Nevada races to bottom on renewable energy

BY DAVID VON SEGGERN
(vonseg@sierraclub.org)

Nevada ranks fourth in solar energy potential among U.S. states (EIA, http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=23972&src=email), but has dropped out of the Top 10 list of states with installed, distributed (rooftop) solar in 2015. States such as Connecticut and New Jersey, not known for a sunny climate, rank ahead of us. Nevada is first in geothermal energy potential but has only tapped a small fraction of that potential while oil and gas exploration gets new attention in our state through lease sales on public lands, even though those prospects are bleak. Nevada should be heading the nation as a showcase of renewable energy development. What’s wrong? We can point to at least two important reasons. First, a weak legislative program of support for renewable energy has left the state adrift on the transition to clean energy. Second, the state’s largest purveyor of electricity, NV Energy, is still calling the shots with their influence at the state legislature and their use of media.

Waiting for water salvation! Truckee Meadows water plan falls short!

BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

I’m writing this on the last day of November 2015. By the time you read it in 2016 the often forecasted deluge of rain and snow for the southwestern U.S. due to a strong "El Niño" may have already dumped a ton of precipitation in Nevada and eastern California.

While I waited for the “El Niño” snow and rain to begin in earnest, I submitted comments for the Sierra Club on the Truckee Meadows Water Authority’s (TMWA) “Draft 2016-2035 Truckee Meadows Water Resource Plan (Plan).” The Plan falls short in at least four ways that I’ll talk about a little later. Right now, it is pretty dry in western Nevada despite some recent snows. The Truckee River is a trickle through Reno and Sparks.

Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club, Celebrates Lake Tahoe

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, Nevada
January 9, 2016, 6 PM

TOIYABE CHAPTER takes the opportunity of the closing of the acclaimed exhibit on Lake Tahoe history and art to celebrate our connection to this national treasure at our front door. If you have not seen the exhibit, this is the last chance; if you have, come enjoy it again, with guided tour optional. Then sit down for dinner and enjoy our program to honor the lake and the NMA exhibit. Visit the NMA’s web page on the exhibit at Tahoe: A Visual History. Purchase tickets at http://toiyabe-celebrates-tahoe.com. This is a limited event, and only 60 tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Your ticket purchase helps Toiyabe Chapter to continue its conservation efforts at Lake Tahoe, in Nevada, and in eastern California.

Reminder for Nevada residents: Register to Vote by May 14, 2016

IF YOU ARE A NEW RESIDENT, a new voter (i.e. will be 18 by November 2016), or have moved to another county in Nevada since the last election, you need to register to vote! There is a 10-day grace period until May 24, 2016, to register in person or at the Secretary of State website. You can use a valid driver license or Nevada ID card. Online registration! Also, eligible voters can now register to vote, update their voter registration information, and/or change their address or party affiliation ONLINE! A DMV issued Driver’s License or ID is required.

For details, please go to the Nevada Secretary of State’s Election Center web site at <http://nvvote.nv.gov/index.aspx?page=71> or call or visit your county’s Registrar of Voters office.

“LET NATURE WIN IN 2016!”
Sierra Club California/Nevada 2015 Awards

— The winners are —

For those of you who do not attend the Sierra Club California Convention/California Nevada Regional Conservation Committee meetings and have not heard the big news, the recipients of the Sierra Club California/Nevada Awards are:

SALLY AND LES REID AWARD recognizes an individual who has served Sierra Club California in the area of conservation.

Arthur (Robin) Boone

MARY FERGUSON AWARD recognizes a paid staff member who has served the Sierra Club in California.

Kathryn Phillips

STAN WEIDERT AWARD [YE OLDE BOTTLE AWARD] recognizes an individual who has served Sierra Club California in public lands activism.

Terry Frewin

BOB HATTOY AWARD recognizes an individual who made a significant contribution to Sierra Club public activities in California.

Alex Mintzer

SPECIAL RECOGNITION for long time activism.

Ralph Salisbury

A big thank you to the other members of the Awards Committee, Patricia Jones and Joan Jones Holtz, for their help in selecting the winners, reviewing all the nominations, and preparing the nicely framed certificates.

— from Sierra Club California/Nevada press release
March Desert Trips

The CNRCC Desert Committee’s purpose is to work for protection, preservation, and conservation of California/Nevada desert.

All Desert Committee activities, unless stated otherwise, are suitable for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. The average car or high clearance vehicle will be adequate for most trips. For a good guide to desert travel we recommend the Sierra Club book, *Adventuring in the California Desert*, by Lynne Foster.

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

Sierra Club California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

ANZA BORREGO STATE PARK

**SPRING WEEKEND**

Visit this amazing California desert state park E of San Diego where temperatures are cooler and wildflowers may be blooming. Our space in developed group campground is reserved from 2pm Wednesday to noon on Sunday. Arrive any time on Wednesday and explore park on your own. Optional half-day off-road adventure with commercial outfitter ($135) on Thursday or Friday. Day hikes may require walking over rocky trails and some areas of rock scrambling off trail. Deposit required by February 1 to confirm reservation. Limit: 18 people. Info: contact leader, Rich Jurichich (rich.sierraclub@pacbell.net, 916-492-2181). Sacramento Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

EXPLORE AFTON CANYON

Afton Canyon Natural Area is 37 mi NE of Barstow, off I-15. In this area the Mojave River runs above ground and the Mojave Road goes through canyon. Afton Canyon is known for outstanding scenery and riparian habitat. Stay at campground and hike into canyon on both days to see interesting sites. Hikes rated moderate. If you want to get there early, camping will be available on Friday night. Leader: Carol Wiley (desert31@yahoo.com, 760-245-8734). Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee

DEATH VALLEY WILDERNESS RESTORATION

Help restore wilderness values in this remote and beautiful desert park.

Join Mojave Group and CA/NV Wilderness Committee for our annual desert wilderness service project with wilderness staff from Needles office of BLM. This year’s destination is still top secret at press time, but Turtle Mountains, Dead Mountains, and Clipper Mts are all potential choices for some fun and useful restoration work, wilderness enhancement, and spring desert enjoyment. Central commissary, contact Vicky Hoover (415-977-5227, vicky.hoover@sierracclub.org).

OpOutside follows John Muir on Basin & Range trip

**BY CHRISTIAN GERLACH, ORGANIZING REP FOR SIERRA CLUB OUR WILD AMERICA CAMPAIGN**

Over Thanksgiving weekend a dedicated crew chose to brave the cold winter of the Nevada high desert instead of the shopping mall. As part of a nationwide movement to Opt Outside on Black Friday, the Our Wild America campaign and Nevada’s Toiyabe Chapter led an outing into the newly designated Basin & Range National Monument.

Using the journals of Sierra Club founder, John Muir, the group followed in the conservationist’s footsteps as they carooled and hiked across the desert. A long gravel road from Hwy 318 led into the monument past several viewing points in Mount Irish Archeological District. Petroglyphs lined the roads along the way, sharing knowledge and stories of animals, plants and the seasons as the group approached sacred sites of the Paiute and Shoshone. Unfortunately, there was evidence of weathering and even careless vandalism on many of the petroglyphs.

Having successfully traversed Logan Pass, which runs by Mt. Irish and into Southern Garden Valley, the group made camp for the night in Murphy’s Gap. Though temperatures dipped below 14 degrees, the campers persevered and headed out along the Worthington Mountains the next day, a range that John Muir explored and enjoyed. They then cut across Garden Valley and were rewarded with a spectacular view of the towering Grant Mountain Range.

Next stop was a hill that gave them a spectacular panoramic view of Garden Valley, the Water Gap in the Golden Gate Range, and artist Michael Heizer’s masterpiece, “City,” a massive earth art installation in the desert. And finally the group proceeded to document areas of the Coal Valley currently being considered for dirty fuel development, in the area surrounding Murphy’s Reservoir which lies within the boundaries of the national monument. They gathered important information on temporary water flows to be shared with the Bureau of Land Management as it assesses the risk of spreading contamination from the proposed fracking wells.

Mixed feelings accompanied the group as they left the national monument—satisfaction at having successfully completed the trip, pride in having helped create the monument being explored, and uncertainty for the future of the pristine views of Basin and Range. One thing was clear though, the group will continue work to ensure future generations can continue to opt outside in the beautiful Nevada desert.
Greetings from Sierra Club’s Range of Light Group! Here are a few updates on our activities in the Eastern Sierra of California.

Outings. The Eastern Sierra has been blessed with early snowfall, allowing Mammoth Mountain to get an early start to the season! It has also allowed many of our Club members to get an early start on skiing and snowshoeing. Our formal outings will begin in January, with trips scheduled for most Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

We would like to welcome Lisa Buckley as a new ROLG outings leader! She will offer a South Lake, Lake Sabrina, Rock Creek, and Owens River Gorge. This winter we will also be featuring outings on our newly completed cross-country ski/snowshoe routes.

Please look for details of our outings beginning on this page, as well as on our Group E-Newsletter, on our website, and also on our online Meetup pages.

Membership. As of October 2015, ROLG has 352 members. Many thanks to Shalle Genevieve, our Membership Chair, for managing our membership list and organizing our Our Range of Light Group E-Newsletter. If you wish to become a member, please contact Shalle at: marshall@earthlink.net.

Publicity. Please Welcome Lynn Boullon as our New Publicity Chair! Many of you may know of Lynn’s successful ongoing work to prevent bobcat trapping in our region. Many thanks to Rosemary Jarrett for her many years of service as Publicity Chair.

Conservation. Please see the Conservation Report from Malcolm Clark, our Conservation Chair, which begins on the next page.

Blue Diamond Cross-Country Ski Route Project. In the last issue of Trails I reported the virtual completion of our Blue Diamond restoration project. GPS work has now been completed, and we have engaged a cartographer to help us create a professional map of our routes: Knolls, Inyo Craters, Knolls-Inyo Craters “connector” route, Earthquake Fault, and Obsidian Dome.

We continue to work with the Forest Service on this project. Thanks to all who have helped with this project, and especially to Mary K. Prentice, Mary and Mike Shore, and Joanne Hihn. We hope to have these maps available to the public in the near future. Please look for an announcement on one of our online pages.

Online. For additional information about the ROLG activities, please visit our online pages.

• ROLG Website: www.sierraclub.org/toiyabe-range-light
• Facebook: Our Facebook page has had 492 likes, up from 447 last quarter (Google “Facebook Range of Light Group”)
• ROL Outings Meetup: Our Meetup page has 141 members, up from 127 as of last quarter.

You’re Invited!
Range of Light Group Monthly Meetings
Everyone welcome!

For all potlucks please bring a dish for 6-8 people and your own non-disposable table setting. For months with potluck and program, you are welcome to skip the potluck and come only for the program.

January 19 (Tuesday)
6:45 pm, Announcements
7 pm, Program
Cerro Coso Community College, Mammoth Lakes

This is the first of a three-part series on “Our Public Lands,” with a focus on the Eastern Sierra. Tonight, in a round table discussion format, we’ll review early development of lands in the Eastern Sierra including The Homestead Act, Mining Districts, and Antiquities Act.

February 16 (Tuesday)
6:45 pm, Announcements
7 pm, Program
Cerro Coso Community College, Mammoth Lakes

This is the second in a three-part series on “Our Public Lands.” Tonight we will focus on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and how it manages our lands.

March 15 (Tuesday)
6:15 pm, Social & Potluck
Crowley Lake Community Ctr (next to Crowley Lake Store)
7 pm, Program

Wildlife biologist, Erin Nolin, will tell us about the Endangered Species Act and the processes the U.S. Fish and Wild Life Service uses in listing species of concern — including those in the Owens Valley and surrounding areas.

Please submit suggestions for program topics and/or speakers to our program chair, Mary Shore (marymikesshore@gmail.com). We always need fresh ideas!

January 9 (Saturday)
Snowshoe in Knolls. Join us in the Knolls on a moderate snowshoe loop hike to several high points overlooking Mammoth and the Eastern Sierra. Excellent views of Laurel Mtn, Bloody Mtn, and Minarets. We will follow Blue Diamond and off-trail routes. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Dick (760-709-5050, rhihn@skidmore.edu).

January 14 (Thursday)
Aspendell Ski Tour. Aspendell to Sabrina and North Lake, mod. strenuous. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Meet 10am, dirt lot, corner of 395 and Pleasant Valley Dam Rd. Contact: Lisa (720-238-2581, lbuckley@gmail.com).

ROLG has 352 members. Many thanks to Rosemary Jarrett for her many years of service as Publicity Chair.

For additional information about the ROLG activities, please visit our online pages.
Range of Light OUTINGS
continued from page 4

JANUARY 21 (THURSDAY)
X-Country Blue Diamond Routes. Join us for an easy 2-3 hour x-country skiing outing on some of our favorite Blue Diamond routes. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Mike/Mary (1-805-217-5563, marymikes@skidmore.edu).

JANUARY 21 (THURSDAY)
ROLG ExCom Meeting. At 6pm, 11thm residence. Please call for details if you wish to attend (760-709-5050, rhinh@skidmore.edu).

JANUARY 24 (SUNDAY)
Ski San Joaquin Ridge. Minaret Summit to San Joaquin Ridge, x-country. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Brigitte (760-924-2140, jungbeman@mac.com).

JANUARY 28 (THURSDAY)
X-Country Ski Blue Diamond Routes. Join us for an easy 2-3 hour x-country skiing outing on some of our favorite Blue Diamond routes. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Abominable weather cancels.

JANUARY 30 (SATURDAY)
Rock Creek Snowshoe. From Sno-Park to Rock Creek Lodge. About 6 mi, 600 ft gain, moderate pace. Along the creek, not the road. Meet 9:30am, Mammoth Union Bank or 10am, junction 395 and Rock Creek Road. Parking fee at Sno-Park, $5. Contact: daymoderate pace. along the creek, not the road.

FEBRUARY 4 (THURSDAY)
Ski Owens River Gorge. Ski above Owens River Gorge. Well behaved dogs welcome. Meet 10am, Sunny Slopes mail boxes, off 395, across from Toms Place. Contact: Lisa (720-238-2581, lgbuckley@gmail.com).

FEBRUARY 7 (SUNDAY)
No Outing.

FEBRUARY 14 (SUNDAY)
Ski Earthquake Fault Area. Possible car shuttle to parking lot “D” or Inyo Craters. About 3.5 mi depending on route. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Contact: Mary K (760-934-0355, mkp@npgeable.com).

FEBRUARY 18 (THURSDAY)
X-Country Ski Blue Diamond Routes. Easy 2-3 hour x-country skiing outing on some of our favorite Blue Diamond routes. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Contact: Mike/Mary (1-805-217-5563, marymikes@skidmore.edu).

FEBRUARY 20 (SATURDAY)
Snowshoe Loop Around Obsidian Dome. Start at Obsidian Dome parking lot. Possible trip onto Dome for wide-open views of surrounding area. Meet 10am, Mammoth Union Bank. Well-behaved dogs welcome. Check with leaders if you need to borrow snowshoes. Contact: Dick (760-709-5050, rhinh@skidmore.edu).

ROL Conservation Report
BY MALCOLM CLARK, ROL CONSERVATION CHAIR
Inyo & Mono County issues & opportunities
Bobcat trapping ban. The new “no bobcat trapping” regulations were approved on November 13 and become effective on November 20 – before the opening of the trapping season on November 24. For info, go to: http://www.ool.ca.gov/res/docs/pdf/Web_Daily_Reports/Recent_Actions_By_OAL.pdf and scroll down to Fish & Game Commission - Bobcat Protection Act entry. Endangered & Threatened Species. Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of Greater Sage Grouse Populatio. BLM announced a Forest Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on February 13, 2015. Responding to a number of comments submitted, BLM has made a number of proposed modifications – mainly improvements to better protect the sage grouse.

Range of Light FALL PHOTO GALLERY

Photos by Joanne Hihn
A group of ROLG members recently visited Bohler Canyon, one of the sites affected by the Walker Fire of this past summer. We were collectively saddened by the fire’s devastation.

The top photo is of a meadow, taken in Oct. 2014. The next photo was taken in Nov., 2015, after the fire. Finally, the photo below that surprised us with how quickly Mother Nature had begun her magic of revitalization.

On a Fall hike to Grant Peak above Parker Bench near June Lake, CA, we were rewarded with this view of Grant and Mono Lakes.

In September, a local historian, Robert Yoki, took an eager group on a walk along the old French Trail, a wagon road partially constructed in 1879 by John French. The road followed a route used for thousands of years by native people. French’s plan to create a route from Mono County to Fresno failed. This part of the trail passes through the old mining town of Pine City.
Wilderness & the Sierra Club
BY MARGE SILL

“In God’s wilderness lies the hope of the world — the great, fresh, unblighted, unredeemed, wilderness.” John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, wrote this as he contemplated the beauty of Yosemite in one of his many trips to his beloved Sierra Nevada.

To many of us, the Sierra Club is still an important advocate for the wild places and for the land, its waters, and its wildlife. Here in the Toiyabe Chapter we are fortunate to have more designated wilderness than any other chapter outside of Alaska. We also have a large portion of the Sierra Nevada wild places.

While it is true that the Sierra Club has now grown to take on many issues that were not envisioned by John Muir — climate change, environmental justice, election of responsible leaders, and others — it is incumbent for us to remember our roots and why the Club was formed.

In 2016 we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Parks. This is an event that should be celebrated by all of us who want to leave John Muir’s legacy to our children and grandchildren.

Truckee River Operating Agreement:
In effect December 1, 2015!
BY DENNIS GHIGLIERI

The “Notice of Implementation of Truckee River Operating Agreement” was filed in U.S. District Court in Nevada on December 1, 2015. The Notice declared that “all of the conditions set forth (in the agreement) have been satisfied…”.

The six parties to TROA are the U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Department of Justice, States of California and Nevada, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

Rob Scanland, of Great Basin Land and Water, whose organization helped acquire water rights for the Truckee River for water quality and in-stream flows, saw the implementation as an early Christmas present, saying, “[the] water management of the Truckee River has finally transitioned into the 21st century.”

The agreement culminates a 25-year process between the entities to negotiate how to:
- provide drought storage on the Truckee River,
- provide for spawning flows for endangered and threatened fish species,
- divide the water between California and Nevada,
- settle lawsuits by various parties,
- fulfill the Federal Government’s trust obligation to indigenous tribes, and
- numerous other technical and procedural issues related to river flows as well as when and how to move stored water into the river.

The Federal Water Master, Chad Blanchard, is now responsible for carrying out TROA day-to-day. The TROA was made possible by a 1990 law, Public Law 101-618 (“Truckee-Carson-Pyramid Lake Waters Rights Settlement Act,”) sponsored by Senator Harry Reid. The Act established the detailed framework for the negotiations. You can read the TROA on the website maintained by the Water Master for the Truckee River at http://trowa.net.

More info. To get more Truckee River information visit http://truckeeriver.org.

WATER GAB: What’s Happening?
BY ROSE STRICKLAND

Since 2004, ARTICLES in the Trails have tracked the ups and downs of what is known as the “Water Grab” in Nevada. The 300+ mile water pipeline from eastern Nevada to Las Vegas at a mere cost of $15.7 Billion to urban rate-payers was shown to cause extensive harm to rural communities and tribes, to the four remote targeted valleys, and the fragile desert environment in a federal Environmental Impact Statement.

The Sierra Club is part of a wide-ranging network of conservationists, ranchers, tribes, recreationists, small businesses, counties, and communities in both Nevada and Utah -- the Great Basin Water Network -- which has brought the misguided proposed exportation project which started in 1989 to a standstill. After 24 years, there is no pipeline through our public lands.

The articles in the Water Gab -- the newsletter of the Water Network -- tell the stories of the Herculean efforts of volunteers, allies, and key legal and water experts to achieve this success.

You can find the Water Gab on the GBWN website at http://greatbasinwaternetwork.org. When you arrive, click the “documents” to see the Water Gabs.

Please see WATER Gab, page 7.
Successful “Steps for Snow” at Mono Lake
BY JANET CARLE

Local families came out in force on a late November Saturday in a foggy morning to walk a mile in support of Mono Lake, a future snowy Sierra, and climate progress at the upcoming Paris Climate Summit.

The kids led the way through tufa towers and sagebrush to the shores of the lake. As the sun came out, Geoff McQuilkin of the Mono Lake Committee, climate researcher Maureen McGlinchy, local author David Carle, and Devil’s Postpile Superintendent Deanna Dulen shared insights on the climate challenges we face.

Suggested “steps” we can all take in our daily lives to use energy and water wisely were displayed, and all participants wrote “promise to our planet” goals on snowflake ornaments made by local children. All of our communal actions can help ensure a snowy future.

Mono Lake has been a symbol of hope in solving environmental problems. On a beautiful morning, with the spirit of the children lifting us up, a statement was made about our future and the importance of real climate progress in Paris. A small group of people can make a big difference. It happened at Mono Lake!

Visitors to the Mono Lake Committee Information Center in Lee Vining can take home a snowy future.

Nevada’s beautiful bats
BY TINA NAPPE

NEVADA HAS 23 BAT SPECIES, some common, some rare. Some live in trees like the Silver-Haired and some live in caves like the big Free-Tailed. Some may migrate seasonally. The Pallid, Big Brown, and Spotted Bats are resident. In Reno the Brazilian Free-Tailed bats take up residence under McCarran Bridge from June-September. As up to 40,000 bats emerge at sundown, they cloud the sky and red-tailed hawks, perched in nearby trees, are waiting for them. Their evening meal has arrived.

Our historical perspective about bats was one of being dismissive of their value, fear of rabies, finding them ugly, and treating them destructively. We now recognize the bat’s value in controlling insects. Jennifer Newmark, Chief of Biodiversity for the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and a bat specialist, said each bat can consume about 1000 small insects per night.

NDOW published its “Revised Bat Management Plan” in 2006, incorporating new information on bats and elaborating on conservation goals. Historically, bats have been listed as unprotected, except for the Spotted Bat, rare in Nevada and temporarily federally protected in 1968. In 2004, another 8 species of bats were added to Nevada’s protected list. Through public education, surveys, and research, more is known about bats; however, they are not always easy to locate or to study. As information becomes available, actions can be taken. Working with BLM, for instance, ideal sites for bats, such as abandoned mines, may be bat gated to limit human use but permit bat access.

Bats are vulnerable. Their caves can be destroyed; they normally produce just one young per year. Mining, recreational caving, loss of water sources which produce quantities of May flies and dragonflies, and pesticides, also have an impact. The greatest threat now is the white nose syndrome, a fungal growth which strikes them in their hibernating sites. The cause is not known. About six million bats have been affected.

NDOW is the lead agency on resident species like bats. Because of funding through the Teaming with Wildlife program, NDOW receives a federal grant, which must be matched with nonfederal funds. The Nevada State Legislature has been providing match funding since 2001. For more information on Nevada bats see: http://www.ndow.org/Nevada_Wildlife/Conservation/Nevada_Bat_Conervation_Plan.

Successful “Steps for Snow” at Mono Lake
continued from page 6

How did the Water Network pull together such a diversity of activists who don’t always agree on resource issues? Why have the Nevada District and Supreme Courts ruled consistently in favor of the Water Network and against the Water Grab proponents and the State Engineer? Did the many fundraising efforts of the Water Network to cover costs of the expensive water protest hearings and court cases actually include beer coasters? They did, and the coasters said:

No water, No life.
No grain. No beer.

These and many other stories in the Water Gab capture much of the spirit and heart of the Water Grab opponents in their David vs. Goliath campaign. You’ll also find much more information on the Water Network’s campaign and articles on water shortages all over the West at http://greatbasinwaternetwork.org.
Jarek Stolting, 12 years old and Amelia Stolting, 10 years old, are our new GBG members. Both completed their seventh peak to qualify as members on the summit of White Mountain Peak this August.

Their favorite peak so far? Jarek’s favorite was White Mountain. He liked that there was green grass, marmots, and clouds that curled up the mountain towards them. Amelia said she loved the marmots since they are cute, cozy, and fat.

Mount Augusta was Amelia’s favorite peak. She liked seeing the peak once on the ridge. She thought that it was a tough hike to the ridge, but when you could see the top it was real easy. Their thoughts on bagging peaks? Jarek said at first they were hard but are getting easier. Amelia said it has been difficult but it was easier with family. They both agree Tahakum was the worst. There were so many ticks! The ticks even overshadowed the awesome view of Pyramid Lake. They hope to never see a tick again.

Which peaks are their next goals? Amelia is excited to do Whitney. Jarek wants to do Tule Peak to see the view of Pyramid Lake.

Robert, their father, said, “When I first started taking them, they protested about it being hard. However, I still encouraged them to go. After some time they realized that to see the awesome views, animals, and other sights it takes hard work, but it is rewarding. I hope when they get older and look back on this they remember the hard work and good times they had with family accomplishing a goal.”

It is exciting to see these young members exploring the amazing landscapes heading to GB peaks. One goal of the GBP list is to provide a variety of peaks enabling family members of all ages to experience peak outings together. The Stoltings are a great example and they didn’t even start on the easier peaks. Good luck to them as they continue to explore new peaks.

Amelia and Jarek Stolting, our youngest Peak Section members, with their father, Robert Stolting.
Great Basin Group Calendar
continued from page 8

GB Programs . . .
continued from page 8

Asian and the North American continents.
But be warned that Iceland is the country of
unpronounceable names, such as Eyjafjal-
lajokull and Hvannadalshnukur.

February 11 (Thursday)
Winter Travel Management: What It Means to You! Presenter Dr. Gail Ferrell will help us understand
the fundamental change in travel management
planning for winter recreation that is now
taking place in our national forest units.
This change is the result of a 2013 Idaho
ruling that required the United States Forest
Service to manage and account for impacts
by snowmobile use.
In addition to the 2013 court ruling, Snow-
lands Network, et al. settled out of court with the USFS in a lawsuit that required the
USFS to analyze impacts of snowmobile use. The result is a process called Winter
Travel Management. Six forests — Tahoe, Stanislaus, Eldorado, Plumas, Lassen and Lake — are using it.
At the end of the multi-year planning process, a set of guidelines, rules and re-
strictions will be in effect for 20 years on each respective forest.
Dr. Ferrell, who is on the Board of Direc-
tors of Snowlands Network, will fill us in on
the history of the plan, how it works, and how to become involved.

March 10 (Thursday)
Climate Action in Northern Ne-
VADA. What’s happening in our area to deal
with climate change? Panelists will present
what they are doing: Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign, Climate Parents, Citizen
Climate Lobby, the City of Reno. Also in-
cluded is Be the Change Project -- a family
Climate Lobby, the City of Reno. Also in-
cluded is Be the Change Project -- a family
GB Programs . . .
continued from page 8

Great Basin Group Calendar
continued from page 8

Humboldt Peak in the E. Humboldt Range
BY SHARON MARIE WILCOX
THE EAST HUMBOLDT RANGE is a northern
extension of the Ruby Mountains in eastern Nevada. These mountains were
heavily glaciated creating notable alpine terrain and peaks. In July, Laura Newman assembled a group of Desert Peak and Great Basin Peaks Section members to climb some of these peaks.
On July 5, we drove up Pole Canyon to the Beaver Ponds at roads end to hike Hum-
boldt Peak. On this trip, Laura Newman, Daryn Dodge, Kathy Rich, and Lisa Barboza assembled a group of Desert Peak and Great Basin Peaks Section members to climb some of these peaks.
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boldt Peak. On this trip, Laura Newman, Daryn Dodge, Kathy Rich, and Lisa Barboza assembled a group of Desert Peak and Great Basin Peaks Section members to climb some of these peaks.

February 13 (Saturday)
Snowshoe from Spooner Summit.
We plan to go on a guided snowshoe tour of Spooner Summit. The route is about 4.6 mi and 800 ft gain overall. Great views toward Carson Valley, Lake Tahoe. Have lunch with best view possible. Bring lunch, plenty of water, layered clothing, own snowshoes. No a beginner’s trip. Bad weather cancels. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Moderately Strenuous.

February 18 (Thursday)
8 AM
V & T Railway Day Hike. Virginia & Truckee Rail bed from Gold Hill to Mound House. About 9 mi, down hill. Learn some history of the area.

February 20 (Saturday)
9 AM
Incline Lake Loop Snowshoe. Beautiful 4-6 mi snowshoe in Tahoe Meadows vicinity. Dress in layers, bring water, lunch, coffee, snowshoes. A hike along the Truckee River from Dollar Point to Mound House. About 9 mi, down hill. Meet at Starbuck’s parking lot off Wedge Parkway. Moderate to strenuous. Leader: Larry Dwyer (775-745-6628; kdwyer31@charter.net). Moderately Strenuous.

February 25 (Thursday)
8 AM
Carson River Railroads. Meet at Oxbow Nature Study Area in Reno, NV. Leader: Larry Dwyer (775-745-6628; kdwyer31@charter.net). Moderately Strenuous.

February 14 (Sunday) 9 AM

February 18 (Thursday)

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Carson River Railroads. Meet at Oxbow Nature Study Area in Reno, NV. Leader: Larry Dwyer (775-745-6628; kdwyer31@charter.net). Moderately Strenuous.

Winter fun for kids!
Jan. 4-8, Jan. 25-Feb. 5
By Sue Jacox (suejacox@nvbell.net)
PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS, don’t let kids miss a fun week of winter break day camp at Oxford Nature Study Area in Reno, Jan. 4-8. And, teachers, it’s not too late to plan a day trip or an overnight winter ecology and snowshoe trip for your class.

Great Basin Outdoor School will partner with the Nevada Department of
The Mojave Monitor

Southern Nevada Group

Monthly ExCom Meetings
Wednesdays, January 13, February 17, & March 16

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS, the monthly meetings of our Executive Committee (ExCom) are most often held on the third Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted. We meet from 6 to 8:30pm at the Sierra Club Office, located just off W. 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. Please join us on January 13 (second Wed.), February 17 or March 16.

General Program Meetings

AS IN 2015, our General Program Meetings this year are being conducted as quarterly membership mixers. The first one of 2015 will be on Friday, January 22, when we will meet and greet Sierra Club members and guests traveling to Las Vegas to attend the Toiyabe Chapter ExCom meeting the following day. The mixer is scheduled to start at 6pm and will be held at the Sierra Club office. Please mark your calendar and make a point of joining us for some fun and camaraderie.

ICO hike to Potato Knoll
BY TONY FOUNTAIN

On a Tuesday in late October, 19 students from Burk High School in Las Vegas, NV, enjoyed an outdoor connection at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Led by volunteers from Las Vegas ICO, these students hiked just over 4 miles on the Potato Knoll trail. The weather was ideal, with cool temperatures and plenty of sunshine during the first half of the adventure.

Along the trail, hike leader Curtis Jones pointed out a variety of the surrounding features and reminded the students of the need to escape the rigor of the day-to-day challenges of school and take advantage of the natural wonder surrounding the Vegas Valley. Other Las Vegas ICO volunteers chimed in with interesting facts about the area’s geology, vegetation and wild life. The students were given examples on several occasions that demonstrated understanding and practice of the principles of Leave No Trace.

After completing the first half of the hike and circling behind the Potato Knoll mound, the students gratefully enjoyed their lunch break in the cool shade of trees and shrubs along upper Oak Creek. Fortunately, due to recent rains, and much to the delight of the hikers, Oak Creek shared the gentle natural bubbling sound of clear, cool, fresh, running water.

Students were overheard saying, “I could live here,” and “This is so beautiful.” As we approached the end of the 4-mile trek, the group paused for a few minutes of “Roses & Thorns.”

Each student as well as adult was invited to express examples of challenges or shortfalls (Thorns) versus joys and surprises (Roses) they experienced during the day’s outing. This exercise was summed up best by the group recognizing that often we must confront challenges (heat, sore feet, tired bodies from climbing hills) in order to enjoy the natural wonder and beauty of Southern Nevada.

Southern Nevada Group Calendar

January 1 (Friday)
Hangover Hike, Red Rock Canyon NCA. About 3 mi RT, 400 ft gain, mod. strenuous. Start New Year right by joining your fellow hikers on our traditional hike to Calico Tanks in Red Rock Canyon. This is one of most popular hikes in Red Rock for its colorful rocks, scenic views. What is tinaja? How does it form? Leaders: geologists Nick Saines (702-896-4049, greatunc@aol.com), Gary Beckman. Level 3.

January 4 (Monday)
A night hike in Gold Butte. In Honor of Martin Luther King Day, the Our Wild America Campaign will be hosting a service project in Gold Butte. There, we’ll be picking up trash along the way and from a hike within the Falling Man Complex. Meet at intersection of New Gold Butte Rd and W. Riverside Road in Bunkerville, NV 89007 at 7:30 am. Please bring extra water, light lunch, some snacks. Dress in layers that you can take off and put back on, as you’ll get warmed up as we pick up trash and hike. Hike is Class 3 with very easy rock scrambling. High Clearance Vehicle needed, or you can car pool with us from the meeting point. Contact: Christian.Gerlach@Sierraclub.org or 702-271-6485.

January 16 (Saturday)
Day of Service & hike in Gold Butte. In Honor of Martin Luther King Day, the Our Wild America Campaign will be hosting a service project in Gold Butte. There, we’ll be picking up trash along the way and from a hike within the Falling Man Complex. Meet at intersection of New Gold Butte Rd and W. Riverside Road in Bunkerville, NV 89007 at 7:30 am. Please bring extra water, light lunch, some snacks. Dress in layers that you can take off and put back on, as you’ll get warmed up as we pick up trash and hike. Hike is Class 3 with very easy rock scrambling. High Clearance Vehicle needed, or you can car pool with us from the meeting point. Contact: Christian.Gerlach@Sierraclub.org or 702-271-6485.

January 22 (Friday)
MEET & GREET with Toiyabe Chapter ExCom. Join us at the Sierra Club office. Please mark your calendar and make a point of joining us for some fun and camaraderie.

Time to take in nature.

Enjoying lunch under pinyon and ash trees.

Berk students and teacher on back side of Potato Knoll.

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Moapa Band Paiutes visit Gold Butte with Our Wild America Campaign

By Christian Gerlach, Organizing Rep for Sierra Club Our Wild America Campaign

The Our Wild America Campaign in Las Vegas worked with the Friends of Gold Butte to get some of the Moapa Band Paiutes out to see the ancient cultural artifacts and rock stories found in Gold Butte. We also brought along some of our great high school volunteers to join us in the outing. The outing commenced with a blessing given by Unice Hote of the tribe’s cultural committee. The experience was very moving not only for the members of the tribe, but also the rest of the group.

We set off on the long, lonely road into Gold Butte, stopping at a few points of interest along the way—including the original planned highway from Los Angeles to Salt Lake City. We were lucky and caught a few glimpses of Lake Mead from the road.

We were eager to hit the trail and explore the area known as the Falling Man Complex, which is full of hundreds of petroglyphs. Only by seeing them can one get some firsthand knowledge of the history of the area and meaningful interpretation behind the Native American rock stories. Fortunately, the Friends of Gold Butte have been documenting the area for some time.

The whole experience was very powerful as, panel after panel, Tribal Council Chairman Darren Daboda of the Moapa Band of Paiutes tried his best to interpret and share the wisdom of the rock stories. Unfortunately, there was plenty of evidence of vandalism done by guns to rock faces and even some petroglyphs. The whole group was definitely saddened by the sight of the disrespect to the culture and history of the Moapa Band of Paiutes so much so that they promised to do all they could to help protect the history and make sure we can all enjoy it forever.

On the way back to the trailhead we were lucky enough to see what we think was a monarch butterfly, which is something very near and dear to the Mexican Culture of the volunteers and I. Because the members of the Moapa Band of Paiutes shared so much of their history and culture with us we thought it only fair to share some of our culture.

I shared the Mexican belief behind the migration of the monarchs, which correlates with the Day of the Dead. It is often told as part of the holiday that the monarch butterflies that come back year after year represent the spirits of the dead coming back to visit the living.

Also, in the spirit of sharing, I had a special treat prepared for lunch for everyone. We had brought supplies to have a Taquiza (taco cook out). It was the perfect way to end a great outing.
we intend to push further up canyon and perhaps also up a peak. Hikers should be prepared for up to 12 mi RT and 2000+ ft gain. Mississippi Canyon is the NE end of Stillwater Range in remote part of Nevada that is still accessible as day trip from Reno area. It is part of Stillwater Mountains Wilderness Study Area. We’ll learn about its current prospects for becoming a Wilderness Area from Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Contact leader for details. ND. Leader: Larry Dwyer (775-745-6628; kdwyer31@charter.net). Strenuous.

MARCH 7 (MONDAY) 8 AM

MARCH 17 (THURSDAY) 8 AM

MARCH 19 (SATURDAY) 10 AM
Leader’s Choice Desert Hike. Depending on weather conditions, we’ll pick great place to get out and explore Nevada desert on this first day of spring. Trip will be around 6-8 mi and may have over 1000 ft gain. Bring camera for scenic shots. Bring plenty of water, lunch, clothing for conditions. DOK. Leader: Holly Coughlin (775-331-7488). Co-Leader: Jim Call (freneticmarmot@gmail.com). Moderate.

MARCH 19 (SATURDAY) TBD
Pah-Rum Peak (7608 ft) Day Hike. With its expansive views of Smoke Creek Desert to northwest, Black Rock Desert to northeast and Pyramid Lake to S, has become one of my favorite day hikes. The hike is about 6 mi RT with 2600’ of elevation gain. Pah-Rum Peak is high point in Fox Range Wilderness Study Area and we’ll learn more about its prospects for full Wilderness status from Friends of Nevada Wilderness. In this El Nino year we may also encounter fair amount of snow–so as time gets closer be sure to contact leader for further details. ND. Leader: Larry Dwyer (775-745-6628; kdwyer31@charter.net). Moderately Strenuous.

MARCH 23 (WEDNESDAY) 5:30 PM

MARCH 24 (THURSDAY) 8 AM

MARCH 26 (SATURDAY) 9 AM
Pah Rah Petroglyph Hike. About 6+ mi hike to petroglyphs with little extra thrown in for exploring/looking for ancient art! Fairly steep in places, so it’s moderately strenuous. Recommend sturdy hiking boots and poles. Also, be sure to dress in layers, bring plenty of water, lunch. Call for meeting place. Snow or weather conditions may change location of hike. DOK. Leader: Connie Webb (772-4187). Co-Leader: Jeanne Kettler (843-9828). Moderately Strenuous.

Cana l i f o r n i a & g e n e r a l . “It’s all but certain that 2015 will end up as the hottest year on record. And in setting that mark, the world is on track to crack the halfway mark of 2 degrees C warming, the benchmark that’s been targeted as “safe” climate change”.

Targeted as “safe” climate change”.


Dan’s on the move through California. More info at: http://grist.org/climate-energy/