contentious topic of designating additional areas for non-motorized use. The goal of the Winter Recreation Collaboration Group is to bring together all sides to work together to find common ground and sustainable solutions.

The USFS LTBMU is due to release the final version of the revised Forest Plan in the next couple of months. Snowlands Network, as part of the public review process, submitted very detailed comments calling for the Forest Plan to address winter travel management and more tightly restrict motorized travel.

The draft of the Forest Plan failed to address winter travel management, which, from our standpoint, is an inexcusable omission. Snowlands Network continues to keep pressure on the LTBMU to designate additional areas as non-motorized to meet the demand for human-powered winter recreation.

What you can do. Your comments are an important part of the planning process. Please stay informed and subscribe to notices from Snowlands Network by sending e-mail to alerts@snowlands.org. If you would like to attend and participate in one of the Winter Recreation Collaboration meetings in the Lake Tahoe Basin, please send e-mail to gail@snowlands.org.

Wild sheep in the Range of Light

BY JULIA RUNCIE

THE WILDERNESS MEANS something different for every explorer. Since the early days of the American West, Sierra Nevada has served as a haven and a destination for efforts to restore and monitor the population. Recent surveys and the discovery of newly-occupied habitat have led us to estimate that there are now as many as five hundred bighorn in the Sierra. The goal of complete recovery suddenly seems within reach.

It’s an exciting time for this fragile population. Sierra bighorn have garnered national attention thanks to artist and science illustrator Jane Kim, whose innovative Migrating Mural project features life-size murals of bighorn in sites along Highway 395. The Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Foundation is working to encourage more community involvement in the recovery process through educational outreach and fundraising. The California Department of Fish & Wildlife will lead a series of free bighorn tracking field trips in 2013, the next two to be held on March 16 and April 22. We hope that public awareness and enthusiasm will continue to keep pace with the growing bighorn population.

But the fight to bring the bighorn back is about more than just numbers. We are working to preserve the fabric of this landscape: the delicate interplay of plant and rock and weather, of human adventurer and animal mountaineer, that makes up the singular identity of the Sierra Nevada. A decade ago, Sierra bighorn were on the brink of extinction. A decade from now, with your help, we may be celebrating the recovery of a healthy, stable population of wild sheep in the Range of Light.

What you can do. To learn more, make a donation, or register for a field trip, email askbnb@wildlife.ca.gov or visit <www.dfg.ca.gov/tahoe/> or <www.sierrabighorn.org>.

DESSERT SOUTHWEST GETTING DRIER . . .

continued from page 1

Increasing water supply options seem to be pie-in-the-sky, but have serious supporters such as the outspoken head of the water agencies for Las Vegas, Patrick Mulroy. The myth of water abundance is a key selling point to attract people to the driest region in the country. Just published research, Vulnerability of U.S. Water Supply to Shortage (2012), finds that “climate change can increase water demand and decrease water supply to the extent that, barring major adaptation efforts, substantial future water shortages are likely, especially in the southwest. Warnings that the already dry region will become even drier are emphasized by findings that ‘...Lakes Powell and Mead are projected to drop to zero and only occasionally thereafter add rather small amounts of storage before emptying again.’ That should give folks planning a move to Las Vegas pause, because the metropolitan area is nearly completely dependent on tapping 450,000 acre-feet of water annually from Lake Mead. And, regardless of the dismal outlook for water users, it is likely worse for the survival of fish and wildlife.

Even now, the serious drought of 2012 has extended into 2013. There is a slow realization that the west has always been dry and all uses of water must be reduced. Both municipal and agricultural users need to embrace conservation to preserve our storage capacities under drier and warmer conditions. And, water needs to be left at its source to protect the fish and wildlife that have already suffered enormous loss.

Will we do it? The future of the environment of the entire west may depend on it.

Resources


The Colorado River Basin Water Supply & Demand Study www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/ crbstudy.html

U.S. Drought Monitor http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu


Las Vegas water intake at Lake Mead seen in 2009. Photo: D. Ghiglieri.
Great Basin Gatherings

You may have seen my name on the front page as Toiyabe Chapter Chair. What is going on here? True, I have taken on the Chapter Chair, but am still officially the Great Basin Group Chair and will do my best to serve both entities. But not forever. Someone else should move into the Group Chair position by 2014. We invite interested members to first become involved with the ExCom and to aspire to take leadership roles within the group. Please talk to us if you have any interest.

Southeast Connector (SEC) is underway. Construction began in January on the Phase I bridge over the Truckee River to join it to Sparks Blvd. The design period for Phase II, which is the stretch between Truckee River and S. Meadows Pkwy, is underway, and the Group is participating in the stakeholder committee. Please contact our representative, Valerie Andersen (mtval@sbcglobal.net), if you have any questions or input on this process. We are still trying to steer the planning to accommodate environmental and recreational needs.

BLM Resource Management Plan for Carson Ranger District. The plan will be out for public comment in April for Carson Ranger District.

BLM Resource Management Plan for Carson Ranger District. The plan will be out for public comment in April for Carson Ranger District.

THE PEAK SECTION AND Friends found the mountains blanketed with snow on New Year’s Day so out came the snowshoes in order to continue our mountain celebrating. After a couple of hours of fluffy snow underfoot and blue sky overhead, we gathered for a potluck (or is that a feeding frenzy?) and a white elephant gift exchange. All enjoyed a fun time of filling bellies and laughing over interesting gifts.

Kids show their “predator” faces during SnowSchool at Galena Creek. The kids had a fantastic time and loved looking for tracks,” wrote Holly Coughlin, teacher and Sierra Club Great Basin outings chair. Third grade classes from Rita Cannan Elementary School in Reno went snowshoeing at Galena Creek and learned about winter safety and winter adaptations. Funds raised at the Great Basin Group’s “Get Kids Outdoors!” event last summer helped with expenses.

These are children who rarely get this kind of experience and who were introduced to snowshoeing for the first time.

Great Basin Outdoor School partnered with the Galena Creek Visitor Center and Snowlands Network to develop and offer Snow School the past two winters to help children enjoy our winter wonderland safely and responsibly.

Great Basin Outdoor School shares snowshoes and lends boots, gloves, and socializing. Speaker TBD. Info: check our website at <http://toiyabe.sierrclub.org/gbgweb/>. We meet at Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Interpretive Center, 6000 Bartley Ranch Rd, Social, 6:30p; program, 7p. Refreshments.


APRIL 16 (TUESDAY) 5:30P Tuesday evening conditioning hike. These will run until October. Easy, 2-3 miles RT, less than 300ft gain, 1-2 hrs. We’ll meet at various trailheads around Truckee Meadows. See our Meetup site <www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/> for details on each week’s hike, appearing 2-3 days ahead.

Great Basin Peak Section News

New Year’s Day celebration with friends

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

celebration of a snow-free hike up Clark Mountain on New Year’s Day. After a couple of hours of fluffy snow underfoot and blue sky overhead, we gathered for a potluck (or is that a feeding frenzy?) and a white elephant gift exchange. All enjoyed a fun time of filling bellies and laughing over interesting gifts.

Kids snowshoe with help from Great Basin Group

BY SUE JACOBS, SUEJACO@INBELL.NET

The kids had a fantastic time and loved looking for tracks,” wrote Holly Coughlin, teacher and Sierra Club Great Basin outings chair. Third grade classes from Rita Cannan Elementary School in Reno went snowshoeing at Galena Creek in Nevada. They learned about winter safety and winter adaptations. Funds raised at the Great Basin Group’s “Get Kids Outdoors!” event last summer helped with expenses.

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Great Basin Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 775 unless otherwise noted.

ALL events include conservation education activities.

CST Nevada Tour Operator – Registration Information, Nevada Tour Operator.
Ref. No. 2005-0041 206768-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

APRIL 1 (MONDAY) Great Basin Group ExCom. We meet monthly to plan events and discuss conservation issues. All Great Basin Group members are welcome to attend our monthly ExCom meeting. Time: 6p. Location: TBD. Info: call David von Seggern (775-303-8461).


APRIL 11 (THURSDAY) Monthly program meeting. Join your fellow members for our monthly program meeting.

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.
Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

MAY 2 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

MAY 3 (FRIDAY) 5:30P
Black Rock Hot Springs Tour. In Black Rock Desert, about 100 mi N of Reno. Backpack tour in case weather is bad for March 9-10 trip, but may meet up with some there. Call David for details of meeting time, location. Sorry, no RVs or trailers, need high clearance 4WD vehicle necessary, good clearance vehicles. Leader very familiar with location. Sorry, no RVs or trailers, need high clearance 4WD vehicle necessary, good clearance vehicles. Leader very familiar with location.

MAY 5 (SUNDAY) 7:30A
One day Amateur Radio Class. Earn your ticket to Chat, earn your Amateur Radio license in just one day! No Morse code required, just read Review, not complete class, so you must study on your own!

MAY 6 (MONDAY)
Great Basin Group ExCom. We meet monthly to plan events and discuss organization issues. All Great Basin Group members are welcome to attend our monthly ExCom meetings, 6p. Location: TBD. Info: call David von Seggern (775-303-8461).

MAY 9 (THURSDAY)
Monthly program meeting. Come join Karin McCollum, “professional tourist,” in her 90-minute slide presentation, “A Sampling of our Seven Continents.” Whether you have traveled extensively or only via National Geographic, you’re sure to see some places you’ve never visited! Karin contracted “travirus” at the age of 4, and has never recovered—the travel to 100 countries and territories, including places like Easter Island, Komodo Island, fabulous underwater realms, Africa (including Madagascar), and various other destinations in her quest to see the world. We meet at Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Interpretive Center, 6000 Bartley Ranch Rd. Social hour 7p.; program. 7p. Refreshments, too!

MAY 10 (TUESDAY) 5:30P

MAY 11-12 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)
McClellan Peak Day Hike. Near historic Virginia City, scenic route on McClellan Peak near Carson City. Hike along part of route, circa 1870 wooden box frame which brought water from Carson Range to Virginia City. About 10 mi, less than 800 ft gain. Some off trail. High clearance 4WD vehicle necessary, or possible ride share. DL: Leader: David Book (775-530-2935). Mod. Easy.

MAY 13 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

MAY 14 (FRIDAY) 5:30P

MAY 16 (SUNDAY)
Sagehen Creek Camas Lilies Day Hike. Witness one of the best displays of wildflowers in Sierra. Spring brings carpet of camas lilies blooms to Sage Hen Creek every year in late May. Learn about how native Americans used them. This date is only placeholder so please keep watch for the opportunity to comment on it.

MAY 19 (TUESDAY) 5:30P
Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. See 4-16 writeup for general info and go to our Meetup site (www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno) for details on this week’s hike. DOK: Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

MAY 21 (THURSDAY) 5:30P
Tuesday evening conditioning hike. See Please see GB CALENDAR, page 11.

GB CHAIR’S REPORT... continued from page 8

perhaps June of this year. This district covers the Reno and Carson City areas and comprises much of the land we hike in. There is an EIS involved with this plan, which will extend over the next couple of decades. It’s important that the BLM gets it right with environmental protection in this plan, so please keep watch for the opportunity to comment on it.

Single-stream recycling for Reno.

Late last year, the Reno Council, with our urging, passed the one which will bring single-stream recycling to Reno. We should begin to see the rollout of that plan by summer. Look forward to those big blue recycle bins and fill them up! We are interested, pray what you practice as we increase the volume of recycled materials in Reno greatly. Next – Sparks and Washoe County need to adopt single-stream!
Southern Nevada Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 702 unless otherwise noted.
All hikes and service projects are led by certified outings leaders.
(Use email when leaders state that they prefer email, especially if you have a long distance telephone number.)

**ALL EVENTS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**


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**April 7 Sunday**

**Mc Cullough Hills Trail.** Begin in Anthem, hike 8.2 mi E to eastern Henderson. This is a brand new trail completed last fall. Easy terrain and wide trail compensates for 8.2 mi distance. Short 10-mi car shuttle. Leader: Eric Blumensaatd (702-370-1836, 7speeder@cox.net). Level 2-3.

**April 13 (Saturday)**

**Brownstone Canyon, RNCNA.** Love to explore this area. From Sandstone Quarry, pass upper end of Gateway Canyon down to an up-and-over to a tinaja. Pass through and down a slot canyon and pop out at petroglyphs and pictographs for lunch. Do you recognize which of these petroglyphs are on 215 overpass? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 3-4.

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**General Program Meetings**

**April 8, May 13, & June 10, 2013**

**These interesting and entertaining meetings are typically held on the second Monday of each month. They are also at the Sierra Club office (see above for details of location), unless otherwise noted on the accompanying calendar of events. Please join us on April 8, May 13, and June 10 at 7 pm. See below for program details and times. All welcome!**

**All phone numbers indicated below are within the 702 area code unless otherwise noted.**

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**April 8 (Monday)**

Program meeting: “New Member Orientation.” Time & place: 7-8 pm, Sierra Club Office. Our first orientation of the year is open not only to new and prospective members but also to current members with an interest in learning more about the Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapte, and Southern Nevada Group. Light refreshments will be served. Info: Taj Ainley (682-9361). All welcome.

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**May 13 (Monday)**

Program meeting: “An Evening with Tom Moulin.” Time & place: 7 pm, Sierra Club Office. Tom Moulin, author of the Red Rock Canyon Visitor Guide, meticulously researched Red Rock Canyon to create “an extensive chronicle of the region’s past and a thorough field guide to the plants and animals.” His program includes information on the flora and fauna in that region as well as some of the more popular trails. Hosted by Las Vegas ICO. Info: Tom Moulin (tomi@snellpress.com). All welcome.

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**June 10 (Monday)**

Program meeting: “They did what?!” (How the courts are the last line of defense against bad environmental policy.) Time & place: 7 pm, Sierra Club Office. From the Clean Air Act to the Clean Water Act to federal land use policies, polluters and profiteers have been trying to tear down environmental protections any way they can. The courts have often been the environment’s last line of defense, but now the courts themselves are under attack. Learn

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**SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP**

**OFFICERS**

Chair: Taj Ainlay* 702-682-9361
Vice Chair: Eric Kmng* 702-265-2044
Secretary: Jane Feldman* 702-875-2686
Treasurer: Denise Saporito 702-595-4000
At Large: Gekko Benjamin* 702-595-4000
At Large: Open
At Large: Open
At Large: Open
At Large: Open
Coal Power Plants: Jane Feldman* 702-595-4000
Conservation: Jane Feldman* 702-595-4000
Endangered Species: Jane Feldman* 702-595-4000
Endangered Wildlife & Habitat: Jane Feldman* 702-595-4000
Global Warming: Jane Feldman* 702-498-3224
Inner City Outings: Charlie Schadeer 702-779-9000
Membership: Taj Ainlay* 702-682-9361
Outings: Jasmin_Russman* 702-215-9119
Outings: Open
Parks, Refuges: Ed Roffman 406-766-0628
Projects: Tenza Crandell 703-526-9445
Programs: Taj Ainlay* 702-682-9361
Publicity: Open
Transportation: Jane Feldman* 702-595-4000

* ExCom member

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**Southern Nevada Group**

**Group News**

**Monthly ExCom meetings**

April 24, May 22, and June 19, 2013

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee have moved to Wednesdays for the 2nd quarter. Meeting time is 6:30-8:30 pm at the Sierra Club Office, conveniently located downtown inside the PLAN Building between Gares and Gass at 708 South Sixth Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101. There is plenty of free parking on the street and in the rear. Join us on April 24, May 22, and June 19!

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**Inner City Outings ventures out with 1st & 2nd graders**

**By Betty Gallifent**

**CAn ChIlDRen AGES Six AnD SeVEn**

The courts have often been the environment’s last line of defense, but now the courts themselves are under attack. Learn
APRIL 20 (SATURDAY)
Historic Railroad Tunnels, LMNRA.

APRIL 20 (SATURDAY)
Red Rock Canyon Overlook, RRCNCA.
From Willow Spring, boulder up North Peak Canyon then up “Canadian Canyon” to ridge line overlooking Red Rock Canyon. When we get to Over Look you’ll feel richer then any king hoarding his gold. About 1200 ft gain is worth all the sweat for majestic view. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 4-5.

APRIL 20 (SATURDAY)
Bristlecone Loop, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area.
About 6 mi through newly green aspen, we’ll soak in mountain air. How’s Mt. Charleston blue butterfly doing? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

MAY 4 (SATURDAY)
White Rock Loop, RRCNCA.
This 6 mi comprise one of most enjoyable hikes at Red Rock Canyon. Great way to exercise; splendid views while lunching. Is that broken wall down man-made or natural? From which strata? Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

MAY 11 (SATURDAY)
Red Roos: La Madre Spring – White Rock Loop.
About 2.5 mi out-and-back OR 6.5 mi loop. Loop takes us to La Madre Spring OR around past White Rock. Group decision determines hike length. If we have two hikes leaders, both hikes can be done separately. (TBD as interest dictates.) Leader: Eric Blumenau (702-370-1836, 75pseeder@cox.net). Both hikes about Level 2-3.

APRIL 11 (SATURDAY)
Big Falls, Kyle Canyon, SNMRN. Let’s look for a snow cave? Or at least a good sized patch of breeze of falls. Why does snow last longer on this side of mountain? About 5 mi RT from 7800 ft to almost 9000 ft. Rock scrambling in creek bed with avalanche debris. Leader: George McDonald (808-3855). Level 2-3.

MAY 11 (SATURDAY)
Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up, Catch some sunshine on our 2-mi walk full of comadon, good feelings about making Red Rock a little more beautiful. Bring hat, sunscreen, water. Meet 8:30, Dunkin’ Donuts, on Charleston W of 215. Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857).

MAY 12 (SATURDAY)
Morning hike in Red Rock/Blue Diamond/Cottonwood Valley area. Moderately fast-paced hike covering 6-8 mi, will be done by noon. Bring water, snacks, first aid kit. Leader: David Hardy (875-4826, hardy_hikers@embermail.com, e-mail preferred). Level 3.

MAY 25-27 (SATURDAY-MONDAY) TBD BLue Diamond Hike. A great intro to Black Rock! Expect several hundred people for weekend of speakers, guided tours, kids’ activities, visits to hot springs, geology, flora and fauna. Leaders: Riley Walker, RVs OK, but no hook-ups. Dry camping only. LNT. Sign up after 5/15. DOK. Leader: David Book (775-464-8413). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488, ladyhiker1@att.net). Easy.

MAY 26 (SATURDAY)
Lava Beds Ramble. Visit one of Nevada’s most interesting areas for rock formations. What is this type of rock, really? Learn about rock weathering, erodes. See amazing elephant trunk arch. Bring your camera for great photo opportunities. About 8 mi RT, 800 ft gain. DOK. Leader: David Von Seggern. (331-7488). Easy.

JUNE 1 (SATURDAY)
Stanley B. Spring, SNMRN. About 4 mi pace will be moderate to moderately fast. Highly recommended for stream crossings. Is real treat – a petroglyph site where we can view many examples of ancient rock art. Many wild horses frequent this area, so sifting is almost guaranteed. Difficult hike at times because of uneven rocky surfaces. About 12 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. Poles highly recommended for stream crossings. Pace will be moderate to moderately fast. Trip limit 15. DL. Leader: Pat Klemes (359-5089). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Moderate.

JUNE 4 (TUESDAY) 5:30P Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us for hikes of 3-5 mi, mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs are allowed, posted on hotline Tuesday before. DOK. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

JUNE 6 (THURSDAY) 5:30P Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Join us for hikes of 3-5 mi, mod. pace, gain 750-1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. Trail info, including if dogs are allowed, posted on hotline Tuesday before. DL. Leader: Yvonne Jerome (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

JUNE 9 (SATURDAY) 8A Largomarsino Canyon Day Hike. Through scenic canyon filled with riparian habitat. Numerous stream crossings possible along creosote bush flush-year round. Halfway point is real treat – a petroglyph site where we can view many examples of ancient rock art. Many wild horses frequent this area, so sifting is almost guaranteed. Difficult hike at times because of uneven rocky surfaces. About 12 mi RT, 1000 ft gain. Poles highly recommended for stream crossings. Pace will be moderate to moderately fast. Trip limit 15. DL. Leader: Pat Klemes (359-5089). Co-Leader: Holly Coughlin (331-7488). Moderate.

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JUNE 16 (SATURDAY) 7:30A Kings Canyon Day Hike. Kings Canyon (near Carson City) to Spooner Summit. About 9.1 mi, 2000 ft gain. Vehicle shuttle. On old stage route, is 9.1 mi. Learn some history of area, enjoy views. See remains of railroad turntable, summit tunnel in Spooner Summit area. ND. Leader: T A
Davide Carle spins a nice tale in his latest novel, the Spotting Scope, keeping the reader on edge page after page. The story, set in contemporary eastern California, finds the environment under political attack in fictitious eastern Sierra “Toiyabe County” and its renowned “Saline Lake.” The tension escalates to more than threats when a local anti-environmental activist is bludgeoned with – of all things – a bird’s-spotting scope. Then a visiting birder with local connections goes missing and townspeople hail from a group called “People First” want to join in the search. Things turn deadly for our unemployed former park ranger, Jack Morgan, who was turned out of a job when the local park ranger, Jack Morgan, who was headed reclassified as a County park.

John C. Two Enigma Day Hike. Discover some history of area, visit two features associated with old mining operations. One-way hike, about 8 mi, 1200 ft gain, with vehicle shuttle. Scenic views. Return paralleling part of Carson River. Hiking poles recommended; long steep descent on loose rock. N.D. Leader: T A Tarro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

Tuesday evening conditioning hike. See 4-16 writeup for general info and go to our Meetup site (www.meetup.com/SierraClub-Hiking-Reno) for details on this week’s hike. D.O.K. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

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This Earth Day, JOIN Sierra Club

A Nice Place to Start with up-and-over along creek and through trees and pines. What wildlife species flourish at springs? Leader: Jack Sawyer (228-3857).


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June 21-22 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TDB Black Rock Archaeology Survey. Meet up with Trails West group, BLM archaeologist, to look for traces of Emigrant Trail between Quinn River and Black Rock Hot Springs. Primitive camping (but we’ll have portapot!) potluck dinner Saturday night right below water, other meals, etc., for weekend. Probably camp near Black Rock Hot Springs, notable stopping spot on Emigrant Trail. Possible side trips to other neat places! High clearance 2WD OK to camping area; 4WD probably needed to survey area; carpooling a possibility, FRS/CR radio helpful but not required. Likely to be hot, but probably not dusty! We’ll most likely meet up Friday evening, head on up. Sign up after 6/1. Leader is very familiar with area. D.O.K. Leader: David Brown (775-643-6443). Easy.

June 22 (SATURDAY) 8A John C. Two Enigma Day Hike. Discover some history of area, visit two features associated with old mining operations. One-way hike, about 8 mi, 1200 ft gain, with vehicle shuttle. Scenic views. Return paralleling part of Carson River. Hiking poles recommended; long steep descent on loose rock. N.D. Leader: T A Tarro (775-530-2935). Mod. Strenuous.

June 25 (TUESDAY) 5:30P Tuesday evening conditioning hike. See 4-16 writeup for general info and go to our Meetup site (www.meetup.com/SierraClub-Hiking-Reno) for details on this week’s hike. D.O.K. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.


June 27 (THURSDAY) 5:30P Longest Day Evening Hike to Top of “Road to Nowhere” Peak. Highest peak on skyline east of Reno. Discover this little known locale, learn geology of surrounding terrain. About 6 mi RT, 1500 ft gain. Brisk pace, not for beginning hikers. Take advantage of sunset at summit on a clear day. For beginning backpackers or families this is an easy way to do a backpack trip in beautiful country. Level 2-3 (3 hiking in, 2 hiking out). Leader: Harry Weldon (702-363-6811). Call REQUIRED.

June 29 (SATURDAY) 8A Rubicon Trail Hike. Along Lake Tahoe shores from D.L. Bliss Park to Emerald Bay and back. Learn about oysperts, logging, old lighthouse. Anticipate good swimming opportunity during lunch at Emerald Bay. Parking fee. About 9.2 mi RT, minimal gain. N.D. Leader: Craig Mastro (775-348-1862, maquis@ssofcom.net). Moderate.