From the Chair

Are you busy?

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN
(vonseg1@sbcglobal.net)

S

ems like we’re all over-busy these days, myself included. It’s difficult to stay focused when we have access to innumerable streams of data, opinions, and analyses — and when we make multiple, sometimes unfulfillable, commitments. I learned something important from a training course once: Stomp on elephants, not on mice.

That is what your Executive Committee (ExCom) is trying to do as we navigate the torrent of issues, diversions, and developments in our path. Yet it is difficult to avoid trying to stomp on those mice scurrying beneath our feet. Clearly the elephants in our path remain as public lands and renewable energy. We are giving these items priority again as we forge through 2016 to the elections.

Public Lands Task Force. Regarding public lands, we are pressing national Sierra Club leaders and staff to raise this issue at the national level. This is an issue that has been highlighted by the illegal occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in January and February. The issue was again recently

Photographers in field of Desert Gold Sunflower (Geraea canescens) at sunset in Death Valley National Park. Photo: Dennis Ghiglieri.

Three new California Desert National Monuments!

O

n February 12, 2016, the Obama administration announced it would permanently protect special areas of the California Desert as Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments. The national monument designations preserve the stark beauty of the desert, well-loved recreation areas, Route 66, and other historic sites, as well as important cultural artifacts. Together they conserve and connect habitat to help buffer the desert, its wildlife, and communities from a changing climate.

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune and Joan Taylor, vice chair of the Sierra Club’s California/Nevada Desert Committee, issued the following statements.

“The Sierra Club applauds President Obama for reaffirming the incredible natural wonder of California’s deserts by adding Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains to our treasured list of national monuments. My wife and I have taken our children on some of our most memorable camping trips through this beautiful region; it’s heartening to know that it will now be permanently protected well into the future for families to enjoy as well,” said Michael Brune.

Joan Taylor added, “As a member of the Mojave Desert Committee, I’m thrilled that Mojave Trails has finally been permanently protected. Our work is not done yet; we’re already looking to the future of families to enjoy as well,” said Joan Taylor.

Please see FROM THE CHAIR, page 2.

Need information about Toiyabe Chapter? Try the . . . 

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

National Sierra Club election coming this spring

Ballot deadline: April 27, 2016

STEVE KRIEG, CHIEF INSPECTOR OF ELECTION

The annual election for the Club’s Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club’s website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don’t know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club’s

Make a tree happy! Get your Trails online

Opt out of the paper Toiyabe Trails and walk the Sierra Club talk by saving our natural resources. Email us at “optout@toiyabe.sierraclub.org” (put that address in the “To” line). Then put “optout” in the “Subject” line — that’s all you have to do.

NEVADANS, REGISTER TO VOTE NOW! (by May 14, 2016)

BY JANET CARTER

AS ALL OF YOU undoubtedly realize by now, this is an election year. The Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club has already endorsed one Congressional Candidate, Dina Titus, who is running for re-election for NV Congressional District 1.

The Chapter and local groups will no doubt endorse other candidates at all levels, and your votes are crucial to determine who will serve to protect the environment of our region and our planet! But you must be registered to vote. Please see NEVADANS REGISTER TO VOTE, page 2.

IN THIS ISSUE

DesCom Spring Trips . . . . . . . . 3
Nevada Wilderness Service Trip . . . . 3
Mono Lake Free Volunteer Training . . . . 3
Range of Light Group . . . . . . . . . . 4-5
ROL Group Spring Outings . . . . . . 4
CA-NV RCC Report . . . . . . . 4
Truckee River Agreement . . . . . . . 6
BLM “Organic Act” (FLPMA) 40” . . . 6
On the Waterfront: Water Questions . . . 7
Desalination Conference . . . . . . . 7
Water in Nat’l Wildlife Refuges . . . 7
Our Mountain Lion Neighbors . . . . 7
Great Basin Group & Outings . . . . . . . 8-9
Kids Practice LNT & Snow Science . . 8
Peak Section News & Desert Peak . . . . . 8, 9
S. Nevada Group . . . . . . . . . . . . . 10-11
S. Nevada Group Outings . . . . . . 10
Las Vegas ICO Finds Lost Creek . . . . 10
Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting . . . 12

Please see NATIONAL SIERRA CLUB ELECTION, page 2.
NEVADANS, REGISTER TO VOTE NOW! continued from page 1

download a form from the Secretary of State’s website (nvvotes.gov), fill it out, and mail it in. You may also register to vote at any Nevada DMV office, or at any county elections office. Of course, most political or campaign offices will have voter registration forms on hand as well!

**Voting deadlines.** There are a few important deadlines to remember if you want to vote in our upcoming elections:

1. **May 14, 2016** – This is the last day to register to vote for the June primary or update your existing registration without doing so in person or online. From May 15th to the 24th you may still register for the primary elections in Nevada, but only in person at your county election offices or online.

2. **May 24, 2016** – This is absolutely the last possible day to register to vote for the Nevada primaries.

3. **Early Voting May 28 - June 10, 2016** – The state of Nevada allows early voting for all elections! This can be very convenient, as during this time period you may vote at any designated polling place in the county. Your sample ballot (as well as the local newspapers) will have a list of locations and hours they are open. These early voting sites are often in local grocery stores, libraries, and the like. Weekend and some early evening hours are available, but these will vary by location so check the schedule! There is usually no waiting in line at early voting locations.

4. **June 7, 2016** – This is the last day for the elections department to RECEIVE written mail (aka ABSENTEE BALLOT requests. These must be filled out, signed and returned by Election Day.

5. **June 14, 2016** – Primary election day! This period that will be open from 7am to 7pm, and you must attend your assigned polling place -- unless you have already cast an ABSENTEE BALLOT or participated in early voting.

And don’t forget that the general election is on November 8, 2016, when we will be choosing a new President. Don’t forget to vote then, too!

**Serving Nevada & California’s E. Sierra**

**Toiyabe Trails** is published four times each year by the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 8096, Reno, NV 89507, to help keep our members well-informed and better able to protect the environment—for our families, for our future.

**Editor** – Lynne Foster (Bishop, CA; 760-873-3829; lfoster@sierraclub.org)

**Deadlines** – Contributions are due by the 1st of the month for publication in the following month’s issue: December 1 for January-February-March; March 1 for April-May-June; June 1 for July-August-September; September 1 for October-November-December.

**Submissions** – Call or e-mail editor before deadline for late submissions, Submit news, story ideas, photos, and letters-to-the-editor to the editor (contact info above). Please include your name, phone, e-mail address, and group with all contributions. Please send your contributions by e-mail. If you don’t have a computer, please ask a friend to help you. For photo return, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The Toiyabe Trails reserves the right to edit all contributions for reasons of space, clarity, slander, or libel.

**Subscriptions** – Toiyabe Trails is free to all Toiyabe Chapter members. Subscription cost for non-members is $12 per year. To subscribe, send check for $12, payable to “Toiyabe Chapter,” to Toiyabe Trails Subscriptions, Sierra Club, Toiyabe Chapter, c/o Treasurer. Contact Treasurer, Glenn Miller (775-846-4516) for address.

**Change of address** – Postmaster & Members, please send address changes to Sierra Club, Change of Address, P. O. Box 12968, Boulder, CO 80302-2968 or <address.changes@sierraclub.org>.

**Membership information** – There is a membership coupon in each issue of Toiyabe Trails. You can also call the Chapter Membership Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) or the Sierra Club office in San Francisco (415-977-5630).

Other Sierra Club information. Call the Toiyabe Chapter Chair or Conservation Chair (see Chapter Directory, this page) or the Sierra Club Information Center in San Francisco (415-977-5633). Also, see group pages for website addresses of groups.
Friends of the Inyo Outings
APRIL 2 (SAT)
Chocolate Mountain Hike. Join Friends of Inyo in climbing Chocolate Mountain in Piper Mountain Wilderness. Piper Mountains are located on western edge of Great Basin and are an excellent example of Great Basin desert landscape. This will be a nice change from the valley floor. Expect a strenuous walk with significant elevation gain and loss. Space is limited, so register. RSVP: Info & RSVP infofriendsoftheinyo.org or 760-873-6500.

APRIL 22-24 (FRI-SUN)
Owens Lake Bird Festival. Join Friends of Inyo at 2nd annual Owens Lake Bird Festival celebrating migrating shorebirds as they move between hemispheres at Owens Lake Important Bird Area, highlighting the significance of the Owens Lake story and the return of threatened habitat. Join expert local guides on Saturday and Sunday outings. Camping and lodging available in Lone Pine area. Contact: Registration infofriendsoftheinyo.org and 760-873-6500.

MAY 14 (SAT)
International Migratory Bird Day. Join Friends of Inyo in celebrating the 2016 International Migratory Bird day. Trip specifics, meeting location and time TBD. Bring binoculars, appropriate clothing, sturdy footwear, water, and lunch. Info: info@friendsoftheinyo.org or 760-873-6500.

JUNE 4 (SAT)
National Trails Day. Come out with Friends of Inyo and celebrate National Trails Day by volunteering your time. Assist Friends of Inyo stewardship crew with light trail maintenance and cleanup. Location and time TBD. Please wear long pants and close-toed shoes. Info: info@friendsoftheinyo.org or 760-873-6500.

JUNE 24 (FRI)
June Lake Trails Day. Join Friends of Inyo and June Lake Trails Committee for the 7th Annual June Lake Trails Day. We’ll work on various trails around June Lake Loop so there will be job for everyone. Free bagel breakfast and lunch provided, along with raffle. Make sure to have appropriate clothing and sturdy, closed-toe shoes. Location and time TBD. Info: info@friendsoftheinyo.org or 760-873-6500.

MARCH 25-27 (FRI-SUN)
CALIFORNIA DESERT WILDERNESS SERVICE.
Join Mojave Group and CA/NV Wilderness Committee for our annual desert wilderness service project with wilderness staff from Needles office of BLM. This year’s destination is still top-secret at press time, but Turtle Mountains, Dead Mountains, or Clipper Mountains are all potential choices for some fun and useful restoration work, wilderness enhancement, and spring desert enjoyment. Contact Vicky Hoover (415-977-5527, vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org).

MAY 27-30 (FRI-MON)
BLACK ROCK RENDEZVOUS. This annual event makes a great first trip to Black Rock; it typically includes speakers, guided tours, visits to hot springs, rocket launches, rock hounding, Dutch Oven cook-off, drawings, and more. Co-Sponsored by Friends of Black Rock, BLM and Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Bring your RVs and trailers. Primitive camping, but with portable toilets. May be Kid’s Camp activities hosted by Nevada Outdoor School. Bring your HAM radio and join Ham activity. Dogs on leash; be prepared to pick up after them. For more info go to: www.blackrockrendzvous.com. Questions/sign ups: David Book (775-843-6443).

Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

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).

Established in 1986, Friends of the Inyo is a Bishop, CA-based non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation, exploration and stewardship of the region’s public lands, made possible through member support, grant funding and federal agency partnerships.

Memorial Day Nevada Wilderness Service Trip
THE CALIFORNIA/NEVADA Wilderness Committee of the Sierra Club has scheduled its annual service trip with the wilderness staff of BLM’s Ely District office for Memorial Day weekend – May 27 to 30. Join us in the Weepah Spring Wilderness, at the northern edge of Nevada’s brand new Basin & Range National Monument. We will work once again with wilderness ranger John Miller.

And we hope for a fun hike to Mt Irish--on the south side of the new Monument. Could a monument tour be included? Central commissary offered. Contact Vicky Hoover at 415-977-5527 or vicky.hoover@sierraclub.org.

Spring Desert Trips

Black Lake Celebration Day
Saturday, May 14

Hosted by Eastern Sierra Land Trust
MAY 14 IS INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY. In its honor, Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT) will be out on the land with Eastern Sierra Audubon celebrating the donation of the new Black Lake Preserve.

This secluded, 482-acre desert wetland is located within the Adobe Valley’s Important Bird Area. Rimmed by moist alkaline meadows, Black Lake attracts wildlife from miles around; it serves as an important breeding outpost for dozens of migrating bird species, and provides a critical water source for a diverse array of flora and fauna.

Join ESLT as they celebrate the conservation of this spectacular landscape with speakers, walking tours, birdwatching opportunities, and much more. For additional information, visit www.eslt.org or call (760) 873-4554.

Visitor Center around noon MDT to get our free permit and latest route information. Then set up car shuttle beginning at Hwy 12 bridge and ending at Harris Wash Trailhead. Bring a daypack for side trips and footwear appropriate for being in and out of river all day. Option of ending trip June 24 or 25. David Hardy (702 875- 4826; email preferred,ardyhikers@embarqmail.com).

S. Nevada Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

Mono Lake Needs You!
Be a volunteer at Mono Lake this summer and meet visitors from all over the world while sharing your knowledge of the Eastern Sierra.

Volunteers are very important to the visitor experience! There are opportunities to rove and answer questions at the shore and/or visitor center, guide group tours and help with trail maintenance and weed removal. An 8 hour commitment per month, June through September, is requested. Participants must be at least 18 years old, able to walk short distances and stand for 2 hours in sunny locations.

Free Training Sessions
May 25 & 26 and June 1, 2, 8 & 9
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Please contact Jessica Horn at Jessica@monolake.org or call 760-647-6385 for more info or to sign up

Sponsored by the Mono Lake Committee, CA Science Center, California State Parks, The Nature Foundation & The Eastern Sierra Improvement Association
Range of Light Reflections

California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee Report

BY LESLEY BRUNS ROL GUEST COLUMNIST

It was a spring-like Saturday morning in February as I walked the quiet streets of downtown L.A. near Staples Center. As CNRCC delegate for Toiyabe Chapter, I found it ironic that Sierra Club’s office is located in the Petroleum Building, built in 1925 by oil magnate Edward L. Doheny.

The CNRCC website (http://www.sierraclub.org/california/conservation-committee-cnrcc) explains that CNRCC is comprised of up to 58 delegates from the 13 California Sierra Club Chapters, including Toiyabe (which contains Nevada and Eastern California). These delegates study issues, develop positions and help establish Sierra Club California’s policies on statewide environmental issues.

There were nine of us in the L.A. conference room. Using Google Hangout, we had audio/video links to delegates meeting throughout the state, including Sacramento, San Diego and San Francisco. Other participants called in on the conference line.

Legislative report. As we settled in for the morning session, we heard a staff report from Kathryn Phillips, Director of Legislative Committee (CLC) in Sacramento Delta. We are planned for the “Twin Tunnels” issues and learned that two hearings on SB 380, the moratorium on natural gas storage facilities, will be held next month in Sacramento. One hearing is in the morning session, we heard a staff report.

Recruiting volunteers. A new website, developed by David Haake of Toiyabe Chapter, will help Sierra Club groups recruit volunteers. He gave a PowerPoint presentation of Volunteer Connection (http://www.clubvolunteer.org) -- a resource available nationwide.


With the day’s agenda complete, we returned to the outdoors that we’re prepared to hear all about the latest research.

Dick Hihn, ROL Chair, has had to take time off to recover from appendicitis surgery.

CNRCC Headquarters is located in the Petroleum Building, built in 1925 by oil magnate Edward L. Doheny.

Delegates study issues, develop positions and help establish Sierra Club California’s policies on statewide environmental issues.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

We have added weekday outings, in addition to Saturday or Sunday offerings.

WHAT TO BRING ON ALL OUTINGS. Water, lunch, snacks, layered clothing, appropriate hiking footwear (boots/skis/snowshoes, sunscreen, bug spray in warm weather, desired personal items such as cameras, binoculars, hiking poles.

THURSDAY EVENING OUTINGS. Short Mammoth Lakes area hikes, back before dark, emphasis on local history, natural history, conservation issues, dependent upon leader’s interests. All hikers welcome, including beginners.

IMPORTANT NOTICE. Outings destinations may change due to unforeseen weather conditions. Abominable weather will cancel an outing. If in doubt, please contact leader ahead of time.

April 3 (Sunday)
Volcanic Tabellands, Bishop. Moderate pace, distance determined by group. One big hill at start, then gentle terrain. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Meet at dirt lot, corner Pleasant Valley Dam Rd, Hwy 395. Contact: Lisa (720-238-2581, lbuckley@gmail.com).

April 10 (Sunday)
Ski Horseshoe Lake. Up to Mammoth Pass (depending on snow conditions). About 8mi, moderate, no dogs, Meet 8a, ML Union Ban. Contact Brigite (760-924-2140, jhungerman@mac.com).

April 17 (Sunday)
Ski Mammoth Lakes Basin (depending on snow conditions). About 5mi, moderate, no dogs. Meet 9am ML Union Bank. Contact: Brigite (760-924-2140, jhungerman@mac.com).

Please see ROL OUTINGS, page 5.

Range of Light OUTINGS

BY JOANNE HIHN & DICK HIHN

SPRING 2016 OUTINGS

ALL OUTINGS INCLUDE CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACTIVITIES!

All phone numbers are 760 unless otherwise noted.

CST208776-40. Registration as seller of travel does not constitute approval by State of California.

CHECKING FOR UPDATES. In addition to contact information listed in the Trails, check for updates on . . .

• our WEB PAGE at <www.sierracub.org/toiyabearange-light>
• on FACEBOOK, search “Range of Light Group”
• on MEETUP at <http://www.meetup.com/ROLG-SierraClub-Outings-Meetup/>

• in LOCAL MEDIA (newspapers, etc.), where we submit outings information (note that it does not always get included in their calendar of events and sometimes published information is not accurate).

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

We have added weekday outings, in addition to Saturday or Sunday offerings.

WHAT TO BRING ON ALL OUTINGS. Water, lunch, snacks, layered clothing, appropriate hiking footwear (boots/skis/snowshoes, sunscreen, bug spray in warm weather, desired personal items such as cameras, binoculars, hiking poles.

THURSDAY EVENING OUTINGS. Short Mammoth Lakes area hikes, back before dark, emphasis on local history, natural history, conservation issues, dependent upon leader’s interests. All hikers welcome, including beginners.

IMPORTANT NOTICE. Outings destinations may change due to unforeseen weather conditions. Abominable weather will cancel an outing. If in doubt, please contact leader ahead of time.

OUTINGS

April 19 (Tuesday)
6:45 pm, Announcements
7 pm, Program
SNARL (Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Ctr) Res Center
1016 Mt. Morrison Rd, Mammoth Lakes (turn off Hwy 91, drive up to the green church)
Dr. Frank Davis, Director, National Center for Ecological Analysis & Synthesis, UCSB, will bring us up to speed on “Climate Change Risks to California Forests.”

June 21 (Tuesday)
6:15 pm, Social & Potluck
7 pm, Program
Crowley Lake Community Ctr
(next to Crowley Lake Store)
Fran Hunt, Sierra Club Eastern Sierra Organizer, will give a program on “Our public lands: The long range plan & the direction of management for the Inyo National Forest.”

Please submit suggestions for program topics and/or speakers to our program chair, Mary Shore (marymikeshore@gmail.com). We always need fresh ideas!
APRIL 21 (THURSDAY)
Ski, Snowshoe, or Hike (depending on "shoulder season" conditions). Please check ROLG website or ROLG Outings Meetup for up-to-date info. Meet 10a, ML Union Bank. Contact: Mike or Mary (805-217-5563, marymikesshore@gmail.com).

APRIL 24 (SUNDAY)
Ski, Snowshoe, or Hike (depending on "shoulder season" conditions). Please check ROLG website, ROLG Facebook page, or ROLG Outings Meetup for up-to-date info. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank. Contact: Melissa (760-937-0499, melissas11@verizon.net).

APRIL 28 (THURSDAY)
Ski, Snowshoe, or Hike (depending on "shoulder season" conditions). Please check ROLG website, ROLG Facebook page, or ROLG Outings Meetup for up-to-date info. Meet 10a, ML Union Bank. Contact: Mike or Mary (805-217-5563, marymikesshore@gmail.com).

MAY 1 (SUNDAY)
Ski Rock Creek Basin (depending on snow conditions). About 10 mi, strenuous. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com).

MAY 8 (SUNDAY)
Ski Tioga Pass Area to Greentree Lake (depending on snow conditions). About 10 mi, strenuous. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank or 8.30a, Lee Vining Ranger Station. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungberman@mac.com).

MAY 15 (SUNDAY)
Bohler Canyon. Re-visit canyon after fire to monitor regrowth, to visit many arborglyphs among canyon aspens. About 4 mi RT, easy, with some x-c. Meet 8.30a, ML Union Bank or 9a, behind June Lake Shell station. Contact: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com).

MAY 18 (WEDNESDAY)
Highway Clean-up. Join ROLG on morning cleanup of our 2 mi section of 395. Meet 8a, Crestview Rest Area (5mi N of ML. Vests, hard hats, trash bags, pickers, gloves, refreshments, all provided. Contact: Dick or Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

MAY 22 (SUNDAY)
Hilton Lakes Trail (Crawley) to Davis Lake. About 10-12 mi RT, strenuous. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Meet 9a, Eastside Bakery off of 395. Contact: Lisa (720-238-2581, lbuckley@gmail.com).

MAY 29 (SUNDAY)
Hike O’Harrel Canyon. Near Glass Mtn, possible trip to Glass Mtn summit depending on group interest. Panoramic views of canyon, Sierra, along stream, meadow, in open terrain, x-c hiking required. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank. Contact: Melissa (760-937-0499, melissas11@verizon.net).

JUNE 5 (SUNDAY)
Hike or Snowshoe Little Lakes Valley to Gem Lakes. About 7.7 mi RT, 700 ft gain, views of Mts. Morgan, Bear Creek Spire, Dade, Abbot. Pass several back country lakes. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Meet 7.30a, ML Union Bank. Contact: Dick, Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

JUNE 12 (SUNDAY)
Hike Horsetail Falls & Beyond! About 5 mi RT, 1400 ft gain on switchbacks to Horsetail Falls or more if group desires. Lovely views of Twin Lakes, Sawtooths, abundant wild flowers. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank or 9.30a, Annett’s Mono Village (Upper Twin Lake outside Bridgeport). Dogs limited. Contact: Maurica (760-932-7175, Maurica_And@yahoo.com).

JUNE 17-19 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)
Mono Lake Bird Chautauqua.

JUNE 23 (THURSDAY)
FIRST EARLY EVENING OUTING OF SEASON! Hike to Snow Ponds near Reverse Peak. Explore several new additions to USFS trail system to ponds, which may have water in them this year. About 2.5mi RT, short steep uphill/downhill, easy walk across plateau, many Sierra vistas. Meet 4.30p, ML Union Bank. Contact: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com).

JUNE 26 (SUNDAY)
Hike Silver Lake to Parker Bench. About 4mi RT, 2000 ft gain, beautiful views of Silver Lake, Mono Lake, many aspen arborglyphs. Meet 8a, ML Union Bank or 8.45a, Rush Creek Trailhead across from Silver Lake Campground. Dogs limited. Contact: Maurica (760-932-7175, Maurica_And@yahoo.com).

JUNE 30 (THURSDAY)
McLeod Lake Hike. About 1.1 mi RT, 300 ft gain, easy walk through barren, white forest of trees killed by CO, enjoy views of Mammoth Mt., Mammoth Crest, eat a snack along sandy lake shore, well-behaved dogs welcome. Meet 4:30pm ML Union Bank. Contact: Dick, Joanne (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

MOUNTAIN LIONS ... continued from page 7
contributed by sportsmen, Wildlife Services, and road kills. UNR graduate Dr. Alyson Andreassen, led the research project.

Not unexpectedly, where mule deer are readily available – as in the Sierra Nevada – the deer are a primary food source. However, mountain lions may lose cached kills to black bear. In the Virginia Range, where horses dominate the landscape, mountain lions have learned to prey on horses.

For years, the common assumption was that surplus mountain lions from California (where mountain lion hunting is prohibited), migrated to Nevada – where hunting is permitted and, presumably, vacant habitat was available. Collar data, however is documenting that some Nevada lions, particularly young males, will disperse to California, where hunting opportunities for the lion) occur. It is now more common. Not surprisingly, one young male lion was killed and consumed by another lion when he entered territory already occupied by the resident lion.

 Nevadas listed mountain lions as a game animal in 1965. This designation enabled the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to limit the number of mountain lions killed and to require post-mortem information. A hunter who has killed a mountain lion is required to bring the pelt to NDOW for tagging and data collection.

Nevada has an estimated 1100 - 1300 adult lions. This is about half the lion population at the time when mule deer populations peaked in the mid-1980s, and possibly 100% more than when Europeans arrived in the Great Basin and mule deer were rare.

What of the future? The Sierra Nevada, high value habitat for mountain lions, black bear, and mule deer, is becoming an island surrounded by housing developments and farther highways. With thousands more people moving to western Nevada, prey species and migratory corridors may also be affected here.

NDOW will next look at bear and lion interactions at kill sites and how this affects mule deer. The project is being funded by NDOW and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Lisa Buckley led a ski/snowshoe outing in the Owens River Gorge on Feb. 4, 2016. “It was a beautiful day. We skied behind Sunnyslopes and enjoyed views down into the Gorge, snow-covered Bishop tuff, and 360-degree Sierra mountain views.” Two dogs, Penny and Banner, added to the fun.

Ghia frolics with Penny and Banner. Sadly, this was Banner’s last ROLG outing.

DEADLINE! JUNE 1
FOR JUL - AUG - SEP ISSUE
This land is your land . . .

BY MARGE SILL

The first words of Woody Guthrie’s song echo what many of us believe — that our public lands belong to all American citizens and are a priceless heritage for those who come after us.

We in Toiyabe Chapter are fortunate to have so much public land that is open to everyone. Some of this land is in special categories — national parks, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, designated wilderness, and more — but most of it is just for people who want to visit and enjoy our beautiful far-flung lands in whatever way they choose. You can ride a horse or an ATV; you can walk or see the land from your car; you can bring your family for a picnic or join your friends on an outing. You can hunt, fish, or just take pictures. You can camp or seek lodging in a rural town. “No trespassing” signs are conspicuous by their absence.

Public lands are an important part of our freedom as Americans. If they are sold and become private, we lose much of this freedom to live our lives in the way that we choose. We lose our precious and unique heritage that helps to make our country great. Let’s keep singing “this land is your land” and make sure that it remains that way.

The BLM “Organic” Act’s 40th Anniversary

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

In the summer of 1976, along with many of my fellow conservationists from across the country, I was in Washington D.C. for an environmental workshop on learning how to lobby for wilderness, parks, and wildlife. Jimmy Carter was running for President against President Gerald Ford. And a landmark piece of legislation was being before the Congress that summer called the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

While there we met with Congressional Staff and Congress members to lobby for wilderness, parks, and wildlife — essentially all ways to protect parts of the public domain for future generations. Excitement over FLPMA was high that summer because it would establish that the public lands were to be retained and because it would mean that the public would have a role in how the public lands are managed under the new law.

We had very high hopes for FLPMA because important environmental legislation had been enacted under President Nixon in 1970, creating the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and establishing the Clean Air Act and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

“Flipma” as FLPMA is now referred to, created the authority that establishes how the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) carries out its management responsibilities throughout the United States on 240 million acres of public land (about 4.1% of the land area of the entire country today). [See sidebar on “Organic Act.”] As today, some within the ranching and mining and commodity industries opposed FLPMA and lobbied (President Ford especially hard) to oppose the bill. However, Congress passed FLPMA on October 1, 1976 and President Gerald Ford signed it on October 21, 1976.

FLPMA gave the BLM authority to conduct wilderness studies and wilderness management and create Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). FLPMA says “...the public lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use . . .

While there are those in the ranching and mining industries who continue to advocate for disposal of public land, widespread public support remains for continued Federal management of the public domain’s wide open spaces. The public lands are every citizen’s national heritage and FLPMA is essential to keeping the public lands public.

Sidebar:
What is meant by “Organic Act”?
“FLPMA is called the BLM Organic Act because it consolidated

Please see ORGANIC ACT, page 7.

On the waterfront:
Water questions for the future

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

Since the last Trails was published, the gamut of water-oriented happenings in Nevada and neighboring states is an indication of the importance of water in our futures. Water is in the news, from . . .

• FBI raids of the offices of the Bureau of Reclamation in S. Nevada, to . . .

• a special session of the Nevada Legislature to implement a “deal” with Faraday Future (which could override NV Water Law requirements), to . . .

• reports by experts on Snake Valley groundwater pumping impacts, to . . .

• water scholars detailing declining Colorado River flows, and more.

Questions to ask about our region’s water

How are our water managers doing? What more can be done to secure future water supplies? Which water projects should be axed? What can you do? Follow the links to learn more about the complex and confusing water questions and how citizens can get involved.

One opportunity is an April conference in Las Vegas on desalination as an alternative water supply to the water grab. (See announcement in box at end of article.)

What are other states’ problems?

One can read nearly daily newspaper articles on California’s drought, efforts to stretch its limited water supplies, and prayers for a wet winter salvation by a strong El Nino. And in Utah, the news is of feverish attempts by promoters of a pipeline from the declining Lake Powell reservoir to provide water for growth in two counties to get state funding for the expensive, risky, and controversial project.

A bad political deal with Faraday Future?

In December, Nevadans were surprised when Governor Brian Sandoval called a special Legislative Session to develop four bills to authorize a deal with Faraday Future, a car maker, to move to the old Apex, site, east of Las Vegas. Several provisions of this deal threatened NV with Faraday Future’s water appropriation decisions. These provisions would affect not just the five water basins near the proposed site at Apex, but all of Nevada. The Sierra Club, the Great Basin Water Network (GBWN) and many allies were able to block most of these bad provisions from legislative approvals.

How important are aquifer connections?

In January, the U.S. Geological Survey published a report evaluating the connection of aquifers in Snake Valley on the NV/UT border to springs and streams in Great Basin National Park to increase understanding of the impacts of proposed pumping by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) on the Park. The conclusion reinforced the concerns that all additional groundwater pumping in Snake Valley would affect the Park because “...the aquifers are separated by confining units in some areas and are in contact with each other in other areas, yet function as a single, composite aquifer system.” Read the report at <https://pubs.usgs.gov/publication/p1819>.

More water news

Spring Valley. Also, on January 28, a Nevada Supreme Court ruling denied a procedural issue raised by the Mormon Church to protect its ranch in Spring Valley from impacts of SNWA’s proposed groundwater pumping in Nevada’s Spring Valley. The ruling does not affect GBWN’s lawsuit victories by both State District and Supreme Court rulings. In the meantime, the State Engineer had done nothing (publicly) in response to the court ordered remand to fix errors in his previous rulings in Spring Valley and other targeted basins.

Interim drought water agreement.

Also in the news were two reports from the Colorado River Research Group, which (1) evaluated deficiencies of an interim water agreement made by seven Western states to address drought impacts and declining River flows and (2) proposed some solutions to address the historic overappropriation of Colorado River water of the 1930s. Read more about these important Western water issues at <http://www.coloradoriverresearchgroup.org/uploads/4/2/3/6/42362959/ crrg_interim_guidelines_white_version_2012.pdf> and <http://www.coloradoriverresearchgroup.org/uploads/4/2/3/6/42362959/ crrg_environmental_management.pdf>.

Raid on BLM offices.

In February, Nevadans were shocked at newspaper reports of raids on offices of the Bureau of Reclamation in S. Nevada to obtain documents on awarding of a $1 million dollar contract to an accounting firm for an audit of the agency’s Hoover Dam program. Read more at <https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/las-vegas/official-targeted-fbi-probe-linked-firm-supervisors>. Further articles have appeared on the results of the investigation of the powerful federal agency which manages water and power in the West.

Nevada Drought Forum.

This group produced a final report on its findings and recommendations to Governor Sandoval on how to ad-

Please see WATER QUESTIONS, page 7.
WATER QUESTIONS . . .

continued from page 6
dress ongoing drought. For details, see <http://drought.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/droughtmgov/Content/Home/Feature/Executive%20Summary_AST.pdf>.

Fortunately, the development-oriented panel did not recommend more interbasin water transfers from rural areas to cities as a possible supply option.

Nevada State water problems study meetings. In another State effort on reviewing Nevada Water Law, the Nevada Legislative Commission’s Subcommittee to Study Water is planning six meetings around the state to hear about water problems and possible solutions.

The subcommittee is authorized to submit up to five bill draft requests to the 2017 State Legislature. For details, see <http://www.nevadaappeal.com/news/20557473-113-nevada-committee-begins-treacherous-journey-to-look-at-t>. One area of study was brought out when Jason King, Nevada State Engineer, testified that “… out of 256 basins in Nevada, there are 53 basins where water is severely over-appropriated.” The subcommittee members will be considering whether these failures and possible attempts to correct overappropriated basins will require changes in the state water law or changes in the administration of the current water law.

Looking to the (possibly desalinated) future

The future promises more exciting developments in water issues as the 15-year drought continues and is being exacerbated by climate changes. You can get more water news in Nevada and the West on the GBWN website, at <http://greatbasinwaternational.org>, including more details on the April 23, 2016 conference in Las Vegas: Green Desalination for a Water-Secure Nevada (see press release below for interesting details of the conference).

Organic Act . . .

continued from page 6

and articulated BLM’s management responsibilities. Many land and resource management authorities were established, amended, or repealed by FLPMAs, including provisions on Federal land withdrawals, land acquisitions and exchanges, rights-of-way, advisory groups, range management, and the general organization and administration of BLM and the public lands. FLPMAs also established BLM as a multiple-use agency…” For details of this important act, see <http://www.blm.gov/flpma/organic.htm>.

Organic Act . . .

continued from page 6

Water rights holders upstream received their water first. By the time agencies realized people had to own water to receive it, costs had risen, financing was an issue, and less water was available. For instance, millions of dollars were spent acquiring water in Lahontan Valley beginning in 1990, but despite this effort the wetlands were dry in 2015.

Solutions: Few

Investing in upgrades. There are also urban wetlands in city, county, or state parks where wildlife may not be a priority -- but these pocket wetlands have long been a sanctuary for migrating, resting, and even some nesting birds. Recently, in Reno, the Lahontan Audubon Society successfully encouraged the City of Reno to invest several hundred thousand dollars to upgrade Virginia Lake, a popular urban bird “home” subject to both draining and pollution.

Legislation. During the drought many critical wetlands both urban and rural went dry. An increasing dependence on wells lowers water tables and even sucks water out of rivers. Fully appropriated surface water goes first to municipal or industrial use, drying up wetlands and urban ponds. In Nevada, legislation is being developed to revise state water law to build efficiencies in water delivery to avoid wasting it on plants and birds.

Funding. Ducks Unlimited and California and Nevada Waterfowl Associations raise money through banquets to build efficiencies in water delivery in NWRs and WMAs. Refuge Friends groups help raise money and volunteer. See http://www.fws.gov/refuges/friends/ for details.

Land Trusts. The Nature Conservancy and other land trusts also are leaders in saving water sources.

Federal Government leadership and financing. All these sources help, but the federal government, with its leadership, laws, policies, and financial contributions is a primary underwriter and savior of wetlands.

What you can do

It is important to speak out for wetlands. The Malheur Wildlife Refuge takeover resulted in a lot of media attention for refuges (though not in the way we might wish). Now it is our job to keep water flowing to them.

Our mountain lion neighbors

BY TINA NAPPE

The daily life of Nevada’s elusive mountain lion is being revealed. From 2009-12, 48 mountain lions in the Virginia Range, Pine Nut Mountains and the Sierra Nevada were radio collared. Their territories, migration routes, kill sites, and dens were subsequently tracked. To gather DNA data, blood samples were drawn and combined with tissue samples
**Great Basin Gatherings**

**Great Basin Group**

**Message from the Chair**

**Spring events!** BY KATY CHRISTENSEN, GROUP CHAIR

**EVENING HIKES ARE STARTING.** As the air warms, and spring begins to bloom throughout the Great Basin, hikes offered by the GBG will include increased evening hikes – up to four weekly evening hikes throughout the spring and summer months. Check for details in the Calendar listings which begin on this page of the Trails, and check for frequent updates at www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno. Gear Up Silent Auction, Mark May 12 on your calendar! The Great Basin Group’s annual Gear Up silent auction event will be held on May 12 at the Bartley Ranch location beginning at 6:30 pm. This event is a fundraiser for the Get Kids Outdoors (GKO) group programs. All are invited to bring gently used items, such as hiking and camping equipment and clothes, outdoor sports equipment, and outdoor and travel related books, CDs, and/or DVDs. Such equipment and items may be brought to the April evening program at Bartley Ranch, or beginning at 6 pm on the evening of the Gear Up event. See the GBG Calendar for further details, or email Katy Christensen (mabelnv@hotmail.com).

2016 GKO programs. Supported by the Great Basin Group, these included an opportunity for 50 5th graders from Robert Stolting Elementary School to attend an Earth Day booth. Also, please plan to visit the GBG’s booth at the annual Earth Day event in Reno, on Sunday, April 24, at Idlewild Park. Interested in volunteering for an hour or two? Call Katy (702-755-2267). Monthly programs. We look forward to seeing members and meeting all other nature-loving folks at our monthly programs at Bartley Ranch Regional Park Western Heritage Interpretive Center on the second Thursday of each month (usually) throughout the spring. See Thursday, April 14 for a program on Patagonia and Friday, May 13, for the “Mountain lion celebration.” See our Calendar listings for details.

**Great Basin Peak Section News**

**Update on peak numbers!** BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

More snow in the mountains this year will make it challenging to find dry roads and peaks until later in the season. We’ll check in again at the end of the year to see how many new peaks our members have experienced. Plus maybe we will get to celebrate another list finisher? In any case, have a great hiking season!

Peak numbers update. Last year the following members shared their current progress on the Great Basin Peaks list. Here is an update of their new peak numbers.

Robert Stolting  9  Gerry Pennington  23
Franklin Enos 11  Marge Sill  24
Niki Houghton 21  Jim Scott  25
Mitch & Janice 23  Gretchen Nelson 25
Brown-Silveira 31  Ute Dietrich 27

**GBG**

**Great Basin Group Calendar**

**NOTE:** Meetup address referred to in some outings below is <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/>.

**APRIL 5 (TUESDAY) 5:30P**

Tuesday Evening Hike. Tuesday evening hikes are planned to accommodate most hikers, regardless of condition. Moderate pace, 2-4 mi, under 600 ft gain. Conservation issues, as appropriate, will be highlighted along our walks. Trip location announced on MeetUp (http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/) by Sunday evening before Tuesday hike. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Mod. Easy.

**APRIL 6 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P**

Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Join us to get in shape for weekend hikes. About 4-6 mi in 2-2.5 hours in different locations around Truckee Meadows. PACE moderate to mod. fast. Learn about local flora, fauna. Bring plenty of water, clothing for weather; trail shoes highly recommended. Dogs welcome, but must be well-mannered and have leash, just in case. Some outings will be in rattlesnake territory. All conditioning hikes are posted on our local Meet-Up Site (see address at beginning of Calendar on page 8). DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticmar-mot@gmail.com). Moderate.

**APRIL 7 (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. More info at: Meet Up site (see beginning of Calendar for address). D.L. Leader: Ridge Walker Co-Leader: Rhonda Jarrett Mod. Easy.

**APRIL 7 (THURSDAY) 8A**


**APRIL 10 (SUNDAY) 9A**

Spanish Springs Peak (7406 ft). Moderate Day Hike/Pack Bag. Expect lots of glorious wildflowers; if we’re lucky we’ll see few antelope, golden eagles. Five mi, 1500 ft to summit; half-x-c across volcanic terrain. Learn local geology. Please see GB CALENDAR, page 9.

**Kids practice LNT & learn snow science**

**BY SUE JACOBS, SUEJACOB@NVBELL.NET**

Fun hand signals made it easy for students in Great Basin Outdoor School’s winter programs to remember all seven “Leave No Trace” principles.

Girls show LNT antler sign for “Respect wildlife.”

While on snowshoe outings in the Spooner summit area, eager young protectors of the planet collected piles of trash and broken sleds left behind by others. Students also learned about winter safety, snow science, astronomy, and winter adaptations. Classes who participated in overnight 2-day programs at Lake Tahoe were surprised during their snowshoe trek by pioneer snow scientist, Dr. James Church, as portrayed by retired Forest Service professional Steve Hale. Hale demonstrated the use of the Mt. Rose snow sampler designed by Dr. Church to calculate our snow’s water content and explained that the snow is “white gold” providing our vital water supply.

Throughout January and February, 420 local children participated in Great Basin Outdoor School’s various day and overnight winter programs. Most had never snowshoed before and were excited to master a new outdoor recreation. Please see KIDS PRACTICE LNT, page 9.
April 10 (Sunday) 12 Noon
Would You Be Lost Without a Leader?
Beginning Map & compass class.
Moderate evening conditioning these Patagonian locations.
More info at: Meet Up site (see address at beginning of Calendar) . DL. Leader: Ridge Walker Co-Leader: Jeannie Ketter. Mod. Easy.

April 16 (Saturday) 9A
Mayberry Park to Hunter Creek Falls Day Hike. A strenuous 9-mi hike, starting with short climb to Steamboat Ditch Trail, then relatively flat for about 1.5 mi before starting climb to Hunter Creek Falls. Spectacular waterfall at 4.5 mi mark makes for perfect lunch spot, with great photo opportunity. The return to Mayberry Park will be all downhill, relatively easy. Bring lunch, sunscreen, plenty of water. Bad weather cancels. Well-mannered dogs okay; have leash in case it is needed. DL. Leader: Rhonda Jarrett (775-662-8698). Co-Leader: Rob Jarrett (jarrettrob02@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

April 17 (Sunday) 9A
Stevens’ Trail Day Hike. Great spring hike down to American River near Colfax. About 6 mi, but steep downhill of around 1800 ft descent, then climb out on nice, windy trail. Beautiful scenery with scrub oak, mossy rocks, very green. It may be quite warm in April, so clothing should be layered. Have lunch at river. There is poison oak off sides of trail in places, so dogs should be on leash. Trip limit 15. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

April 21 (Thursday) 8A

April 21 (Saturday) 7:30P
Moderate Moonlight Conditioning Hike. Get in shape after work with moonlight 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. More info at Meet Up site (see address at beginning of Calendar). DL. Leader: Ridge Walker Co-Leader: Rhonda Jarrett Mod. Easy.

April 26 (Tuesday) 5:30P
Tuesday Evening Hike. See trip description for April 5. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Mod. Easy.

April 27 (Wednesday) 5:30P
Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Join us on this hike to get in shape for weekend outings. Refer to April 6 for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

April 28 (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. More info at Meet Up site (see address at beginning of Calendar). DL. Leader: Ridge Walker Co-Leader: Jeannie Ketter. Mod. Easy.

May 3 (Tuesday) 5:30P
Tuesday Evening Hike. See trip description for April 5. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Mod. Easy.

May 4 (Wednesday) 5:30P
Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Join us to get in shape for weekend outings. Please refer to April 6 for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

May 5 (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. More info at Meet Up site (see address at beginning of Calendar). DL. Leader: Ridge Walker Co-Leader: Rhonda Jarrett Mod. Easy.

Desert Peak, Utah
BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

Desert Peak sits in the Desert Peak Wilderness — with a 5000-foot prominence, it qualifies for a number of peak lists. At 11,031 feet it is the highest peak in the Stansbury Mountains, plus being the highpoint of Tooele County (pronounced Tu-will-uh). On October 10, 2015, several Great Basin Peaks Section members headed for Desert Peak, leaving Reno at 6:30 am to reach the trailhead at Loop Campground before dark.

We had a brief lunch stop for Cornish pasties at B.J. Bull in Elko and topped off gas in Wendover before heading across the Bonneville flats. This large desert expanse gave an illusion that surrounding peaks were ships floating on a white sea. The unusual Tree of Life sculpture added an interest point as we drove through this desert.

From Grantsville, our drive up South Willow Canyon twisted through sun-blasted aspen between high rock walls. Deer with fawns greeted us in the campground as we set up camp and prepared our yummy potluck dinner. The night sky was clear and littered with stars as we retired early to get some sleep before our early start time.

Our morning start with headlamps allowed us to see the many color changes of first light on the mountains as we hiked up the canyon. An 1800-foot climb in the first 1.5 miles kept us warm on this chilly morning. Continue on many Great Basin Peaks, Desert has a trail to the summit and can be found in numerous hiking guides.

We had the trail to ourselves all the way to the summit. Enjoying the solitude and clear day, we sat an hour on top eating lunch, taking photos, and relishing the impressive views. There is a register and benchmark on the summit. After the most leisurely summit rest I’ve ever enjoyed, we returned on the loop trail, descending Pockets Fork/Dry Lake Fork Trail for variety.

Another day to treasure on a Great Basin peak!

Kids Practice LNT...
continued from page 8

John Ide 114
We now have a page on Facebook. Please add pictures or reports from your trips to share with other hikers. (You know how much you like to hear the tales from other hikers!)
Join the GBPS! For details on membership, recognition categories, peak list, and trip reports check out Great Basin Peaks Section at: http://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/great-basin-peak-outings/
Las Vegas Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) couldn’t have asked for a more beautiful day than the 1st Saturday of February, when we headed out on the Lost Creek trail with the children from Walnut Community Center.

Beginning at Red Rock Visitor Center, the children, ranging from grades 2 through 7, were warmly greeted by “Mojave Max”, the desert tortoise mascot for the local school’s educational program. Along with a beautiful display of these reptiles’ shells, the children quickly learned the differences between the land-bound tortoise and the water-loving turtle. A bit squeamishly, the children touched a real coyote’s fur displayed in a nearby presentation. After a lively introduction of all our participants and an important message from ICO’s leader on “leave no trace” and respecting our public land, we were off to discover Los Vegas ICO Youth Discover Lost Creek

BY CYNTHIA REGIDOR

Lost Creek.

As we hiked along the rocky trail, the children used all their senses, encountering rock formations displaying sandy colored hues and “chocolate chips” as well as prickly plant life, trees adorned with juniper berries, and even mistletoe. Trekking further, we stumbled upon a perfect example of a desert dwelling during the existence of our Native Americans, the Southern Paiute. From this rock outcropping, the children gazed thoughtfully upon the open desert, imagining this as their home, perhaps as a shelter from bad weather or a strategic site in hunting for their food. With every turn throughout the hike, the children were never without a curious comment or an apt observation.

Upon arrival at iced-over Lost Creek, the children squealed with delight, while some of us (ahem, adults) shivered from the 10-degree drop in temperature in the canyon. “It’s free ice skating!” one child exclaimed, while the children gleefully slid across the ice in different directions. Our hike concluded in a dry wash running across the trail, where the children sat quietly, writing about the lessons they learned along their trek and reflecting upon their ideal “nature” name, while the afternoon sun beamed upon them.

SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

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<td>Vice-Chair: Keibbe Shave*</td>
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Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.
up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in and around Truckee Meadows. More info at Meet Up site (see address at beginning of Calendar). DL: Leader: Ridge Walker Mod. Easy.

MAY 10 (TUESDAY) 5:30P
Tuesday Evening Hike. See trip description for April 5. DOK: Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg@blackrockrendzvous.com). Mod. Easy.

MAY 11 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P
Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Join us to get in shape for weekend outings. Please refer to April 6 for details. INFO. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmo@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

MAY 12 (THURSDAY) 5:30P
McElliott Peak Flume Day Hike. Historic Virginia City flame system on McElliott Peak near Carson City. Hike will be along part of route of circa 1870 wooden box flame which brought water from Carson Range to Virginia City. About 10 mi, 800 ft gain. Some off-trail. High clearance 4-wheel drive vehicle necessary, or possible ride share. Learn some history of area. ND. Leader: TA Tar (775-530-2955). Mod. Easy.

MAY 12 (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. More info at Meet Up site (see address at beginning of Calendar). DL: Leader: Ridge Walker Co-Leader: Jeannie Kettler. Mod. Easy.

MAY 13 (FRIDAY)
Mountain lion celebration. Nevada Wildlife Alliance and Mountain Lion Foundation will host “An Evening In Celebration of the Mountain Lion” on Friday, May 13th, 6:30 pm, at Nevada Museum of Art (Reno). The event will feature a presentation by Will Stolzenburg, based on his new book, Heart of a Lion, which appears in April. Come early for wine/cheese/snacks and a book signing. Free admission, but seating is limited to 180. First come, first serve.

MAY 17 (TUESDAY) 5:30P
Tuesday Evening Hike. See trip description for April 5. DOK: Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg@blackrockrendzvous.com). Mod. Easy.

MAY 18 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P
Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Join us to get in shape for weekend outings. Refer to April 6 for more info. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmo@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

MAY 19 (THURSDAY) 8A

MAY 19 (THURSDAY) 7:0P
Moderate Moonlight Conditioning Hike. Get in shape after work with moonlight conditioning hike of 4-6 mi at brisk pace. Start around sunset, hike for couple of hours by light of nearly full moon, in hills N of Reno. Gain up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in and around Truckee Meadows. More info at Meet Up site (see address at beginning of Calendar). DL. Leader: Ridge Walker Co-Leader: Rhonda Jarrett Mod. Easy.

MAY 22 (SATURDAY) 8A
Juniper Peak, Sawtooth Range Day Hike. Juniper Peak is highest point within potential wilderness designation in the Sierras. Travel across basalt of the Kamloops area, and then Juniper Creek, then hike to this peak in granite-rock Sawtooth Range. See wildflower blooms, view a spring or two, hike for good views of the Sawtooth Range. Trip limit 12. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Co-Leader: Dorothy Hudig (775-323-4835; hudig@sbcglobal.net). Mod. Strenuous.

MAY 22 (SUNDAY) 8:45A
Mt. Davidson Day Hike. This outing begins near Geiger Grade Summit, winds both on and off-trail to Mt. Davidson. About 7 mi, 1200 ft gain, but very steep downhills of about 2000 ft into Virginia City. Lunch on peak, time to check out the correlations to the park. Trip limit 12. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Mod. Easy.

MAY 24 (TUESDAY) 5:30P
Tuesday Evening Hike. See trip description for April 5. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Mod. Easy.

MAY 24 (TUESDAY) 7:0P
Moderate Moonlight Conditioning Hike. Get in shape after work with moonlight conditioning hike of 4-6 mi at brisk pace. Start around sunset, hike for couple of hours by light of nearly full moon, in hills N of Reno. Gain up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in and around Truckee Meadows. More info at Meet Up site (see address at beginning of Calendar). DL. Leader: Ridge Walker Co-Leader: Rhonda Jarrett Mod. Easy.
RSVP Christian Gerlach (Christian.gerlach@sierraclub.org) for ensuring future generations will always have access to the beauty and tranquility that Grand Canyon National Monument provides. Come and share your support for our campaign to protect the Grand Canyon. April 18 (Monday) 7:00-8:00p. Join us to get or stay in shape for harder weekend outings. Refer to April 6 for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 7 (TUESDAY) 5:30P
Tuesday Evening Hike. See trip description for April 5. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 23 (THURSDAY) 8A

JUNE 23 (THURSDAY) 5:15P
Longest Day Evening Hike. Hike to top of “Road to Nowhere” Peak, highest one on skyline E of Reno. Discover this little-known locale, learn geology of surrounding terrain. About 6 mi RT, 1500 ft gain. Brisk pace, not for beginning hikers. Take advantage of latest sunset, longest twilight of year, to march beyond sunset. More info at Meet Up site (see address at beginning of Calendar). ND. Leader: Ridge Walker Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler, Cathy Schmidt

JUNE 25 (SATURDAY) 8:30A
Jamison Lake Day Hike. From Jamison Mine area near Graeagle to Jamison Lake. Very scenic area which includes waterfall, Grass Lake. Great swimming in Jamison Lake. Learn about mining history. About 8 mi R; 1000 ft gain. DL. Leader: Craig Mastos (775-348-1862; maquis@softcom.net). Moderate.

JUNE 29 (TUESDAY) 5:30P
Tuesday Evening Hike. See trip description for April 5. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 29 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P
Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Join us to get in or stay in shape for weekend outings. Refer to April 6 for detailed info. DOK. Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

Channel Islands National Park
April 3-5, 2016
Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to Channel Islands National Park. Aka Mt. Charleston. About 5 mi RT, 800 ft gain, strenuous. Scenic view from ski area at Lee Canyon to junction with old road; then backtracks to top of ridge before looping back, reaching a 10,000 ft. How old are bristlecone pines? Why did President Roosevelt stop construction of road? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com). Level 4. June 12 (SUNDAY) 9A Hobart Lake Day Hike. Hike to beautiful little lake outside Washoe Valley. Trip about 7 mi, but steep at close to 2600 ft of gain on dirt road (closed-off to most vehicles). All participants must be in good hiking shape. Lunch at lake. Learn a little history about Comstock along way. Trip limit 16. All participants must sign up for themselves in order to stay within limit. Only well-mannered dogs, please. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (420-6363; freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 14 (TUESDAY) 5:30P
Tuesday Evening Hike. See trip description for April 5. DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; vonseg1@sbcglobal.net). Mod. Easy.

JUNE 15 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P
Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Join us to get or stay in shape for weekend outings. Refer to April 6 for details. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: James Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Mod. Strenuous.

JUNE 16 (THURSDAY) 7:07P
Moderate Moonlight Conditioning Hike. Get in shape after work with evening hiking conditioning of 4-6 mi at brisk pace. Gain up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in and around Truckee Meadows. More info at Meet Up site (see address at beginning of Calendar). DL. Leader: Ridge Walker Co-Leader: Jeannie Kettler. Mod. Easy.

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This Earth Day JOIN Sierra Club
Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meeting
Saturday, 9 am
April 16, 2016
RENO, NV
For details, contact the Chair,
DAVID VON SEGGERN
Chair@Toiyabe.
SierraClub.org
All Toiyabe Chapter members are welcome to attend these meetings, which usually begin at 9 am. We reserve a time slot for input from members, if you have an issue on which you want to address the ExCom, please attend. For ExCom members’ contact info, see the Chapter Directory on page 2.