



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

HiSIERRAN

Serving San Diego And Imperial Counties

Vol 77 No. 2

Visit our website at: www.sandigosierraclub.org

April/May/June 2018

Call for Executive Committee Nominations

The Sierra Club San Diego Nominating Committee is seeking Chapter members to run for the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in the 2018 Election. The committee seeks a diverse pool of candidates, balanced in terms of gender, ethnicity, and geography. The Sierra Club San Diego membership will elect three Executive Committee members in 2018.

The candidate questionnaire is available at the Sierra Club San Diego office, on the Club website at sandigosierraclub.org or by calling the Sierra Club office at 858-569-6005.

The ideal candidate for the San Diego Chapter Executive Committee is an experienced, effective leader who has a clear vision for the Chapter's future and a proven capacity to work with people to achieve goals and resolve problems. The Nominating Committee will contact potential candidates and will send a questionnaire to those who request

Ex Com Nominations continued on page 10

Save The Date San Diego Chapter 2018 Awards & Gala Celebration

*Celebrating 70 Years of
Environmental Protection
and Leadership*

Saturday, June 9, 2018

See Back Page For More Information



Congratulations to Our Newest Chapter Outings Leaders!

Each year the Sierra Club San Diego hosts two Chapter Outings Leader (COL) training sessions. Once in the Spring and Fall for both Level I and Level II leaders. What's the difference? COL I's can lead day hikes and car camps and COL II's can also lead backpacks. In 2017, we had an exceptional group of people participate in the training and become leaders and we'd like to congratulate their efforts:

COL I

Anna Lee
Bonnie Ferri
Craig Rubinoff
Christy Stanley
Cristina Picardi
Ellen Greenfield
Eric Williams

Kris Watkin
Marilyn Bockstahler
Natalie Rubin
Oscar Brambila
Rose Williams
Shankar Sadasivam
Tiffany Albrecht

COL II

Craig Rubinoff
Douglas Grover
Elize Quinn
Eric Williams

We look forward to having these leaders share their passion of the outdoors with you to explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

If you are interested in leading our hikes, camps and backpack trips for Sierra Club San Diego, our next training in San Diego will be taking place on May 5 (COL I) and May 6 (COL II).

*For more information and to sign up, please visit
sandigosierraclub.org/learn/leader-training.*



Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

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The View from The Chair



Ruben Arizmendi

As many of you are aware much has happened since last I addressed you through this media: environmental disasters continue to occur in the form of flooding which caused mudslides; fires; rapidly melting ice caps, etc. No one is really truly so naïve to believe that the cold weather could “use a little more global warming” as the president suggested at one point recently. The short of the matter is, by respected scientific accounts, global warming is in fact the cause of our drastically erratic weather patterns. Paraphrasing an oft-cited statement, “ours is not to question why; ours is but to do or die.” If you talk to environmentalists in the know you may hear some of them state that we are already too late to turn back the tide; that ambitious goals to be free of GHG emissions by 2030 are unreachable pipe dreams; that under the current administration offshore oil drilling will be unstoppable, etc.

Why so much negativity, guys?

Let me propose that we continue our climate change mobilization efforts; that

we shout from the sandy beaches and the beautiful mountains tops, from all wilderness and urban points, “We are strong. We love this planet Mother Earth. We will not let negativity control our goals. Instead, we will mobilize (along with the Cassidys) to change the course of posterity. And, when we reflect back, not too far down the road, we will be able to proudly state, we saved this planet for ourselves, our loved ones and all future generations. We fought for all good things: all humanity, all wildernesses, all creatures, and all floras.

If for any reason you cannot personally meet this challenge then please nominate someone who you believe is an ideal candidate to lead the Sierra Club toward the future—a future we should all be taking all measures possible to reach an environmentally sound “pale blue dot”. To quote Carl Sagan, “The significance of our lives and our fragile planet is then determined only by our own wisdom and courage.”

So let's show the world that we are wise and courageous, and know how to do the right thing.

Time To Get Politically Active

The Political Committee is a group of Sierra Club volunteers who share an interest in the political process and who recognize the importance of an informed voter public as a critical element in our efforts to protect our wild areas. Members work with candidates and issues to further the conservation efforts of Sierra Club.

If you want to help, you can contact the Chair at
brian.d.elliott@gmail.com

**California Primary Election Endorsement and
Ballot Recommendations**

Please visit our website at

sandiegosierraclub.org/get-involved/political/

Meet the Chapter's New Staff



Marty Marquez **Administrative Assistant**

A new hire in December 2017 and a San Diego native, Marty has an extensive background as an administrative assistant in various fields, most recently as a property manager. She earned her bachelor's degree in Accounting from National University 2013 online program while working full time. She also maintains a small business doing billing, taxes, and is a notary.

In the past 3 years, she began hiking well known trails in San Diego, followed by the Grand Canyon and Yosemite for the first time, it was love at first sight. This past President weekend 2018, she visited Sedona for the first time and did a couple of hikes with friends. Her only regret is that hiking was never introduced to her as a kid.

She has traveled to Machu Piccho in 2015, France 2001, South Africa 2001 for pleasure, and to Guadalajara, Mexico for family. Pacific Beach has been her home for the past 11 years and it is where the bay, beach, community, and outdoor activities thrive in this beautiful vacation destination. Her travels and home inspire her to do more to protect the beauty, people, and animals from any threat harmful to our wellbeing. With the current White House administration, destiny was calling when she heard and applied for the position, leading her on the path of activism.



Kyle Rentschler **Conservation Organizer**

Kyle Rentschler joins Sierra Club San Diego after extensive volunteering at several conservation and wildlife rehabilitation non-profits including Climate Action Campaign, the Audubon Society, the San Diego Zoo, and three wildlife rehabilitation centers. After earning his doctorate working on ethics and virtual realities at New York University, he is excited to return to the natural world

and take his volunteering to the next level. As the Conservation Organizer, Kyle will be primarily working on SANDAC (San Diego Activist Citizens), a targeted volunteer campaign advocating for increased public transit investment at SANDAG.

When he's not working at Sierra Club, Kyle likes to hike and bird-watch as often as possible. He and his wife have hiked together in over 100 parks throughout California (including more than 40 within San Diego County) and in 37 of our 59 National Parks. In addition to hiking, Kyle enjoys reading, listening to music, playing games, and cooking. He is also a partner at a local tutoring organization that focuses on helping students from low-income families and is a staff writer at the video game criticism website Goomba Stomp.

What is SANDAC?

SANDAC, or San Diego Activist Citizens, is a new volunteer program at Sierra Club San Diego Chapter that focuses on advancing public transit throughout San Diego County. Not to be confused with SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments), SANDAC's mission is to encourage SANDAG to consider and ultimately opt for a transit-first Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). In stark contrast to the business-as-usual eco-unfriendly 2015 RTP that heavily prioritized freeway development and sprawl over public transit and density, we want the 2019 RTP to put transit first. By allocating the majority of SANDAG's 1.3 billion dollar annual budget to public transit development and operations, a transit-first RTP would not only slash greenhouse gas emissions but also help conserve open space, improve air quality and public health, and advance social equity.

Why now?

Right now, SANDAG is in the process of developing an update to the 2015 RTP, which will be adopted in 2019. This is our best opportunity to let SANDAG board members know where Sierra Club stands and to instigate positive change in the planning process. Furthermore, the recent passage of AB 805, which shifts voting power in favor of larger cities more receptive to investment in public transit, increases the likelihood that SANDAG will be responsive to our demands.

How does it work?

SANDAC pairs each of SANDAG's 21 board members and their 42 alternates with one of their constituents. For example, if you live in Encinitas, you would be paired with either the mayor of Encinitas or one of their two alternates. Each volunteer will act as a direct, clear, and positive line of communication between Sierra Club San Diego and SANDAG, keeping each SANDAG board member aware of Sierra Club's messaging through the relationship they develop with that board member.

Outside of an initial training, participation in the SANDAG program will require only an estimated 3-4 hours of work per month. Most of that time will be spent reaching out to and meeting with your assigned SANDAG board member, along with occasionally speaking at city council meetings and SANDAG board meetings. It is a unique opportunity to meaningfully participate in local politics while taking a minimal amount of time out of your schedule. And the impact of your volunteer efforts just might be reflected in the passage of a forward-thinking RTP that positively impacts San Diego for thirty years and beyond.

If you are interested in transportation, local politics, city planning, or the future of San Diego County, please consider volunteering for San Diego Activist Citizens. For more information, or to sign up as a volunteer, please email join@sandac.org. Visit us on the web at www.sandac.org.

Sierra Club Bus Trips

Part of the largest grassroots environmental organization in the country, Sierra Club provides environmentally friendly outdoor adventures.

Save the date for the following trips: 2018

Since 1982 the San Diego Chapter has been offering bus trips to a variety of National and State Parks.

What makes these trips special is that they are organized by a fantastic team of volunteer leaders and nobody pays them for their efforts. They do it out of an appreciation for these special places and a passion for sharing them with you. We look forward to having you join us on a bus trip to explore, enjoy and protect the planet.



May 16 - 20, 2018

Grand Canyon

Trip type: Bus Camp or Backpacking

Registration Opens: March 31, 2018 at 6:00 am

July 11 - 15

Yosemite National Park

Trip type: Bus Camp or Backpacking

Registration Opens: June 2, at 6:00 am

August 15 - 19

Mammoth Lakes

Trip type: Bus Camp or Backpacking

Registration Opens: June 30, at 6:00 am

September 13 - 16

Channel Islands - Santa Cruz

Trip type: Backpacking and Tent Camping

Registration Opens: July 28, at 6:00 am

October 5 - 7, 2018

Mammoth Fall Colors

Trip type: Day Hikes and Condos

Registration Opens: August 18, at 6:00 am

For more information or to register for the above Bus Trips, please visit www.sdsierraclub.org.

Like us on Facebook



CST2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. Locations and dates are subject to change due to permit availability.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

2018 Schedule!

**May 6-8 • June 10-12 • July 15-17 • August 19-21
September 23-25 • October 21-23**

Join us for a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard tour of the enchanting Channel Islands.

Hike wild, windswept trails bordered with blazing wildflowers. Kayak rugged coastlines, Marvel at pristine waters teeming with frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds—and an occasional whale. Watch for the highly endangered island fox. Look for reminders of the Chumash people who lived on these islands for thousands of years. Or, just relax at sea. All cruises depart from Santa Barbara. The cost, \$675, includes an assigned bunk and all meals, snacks, and beverages. A ranger/naturalist assigned by the national park will travel with us to help lead hikes, point out items of interest and give evening programs. Kayaking will be overseen by our concessionaire; all hikes will be on trails, class 1 terrain. This trip is a fundraiser to support the Sierra Club political program in California. To reserve space send a \$100 deposit, written to California Sierra Club PAC to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact leaders: Joan Jones Holtz: jholtzhln@aol.com; 626-443-0706. Wayne Vollaire: avollaire1@gmail.com; 909-327-6825



Seal Society Notes

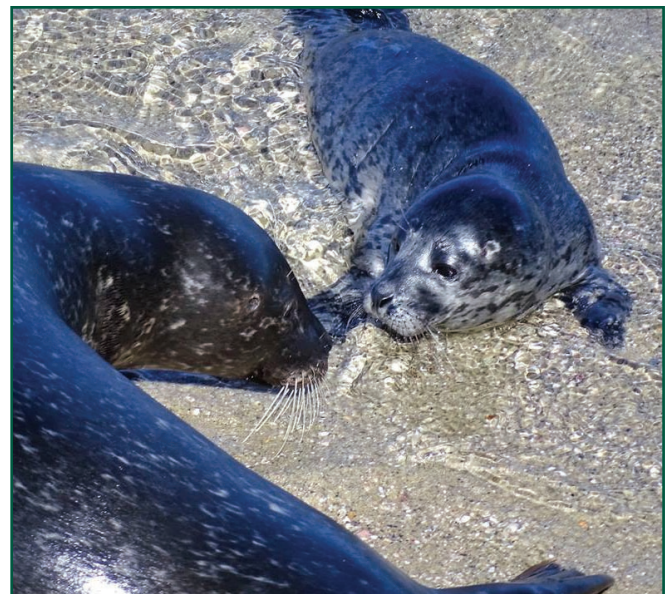
The harbor seals of La Jolla have had a very good pupping season, with about 45 viable newborns born between the Closed Beach at Casa (aka Children's Pool Beach) and the beach at South Casa. The new information/cautionary signs provided by NOAA at the crowded intersection of the stairs to S. Casa caution the public to stay a safe distance away when there are resting seals. However, we are asking them to place signs closer to the bottom of the stairs, preferably anchored in the sand where they are more visible. The thrill of being close to such an unusual collection of marine mammals on a beach often overrides unknowing visitors consideration for the well being of the nursing mothers and pups. The message is; "Do not disturb the seals in a way that causes a change in their behavior, such as a "flush" reaction, whereby the seals are driven off the beach."

Seal Society docents have been promoting awareness of the colony at several venues. We "tabled" during the January Martin Luther King Peoples Breakfast with Jean Costa who represented the chapter. We have conducted a very successful series of powerpoint presentations at Mangelsen's Nature Gallery on the basic biology, behavior, and habitat needs of the seals, and talked to 150 plus students at the Wilderness Basic Course "Chapter Activities" night. We have conducted a program at several local libraries and at UCSD. We are also collecting signatures for the 2019 re-hearing of the beach closure ordinance by the California Coastal Commission.

We can be seen educating the many visitors at the beach on a continual basis. One of our shirts has the words "Ask Me" on the back which has proven very useful. A common questions is, "Are these

seals or sea lions?" Once we show the pictures of the two species side by side, the answer is very clear. Seals are quiet, do not have external ear flaps and are about one third the size of the sea lions.

If you are interested in becoming a docent, we have an excellent training program consisting of three sessions with an experienced volunteer. Most of us have been with the program for several years as an advocate for this wonderful colony located in such a highly urban setting. Contact Ellen Shively at ellenshively@sbcglobal.net.



Conservation Committee Up and Running

The North County Group has established a conservation committee and is working to provide more opportunities for members to be involved. In February, NCG held a very successful member meeting where we discussed local environmental issues facing us in the North County Inland region. NCG is already working to ensure that both Vista and Escondido's Climate Action Plan (CAP) Updates actually achieve improvements for the climate. These two CAPs received the lowest ranking of all CAPs in the region in the first Climate Action Campaign Report card. We hope, with support from residents, these City Councils will improve their climate action commitments.

We are also seeking members to serve in the Chapter's SANDAC (San Diego Activist Citizens) campaign to secure a responsible Regional Transportation Plan. The Club will train volunteers who will help us advocate effectively with SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments) members. The goal is to persuade SANDAG to prioritize public transit in the 2019 edition of the Regional Transportation Plan. Please contact our Conservation Coordinator Kyle Rentschler at join@sandac.org if you are a resident of Escondido, Vista, Poway, San Marcos, or Supervisorial District 5 and want to spend 2 hours a month improving our region.

Last, our priority for this quarter is securing ballot signatures for the Safeguard Our San Diego Backcountry (SOS) initiative. This ballot measure would mandate that a vote of the people be required to increase density in the unincorporated areas of the County. This protection is desperately needed to stop urban sprawl development.

If you are a NCG member and want to get involved, please contact Laura Hunter, Conservation Chair at earthlover@sbcglobal.net



North County Group Quarterly Membership Meeting with the Wilderness Basic Class

Where Do We Go from Here?!

Tuesday April 3, 2018 7-9 PM
San Pasquel High School Library
3300 Bear Valley Pkwy,
Escondido, CA 92025

Join us to learn about *GPS navigation *How to plan your own backpack trip *Sierra Club activities and opportunities San Diego County has to offer.

2018 Summer Picnic

Saturday, June 2

Noon to 3pm

Dixon Lake,

La Honda Drive, Escondido

Free to all Sierra Club members

Go to <http://sierraclubncg.org/> for schedule of hikes and activities

Sierra Club Endorses Safeguard Our San Diego Countryside Initiative

Sierra Club members here is a petition you will feel secure signing. Sierra Club California, along with your San Diego Chapter Steering Committee, have examined and endorsed the Safeguard Our San Diego Countryside initiative language.

The Safeguard Our San Diego Countryside Initiative brings voters back in control of our County Board of Supervisors. When passed, the initiative requires the supervisors to adhere to our land use constitution, the County General Plan. When developers request more

density than zoning allows - the supervisors may still pass the project - but final approval must now be gained by a vote of the taxpayers.

Unfortunately, land use processes and decisions in San Diego County largely preclude even the most diligent citizens. What we continue to experience are teams of developer consultants, attorneys and lobbyists with instant access to staff and decisionmakers. Developers may employ dozens of people working full time to influence the Board of Supervisors.

Time and again, homeowners and community advocates have been forced to raise money to defend their neighborhoods from high impact projects even when the plans are unsuitable under the County's General Plan. In the countdown

to November voting, those days of inequity will be short-lived if the Safeguard our San Diego Countryside Initiative wins with the assistance of our Chapter members, family and friends.

Please help in this battle by signing the petition to Safeguard Our San Diego Countryside. No matter what area you live in, every eligible voter in San Diego County can sign and participate.

You will find the signature gatherers at most major shopping centers. You can also sign the petition at our Clairemont Mesa office. Please stop in at the office or call 858-569-6005 for a petition location near you. Thanks for everything you do!

George Courser,
Conservation Committee Chair

Joanne Hooper Pearson Remembered



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter lost a longtime activist and friend, Joanne Hooper Pearson, who passed away peacefully at age 81 of natural causes in Napa, California on February 3, 2018. Joanne used her in-depth knowledge of land use issues to advocate for the public. From 1997 to 2005, she was Chair of the San Diego Chapter's Coastal Committee playing a lead role in addressing coastal projects before the San Diego City

Council and California Coastal Commission. In 2004, Joanne organized an environmental coalition to testify successfully before the California Coastal Commission for adoption of the La Jolla Local Coastal Program Update, which resulted in acceptance by the City of San Diego and the California Coastal Conservancy of all outstanding public accesses along the La Jolla coastline.

Joanne was born December 22, 1936 in Nashville, Tennessee to Russell and Sarah (Stewart) Hooper. She graduated from the Harpeth Hall School in 1954 and earned a B.A. in Philosophy, Magna Cum Laude, and Phi Beta Kappa, from Vanderbilt University, in 1958.

Her professional career included teaching at Shawnee-Mission High School in Kansas and owning and operating Pearson-Hooper Plant & Seed, a wholesale specialty fruit and edible flower provider based out of Julian and La Jolla, California.

From 1975 to 1978, Joanne attended Western State University College of Law in San Diego, during which she was invited to the Law Review and received American Jurisprudence Awards in Criminal Law, Property, and Civil Procedure.

From 1992 until her retirement, Joanne used her legal training to become deeply involved with local and regional politics, with an emphasis on land use and environmental issues. Joanne served the La Jolla Town Council as Land Use

Chair (1992-1996), as a member of the Board of Trustees, and as President (1994-1996). In these roles, she organized community and citywide forums on regional transportation issues, code enforcement, regulatory relief, categorical exclusion, and the San Diego Land Development Code Update. Joanne served the La Jolla Community Planning Association as Chair of the Natural Resources and Open Space Committee for the La Jolla Community Plan Update. She was a founding board member of the Cleveland National Forest Foundation, a conservancy dedicated to education, sensitive resource restoration, and habitat acquisition.

Joanne's ability to tackle complex land use issues and bring diverse groups to consensus on long-term land use planning earned her the attention of state elected officials. In 1994, Joanne received recognition from the California State Assembly "in honor of her commitment to preserve and enhance our coastal environment, and for her in-depth research and effective testimony before the California Coastal Commission." In 1997, she was named the California State Assembly "Woman of the Year" for the 78th Assembly District. In 1998, she was nominated to the California Coastal Commission by Assembly Member Howard Wayne and Senator Dede Alpert.

In addition to her many years of public service, Joanne lovingly raised four children, was an avid organic gardener, an orchard horticulturist, and a pianist. She generally embodied a deep sense of beauty, grace, and intelligence.

Joanne is survived by her two brothers, Russell and John Hooper, and her sister, Claire Drowota, of Nashville, Tennessee. She is survived by her four children, Steven Pearson and wife Kim; David Pearson and wife Linnea; Virginia Shogren and husband Andrew; and Kate Gauger and husband Craig. Also surviving are eleven grandchildren, Deanna, John, and Brett Pearson; Madeleine, Sofia, and Spencer Pearson; Grant and Emma Shogren; and Matthew, Ellie, and Sarah Gauger.

Joanne was preceded in death by her husband and life partner of 58 years, John Edward Pearson, who passed away in August 2017, her parents, and her beloved grandmother, Josephine Stewart Cason.

The family will announce a future date for a celebration of Joanne's life. They suggest memorials in her name be given to the Sierra Club of San Diego or the Cleveland National Forest Foundation.



You can support the Sierra Club Foundation, San Diego Chapter's conservation program by hopping out of your unwanted vehicle and donating it to the Sierra Club Foundation! Cars, boats, trucks, SUVs, motorcycles and even planes are accepted. We'll even take that pastel pink buggie or spotted pinto... Whatever it may be, your generous donation is a golden egg to us! The tow is free and we handle all the paperwork.

Give today! Call 844-6-Sierra (844-674-3772) or visit scfch.careasy.org/HOME.html.

Be sure to select the San Diego Chapter.

SAN DIEGO

Chapter Activities

All Activities are held at the Chapter Office 6:30pm unless otherwise stated: 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 101, San Diego, CA 92111.

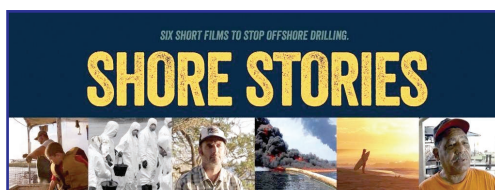
Our entrance is on the west end of the front building of Kearny Office Park, just west of I-163 and on the north side of Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Other environmental and activist events are posted at www.sdeln.org

2nd Friday Movie Night

April 13, 6:30 pm

Movie: Shore Stories (2018): 30 Minutes

As the current administration announces plans to open nearly all U.S. waters to dirty and dangerous offshore drilling, threatening coastal communities that rely on clean and healthy oceans, people across the country are voicing their opposition, loud and clear.



Short Stories is a series of six films that highlight the grassroots resistance taking place across the U.S., as well as stories from past oil and gas exploration – including the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster. The Trump Administration's plans to expand offshore drilling in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic oceans, as well as the Gulf of Mexico, are a clear example of politics over people.

After the films we will discuss this latest attack on our planet and how we can get involved in our people's attempt to stop it. We have invited folks from local environmental organizations to help lead the discussion. Join us to stand together to protect our coasts and learn how we can keep up the fight to say NO to offshore drilling!

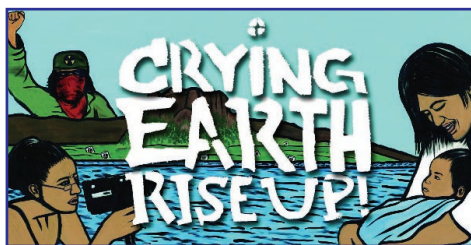
May 11, 6:30 pm
Movie: Crying Earth Rise Up! (2015): 57 Minutes

This film exposes the human costs of uranium mining and its impact on Great Plains

drinking water and on the health of our Native American brothers and sisters who drink that water. A Lakota mother studying geology seeks the source of the water contamination that caused her daughter's critical health problems. A Lakota grandmother fights the regional expansion of uranium mining.

Crying Earth Rise Up! Is an expose of the continuing tragedy of the oppression and mistreatment of the original inhabitants of this country and their courageous efforts to fight for the rights of both people and the earth.

"Water is our first home. Water is our first medicine. Without water, there is no life." – Debra White Plume (Oglala Lakota), Activist



June 8, 6:30 pm

Movie: I Am Another You (2017): 1 Hour 21 Minutes

When Chinese filmmaker Nanfu Wang (recipient of the 2016 Peabody Award for her film Hooligan Sparrow) first came to America, Florida seemed like an exotic frontier full of theme parks, prehistoric swamp creatures and sunburned denizens. As she travels across the country from one city to another, she encounters a charismatic young drifter named Dylan. Fascinated by his rejection of society's rules and unsure of his past, Nanfu follows Dylan with her camera on a journey that spans years, takes her across America, and leads her to explore the meaning of freedom and to discover something that calls her entire worldview into question. The Hollywood Reporter describes this film as "cinematic poetry".



Chapter Outings

Chapter Outings are now an online listing only.

With the time gap between publishing and delivery of the HiSierran through the mail we believe this is the best way to get you up to date listings.

Go to: sandiegosierraclub.org

Then click on "Get Outdoors"

Sierra Talks

New Sierra Talks are on the first Friday, starting with refreshments and representatives from Chapter groups at 6:30 pm and programs at 7 pm with discussions afterward. The location is the Joyce Beers Center at 3900 Vermont St., San Diego, 92103, across the street from Trader Joe's. Parking is available under Trader Joe's and Ralphs Market.

Sierra Talks are free and open to the public. Program Coordinator: Ernest "EL" Lotecka sdwalks@interactor.cc

April 6 Living with Gorillas

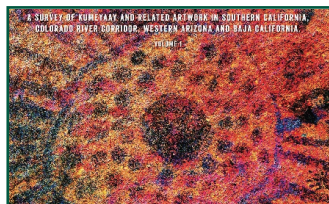
Up until 1991, there were three great apes living in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest in Uganda. Then their world was turned upside down. The Batwa people, otherwise known as pygmies, were forced from the forest. These traditional semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers were forced to settle into communities where they are unwelcome -- without education, jobs, property or community standing. This is a story about improving quality of life for the Batwa and for mountain gorillas. Get an intimate view into the lives of the Batwa, the mountain gorilla, and, surprisingly, the Maasai from two countries away.



The presenter, Bill Toone studied the endangered California condor and the causes of its decline. That work grew into a conservation program of world renown; and Bill soon found himself featured in newspapers and magazines, then filming wildlife documentaries in the Costa Rican rainforests with Olivia Newton-John. With his expertise in demand, he performed solid conservation work in some of the most remote regions of the world. In countries such as Honduras, Cameroon, and Madagascar, he not only witnessed incredible wildlife spectacles, but also came in close contact with some of the most poor, and poorly understood, populations of people. Currently, Bill continues to work in such places as Mexico, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. And his stories, gathered just this Fall in an encounter with wild gorillas, will offer hope for a planet in which humans, plants and animals can provide mutual assurance of wellness and security.

May 4 La Rumorosa Rock Art Along the Border

This presentation by Don Liponi is based on the first publication to focus on the rock art of this region, primarily along the California and Baja California deserts, the southern Colorado River corridor, and southwest Arizona. Almost none of the sites or photographs have ever been published. A meticulous search of the landscape employing newer technology such as DStretch®



enhancement rendered many more discoveries. Small traces of pigment often led to the resurrection of complete elements and rock art panels. This largely shamanistic and spiritual artform has provided guidance to the Kumeyaay-Tipai people and their ancestors for 10,000 years or more.

Don Liponi's father introduced him to the spiritual nature of the desert and its people as a teenager. This led him on a 50 year intimate relationship with the Southwest and its immutable prehistoric and contemporary peoples. His "perceptive preceptors" at the El Centro BLM, such as Bob Begole, Fran Barnes and Michael Kelsey, helped add a more scientific framework to structure his "ethereal romance" with the desert. His work is intended as a tribute to the remarkable Kumeyaay and their ancestors who have been gifted land stewards of this land for many millennia.

June 1 Kumeyaay Ethnobotany: Shared Heritage of the Californias.

For thousands of years, the Kumeyaay have interacted with native plants and continuously refining their botanical knowledge. This presentation, based on the beautifully illustrated book, explores the remarkable interdependence between native peoples and native plants of the Californias. It connects the archaeological and historical record with living cultures and native plant specialists who share their ever-relevant wisdom for future generations. Today, many Kumeyaay Indians in the far-flung ranches of Baja California carry on the traditional knowledge and skills for transforming native plants into food, medicine, arts, tools, regalia, construction materials, and ceremonial items.



The author and anthropologist Michael Wilken-Robertson, whose advocacy and applied research have allowed him to develop lifelong friendships with many Native Baja Californians, will share some of his experiences behind the book. His research and advocacy work with Native Baja Californians has explored traditional arts, ethnobotany, history, languages, and cultural landscapes of the indigenous peoples of the northern Baja California region. Michael currently teaches in the anthropology department at California State University, San Marcos.

Protecting the Mission Valley Stadium Site and the San Diego River

By Peter Andersen

As Sierra Club San Diego Chapter Vice Chair and a longtime advocate for protecting San Diego's environmental resources, I am proud that the Sierra Club has unanimously endorsed the SDSU West initiative and opposed the SoccerCity initiative.

Local and state Sierra Club leadership recognize that SDSU West will adhere to all aspects of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) including a full Environmental Impact Report and open public hearings. CEQA, the gold standard in environmental protection here in the Golden State, has successfully protected California from dangerous, imprudent and environmentally destructive development projects for decades. CEQA gives citizens knowledge about what is being built in their community, how it will affect their lives and their environment, the ability to propose alternatives, and ways to advocate for improvements.

Too often developers or investors use the initiative process or "ballot-box planning" as a way to circumvent local planning groups, City Councils, and environmental reviews. In 2016, with advice from Sierra Club, voters soundly rejected another circumvention of CEQA, the Lilac Hills project, by a vote of 64%-36%. The Sierra

Club looks favorably on projects or proposals like SDSU West that comply with the CEQA process, as it protects our community and environment.

Sierra Club also supports SDSU West because it ensures the creation of nearly 90 acres of public parks in Mission Valley. Included in this total is a proposed 50-acre River Park, providing public access to the often ignored San Diego River and guarantees its completion within seven years of San Diego State University's acquisition of the property. SDSU West respects the San Diego River and critical adjacent riparian habitats.

Furthermore, SDSU West preserves the stadium site as a public place for all San Diegans and allows for an appropriately sized development. SDSU West creates the opportunity for one of our most trusted public institutions to acquire the site at fair market value for the creation of highly-needed classrooms, dormitories, athletic facilities, and research laboratories. After decades of educating thousands of students and conducting research at SDSU, I've experienced firsthand the University's critical need to expand in Mission Valley.

Sierra Club also unanimously voted to oppose the competing SoccerCity initiative, which seeks to completely circumvent the CEQA process, provides no Environmental Impact Report and prohibits any public hearings. Bypassing the critical CEQA process is deceptive and environmentally-damaging land planning.

This maintains the longstanding Sierra Club position to oppose projects that use the initiative process to sidestep the CEQA process and to convert public land to private purposes. SoccerCity proposes a soccer stadium and 3.1 million square feet of commercial real estate development, increasing traffic congestion in the already crowded Mission Valley. SoccerCity does not offer appropriate traffic mitigations or impose legal obligations for FS Investors to actually deliver on their campaign promises.

While SoccerCity advocates the creation of a 34-acre River Park, according to San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott there is no timeline or obligation on the part of FS Investors to build such a park. Even further, SoccerCity's initiative states that if any regional, state or federal permits are required for the construction of the River Park, then FS Investors has no obligation to actually deliver said River Park. Based on my environmental advocacy experience and also stated by the City Attorney, at least one of those types of permits will be needed to develop a River Park.

Sierra Club strongly and unanimously recommends a YES vote on SDSU West and a NO vote on SoccerCity. This year San Diego residents will have the opportunity to vote on the future of the existing stadium site in Mission Valley and the opportunity guarantee a permanent, public River Park. SDSU West is the sensible approach because it is in the public interest not for private profit.

Ex Com Nominations continued from page 1

one. After reviewing returned questionnaires, the Nominating Committee will select applicants for interviews. To be considered for an interview, candidates must return completed questionnaires to the Nominating Committee by April 9, 2018. The Nominating Committee will announce its candidates at the April 11, 2018, Sierra Club San Diego Steering Committee meeting. In addition to the nomination process, the Club bylaws allow candidates to qualify for the ballot by a petition process, as specified in the bylaws. Petitions are available in the Sierra Club San Diego office.

The Executive Committee, composed of

seven elected volunteers and an appointed representative from each Chapter Group, has the legal responsibility and authority to oversee all staff and volunteer activities of the Chapter, to establish the Chapter's conservation priorities and internal policies, and to adopt and implement the annual budget.

People interested in serving as an Executive Committee member should be:

- *Dedicated to the purposes and goals of the Sierra Club*
- *Able and willing to accept the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of an Executive Committee member*
- *Able to listen and communicate effectively and work in a team environment*

- *Able and willing to dedicate sufficient personal time to Executive Committee duties*
- *Able to think and plan strategically and politically*
- *Willing to become knowledgeable about environmental and political issues*
- *Willing to become knowledgeable about the structure and operations of the Chapter*
- *Able to demonstrate leadership experience*
- *Able and willing to deal with the broad range of issues that come before the Executive Committee*
- *Able to demonstrate a history of commitment to the principles and values of the Sierra Club or a history of commitment to*

Ex Com Nominations continued on page 12

National Sierra Club Elections are Underway - VOTE!

Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot in early March. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's web site.

Your participation is critical for a Strong Sierra Club.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation.

In a typical year less than 10% of eligible members vote in the Board elections. A minimum of 5% is required for the elections to be valid. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. That means your participation is needed in the voting process.

How can I learn about the candidates?

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more.

Each candidate provides a statement about themselves and their views on the issues on the official election ballot. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. You can also visit the Club's election web site for additional information about candidates:

www.sierraclub.org/board/election

Then make your choice and cast your vote!

Voting Online is Quick and Easy!

Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, we encourage you to use the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If sending via ground mail, please note your ballots must be received by no later than Election Day, April 25, 2018.

Chapter Launches Home Solar Program

The San Diego Chapter recently made a powerful announcement: Sierra Club members are divesting from fossil fuels and joining the solar energy revolution. With a 70-year track record of protecting the environment in the San Diego region, the Chapter launched a Home Solar Program in collaboration with Sullivan Solar Power at a media event at SDG&E's Corporate Campus.

"SDG&E uses dirty fossil fuels which pollute our environment, impact our health and quality of life, and contribute to disasters across the world," said Dylan Lainas, an 11-year-old Carlsbad resident who spoke at the press event alongside his 7-year-old brother, "Our world will benefit as more people use solar, which is why I'm excited to support Sierra Club San Diego's new solar program with Sullivan Solar Power."

The solar partnership will offer a series of educational solar events throughout San Diego County. For each Sierra Club member or supporter who signs up to go solar through the program, Sullivan Solar Power will donate \$500 back to the Chapter to further our vision of San Diego County being run by 100 percent clean energy. The Chapter and Sullivan Solar will host quarterly educational seminars to teach Chapter members, friends and the public the facts about solar power, how to integrate energy storage, solar financing options, federal and state incentives and more.

The San Diego Chapter Home Solar Program is an excellent opportunity for Sierra Club members to ditch fossil fuel energy while raising funds to help educate the public about the reality of where our electricity is coming from. All last year, various local and national Sierra Club committees vetted solar companies for this partnership.

Sullivan Solar Power's founder and president, Daniel Sullivan, founded the company 14 years ago in direct response to the corporate maleficence that companies like SDG&E and Sempra engage in on a daily basis.

"This investor-owned utility continues to exert its corrosive influence on our community by spreading disinformation, bribing elected officials via campaign

contributions and paying off community organizations to advance its mission to keep us addicted to fossil fuels," said Sullivan, "SDG&E and Sempra have polluted our air, over charged our citizens for energy, lobbied and lied to politicians in an effort to thwart the growth of renewable energy, and delivered visual blight from our coastline to our mountains - and for what? To line their pockets at the expense of our children's future."

Sullivan seems hopeful that a new beginning lies on the horizon.

Many cities throughout San Diego County are looking at Community Choice Energy as a less expensive alternative to SDG&E, which would give ratepayers freedom of choice and cleaner energy. Last summer Solana Beach became the first city in San Diego County to take the next step toward Community Choice Energy. Two months later, Solana Beach passed a Climate Action Plan with a 100 percent energy goal by 2035.

"Passing our Climate Action Plan was not an easy achievement; it took us years to work our way through possible mitigation measures needed to reduce our carbon footprint," said Solana Beach Councilmember Judy Hegenauer, "The process led us to our 'ah ha' moment - Community Choice Energy would be essential to achieving our environmental goals."

To learn more about the Sierra Club Home Solar Program, visit www.sierraclubsolarprogram.org



North County Coastal Group

Quarterly Membership Meeting

Tuesday, April 17

7 pm – 8:30 pm

Alga Norte Community Park

6565 Alicante Rd, Carlsbad

Featured speaker will be City Council member Cori Schumacher

Open to the public. Everyone is welcome!

We're All In This Together

Whether we like it or not!

by Carolyn Chase



The 29th annual EarthFair in Balboa Park lands on National Earth Day this year: April 22nd from 10am to 5pm. With the theme, "We're All In This Together," the Earth Day Parade through the EarthFair begins at 10:30am. In just a few hours, in honor of Earth Day, you can check-in directly with more than 300 exhibits of groups and businesses sharing what they're doing. Whether it's a product, a service or a project you can volunteer for, there's something for everyone.

Discouraged? Go to the EarthFair

Depressed? Volunteer!

Walk in the Parade...

While there's a never-ending stream of bad news for sustainability and climate change policies from the federal government, at least in California, we're still up to the challenge. I know the bad news gets me down. But then I look and see the things the Chapter is doing, and the number of groups and businesses and ways to make a difference, and I know there's a lot of good rising up to create the greener, sustainable world we all need to live in. We just need to keep working to make it happen. Drop by the Chapter's booth on El Prado East or better yet - volunteer at our booth AND visit the EarthFair Register to walk in the Earth Day Parade: EarthParade.org Volunteer for the EarthFair: EarthDayWeb.org Volunteer for the Sierra Club at the EarthFair: email: scoffice@sierrasd.org



Photo: John Hancock Photography

San Diego Nature at its Best

"We're constantly being bombarded by problems that we face and sometimes we can get completely overwhelmed. [But] we should always feel like a hummingbird. I may feel insignificant, but I don't want to be like the other animals watching the planet go down the drain. I'll be a hummingbird, I'll do the best I can." - Wangari Maathai

Wangari Maathai (1940-2011) was an internationally renowned Kenyan environmental political activist, Nobel laureate and the founder of the Green Belt Movement, an environmental organization focused on the planting of trees, environmental conservation, and women's rights.

Ex Com Nominations continued from page 10

environmental and social justice issues
The San Diego Chapter Executive Committee is a working board. All members are expected to devote sufficient time, energy, and creativity to projects and commitments and to carry them through to their successful conclusion.

All Executive Committee members are expected to:

- *Prepare for and attend monthly meetings each year*
 - *Participate in conference calls when needed*
 - *Communicate regularly via e-mail*
 - *Participate in other meetings on behalf of the Executive Committee or the Chapter*
- Executive Committee members receive no monetary compensation but may be reimbursed for approved expenses while on Chapter business.*

Three Executive Committee members will be elected in the 2018 election. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected for a term of three years. The candidate receiving the next highest number of votes will be elected for a term of two years.

Please Visit Sierra Club San Diego's Online Store

All proceeds from products sold and donations made go to the Sierra Club of San Diego Chapter and are not tax deductible as they continue to support our effective citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts which provides maximum flexibility for our work.

Sales and donations also contribute to our continued efforts towards the mission of the Sierra Club, which is to promote the preservation, restoration, and enjoyment of California's environment, and enable chapters and grassroots activists to speak as one voice to promote California conservation.

To save on shipping, all of our items are available for pick-up at the Chapter office.

Just call us at 858-569-6005 with your order. You can pay by credit card, check or cash if you pick up your order from the office.

<https://donate.sierrasd.org/>

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Taylor
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



My First Ten Years in ICO

by Bill Taylor

On February 9, 2008, I went on my first outing with San Diego ICO – hiking the Anza-Borrego Desert – and on February 9, 2018, I led a group of students on a sunset hike up Cowles Mountain. In the 10 years that passed between those hikes, I led or assisted on 425 other ICO hiking, camping and snorkeling trips. I have met dedicated and generous volunteers who have become some of my best friends. And ICO has been a way to spend time with my 81-year-old father doing something we both love: he joined ICO in 2009 and has assisted me on 220 trips.

ICO trips also have given me countless wonderful memories of introducing kids to the outdoors. In Joshua Tree, we slept outside with no tents between us and the

stars overhead. In Sedona, we night-hiked up Bell Rock, chased javelinas out of camp, and woke at dawn to the sound of kids playing in fresh snow that fell overnight. In La Jolla Cove, kids who had never before been in the ocean have suddenly been face-to-face with curious sea lions swimming up to us to gaze into our eyes as we snorkeled. And I couldn't even guess how many kids held a snake for the first time on an ICO trip with me, learning that they are not scary or slimy – and definitely not something to kill.

And with some of the kids, I have been able to share their journey from childhood into adulthood, seeing the lasting benefits that ICO brings. I mentored David as he matured from a 4th-grade boy to become the first in his family to graduate high school. He now loves hiking and camping near San Luis Obispo, where he is pursuing a psychology degree at Cal Poly and considering a future working with children. Karen and Evelyn – cousins whose

mothers are immigrants from Oaxaca – first went on ICO trips with me when they were in elementary school. Now in

Inspiring Connections Outdoors is a Sierra Club outreach program that provides free outdoor experiences to under-served youth, to help them exploring the outdoors, develop the skills to do it safely, and nurture a desire to protect natural spaces. Please visit our website at www.sandigosierraclub.org

Volunteering With ICO – For information about volunteering with ICO, please contact Greg Shadoan (gregshadoan@yahoo.com).

How to Donate – We appreciate your support helping us to provide exciting, safe adventures free of charge. To receive a tax credit for your donation, please make your check payable to “Sierra Club Foundation/San Diego ICO” and send to:

San Diego ICO
c/o Mike Gilligan,
3446 N. Mountain View Drive,
San Diego, CA 92116

high school and soon headed for college, they still come with me on ICO trips, but now they come as helpers and mentors to kids who are as young as they were when I first met them. One of the girls they mentor – Jessica – told me that she is going to be “the next Karen.” And I have no doubt that in five or six years, another child will say that she is going to be “the next Jessica.”

The impact we have on many ICO kids is self-perpetuating, and that is a very gratifying thing to see. So if you are looking for a way to make a real difference in the lives of the next generation (and beyond) and to bring something wonderful into your own life at the same time, join me for the next 10 years.



Classified Ad Rates and Information:

Sierra Club Members

(up to 25 words)

Private party

\$10 + \$.50 per additional word.

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Non-Members

(up to 25 words) Private party-\$15 + \$.50 per additional word.

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Payment must be made at time of submission by check to:

Sierra Club San Diego

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101

San Diego, CA 92111

Send ad to: info@thomascreative.com

Submission Deadlines for HiSierran Newsletter:

If you would like to submit an advertisement, story or article please remember these important deadlines:

Upcoming Issues:

July/August/September 2018

Deadline is June 1st

To submit by email,
please email to both:

info@thomascreative.com

richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Submissions are subject to approval for content and subject matter.

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858-569-6005 or

richard.miller@sierraclub.org.

The current issue and past issues are available to read online at sandigosierraclub.org/news/newsletter

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Please make your check payable to Sierra Club San Diego or use your credit card.

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Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible as they support the Sierra Club's effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts

Return instructions:

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SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, Ste #101

San Diego, California

92111-1315

Donate online:

<http://sandigosierraclub.org/donate>

Committees & Contact Information

Meetings are held at the Sierra Club office or conference room unless otherwise indicated.

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Administrative Assistant: Marty Marquez
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kyle.rentschler@sierraclub.org

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Coordinator of Volunteers
Ally Bratz 760.522.1303
ally.r.bartz@gmail.com

STEERING COMMITTEE
Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office

Chair: Ruben Arizmendi
619-787-0676
rfalawsierraclub@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: Dr. Peter Andersen
619-857-4233
westone47@gmail.com

Secretary: Karenlee Robinson
619-572-8451
karenlee.robinson@icloud.com

George Courser
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Fred Rogers
fred.e.rogers@gmail.com

Paul Webb
pbwebb3@cox.net

Treasurer (Non-Voting):
Rochelle Hancock
rae_1024@yahoo.com

Assistant Treasurer (Non-Voting)
Orion Hudgins
orion@orioncpa.com

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP (COASTERS)

Contact Chair or check website for meeting information.

Chair: Sally Prendergast 760-525-5156
sallyp123@mac.com

NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)

http://sierraclubncg.org
Contact Chair for time and location.

Chair: Kelly Conrad
760-703-3464
slpypup@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Monday at 6:30 pm Chapter Office.

Chair: George Courser 858-231-0156
gcourser@hotmail.com

International

Call for meeting information
Jean Costa (619) 463-0721

Transportation

Call for meeting information
Mike Bullock (760) 754-8025
mike_bullock@earthlink.net

Wildlife

Renee Owens 619-201-1965
renee@wildlifezone.net

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 1st Tuesday at 7:00pm Chapter Office

Chair: Brian Elliot
brian.d.elliott@gmail.com

FOSTER LODGE COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Wednesday 6:30pm
Chair: Paul Webb
pbwebb3@cox.net

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location.

Chair: Kevin Neal
sd.outchair@gmail.com

Leadership Review & Safety Committee

Chair: Michael Taylor (619 -948-2062)
sd.lrsc@gmail.com
Meets quarterly, call for information.

Bus Trips

Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Stefanie Maio
sd.col.training@gmail.com

Pacific Crest Trail

Rob Langsdorf (858) 454-4777
SDSCPCS@yahoo.com

SEAL SOCIETY

For meeting and docent information:

Ellen Shively
ellenshively@sbcglobal.net
619-479-3412

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

San Diego

Michael Taylor
info@wildernessbasics.com
www.wildernessbasics.com

Escondido

Lee Ledford (858-485-1063)
lledfor1@san.rr.com
wbc.sierraclubncg.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Bicycle

Call for meeting information. Jerry Fitzsimmons
(858) 224-3437 Membership@sdsbcs.org.
www.sandigosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/
bicycle

Family

Jennifer Douglas
(858) 344-5490
jenniferdouglasvettel@gmail.com
www.meetup.com/SDSierraClubFamily

Photography

www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/photoclub

Social Sierrans- formerly Singles

Dina Campbell
dinacampbell07@gmail.com

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Call or check website for meeting information.
www.sandigosierraclub.org

Chair: Bill Tayler, (858) 272-8574
btayler@taylorlaw.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Fundraising/Membership

Richard Miller (858) 569-6005
richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Hi Sierran Newsletter

Managing Editor: Judy Thomas
info@thomascreative.com

SIERRA TALKS, MONTHLY PROGRAM

1st Friday of every month

Program Manager: Ernest "EL" Lotecka
(760) 533-2725
sdwalks@interactor.cc

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(800) 932-4270
planned.giving@sierraclub.org



San Diego Chapter

8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101

San Diego, CA 92111

On the north side & just west of the 163.

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm

Phone: 858-569-6005

www.sandigosierraclub.org

San Diego Chapter Awards & Gala Celebration

Celebrating 70 Years of Environmental Protection and Leadership

Sierra Club San Diego will celebrate its 70th anniversary at its annual Awards and Gala Celebration to recognize and commemorate the achievements of the Chapter, community organizations, leaders and volunteers who have contributed their time and effort to protect the environment of our region. The event will include a reception, silent auction, hearty food stations and awards program.

Saturday, June 9, 2018

Reception 6:00pm-7:00pm, Silent Auction, Program 7:00pm–9:30pm

Hilton Harbor Island Hotel

1960 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego 92101

Tickets - \$100 per person

Sponsorships

Sponsorship packages are available from \$1,000 to \$5,000

Ticket may be purchased at www.sandigosierraclub.org

CONTACT Richard Miller at (858) 569-6005 or richard.miller@sierraclub.org

