

Vol 75 No. 1

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Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

January/February 2016

The Caruso Mega Mall in Carlsbad on the Hedionda Lagoon VOTE No on A

Opinion by Diane Nygaard

On February 23, 2016 the voters of Carlsbad will approve or reject a mega-mall on the south shore of Agua Hedionda Lagoon. Located right next to I-5 at Cannon Road in Carlsbad, this project could set a dangerous precedent, not just for Carlsbad, but for the entire state of California. This project got to the ballot because a billionaire LA developer, Caruso Affiliated, is taking advantage of a loophole in our state initiative law. A recent CA Supreme Court decision allows "citizen-led" initiatives to bypass California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. All it took was getting three local residents to sign his 397 page Specific Plan and submit this project as an initiative to the city of Carlsbad. The City Council then voted to adopt it outright. Their approval was challenged by an all-volunteer citizen's referendum that forced this decision to the ballot.

Caruso Affiliated has already spent over \$ 5.3 million to buy their project approvals and to deny the people their right to vote. They have publicly stated they chose the initiative route in order to bypass the CEQA process and the associated costs and delays of anticipated legal challenges. We have fought off legal challenges to CEQA for years. If this initiative passes, it creates a new way for well-funded developers to get around this fundamental state law that was designed to protect our health and the environment.

We also have grave concerns about the project itself. A 585,000 sq. ft. shopping center does not belong next to a sensitive coastal lagoon. Independent technical studies document concerns with traffic congestion, air pollution 8 times greater than the thresholds allow, and runoff contaminated with heavy metals that are toxic to marine life. The project will also generate over 33 million metric tons of Green House Gases per year. This greatly exceeds what was projected in the recently adopted Carlsbad Climate Action Plan and moves us in the wrong direction in responding to climate change. This project won't just affect the residents of Carlsbad. It will affect everyone who drives that section of I-5, breathes the polluted air, values our coastal resources, and wants to stop the devastating effects of global warming.

Should a billionaire LA developer be allowed to write his own rules that impact our health and pollute our air and coastal waters? Or should this project be held to the same standards we expect of every development project? We urge the voters of Carlsbad to Vote No on A and encourage all of our members to get engaged in the effort to defeat this dangerous ballot measure.

For more information go to **www.citizensfornorthcounty.org** or contact Sierra Club member Diane Nygaard at 760-724-3887.

Report from the Trenches: Paris Climate Agreement

By Peter Zahn, Deputy Mayor of Solana Beach & President of the Moxie Foundation, whose environment program includes climate change, conservation, and sustainable agriculture initiatives.

It took twenty years to reach a comprehensive global climate agreement. I spent the final 8 days in Paris, attached to the Natural Resources Defense Council delegation, and representing the City of Solana Beach. I was fortunate to interact with people who came to the climate conference (also called "COP21") from all corners of the planet: government officials, foundation leaders, diplomats, financiers, scientists, actors, corporate, indigenous peoples, and non-governmental organizations.

Global Concern. The 190 countries in attendance were tasked with forming an agreement to contain global temperature rise (which is measured from pre-industrial levels) to no more than 2 degrees C (3.7 degree F), and provide funds for developing nations to deal with the effects of climate change.

145 heads of state (a record for any global meeting) kicked off the conference. Beforehand, most countries submitted specific targets for greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reductions. Amazingly, every nation was taking climate change seriously, with an unprecedented level of commitment.

Issues and Outcomes. Negotiators wrangled with these issues, literally around the clock:

1. Is 2 degrees C maximum temperature rise adequate, or should the parties agree to a 1.5-degree target? The poorer countries facing devastating sea level rise initially pushed a 1.5-degree cap. The Paris agreement ended up calling for temperature rise "well below" 2 degrees, and to "pur-

Paris Climate Agreement continued on page 7

9th Annual Whale Watching Trip A Benefit Event for the San Diego Chapter Sunday, January 17, 2016, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM See page 5 for details

HISIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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Power to Positive People!

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed your holiday! Looking forward to 2016, I keep returning to what Margaret Mead said so perfectly:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else.

Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have. - Margaret Mead

There is some good news to share: The Steering Committee shuffled jobs! Davin Widgerow will be chair of the Steering Committee, Nick Ervin will be the Vice Chair and Joe Zechman will be the Secretary. Karenlee Robinson, Paul Webb and I will remain as Steering Committee members. I will be Chair of the Conservation Committee and the Political Committee will elect a new Chair. We are looking for a Treasurer. Do you know someone that would have 12 hours a month to help out? I think these role changes will be very healthy for the club.

New leadership introduces new ways of doing things that may engage different, more diverse people. Davin has done a great job with recruiting active volunteers to the Political Committee! The strength of the club is only as strong as the members. We are a volunteer organization and it's amazing what we accomplish with only one paid staff person! I am very grateful and honored to be part of this dedicated group.

When I look back on the 2 years since the Steering committee was appointed, I see great things that have been accomplished! Lately, I have been thinking of the Sierra Club as a family, complete with all the dysfunction that comes in families working closely together. What keeps us moving forward is the belief that together we can make a difference in our San Diego community, where we all live and work. Our communities are only as healthy as our environment. If we have polluted air and water our health and our quality of life is degraded. This means that caring for people is caring for the land, the water and the air.

I believe that a good measure of what has been accomplished is by remaining positive and setting a tone of including everyone by giving each person's ideas the respect they deserve. We have tried to minimize comments like, "We tried that before and it didn't work" or "this is a slippery slope and led to ruin in the past." It also means looking to the health of the whole organization, not one person's particular soapbox. Leaders sometimes need to set aside their own agendas if the organization is to thrive. Collaboration generally produces better ideas than ideas created by one person.

Much of the work the Sierra Club is to educate people on issues, whether the issue is on specific candidates, ballot measures, keeping our forests healthy, challenges to the General Plan, pure water to drink or keeping our oceans clean. Sharing knowledge means to share what you know and help to educate others so they can see the world through new eyes. Knowledge is not meant to be hoarded. To be inclusive means to have an attitude that every question has value and should be answered with respect. Good teachers assess someone's basic knowledge so they build on what the learner already knows. They are not condescending or superior.

I challenge you to try this, as you work with people in 2016:

• Share what you know so others can benefit, don't hoard your information.

• Really listen to what people say!

• Answer questions in a kind way to share information.

• Look for each person's unique way of doing things.

• Mentor someone.

• Collaborate with others to come up with great ideas.

• Look at the big picture and the health of the organization.

• Work with others for the greater good.

This is from Aesop's Fables:

This short fable tells of a man whose sons often quarrel among themselves. To show them the benefit of working together, he brings them a bundle of sticks. He asks them to break the bundle of sticks. As expected, the brothers cannot break the sticks when they are together. However, they can easily be broken

Editors Thoughts continued on page 4

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COP 21: What It Does – And Doesn't Accomplish

By John Atcheson

Reactions to the Climate Agreement coming out of COP 21 in Paris on Saturday December 12 has been mixed. Some have hailed it as a breakthrough, while others – including James Hansen – have dismissed it as little more than empty words.

The fact is, both sides have a point.

There are some positive things coming out of the meeting, but it's important to understand what it does – and doesn't -- accomplish in terms of avoiding catastrophic climate change.

On the plus side the High Ambition Coalition picked up steam as the conference came to a close. This is a group of nations who advocated a stringent reporting regime to measure the extent to which countries are meeting their pledges, as well as limiting warming to no more than 1.5 C. Led by the island nations, as the Meeting progressed, Canada, the US, the EU, and other developed nations came together joined the coalition. On Friday, Brazil joined the group, and the final agreement requires countries to report and reexamine their goals every five years. The group helped make the Conference's overall goal more stringent. It now seeks to keep, "… the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels."

The bad news? 1.5 C is nothing more than aspirational. Here's why.

We can only emit about 200 billion more tonnes of carbon dioxide to have even a 66% chance of staying below 1.5 C. Since we are emitting about 40 billion tonnes per year (about 44 billion US tons), we will blow through the budget by 2020, the year in which the Paris agreements are to start being implemented. In other words, that ship will have sailed before the Agreement is in effect.

Now, about that 66% probability. A core precept of risk analysis and risk management is that dangers which are irreversible, widespread and consequential demand very high safety margins. Nothing could be more consequential than the destruction of the climate we evolved in, and it's irreversible in all but geologic time.

Given this, a goal built on something approaching a 100% probability of safeguarding the climate would make more sense. Hell, even 90% seems ... well ... foolhardy. But the fact is, whether we choose a target of 1.5 C or 2 C, the target for a 90% margin of safety is gone. So we're now reduced to playing Russian roulette with our future – but because we've delayed action for so long, we've got bullets in two chambers, instead on one.

The only way a target of 1.5 C has any meaning whatsoever at this point, is if we commit to extracting massive amounts of carbon from the atmosphere – something we have no idea how to do, and something we have not committed to doing.

Claims that the agreements coming out of Paris are "binding" are misleading.

What's binding are the pledges submitted as part of each participating country's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution, or INDC. So far, 185 countries have pledges. However, there is no mechanism that makes achieving these pledges binding.

COPS 21 continued on page 12

Cleveland National Forrest Foundation, Sierra Club and The Center for Biological Diversity vs. SANDAG:

The Ongoing Fight for Transit and Climate Stabilization

By Jana Clark, Board Member, CNFF

Last year a California appeals court upheld a superior court ruling against SANDAG for failing to fully assess the climate and public health risks of a transportation plan that invests heavily in freeways and subsidizes sprawl at the expense of public transit. The decision, by the Fourth District California Court of Appeal, Division 1, confirms that the San Diego Association of Governments, or SANDAG, violated state law by failing to fully account for, and take steps to reduce, greenhouse gases and harmful air pollution in its environmental review of the region's long-range transportation plan.

The Cleveland National Forest Foundation (CNFF), the Center for Biological Diversity and Sierra Club challenged SANDAG's environmental review of the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan under the California Environmental Quality Act. California Attorney General Kamala Harris joined in the challenge on behalf of the People of the State of California.

The appeals court decision holds that agencies must evaluate their long-term projects for consistency with the climate pollution reductions that climate scientists and California policymakers agree are necessary by mid-century to avoid the worst effects of climate disruption. The decision further requires agencies to take real, concrete steps to address climate impacts-not just "kick the can down the road," as the superior court put it. It outlines SANDAG's other failures as well: SANDAG failed to disclose available information about existing air pollution problems, failed to detail how the transportation plan's increase in pollution from cars and trucks could harm public health in neighboring communities, and failed to take meaningful steps to reduce that pollution. In addition, the court faulted SANDAG for failing to consider any alternative to its plan that would focus on reducing the number of miles that residents drive.

Instead of abiding by both the superior and appellate decisions, SANDAG filed a Petition for Review in the California Supreme Court, and once again delayed climate justice for the San Diego region. In this latest assault on justice SANDAG continues to fail to inform the public and decision makers about the long-term impacts of the \$200 billon transportation plan. The Supreme Court granted review on one issue: whether

CNFF continued on page 4

9th Annual Whale Watching Trip

A Benefit Event for the San Diego Chapter

Sunday, January 17, 2016, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Join fellow Sierra Club members and friends as we venture out to locate gray whales. It will be the height of the grey whale migration along our coast and your opportunity to see whales from afar and up close. Bring your cameras and binoculars to make this a memorable whale watching trip.

BRING YOUR CAMERA AND PARTICIPATE IN THE 2nd ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Adult \$55 Child (6-13yrs) \$30 Purchase Tickets at: https.//sierraclubsandiego.mycafecommerce.com



For questions or more information, email scoffice@sierrasd.org or call 858-569-6005

No tickets will be issued. By making payment you are officially registered and will receive notification and confirmation.

To pay by check, make payable to "Sierra Club San Diego", and mail to: Whale Watching Trip, San Diego Chapter Sierra Club, 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, Ste. 101, San Diego, CA 92111. Please include the name, address, email, and telephone number of each person. CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Editors Thoughts continued from page 2

individually. The moral of this story is written:

My sons, if you are of one mind, and unite to assist each other, you will be as this bundle, uninjured by all the attempts of your enemies; but if you are divided among yourselves, you will be broken as easily as these sticks.

So I encourage you to get involved and share your special knowledge. May 2016 be a great year for re-building Sierra Club San Diego! United we stand, divided we fall!

Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2016! Debbie Hecht, Editor of the HiSierran Hecht.deb@gmail.com CNFF continued from page 3

SANDAG's analysis of the transportation plan's climate impacts violated CEQA; the Court allowed the remainder of the appellate decision to stand.

During the pendency of the Supreme Court proceedings, SANDAG has managed to approve their new 2015 Regional Transportation Plan. This new plan is also a complete failure. It fails to set the County on a course for a transit-friendly future, it fails to meet the state's long-term greenhouse gas reduction goals and it fails to address the reality of climate change. In response to this climate-killing plan, CNFF will continue to pursue transitfirst alternatives at the project level. An example of this is our lawsuit against Caltrans on the egregious I-5 expansion from Del Mar to Oceanside, which is looking very promising.

Of course, the impending Supreme Court decision is vitally important to set the state of California on the right track to plan and invest in infrastructure that will meet the challenges of a changing climate. This decision will determine whether a metropolitan planning agency must analyze its transportation plan's consistency with Governor Schwarzenegger's mandates to significantly reduce the State's GHG emissions. We eagerly await this decision, which is expected next year. For further information and links to all the briefs in this suit please check out our website.

http://www.transitsandiego.org/ ceqa_lawsuit

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Sierra Club Bus Trips

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

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.



Save the date for the following trips: 2016

March 19

One Day Bus Trip - Anza Borrego State Park Wildflower & Sculpture Park Bus Tour

Registration opens January 13

May 11 - 15 Multi-Day Bus Trip - Grand Canyon National Park

Registration opens March 12

July 13 - 17

Bus Trip - Yosemite

Registration opens May 21

August 17 - 21

Multi-Day Bus Trip - Hoover Wilderness

Registration opens June 25

October 6-9

Multi-Day Bus Trip - Channel Islands

Registration opens August 13

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



Bev Fritschner, President of the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club welcomes Chair Debbie Hecht to the podium to speak about the 1% Land and Water Fund.

Join the Solar Revolution with Sierra Club

"Rooftop solar is a key ingredient in America's transition to a healthy, prosperous economy powered by clean energy. Every family that switches to solar gets us a step closer to our goal." – Michael Brune, Sierra Club Executive Director

The Sierra Club has teamed up with Sungevity to make rooftop solar easy and affordable. The Solar Homes Program is a partnership between Sierra Club and Sungevity to help members and supporters go solar, save money and cut carbon. Under this program, every time a home goes solar in San Diego or Imperial County, the San Diego Chapter receives funds towards its important work to protect the environment.

Why Go Solar Now?

• **Rooftop solar is as green as it gets.** Going solar usually offsets more carbon than if you stopped driving completely.

• **Solar has never been more affordable.** Panel costs have fallen dramatically, and for now, you can still benefit from significant federal and state incentives.

• **Rooftop solar helps the U.S. economy** by providing work for the people who design and install the systems. A stronger economy based on good, green jobs at home helps us all.

A Win for you, the Planet, and Sierra Club

Hundreds of our members are already powering their lives with sunshine.

- Over a 20-year period the typical solar home will save 200,569 lbs of CO2 from entering the atmosphere.
- That's like planting 2,377 trees!
- Or like taking 229,701 miles off the road!

Solar Revolution continued on page 14

Harbor Seals Pupping Season at Casa Beach

By Ellen Shively: Wildlife Chair



Casa Beach is closed till May- see Harbor Seals in background

San Diego is home to an amazing variety of native biodiversity. Along our 72 miles of coastline, one can see marine mammals such as sea lions, harbor seals, dolphins, whales, a great array of birds and wild displays of coastal plant life.

A large part of your nature education would be amiss if you don't come to La Jolla to view the annual harbor seal pupping season, now in full swing at La Jolla's Casa Beach. To insure the seals a level of safety and privacy during the later stages of pregnancy, through the nursing period, and a few weeks post weaning, the city has closed the stairs leading to access on the sand from mid December through mid-May. Last year, during the months of late January through mid April, approximately 50 plus pups (newborns) were counted by the beach ranger and visitors. Many births were observed on the beach in full view of spectators. Like humans, the gestational period takes nine months for full development. In an amazing display of instinct, new mothers seem to know exactly what their young need and the pair are seldom seen apart during the four to seven weeks of nursing. This time is most critical for the pup to double it's birth weight and learn all the survival skills needed, for upon the mother's milk "drying up", the pup must have learned to forage for their food by themselves. Females may begin having young as early as three years of age. The average healthy pup weighs in at about 20-25 pounds. Their life span varies from 25 to 30 years in the ocean. The abundant food supply available for our local seal colony is found along the shallow waters and in the kelp forest located about half a mile off shore.

They eat soft flesh fish, crustaceans, lobster and crabs. If you go to the beach, please do not make loud noises or approach the seals in any way. It is against the law to feed, touch or disturb these animals on the beach.

Now that the new lifeguard tower is completed, it is hoped that better educational signs will be posted and that an improved area to watch the seals will be provided by the city. The ranger and a group of docents provide information to interested people and are often available during some hours of the weekends, although the hours are not set as of now. For more information on the seals, or if you would like to become a docent, please go to a website, the Seal Conservancy.org or consult with our Wildlife Chair, ellenshively@sbcglobal.net. Paris Climate Agreement continued from page 1

sue efforts" *to achieve a 1.5 degree cap – the maximum many believe is necessary to avoid catastrophe.*

- 2. Should each country's GHG emissions pledges be updated regularly? How often should the parties reconvene? Since many countries probably low-balled their emissions targets, there is opportunity for improvement. The agreement encourages each nation to submit further target reductions before 2020, with additional pledges required every five years starting in 2025. Aggressive reductions will be needed, since the current pledges add up to a 2.7-degree temperature rise by endcentury.
- 3. Should there be regular, transparent reporting against each country's emission targets? Building on earlier understandings, the Paris agreement requires detailed reporting every two years, independent expert reviews, public web access, and a forum to evaluate each country's progress. Although the agreement lacks enforcement mechanisms, these transparency provisions are significant.
- 4. How will the funds committed by the developing countries actually come together? Which countries are eligible for these funds? Unfortunately the agreement does not specify amounts to be provided by the developed nations. However, it incorporates the existing goal of \$100 billion by 2020, and using that amount as a floor, effectively sets a goal of at least \$100 billion annually after that. Developing countries will be able to obtain funds to adapt to climate change, and implement technology and emissions reduction initiatives.

Bottom Line:

A Fundamental Shift is coming. We need to work together to ensure all of the emissions pledges are fulfilled. If the Paris agreement sends a strong market signal and unleashes massive investments in a new clean energy economy, our planet might avoid the worst impacts. The climate revolution has begun!

Sierra Club Bicycle Section 21st Annual Toy Ride

This year marked the 21st Annual Jingle Bell Toy Ride sponsored by the Sierra Club Bicycle Section. A host of riders -- 25 in all -- personally delivered unwrapped toys destined for the children served by St. Vincent de Paul. This ride has been a longstanding tradition. John Bousquet, Manager of City Digz retail shop, personally greeted us and commemorated the event with a photo.

Join Sierra Club Bicycle Section on these future rides with a conservation twist: Valentine's Mid-day ride departing Mission Bay Visitor Center that will pass Rose Creek Watershed, Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve, Mission Bay Northern Wildlife Preserve, and a portion of the San Diego River Estuary. Look for this and upcoming bird-and-bike outings on the San Diego Chapter website:

http://sandiegosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/bicycle/

Agua Calliente Car Camp

By Michael Taylor

Let's Camp! Join the Sierra Social Section for a weekend campout at the exotic Agua Caliente County Park Camp Ground. The Sierra Social Section has reserved the group camp site so bring your tents, ez-ups and gear and come on out for a fun weekend. This event is packed with fun! Plans include hikes of all levels and afterwards bring your swimsuits to cool off in one of spring fed



indoor and/or outdoor mineral pools. Bring a chair and some firewood for the evening campfires while we enjoy a BYOB happy hour and potluck dinner Saturday night. We are trying for a movie or a ranger presentation for Friday night at the amphitheater, any help or a projector loan would be appreciated! The Park is filled with things to do and if we are lucky, we may just spot the elusive Big Horn Sheep that like to visit from time to time. Carpooling is strongly encouraged! There is a \$5.00 fee to park for each car so double up, triple up or call your friends with trucks. Cost: Members are \$10.00, Non-members are \$20.00. Sign up at: https:// aguacalientegroupcarcamp.eventbrite.com . There are bbq grills and picnic benches available on site (bring your own charcoal). There are beautiful flush toilets and pay showers available in the park and at the pool area. Don't wait! Sign up now! Space is limited. Contact Michael Taylor for details: sd.sierra.social@gmail.com

Memorial Gifts

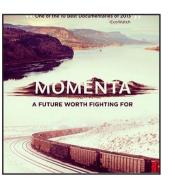
Memorial gifts to Sierra Club San Diego are a way of supporting our conservation work and honoring the life of our friends and loved ones. Memorial gifts can be acknowledged with a thoughtful card to those designated by the donor. If you would like to make a memorial gift, please contact Richard Miller at 858-569-6005 or richard.miller@sierraclub.org.



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 January 8, 6:30 pm Movies: 1. MOMENTA PROJECT 40 Minutes

In America's Pacific Northwest, communities are taking part in a historical opposition to Big Coal and its reckless pursuit of profits. American demand for coal is declining, and as result the coal industry plans to extract billions of tons of coal from the



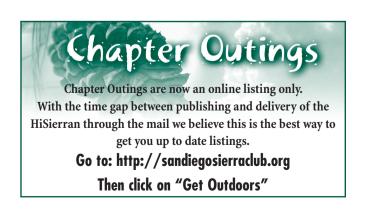
Powder River Basin and ship it to rapidly expanding Asian markets via proposed deep-water ports in Washington and Oregon. This film depicts the efforts of a grassroots group called Protect Our Winters to alert and unite the winter sports community against a potential catastrophe that would cause irreparable harm to the health of the people and the environment of the area – and to show them the sustainable alternative of renewable energy.

2. THE STORY OF BROKE 8 Minutes

This brief film describes our broken economy in which a few become very rich at the expense of the rest of us whose taxes subsidize industries that produce more pollution, greenhouse gasses and garbage than any other country.

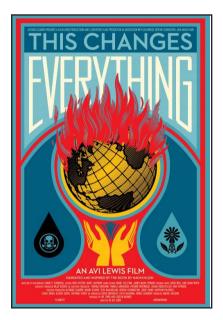
3. THE STORY OF SOLUTIONS 9 Minutes

This film explores the ways we can move our economy of "more" towards the goal of "better": better health, better jobs and a better chance to survive on this planet.



February 12, 6:30 pm Movie: THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING 90 Minutes

Inspired by Naomi Klein's international non-fiction bestseller This Changes Everything, the film presents seven powerful portraits of communities on the front lines, from Montana's Powder River Basin to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing and beyond. Interwoven with these stories of struggle is Klein's narration, connecting the carbon in the air with the economic system that put it there. Throughout the film, Klein builds to her most contro-



versial and exciting idea: that we can seize the existential crisis of climate change to transform our failed economic system into something radically better. This film aims to empower us and to inspire us to reflect on the ties between us, the kind of lives we really want, and why the climate crisis is at the center of it all.



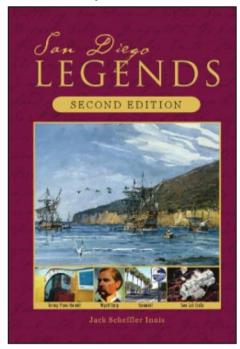


A collection of bags made from olivecolored, cotton canvas and featuring the original Sierra Club seal. Items pictured right to right: Roll Duffle Bag, Messenger Bag, Toiletry Bag (front), Rucksack (back) and Carry-All Duffle w/strap. Visit our online store at http://sierraclubsandiego. mycafecommerce.com to purchase these great items and more!



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 "E.L" Lotecka sdwalks@interactor.cc

JANUARY 1st San Diego Legends: The Events, People, and Places That Made History

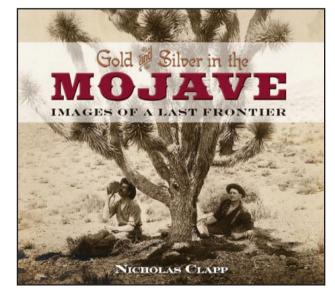


For the first time. this presentation brings together the extraordinary accounts of famous and infamous people, places, and events in San Diego's past. Some of history's most colorful characters have made headlines in San Diego and this book has the stories behind the news stories. These fascinating accounts range from the 1852 murder of the

city's first mayor to the glamorous lives of modern stars of stage and screen who called San Diego home.

Jack Innis, award-winning local journalist, wrote the first edition of San Diego Legends in 2004. His expanded second edition with more than 100 behind the scenes stories was recently published and includes tales of some of the colorful characters who lived in our area that makes San Diego's history unique. He has researched a dozen Indian tribal tales including an unusual Kumeyaay creation legend, Jack, the "San Diego Legend Hunter", graduated from Point Loma High School and earned his Bachelor's degree in Literature and Writing from California State University San Marcos. He is former editor of Del Mar Times and other publications.

FEBURARY 5th Gold and Silver in the Mojave: Images of a Last Frontier



In the 1890s, historian Frederick Jackson Turner lamented that the frontier was gone and with it the Old West, but overlooked was some 50,000 square miles of a frontier line outlining the Mojave Desert – America's Last Frontier. Overnight towns popped up in this arid desert as gold and silver was discovered. Just as quickly ghost towns replaced booming towns as mines played out. All of this is captured in rare photographs of the day assembled by Nicholas Clapp.

Award-winning documentary filmmaker and author Nicholas Clapp has studied, filmed, and written about the deserts of the world. With a master's degree in cinema from the University of Southern California, his first professional break came when he produced and directed "The Great Mojave Desert", a one-hour special for CBS and the National Geographic Society. He has won over 70 major film awards for his documentary work.

News from the



The North County Group is please to announce the results of the recent Executive Committee election and welcomes Kit Davis, Kelly Conrad and Dan Conger as the new board members for 2016-2017. We would like to thank all the members of the North County Group that took the time to cast their votes.

Join us for the North County Group Winter Meeting on Tuesday, February 16, from 7-9PM in the Mitchell Room at Escondido City Hall. Member Karen Landes will share her experience backpacking the scenic Lost Coast Trail on the rugged coastline of Northern California. Escondido City Hall is located at 201 N. Broadway, Escondido. Go to www.sierraclubncg.org for more information.



Lost Coast Trail, Northern California.

PolComm Postings

Dispatches from the Political Committee

Davin Widgerow

The Political Committee used the last months of 2015 to prepare for our busy endorsement interview season starting in Spring 2016, and heard from various elected officials and other influential individuals from around San Diego.

State Senator Marty Block (D-39th SD) came to speak to the Committee about his environmental record and his campaign for reelection. Senator Block highlighted the extensive pro-environment legislation he has sponsored and/or voted for, and also discussed his race against Speaker Toni Atkins, who is challenging Senator Block for his seat. The Committee had various questions for Senator Block about SB 350, fracking, and legislation to address climate change. The Committee also applauded him for leading the effort to bring the Public Utilities Commission to San Diego to hear from advocates for rooftop solar, and for opposing SDG&E's move to set up a political marketing district to campaign against community choice energy.

Environmental attorney Cory Briggs met with the Committee to discuss his proposed ballot initiative, entitled "The Citizens Plan for San Diego." The initiative would set up a new tourist hotel and taxation infrastructure that would resolve outstanding problems with the Qualcomm Stadium Mission Valley site and the downtown Convention Center, as well incorporate environmental remediation and public transit measures for both areas.

Finally, the Committee finalized its San Diego City Council candidate endorsement questionnaire and scheduled interview dates for our 2016 primary endorsement cycle. The Committee will be very busy in January interviewing candidates and recommending endorsements to the Steering Committee. We welcome all members to attend our meetings and participate in our efforts and discussions. The Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the chapter office, from 7-9pm. There is also a pre-meeting happy hour from 6:00-6:45pm at Societé Brewing Company across the way from the chapter office, and all are welcome to come and meet our Committee.

Impact Investing -My Realignment Story

by Jon Luft

We all think about doing the right thing and many of us live and lead by example. Some of those around us actually pull it all together and do the right thing, showing us that what they do reflects who they truly are. They walk the talk. I aspire to that and wanted to share a recent, transformative experience regarding the landscape of my retirement investment funding.

Through years of saving and a moderately conservative approach to risk/reward, I now have some funds built up in an IRA, hopefully accruing value. More than 20 years ago, I associated myself with a qualified financial adviser from a large financial institution to help guide my investment strategies, the bulk of which have been a mix of mutual funds. I have no formal training in economics or finance so I always feel better collaborating with subject matter experts. I'm also averse to anxious waiting or nervous speculation and not one who watches the market every day. Instead, I'm a long haul investor. We made initial investment decisions together, watched and adjusted with a cautious, but firm hand, and through the ups and downs of the market I've experienced reasonable growth in the long run.

My investment portfolio was typified by funds positioned primarily to be moneymakers, without paying attention to the specific stocks and/or bonds populating them. I left those decisions to the fund managers. There are many examples of mutual fund families available in the marketplace such as American Funds, Vanguard and others. More recently, with an eye to the destruction of our environment, impacts of climate change, increasing social inequity at home and abroad, the recent banking debacle and other issues such as corporate governance, I decided to take a much closer look at my specific holdings and decide if they aligned with my values. All of them. What I found was troubling and I decided to make a wholesale transformation, by divesting in sectors, compa-*Impact Investing continued on page 12*

January/February 2016 • Hi Sierran • San Diego



Bill Tayler San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



Red Rock Adventures in Sedona

by Bill Tayler

During Thanksgiving break, we took a group of students from America's Finest Charter School on a five-day camping trip to Sedona, Arizona. The youngest, a first grade student named Destiny, proved to be the most energetic, have the most stamina, and be the first one up the rocks at every "rest" break during our hikes. The oldest kids were three boys in eighth grade – Javier, Ethan and Denny – who had never been on a camping trip. For all of them, it was an exciting, challenging, sometimes difficult, and very memorable experience. Freezing cold mornings started with howling coyotes and hot chocolate, at night marshmallows were roasted for smores, no one showered and we all learned not to care. Sometimes javelinas came through camp, adding to the excitement. The first night, the boys wanted to sleep without the rain fly on their tent so that they could see the stars, but after one night of sleeping in 40 degrees, they decided that warmth mattered more than the view.

We hiked every day, usually both morning and afternoon. We explored the far reaches of Fay Canyon, which involves a lot of exposed, off-trail rock scrambling on the ledges that line the canyon walls. We hiked and climbed all over the red rock formations at Cow Pies, Coffee Pot, Broken Arrow, Chicken Peak, Vultee Arch, Boynton vista and

Bell Rock. And, the night before leaving, we returned to Bell Rock for a night hike under a full moon. We hiked and climbed more than the kids knew was possible.

After five days, they were completely exhausted but still wished that we could stay longer. After we got back, one of the girls sent me a message saying that she had almost fallen out of her bunk bed that morning because she thought she was getting out of her tent. After five days, the tent had become her home.



Inspiring Connections Outdoors is a Sierra Club outreach program that provides free wilderness experiences to urban youth, to help them realize the wonders of exploring the outdoors, develop the skills to do it safely, and nurture a desire to protect natural spaces. Please visit our website at www.sandiegosierraclub.org

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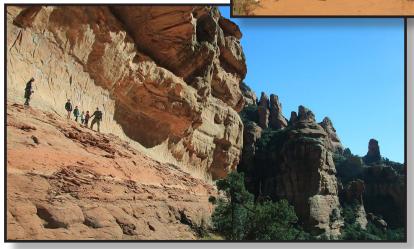
6:30 to 7:30 pm every 3rd Thursday of the month on odd numbered months (Feb, May, etc) at the San Diego Chapter office: 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 101. For information about volunteering with ICO, please contact Bill Tayler by email (btayler@taylerlaw.com) or by telephone (858-531-5442)

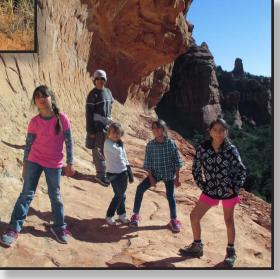
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How to Donate – We appreciate your support helping us to provide exciting, safe adventures free of charge. To receive a tax credit for your donation, please make your check payable to "Sierra Club Foundation/ San Diego ICO" and send to:

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Contact info for this article: Bill Tayler, e-mail: btayler@taylerlaw.com





COPS 21 continued from page 3

The agreement will NOT hold warming to 2 C, or even 2.7

degrees C. Even assuming every country meets its pledges, if countries do not agree to greater cuts after those being made in Paris, the world will likely warm by 3.5 C or more – perhaps as high as 4.6 C, which is more than 8 degrees F.

This is nothing less than catastrophic. But even this devastating outcome ignores a mighty big elephant in the global living room.

Scientists know that we are at or near thresholds which have/will trigger feedbacks that will cause even more warming. For example, just 3 of these known feedbacks, by themselves, would add about 2.5 C more warming on top of the 3.5 resulting from the Paris agreements, bringing total warming to 6 C or nearly 11 F. At this point, we're really talking about a different planet, not simply a warmed up Earth.

And there are no fewer than 12 feedbacks that could amplify warming, so even this could be an understatement.

What COP 21 Accomplished: Probably the best thing to come out of the Meeting was the establishment of a framework in which the majority of the world came together and reached agreements to cut back on carbon, and both developed and developing nations recognized a shared responsibility to act.

Differentiation, which addresses how developed and developing nations share responsibility and costs for mitigating and adapting to climate change, remains a sticking point. But even here there's been progress, in that both the developed and developing world recognized they must ultimately act together to meet this challenge. And India, the world's fourth largest emitter, has indicated it would consider a cap to its emissions if it received financial support adequate to speed a transition to a no-carbon all renewable energy system.

So while there is much work to be done, this Agreement will provide a foundation to build on, and a framework for future progress.

What it did not: In terms of outcomes, there's an enormous – and disastrous – gap between what was agreed to, and what was needed.

This gap is all the more dangerous in that the carbon budgets used to establish permissible emissions of GHGs have essentially – and all but surreptitiously -- rewritten how much risk we are willing to impose on future generations.

The reason we're doing it, is precisely because we failed to act in the past, and using lower margins of safety make it appear as though we have more time to act than we do. Suggesting that a 66% likelihood of actually meeting our goals is acceptable is a form of intergenerational terrorism at worst, an act of intergenerational immorality at best.

It's as if we were looking into the eyes of our grandchildren and asking them to endure outlandish risks so that we might follow a slightly less disruptive path.

In essence, by playing with the margins of safety we are willing to accept, we are obscuring the urgency of acting now – right now -- by increasing the risk we're willing to pass on to our children and their children. This is inexcusable, and it is the greatest failure of the entire COP process.

John Atcheson has over 35 years in the environmental field, working in the private sector, in Academia, government, and for the nation's leading think tanks. His government experience included senior positions at the Environmental Protection Agency, Dept. of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and with the President's Council on Sustainable Development. His writing has appeared in major newspapers, CommonDreams, and he is author of A being Darkly Wise, a novel centered on Climate Change.

Impact Investing continued from page 10

nies, products and services I don't value, and reinvesting in those I do. Working closely with my financial advisor, I turned to what is known as Socially Responsible Investing (SRI), also known as Impact Investing, to frame the process and meet my goal of aligning my investments with my values. I wanted out of oil and gas, big banking, corporate farming and large agri-business, and other similar investments.

In my case there were basically three pathways to take. The first was to tweak my existing portfolio and select different funds within the same family. To explore this I did a deep dive into all of the mutual funds within the larger family of funds I was currently invested in, to see if I could find any that fully met my selection criterion. Scattered widely among all of them were oil and gas, big agri-business, tobacco and big banking and others I wished to divest from. It became apparent this path was not going to be productive for me.

The second option was the potential to create a fully custom portfolio through a financial service provider specializing in stocks and bonds with very specific exclusions or requirements. This allows an investor to build a personalized portfolio that meets very specific filtering criterion. This method is basically assembling a portfolio based on picking individual stocks and bonds that meet whatever criteria the investor choses. My research turned up fewer financial advisors knowledgeable about SRI or Impact Investing, and who had higher management fees and commissions. While this method may be good for some, it was not the best choice for me.

The third path was to look at funds whose managers apply what are known as Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) filters to evaluate and compile stocks and bonds into funds based on these criteria. A primary resource I found useful is the Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment (www.ussif.org), where a comprehensive listing of funds using these ESG filters is available. I worked my way through all the funds currently listed, looking closely at the fund manager's philosophy on ESG filters, the actual stock and bond holdings, their risk profile and performance history, and finally their management fees. Some fund managers apply these ESG filters rigorously (i.e. absolutely no tobacco, or oil), and others are less absolute. Some fund managers for example do not exclude (filter) a company that derives less than 5% of its revenues from a specific sector. I chose to bypass these funds and focus on assembling a more "pure" portfolio. From the expansive list of ESG filtered funds I narrowed to a few dozen that met all my goals and represented enough variety from which I could compile a portfolio that mirrored my current mix of asset classes.

Today my portfolio is a mix of mutual funds that meet all ESG filtering criteria and do not allow any marginal *Impact Investing continued on page 14*

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Mothers of Nature: In honor of Women's History Month

By Ellen Shively

San Diego enjoys a reputation as one of the most open and green of America's cities. In many of the long and controversial campaigns, women have played key leadership roles in the efforts to preserve these very special places. Take Torrey Pines State Preserve. In 1883, botanists issued a warning that the unique, five needled pine tree was in danger of extinction due to damage from bark beetles and frequent fires. Ellen Scripps Browning, the wealthy Hearst newspaper heiress, purchased Torrey Pines Point and deeded it over to the City of San Diego as a Preserve in the early 1900's. As you hike the trails or peer down from the point to look for migrating gray whales, or admire the eroding sandstone cliffs, think about the fortunate foresight of this philanthropist of nearly a century ago.

You may know it as Highway 52, a convenient link between I-5 and I-805 now, but there is a story to tell here also. The creek bed in San Clemente Canyon was on the drawing board to be built up as a roadbed for the connection. Marian Bear was one of the city's most active and persistent defenders of open space preservation. She militantly organized community residents to attend city meetings to protest the location of the road. Eventually, the highway department altered their plans, placing the road to the north and up the hillside from the canyon bed, allowing room for a 467 acre natural park. Planted and landscaped by nature, it was opened in 1971. Ms. Bear also led efforts in the preservation of Tecolote Canyon, today habitat to a multitude of native plants and animals.

At the edge of 6th and Laurel in Balboa Park, you'll find a statue of horticulturist Kate Sessions. Many of San Diego's landscapes reflect

Kate's efforts at introducing ornamental trees and nonnative seedlings to supplement the arid and sandy soil loving plants of the region. After creating the botanical wonderland gardens of the Park, she successfully urged the city to purchase land in North Pacific Beach. Today the park named after her overlooks much of Mission Bay and the coastline, a veritable gem of a location. We should tip our hats off to this dedicated and visionary woman.

Our least familiar legacy is Oak Oasis Open Space Preserve, located outside of Lakeside. The 410 acre former ranch was originally situated along Wildcat Canyon Road and was owned by Margaret Minshall, a San Diego Schools teacher who pieced together enough parcels for her horses to roam freely. In an agreement with the county in the 1960's, her taxes on the valuable land were waived in return the bequest of the acreage upon her death. Once additional trails are cut on the oak tree laden property, the property will become part of the future projected Trans-County Trail system which will ultimately go all the way from the Torrey Pines State Reserve to the Anza-Borrego.

Thank you gentle ladies, and also the other unrecognized women through our history, for your enduring legacy which keeps us more closely in touch with the land.

Ellen Shively.....one among many who walk the paths, smells the aroma of wild flowers, takes mental postcards of the landscape, marvels at bugs and listens for bird calls in the chaparral.

Impact Investing continued from page 12

participation in companies, sectors, products or services I find objectionable. My mix is roughly 65% stocks and 35% bonds with a small percentage in cash. These funds include large, mid, and small cap equity funds, balanced funds (combination of stocks and bonds), blended funds (combination of value and growth stocks), and bond funds, which in effect match the asset class mix of my pre-divestment holdings.

As I write this in early September, the global markets have taken a big spike downward. I am however happy to report modest growth in my portfolio since my re-alignment in mid August, suggesting SRI/Impact Investing has the potential to match the leading benchmarks and market indicators. I am even happier to say I am only invested now in companies whose products and services, community involvement and corporate behavior align with my values.

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858-569-6005 or richard.miller@sierraclub.org. The current issue and past issues are available to read online at http://sandiegosierraclub.org/news/ newsletter/

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A representative will contact you shortly to guide you through the next step in the car donation process. If you prefer to contact us by phone, please call 855-33-SIERRA (855-337-4377) and one of our representatives will help you with your donation.



Webmaster/ Tech Guru Needed

to assist with maintenance, regular updates and improvements to the Sierra Club San Diego website. Website was recently updated, but assistance is required for continued improvements, weekly updates, content uploads, and generalized webpage management. Limited compensation may be available. Contact: Davin Widgerow dwidgerow@gmail.com

Treasurer Needed

The Steering Committee is looking for a Treasurer

1. You should be familiar with nonprofit accounting and QuickBooks and be able to spend 12 hours a month.

2. Work well with others and advise the Steering Committee

3. Write checks, pay bills

4. Prepare financial statements, reports, and budgets;

5. Monitor and evaluate club activities including fund raising and expenditures. Provide and maintain financial records.

For more information please get in touch with Karenlee Robinson 619-572-8451 or klrobinson@cox.net

San Diego International Airport Pilots The Good Traveler, a Voluntary Carbon Offset Program

San Diego Airport (SAN) is testing a program to enable passengers to purchase carbon offsets online as well as from airport concessions, hotels, transportation partners and tourist destinations. The \$1 Good Traveler sticker offsets carbon emissions from 500 miles of flying or 200 miles of driving, and funds alternative energy, forest management and water restoration projects. Displays at closed gates will promote the program. Based on San Diegan's response, The Good Traveler will be licensed as a non-profit program to other airports. For details listen to the KPBS Morning Edition story or read Triple Pundit. http: //www.triplepundit.com/special/guide-tocarbon-offsetting/good-traveler-leavesno-trace/



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.sandiegosierraclub.org

Committees & Contact Information

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

Development Coordinator: Richard Miller 858-569-6005 email: richard.miller@sierraclub.org

STEERING COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office

Chair: Davin Widgerow dwidgerow@gmail.com Vice-Chair: Nick Ervin 858-761-1659 desertguy1@sbcglobal.net Secretary: Joe Zechman 619-709-6268 joezechman@hotmail.com Debbie Hecht 808-989-3222 hecht.deb@gmail.com Karenlee Robinson 619-572-8451 klrobinson@cox.net Paul Webb

pbwebb3@cox.net

Treasurer (Non-Voting): Vacant

COMMITTEES

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Mondays at 6:30 pm Chapter Office. Chair: Debbie Hecht 808-989-3222 hecht.deb@gmail.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 <u>Wildlife</u> Ellen Shively (619) 479-3412

ellenshively@sbcglobal.net

FOSTER LODGE COMMITTEE

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

LEGAL COMMITTEE

Contact Chair for time and location. Chair: Davin Widgerow dwidgerow@gmail.com

NATURE KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP

Annual June Weekends, call for information. Barry Hite (619) 479-8133 NKW@sierrasd.org

NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)

The Executive Committee meets 2nd Tuesday. Contact Chair for time and location. **Chair:** Suzi Sandore (760)-484-3440 hikersuzi@hotmail.com

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Chair:Starla Rivers (619)-630-9132 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) Jim Jafolla sd.col.training@gmail.com

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL Rob Langsdorf (858) 454-4777 SDSCPCTS@yahoo.com

POLITICAL COMMITEE

Meets 1st Tuesday Chair: Davin Widgerow dwidgerow@gmail.com

<u>SKI</u> Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January Stefanie Maio info@wildernessbasics.com http://www.wildernessbasics.com **Escondido** John Tomlinson (858) 486-4853 jctomlinson@cox.net http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/wbc/nc/index.htm

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Bicycle Call for meeting information. Jerry Fitzsimmons (858) 224-3437 Membership@sdscbs.org. www.sandiegosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/bicycle Family

Jennifer Douglas

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

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INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Call or check website for meeting information. www.sandiegosierraclub.org **Co-Chair:** Bill Tayler, (858) 272-8574 btayler@taylerlaw.com **Co-Chair:** Ed Barber, (619) 464-0780 rebsd@yahoo.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Fundraising/Membership Richard Miller (858) 569-6005 richard.miller@sierraclub.org <u>Hi Sierran Newsletter</u> Chair/Editor: Debbie Hecht hecht.deb@gmail.com Managing Editor: Judy Thomas info@thomascreative.com

SIERRA TALKS, MONTHLY PROGRAM

Chair: Ernest "EL" Lotecka (760) 533-2725 sdwalks@interactor.cc 1st Friday of every month