Strategies for a more effective chapter

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN
(vongse1@sbcglobal.net)

On April 26, the ExCom and other Chapter leaders met in Reno, Nevada for a special quarterly meeting. The day was devoted to a strategy session, with a time frame of 1 to 5 years in mind. Jane Grossman, a professional facilitator and Sierra Club member, ably steered us through the day with easel boards and markers. We reviewed our current status and then got down to the difficult work of determining some objectives for the next few years, commensurate with our current status, our resources, and our enthusiasm.

Most successful organizations conduct these strategy sessions, and often at yearly intervals. It has been nearly a dozen years since the Toiyabe Chapter undertook such an exercise. With the pace of modern life, it is important to reassess the organization and its goals at a more frequent interval. The framework in which we operate has changed much in these dozen years; for instance, in the nature of digital communications. We can be most effective if our tools and minds are aligned with the current milieu.

The group convened at 9 am. After a wonderful lunch from the kitchen of the Great Basin Food Coop, we started.

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FROM THE CHAIR . . . continued from page 1

be most important. We soon realized that they naturally divided into two categories, loosely termed conservation goals and administrative goals.

Resisting the desire to pursue many worthy goals, but perhaps at the cost of overburdening ourselves, we settled on 7 goals for the next 1-5 years.

There were 3 goals in the conservation area: (1) Save Public Lands, (2) Put Nevada on the Path to Be First State to Have 100% Renewable Energy, and (3) Be Influential in Public Lands Plan Updates.

There were 4 goals in the administrative area: (1) Triple Membership in 3 Years, (2) Overhaul Member and Public Communications, (3) Increase Fundraising Significantly, and (4) Develop a “Next 50 Years” Vision and Campaign.

I am excited about all 7 of these goals, and so are the rest of the ExCom. Small teams are developing a real plan around each of these goals and will have them fairly complete by the time you read this.

What you can do, I ask, if there are any members interested in any of these plans and wanting to participate in finalizing them, please contact me and I will direct you to the team.

HIKING STICK . . .

continued from page 3

can be dangerous. A walking stick will help prevent the gusts from knocking you over.

These nine uses of the walking stick make life on the trail much easier and safer. A word about types of walking sticks: I prefer a natural wooden stick. As mentioned above I use a light weight agave stick for most Red Rock Canyon trails and a heavier wooden stick for backcountry trails.

Some people prefer one or more aluminum hiking poles (resembling backcountry trails. As mentioned above I use a light weight agave stick for most Red Rock Canyon trails and a heavier wooden stick for backcountry trails.

Some people prefer one or more aluminum hiking poles (resembling cross-country ski poles). One of the advantages of these is that they can be folded up and put in your backpack when bouldering, or going up a dry waterfall, when you need to use your hands. Also, they can be packed in your suitcase for a flight to a hiking destination.

Either way, Nick’s advice: “Don’t go hiking without your trusty hiking stick!”

NOTE: Nick is also an Interpretive Naturalist-Geologist for Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association, Las Vegas, Nevada. All sketches by Graham Winbow, Artist, Las Vegas.
What is the hiker’s best friend?

BY NICK SAINES, SIERRA CLUB HIKE LEADER

(3) Hiking Across Slippery Parts of a Trail
When smooth rocks are a little wet or where a thin layer of loose sand covers rock, the trail can be slippery, especially when going down hill. There are sections of the trail on Fossil Ridge in Red Rock Canyon that have smooth rock surfaces, polished by horses’ hooves. And many trails have loose sand on top of the rock in places. The walking stick has helped keep me from slipping many times in these situations.

(4) Negotiating Rough or Rocky Sections of a Trail
Trails covered by rocks, such as the White Rock Loop near the Junction with Rocky Gap Road, and trails through rocky terrain, like on the trail into Ice Box Canyon, both at Red Rock, can be difficult to walk on. A walking stick helps you keep your balance over an uneven surface.

(5) Protection from Wild Animals
According to Bob McKelvey, retired NPS Ranger, who teaches desert survival in Jim Cribb’s training program for BLM volunteers at Red Rock, you should never hike in the back country without a walking stick. He said that if you are attacked by a mountain lion, for example, you have no defense without a walking stick. (Note: I normally hike with a light weight agave stick on trails off the Scenic Loop, but take a heavier wooden stick for back country hikes.) A walking stick can help protect you from a striking rattlesnake if you are fast enough. Also the tapping of the stick on rocks as you are walking on the trail may scare off snakes and other animals.

(6) Avoiding Quicksand!
About 20 years ago I was leading a Sierra Club hike in Fire Canyon in the Valley of Fire State Park after a couple of days of rain. Groundwater was coming up to discharge in the sandy channel, creating quicksand conditions in places. At one spot I went in up to my knees in the quicksand, but was able to quickly step out with the help of my walking stick. I started using the walking stick for testing and sounding, and was able to distinguish between wet sand and quicksand, and determine how deep the quicksand was in places.

(7) Getting Through Low, Dead Branches
I was hiking with fellow Sierra Club hike leader Gary Beckman to the top of LaMadre Peak from Kyle Canyon, and we ran into a stretch of terrain with low-hanging dead branches. I had a sturdy wooden stick and was able to knock off the dead branches and twigs that otherwise would have made us hike hunched over and snagged our backpacks, or made us find and take a detour.

(8) Wading up a River
One of the most popular hikes in the region is wading up the Virgin River through the Narrows in Zion National Park. The walking stick helps you keep your balance while negotiating the current and the uneven channel bottom. On my way up the river a man who was walking back down and having rough time slipping on the wet and slimy rocks offered me $25 for my walking stick! Needless to say I didn’t sell it to him, as I had to walk back downstream, too.

(9) Hiking in High Wind Conditions
Hiking in a strong, gusty wind, especially on a trail along a steep drop-off,
**Group News**

**Letter from the Chair**

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

**ExCom.** Next meeting, Friday, July 11, 6 pm, Malcolm Clark’s home. See details, this page. **ExCom Candidates needed.** We will need two new ExCom candidates for the end of the year ExCom elections to replace two current members who will not be seeking re-election. Submit names of potential candidates (including yourself) for consideration at our July 11 meeting.

**Group ExCom meetings**

WE USUALLY MEET quarterly (January, April, July, October). The next meeting is Friday, July 11, 6 pm, at the home of Malcolm Clark. 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 prior to 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 between meetings only when a deadline (e.g., comment letter on BLM or Forest proposal) precludes waiting to next ExCom meeting. For this meeting, we would especially appreciate suggestions for 2 new ExCom members to replace 2 current members who will not run for re-election.

**Submissions or more information.** Malcolm Clark, 760-924-5639 or wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com.

**Meetings.** On March 18, David Herbs, research scientist at SNARL (Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory), presented his findings on “Climatic Change Prospects for Streams of the Sierra Nevada”. In April, Fran Hunt, the Eastern Sierra Organizer for the Sierra Club, gave an update on the current Forest Plan revision process. At the May meeting, we joined the SNARL lecture series for a program by Chris Smallcomb of the National Weather Service in Reno on Extreme Weather & Drought.

**Outings.** Thursday and Sunday summer outings continue through September! We still need a volunteer to be Conservation Chair. In the meantime, submit conservation items to rangeofflight.sc@gmail.com.

**“Tabling” Events.** ROLG has “tabbed” at more events this year than in any recent year:

- World Water Day (March 22, Bishop Paiute Tribe)
- Alabama Hills Day (April 12)
- Bishop Paiute Earth Day event (April 19)
- Banff Film festival in Bishop (end of March)

**Conclusion.** There are other events if you are interested in more information, check any of following:

- ROLG website (<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup>)
- Facebook (search “Range of Light Group”)
- ROLG Meetup (www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/)
- Local media

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**Range of Light Group Meetings**

Everyone welcome!

**Volume 43 - Issue 4**

**by Joanne Hihn & Dick Hihn**

**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.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY SUMMER OUTINGS**

**Essentials.** Bring water, lunch, snacks, layered clothing, appropriate hiking footwear, hat, sun-screen, bug spray, desired personal items such as cameras, binoculars, hiking poles. Info: leader for permission to bring your dog. Abominable weather cancels.

**THURSDAY EVENING SUMMER OUTINGS**

Short Mammoth Lakes area hikes. Back before dark; emphasis on local history, natural history, conservation issues, etc., depending on leader’s interests; all skill levels welcome, including beginners.

**Meet.** Gather at 5:30p, Mammoth Union Bank. Bring water, snacks, hat, sunscreen, camera. Wear substantial shoes or boots; dress in layers. Info: leader for permission to bring your dog. Abominable weather cancels.

**NOTE.** In addition to Info: information listed for individual outings, for updates, more information, check any of following:

- ROLG website (<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup>)
- Facebook (search “Range of Light Group”)
- ROLG Meetup (www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/)

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**You’re Invited!**

**Range of Light Group Monthly Meetings**

Everyone welcome!

For all potlucks please 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.

**August 19 (Tuesday)**

Potluck Picnic & Social, 6pm, McGee Creek Trailhead

No Program

“Evening Picnic”

Enjoy an evening picnic in the riparian habitat along McGee Creek amongst cottonwoods, aspens, and willows.

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Please submit suggestions for program topics and/or speakers to our program chair, Mary Shore (mary.shore@gte.net).

We always need fresh ideas!
along Owens River. See, learn about wide variety of birds, particularly waterfowl. Bring boat, paddles, mandarins, personal flotation device, lunch, water, hat, gloves, sunscreen. Recommended: Long-sleeved shirt, pants, waterproof bag for camera, binoculars. Car shuttle required. Some space in boats may be available, call to reserve. Meet 9a ML Union Bank parking lot or 9:30a Benton Crossing bridge. Info: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com or Sandy 714-336-8729, kburnsides@aol.com).

JULY 13 (SUNDAY)
Hike Starkweather Trail. Slow-paced, 4 mi wildflower discovery walk down Starkweather Trail from Minaret Vista to Starkweather Lake. Allow 2-3 hr for this mostly downhill hike to view flowers, learn about distribution of trees by elevation. Fee: $7 for shuttle (exact $). Optional extension: ride shuttle to park headquarters, hike another mile to Devil’s Postpile. We’ll supply hand lenses. Meet 8:30a ML Union Bank or 9a Minaret Vista Trailhead. No dogs. Info: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com or Wilma 760-934-3764, Wilma.bryce@verizon.net

JULY 17 (THURSDAY)
Heart Lake from Coldwater Campground. Short 2.4 mi hike from campground to Heart Lake. About 550 ft gain. Meet 5:30p, Mammoth Union Bank. Dogs OK. Info: Malcolm (760-924-5639, WMalcolm.Clark@gmail.com).

JULY 20 (SUNDAY)
South Lake to Treasure Lakes. Moderate hike, 6 mi RT, 900 ft gain, begins on Bishop Pass Trail. Cross headwaters of South Lake, continue up switchbacks to Lower and Upper Treasure Lakes. Meet: 8a, Mammoth Union Bank. Dogs OK. Info: Brigitte (760-924-2140, junberrman@mac.com or Sandy 714-336-8729, kburnsides@aol.com or Sherry (909-709-2970), hikerlady@verizon.net.

FROM THE ROL CHAIR . . . continued from page 4

process has been revised, allowing for a better final product (in 2016). The Inyo County Board of Supervisors substantially revised its proposed REGPA (Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment), significantly shrinking areas designated as suitable for industrial scale solar facilities and eliminating or significantly downsizing for wind projects. Power line transmission corridors remain a concern.

Opposed by our Group – and many other local conservation groups – Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power’s (LADWP) Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch Project proposal is still on the table. The project would produce 200 MW and covers 1400 acres very close to the Manzanar National Historical site.

Highway cleanup!
June 18, July 16, & Sept. 17, 2014

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. Our cleanups this year are on Wednesdays after our monthly group meetings: JUNE 18, JULY 16 and SEPTEMBER 17. Meet at the Crestview rest area, about 5 miles north of town at 8a. We provide required reflective vests, hard hats, and trash bags – along with picker-uppers and gloves (or bring your own gloves). We usually finish around 10:30a, with post-cleanup refreshments provided. We’ll only clean the outer shoulders and adjacent land (not the inner meridian area) so we’ll need fewer people than in the past, probably no more than eight. If possible, join our Meetup Group (meetup.com/Range-of-Light-Group-Sierra-Club-Outdoor-Outings-Meet-Up) and sign up for Highway clean-up dates for several days prior to the event so that we can then keep you updated. Or check our Facebook page (search Range of Light Group); emailrangeoflight@gmail.com.

For more info, phone Dick Hihn (760-709-5050, June 18 cleanup); Malcolm Clark (760-924-5639, July 16 cleanup); and Dick Hihn (760-709-5050, Sept 17 cleanup).

New Range of Light Group brochure
OUR GROUP HAS A NEW TRI-fold, professionally printed brochure. The photo below shows the cover panel only. In addition to making copies available at ROLG meetings and hikes, we hope to have copies at the usual spots: visitor centers, libraries, tabling events, and other meetings where a ROLG representative is present.

If you have suggestions of good locations that are willing for us to leave a few of these for distribution, please email rangeoflight.sc@gmail.com.

Thanks to Joanne Hihn, Jo Bacon, and Mary Shore for accomplishing this project.

NEW RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP BROCHURE
TOIYABE TRAILS JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2014

JULY 24 (THURSDAY)
Explore Inyo Craters with Student of Volcanoes. Our cleanse of Mammoth area, Meet 5:30p, Mammoth Union Bank. Info: Mike & Mary (805-217-5563, marymikeshore@gmail.com).

JULY 27 (SUNDAY)
Virginia Lakes to Summit Pass. About 6 mi RT, 300 ft gain. Meander through forest, meadow, stair-step alpine lakes to 11,120 ft pass framed by rugged peaks. Wild flowers, panoramic views. Meet 8a, Mammoth Union Bank or 8:30a Virginia Lakes trailhead. Dogs OK. Info: Maurica (760-932-7175, Maurica_And@yahoo.com)

JULY 31 (THURSDAY)
Convict Lake. Dogs OK, Meet 5:30p, Mammoth Union Bank, Info: Sally (760-218-0083, sges4d@gmail.com).

AUGUST 3 (SUNDAY)
Tyee Lakes from South Lake. Hike over pass to George Lake and Lake Sabrina, 10mi, 1840 ft gain to Upper Tyee Lake, 2160 ft gain to pass. Possible shuttle trip. Meet 8am, Mammoth Union Bank, Info: Brigitte (760-924-2140, junberrman@mac.com or Dick 760-709-5050, rhina@skidmore.edu).

AUGUST 7 (THURSDAY)
TBA. Meet 5:30p, Mammoth Union Bank. Dogs OK. Info: Sally (760-218-0083, sges4d@gmail.com).

AUGUST 10 (SUNDAY)
Deer Lake & Beyond Loop Hike. About 11 mi RT from Lake George, first ascending via Mammoth Crest South Trail to Deer Lakes. From there, some easy uphill x-c to summit ridge of Blue Crag at 11,160 ft. Then descend into Sky, Gentian Meadows and return to Lake George via TJ and Barrett Lake. About 2000 ft gain. Meet 8a, Mammoth Union Bank, Info: Melissa (760-937-0499, melissal@verizon.net).

AUGUST 14 (THURSDAY)
Explore ruins of Mammoth City. This is where Mammoth Lakes got its name. Learn about history of mining in area. Dogs OK. Meet 5:30p, Mammoth Union Bank. Dogs OK: Mike & Mary (805-217-5563, marymikeshore@gmail.com).

AUGUST 17 (SUNDAY)
Yosemite: Tuolumne Meadows to Buell Lake & Cathedral Peak. About 6+ mi RT, 1600 ft gain along beautiful Budd Creek gorge on this unmapped, unmaintained trail with views of Unicorn, Coxcomb, and Cathedral peaks. Forest, wildflowers, green grass, granite. No dogs. Meet 8a, Mammoth Union Bank or 8:45 Tioga Road ranger station.

AUGUST 21 (THURSDAY)
TBA. Meet 5:30p, Mammoth Union Bank. Dogs OK, Info: Sally (760-218-0083, sges4d@gmail.com).

AUGUST 24 (SUNDAY)
Hike to Lamarck Lakes. About 5.8 mi RT, 1847 ft gain, strenuous. Meet 8a, Mammoth Union Bank. Info: Sherry (909-709-2970, hikerlady@verizon.net or Dick (760-709-5050, rhina@skidmore.edu).

AUGUST 28 (THURSDAY)
Gull Lake Trail. Short 2 mi loop trail. Dogs OK, Meet 5:30p, Mammoth Union Bank, Info: Jean (760-648-7109, jean@6487109@verizon.net).

PLEASE SEE ROL OUTINGS, page 11.

GROUP IS NOW ON MEETUP
THE ROL MEETUP GROUP is now at www.meetup.com/Range-of-Light-Group-Sierra-Club-Outdoor-Outings-Meet-Up/. As of June 2, we already had 22 members. Anyone can join. We strongly urge ROLG members and others who are interested in participating in ROLG outings or coming to ROLG meetings to join our group (no cost).

When you join, you will be asked for a short profile, which can be as brief as you wish -- perhaps a sentence about your love of hiking or skiing in the Eastern Sierra. By joining, you will be informed and updated about our outings and meetings. What is Meetup? Wikipedia’s description says “Meetup is an online social networking portal that facilitates offline group meetings in various localities around the world. Meetup allows members to find and join groups unified by a common interest, such as politics, books, games, movies, health, pets, careers or hobbies”.

Meetup has over 9000 local groups worldwide. People traveling away from home often check for local Meetup groups at their destination and join in their activities. In establishing our Meetup group, the Range of Light Group is following the lead of the Great Basin (Reno) Group. You are a Range of Light member away from home, you can find a partial list of other Sierra Club meetup groups at http://sierrclub.meetup.com/all.

FROM THE ROL CHAIR . . . continued from page 4
Independence Lake: A gem in the northern Sierra

BY MARGE SILL & MATTHEW TUMA

SUMMER IS A PERFECT TIME to visit the many lakes in our Chapter. For those of you in the Reno area who want to get away from the crowds and traffic of Lake Tahoe, a good choice is the remote and rustic Independence Lake, just a few miles northwest of Truckee. Although the lake is located in California, its pristine waters flow into the Little Truckee and eventually into our Truckee River.

The Independence Lake Preserve is owned by The Nature Conservancy and managed by its Nevada Chapter. The lake is home to one of two remaining self-sustaining populations of Lahontan cutthroat trout in the world. A barrier below the lake has been installed to keep non-native trout from moving upstream and preying on the Lahontan cutthroat trout.

No outside watercraft are allowed on the lake, but a fleet of kayaks and motor boats are available on a first-come basis from June through October. Cars are prohibited around the lake; there are no commercial facilities and no camping, though there are Forest Service campgrounds a few miles distant.

Because of the forest, a visitor may see black bear, mule deer, eagles, osprey and many other birds. If you come, be prepared to park your vehicle and walk, bringing a lunch and cold drinks, and revel in the quiet serenity of this special place. For directions and details visit www.nature.org/independence-lake.

NOTE. Matthew Tuma is Nevada State Director of The Nature Conservancy.

Los Angeles vs. the Owens Valley – again

BY LESLEY BRUNS

RESIDENTS OF THE DEEP, SCENIC Owens Valley are galvanized by a new threat from the City of Los Angeles. The LA Department of Water & Power (LADWP) is proposing a Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch (SOVSR) which will place one million solar panels over two square miles of land near the Manzanar National Historic Site and Lower Owens River Project.

The LADWP water wars, which began a century ago, have fostered a deep mistrust in the citizens of Inyo County. Now, an unlikely coalition has formed between ranchers, artists, the local Paiute tribe, retirees, and environmentalists. They are mobilizing to prevent the industrialization of Inyo County and direct LADWP to focus on rooftop solar and other LA-centric solutions to climate change.

Sierra Club rallies in Reno against Keystone XL Pipeline

DAVID VON SEGGERN (DVONSEG61@SBCGLOBAL.NET)

O n May 17, the Sierra Club hosted an event along with partners CREDO, Great Basin NOKXL, Organizing for America, and others. Over 40 people met at noon at the Virginia St. Bridge over the Truckee River to protest the Keystone XL pipeline. There we held signs while holding hands across the bridge in a ceremonial “Hands Across the Lands” protest (see accompanying photo) and then took a short protest walk to the old U.S. Post Office and back. As many already know, President Obama has postponed a decision on this controversial project until after this year’s election. It has become highly politicized, with some Congressional candidates fearing to take a position on it.

We are firmly in line with national Sierra Club policy in showing our opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline. This pipeline enables the production of energy from one of the world’s dirtiest fossil-fuel reserves – tar sands in Alberta, Canada. The environmental destruction wrought in producing oil from tar sands rivals or exceeds that involved in mountain-top removal of coal. You can view photos of the production area at http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/03/canadian-oil-sands/esstick-photography, among other web sites. Further, the use of tar sands oil leads to significantly higher greenhouse gas emissions per unit of energy produced than other conventional oil-production methods.

The United States itself will receive little of this new oil; rather it will be transported through the Keystone XL pipeline to terminals on the Gulf Coast for export. It is true that the pipeline construction will employ about 2000 people. But this will only be a short-lived employment opportunity, perhaps one year, with the long-term operation of the pipeline requiring only a few tens of people.

On the other hand, development of renewable energy resources is a decades-long endeavor that will create many thousands of new jobs every year and sustain old ones as we transform our energy economy from fossil fuels to clean, renewable sources. Over 22,000 jobs were created in 2013 in the solar industry alone (www.renewableenergyworld.com).

The U.S. government should be doing much more to incentivize the renewable energy industry and should put the brakes on a fossil-fuel project that encourages the worst of fossil-fuel development.

The importance of the Endangered Species Act

BY TINA NAPPE

WEBBER’S IVESIA BECAME the latest species to fall under the protection of the 1973 Endangered Species Act. Like many endangered species, the Ivesia is highly restricted. It exists only between an elevation of 4475 and 6237 feet in scattered populations in Nevada and California.

In conjunction with the listing, USFWS, the agency charged with the responsibility for protecting endangered and threatened species, has designated 2170 acres of critical habitat for the species. Compared to the Greater Sage Grouse, a landscape scale species, being proposed for listing, and utilizing 20,000,000 acres in Nevada (not including acreage in other western states), the Ivesia’s needs are modest.

Nevada’s Wildlife Action plan states, “Among the 50 states, Nevada ranks eleventh in overall biological diversity and is sixth in the nation for endemics, with 173 species found in Nevada and nowhere else in the world. Unfortunately, Nevada also ranks third, behind Hawaii and California, in the number of its species at risk of extinction.” (p.38).

The threats to W. ivesia, according to Ted Koch, State Supervisor for the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office include “the invasion of nonnative plant species and associated increases in the frequency and severity of wildfires” Ongoing threats to Ivesia include OHVs and recreation use, livestock grazing and trampling, wildfire and suppression activities, displacement by nonnative, and invasive plant species. These are the same threats facing sage grouse.

Without the Endangered Species Act, passed by congress in 1973 and signed by President Nixon, many of these species would now be lost or on their way to extinction. Endangered species are examples of nature’s abundance of diversity and complexity; their listing indicates a world becoming simplified.

Preserving species is not solely the responsibility of the USFWS. The Nature Conservancy, for instance, “adopted” the Amargosa River system and purchased a ranch near Beatty to benefit the Amargosa toad. Working with the local community, the Department of Wildlife, and federal agencies, protections were put in place to avoid listing the species.

Sierra Club and Nevada voters have also contributed. In 2002, voters approved a Nevada Parks & Wildlife Bond legislation which provided 200 million for investments in acquisition, planning, and development of open space. Sierra Club members provided a little funding and volunteer support.
IN 1985 THERE WAS COMPETING legislation to establish Forest Service Wilderness, including bills with 4, 10, and 19 areas. In July 1985 the Sierra Club and the Nevada Wilderness sponsored the “Seiberling Tour” of Nevada wilderness areas.

A Nevada National Guard helicopter enabled us to focus attention on National Forest in Nevada. Senator Hecht, Congressmen Seiberling and Reid, as well as press, military personnel and congressional staff attended. Roger Scholl, Wilderness Chair for Toiyabe Chapter, was aboard the helicopter and guided us through selected locations. Jean Ford, Executive Director of the newly formed Friends of Nevada Wilderness, arranged for the flights to be met and information passed out to the participants.

The tour went to many of the areas the Club and Friends of Nevada Wilderness had proposed for wilderness—Boundary Peak, Arc Dome, the South Snake Range, and the Ruby Mountains, to mention a few. The Club wanted to ensure that someone would get the on-board countage. People hiked and backpacked to the places they liked and knew the best to explain what they liked about wilderness and a particular National Forest. Senator Hecht and I were at the South Snake Range—then in the Humboldt National Forest—at the 10,000-foot campground below Wheeler Peak, when the helicopter landed in the tiny meadow. Many dozens of people watched the landing from a distance. It was obvious even to us that landing the heavy craft was very dangerous.

The first landing was aborted and the helicopter roared away and when it reappeared we all were even more apprehensive. After it did land everyone on board ran out and some were visibly shaken—Senator Hecht seemed to be less than happy about being on the tour at that point. Congressmen Seiberling and Reid talked to the crowd and took questions. It was a great day for those of us who felt recognition of the areas on the tour were long overdue. We then went on to the Ruby Mountains where a large contingent from Elko area met with the Congressmen and Senator at the head of Lamoille Canyon when the helicopter landed there.

After the tour, a large reception arranged by Glenn Miller was held at Washoe Pines for all the participants. Congressmen Seiberling spoke eloquently about the wonderful wilderness areas in Nevada.

Congressman Reid was elected to the Senate in 1986, but legislation on wilderness did not pass that year. Instead, in 1986, Congressmen Schell and Secretary of the South Snake Range became part of Great Basin National Park.
Great Basin Gatherings

Message from the Chair

A great year for the Great Basin Group!

BY HOLLY COUGHLIN

This has been a busy and exciting year for the Great Basin Group Executive Committee (ExCom). After our elections in January, our new ExCom began working diligently toward raising our membership numbers by bringing in interesting guest speakers for our monthly Program Meetings. We also continued growing our Outings, which are offered throughout the year.

Caron Tayloe has done an exceptional job in bringing in new faces. One of the most highly attended, “Traveling the 38th Parallel,” brought in about 100 people joining our Meet-Up site!

In April, we participated in the Earth Day celebration and had many new volunteers to help manage our booth. Their help was greatly appreciated. Susie Jaycox is our Secretary and has been instrumental in spearheading our Get Kids Outdoors (GKO) initiative. The GKB supported students from Sun Valley Elementary and Rita Cano with funds to get students into the outdoors.

This August, we are planning a super summer Membership Picnic & Fundraiser for GKO at Bartley Ranch. Everyone on the ExCom is committed and working hard to put together a fun event with entertainment that everyone will enjoy. I feel fortunate to serve as Chair this year with such a dedicated group of people.

Save the Date for Get Kids Outdoors!
Saturday, August 23 • Bartley Ranch • 4 - 8 pm

MEMBERS, NONMEMBERS, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES are welcome! Enjoy potluck dinner, music, activities for kids and adults. BYOB and chairs. Minimum donation $10.

Info: Caron Tayloe (crntayloe@gmail.com, 775-813-3983).

Great Basin Peak Section News
Celebrating Wild Nevada & 50 Years of the Wilderness Act

BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. In celebration, members of the Great Basin Peaks Section signed up with Friends of Nevada Wilderness (FNW) to assist with a project in the Park Range Wilderness Study Area.

Our group – including volunteers, FNW staff, and BLM staff – met in Cottonwood Springs Canyon to camp during the project. Our secluded camp was nestled in a pinyon-juniper forest and dotted with a variety of wildflowers.

Our project involved transplanting and seeding native plants, signing wilderness boundaries, and picking up trash. FNW runs well-organized trips providing delicious food, safety talks, demonstrations of proper equipment use, and plenty of fun.

In addition to our work, we explored the hidden beauty of the area by hiking near Park Mountain and to high meadows. We also had the opportunity to drive the boundary of the WSA and explore cultural sites like Pritchard Station, an old stagestop. Daily antelope sightings and a variety of wildflowers added to the area’s beauty.

FNW offers numerous volunteer trips throughout the year. Check their website and join one of their trips to explore and protect some of the wilderness treasures that many overlook in our great wild Nevada (www.nevadawild.com).

Join the GBPS! For details on membership, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports check out Great Basin Peaks Section at: http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/GreatBasinPeaks.html.

Great Basin Group Calendar

Great Basin Group

Message from the Chair

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**Great Basin Group Calendar**

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**Great Basin Group Section News**

**Winter wonderland on Waucoba**

**BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX**

G reat Basin Peaks members took advantage of great weather and headed to the Inyo Mountains Wilderness Area to hike Waucoba Mountain, the range high point at 11,123 feet. Nice weather lasted until the day we left for our trip. As we drove through the winter snow scene before Mammoth, we re-organized our schedule and had an extra day before heading into the Inyo Range.

In the spirit of celebrating the 50-year Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, we hiked to the high point of the Crater Mountain WSA. The Sierra and Inyo Ranges were hidden in clouds and high views were gray and stormy. The best views were at our feet with amazing displays of wildflowers, including alpine yellowbells that we never seen.

In hopes of improved weather, we headed to the Inyos after a day of exploring lower peaks. We followed Route B from the Desert Peaks Section Guide (a great resource for trailhead and peak routes). We welcomed the end of our drive, because the Saline Valley Road about bounced all of our teeth out! Waucoba Mountain was blanketed in snow from the two previous nights of storms. In the morning, we decided to at least try the hike even though it looked like both snow and weather would turn us back before the summit.

What was a steep hike when dry had turned into a slippery snowy slog, but we slowly crept upward. It was a relief to finally reach the flat large summit area, presenting us with an amazing Winter Wonderland. The surrounding view was a cover of low dark gray clouds.

We dug the register out of the snow, did a quick signing, photos, snack, and then headed back down. We skipped the reward of lingering to savor the top considering the long slippery slope down and the threatening clouds that could fall at any moment.

Our luck held and we only had a light sprinkle of rain about 5 minutes before camp. The brief rain stopped, allowing us to enjoy our dinner out in the trees celebrating another trip up a Great Basin peak.

**Great Basin Peak Notes Section**

**Waucoba Mountain**


**It’s not just a good basin, it’s a GREAT basin!**
Southern Nevada Group

General Program Meetings

Programs: None for 3rd quarter

BECAUSE we are in the process of moving our Group office, our General Program Meetings have been suspended for the 3rd quarter.

Southern Nevada Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 702 unless otherwise noted.
All hikes and service projects are led by certified outings leaders.

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Southern Nevada Group Calendar

July 21-27 (Monday-Sunday)
Jarbidge Wilderness Backpack. Join us in visiting one of the sites where wilderness was first designated by Congress 50 years ago. Trip will cover about 30 mi and is moderate. For details, see July 21-27 in Great Basin Group Calendar. To reserve: David von Seggern (vonsegg@sbemail.com, 775-303-8461) and Dorothy Hudig (hudig@sbemail.com, 775-323-4835).

July 26 (Saturday)
Trail Canyon to Rain Tree. Come and enjoy this beautiful and somewhat challenging hike with Sierra Club, one of the pioneer groups in outdoors and hiking. You don’t have to be a Sierra Club member to take part in hikes. We’ll adjust our pace to keep group together, and make stops as needed. This is a dog friendly hike, if your best friend can make the hike. About 7 mi RT, about 2000 ft gain. Hike level, about 3 to 4, moderate. Hike leader Sasson (702-499-9218).

August 2 (Saturday)
Big Falls & Kyle Canyon, Spring Mountains. Scramble off-trail, along creek bed to waterfall. Was this canyon once filled with a glacier? Leader: Jack Sawyer (702-228-3857) Level 2-3.

August 16 (Saturday)
Mt. Charleston. Start on Bristlecone trail and hike up side of Big Sister. May link up with Bonanza Trail for return. An easygoing hike, including frequent stops allowing us time to enjoy views and fresh, cool air of mountain this time of year. We’ll also include a brief optional mindful meditation at lunch or along way. Dogs welcome: About 5-6 mi, at Levels 3-4. Info: Bill Marr (433-0743, wrmarr@prodigy.net).

August 23 (Saturday)
Bristle Cone Loop trail to Bonanza. Sierra Club member or not, please join us on this breathtaking hike with aspen groves and vistas of Pahrump and Telescope peak of Death Valley. About 8 mi RT, about1000 ft gain. As always we will keep group together and make stops along way as needed or requested. This is a dog friendly hike, as long as your best friend can make the hike. Hike level, about 3 to 4, moderate. Hike leader: Sasson (702-499-9218).

September 6 (Saturday)
Stanley B. Spring, SMNRA. About 4 mi gain. hike level, about 3 to 4, moderate. Hike leader: Sasson (702-499-9218).

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

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Las Vegas Inner City Outings tackles Calico Tanks

BY JEANETTE BUCKLEW

A sandstone quarry, an Indian agave roasting pit, the “Stairway to Heaven”, and a breathtaking overlook of the Las Vegas Valley were highlights of a Las Vegas Inner City Outings hike on March 15, 2014. Fourteen sixth graders from West Prep Middle School, four ICO leaders, and two school teacher chaperones mastered the Calico Tanks anchor hike in Red Rock Canyon, covering three miles of trail and climbing 450 feet of elevation that included considerable rock scrambling.

The young hikers readily embraced climbing on the abundant red rocks that comprised much of the trail even though most had no prior experience hiking in Red Rock Canyon. The students were engaged in learning about the history of the sandstone quarry and checking out the quarried rock.

They also learned how the Indian agave roasting pit in the earth was used to cook food hundreds of years ago. Pine and scrub oak trees along the trail in one area provided the interpretative opportunity to discuss the most amazing chemical reaction on earth—photosynthesis, which some of the young hikers had recently studied in their science class.

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The Mojave Monitor

The Mojave Monitor

Southern Nevada Group

Group News

Monthly ExCom Meetings

July 16 & September 17, 2014

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee (ExCom) remain on Wednesdays in the 3rd quarter (July, August, September). We’ll meet from 6-8:30 pm at a venue to be decided, as we are in the process of relocating to a new office. Anyone who would like to join the leadership team is invited to attend. The dates are the Wednesdays of July 16 and September 17. Dark in August. Contact the Group Chair, Taj Ainaly (702-682-9361) for details.

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General Program Meetings

Programs: None for 3rd quarter

Looking at spring blooms. Photo: Betty Gallifent.
TRAILS IN THE 1970s... continued from page 12

upside down cake, filet mignon, and wine served in custard cups on tablecloths and lit with candles.

Sierra Club members visited potential wilderness sites to map, identified roads, and took photographs. Because most Sierra Club members worked at full-time jobs, exploration of potential wilderness sites was on weekends. A trip plan might consist of leaving Friday after work and returning home late on Sunday.

Toiyabe Chapter Sierra Club members, about 1000 at the time, were the first target for recruitment. In addition to the newsletter, Dennis Ghiglieri, Dan Leeth, and Rose Strickland put together a slide show (see Part 4). Dan Leeth established a Wilderness Study Photography Group. Jeff Van Ezden was the Southern Nevada Conservation Council as a forum to discuss wilderness values, clarify permitted uses, and build consensus.

Toiyabe Chapter and the 1964 Wilderness Act is 50 years old this year. The Jarbidge Wilderness in northeastern Nevada was included in 1964’s original legislation. What was behind the selection of the 13 new wilderness areas totaling 720,000 acres (and the Jarbidge addition) in the 1989 Nevada Wilderness Protection Act?

September 25 (THURSDAY)
Hike from Pine Creek to Mosquito Flats (with car shuttle). About 12mi, 3000 ft gain, strenuous. No dogs. Meet 7a, Mosquito Flats parking area. Info: Cindy (908-763-1700, candj@achat.net).

September 28 (SUNDAY)
Lyell Canyon in Yosemite National Park. This 14 mi RT hike along John Muir Trail has gentle grade. Start in Tuolumne Meadows, follow JMT towards Donahue Pass, going through meadows along Lyell Fork of Tuolumne River. At lunch, hike leader will read excerpts from John Muir’s work. Meet 8a, Mobil Station, Lee Vining. Look for Jeff’s Toyota Tacoma. No dogs. Space limited to 15 hikers. Info: Jeff (423-322-7866, jettie@bodiehills.org).

Great Basin Calendar

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S. Nevada Group Calendar

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with up and over long creek and through firs and pines. What wildflower species flourish at springs? Leader: Jack Sawyer (702-228-3857).

September 20 (Saturday)
Mummy’s Spring. This is a fun hike with some workout. I invite Sierra Club members and non-members to take part in this free and fun adventure. Let’s leave city behind and take a walk in an ancient forest. Lunch by spring after our visit to the several thousand year old Raim Tree. Less than 2000 ft gain, RT about 6 mi. We will make stops along way as needed. This is a bad friend hike, if your best friend can hike level 3 hike. Hike leader: Sasson E. N. (760-709-5050, rhihn@verizon.net).

September 27 (Saturday)
move toward the city’s mandated goal of producing a third of its energy from renewable sources by 2020. These energized locals have shown up in force at Inyo County Supervisor’s meetings and LADWP outreach presentations. They have started a new website, deepestvalley.org, initiated a change.org petition and launched a letter writing campaign to Los Angeles Mayor, Eric Garcetti.

Conservationists who are alarmed by the rapid pace of climate change feel conflicted when asked to oppose solar energy projects. Can we legitimately fight dirty coal, tar sands, fracking, Keystone XL and also stand against wind turbines, hydro-power and solar farms?

While there’s little opposition to the concept of renewable energy, the devil is in the details. In the case of SOVSR, there are too many concerns to overlook. Impacts on the viewshed from Manzanar and the proposed Lower Owens River Trail degrade the region’s aesthetics and disturb an area of rich cultural heritage. The current environmental impact review lacks a comprehensive dust abatement plan, doesn’t adequately address consequences to native species, and ignores the economic and environmental effect of constraining tourism.

Many of the concerns to overlook. Impacts on the viewshed from Manzanar and the proposed Lower Owens River Trail degrade the region’s aesthetics and disturb an area of rich cultural heritage. The current environmental impact review lacks a comprehensive dust abatement plan, doesn’t adequately address consequences to native species, and ignores the economic and environmental effect of constraining tourism.

Some of the environmental consequences to native species, and ignores the economic and environmental effect of constraining tourism.

...so PLEASE if you are interested in wilderness for Nevada – WRITE! Let them know, keep those cards and letters coming in, it will make a difference.

In 1979, one important wilderness-promoting activity was a wilderness survey by Howard Booth and Bill James. With a group, they hiked into Hidden Valley near Muddy Peak and set up a base camp to explore the surrounding countryside. The group celebrated the successful survey with a gourmet dinner of bouillabaisse, pineapple Ditch Trail. After-work hike from Thomas Cooke (1970) to Steamboat Ditch Trail. About 4.5 mi, 800 ft gain possible at mid. fast pace. Learn about flora, fauna along way. For trailhead, take 130 W to McCarran Circa L. Take R on 4th street, follow 2 mi to Woodland, turn L. Go straight, meet at Mayberry Crossing Park at end of street. Bring plenty of water, trail shoes. Leash for dogs along river. No need to call. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call Moderate.

September 4 (Thursday) 5:30p Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Get in shape after work with evening conditioning hike of 4-6 mi at brisk pace. Gain up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in and around Truckee Meadows. Info at our MeetUp site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/, for details on this trip. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call Moderate.

September 7 (Sunday) 8a Mt. Elwell Day Hike: Hike to peak of Mt. Elwell and Echo Summit State Park, CA. Hike tops out at 7114 ft for about a 2600 ft climb. The RT distance is roughly 12 mi. High lakes, great views, moderate walkers. Hikes moderate to mod. strenuous. Dogs must have leash or lead in campground. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-750-2298, ladyhiker@sierraclub.org). Co-Leaders: Bill & Gail Myatt (775-750-1293). Easy.

September 9 (Tuesday) 5:30p Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Get in shape after work with evening conditioning hike of 4-6 mi at brisk pace. Gain up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in and around Truckee Meadows. Info at our MeetUp site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/, for details on this trip. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call Moderate. These hikes are easy, meant for nearly anyone. Info at our MeetUp site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/, for details on this trip. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (vonsieg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

September 10 (Wednesday) 5:30p Wednesday Conditioning Hike near Eagle Canyon. An after-work hike, about 5 mi, 1000 ft gain. Learn about flora, fauna we see along way. For trailhead, take Damonte Ranch Pkwy 0.7 mi, turn L on Steamboat Pkwy. Follow 1.4 mi to Rio Wrangler, turn R, go 0.4 mi to McCauley Ranch, turn L on park side or end of street on N side of Highway. Bring plenty of water, trail shoes. This is a more difficult trail, steep. Do not need to call. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call Mod. Strenuous.

September 11 (Thursday) 5:30p Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Get in shape after work with evening conditioning hike of 4-6 mi at brisk pace. Gain up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in and around Truckee Meadows. Info at our MeetUp site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/, for details on this trip. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call Mod. Strenuous.

September 13 (Saturday) 8a Thunder Mtn near Carson Pass. Hike about 7 mi RT, gain about 2000 ft gain. Learn about flora, fauna on established trail, mostly on ridge line. Learn some history about the area. Info at our MeetUp site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/, for details on this trip. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (vonsieg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

September 16 (Tuesday) 5:30p Tuesday Evening Hike. These hikes are easy, meant for nearly anyone. Info at our MeetUp site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/, for details on this trip. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (vonsieg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

September 18 (Thursday) 5:30p Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Get in shape after work with evening conditioning hike of 4-6 mi at brisk pace. Gain up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in and around Truckee Meadows. Info at our MeetUp site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/, for details on this trip. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Ridge Walker Mod. Easy.

September 23 (Tuesday) 5:30p Tuesday Evening Hike. These hikes are easy, meant for nearly anyone. Info at our MeetUp site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/, for details on this trip. DOK. Leader: Hollie Coughlin (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Easy.

September 24 (Wednesday) 5:30p Wednesday Evening Hike: Hawk Hillers & Rattlesnake Mtn. Our last Wed. conditioning after-work hike for this year. About 4 mi, 600 ft gain. Learn about flora, fauna we see along way. For trailhead, from corner of Longley and S. E. McCarron make a U turn on McCarron 0.1 mi, turn on Alexander Lake Rd. Follow road 1.1 mi to Huffaker Hill trailhead on R side. Bring plenty of water, trail shoes. Do should have heel. After hike, we plan to go dinner at nearby Mexican restaurant, celebration of another year of Wed. hikes. No need to call. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call Moderate.

September 27 (Thursday) 5:30p Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Get in shape after work with evening conditioning hike of 4-6 mi at brisk pace. Gain up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in and around Truckee Meadows. Info at our MeetUp site: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/, for details on this trip. DOK. Leader: Yvonne Jerome Co-Leader: Ridge Walker Mod. Easy.

September 27 (Thursday) 8a Fire & Ice: Machado Postpile Days Hike. Carson Pass area. Existence and location of these natural hexagonal basalt columns, similar to, but believed to be millions of years older than Devil’s Postpile near Mammoth were not confirmed until 1990. That’s fire. Ice is evidenced by numerous large erratics near beginning of hike and glacial striations. About 5 mi RT, 800 ft gain. Not on trail. DOK. Leader: T A Torrey (775-750-5253, Mod. Strenuous).

October 18 (Tuesday) 5:30p Mammoth lakes, CA. Visit a high altitude, old-growth forest. Learn about numerous large erratics near beginning of hike and glacial striations. About 5 mi RT, 800 ft gain. Not on trail. DOK. Leader: T A Torrey (775-750-5253, Mod. Strenuous).