Planning for a Chapter staff person

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net)

I have made no secret of my desire to see Toiyabe Chapter hire a permanent staff person. Most Sierra Club chapters of our size or larger have one or more staff positions and utilize them effectively. Our many volunteer activists, past and present, have done an impressive job -- but they could certainly use some help!

By having a staff person overseeing and coordinating the day-to-day work of the Chapter, we would increase our presence in the expanding conservation community and our effectiveness with important conservation issues. Just as Nevada has become a “swing state” in politics, it has also become an important key state in the future of conservation. Two examples of issues come to mind: federal lands transfer and the conservation issues. Just as Nevada has played a key role in Southern Nevada, Nevada’s congressional delegation in the early 1980s to halt proposals for locating MX missile sites in Eastern Nevada.

Oddly enough, the inaugural “Las Vegas Group” was not the Chapter’s first regional division. That honor went to the “Uinta Group,” founded in 1962, which would split off in the 1970s to become the Club’s Utah Chapter.

When a Northern Nevada division was proposed in 1978, David Hornbeck helped draw up the boundaries that would define the new “Great Basin Group,” prompting the Las Vegas members to rename their organization the “Southern Nevada Group” (SNG).

Over the past 50 years, much has changed in Southern Nevada. The SNG has played a key role in protecting the region’s environment, from taking a stand on water and air issues to fighting urban sprawl while promoting wilderness and recreation areas.

Among the many highlights of the past half century are:

• Prevailing upon Nevada’s congressional delegation in the early 1980s to halt proposals for locating MX missile sites in Eastern Nevada.
• Supporting Chapter lobbying to create Great Basin National Park, successfully concluded in 1986.
• Working in 1988 to ensure a fair exchange of lands in the Aerojet Great Basin Land Swap.
• Continuing efforts since the late 1980s to prevent Yucca Mountain from being used for storage of nuclear waste.
• Supporting establishment of Spring Mountain NRA in 1993 and expanding Red Rock Canyon NCA in 2000.
• Litigating to mitigate the polluting effects of widening U.S. Highway 95, settled successfully in 2005.
• Initiating the process to establish Inner City Outings (ICO), now
• Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meetings 12

Celebrating 50 years in Southern Nevada!

BY TAJ AINLAY

Six years after the founding of the Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club members in Las Vegas began organizing an internal group. In 1965, the opening of a local Wells Fargo Bank account laid the foundation for the Club’s ongoing commitment to Southern Nevada.

2015 Chapter & Group Elections

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN (vonseg1@sbcglobal.net)

We are reminding members that the 2015 elections for Chapter and Group executive committees are coming soon. You will receive a ballot in the mail about December 1 and we ask that you consider the candidates and vote by return mail.

Many people have asked about an online election, but we are just not to the point where we can manage that yet.

People interested in running for either Chapter or Group executive committee should contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Anne Macquarie (annemacquarie@gmail.com), for Chapter candidacy or their Group Chair for Group candidacy.

The Executive Committee approved the following Toiyabe Chapter election schedule for 2015.

Oct. 1: publication of this schedule in the Toiyabe Trails

Nov. 2: Nominating Committee submits its report of candidates

Nov. 10: deadline for candidate petitions to be submitted to Election Committee

Dec. 2: mailing of ballots to chapter elections mailing list

Jan.: closing date for acceptance of ballots at chapter P.O. Box
Fall Desert Trips

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

For questions about, or to sign up for, a particular outing, please contact leader listed in write-up. For questions about Desert Committee outings in general, or to receive outings list by e-mail, please contact Kate Allen (kjallen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056).

Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

SEPTEMBER 26-27 (SAT-SUN)
SERVICE & HIKING IN THE CARRIZO PLAINS
An opportunity to visit and assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. Saturday is National Public Lands Day. We will join other volunteers on several maintenance projects. We will be car camping, with a potluck and campfire on Saturday night. Sunday, tour several historic, prehistoric, and geologic sites in Monument. Details to be determined by group consensus. Leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670.

CNRCC Desert Committee

OCTOBER 8-10 (THU-SAT)
DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION
Join us in restoring wilderness values in this remote, beautiful desert National Park by helping to clean up a marijuana grow site in Hunter Mtn area. 4WD required, possibility of carpooling. Meet Thursday afternoon at junction of Hwy 190 and South Saline Valley Road. Work that afternoon and all day Friday. On Saturday, either more cleanup, or we may be free to enjoy joy park. Camping is primitive; bring all food and water for weekend, plus trowel or shovel for personal needs. Leader: Kate Allen, kjallen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056.

CNRCC Desert Committee

OCTOBER 12-17 (SAT-SAT)
DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS SERVICE TRIP
Help restore wilderness values in this stunning desert nation park. Work project not yet determined. Perhaps another marijuana grow site or help with clean-up of cabin in Panamints. (Or something else entirely.) Meet Thursday afternoon, place TBD. Work that afternoon and Friday. Potluck either Thursday or Friday night. Leader: Kate Allen, kjallen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056.

CNRCC Desert Committee

OCTOBER 19-21 (THU-SAT)
DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS SERVICE TRIP
Help restore wilderness values in this stunning desert nation park. Work project not yet determined. Perhaps another marijuana grow site or help with clean-up of cabin in Panamints. (Or something else entirely.) Meet Thursday afternoon, place TBD. Work that afternoon and Friday. Potluck either Thursday or Friday night. Leader: Kate Allen, kjallen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056.

CNRCC Desert Committee

OCTOBER 26-29 (SAT-SUN)
BASEIN & RANGE THANKSGIVING
Tour our newest national monument in southern Nevada. Comprising 700,000 acres, Basin & Range National Monument highlights basin and range topography with Great Basin dry, dusty valleys and rocky, wooded ridges. Archaeological sites and modern city landscape-scale construction by artist Mike Heizer are preserved here for posterity. Tour area mostly by vehicle, with some hiking. Expect primitive campsites with no amenities.
Leader: David von Seggern, Chair, Toiyabe Chapter, vonesl1@sbcglobal.net, 775-303-8461.
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN SOUTHERN NEVADA! ... 
continued from page 1

Group’s past five decades in Southern Nevada. Special recognition will be given to 10 SN Group members who have been with the Sierra Club for 50 years or more, including life member Lloyd Lansing, who joined in 1933! VIP guests from government, business, and entertainment are also expected to attend. Reservations can be made online at www.sierraclub50.com.

In concert with the festivities, the Group is collecting historic documents, photographs, and memorabilia to be added to the official Sierra Club archive within UNLV Library’s Special Collections. For further information, email SierraClub50@gmail.com.

— Taj Ainlay is the current Chair of the Southern Nevada Group and author of Las Vegas: The Fabulous First Century. (Arcadia, 2003).

For decades now, SNG outings leaders like Gary Beckman (pictured here in 1993) have led routine clean-ups on the Toiyabe Chapter’s Adopt-a-Highway stretch of NV-159 near Red Rock Canyon.

Among the dozens of SNG service projects conducted over the past 50 years was this 1997 work party to Breakfast Canyon in Death Valley led by Ed Rothfuss.

SNG activists have long advocated for public lands, such as this rally at Red Rock in May 1994 with Elyssa Rosen at the microphone.

Protecting local species has always been part of our mission, as exemplified by SNG Chairman David Brickley (left) speaking out for Southern Nevada’s plants and animals at the Clark County Government Center in 1998. That’s Jessica Hodge on the right as Nevada Wildlife Federation President Frank Maxwell looks on.

In June 2005, the Sierra Club settled its lawsuit for widening Hwy 95 in Las Vegas without proper consideration of health impacts from increased traffic pollution. Present at the press conference were Jane Feldman, Leanne Hildebrand and Joanne Spalding, among others.
Please see FROM THE ROL GROUP CHAIR, page 5.

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.

October 20 (Tuesday) 6:15 pm, Social & Potluck
Crowley Lake Community Center
Adventurers Urs and Rosemary Williman will present a travelogue of their walk on the Camino de Santiago. Impressions of the people and countryside and tips on how to plan this historic trek will be included.

November 17 (Tuesday) 6:15 pm, Social & Potluck
Crowley Lake Community Center
Nancy Hadlock and Richard Potashin have recorded arboreglyphs in the Eastern Sierra. Hear about the culture which artfully carved into the aspen trees and left us clues of their life.

December 8 (Tuesday) Holiday Party
We are looking for a venue for our Holiday Party. To volunteer your home or to make a suggestion for a location, please contact Mary at 805-217-5563 or marymikeshore@gmail.com.

Please submit suggestions for program topics and/or speakers to our program chair, Mary Shore (marymikeshore@gmail.com). We always need fresh ideas!
ROL Group ExCom Nominations & Election

Three new ExCom members needed for next year

ROL GROUP MUST HAVE NEW CANDIDATES for our group ExCom election later this year. The three members whose terms are up have all said they wish to nominate themselves for another term: Lesley Bruns (secretary), Joanne Hihn (member-at-large), and Mike Shore (member-at-large). When possible, we like to offer a choice by fielding more than three candidates.

Please send your suggestions for someone you think could make a valuable contribution to our ExCom and who might be willing to serve (be sure to get the nominee’s permission first). Don’t hesitate to nominate yourself if you have time and willingness to serve.

The ExCom normally meets four times a year. It is the voting, final decision-making body of the Range of Light group. In order to have material submitted to the Chapter in time, our deadlines differ slightly from Chapter deadlines. **Submit nominations by Oct 12** so they may be considered at our Oct 14 Excom meeting.

November 10 is the Group deadline for those seeking nomination by petition to secure and submit petitions. That is, anyone who is nominated but not included in the approved slate. To submit nominations or for more information, email rhihn@skidmore.edu, or snail mail Range of Light Group, P.O. Box 1973, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546.

Ballots for Group and Chapter ExCom election will be mailed December 2 and must be received by December 31 to be counted. Please see the Toiyabe Chapter election deadlines on page 1 of this Trails issue.

FROM THE ROL GROUP CHAIR . . .

* Meets: www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/

Our Meetup group was started in April 2014. As of September 2014 we had 40 members. We now have 127 members. **Conservation.** (for details for these and other conservation activities, please contact Malcolm Clark, Conservation Chair, wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com.)

ROL Group did its part to help put an end to the trapping of bobcats in California. On August 5, California Fish & Game Commission voted 3-2 to ban bobcat trapping statewide.

As part of the Inyo Forest Plan revision, the Forest Service released a draft proposed list of Species of Conservation Concern for each forest. Anyone with useful information on specific species should submit it to R5planrevision@fs.fed.us. For more information, visit: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3847723.pdf

The final **Renewable Energy** General Plan Amendment removed the Owens Valley from the REGPA. A separate study using grant money will be made of the this area’s suitability for solar development. There was considerable opposition expressed to any industrial scale solar projects in southern Owens Valley during the June 2 and 3 public workshops.

Please see: http://www.sierrawave.net/inyo-county-solar-energy-news/ for more info.

In addition, LADWP’s Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch (tentatively situated adjacent to the Manzanar National Historic Site) has been put on hold.

Finally, the permit for Northland Power Solar Farms has been cancelled by Inyo County and their request for power transmission line connection has been denied.

DOCUMENTS/stelprd3847723.pdf

Tuolumne River Hike: August 9, 2015. In spite of our 4-year drought, there was enough water in the river to provide us with cascading waterfalls. We took frequent breaks, sitting along the banks to take in the beauty of this special place.

Paiute Pass: August 9, 2015. The views were glorious as we ascended through forests, meadows, rocky outcroppings and along several lakes. A few of us managed to get to the top of the pass. We were greeted by Summit Lake and Humphreys Basin below the pass.

Tamarack Lake July 9, 2015. After a hefty climb up to an 11,600 ft plateau, we descended to blue-green Tamarack Lake.

August 9, 2015. On our “Around the World” evening walk, John led us “around the world,” all within the confines of Mammoth Lakes area. What country were we visiting in this photo?
Conservation Briefs

BY MARGE SILL

Be a Citizen Scientist! Tahoe visitors and residents can now act as citizen conservationists to help monitor what is going on at the Lake by using an app on their smart phones entitled “Citizen Science Tahoe.” This app was programmed by a University of California Davis freshman in Computer Science.

Many universities are now working on apps to enable those who are interested in environmental and wildlife issues to record their findings. This is particularly important for federal agencies who do not have the paid staff to do such work in far-flung places like Nevada.

No more bobcat trapping in NV? Because bobcat trapping has now been banned in California, many Sierra Club members in Nevada are hoping that this can be extended to our state. The national Sierra Club policy does not mention bobcats specifically, but states: The Sierra Club opposes use of body-gripping, restraining, and killing traps. These kinds of traps are the ones used to trap bobcats, whose skins are then sold to buyers because the fur is valuable. (See article by Malcolm Clark on page 7.)

Get out and visit NV and CA public lands! The passage of the Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness in Idaho with bipartisan support gives wilderness advocates hope that designated wilderness will continue to be important for preserving the best of our wild lands in Nevada and Eastern California. Fall is a great time to go out and visit our two new wilderness areas, Pine Forest and Wovoka, and our new national monument, Basin & Range. It is also a good time to explore those areas in the Inyo National Forest that have been proposed for wilderness in the revision process. If you go, be sure to check the weather (storms can come up suddenly) and wear bright clothing when you are hiking (it will be hunting season).

Sierra Club & citizen surveys

BY TINA NAPPE

The pika, which looks like a rat, but is related to rabbits, once lived in valleys and grassland habitats. Today pikas, because of rising temperatures, appear to have retreated to higher elevations and talus slopes. Pikas can die in six hours when exposed to temperatures above 25.5 °C (77.9 °F) if they cannot find refuge from heat.

Pikas rely on grasses and forbs, although during our Sierra Club survey in Glacier National Park, we saw one hawking a branch. I owe this close encounter with pikas, to two southern Nevada Toiyabe Chapter trip leaders, Par Rasmussen and Ed and Marge Rothfuss who, beginning in 1995, led national park service trips from their Las Vegas area homes. Both leaders have now relocated – Ed and Marge Rothfuss to Kailieispell, MT, where they generously offered our group overnight accommodations and Par to Utah. Par, our well organized trip leader plans on continuing his service trips.

Our job was to hike to various predetermined sites and count either rocky mountain goats, bighorn sheep, or pikas. For the pika survey we were to stand quietly at the site to count pikas, look for poop, and also for stashed hay stacks for winter feeding. We were to determine whether their poop (fecal matter) was recent or old and to collect some, but not too much. Pikas consume their poop.

The National Park Service establishes the monitoring sites but relies on volunteer groups to visit and report findings. While some sites were close to our campgrounds, others required a six-mile hike. Over the five days at Many Glacier, we accessed a variety of trails and enjoyed both our purpose and the scenery. Mule deer and black bear were common. Grizzly bears at a distance were a plus, I was disappointed not to see a moose.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife has also conducted pika studies. Since the 1970s, NDOTW has had a Biodiversity Program. Federal funds match state funds to finance the program. One of the species of concern is the pika. In 2009 the USE&WS received a petition to list the pika as threatened. Through field surveys, however, NDOFW had identified additional pika low elevation sites in the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, thus avoiding a listing.

What you can do. If you are interested in joining a Park trip, you can contact him at paras muss@gmail.com. Watch his video report on the Glacier trip at http://youtu.be/3s_M9izsAPw.
Bobcat update
No-trapping ban approved in California
BY MALCOLM CLARK
(wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com)
On August 4, 2015, the California Fish & Game Commission (FGC) voted 3-2 to ban bobcat trapping statewide. The No Trapping Option 2 was chosen over the staff-preferred Option 1 (a ban only in specified areas). Prior to the August 4 meeting, FGC received approximately a dozen comments supporting option 1 and over 25,000 comments supporting a statewide ban.

The bobcat trapping issue goes back to the passage of AB1213 in 2013, which banned bobcat trapping adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park. The legislation directed FGC to consider how to enact bobcat trapping bans in areas adjacent to other national parks, national wildlife refuges, national monuments, and state parks.

Bobcat trapping is required to be self-supporting through licenses and fees. Areas where bans should have easily discerned boundaries. Project Bobcat was a major force in pushing for the ban, supported by others including Sierra Club wildlife volunteer activist, Jim Hines.

In the Eastern Sierra, the most prominent advocate of a ban was Lynn Boulton. ROL Group submitted comments letters for the April 9, June 11, and August 4 FGC meetings, and testified in person in favor of a ban at the meetinging in Mammoth Lakes on June 11. Fran Hunt, Sierra Club Organizer for our area, securing support for a ban from the Inyo County Board of Supervisors did not. We don’t know whether the ban will be implemented in time to be in effect for the next bobcat trapping season (this fall) or if it will begin in fall 2016.

Note that the no-trapping ban does NOT prohibit bobcat hunting. Almost all bobcat trapping is commercial -- driven by the high price paid for pelts in Russia and China. In 2012-13, there were an estimated 100 bobcat trappers (down from a high of 3000) and 1292 bobcats were trapped in 2013. California Department of Fish & Wildlife is in the early stages of a 10-year study of bobcat populations in the Eastern Sierra.

Basin & Range National Monument: A gift of wilderness
BY CHRISTIAN GERLACH, ORGANIZING REP, SIERRA CLUB WILD AMERICA CAMPAIGN
For all too many modern people, modern day life consists of trips to a climate controlled building form another climate controlled building with a climate controlled car only to end when we return to our own four walls that shut out any semblance of the sky. Our day to day lives no longer connect us to what is wild or natural in the world. That is why it is pivotal to the future of our species to hold on to every inch of the natural world — a gift that has made our species what it is today.

The State of Nevada received such a gift to maintain our wild side in Basin & Range, a gift of a national monument that will keep a wild landscape forever for current and future generations to explore and enjoy, clarifying our view of the natural world. On Friday July, 10 2015, President Barack Obama proclaimed Nevada’s second national monument: Basin & Range.

This beautiful expanse of over some 1100 square miles of Great Basin Desert that has been inhabited on and off by humans for almost the last 10,000 years, will now forever remain as it is today. Basin & Range, in remote south central Nevada — northwest of Alamo and Hiko, northeast of Tonopah, southwest of Caliente, well south of Ely, is home to majestic wildlife that hardly fear man as they lack virtually any interaction with our species.

Thus, the President makes the following assertion in his proclamation that “The area is one of the largest ecologically intact landscapes in the Great Basin region, providing habitat connectivity and migration corridors for a wide variety of animal species and affording researchers the ability to conduct studies over broad scales.”

Raising our sagebrush (& sage grouse) consciousness
BY TINA NAPPE
ENDANGERED, THREATENED, or Not Listed? This month the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) will announce how the Greater Sage Grouse will be listed. In 2010, the USF&WS acknowledged that sage grouse warranted protection and entered into a court settlement with several environmental groups setting September 30, 2015, as a deadline for decision.

This agreement raised angst among federal, state, and commercial public land users. Over the last five years there has been a flurry of activity designed to fend off a listing. Sage grouse have benefited from new partnerships, financial investments, and on-the-ground projects.

Habitat & history. Eighty percent of sage grouse habitat is on public lands. Sage grouse management on public lands is complicated by legal rights, historical uses, and the complexity of NEPA. There are livestock grazing permits, wild horse herd management areas, existing mines, mining claims, rights of way, renewable energy, and unfeathered recreation.

Private lands, which have most of the water and meadows, are about 20% of sage grouse habitat but 80% of the habitat required by sage grouse chicks. This means that involving key land owners is vital to the future of sage grouse. In Nevada the primary impacts on sage grouse habitat are low elevation fires, weeds, and pinyon-juniper expansion. Collaboration is the avenue for addressing these three problems.

Historically, sage grouse has been a state-managed species. Former Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar encouraged states to retain management by submitting their own plans to include in BLM’s EIS.

Governor Sandoval convened a Sagebrush Ecosystem Council in 2012; a viable plan has been completed. The Legislature earmarked $2,000,000 for projects. The plan is as yet untested and assumes that development, at a price, is available throughout core sage grouse habitat.

Public lands in Nevada that have been “protected” for wilderness, national conservation areas, wildlife refuges, and a National Park, usually focus on forests, mountains, spectacular scenery or wetlands. We have not set aside significant sage grouse habitat, except in the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge.

• What will be the fate of the sage grouse?
• Will (or should) the sage grouse be listed as endangered or threatened? Does the USF&WS have the resources to manage an endangered species?
• Will the USF&WS receive support from states, counties, ranchers, and other users of public lands if the sage grouse is listed?
• If the sage grouse is not listed, will all the commitments drop?

We will know by September 30 – which unfortunately will be too late for the information to appear in this issue of Toiyabe Trails.

NOTE: Kudos to the environmental organizations and the Endangered Species Act for pinpointing the value of the Sagebrush Steppe, an ecosystem long ignored and abused.
Great Basin Gatherings

A very busy summer!
BY KATY CHRISTENSEN, GROUP CHAIR

In the words of one of our tirelessouting leaders, Great Basin Group trails were “smoking with Sierra Club boots” this past summer. The GB Group summer outings program hosted over 75 hikes, including fourconditioning evening hikes each week. There were an average of 10hikers/hike and an average of five miles/hike, which adds up to nearly 1000 participant miles for the quarter.

More hikes. Also, the GB Group Outings Meetup site has over 2000 subscribers. To find us and check updates in the outings schedule, go to http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/

Over the 4 of July weekend, the GB Group successfully finished its group hike of Nevada’s second highest peak, Wheeler Peak (13,064 ft), in Great Basin National Park. All nine who signed up for the hike started and finished without any high altitude problems, including one 68-year-old woman. This was thanks to the technical expertise of Jim Cribari, a Sierra Club member who is an expert in high altitude acclimatization, and to Roleigh Martin, Connie Webb, and Jeanne Kettler, who were the Sierra Club leaders for the hike.

The end-of-season GB Group picnic, including a short hike, was enjoyed by many members on August 23 at the Galena Creek park. A huge note of gratitude goes to Holly Coughlin and Jim Call for facilitating this event. Thanks also to the members who brought such delicious and diverse fare for the picnic.

Get Kids Outdoors (GKO) Programs. The GB Group supports exploration trips for (mostly) elementary school students through grants. The underlying purpose behind the GKO programs is to raise youth awareness of exploring and preserving nature. Today’s youth will become the future stewards of our world.

Great Basin Peak Section News
It’s time to work on peak lists!
BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

FINISHING A PEAK LIST would be easier if there was a way to complete it, however, there are many good lists! Every time I cross one peak off of a list, I discover more peaks and lists to pursue.

When non-peak list friends ask, “When will you stop working on peak lists?” I previously said when my knees require me to stop. However, that answer took on a twist after attending the State Highpointers Convention in Sibley, Iowa this summer. The convention was a fun way to meet others who are pursuing the 50 state highpoints (www.highpointers.org) and those pursuing the 3142 county high points (www.cohp.org). I spent time with highpointers locating a number of Iowa and Minnesota’s county highpoints in the middle of cornfields or dirt roads. The Iowa state highpoint, Hawk-eye Point (1670 ft), was a drive to a mosaic puzzle and stone marker. A totally different concept than hiking Nevada’s Boundary Peak or California’s Mount Whitney — though still a time to connect and share with other peak climbers from all around the country. (See photo on page 9.)

So when will I finish pursuing peaks? After joining the highpointers and discovering the number of “flatter peaks” that one could do even with a walker, my new answer is ‘Never.’ How much fun was the convention? I’m signed up for next year in Montana. Hope to see some of you there to join me and the other Great Basin Peaks members who are participating.

Great Programs in the Great Basin
BY CHARLOTTE COX & HOLLY COUGHLIN

October 8 (Thursday) 6:30-8p

October 11 (Sunday) TBA
Hidden Canyon Day Hike. A beautiful area in Virginia Mountains, N of Pyramid Lake. Start on narrow canyon, then into some beautiful volcanic rock formations and a ridge where we will have expansive views of area. Not on trail, cross-country (x-c). Hike to enjoy our Nevada desert. About 8 mi RT, gain 1500 ft. Leader: Lucrcia Belancio (775-410-1085; lucrciarenature@gmail.com). Co-Leader: Dale Mericle (775-828-4941). DL. Mod. Strenuous.

October 12 (Monday) 5:30p
Easy River Walk (one of 11 different segments of Truckee River). Please refer to 10-8 for details on hikes. Check out our Meetup site for specific segment to be hiked, specific start time (http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/). Leader: Roleigh Martin (952-905-0822; roleigh@pobox.com). Co-Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187; connie1274@outlook.com). DOK. Mod. Easy.

Message from the Chair
BY KATY CHRISTENSEN, GROUP CHAIR

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Great Basin Group Calendar
All phone numbers are 775 unless otherwise noted. ALL events include conservation education activities.

October 1 (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, get used to walking in, around Truckee Meadows. More info: Meet Up site. Leader: Ridge Walker, Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler. DOK. Mod. Easy.

October 5 (Monday) 5:30p
Easy Truckee River (one of 11 different Truckee River segments). Monday evening, after-work walk, optional dinner-out afterwards. A 4.6 mi RT covering different 2-3 mi segment of Truckee River. Specific hikes repeated every 11 weeks. In total, 11 segment hikes, covering about 30 mi, span from Floriston, CA to USA Parkway exit (180 Eexit 32). A 12h segment involves weekend-only hike that spans 7 mi (RT) from end of Quilici Ranch Rd (in Verdi, NV) to Fleish Suspension Bridge, 1 mi inside California. After Monday-night hike (105-135 minutes), those interested in eating out nearby get together at restaurant for post-hike fun, food. During winter months, hike starts earlier and attendees bring hiking headlamp. The end of the hike starts at 5:30 pm. Refer to Meetup site for specific segment to be hiked, specific start time (http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/). Leader: Roleigh Martin (952-905-0822; roleigh@pobox.com).

Co-Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187; connie1274@outlook.com). DOK. Mod. Easy.

October 8 (Thursday) 5:30p
GRENDS GALORE! Follow along on expedition to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, Weddell Sea and Antarctic Peninsula with world traveler and geologist Dick Benoit as he photographs these extraordinary birds. But wait! There’s more: including lots of snow and ice plus other wildlife such as elephant and leopard seals, petrels, albatrosses, and skuas. Presenter: Dick Benoit, a semi-retired geothermal geologist and world traveler who lives in Reno.

November 12 (Tuesday) 5:30p
GREAT RIVERS & THE SACRED MOUNTAIN: ACROSS THE HIMALAYAS TO MOUNT KAILASH. Tributary highlights consisting of three of Asia’s great rivers -- the Brahmaputra, the Ganges, and the Indus -- all arise within thirty miles of western Tibet’s sacred Mt. Kailash. The rivers then flow in different directions to meet the sea hundreds and hundreds of miles apart. Two huge lakes -- Freshwater Lake Manasarovar (the sacred) and saline Rakshabh Tal (some say demon-infested) guard the approach to Mt. Kailash. A circumambulation (kora) around Mt. Kailash is a sacred pilgrimage for Tibetan Buddhists. Hindu followers of the Tibetan indigenous religion, Bon, and also for Jains, drawing pilgrims from throughout Asia. Hear about Anne Macquarie’s 2007 trip in which she joined a group of Buddhist pilgrims in walking across the western Himalayas from Nepal into Tibet, circumambulated Mt. Kailash, then drove for hundreds of miles along the bumpy and dusty roads of Tibet over a 17,000-ft pass and back to Kathmandu. Presenter: Anne Macquarie, a member of the Chapter ExCom, a former back-country search and rescue ranger for the National Park Service, and a former mountaineer who still tries to get out in the mountains every now and again.

A VERY BUSY SUMMER . . . continued from page 8

Many young participants have never even been to Lake Tahoe, the surrounding mountain and forest areas, or even enjoyed a hike. Exploring nature, learning about the environment, and doing stewardship projects are new experiences for many of them. One girl wrote: “Thank you for having us there [Lake Tahoe] and [helping us] explore nature and learn in fun ways.”

Further, the GB ExCom recently determined that the Group will make an annual $500 donation from the general fund to the Get Kids Outdoors programs. Each outings participant is asked to make a $1 donation.

Outings donations, which total about $1000 per year, go primarily toward supporting outings expenses, including training of outings leaders, and other group operational expenses.

A huge note of gratitude goes to Holly Coughlin who last spring took steps to participate, along with Jim Call and Roleigh Martin, in extensive Sierra Club outings leader trainings. Our leaders can now train more outings leaders, hence lowering such expenses. Other fundraisers will be held throughout the year to continue to raise funds for the GKO programs. The grant applications have already started to come in.

What you can do. Your support in raising funds for the grants would be greatly appreciated. Donations may be sent to P.O. Box 8096, Reno, NV 89507. Please make checks payable to the Great Basin Group, with a note of “GKO donation.”

Fall GB Group Programs. Our popular monthly programs are held the second Thursday of the month at Bartley Ranch, and this fall will include a September 10 presentation on drones by Scott Tyler, Ph.D., from the UNR Department of Environmental Science.

The October 8 program will feature world traveler and geologist Dick Benoit, who will lead us through a lively audio-visual presentation of his expeditions to the Falkland Islands and the Antarctic.

On November 11, join our very own Toiyabe Chapter Excom officer and GBG member, Anne Macquarie, as she leads us across the Himalayas to Mt. Kailash in a multimedia talk on the mountain, its peaks, and our own Red Rocks Aji, in the Himalayas.

New Programs Chair. The GBG is thrilled to welcome Charlotte Cox as the new Programs Chair. Charlotte is a retired college teacher who actively enjoys kayaking, cooking, traveling, and practicing permaculture. She has been a member of Sierra Club for 35 years.

Holiday Social. Don’t miss out on the annual GBG potluck Christmas Social, December 5, at Bartley Ranch. See details in our Outings Calendar. GB Group ExCom Monthly Meetings. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm. All members are welcome to attend. For details, please see our Group’s Outings Calendar, check our webpage, or contact Katy Christensen at (702.755.2267).

Great Basin Group Calendar continued from page 8

October 17 (Saturday) 9a Spooner Summit Fall Colors Hike. Through aspen groves around Spooner Summit; either head N toward Marlette Lake, or S along TRT, depending on weather/trail conditions. Expect to see turning trees, busy squirrels, Clark’s nutcrackers preparing for winter. About 10 mi RT, up to 1500 ft gain. Leader: Ridge Walker (775-303-8053). Co-Leader: Charlotte Cox; Rhonda Jarret (884-0741; 622-8698). DL. Moderate.

October 18 (Sunday) 9a Mt. Shasta Hike. Trek above 9000 ft in Jeffrey pine forest offering solitude, top-of-world views. gain 2000 ft, over 10 mi RT. Participants must be experienced, fit Expect 5-6 hours on trail. Learn about flora and fauna we encounter. Call or e-mail for details Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-4344). Co-Leader: Jim Call (reniecmara morii@gmail.com). DOK. Moderate.

October 19 (Monday) 5:30p Easy River Walk (one of 11 different segments of Truckee River). Please refer to 10-8 for information, go to our meetup site for specific segment to be hiked, specific start time (http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club- Hiking-Reno/) Leader: Roleigh Martin (952-905-0822; roleigh@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Dorothy Hudig (775-323-4835; hudig@sbcglobal.net). DOK. Mod. Easy.

October 25 (Sunday) TBA Monkey Condos & Skulls Day Hike. In our own Red Rocks area. No need to go to Southern Utah. Enjoy rock formations, junipers, great views of mountains, and especially Pyramid Lake. Start on roads until we get to Monkey Condos, then x-c on loop climbing on a creek bed to join road back to cars. About 8 mi RT, 1500 gain. Leader: Lucrecia Belancio (775-410-1093; lucrecia@pobox.com). Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler (775-843-9828). DL. Mod. Strenuous.

October 26 (Monday) 5:30p Easy River Walk (one of 11 different segments of Truckee River). Please refer to 10-8 for more information, go to our meetup site for specific segment to be hiked, specific start time (http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club- Hiking-Reno/) Leader: Roleigh Martin (952-905-0822; roleigh@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187; comi1274@ outlook.com). DOK. Easy.

November 2 (Monday) 4:45p Easy River Walk (one of 11 different segments of Truckee River). Please refer to 10-8 for more information, go to our meetup site for specific segment to be hiked, specific start time (http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club- Hiking-Reno/) Leader: Roleigh Martin (952-905-0822; roleigh@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187; comi1274@ outlook.com). DOK. Easy.

November 5 (Thursday) 8a Mt. Davidson (7766 ft) to Virginia City Day Hike. About 10 mi loop 1700 ft gain. Some off trail steep, w/brush; strenuous in places. View segment of Comstock era wooden box flume of Virginia City water system. Peak is on Great Basin Peaks Section list. Great views. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). ND. Strenuous.

November 9 (Monday) 4:45p Easy River Walk (one of 11 different segments of Truckee River). Please refer to 10-8 for more information, go to our meetup site for specific segment to be hiked, specific start time (http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club- Hiking-Reno/) Leader: Roleigh Martin (952-905-0822; roleigh@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187; comi1274@ outlook.com). DOK. Mod. Easy.

November 11 (Wednesday) 9a Hidden Valley Highland Loop. Day hike along E skyline of Reno in Hidden Valley Park. Take in “Rd to Nowhere” Peak, Flat Peak, loop back down Pembroke Canyon. About 7 mi, 1550 ft gain. Learn flora, fauna for more information or our meetup site for specific segment to be hiked, specific start time (http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club- Hiking-Reno/) Leader: Roleigh Martin (952-905-0822; roleigh@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187; comi1274@ outlook.com). DOK. Mod. Easy.

November 12 (Thursday) 8a Whiskey Dick Pass Hike. Enjoy scenic view down valley, then climb along top of the mountains, toward Whiskey Dick Pass. About 5 mi RT, 1200 ft gain. Leader: Audrey White (775-216-2391; miss2candy@yahoo.com). DOK. Easy.

November 13 (Friday) 5:30p Easy River Walk (one of 11 different segments of Truckee River). Please refer to 10-8 for more information, go to our meetup site for specific segment to be hiked, specific start time (http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club- Hiking-Reno/) Leader: Rroleigh Martin (952-905-0822; roleigh@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Connie Webb (775-772-4187; comi1274@ outlook.com). DOK. Easy.

November 14 (Saturday) 9a Hike Remarkable Pahsup Mountain near Gerlach. This little-visited mountain off Sulphur Rd, E of Gerlach, is a jewel of weird, amusing granite formations. Photo opportunities abound. Mod. easy x-c hike, maybe some steep rock, peak, taking in some interesting sights along road at base of mountain. Bring cameras. Optional hot springs soak. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Dorothy Hudig (775-323-4835; hudig@sbcglobal.net). DOK. Mod. Easy.

November 20 (Saturday) 8a Great Basin Group Potluck Christmas Dinner at the home of our SVP, Laura Newman and Sharon Marie Wilcox. Photo: Gerry Roach.

Table & Currant Mountain Wilderness Areas

By Sharon Marie Wilcox

In July, Larry Dwyer led an expedition in two Nevada wilderness areas to hike two GPBS list peaks.

To hike Table Mountain (10,888 ft), we entered Table Mountain Wilderness area -- which is in the Monitor Range -- from Morgan Creek trailhead. This trail meandered up through the shaded aspen groves to a fence line about 10,000 ft. Here we headed cross-country to the ridge passing through scattered aspen groves with Basque carvings, unusually twisted trees, and a few deer.

Enjoying great views from both sides of the ridge, we headed to the cabin (Day 458 NE) AM. Along the ridge the hedgehog cacti displayed their blooms while a swallow swooped around us. This was a very pleasant and scenic hike with a relaxing break on top to enjoy the 360-degree views. Leaving Table Mountain, we continued on to Currant Mountain Wilderness in the White Pine Mountains. At Warm Springs on Highway 6, be on the lookout for Bighorn sheep. They are often spotted on the cliffs above the road, even lounging around the high hot springs.

Currant Mountain (11,513 ft) is the highest of the White Pine Range, topping dramatic white limestone cliffs. This hike was substantially more challenging than the leisurely hike on Table Mountain. We topped the ridgeview via a steep scree slope through ancient bristlecone pines. As I trundged up this slope I tried to convince myself how young I was compared to these gnarled trees. Unfortunately, it didn’t seem to make the climb any easier. After a breather on the ridge, we followed the rocky ridge line to the summit (Currant Mountain). The summit had a reference marker, but no register. We took a well-deserved break to re-energize for the steep trip down as well as to relish the views and solitude of another wilderness opportunity in the Great Basin.

Good route information and GPS tracks for both peaks are on www.Peakbagger.com.

Please see GB CALENDAR, page 12.
Southern Nevada Group Calendar

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

All events include conservation education activities.

Southern Nevada Group, Inc.

A full calendar of our outdoor activities can be found online at www.sierra-club.org/toiyabe/southern-nevada. You can also visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sierraclub.sng, and please “like” our page.

October 3 (Saturday)
Fletcher Peak, Spring Mountains NRA (aka Mt Charleston). About 7 mi RT, 2000 ft+ gain, moderate difficulty. Go through two altitude zones, as ponderosa pines change to bristlycones at About 8000 ft. How does elevation in desert ecology play role in different biozones? Leader: Saxon Jahan (702-499-9218).
Level 3-4.

October 3-4 (Saturday-Sunday)
Discover Gold Butte. Camping optional. See description for distances; mod. strenuous. Guest host, Jim Boone, will take us on weekend tour of fascinating Gold Butte area, including hiking, sightseeing. Saturday: Devil’s Throat, Gold Butte Townsite; hiking in Lime Canyon (2 mi), Little Finland (1 mi). Campers stay at Little Finland, hikers drive to Mesquite. Sunday: Reunite at Whitney Pocket, visit CCC Dam, then Falling Man petroglyph site. Hike to 21 Goats petroglyph site, historic Black Butte Dam (2.8 mi). What happened to ranchers? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatuncie@aol.com). Level 3.

October 9-11 (Friday-Sunday)
Backpacking Hanaupah Canyon or John- son Canyon, Death Valley National Park. Destination dependent upon road and water re- ports. About 6 mi driving, 3-4 mi backpacking, about 1300 ft gain for Hanaupah, 1500 ft for Johnson; moderate difficulty. Good physical condition required. Hike and camp in canyon on E side of Panamints with flowing water and trees, dense vegetation – possibly jungle-like. Begin at Furnace Creek Visitor Center to pick up permit. Drive to West Side Road, turn onto Hanaupah or Johnson Canyon Rd (high clearance vehicles required), then backpack on primitive road. Water available at campsite (2 nights). Campsite at 3500 ft for Hanaupah and 4000 ft for Johnson. How does elevation affect climate? Limit 10, RSVP required. Leader: David Hardy (702-875-4826, hardyhikers@embarqmail.com). Level 3.

October 12 (Monday)
The Muffins, Red Rock Canyon NCA. About 5 mi RT, 1000 ft gain, mod. strenuous. Muffins, composed of Triassic conglomerate, are on N end of Blue Diamond Hill. They represent channels cut into exposed sea bed 250 million years ago. Take gentle switchback trail to Muffins, then go E to fabulous overlook of Las Vegas, then back down Skull Canyon Trail. What is environment of deposition of conglomerate? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatuncie@aol.com, 702-896-4049). Level 3.

October 15 (Thursday)
The Muffins, Red Rock Canyon NCA. About 5 mi RT, 1000 ft gain, mod. strenuous. Muffins, composed of Triassic conglomerate, are on N end of Blue Diamond Hill. They represent channels cut into exposed sea bed 250 million years ago. Take gentle switch- back trail to Muffins, then go E to fabulous overlook of Las Vegas, then back down Skull Canyon Trail. What is environment of deposition of conglomerate? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatuncie@aol.com, 702-896-4049). Level 3.

Southern Nevada Group

Group News

Monthly ExCom Meetings
Wednesday, October 21 & Wednesday, November 18

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Sierra Club Office, 2330 Paseo del Prado, Building C, Suite 109, Las Vegas, NV 89102-4336. We meet from 6pm to 8:30pm. There is plenty of free parking around the building. Please join us on October 21 or November 18 (dark in December). We currently have several openings on our leadership team. If you have an interest in local politics, event planning, membership activities or conservation efforts, contact SNG Chair Taj Ainlay for details, tajainlay@aol.com.

General Program Meetings

GENERAL MEETINGS & MIXERS are also held at the Sierra Club office unless otherwise noted on the accompanying calendar of events. Please join us in our activities on October 15 (A Golden Celebration), October 24 (Get Outdoors Nevada Day), November 10 (New Members Orientation) or December 16 (Holiday Potluck). See details in our Calendar, which begins on this page. We are always happy to have volunteers assist in tabling and event organization.

First outing for new ICO partners

BY JEANETTE BUCKLEW

LAS VEGAS ICO is pleased that Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth is a new agency partner. Quarterly outings are being planned on an annual basis with agency youth who live in the residential component of the program.

The first quarterly outing was conducted on June 27, 2015, by Outings Leaders Jeanette Bucklew, Stan Green, and Betty Gallifent, and six agency representatives. The youths were challenged by the elevation and rock scrambling but, as one young woman stated, “I conquered my fears and it was the best day ever.”

The young people enjoyed playing in the caves and experiencing connectedness with the earth. A stop at Deer Creek Overlook showed the sharp contrast of desert and mountains. Also, Vinnie Spotelson, a staff member from Senator Reid’s office, presented ICO volunteers Certificates of Commendation from Senator Reid for their work with Nevada’s youth. The day concluded with a visit to the new Mt. Charleston Visitor Gateway, where the youths learned about the Cold War secret plane crash and the Paiute heritage of the area, as well as seeing the ancient amphitheater.
S. Nevada Group Calendar

continued from page 10

welcoming members and friends at Las Vegas Springs Preserve for this special event to commemorate 50 Years in Southern Nevada. Starting at 6pm, there will be cocktails on the veranda, a four-course dinner, live entertainment, honored guests, awards, a special message from Washington, D.C., and commemorative gifts for all who attend. Reservations can be made online at www.sierrach50.com or email sierrach50@gmail.com for more information.

October 24 (Saturday)
Get Outdoors Nevada Day, Recreation enthusiasts will gather to celebrate the spirit and opportunities the Mojave Desert provides. Community groups, nonprofits, government agencies, retailers, outfitters and outdoor event promoters will be on hand to showcase Southern Nevada’s spectacular natural offerings. We are an exhibitor again this year, so please stop by our booth at Sunset Park, 2601 East Sunset Road, Las Vegas, NV 89120. Event hours are from 9am to 2pm. Info: www.getoutdoorsnevada.org/day.

November 6 (Friday)
Annual Las Vegas ICO Friendraiser. Sierra Club members and non-members are welcome to this festive event, featuring live music, a complimentary dinner, raffle and silent auction prizes. All funds raised through this event help to get our urban youth into the outdoors. For additional information, contact lasvegascisco702@gmail.com.

November 7 (Saturday)
Magnesite Wash, Valley of Fire. About 5-6 mi, easy going hike, off trail, some easy scrambling. Walk through beautiful sandstone formations while looking for rock art, fossils. What animals inhabit this area? Full day hike, so bring water, lunch. Leader: Sas Jahan (702-499-9218). Level 3.

November 9 (Monday)
Gateway Canyon, Red Rock Canyon NCA. About 3 mi RT; strenuous. Wilderness hike around Kraft Mountain in Calico Basin. Gateway Canyon is known for interesting sandstone features, including measles-like sandstone features, including measles-like sandstone features. Start by climbing saddle (Five Stop Hill) that is a fault zone. How do we recognize fault in the field? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049). Level 4.

November 10 (Tuesday)
New Member Orientation. Our second 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, the Toiyabe Chapter and the Southern Nevada Group. We will be meeting for one hour, starting from 6:30pm at the Sierra Club Office. Light refreshments will be served. Info: tajainlay@aol.com.

November 14 (Saturday)
Top of La Madre Ridge, Red Rock Canyon NCA. About 6 mi; moderate to strenuous. Rapid elevation gain, requires climbing small cliff face. Hike up to LaMadre Spring Reservoir, then continue along bubbling brook which provides riparian ecosystem in contrast to arid surrounding landscape. Here riparian vegetation thrives along margin. What are margins? Leader: Sas Jahan (702-499-9218). Level 4-5.

December 5 (Saturday)
Red Stone Badlands, Lake Mead NRA (N Pinto Valley off Northshore Rd.). About 5-6 mi, easy going hike, off trail, some light scrambling. Hike through very colorful rock formations, possible rock art, fossils. What are sources of water in this area? Full day hike, so bring water, lunch. Dogs OK. Leader: Bill Marr (702-433-0743). Level 3.

December 12-13 (Saturday-Sunday)
Mojave National Preserve, Amboy Crater, California. Join geologist Nick Saines, biologist and outdoorsman, Jim Boone, guest host, on weekend hiking tour of rugged Mojave Preserve, including visits to lava tube, Kelso Station, Kelso Dunes. Saturday night, stay in motel in Ludlow; Sunday, climb up into Amboy Crater and volcano. Then on to Hole-in-the-Wall, Mojave Road historic trail, Cima Dome. Leader: Nick Saines (greatunc@aol.com, 702-896-4049). Level 3.

December 16 (Wednesday)
Holiday Potluck Mixer. It’s time for our annual holiday celebration! Come enjoy great food and fellowship at the Sierra Club office. Parking in the northwest corner of The Plaza Business Park gives you immediate access. Potluck items are welcome and appreciated. Bring along your favorite dishes and drinks to share. Time: 5pm to 9pm. Info: tajainlay@aol.com.

December 21 (Monday)

January 1, 2016 (Friday)
Hangover Hike, Red Rock Canyon NCA. 3 mi RT, 400 ft gain, moderately strenuous. Start New Year right by joining your fellow hikers on our traditional to Calico Tanks in Red Rock Canyon. This is one of most popular hikes in the area. Hike for the cooler temperatures of Lee Canyon with Las Vegas ICO.

ICO youth enjoy a cool day in the bristlecones

BY BARBARA GERHARDT

On June 25, 2015, Las Vegas was experiencing its first heat wave of the summer. On that day, 12 young adults -- aged 10-12 -- from Helen Community Center were grateful to be leaving the valley for the cooler temperatures of Lee Canyon with Las Vegas ICO.

On the way to our destination, Upper Bristlecone trailhead, we were thrilled to see a number of horses in a lower meadow. This was an auspicious beginning to what would be a great day in the mountains. Participants enjoyed walking in the cool shade of the aspen trees as we gradually made our ascent.

Discussion of carving names and initials in the bark of aspen trees became a teachable moment as I explained that in the past this was considered by many an acceptable behavior. The youth responded, “No way, it makes the tree look ugly.” I smiled and thought to myself, “Yep, that is the type of thinking ICO wants to encourage and instill.”

As we walked, several visits from swallowtail and monarch butterflies were pleasant surprises. At the first major plateau, our lunch stop, participants delighted in Co-Leader Jackie Todd’s “world famous” chicken burritos. During lunch a sighting of a hawk or eagle high in the thermals got kids up and reaching for binoculars.

We then talked about the different ways of identifying species of trees. Participants explored and compared the needle structure of bristlecone pines and other conifers. As we began our drive back, there were more horses near the road bidding us farewell. It may have only been a brief relief from the early summer heat, but it was one we all enjoyed.

ICO youth enjoy a cool day in the bristlecones

**NOVEMBER 11 (WEDNESDAY)**

**NOVEMBER 12 (THURSDAY)**
7:30-9:30 Great Basin Group Program Meeting. Join us for presentation by our very own Anne Macquarie, Toiyabe Chapter ExCom officer, GBG member, as she leads us across Hima lyas to Mt. Kailash. Meet: Bartley Ranch main building, to R. Leader: Charlotte Cox (775-848-0741). ND. Easy.

**NOVEMBER 14 (SATURDAY)**
TBA Pah-Rum Peak (7608 ft) Day Hike. High point of Fox Range, just N of Pyramid Lake. Enjoy panoramic views of Pyramid Lake and Castle Lake, and Castle Rock. In NW direction, is Peak 431. About 10,338 ft and is 10,338 ft and is highest point of TRT. View at top is magnificent. In NW direction, see a large part of Mt. Wilderness, Truckee, Donner Lake, and Castle Peak in distance, as well as spectacular views of Lake Tahoe. Scenery on trail is outstanding. Wear good hiking boots, carry plenty of water, plan lunch at top. Leader: Gail Myatt (775-750-1293; gailmyatt@hotmail.com). Co-Leader: Bill Myatt (775-233-3186; bill.myatt@gmail.com). DL. Strenuous.

**DECEMBER 13 (SUNDAY)**
9:45a Hidden Valley Highland Loop. Fantastic views of Truchee Meadows as we hike up to ridge line above Hidden Valley. About 6 mi, 1800 ft gain. Bring lunch to enjoy near half-way point. Observe Pinyon Pine, interesting rock formations, possible wild horses. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Co-Leader: Jim Call (frenetimarmot@gmail.com). DOK. Mod. Strenuous.

**DECEMBER 17 (THURSDAY)**
8a Carson River Railroads Day Hike. The railroads are near Mound House. About 9 mi one way, vehicle shuttle. Gain 500 ft. Along very scenic Carson River, some wilderness viewpoints are possible, remains of two Comstock era railroads. Parts are off-trail. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2935). DL. Mod. Strenuous.

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**BASIN & RANGE . . .**

The Sierra Club’s Our Wild America campaign worked hard in Las Vegas to secure Basin & Range. In spite of the success we enjoyed, the work of the Sierra Club is never done, as we fight the interests and entities that would like to see every corner of this planet developed.

The next effort for a national monument in Nevada, one already long sought by our friends and members is Gold Butte. This BLM area north-east of Las Vegas, south of Mesquite, even has two small wilderness areas, but the entire 350,000 acre area needs protection. This iconic landscape of transition between the Sonoran, Mojave, and Great Basin Deserts will be the Our Wild America focus in Nevada from now until the end of the Obama administration.

The fight to protect Gold Butte will not be easy as we have some very vocal opponents. Even as we continue to celebrate the exciting Basin & Range designation, we’ll call on your help to keep Gold Butte wild!