Use your power: Vote the environment!

BY ANNE MACQUARIE

Recognizing the importance to the environment of these crucial 2018 midterm elections, the Chapter has endorsed more candidates than ever before. We Americans were once international leaders in protecting our environment through strong environmental laws and policies. Sadly, that’s no longer true: the environmental protections we have worked for for generations are under deliberate attack.

We urge you to vote, to vote for environmentally responsible candidates, and to do what you can to help set our nation back on a track of protecting a livable planet for all of us. Here is a link to a list of our endorsed candidates in Nevada and eastern California. https://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/toiyabe-chapter-political-committee

Please vote!

Candidates needed for Toiyabe Chapter Executive Committee

BY CATHY SCHMIDT

Our Chapter has about 6500 members in Nevada and eastern California. We take our responsibility to these members seriously and support their interests in renewable energy, protection of public lands, water and habitat issues, getting people outdoors, and much more.

We need new ExCom members with a commitment to the Sierra Club mission, with solid interpersonal skills, and with the enthusiasm to lead our group forward.

No Sierra Club leadership experience? That’s fine. We are looking for people who have interests in the environment and who want to be a part of making a difference. You do not need to be a Sierra Club member to be interested in serving on the ExCom. We welcome people from all backgrounds and perspectives.

Please see FROM THE CHAIR, page 2.
BY KATY CHRISTENSON, GREAT BASIN GROUP CHAIR

Monthly Programs. The Great Basin Group monthly programs take place on the second Thursday of each month at the Bartley Ranch Western Heritage Center in Reno. Social hour begins at 6:15p and the program begins at 7p. The Great Basin Group kicks off its fall lineup of monthly programs on Thursday, September 13, 2018, with a special Intro & Inquiry with Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates session and a lively discussion of energy issues impacting the Great Basin. Ample time for Q&A will be available.

Annual Members Picnic a great success! The annual GBG members annual picnic was a huge success on August 27! Over 70 members attended, and over $460 was raised for the GBG’s Get Kids Outdoors grant programs. It was held at the spacious Galena Creek Park Bearmat group picnic site. A beautiful afternoon was enjoyed by all, accentuated by the delightful music provided by the Little City String Band. A special THANK YOU to Marie Norell and Sue Jacox for all their planning efforts.

Great Basin Group Outings. The GBG outings program continues to roll along as one of the group’s best ways to reach the greater community of Northern Nevada. The group’s 30th leaders posted and led 99 outings from June through August 2018, getting close to 1000 members of the community outdoors. See full report from Outings Leader Dan Ellsworth in this issue.

Get Kids Outdoors! The Great Basin Group continues to provide support, through GKO grants, to primarily low-income schools for science-based field trips that enable students to experience the great outdoors in a variety of settings. Two groups of 4th grade students will participate in a nature exploration field trip through the Tahoe Institute of Natural Sciences in October 2018. Monies raised through GBG fundraisers, such as the Annual members picnic, help with the transportation expenses of these field trips.

GKO picnic bee-yond expectations! By Sue Jacox, SueJACOX@nWirelle.net

BLUE SKY, BIG CROWD, BEST band, barbecue, and business donations for our raffle made our GBG annual picnic at Galena Creek in August one for the record books. And if that sounds like a lot of Bs, we had those too, or actually yellow jackets, but they buzzed in late and missed all but the very end of our party.

Once again the Little City String Band shared their talent and tunes, making a perfect afternoon in the forest even more pleasant. Over 70 members and friends joined us and contributed nearly $500 to our Get Kids Outdoors fund with many happy raffle winners going home with gift cards, bicycle, sleeping bag, green cleaning products, Green Guru plants, and many other prizes donated by members and local businesses.

This is the effect of climate change in the West – happening right now. Meanwhile… The Trump administration unveiled its power plan - a plan relaxed pollution restrictions on coal-burning power plants. A plan that, according to the Washington Post, “release at least 12 times the amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere compared with the Obama rule over the next decade.”

And Ryan Zinke’s Department of the Interior is auctioning off oil and gas leases on hundreds of thousands of acres of public land in Nevada. According to the Center for Biological Diversity’s Patrick Donnelly, the potential leases include “parcels in Railroad Valley/Duckwater area; right up to the edge of Ruby lakes National Wildlife Refuge and the southwestern Ruby Mountains, and high quality sage grouse habitat in Steptoe and North Spring Valleys.”

Fossil fuels triumphant? In my view we are witnessing the endgame of the fossil fuel industry. Make no mistake, this industry, possibly the richest and most powerful in history, is doing everything it can to delay the transition to a sustainable fossil-fuel-free future. They might succeed. But solar power is cheaper than ever before, and the price of solar is still dropping. Eventually, no matter how long coal plants are propped up, they will close because they no longer make economic sense. Moreover, in the U.S., 60% of adults support strict limits on CO2 emissions from coal-fired power plants. In the lack of leadership from Washington, cities and states have stepped forward to curtail greenhouse gas emissions. Just last week California legislators passed a bill requiring 100% of the state’s energy to come from carbon-free sources by 2045.

How we make a difference -- right now. Last week I was having trouble getting Evan Gillespie, Western Deputy Director of the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign, to return a phone call. He finally called me back and apologized: he had been sitting in a legislative hearing room in Sacramento – counting votes for the clean energy bill. He said they were a few votes short, but assured me they would get them. And they did.

This is why I – and, I hope, you – belong to the Sierra Club. Because we – through our volunteer efforts, through our donations that support staff like Evan, through our persistent discussions with our climate-change-denying friends – are on the front lines of making sure we preserve a healthy and livable planet for all. And what better work is there? Thanks for all you do!
Great Basin Peak Section News
Exploring three 2PK peaks
BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX

THE GOAL OF THIS SIERRA CLUB TRIP included three Nevada peaks on the Nevada 2PK list: Mount Callaghan, Roberts Creek Mountain, and Pilot Peak. Our trip left Reno early with plans to hike Mount Callaghan (10,187 ft) that afternoon. In Austin we stopped off gas and then drove north on Hwy 305 to Silver Creek Road. We parked a couple of miles shy of the summit for a short hike after the long drive. With plans to camp near our next peak, we didn’t linger on the Callaghan summit.

The second peak we wanted to hike, Roberts Creek Mountain (10,134 ft), sits in the Roberts Mountain Wilderness Study Area in central Nevada. This peak, in addition to its P2K listing, is also on the Great Basin Peaks list. Our hike began at the wilderness boundary and followed a steep road through an abundance of wildflowers. A pond provided a swimming stop for my pup. I kept a close watch, noting the shoreline display of fresh deer and mountain lion tracks. I didn’t want the lion to catch a chocolate brown haze from various wildfires.

Another great trip exploring Great Basin peaks!
Nevada State Engineer denies SNWA water applications

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

IN AN 111-PAGE RULING in Au-
gust, 2018, State Engineer Jason
King denied all of the water appli-
cations in four basins. The basins
are part of the proposed transfers
by the Southern Nevada Water
Authority (SNWA) of rural ground-
water pumped in E. Nevada and
piped over 300 miles for growth
and development in S. Nevada.

The ruling was in response to a 2013
re mand order by State District Court
Judge Estes requiring the State Engi-
neer to re-evaluate the availability of
groundwater which could be pumped
without conflicting with existing water
rights and without causing long-term
over appropriations in the four basins
downflow basin-dependent on
carbonate aquifer flows. The State
Engineer denied the applications because
SNWA did not provide any evidence to
respond to the remand order on water
availability. Is this a death-knell for
SNWA’s proposal?

Ratepayers in S. Nevada may be great-
ly relieved that they will not have to
pay the construction costs -- estimated
at $15.7 billion for the pipeline project.
How much has pursuing this proposal
cost ratepayers in S. Nevada so far?

While there has been no public ac-
counting of the total amount that SNWA
has spent on its pipeline project, it is
known that SNWA has spent hundreds
of millions of dollars on attorneys, ex-
pert witnesses, and fees for at least four
water protest hearings on applications
in the four E. Nevada basins: spring,
Cave, Dry Lake, and Delamar Valleys --
in addition to subsequent legal appeals.
SNWA also financed an over 2000-page
Environmental Impact Statement by the
Bureau of Land Management for only
as purchasing a score of ranches in Spring
Valley and some annual operational
s ubsidies.

There have also not been any estimates
of the costs of required future mitigation
for environmental damages to water-
derpendent resources and to owners
of water rights which are reduced or
eliminated by SNWA pumps. Annual
mitigation costs may also have been in
the millions of dollars.

“With the denial of these applications
by the State Engineer, this ill-conceived
multi-billion dollar boondoggle is now
dead in the water,” said Abigail John-
sen of the Great Basin Water Network
(which includes the Sierra Club and
other conservation groups, White Pine
County, Nevada and Utah tribes, hunt-
ers and anglers, small business own-
ers, and the Mormon Church). “After
a string of court victories, we have a
decision showing that the water is not
available for this project without hurt-
ing the area’s existing water rights
and environment.”

While there are sure to be appeals of
the ruling, one thing remains certain:
after nearly three decades, there is
no pipeline and the water authority
has never broken ground on its contro-
versial proposal.

What you can do. For more informa-
tion on this important ruling and the
ongoing fight to stop the water gra,
use this link to the GBWN website:

Another LADWP water grab

BY LYNN BOULTON, CHAIR, RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP

THIS IS ABOUT WATER. In March of this
year, the Los Angeles Department of
Water & Power (LADWP) told ranch-
ers who graze cattle on LADWP land
that they could no longer irrigate their
allotments in Long Valley and in Little
Round Valley in Mono County. They
have backed off this complete cutoff
stance for the time being. Instead, they
have reduced this year’s water allotment
to 0.71 acre-feet (af) per acre (4544
af total) down from 5 af per acre from
last year and all years prior to 2015.

Letter sent to LA Mayor Garcetti. The
Sierra Club Range of Light Group sent
a letter to Mayor Garcetti expressing its
concern for the environment regarding
this issue. The proposed de-watering
could impact the survival rate of bi-state
sage grouse chicks, eliminate precious
wetlands, reduce biodiversity, and
dramatically degrade the land to one
covered with non-native plants. There is
also an aesthetic appeal to the wetlands,
that attracts visitors not only from the
Los Angeles area, but from around the
world. The Little Round Valley meadow
is especially beautiful.

Why irrigation reduction would cause
serious damage. Cutting off irrigation
isn’t going to take us back to the pre-
irrigation landscape of 150 years ago,
because:

• Seed sources of native species that
were dominant before irrigation have
been flooded all that time or washed
away.

• Soils have changed.

• Climate has changed, producing
less snow and more rain, resulting in
meltwater on the East Side being not
only reduced, but more erratic.

• Crowley Lake, created by Long
Valley dam (built in 1941), has com-
pletely changed the landscape, which
was once a large wetland area. Keep-
Marge L. Sill Scholarship
at University of Nevada, Reno

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN (VONSEG1@SBCCGLOBAL.NET)

As the charitable giving season approaches, please consider the Marge Sill scholarship fund at UNR, set up after her death in October 2016. This scholarship supports students with environmental majors and is wonderful way to carry on the legacy of Marge Sill.

How to contribute. For folks who are immediately interested in contributing, gifts may be made to the UNR Foundation by simply calling the Foundation Office (775-
784-1587) and stating you wish to make a gift to a particular scholar-
ship fund.

When making a gift by credit card, please note that a processing fee and a transaction fee equal to the amount charged by the credit card processor will be deducted from your donation. This does not affect the tax deduct-
ability of your total gift, but it does reduce the total funds available in the fund you are supporting. No fees apply when your donation is made by check. Make checks payable to “UNR Foundation” and send to:

UNR Foundation
U. Nevada, MS 0162
Reno, NV 89557

Please include “Marge L. Sill Scholarship” on the memo line of the check. Donations to the scholar-
ship are tax deductible, and donors will receive a letter for IRS tax purposes.

A tree confusion

BY TINA NAPPE

In 1974 on my family’s newly acquired property, my father laid a large
board around a young Jeffrey pine tree to shield it from our vehicles.
That tree is now 30 ft. high; I wish we had run it over. We own 60 acres in the
Sierra. Located on the Little Walker River in Mono County, the property is part
forest and part brush; it’s surrounded on three sides by the U.S. Forest Service.

We have recently placed a conserva-
tion easement on the property to limit
future development when we no longer
own it. The easement prioritizes protec-
tion of a 1000-year-old western juniper
grove, as well as mule deer habitat of
bitterbrush, service berry, and sage
brush. Mule deer habitat is also supports
insects, rodents, birds, and bears.

Why would I, a longtime Sierra Club
member, look askance at this healthy Jeef-
frey? With thousands of trees destroyed
by fire this year, perhaps never to return
in my lifetime, a living tree is precious.
Yet here I am eying what I now know is
an invasion of pines and western
juniper into a shrub ecosystem. Should
I let nature take its course or preserve
the easement priorities through culling
young trees? How much of “nature” is
now or should be human influenced?

Trees can be invaders, chang-
ing sagebrush habitat into
forests and increasing the fire
hazard for the western juniper
grove. As we know, from
studies on the sage grove,
invading pinyon pines and
junipers are reducing sage
grottage habitat by killing sage-
brush and providing perches
for predators.

In mid-August the Eastern
Sierra Land Trust and BLM
hosted a two-day war on
invading pinyon pine near Bridge-
port on what looked like miles
of sagebrush and rabbit brush country
which is important sage grose habitat.
Over the two days, 40 volunteers cut
1000 pinyon pines. Nestled within bit-
terbrush and sagebrush, the young trees
were protected and unseen.

With saw and loppers in hand I am
now cutting young pine and western
juniper trees on my property, but leav-
ning the whitebark pine. The whitebark
is a critical food source for Clark’s nut-
cracker and subject to devastating white
pine blister rust and pine beetles.

A few years from now, will this action
be considered wrong or right? Time
and new research may recommend another
action. In meantime I am grateful that
fire has not torched this forest and both
plants and wildlife thrive.

A tree confusion.

Please see WATER GRAB, page 5.
FORSKED EXAMPLE, DID YOU KNOW...  
• 50% of plastic is only used once and  
then is thrown away  
• plastic bags and films can only be  
recycled in certain plants — they are  
not eligible for Las Vegas’ curbside  
pickup program  
• 92% of Americans over the age of  
6 test positive for BPA — that is,  
bisphenol A, an industrial chemical  
used in polycarbonate plastics and  
epoxy resins in food and beverage  
storage containers that store food  
and beverages, such as water  
bottles  
• Ireland imposed a fee on plastic  
bags in 2002, which decreased  
usage by 90%  
• plastic can take  
up to 20 lifetimes  
to biodegrade in a landfill  
• every piece of plastic ever made  
ever still exists!  

What’s being done  
Thankfully, some prominent re-  
tailers are taking action. Starbucks  
recently announced a ban on straws  
by 2020, and McDonalds in the UK  
have already replaced plastic straws  
with paper ones.  
In 2015 the UK implemented a fee  
on plastic bags, and as a result, the  
number of plastic bags on the seabed  
plummeted. The Prime Minister,  
Theresa May, however, is not content  
with the progress. she is now propos- 
ing to double the fee on plastic bags  
(from 5p to 10p — about 7 cents in U.S.  
dollars) to further discourage usage.  
Here in the U.S., the largest grocer,  
Kroger, just announced that they will  
be eliminating all plastic bags by  
2025. This is obviously good news,  
but it’s not enough.  

What you can do  
• support plastic bag bans,  
polystyrene foam bans, and  
recycling bills  
• bring your own mug to your local  
coffee shop  
• bring reusable  
food containers for  
leftovers when you  
eat out  
• take your reusable  
shopping bags into the store with you  
• replace throw- 
away produce bags  
with reusable alternatives and avoid  
buying plastic wrapped produce  
• say no to straws!  
• encourage your employer to buy  
and use recycling bins  
• volunteer at local clean-ups or  
simply take a bag with you and pick  
up trash whenever you are outside  
Last but not least, spread the word;  
talk to your family and friends. Post  
articles like this on social media. Call  
your Congressional representatives  
and tell them how important this topic  
is to you, your children, and your  
community. Suggest they join you at  
local clean-up.  

LADWP WATER GRAB...  
continued from page 4  
irrigation is the safest path until envi-  
ronmental impacts are determined  
and a restoration plan is developed.  
Our area cannot support LA’s water  
needs. The other part of this discussion  
is that the Eastern Sierra can no longer  
help meet the water needs of Los An-  
geles as it did up to 1989. With climate  
change, less snow, and more rain, water  
on the East Side will be more erratic.  
Taking water from the Eastern Sierra  
has always had a big impact on the envi-  
rnenent when compared, for example,  
to taking water from the Shasta/Oroville  
headwaters, which is better able to meet  
the needs of a growing LA.  

POLITICS: Every challenge we face in the  
Toiyabe Chapter  
• proposed expansion of military opera-  
tions into Desert National Wildlife  
Refuge and Churchill County wildlands  
• oil & gas exploration in the Ruby Moun-  
tains and elsewhere  
• county commission proposals to sprawl  
Washeo and Clark counties  
• water shortages throughout the region  
• a smooth transition to a prosperous  
and just economy based on renewable  
energy  
• access to our favorite protected places  
where we can explore and enjoy  
— all come down to politics.  
The people elected to office at all levels  
create the laws and policies that support a  
living Earth or endanger it. The people  
they appoint to agencies and commissions imple- 
ment and enforce those laws and policies  
at every level.  
Democracy is not a spectator sport. It  
belongs to those who show up: the squeaky  
wheels. We all know that corporations and  
other economic interests are already in  
the White House, halls of Congress, state leg-  
islatures and local planning commissions,  
lobbying against policies that would protect  
the environment or diminish their profits.  
The undue influence of polluters and profi-  
lers will stop only when more people vote  
to elect environmental champions.  
Luckily, most of you do. In the 2016  
general election, 95% of Sierra Club mem-  
ers voted, compared with only 61.4% of  
all Americans. Thank you for being envi-  
ronmental voters. Improving our environ- 
mental outcomes depends on getting more  
Americans to vote, and for the environment  
when they do.  
And that might be easier than we think.  
In a recent nationwide poll, 54% of Latinos  
indicated global warming is very important  
to them personally, compared with only  
37% of whites. Also, 71% of Asian Ameri-  
cans self-identified as environmentalists,  
exceeding the national average by 30 points.  
And 90% of people surveyed in Nevada  
— regardless of party line — agreed  
national monuments are important places to  
be conserved for future generations.  
This means we have common ground.  
Most people — regardless of party or  
background — want clean air and water,  
food that won’t give us cancer, and beauti- 
ful places where we can hike and teach our  
kids or grandkids to fish.  
We may not be able to oupsend the  
corporate dark-money pouring into the  
elections and elected-leaders’ pockets, but  
those environmental voting statistics above  
tell us people who favor environmental  
protections outnumber those who don’t.  
The more you and I inspire others to vote  
and speak in favor of these protections, the  
more we’ll find solutions to the challenges  
we face.  
With just a few weeks until Election Day,  
we have tremendous opportunities to influ- 
ence outcomes at every level. Studies show  
the most effective way to influence voters  
is person-to-person.  
How do we do that? Read Anne Macquar-  
rie’s story on page 1, which has links to  
our endorsements in Nevada and eastern  
California. Share them with everyone you  
know. Talk to people in line at the store  
about the issue and candidates you care  
about. Gather friends and neighbors for a  
potluck or picnic (who doesn’t love food?)  
to discuss the issues that matter in your area  
and share Sierra Club’s endorsements. Join  
a neighborhood canvass in support your  
environmental champions. Call fellow  
voeters and tell them about our endorsed  
candidates. When in doubt, include snacks,  
music and socializing.  

WHAT YOU CAN DO. Across the Toiyabe  
Chapter, Sierra Clubbers are doing all the  
above. You can help with these efforts  
from wherever you are. Send me an email  
at brian.beffort@sierraclub.org or call me  
direct at 775-848-7783 to learn more.  
We can make the environment relevant at  
every level of politics. And it doesn’t have  
be painful. We might even be able to have  
some fun while we’re at it.  
I plan to go to bed on Election Night  
saying, “Holy cow! We did it!” instead of  
 wishing I had done more. Join me in making  
this happen. And when we’re done, let’s go...
Southern Nevada Group

Group News

Come to the Clubhouse
October 3 • November 7 • January 2 • dark in December

New lending library at the Clubhouse
To establish a small lending library at the Sierra Club Office, Outings Leader Nick Saines and former Programs Chair Gary Beckett recently collected dozens of books, the majority of which were generously donated by KC Dendooven and Jomar Alves.

Most of the titles relate to hiking and outdoor destinations, such as “Hiking Las Vegas.” “The Hiker’s Guide to Nevada” and Winnett’s “Guide to the John Muir Trail.”

Many of the additions/editions are from KC Publications’ “The Story Behind the Scenery” series, from “Red Rock Canyon” and “Lake Mead & Hoover Dam” to “Petra’s Forest” and even “Hawaii Volcanoes.”

Please take a look at what’s on offer the next time you stop by the Sierra Club Office.

Clubhouse location
We are near Springs Preserve and Meadows Mall, with plenty of free parking. The office is also easily accessed via RTC’s 104 and 207 bus routes. The address is 3828 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89107.

Upcoming meetings
ExCom. Open to all members, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee (ExCom) are typically held on the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. We meet 5:30-8p at the Sierra Club Office, as noted above. Please join us on October 3, November 7, or January 2; dark in December.

Among other events scheduled at the new office:
• a New Members Orientation on Monday, November 12 from 6p
• annual Holiday Potluck Mixer on Wednesday, December 5 from 6p (don’t miss out!)

Look for announcements of additional activities via email, on the Chapter website and on our Facebook Page (Sierra Club - Southern Nevada Group).

“Winter & STILL camping” by Eric BlumenSaadt
YEP, winter, no bugs, and very few people. Glorious time of the year to camp. For those of you who have never done any backcountry winter camping or even those who have, back in the mists of your mis-spent youth, I’d like to recommend a book that is the best one I’ve found on the subject: Allen & Mike’s Really Cool Backcountry Ski Book, a thin paperback chock full of information. The illustrations have as much info as the text.

OK, so don’t ski, you snowshoe or posthole. Don’t worry, this book is about 65% on camping, gear, techniques and shelters. If you absorb this book’s wisdom it will be a very big help to enjoying winter camping -- and avoiding problems.

For Club members living in the northern one-third of Nevada and in California’s Sierra, you likely already have the clothing you need since most of you hike, XC ski, or snowshoe in winter. So here are my recommendations for Please see WINTER CAMPING, page 7.

Southern Nevada Group Calendar

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

All Events Include Conservation Education Activities


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

OCTOBER 1 (THURSDAY)


OCTOBER 13 (SATURDAY)

Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Day trip and a few short hikes at this sanctuary for migrant birds, registered on the National Audubon Society’s Important Bird Areas list. Meet up early at SW of town to carpool. Level 2. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sason702@gmail.com, 702-499-2181).

OCTOBER 15 (TUESDAY)

Ardlight Trail to Pine Creek, Red Rock Canyon NCA. A great desert hike from trailhead at Oak Creek Canyon across escarpment N to Pine Creek, passing Juniper Canyon and descending into Pine Creek along beautiful section of trail picking up our cars at Pine Creek trailhead. Why is Juniper Canyon different than Oak Creek and Pine Creek Canyons? Gain/Loss less than 200 ft. 2½ to 3½ mi total. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, geatunec@aol.com).

OCTOBER 27 (SATURDAY)

Pinnacles at Valley of Fire SP. Mostly flat hike with RT distance of about 6½ mi. Rock formations in this valley are amazing due to wind erosion. Carpool from SE of town and drive up through Lake Mead National Park. Stop on way at Roger’s Spring. What kind of amoeba lives in this hot spring? Level 3. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sason702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218).

NOVEMBER 3 (SATURDAY)

Traversing Black Mountain Peak. Hike about 7½ mi, 2000 ft gain, 360 view of Las Vegas and Eldorado Valley. What variety of wildlife does this mountain range support? Level 5. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sason702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218).

NOVEMBER 6 (TUESDAY)

Election Day. The polls are open from 7a to 7p across Nevada. Be sure to vote for environmental champions. And if you are not sure who they are, just click on the 2018 Elections tab of the Toiyabe Chapter website, and follow the link to “Nevada Endorsements.” Let’s Make America Green Again!

NOVEMBER 8 (THURSDAY)

Three Canyons in Red Rock NCA. Hike from Sandstone Quarry to Ash Canyon to Rattle Snake Canyon to Gateway Canyon, finishing in Calico Basin. About 4.5 mi, 500 ft gain. Level moderate. Some simple scrambling. One-way hike, with carpool back to trailhead. Enjoy more secluded hike than usual in Red Rock Canyon, with short meditation. Level 3. Leader: Vern Quever (vrqvrbuf@hotmail.com, 715-587-4341).

NOVEMBER 12 (MONDAY)

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’ll meet from 6p for about 90 minutes at the Sierra Club Office on Meadows Lane. Light refreshments will be served. Info: tajainlay@aol.com.

NOVEMBER 17 (SATURDAY)

Day Trip/Hike to China Ranch. Hike by Amargosa River, which eventually empties in Badwater Basin in Death Valley NP. At end of hike, stop at date farm for date shakes. About 6 mi RT on mostly flat ground. Meeting place at SW end of town for carpool. Where does Amargosa River start and where do waters come from? Level 3. Leader: Sasson Jahan (sason702@gmail.com, 702-499-9218).

NOVEMBER 20 (TUESDAY)

The Muffins, Red Rock Canyon NCA. Composed of Triassic conglomerate, Muffins are found on north end of Blue Diamond Ridge; they are channels cut into exposed sea bed 250 million years ago. Hike to Muffins on gentle switchback trail. From Muffins go E to fabulous overlook of Las Vegas, then back down Skull Canyon Trail. About 1000 ft gain, 4 mi. Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049, geatunec@aol.com).

NOVEMBER 26 (MONDAY)

5 Slots Loop, Valley of Fire. Rated Easy based on distance of 4 mi and a little less than 500 ft gain. Some scrambling off trail. Visit several slots near Fire Wave and spend a little time at Wave. Area has exceptionally colorful striated rocks. State park entrance fee: $8 for locals. Leader: David Morrow (702-703-9486, david.brenda.morrow@gmail.com).

DECEMBER 3 (SATURDAY)

Las Vegas ICo: Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Getting city kids into nature

BY BETTY GALLIFENT (LASVEGASICO702@GMAIL.COM)

Crossing streams by hopping boulder to boulder, scrambling up sandstone ledges, completing long walks... young people on Las Vegas ICo outings accomplish things they never thought they could. Their senses recalibrate in the wilderness. They smell and hear things they didn’t before. Their fresh perspectives are inspiring.

“Looking at the deer when she made eye contact with me; she was talking to me,” said Heather, age 10.

“Today I learned to visit Mother Nature without leaving a trace, such as keep up with your own trash and to leave the plants and rocks at peace,” Victoria, age 19, said.

Las Vegas ICo invites all Sierra Club members and their friends to help us continue our work of getting urban youth into the outdoors by attending our...

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
Saturday, October 13, 2018
4:30 – 8:30 pm
Sierra Club Office, 3828 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas, NV

This festive event features a Live Auction, Live Music, Wine, and complimentary Light Barbeque. Please come by to mingle and hear inspirational stories from our outings. And then think about how you would like to support this worthy cause. Your $100 contribution will fund transportation and food for a day’s outing for 5 youth; $250 will cover the costs for a group of 12. We depend on you to provide 80% of our operating budget.

What is the urgent need to get our youth outdoors? Studies show that today’s young people spend 50 hours per week on social media and only one hour in unstructured play time. Las Vegas ICo can help to change that. Not only does time outdoors improve their physical health, but they also learn about desert habitats, climate zones in the mountains, and water conservation practices at Lake Mead.

How to support us. Our all-volunteer staff has already conducted 25 outings this year, thanks in great part to Sierra Club members like you who have supported our efforts these past seven years. You can ensure that we continue our work through 2019. Here’s how:

Write a check payable to the Sierra Club Foundation with “Las Vegas ICo” written in the memo line. Send to Las Vegas ICo, Sierra Club Office, 3828 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89107.

Donate Online:
• https://www.mightycause.com/story/lasvegasico
• https://facebook.com/LasVegasICO
• https://www.sierraclub.org/toyabe/las-vegas-ico

PIONEER SOLAR PAVILION...
continued from page 5

beautiful and inspirational. Lee Vin-
ing, located at the gateway to Yosemite and the heart of the Eastern Sierra is celebrating its pioneer heritage and making a statement about clean energy. Hopefully, our international visitors from around the world will be inspired by what our small town did with cooperation, volunteerism, hundreds of small donations, and leadership from 350 MONO Climate Action, the Mono Basin Historical Society, the Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono County.

The Pavilion has a stunning roof made of solar panels, designed pro bono by Nathan Taylor of High Sierra Architecture and installed as a donation by TJ Chase and Jim Harper of Sierra Solar, the oldest solar company on the Eastside, founded in 1990. The solar roof provides shade and generates clean energy, powering electric outlets for phone charging at the Pavilion, and the needs of the Schoolhouse Museum and the adjoining public restroom. The Pavilion has WiFi and has been wired for a future electric car charger at the curb.

The walls of the Pavilion are a work of art made of colorful tiles painted by the children and artists of the Mono Basin and June Lake, honoring all the donors that financed the construction.

The story of the Pioneer Solar Pavilion will be continued in the next issue!
**Range of Light Outings**

**THURSDAY OUTINGS.** ROLG evening outings for the 2018 season will resume in May, 2018 when weather allows and days are longer.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY OUTINGS.** These day trips also end as of October 1. They will resume in January, 2018 with X-C ski and snowshoe trips. Watch for information on our website, ROLG Facebook Page, and ROLG Outings Meetup pages.

**UNSCHEDULED HIKING TRIPS.** These are NOT sponsored by the Sierra Club Range of Light Group, but may be possible as weather allows from October through December, 2018. If interested, contact Joanne and Dick Hihn for details (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

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**Range of Light Reflections**

**Range of Light Group**

**Group News**

**BY LYNN BOULTON, RANGE OF LIGHT GROUP CHAIR**

**Volunteers needed!**

Dear Members of the ROLG,

We have several volunteer opportunities and need some people to step forward!

**EXCOM MEMBER.** We need one more member to join us on the Range of Light Executive Committee (aka “ExCom”) starting this January, in order to continue as a Group. It is a two-year commitment.

The ExCom meets every other month for 2-2.5 hours to attend to internal business and to make decisions about taking a stance on issues that come up.

There will be emails on issues and draft letters to review in between meetings. The only requirements are to be a current Sierra Club member and to have a good heart for the environment.

**GREAT PROJECTS.** If any of these interest you, please let us know:

- Tangle Free Waters to clean up fishing line
- Ready for 100% Renewable Energy to fight climate change
- Blue Diamonds to revive historic, ungroomed, cross-country ski routes
- Bohler Canyon Recovery to document the post-fire renewal
- Highway Cleanup to keep a section of Highway 395 clean
- We also respond to environmental threats, lead hikes, and organize speakers to broaden our understanding of the environment.

**OUTINGS CHAIR.** We also need an Outings Chair by January, 2019. The Outings Chair coordinates hikes, hike leaders, and hike-leader meetings as needed.

He/she also ensures each hike leader has taken the Sierra Club online training course and a CPR course within the last 2 years. If we don’t have an Outings Chair to coordinate the hikes, there will be no ROLG hikes next year.

**PROGRAM CHAIR.** This volunteer arranges member meetings. Member meetings can take the form of a speaker or slideshow, a picnic or a potluck, a discussion among members regarding issues or on how the ROLG works or could be improved. If we don’t have a Program Chair, there will only be four member meetings next year.

Please consider joining the ExCom or becoming more active in our projects. Many hands make lighter work!

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Lynn at chairrolg@gmail.com by November 1 or sooner.

Thank you!

**Ready for 100: Mammoth!**

We presented the Mammoth Lakes Town Council with a list of about eight items that the town of Mammoth Lakes can do to reduce the town and the community’s carbon footprint.

We are starting work on that list, which includes incentives for energy efficiency upgrades for businesses and homeowners, planning electric vehicle charging stations (non-Tesla), and a 2MW solar array.

For more information, go to the Range of Light Group’s website and click on the RF100 tab: https://www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe/range-light/ready-for-100. Please join us. This is a chance to do something to fight climate change.

The Ready for 100-Mammoth team meets the first Tuesday of every month at 10:30am at the Mammoth Library. We invite your input and we have a list of tasks to choose from. We also have a petition asking the Town Council to commit to 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and 100% clean energy by 2050. We could have over 400 signatures if every ROLG member signs it: https://www.addup.org/campaigns/mammoth-is-ready-for-renewable-energy

**Conglomerate Mesa Update**

Silver Standard withdrew their request for a permit to do exploratory drilling. We’d like to think it was because we presented the Mammoth Lakes town and the community’s carbon footprint. We also responded to environmental threats, lead hikes, and organize speakers to broaden our understanding of the environment.

**Outings Meetup pages.**

**This year’s hike into the Snow Ponds area near June Lake was unique because there was WATER in the ponds! After the hike, leader Jean Dillingham treated us to a yummy tostada dinner.**