Thoughts on the paper Trails

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN
(vonseg1@sbcglobal.net)

What is the role of the paper Toiyabe Trails in our membership communications? A random sample of Toiyabe Chapter members last fall indicated that members generally still wish to receive Toiyabe Trails in their mailbox. We will be supplying that for the foreseeable future. But we wish to encourage our members who are more digitally oriented to request an “opt-out” on the paper Trails.

We are making it as easy as possible for readers to opt out of a paper copy of the Toiyabe Trails. In the digital age, one should have this option. Luckily, it’s an option we can easily provide. Those who opt out using the email address supplied below will receive an email notice of when the quarterly newsletter goes up on the Toiyabe Chapter website, along with a link to easily download it.

Keep in mind that the online Trails goes up on the website a week or two before you receive your paper.

WATER GRAB UPDATE

Another Nevada Supreme Court victory

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

The Nevada Supreme Court issued two short orders on May 21, 2015, denying Southern Nevada Water Authority’s (SNWA) and the State Engineer’s petitions for Writs of mandamus. (That is, an order from a court to an inferior government official ordering the government official to properly fulfill their official duties or correct an abuse of discretion.)

Victory for sustainable groundwater in Great Basin. This ruling constitutes a major victory for opponents of SNWA’s Pipeline Project, led by White Pine County along with Great Basin Water Network and local Native American tribes. By the same token, this ruling is a defeat for SNWA and the State Engineer’s efforts to circumvent sound science.

The Supreme Court’s orders follow its February order dismissing SNWA’s and the SE’s original appeals. Now SNWA and the State Engineer are in the position of having to comply with Judge Estes’s order and the requirement to demonstrate that SNWA’s proposed groundwater mining and export operation will be sustainable and will not cause impermissible impacts on the environment and existing water rights holders, such as ranchers, farmers, and local business people.

SNWA can’t meet standards. “These are standards that SNWA and the State Engineer themselves have repeatedly conceded — on the record — they cannot meet because the science does not support such conclusions,” said GBWN’s attorney, Simeon Herskovits of Advocates for Community and Environment.

“The Nevada Supreme Court’s rejection of SNWA’s and the State Engineer’s appeals, combined with Judge Estes’s ruling in district court, represents a victory for the people and environment of the Great Basin in Nevada and Utah, including ranchers and farmers, who are threatened with elimination by SNWA’s ill-considered, massive water grab,” said GBWN president Abby Johnson.

“This is one more nail in the coffin for SNWA’s pipeline and one more indication that protecting Snake Valley groundwater is the right thing to do and will succeed in the end,” said Steve Erickson of GBWN in Salt Lake City.

“We hope SNWA and the State Engineer will reconsider their prior efforts to ramrod this unsustainable and ultimately devastating groundwater mining project on ratepayers and taxpayers,” said Howard Watts III, communications specialist for GBWN.

Not the end of the case? This ruling does not necessarily represent the end of the case. SNWA and the State Engineer may well decide together to rush a remand proceeding and try again with more bogus science. But they should be held accountable for making repeated representations to both the Nevada District Court and Supreme Court that they cannot satisfy the standards Judge Estes held they must satisfy.

NOTE: The May and February Nevada Supreme Court rulings are posted on <www.greatbasinwaternetwork.org>.

Youths better off because of “Conversation on Conservation”

BY CHRISTIAN GERLACH

On February 18th, in Las Vegas, the office of Senator Harry Reid, the office of Congresswoman Dina Titus, and the Deputy Director of the Department of the Interior, Mr. Michael Connor, held a public meeting dubbed “Conversation on Conservation.” The event was an opportunity for me to engage some students of Valley High School that I had worked with in the past on various service projects. I had been in talks with these students about making their conservation club more environmentally oriented. The students were excited to be able to participate in such an event and I was glad to present to them the work I do as a Sierra Club volunteer and professional scientist.

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.

IN THIS ISSUE

Bookshelf: Ecology/Audubon .. 2
Summer Desert Trips .......... 3
E. Sierra Arts Festival .......... 3
Range of Light Group .......... 4-5
ROL Group Spring Photo Gallery .. 5
Marge Sill Accepts Award ...... 6
Setbacks for Clean Energy ...... 6
Basin & Range Next Nat’l Mon? .. 6
Bad Bill Passes, Worse One Fails .. 7
Wilderness Opportunities for Inyo .. 7
Great Basin Group .......... 8-9
Great Basin Group Outings ...... 8
Kids Appreciate GKO Grant ..... 8
GB Peak Section News .......... 8
Exploring Public Lands on GB Peaks .. 8
S. Nevada Group ........ 10-11
S. Nevada Group Outings .... 10
ICO Youth go rock scrambling .. 10
Toiyabe Chapter ExCom Meetings .. 12

Looking back at the pass from Parker Lake, above Mono Lake (Inyo NF; Ansel Adams Wilderness) — as seen on a Range of Light Group outing in mid-May, 2015. Photo: Joanne Hihn.

TOIYABE TRAILS
JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2015

EXPLORE, ENJOY, & PROTECT THE PLANET.

SNWA Water Grab Update

From the Chair

Thoughts on the paper Trails

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN
(vonseg1@sbcglobal.net)

What is the role of the paper Toiyabe Trails in our membership communications? A random sample of Toiyabe Chapter members last fall indicated that members generally still wish to receive Toiyabe Trails in their mailbox. We will be supplying that for the foreseeable future. But we wish to encourage our members who are more digitally oriented to request an “opt-out” on the paper Trails.

We are making it as easy as possible for readers to opt out of a paper copy of the Toiyabe Trails. In the digital age, one should have this option. Luckily, it’s an option we can easily provide. Those who opt out using the email address supplied below will receive an email notice of when the quarterly newsletter goes up on the Toiyabe Chapter website, along with a link to easily download it.

Keep in mind that the online Trails goes up on the website a week or two before you receive your paper.

Please see FROM THE CHAIR, page 2.

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.

Youths better off because of “Conversation on Conservation”

BY CHRISTIAN GERLACH

On February 18th, in Las Vegas, the office of Senator Harry Reid, the office of Congresswoman Dina Titus, and the Deputy Director of the Department of the Interior, Mr. Michael Connor, held a public meeting dubbed “Conversation on Conservation.” The event was an opportunity for me to engage some students of Valley High School that I had worked with in the past on various service projects. I had been in talks with these students about making their conservation club more environmentally oriented. The students were excited to be able to participate in such an event and I was glad to present to them the work I do as a Sierra Club volunteer and professional scientist.

Water Grab Update

Another Nevada Supreme Court victory

BY ROSE STRICKLAND

The Nevada Supreme Court issued two short orders on May 21, 2015, denying Southern Nevada Water Authority’s (SNWA) and the State Engineer’s petitions for Writs of mandamus. (That is, an order from a court to an inferior government official ordering the government official to properly fulfill their official duties or correct an abuse of discretion.)

Victory for sustainable groundwater in Great Basin. This ruling constitutes a major victory for opponents of SNWA’s Pipeline Project, led by White Pine County along with Great Basin Water Network and local Native American tribes. By the same token, this ruling is a defeat for SNWA and the State Engineer’s efforts to circumvent sound science.

The Supreme Court’s orders follow its February order dismissing SNWA’s and the SE’s original appeals. Now SNWA and the State Engineer are in the position of having to comply with Judge Estes’s order and the requirement to demonstrate that SNWA’s proposed groundwater mining and export operation will be sustainable and will not cause impermissible impacts on the environment and existing water rights holders, such as ranchers, farmers, and local business people.

SNWA can’t meet standards. “These are standards that SNWA and the State Engineer themselves have repeatedly conceded — on the record — they cannot meet because the science does not support such conclusions,” said GBWN’s attorney, Simeon Herskovits of Advocates for Community and Environment.

“The Nevada Supreme Court’s rejection of SNWA’s and the State Engineer’s appeals, combined with Judge Estes’s ruling in district court, represents a victory for the people and environment of the Great Basin in Nevada and Utah, including ranchers and farmers, who are threatened with elimination by SNWA’s ill-considered, massive water grab,” said GBWN president Abby Johnson.

“This is one more nail in the coffin for SNWA’s pipeline and one more indication that protecting Snake Valley groundwater is the right thing to do and will succeed in the end,” said Steve Erickson of GBWN in Salt Lake City.

“We hope SNWA and the State Engineer will reconsider their prior efforts to ramrod this unsustainable and ultimately devastating groundwater mining project on ratepayers and taxpayers,” said Howard Watts III, communications specialist for GBWN.

Not the end of the case? This ruling does not necessarily represent the end of the case. SNWA and the State Engineer may well decide together to rush a remand proceeding and try again with more bogus science. But they should be held accountable for making repeated representations to both the Nevada District Court and Supreme Court that they cannot satisfy the standards Judge Estes held they must satisfy.

NOTE: The May and February Nevada Supreme Court rulings are posted on <www.greatbasinwaternetwork.org>.

Looking back at the pass from Parker Lake, above Mono Lake (Inyo NF; Ansel Adams Wilderness) — as seen on a Range of Light Group outing in mid-May, 2015. Photo: Joanne Hihn.
I noticed an announcement at unR of a lecture by this author in April of this year and attended among a small audience. The extensive grasp of ecological restoration activity around the world by the author was immediately apparent. No short endeavor, the author spent 10 years in the development of this book, visiting every continent but Antarctica. His follow-up has occupied at least 2 years of traveling.

Though not a restoration ecologist by trade, Woolworth has become the voice of that community to the public. Woolworth sought out leading restoration ecologists to capture their work in a blended presentation on eight major projects around the world. He also penetrated the inner conflicts of the restoration community to present at least three prominent approaches to modern restoration activities:

1. Recovery of classical or historical ecosystems
2. Accepting and factoring in the human interface
3. Creating novel ecosystems which work but don’t match prior systems

Woodworth spends significant time with ardent supporters of all three strands.

Throughout the book, Woodworth asks the deep questions and poses the vexing problems. He points out that restoration science is still in its infancy and that quantification is still illusory and that there needs to be a “...pragmatic recognition that ecological restoration projects are bound to be messy.”

Given the speed at which humankind is changing our world, Woolworth cautions that restoration may need to abandon historical targets entirely. In spite of the difficulties, the author concludes, along with many in the restoration community, that “The issue is not whether we can afford to invest in restoration, but whether we can any longer afford not to invest in it.”

Our Once and Future Planet is a challenging read, but certainly rewarding to those who have only a minimal concept of ecological restoration.

— reviewed by David von Seggern

The highlight of a trip to the southern California beach town of Encinitas was spotting a great egret, described by the Roger Tory Peterson bird guide as “a tall, stately, slender heron with a large yellow bill.”

One word suffices: gorgeous.

The bird was standing still so I had an excellent view while it was looking out toward the Pacific. I crept to within 30 yards. The egret saw me and moved forward slightly. Then, slowly, it lifted off, flapping its great white wings and turning south along the beach. A beautiful sight burned in my memory.

Unfortunately, the great egret is not pictured in the Audubon Reader. John James Audubon painted 435 birds for his gigantic and grand “The Birds of America.” The reader could not illustrate all. But the editor should have included at least 40.

Several illustrations here, however, are masterpieces. The best of his paintings is the ivory-billed woodpecker, now extinct. Audubon’s description: “The great chieftain of the woodpecker tribe is seen in almost inaccessible recesses on dangerous ground, its oozing, spongy mosses surrounded by flags and water lilies.”

Pictured are three ivory hills, the male flashing a crimson crest. One of the birds is pointing its huge bill at a beetle exposed by stripping off the bark of a dead tree. Flying chips of bark heighten the drama. Audubon did not show stilted pictures. He showed birds in action.

The Reader has other faults: far too many letters by Audubon and his family and friends, letters too long and the body type too small.

Audubon was born in France but won fame in America as a bird illustrator and naturalist. His “Birds of America” has engraved, hand-colored plates produced in leather-bound volumes with accompanying bird “biographies.” His work was particularly glorious because he worked in the first half of the 19th century, a time when field glasses were primitive.

Audubon himself had one great fault: he shot far more birds than necessary for dissection and study and for filling museums in England and America. But for that he must be forgiven. His pictures of birds in a natural setting are priceless, not just to ornithologists, but to worldwide art lovers.

— by Jake Highton, Emeritus Professor of Journalism, University of Nevada, Reno (jake@unr.edu)
their teacher Tillie for some time about some projects to engage her kids with, so when the word of this hearing came out, I thought it the perfect opportunity to involve these youths. I came up with the idea of presenting Tillie and her students with a civic engagement project, to show them the processes of government in action. It was also a perfect opportunity for the students of Valley High School to voice their love of their local public lands.

The kids were eager to get on the bus to the courthouse and lined up almost immediately after the bell. A few of the students even went as far as to dress up in their Sunday best for the field trip. Once on the bus I gave the kids some idea of what to expect and to rally their spirits I led them in their school cheer, “Valley! Viking!” A few of the students even expressed their excitement for Darren in their behalf of the places where they hike and camp with family and friends.

Once we arrived at the meeting, I could see the student’s interest peak with slides showing the impressive monolithic artwork “City” by artist Michael Hizer, the ancient petroglyphs dating back thousands of years in the Gold Butte and Basin and Range areas, and the breathtaking landscapes of our majestic public lands. Not a one of them was on their phone. I was filled with a sense of pride for these amazing students, but what happened as soon as the floor opened up to the public for comment surprised me most. The voices that were so fervent to show them the processes of government in action. It was also a perfect opportunity for the students of Valley High School to voice their love of their local public lands.

The kids were eager to get on the bus to the courthouse and lined up almost immediately after the bell. A few of the students even went as far as to dress up in their Sunday best for the field trip. Once on the bus I gave the kids some idea of what to expect and to rally their spirits I led them in their school cheer, “Valley! Viking!” A few of the students even expressed their excitement for Darren in their behalf of the places where they hike and camp with family and friends.

Once we arrived at the meeting, I could see the student’s interest peak with slides showing the impressive monolithic artwork “City” by artist Michael Hizer, the ancient petroglyphs dating back thousands of years in the Gold Butte and Basin and Range areas, and the breathtaking landscapes of our majestic public lands. Not a one of them was on their phone. I was filled with a sense of pride for these amazing students, but what happened as soon as the floor opened up to the public for comment surprised me most. The voices that were so fervent to show them the processes of government in action. It was also a perfect opportunity for the students of Valley High School to voice their love of their local public lands.

The kids were eager to get on the bus to the courthouse and lined up almost immediately after the bell. A few of the students even went as far as to dress up in their Sunday best for the field trip. Once on the bus I gave the kids some idea of what to expect and to rally their spirits I led them in their school cheer, “Valley! Viking!” A few of the students even expressed their excitement for Darren in their behalf of the places where they hike and camp with family and friends.

Once we arrived at the meeting, I could see the student’s interest peak with slides showing the impressive monolithic artwork “City” by artist Michael Hizer, the ancient petroglyphs dating back thousands of years in the Gold Butte and Basin and Range areas, and the breathtaking landscapes of our majestic public lands. Not a one of them was on their phone. I was filled with a sense of pride for these amazing students, but what happened as soon as the floor opened up to the public for comment surprised me most. The voices that were so fervent to show them the processes of government in action. It was also a perfect opportunity for the students of Valley High School to voice their love of their local public lands.

The kids were eager to get on the bus to the courthouse and lined up almost immediately after the bell. A few of the students even went as far as to dress up in their Sunday best for the field trip. Once on the bus I gave the kids some idea of what to expect and to rally their spirits I led them in their school cheer, “Valley! Viking!” A few of the students even expressed their excitement for Darren in their behalf of the places where they hike and camp with family and friends.

Once we arrived at the meeting, I could see the student’s interest peak with slides showing the impressive monolithic artwork “City” by artist Michael Hizer, the ancient petroglyphs dating back thousands of years in the Gold Butte and Basin and Range areas, and the breathtaking landscapes of our majestic public lands. Not a one of them was on their phone. I was filled with a sense of pride for these amazing students, but what happened as soon as the floor opened up to the public for comment surprised me most. The voices that were so fervent to show them the processes of government in action. It was also a perfect opportunity for the students of Valley High School to voice their love of their local public lands.

The kids were eager to get on the bus to the courthouse and lined up almost immediately after the bell. A few of the students even went as far as to dress up in their Sunday best for the field trip. Once on the bus I gave the kids some idea of what to expect and to rally their spirits I led them in their school cheer, “Valley! Viking!” A few of the students even expressed their excitement for Darren in their behalf of the places where they hike and camp with family and friends.

Once we arrived at the meeting, I could see the student’s interest peak with slides showing the impressive monolithic artwork “City” by artist Michael Hizer, the ancient petroglyphs dating back thousands of years in the Gold Butte and Basin and Range areas, and the breathtaking landscapes of our majestic public lands. Not a one of them was on their phone. I was filled with a sense of pride for these amazing students, but what happened as soon as the floor opened up to the public for comment surprised me most. The voices that were so fervent to show them the processes of government in action. It was also a perfect opportunity for the students of Valley High School to voice their love of their local public lands.

The kids were eager to get on the bus to the courthouse and lined up almost immediately after the bell. A few of the students even went as far as to dress up in their Sunday best for the field trip. Once on the bus I gave the kids some idea of what to expect and to rally their spirits I led them in their school cheer, “Valley! Viking!” A few of the students even expressed their excitement for Darren in their behalf of the places where they hike and camp with family and friends.

Once we arrived at the meeting, I could see the student’s interest peak with slides showing the impressive monolithic artwork “City” by artist Michael Hizer, the ancient petroglyphs dating back thousands of years in the Gold Butte and Basin and Range areas, and the breathtaking landscapes of our majestic public lands. Not a one of them was on their phone. I was filled with a sense of pride for these amazing students, but what happened as soon as the floor opened up to the public for comment surprised me most. The voices that were so fervent to show them the processes of government in action. It was also a perfect opportunity for the students of Valley High School to voice their love of their local public lands.

The kids were eager to get on the bus to the courthouse and lined up almost immediately after the bell. A few of the students even went as far as to dress up in their Sunday best for the field trip. Once on the bus I gave the kids some idea of what to expect and to rally their spirits I led them in their school cheer, “Valley! Viking!” A few of the students even expressed their excitement for Darren in their behalf of the places where they hike and camp with family and friends.

Once we arrived at the meeting, I could see the student’s interest peak with slides showing the impressive monolithic artwork “City” by artist Michael Hizer, the ancient petroglyphs dating back thousands of years in the Gold Butte and Basin and Range areas, and the breathtaking landscapes of our majestic public lands. Not a one of them was on their phone. I was filled with a sense of pride for these amazing students, but what happened as soon as the floor opened up to the public for comment surprised me most. The voices that were so fervent to show them the processes of government in action. It was also a perfect opportunity for the students of Valley High School to voice their love of their local public lands.
Greetings! One of my first duties as new chair of the Range of Light Group (ROLG) was to attend the Toiyabe Chapter ExCom meeting, held in Winnemucca, NV, on Saturday, April 11. It was a pleasure to meet our Nevada neighbors. I doubt you will find a group of people more devoted to the environment! (See photo on next page.)

This summer, ROLG will host the Chapter meeting here in Mammoth Lakes on Saturday, July 18. On Sunday, there will be an opportunity to attend one of our scheduled outings, which will be led by Mike Shore, ROLG ExCom member. Mike will lead a half-day hike to Skelton Lake and an abandoned mining site and stamp mill. For more information on this outing, contact Mike (805-217-5563).

The ROLG ExCom quarterly meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 28 at 6p at my home. All members are welcome to attend. For details, please contact me.

Our summer outings program is underway. Some leader injuries have caused changes in our schedule, and the weather has not always cooperated (though the moisture we’ve had is desperately needed!). Some recent outings have included trips to such places as Mono Lake, led by Jean Dillingham, and Parker Lake, led by Maurícia Anerson.

Our summer schedule, which starts on this page, shows quite a variety of outings for July, August, and September. Please take a look at these, and join us if you can. Our longer hikes are on Saturdays, with shorter, local ones on Thursdays. There will also be a few longer backpack trips.

In addition to Toiyabe Trails, the ROLG also has a webpage at <www.sierracclub.org/toiyabe/range-light>.
Range of Light OUTINGS

continued from page 4

FROM THE ROLG CHAIR . . .

uded fine leadership of this project.
Our recent monthly ROLG meetings and potlucks have had a number of excellent guest speakers. In April, David Lee spoke on the topic of “Rock Art of the Eastern Sierra: Local Examples of a Global Expression.” Patrick Hayes, General Manager of the Mammoth Community Water District, gave a presentation titled “Measuring Water.” Our June presentation was given by Fran Jung, former Sierra Organizer of the Sierra Club, on the topic of “Inyo National Forest Draft EIS and Draft Forest Plan.” See “You’re Invited” on this page for our future guest presentations. Many thanks to Gary Shores for organizing these events.

Finally, a big thank you to Malcolm Clark for assuming the position of Conservation Chair for the ROLG! Look for his report on this page.

Range of Light SPRING PHOTO GALLERY

Photos by Joanne Hihn

TOYABE TRAILS
JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2015
5

Station (along Tioga Rd.) Contacts: Janet &
David (760-647-8431, jcarle@jnet.com).

JULY 9 (THURSDAY)
MC CEE CREEK HIKE. Easy to moderate hike along creek with aspen, possibly as far as beaver dam. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Meet 4:30p, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Rosemary (760-217-3473, marymaryjarret@gmail.com).

JULY 28 (SUNDAY)
WHITE MOUNTAIN PEAK (14,252 ft). Hike third highest peak in California. Park at Barcroft Station (12,470 ft) after 16 mi drive on dirt road. Hike 10 mi to Mt. summit. Gain 2710 ft. Strenuous. Weather permitting. Meet 6a, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Dick (760-709-5050, rhijn@skidmore.edu).

JULY 10 (THURSDAY)
TWIN LAKES DITCH. Follow ditch built by early day miners to power Mammoth Mine’s stamp mill. Along way visit ruins of Hans George Ski Lodge. Meet 4:30p, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Mike (805-217-5563, marymikeskore@gmail.com).

JULY 20-23 (MONDAY-THURSDAY)
MT. WILLIAMSON BACKPACK. Multi-day X-C backpack to explore Wrights Lake Basin, strenuous, 12 mi longest day, maximum gain/loss 5000 ft/day with possible hike up Mt. Williamson (14,375 ft) via Shepherd Pass. Continue from page 4.

JULY 23 (THURSDAY)
EAST FORK ROCK CREEK. Hike along creek from lodge to Easy Creek; wildflowers will abound. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Meet 4:30p, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Rosemary (760-387-2782, rosemaryjarrett@gmail.com). Advance signup required. Contact: Rob (760-937-0446, roberthraun99@gmail.com).

JULY 25 (SATURDAY)
BLUE DIAMOND WORK DAY. Have FUN installing blue diamond signs on X-C ski routes in Earthquake Dome area. Bring lunch, dress in your grungiest clothes and enjoy giving back to this fabulous place we call home. Meet 10a, 9 Lupin, Minaret Lakes, weather permitting. Contact: Mary K (760-934-0335, npgcable.com) or Mike (805-217-5563, marymikeskore@gmail.com).

JULY 26 (SUNDAY)
TUOLUMNE RIVER. Start at W end of Tuolumne Meadows. Beautiful, fairly easy hike down river toward Glen Aulin. About 5-6 mi RT, Possibly some X-C and river crossings. Meet 8a, Mammoth Union Bank. No dogs. Contact: Mary K (760-934-0335, npgcable.com) or Mike (805-217-5563, marymikeskore@gmail.com).

AUGUST 1 (SATURDAY)
BLUE DIAMOND WORK DAY. Have FUN installing blue diamond signs on X-C ski routes in Earthquake Dome area. Bring lunch, dress in your grungiest clothes and enjoy giving back to this fabulous place we call home. Meet 10a, 9 Lupin, Minaret Lakes, weather permitting. Contact: Mary K (760-934-0335, npgcable.com) or Mike (805-217-5563, marymikeskore@gmail.com).

AUGUST 2 (SUNDAY)
TUOLUMNE RIVER. Start at W end of Tuolumne Meadows. Beautiful, fairly easy hike down river toward Glen Aulin. About 5-6 mi RT, Possibly some X-C and river crossings. Meet 8a, Mammoth Union Bank. No dogs. Contact: Mary K (760-934-0335, npgcable.com) or Mike (805-217-5563, marymikeskore@gmail.com).

AUGUST 3 (SUNDAY)
GIBBS LAKE. Hike to beautiful lake under shadow of Mt. Gibbs, from E side. About 6 mi RT, steep ascent up moraine for 1 mi, then easier terrain following creek to lake. Meet 8a, Mammoth Union Bank, well-behaved dogs OK. Contact: Mary K (760-934-0356, npgcable.com).

AUGUST 4 (MONDAY)
BLUE DIAMOND ROUTE & EARTH-QUAKE FAULT. Follow one of “Blue Diamond Routes,” established in 1980s and explore Earthquake Fault (is it fault or fissure?) with local student of geology. Meet 4:30p, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Mike (805-217-5563, marymikeskore@gmail.com).

AUGUST 5 (TUESDAY)
AROUND WOOSTER WALK. Enjoy tongue-in-cheek, fun walk near Mammoth Lakes. Contact: John (760-934-1767, safari1143@gmail.com).

AUGUST 6 (THURSDAY)
SLOW PONDS. In our fourth year of drought, Snow Ponds are now beautiful Snow Meadows. About 3 mi RT, easy to moderate, with short but steep sections at season’s beginning and end. Meet 4:30p, Mammoth Union Bank or 5p. June Mtn parking lot. Contact: Jean (760-648-7109, dillinghamjean@gmail.com).

AUGUST 7 (FRIDAY)
BLAFF MEADOWS. Contact: Sally (760-218-0083, sges4d@gmail.com). Enjoy exploring dry meadow area dominated by flowers.

AUGUST 8 (SATURDAY)
LAKE/MAUL LAKE/LEE VINING CREEK. Moderate hike, 7 mi RT. Meet 8a, Mammoth Union Bank, dogs OK. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungenbeman@mac.com).

AUGUST 15 (SATURDAY)
BANNER (13,157 FT) & MT. LANGLEY BACKPACK. Backpack into Cottonwood Lakes with day hike to summit of Mt. Langley (14,042 ft) via New Army Pass. Strenuous, 14 mi longest day, gain/loss 3000 ft/day. Bring your fishing pole. Advance signup required. Contact: Rob (760-937-0446, roberthraun99@gmail.com).

AUGUST 20 (TUESDAY)
SILL (14,153 FT). Mt. Sill has best view of any summit in Sierra. Strenuous, 12 mi longest day, max gain/loss 3000 ft/day. You should be comfortable with X-C travel with full pack. Possible attempt on Mt. Davis (12,303 ft). Advance signup required. Contact: Rob (760-937-0446, roberthraun99@gmail.com).

SEPTEMBER 3 (THURSDAY)
CRYSTAL CREEK. Trail overlooks Lakes Basin and passes through beautiful forested area. About 3 mi RT, well-behaved dogs OK. Meet 4:30p, Mammoth Union Bank, Contact: Sally (760-218-0083, sges4d@gmail.com).

SEPTEMBER 6 (SUNDAY)
BENNETTVILLE/FANTAILE LAKE/SPULLER LAKE/GREEN TREBLE LAKE/MAUL LAKE/LEE VINING CREEK. Moderate hike, 7 mi RT. Meet 8a, Mammoth Union Bank, dogs OK. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungenbeman@mac.com).

SEPTEMBER 10 (THURSDAY)
SKY MEADOWS. Classic hike past Emerald Lake to meadow dominated by breathtaking cliffs. About 4 mi RT, 900 ft gain, well-behaved dogs OK. Meet 4:30p, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Sally (760-218-0083, sges4d@gmail.com).

SEPTEMBER 13 (SUNDAY)
CASADILBO MT. (7912 ft). Trail and X-C hike, moderate, 5 mi RT. Well-behaved dogs OK (bring extra water). Meet 9a, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungenbeman@mac.com).

SEPTEMBER 14-17 (MONDAY-THURSDAY)
CLIMB MT. SILL (14,153 FT). Mt. Sill has best view of any summit in Sierra. Strenuous 11 mi on longest day, max gain/loss 4000 ft.

Please see ROL CALENDAR, page 12.
Our invaluable public lands

BY MARGE SILL

The Toiyabe Chapter is so fortunate to have millions of acres of wonderful public lands within its boundaries in Nevada and Eastern California. These are managed by four different agencies: Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, and National Park Service. However, these lands are owned by all United States citizens, are open for all visitors, and are also important for our great variety of wildlife and native fish.

However, because of ignorance, some would sell or give away these lands and put up “no trespassing” signs, not realizing how keeping them public is so necessary. In these days of climate change and extreme drought, public lands are more important than ever. They need to be managed in such a way that water becomes a primary factor in any development. Wildlife must be able to move to higher and cooler places. All streams and springs must be mapped and preserved.

What you can do. As an involved citizen, how can you help keep our public lands? Here are a few ways:

• if you are able, get out and visit them and take others, particularly young people, with you
• make sure that when you leave the highway, you drive only on designated roads
• pick up the trash that some have left behind
• volunteer with the many groups who are working on restoration of our lands
• talk to your friends about how important public lands are to people, animals, and plants
• let the decision makers know how much you care about our lands
• take pictures, write letters, and be a strong advocate for our beautiful, precious public lands!

2015 Nevada Legislative Session

Setbacks for clean energy

BY ANNE MACQUAIRE, CHAIR, TOIYABE CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

EFFORTS TO BEEP UP ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN NEVADA were stymied when SB407, which would have established an energy savings goal for NV Energy’s demand-side management programs, failed to reach the Senate floor for a vote.

Tom Polikalis, Nevada Representative for the Southern Nevada Energy Efficiency Project says, “It was tremendously disappointing that this legislature did not pursue the opportunity to create jobs, otherwise improve Nevada’s economy, save water, and reduce pollution. Hopefully, the vital benefits of energy efficiency will be better understood by policymakers in the future.”

Two bills endangering Nevada’s progress as a leader in renewable energy passed late in the session. Neither of these bills got a fair public hearing, leaving clean energy advocates frustrated at a lack of opportunity to meaningfully engage with our elected officials on clean energy.

A low cap on the number of kilowatts provided by net metered (NEM) customers was established in original NEM legislation; in this session, clean energy advocates sought a higher cap that would allow rooftop solar to continue to flourish in Nevada. SB374 kicked the ball regarding NEM to the Nevada Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

We fear new fees for NEM customers will emerge from the PUC ratemaking process, but in a small victory the bill was amended to clarify language regarding the cap, making it possible for customers to continue to install rooftop solar while the new rates are being set. AB498 was sneaked in by Republican Speaker of the Assembly John Hambrick; it unanimously passed in the last minutes of the session. Barb Boyle, Beyond Coal campaign manager for Nevada, says the bill “breaks the 2013 legislature’s historic deal on getting off coal power and moving to clean energy.”

The 2013 Legislature passed SB 123 to close Nevada coal plants and replace them with cleaner energy: the bill specified that at least 350 MW of the replacement energy be renewable. Hambrick’s bill requires the replacement renewable energy to be subjected to a “need” test by the PUC, which could delay or even halt projects.

Boyle says, “This bill breaks a deal the Governor and the legislature made with NV Energy and Nevadans to move off coal and replace it with clean, renewable power. If it’s needed, this idea should have been introduced and vetted in the normal process during the session, not raised in a sneaky, back-door maneuver.”

Marge Sill honored with Virginia Cain Progressive Leadership Award

BY JEAN STOESS

OUR VERY OWN MARGE SILL has received yet one more award for her untiring defense of Nevada’s wild spaces, clean air and water, and wildlife.

At the 2015 Jefferson-Jackson brunch of the Democratic Party of Washoe County on May 31st, Marge was presented with the Virginia Cain Progressive Leadership Award. This prestigious award is presented annually to individuals or organizations with exemplary dedication to progressive causes.

Marge spoke for a few minutes, thanking the many people present who had also worked for progressive and conservation causes, and warning all that we must continue the good fight so that our children and grandchildren will be able to breathe fresh air and drink clean water and continue to enjoy Nevada’s priceless public lands.

She ended by quoting Sierra Club founder John Muir, asking us to “Climb the mountains, and get their good tidings.”

Marge has been a member of the Sierra Club for over 50 years, and has served as our Toiyabe Chapter’s Conservation Chair and on numerous committees. She currently serves as Chair of the Wilderness and National Parks Committee.

She is fondly known by many as “The Mother of Nevada Wilderness” for her tireless efforts over the years to set aside and protect valued wilderness in Nevada. She helped write the Wilderness Act and was instrumental in its passage in 1964. Marge also was the driving force behind the formation of Great Basin National Park. She is certainly very deserving of this award.

Congratulations Marge, and thank you for all you do!

“Basin & Range,” possibly our next National Monument

BY CHRISTIAN FRANCISCO GERLACH, ORGANIZING REPRESENTATIVE, SIERRA CLUB, OUR WILD AMERICA CAMPAIGN

Coal and Garden Valleys make up “Basin & Range.” These broad valleys are surrounded by mountain ranges and exemplify the Basin and Range formations that make up the breathtaking expanses of a large portion of the Interior West.

If Basin & Range is designated, it would be Nevada’s largest Monument and among the largest monuments in the lower 48 states. It covers some 1,100 square miles – more than 700,000 acres.

The valleys are ecologically important to wildlife and the White River watershed, serving as a wildlife corridor for various protected species and endangered species such as bald eagle, burrowing owl, and red-tailed hawk. The hydrological basins that lie beneath these two broad valleys feed water down the White River watershed, flowing through both the Key Pittman Wildlife Management area and Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge. The basins ultimately drain out into the Overton Arm of Lake.

Coal and Garden Valleys are chock full of not only natural treasures, but also cultural and historical resources that are simply unparalleled. The greater area surrounding the two valleys is on the National Register of Historic Places for its magnificent examples of Native American rock art– such as in the White River Narrows Archeological District.

There have even been Clovis points that date back 9000 years found in the washes between Coal and Garden Valleys

Please see BASIN & RANGE, page 7.
Public land grab bills

A bad bill passes, a worse one fails, in NV legislature

BY ANNE MACQUARIE, CHAIR, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, TOYABE CHAPTER ECOMX

The Sierra Club went into the 78th session of the Nevada legislature with three priorities: to defend public lands from proposed state takeover; to work for an energy efficiency bill; and to play defense against bills counter to our mission to protect the resources and environment of Nevada.

The upshot: some bad bills passed: some good bills didn’t even make it to the floor; an awful bill was defeated.

The session saw two bills introduced to grab our public lands. SJR 1, sponsored by rural Nevada Senator Pete Goicoechea, “urges Congress to enact legislation transferring title to certain public lands to the State of Nevada in accordance with the report prepared by the Nevada Land Management Task Force.” According to the Task Force Report, this would eventually include millions of acres of our public lands. SJR 1 passed both houses on a party-line vote.

AB408, a radical bill dubbed the “Bundy Bill” after the scofflaw southern Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, used an obscure clause of the U.S. Constitution to direct Nevada to undertake the control of, and to lease to private businesses all public lands in the state, including parks and wilderness areas. It was trounced in the Assembly, with only eight “yes” votes: many of our legislators apparently decided they didn’t want to associate themselves with the lawbreaking rancher.

Sierra Club members worked hard against both these bills, joining a coalition of hunting and fishing groups, wilderness advocates and progressive groups in organizing rallies, attending committee hearings and contacting legislators.

Leaders of the Toiyabe Chapter remain concerned about public land-grab efforts. In its April meeting, the Chapter’s Executive Committee prepared a resolution for passage by the Club’s California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee (CNRCC) supporting measures to prevent transfer of public lands to the states or to private interests. Excom members Laurel Ames and Anne Macquarrie presented the resolution to CNRCC, where it passed unanimously. Look for more on this issue in upcoming editions of Trails.

Forest planning update

Wilderness opportunities for Inyo National Forest!

BY FRAN HUNT, EASTERN SIERRA ORGANIZER, SIERRA CLUB

( Fran.Hunt@sierraclub.org)

With key decision points and the anticipated release of key environmental documents and the Draft Inyo National Forest Plan, 2015 is turning out to be a critical year for the future of the unique and iconic wildlands of the Inyo National Forest in CA and NV.

Most recently, we’ve seen an exciting opportunity for additional wilderness protections on the Inyo as the Forest Service released the results of its wilderness evaluation process. The Sierra Club is pleased that the Inyo National Forest has recognized the wilderness character of six special roadless areas on the forest and will urge the agency to follow through by recommending each of them for designation by Congress:

- 3 potential new wilderness areas, one each in the Glass Mountains, Deep Springs South (Soldier Canyon), and Deep Springs North (Birch Creek) areas;
- 1 potential addition, at the southernmost end of the Inyo forest, to the eastern side of the existing South Sierra Wilderness;
- 2 potential additions (Blanco and Dead Horse Meadow) to the existing White Mountain Wilderness.

During forest planning, the Forest Service is required by law to identify and evaluate wild and roadless lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and determine whether to recommend any such lands for wilderness designation.

Only Congress holds the authority to create new wilderness. But if the agency recommends new wilderness designations, it will be required to include safeguards in the Inyo’s new forest plan to ensure the protection of all recommended areas is not reduced before congressional designations can be enacted.

You can find maps and other information about the six potential wilderness areas the Forest Service has identified by clicking the drop down tab labeled “Evaluations” near the bottom of the agency’s web page at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/inyo/landmanagement/planning/?cid=STELPRD3803608>.

While the agency’s recognition of these 6 areas (totaling some 72,000 acres) is welcome news, the Sierra Club and our allies, including The Wilderness Society, are concerned that the Forest Service has overlooked other important areas and failed to involve the public in a meaningful way as it evaluated the wilderness potential of the nearly 792,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas on the Inyo forest. In addition, while the Inyo National Forest is preparing its Draft Forest Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for release sometime this fall, it currently intends to only consider these six areas alone for possible wilderness recommendations. This is troubling indeed, as these six areas constitute less than 10% of the Inyo’s considerable wilderness potential.

The Sierra Club will continue to press the Forest Service to abide by the terms and spirit of both the Wilderness Act and the National Environmental Policy Act as it proceeds with forest planning and wilderness evaluation on the Inyo.

Our goal will be to have the Forest Serv-
Great Basin Group

Message from the Chair

THE GREAT BASIN GROUP offers excellent monthly meetings at the Bartley Ranch Center on the 2nd Thursday. The meetings are always planned to meet the interests of our nature loving northern Nevada friends.

In March, Rleigh Martin, GB Group treasurer, offered a lively presentation on the John Muir Trail. Rleigh leads 3-4 hikes each week! He will lead his eighth JMT hike in July 2015.

An April Gear Swap was held and raised funds to support the Group’s Get Kids Outdoors grants. Grants were awarded this spring to the Truckee Meadows Park Foundation and a local charter school to support outdoor activities for low income youth.

In May, acclaimed author and professor, Dr. Laird Blackwell, offered a presentation on wildflowers. He has led wildflower field classes in the Sierra for over 30 years and has written, with his own photos, eight wildflower field guides. The guides include ones for Tahoe, the Eastern Sierra, the Great Basin, Mount Rainier, and the state of California. Membership reports continue to show a steady increase in Great Basin Group membership.

In April, three of the GBG ExCom members participated in trainings in the San Francisco area, and will now be able to hold local trainings for outings leaders. Outings continue to grow in the GBG area.

A most special thank you goes to Caron Taylor, who has served as Program Chair during the past year. Due to her commitment and energy, program content improved and attendance grew. We wish her much good fortune in her new job.

Annual Members’ Picnic!

Sunday, August 23

Join the Great Basin Group for our Annual Members’ Picnic at the Galena Creek group picnic area. For details see the GB Calendar, which begins on this page.

Great Basin Peak Section News

It’s time to work on peak lists!

As spring approaches, more peaks are snow-free, which increases opportunities to work on peak lists. Outings continue to grow in the Great Basin Group.

Some of the children had never visited Lake Tahoe before, and hiking in the forest, learning about the environment, and doing stewardship projects were new experiences for many of them. Thank you from students. Students truly appreciated the opportunity and

Great Basin Group

Calendar

Great Basin Group Calendar

All phone numbers are 775 unless otherwise noted.

JULY 2 (THURSDAY) 5:30P

JULY 3-6 (FRIDAY-MONDAY) TBD
Ruby Crest Trail Backpack. The trail traverses Ruby Mountains from Lamoille Canyon to Hurricane Pass. Past experience has shown us that this remarkable area is very similar to the Sierra, without crowds. For experienced backpackers only. About 34-37 mi long, around 10-12 mi/day. Plan on leaving later in day on 2nd, stay at motel in Elko area that eve; possibly set up car shuttle then or in morning. We encourage car-pooling to save gas, share cost. On 6th, hike out and drive back to Reno area. This outing will NOT be on our MeetUp site, all participants will need to speak with leaders for approval. Contact us by June 26th if you would like to go on this adventure. Trip limit 10. D.L. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488; ladyhiker1@att.net). Co-Leader: Jim Call (775-420-6636; freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Mod. Strainers.

JULY 7 (TUESDAY) 5:30P
Tuesday Evening Hike. Geared to beginner and moderate hikers. Each week’s trail will be easy, not much gain. Time in 1-2 hour range, distance will be 2-4 mi. Check our MeetUp site for details every week:<http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/; DOK. Leader: David von Seggern (775-303-8461; voneg@sheglocal.net). Easy.

JULY 8 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P
Wednesday Conditioning Hike. Join us on after-work hikes in Truckee Meadows area.

Outings are all about 4-5 mi RT, 600-1400 ft gain. Bring plenty of water, clothing for weather; good trial shoes recommended. Well-mannered dogs OK; some locations require leash. Info: MeetUp site. D.L. Leader: Ryder Walker. Co-Leader: Jeannie Kettler Mod. Easy.

JULY 9 (THURSDAY) 8A

JULY 12 (SUNDAY) TBA
Snowy Mountain (9214 ft). This peak is on Great Basin Peaks Section list (#17), is situated on east side of Lake Tahoe north of Spooner Summit. From top we'll have beautiful views of Lake Tahoe, Martel Lake as well as many peaks in all directions. The hike is on all trail but because of distance (~11 mi), gain (~2700 ft) it will be moderately strenuous. Come, learn more about Great Basin Peaks Section, how

Great Basin Peak Section News

By Sharon Marie Wilcox

As spring approaches, more peaks are snow-free, which increases opportunities to work on peak lists. In the Great Basin this season? The following members have provided their peak numbers to show their current progress:

Robert Stolting 9
Niki Houghton 13
Mitch & Janice Brown-Silveira 21
Laura Newman 22
Kathy Rich 23
Marge Sill 24
Daniel Baxter 24

James Barlow 29
Bob Michael 35
Larry Grant 68
Bob Morrill 35
James Morehouse 36
Al Sandorff 36
Tobi Tyler 46
Howard Steidtmann 49
Charlie Winger 66
Mary Brooks 66
Daryn Dodge 67
Ken Jones 75
Sharon Marie Wilcox 81
Larry Dwyer 92
John Ide 114

Looks like a new list's on the horizon!

Bailiey 6th graders had fun at Tahoe with Great Basin Outdoor School in May. GBG “Get Kids Outdoors” donations helped fund their trip.

Kids appreciate GKO grant!

By Sue Jacox, Suejacoxx@nvbell.net

Some of the children had never visited Lake Tahoe before, and hiking in the forest, learning about the environment, and doing stewardship projects were new experiences for many of them. Thank you from students. Students truly appreciated the opportunity and

GB Group Website: <http://toiyabe.sierraclub.org/gbgroup/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GBG>

MeetUp: <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/>
Great Basin Group Calendar

continued from page 8

**JULY 16 (TUESDAY) 5:30P**
Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike. Get in shape after work with evening conditioning hike of 4-6 mi at brisk pace. Gain up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. More info: MeetUp site. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker. Mod. Easy.

**JULY 21 (TUESDAY) 5:30P**
Tuesday Evening Hike. Geared to intermediate and moderate hikers. Each week’s trail will be easy.

---

**Exploring public lands on Great Basin Peaks**

**JULY 6**
**THE GREAT BASIN PROVIDES year-round hiking possibilities. Many peaks are snow-free most of the year so hiking opportunities never end.**

In March, Larry Dwyer led a group up Pah-Rum Peak (7608 ft), as a joint Sierra Club-Friends of Nevada Wilderness outing. Pah-Rum is located in the Fox Range Wilderness Study Area and is the range highpoint.

Our route headed up Rattlesnake Canyon for a pleasant, steep hike to the summit for about 2800 ft gain and 6 miles round trip. For those interested in peak lists, Pah-Rum is also a Nevada prominence peak.

Great Basin Peaks promise spectacular summit views. During lunch, we viewed Pyramid Lake to the south, the Smoke Creek Desert, San Emidio Desert, plus many notable surrounding peaks still visible on this cloudy day.

Larry also led a hike to Rawe Peak (8343 ft) at the north end of the Pine Nut Range. The Old Comor Road out of Dayton leads to the hike’s starting point. The rough, rocky road passes the old mill ruins and town site of Comor, adding a possible exploration of the historical 1860s mining town.

---

**R owe Peak hikers. Photo: Sharon Marie Wilcox.**

This hike has some minor rock scrambling and brushy areas. These vary in distance depending on your starting point. Our parking spot gave us about 1500 ft gain and 6 miles round trip. Our bonus was a nice black bear track in the mud.

Thanks, Larry, for planning these two events. Happy adventures to all who hike around the Truckee Meadows. More info: MeetUp site. DL. Leader: Holly Coughlin. Co-Leader: James Call. Mod. Strenuous.

---

**JULY 23 (THURSDAY) 5:30P**
**Stevens Peak Day Hike.** Join us on after-work hikes in Truckee Meadows area. Outings are about 4-5 mi RT, 600-1400 ft gain. Bring plenty of water, clothing for weather; good trail shoes recommended. Well-behaved dogs OK; some locations require leash. For more information go to our MeetUp site: <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/>.

**JULY 29 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30P**
**Wednesday Conditioning Hike.** Join us on after-work hikes in Truckee Meadows area. Outings are about 4-5 mi RT, 600-1400 ft gain. Bring plenty of water, clothing for weather; good trail shoes recommended. Well-behaved dogs OK; some locations require leash. For more information go to our MeetUp site: <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/>.

**JULY 25**
**.TOP Round Top Lake Wildflower Day Hike.**

---

**GB PEAK SECTION NEWS . . . continued from page 8**

peaks.

Our Toiyabe Chapter webinar, Dennis G. GBPS! For details on white format done. Check it out on the links below. Thanks Dennis! We now have a page on Facebook. Please add pictures or reports from your trips to share with other hikers.

Join the GBPS! Lists 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>.

---

**Strenuous.**

**JULY 23 (THURSDAY) 8A**
**Elephant’s Back Day Hike.** Visit Frog, Winnemucca, Round Top Lakes. Scale Elephant’s Back, enjoy sweeping views of high Sierra. Possibly return by Woods Lake, including hiking in apparent wagon train route. Wild flowers should be in full display. Learn about history of area. 9.5 mi, 1700 ft gain for day. ND. Leader: T A Taro (775-530-2353). Strenuous.

---

**JULY 27 (TUESDAY) 5:30P**
**Moderate Evening Conditioning Hike.** Get in shape after work with evening conditioning hike of 4-6 mi at brisk pace. Gain up to 1000 ft. Discover trails, learn about nature, geology in, around Truckee Meadows. More info: MeetUp site. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker. Mod. Easy.

**JULY 29**
**JULY 28 (TUESDAY) 5:30P**
**Tuesday Evening Hike.** Geared to beginner and moderate hikers. Each week’s trail will be easy, not much gain. Time in 1-2 hour range, distance 2-4 mi. Check our MeetUp site for details each week at: <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/>. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin. Co-Leader: Jamie Call. Mod. Strenuous.

**JULY 30 (THURSDAY) 5:30P**
**Moderate Moonlight 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, around Truckee Meadows. More info: MeetUp site. DL. Leader: Ridge Walker. Co-Leader: Jamie Call. Mod. Strenuous.

---

**AUGUST 2 (SUNDAY) 8:30A**

**AUGUST 4 (TUESDAY) 5:30P**
**Tuesday Evening Hike.** Geared to beginner and moderate hikers. Each week’s trail will be easy, not much gain. Time in 1-2 hour range, distance 2-4 mi. Check our MeetUp site for details each week at: <http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Hiking-Reno/events/calendar/>. DOK. Lead.
The Mojave Monitor

Southern Nevada Group

Group News

Monthly ExCom Meetings

July 16 & September 16, 2015 (dark in August)

Open to all members, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee (ExCom) remain on Wednesdays in the 3rd quarter. We will be meeting from 6pm to 8:30pm at the Sierra Club Office, located just off West Sahara near Palace Station at Building C, Suite 109, 2330 Paseo del Prado, Las Vegas, NV 89102. There is plenty of free parking in the surrounding lot. Anyone who would like to participate on the leadership team is invited to attend. The dates are July 16 and September 16. Dark in August.

General Program Meetings

General Program Meetings have been suspended for the 3rd quarter. For details, contact the Group Chair, Taj Ainlay (contact details just above).

Celebrating 50 years in S. Nevada

BY TAJ AINLAY, GROUP CHAIR

That’s right; the Sierra Club has been active in Southern Nevada for five decades. We are very proud of our accomplishments over the past half century, and to commemorate this historic milestone, our Group is planning a gala event for the middle of October.

As we all know, Southern Nevada has changed greatly since the 1960s. Our intention is to honor members and friends who have been instrumental in 50 years of efforts to explore, enjoy and protect our remarkable local environs.

Join the Celebration Committee! We invite you to be part of the process. We need volunteers to join our Celebration Committee and assist in organizing and promoting the event. To join in the fun of putting this together, please contact SNG Chair Taj Ainlay (tajainlay@aol.com or 702-906-5741). We need help in a variety of areas, so any time you can contribute will be most appreciated.

SOUTHERN NEVADA GROUP

OFFICERS

Chair
Taj Ainlay* 702-906-5741 tajainlay@aol.com
Vice-Chair
Jane Feldman* feldman.jane@gmail.com
Secretary
Jane Feldman* feldman.jane@gmail.com
Treasurer
Deanne Santepo 702-875-2668
At Large
Open
At Large
Open
At Large
Open
Coal Power Plants
Open
Conservation
Open
Endangered Species
Open
Global Warming
Jane Feldman* feldman.jane@gmail.com
Inland Cities Outings
Open
Open
Open
Open
Membership
Taj Ainlay* 702-906-5741 tajainlay@aol.com
Outings
Pam Rasmussen 702-215-9119 parasmusson@gmail.com
Outings
Open
Parks, Refuge
Open
Political
Tina Crawford 702-526-8445 tinacrawford@hotmail.com
Programs
Taj Ainlay* 702-906-5741 tajainlay@aol.com
Publicity
Open
Transportation
Open
Treasurer
Taj Ainlay* 702-906-5741 tajainlay@aol.com
Webmaster
Brian Fada* 702-263-2644 brianfada@gmail.com
* ExCom member

The Sierra Club has been active in Southern Nevada for five decades. Our intention is to honor members and friends who have been instrumental in 50 years of efforts to explore, enjoy and protect our remarkable local environs. So any time you can contribute will be most appreciated.

Please see SN CALENDAR, page 11.

ICO youth tackle rock scrambling

BY JEANETTE BUCKLEW

“We have never left!” was the expression of one young hiker as eleven 6th grade West Prep Academy students, two teacher sponsors, and four ICO leaders hiked to Gateway Canyon in Red Rock Canyon. The route included a 500 foot elevation gain up Five Stop Hill. Playing on a multitude of beautiful rock formations was the highlight of this March 14, 2015 Las Vegas ICO outing, with not one hiker being in a hurry to move on.

Class 3 rock scrambling was a new adventure to most of the students, some of whom eagerly took on the challenge while others were more cautious, needing support and encouragement.

All outing participants successfully mastered the journey through Gateway Canyon, negotiating several dry waterfalls and squeezing through rock crevices. The students learned that the beauty of the tear drop and rainbow rocks was created by millions of years of iron being leached out of the red rocks by groundwater moving through the rocks. In places the movement of the ground-water and the leaching is controlled by the porosity and permeability of the rock, hence the tears and stripes.

The beauty and challenges of nature resulted in several youth encountering and sharing personal issues and challenges. One boy proudly shared that he made up considerable homework in order to be allowed to participate in the outing. Another boy struggled with memories of his deceased father who used to take him hiking, and a young woman talked about missing her mother who is living in Mexico. The opportunity for youth to safely experience and explore feelings in a natural setting with caring adults volunteering their time is a valuable benefit of ICO outings.

Unfortunately, the outing did not conclude before one student stumbled and fell on a buckhorn cholla cactus, leaving a spine stuck in a couple of his fingers. He bravely withheld the

Please see ICO Rock Scrambling, page 11.

Southern Nevada Group Calendar

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

(Please use email when leaders state that they prefer email, especially if you have a long distance telephone number.)

All events include conservation education activities.

July 5 (SUNDAY)

July 6 (MONDAY)
Upper Bristlecone Trail, Spring Mtns NRA (aka Mt. Charleston). About 5 to 7 mi, 800 ft gain, strenuous. Take this scenic trail from ski area at Lee Canyon to junction with old road, take switchbacks up to top of ridge, then loop back, reaching an elevation of 10,000 ft. How old are bristlecone pines? Why did President Roosevelt stop construction of road? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (702-896-4049). Level 4.

July 11 (SATURDAY)

July 18-19 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY)

July 26 (SUNDAY)

July 27-28 (MONDAY-TUESDAY)

August 2-7 (SUNDAY-FRIDAY)
Glacier National Park Service Week. Join us for a week of Service as we participate in Crown of Continent Research Learning Center Citizen Science project at majestically beautiful Glacier National Park on Montana/Canada border. As ViPs (Volunteers In Park) we’ll be park guests, tenting at a campground. We’ll make daily hikes into somewhat-less-visited east areas of park to conduct scientific surveys of mountain goats, bighorn sheep, and pikas. Full training on Monday morning, then hit trails remainder of week with all surveillers using binoculars and GPS units provided for use. Hiking and doing Service in Glacier National Park – it doesn’t get much better than this! Contact Par Rasmussen (702-215-9119, parasmusson@gmail.com). Level 2-4 (you decide).
August 10 (Monday)
New Visitor Center & Cathedral Rock
(Spring Mtns NRA, aka Mt. Charleston).
About 3 mi RT, 1000 ft gain, moderate.
New Visitor Center is open and Cathedral Rock Trail re-opened this summer. Let's check out new VC andCold Wall before then hiking up Cathedral Rock. Great views of Kyle Canyon from top. Also see damage from Carpenter I Fire from Swissport Rd towards Cathedral Rock. Why does valley have a U-shaped? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (896-4049). Level 3.
August 16 (Sunday)
Bonanza Falls from Cold Creek, Spring Mtns NRA (aka Mt. Charleston). About 5 mi, 1500 ft gain. Will take most of day -- be plenty of water and lunch. Has forest has recovered from a fire that occurred in 1940s? Dogs OK. Bill Marr (702-433-0743). Level 4.
August 24 (Monday)
August 30 (Sunday)
September 7 (Monday, Labor Day)
October 3, 2015 (Saturday)

ICO Rock Scrambling OUTING . . .

continued from page 10

S. Nevada Group Calendar
continued from page 9

Great Basin Group Calendar
continued from page 10

New Visitor Center & Cathedral Rock
(Spring Mtns NRA, aka Mt. Charleston).
About 3 mi RT, 1000 ft gain, moderate.
New Visitor Center is open and Cathedral Rock Trail re-opened this summer. Let's check out new VC andCold Wall before then hiking up Cathedral Rock. Great views of Kyle Canyon from top. Also see damage from Carpenter I Fire from Swissport Rd towards Cathedral Rock. Why does valley have a U-shaped? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (896-4049). Level 3.
August 16 (Sunday)
Bonanza Falls from Cold Creek, Spring Mtns NRA (aka Mt. Charleston). About 5 mi, 1500 ft gain. Will take most of day -- be plenty of water and lunch. Has forest has recovered from a fire that occurred in 1940s? Dogs OK. Bill Marr (702-433-0743). Level 4.
August 24 (Monday)
August 30 (Sunday)
September 7 (Monday, Labor Day)
October 3, 2015 (Saturday)

ICO Rock Scrambling OUTING . . .

continued from page 10

paper-wrapped extraction of the spine from his hand with no further complications. Tired, proud and experiencing this challenging outdoor adventure with classmates were common themes among the students at the completion of the outing. For more info about Las Vegas ICO. Please contact: Betty Gal-lifent at egalli ent@cox.net. Also, check us out on Facebook at: Las Vegas ICO.

Great Basin Group Calendar
continued from page 9

Great Basin Group Calendar
continued from page 10

New Visitor Center & Cathedral Rock
(Spring Mtns NRA, aka Mt. Charleston).
About 3 mi RT, 1000 ft gain, moderate.
New Visitor Center is open and Cathedral Rock Trail re-opened this summer. Let's check out new VC andCold Wall before then hiking up Cathedral Rock. Great views of Kyle Canyon from top. Also see damage from Carpenter I Fire from Swissport Rd towards Cathedral Rock. Why does valley have a U-shaped? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (896-4049). Level 3.
August 16 (Sunday)
Bonanza Falls from Cold Creek, Spring Mtns NRA (aka Mt. Charleston). About 5 mi, 1500 ft gain. Will take most of day -- be plenty of water and lunch. Has forest has recovered from a fire that occurred in 1940s? Dogs OK. Bill Marr (702-433-0743). Level 4.
August 24 (Monday)
August 30 (Sunday)
September 7 (Monday, Labor Day)
October 3, 2015 (Saturday)

ICO Rock Scrambling OUTING . . .

continued from page 10

paper-wrapped extraction of the spine from his hand with no further complications. Tired, proud and experiencing this challenging outdoor adventure with classmates were common themes among the students at the completion of the outing. For more info about Las Vegas ICO. Please contact: Betty Gal-lifent at egalli ent@cox.net. Also, check us out on Facebook at: Las Vegas ICO.

Great Basin Group Calendar
continued from page 9

Great Basin Group Calendar
continued from page 10

New Visitor Center & Cathedral Rock
(Spring Mtns NRA, aka Mt. Charleston).
About 3 mi RT, 1000 ft gain, moderate.
New Visitor Center is open and Cathedral Rock Trail re-opened this summer. Let's check out new VC andCold Wall before then hiking up Cathedral Rock. Great views of Kyle Canyon from top. Also see damage from Carpenter I Fire from Swissport Rd towards Cathedral Rock. Why does valley have a U-shaped? Leader: geologist Nick Saines (896-4049). Level 3.
August 16 (Sunday)
Bonanza Falls from Cold Creek, Spring Mtns NRA (aka Mt. Charleston). About 5 mi, 1500 ft gain. Will take most of day -- be plenty of water and lunch. Has forest has recovered from a fire that occurred in 1940s? Dogs OK. Bill Marr (702-433-0743). Level 4.
August 24 (Monday)
August 30 (Sunday)
September 7 (Monday, Labor Day)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>5:30p</td>
<td>Tuesday Evening Hike. Geared to</td>
<td>Beginner and moderate hikers. Each week’s trail will be easy, not much</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>beginner and moderate hikers.</td>
<td>gain. Time in 1-2 hour range, distance will be 2-4 mi. Check our MeetUp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DOK: Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call. Moderate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Great Basin Group Calendar**

**continued from page 11**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>5:30p</td>
<td>Tuesday Evening Hike. Geared to</td>
<td>Beginner and moderate hikers. Each week’s trail will be easy, not much</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>beginner and moderate hikers.</td>
<td>gain. Time in 1-2 hour range, distance will be 2-4 mi. Check our MeetUp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DOK: Leader: Holly Coughlin Co-Leader: Jim Call. Moderate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Range of Light Group Calendar**

**continued from page 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>