



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

HiSIERRAN

Serving San Diego And Imperial Counties

Vol 76 No. 4

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October/November/December 2017



Sierra Club to Oppose Re-Election of Darrell Issa

This past month Sierra Club San Diego took the unusual position of recommending that the Sierra Club oppose the re-election of U.S. Representative Darrell Issa (CA-49). This unprecedented step was quickly ratified by the national Sierra Club Political Team. The endorsement against Representative Issa was among the Chapter's first endorsement votes of the 2018 election cycle and affirms the Chapter's position on holding our elected officials accountable for their

The League of Conservation Voters, a trusted ally of the Sierra Club, gives Representative Issa a 4% lifetime score.

environmental record. Representative Issa's disdain for environmental protection is apparent through his repeated allegiance to the Trump Administration and his consistent, yet disreputable, voting record in the House of Representatives.

The League of Conservation Voters, a trusted ally of the Sierra Club, gives Representative Issa a 4% lifetime score. In 2016, Representative Issa nearly lost his seat as this former safe-seat turned into a competitive race based on environmental protection, justice, and human equality. The 49th Congressional District is home to miles of California's coastline facing federal decisions on nuclear waste, water supply, and sea-level rise. The Sierra Club will support a candidate that values each of these issues. In the meantime, it is clear that Representative Darrell Issa is not that candidate.

Representatives Vargas, Peters and Davis Earn Early Endorsements

The Chapter's Political Committee has been proactively working to recognize environmentally friendly incumbents for the 2018 elections with recommendations for early endorsements, particularly the region's Congressional delegation. Receiving the Club's endorsement are Representative Juan Vargas, (CA-51), Representative Scott Peters (CA-52), and Representative Susan Davis (CA-53). Both Representatives Vargas and Davis scored 100% for the environment in 2016 according to the League of Conservation Voters Scorecard and Representative Peters scored 97%. The League of Conservation Voters Scorecard is a bell-weather indicator used by environmental organizations across the nation in evaluating our elected officials voting record. The Club's support of these three members are among the first federal endorsements in the country.

As the Club and the Chapter have demonstrated in the past, we will be encouraging our members to engage their friends and neighbors in favor of these reelection efforts. Those activities will include, but are not limited to, phone banking, door-to-door canvassing, and most importantly, voter turnout.

The Chapter's Political Committee is in the process of distributing questionnaires to candidates across the county and will be conducting interviews in the upcoming months. All members are welcome to participate in the endorsement process and ask their local candidates questions during the interviews. Political Committee meeting dates and information can be found on the Chapter's Activities Calendar on the web at <http://sandigosierraclub.org>



Juan Vargas



Scott Peters



Susan Davis

New Member & Activist's Orientation

Thursday October 12, 6:30pm – 8pm

Looking to get active? Want to find out more about the Sierra Club in San Diego? Looking for a hike, bike ride or how you can help protect our natural world and communities?

Then attend our New Member and Activist's Orientation and learn how to get the most out of your membership while supporting the legacy of John Muir and the organization he founded to save and protect natural places everywhere. Find your spot in nature, politics or outdoor activities.

These are perilous and dangerous times for the natural environment, our human environment, our communities, our civil liberties, and our families' future. Learn what you can do and how to get more involved in our efforts to protect the environment. You will meet other activists to hear what we are facing and how we are responding.

Let us help you find your perfect place in the Sierra Club.

The new member and activist orientation will be held at the Chapter office, 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Ste #101, San Diego, 92111.

RSVP at www.sandigosierraclub.org

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

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Ruben Arizmendi

Since taking over as the Chair of the San Diego Sierra Club, I have had the great pleasure of attending events, conferences and meetings that have served to make me, and keep me, apprised of what's going on with all things environmental. George Courser, the Chair of our Conservation Committee (and a Steering Committee member) is a walking tireless encyclopedia on water, air and land issues facing San Diego and California, primarily. If you want to stay abreast of these issues get on his mailing list, or, more importantly, get on the Conservation Committee or one of its subcommittees. A huge debt of gratitude is owed you, George! Thank you.

The first person I met before coming on board with Sierra Club was Karenlee Robinson. Karenlee has been a bastion of dedication to our club in the areas of wilderness, outings, representation of the club, organizational and administrative skills, above and beyond the call of duty. She has been an enthusiastic and effective leader of this Chapter and I sure hope she'll continue to do so for many years to come.

In my next article I will tell you something about the other outstanding individuals with whom I have had the honor and pleasure to work. It just seems that they don't get all of the credit they deserve.

Changing the subject, for now, to Perspective, it is vital to our sanity to not lose it, to stay focused on it and to really understand Perspective. Yes, it's true that when you look up a list of synonyms for perspective, you find among them the words "outlook", "frame of mind", "attitude", "approach".

So after Trump got elected our "outlook" on all things environmental turned decidedly dim and clearly dimmer when he took the United States out of the Paris Climate Agreement. But if we insist on not losing perspective here, we know that things did not look so good for our planet- [One poster at a recent march read, "We have to go with planet A because there is no planet B!"]- even before Trump and his careless,

reckless and insane actions.

So our current frame of mind could be: he's only made things worse. Maybe, let's not lose perspective.

I say our attitude should be one of never-ending, never-dying, never-succumbing, never-give-up-ness. Our attitude should be gratitude. Because of his tweeted words and irresponsible actions, Trump has driven more members and volunteers to Sierra Club and other environ groups than we have had of late. Gratitude Attitude. Don't lose Perspective.

As far as approach goes, know this, I have had the great fortune to travel to many countries of this beautiful mother earth. Admittedly Shanghai and Beijing have a serious air pollution tragedy going on, but the country is starting to become the world leader on fighting climate change with a tremendous output of solar panels and other such measures. Thank you, Mr. Trump.

Perspective, people, perspective.

Our approach should be one of support. We need to encourage all of the good things that are helping to make this planet great, dare I say it? again.

While in Punta Arenas, Chile and Argentina (years ago they split up this region), I discovered that almost all of the vehicles ran on natural gas due to the discovery of large deposits of natural gas. Admittedly, this is not ideal, because Sierra Club is a staunch supporter of electric vehicles, but it is a step in the right direction. While in Buenos Aires I went to a park that had open-air exhibits that showed crushed recyclables and expounded the virtues of recycling and combating climate change.

More recently, while attending the Edinburg Fringe Festival I had the opportunity to take a bus tour to Glencoe, Scotland. We passed an area where we were told a part of the James Bond movie Skyfall was filmed. Its pristine overwhelming beauty is truly breathtaking. It appears so

View continued on page 3

Political Committee Update

By Laura Harris, Vice Chair Chapter Political Committee

I recently had the opportunity to attend the Sierra Club California political strategy meeting for the 2018 election cycle at our headquarters in Oakland. This was a planning and brainstorming meeting. We identified races statewide that we may be able to influence to get more environmentally friendly candidates elected. We also, put together a timeline for the political committee to issue candidate endorsements early enough to make Chapter newsletters and election guides. The endorsement process starts now. Once candidates announce they're running for office, we send them a questionnaire that has in-depth environmental policy questions. Candidates seeking our endorsement complete the questionnaire then are interviewed by a sub-committee. After the interview, the

sub-committee takes a vote and sends the recommendation up the Chapter Steering Committee who then sends that recommendation to the local, state or national Sierra Club review committees for final approval.

We identified Congressman Darrell Issa's seat in the 49th District (North Coastal San Diego and Orange Counties) as a target for defeat. Issa won a close race in the last election and we feel he's vulnerable to losing it in the next election. His district actually voted for Hillary Clinton in the presidential election by a margin of 7.5% and he only won his election by .5%, the closest of any Congressional race in the nation. If we're going to get an environmentally friendly candidate into this seat we need to start working on it now.

The second half of the meeting we discussed ways to get more people

engaged in the political process. Since the election more people have become active, which is great but we need to continue the fight through the 2018 election cycle and beyond. The club will be offering volunteer training on canvassing neighborhoods and call banking for endorsed candidates. An endorsement alone is not enough to get a candidate elected, we'll be up against Super PAC's with very deep pockets so we'll need as many people active as we can get.

We have a large membership and getting people who care about the environment activated is the way we can get the political changes we're looking for. We need elected officials that care about preserving and protecting the natural world like we do. If you are interested in getting involved email Political Committee Chair Brian Elliott at brian.elliott@gmail.com.

View continued from page 2

innocently unscathed by the horrors of climate change. Google it!

Some of you may recall that my wife Frida told some of our Club leaders days after Trump was elected that we need to show him Light and Love so that he'll come around. I'm still struggling with the Love part of that suggested approach.

The approach here should be two-fold, at least. Yes, we continue to call out the wrongdoing of so many polluters. What that does is it shines light on what is wrong, and in the same turn, spreads knowledge, a form of light, as to what has to change to save our planet. The love part should come in honoring the beauty that still remains on so many of the continents of mother earth.

Si se puede! Yes we can!

P.S. Back in the 1970's the San Diego muralist, Mario Torrero, painted a large wall picture of Che Guevara, pointing a finger much like our image of Uncle Sam on the library wall of San Diego State, Callexico campus with the administration's approval. Unfortunately, the Administration did not approve the caption below the mural which stated, "You are Not a Minority!" Unhappy with this message, the Administration insisted that Mario paint over the message and replace it. To the dismay of the administration, the student body and Mario being who they were in the 70's, replaced the message with, "You are a Majority!"

Well, fortunately for us, good people, we are the Majority. Climate Change Deniers are in the minority—a minority which currently has some political clout. Well, we just have to change that, don't we?

Sierra Club & Conservation Groups Challenge Border Wall Construction in San Diego, Imperial Valley

On September 14, a coalition of national conservation groups including Defenders of Wildlife, Sierra Club and Animal Legal Defense Fund filed suit against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) challenging border wall construction activities that threaten wildlife and public lands in San Diego and Imperial Valley, California.

Dan Millis of the Sierra Club's Borderlands Program stated, "Waiving important public health and environmental safeguards leaves border communities without the protections that other Americans count on every day. Wiping away decades-old laws along the border achieves nothing more than unnecessarily harming local communities, wildlife, and wild places." He also stated that "This blatant disregard for effective and well-established safeguards harms hard-working families, threatened and endangered wildlife, and critical natural resources – all of which are essential to the region."

More than 600 miles of border walls and barriers have been constructed in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. In California, border barriers affect more than a dozen rare species, including the endangered Arroyo toad and Quino checkerspot butterfly. Any extension of the border wall would bisect the Tijuana River that meanders through the locally protected Marron Valley and the federally protected Jacumba Wilderness Area, cutting off important migration routes for the highly endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep, devastating recovery efforts. In Texas, walls and barriers block people and animals from access to the Rio Grande River, an important water source for communities and wildlife alike.

North County Group Executive Committee Candidate Statements

The North County Group Executive Committee election ballot is located on the back page.

Kelly Conrad



Lifetime Member of the Sierra Club.

I have served on the NCG Executive Committee for four years, currently as Chair.

The biggest threat to California is not North Korea, its climate change. It's neither a distant nor a vague threat; climate change is here, now, and even as you read these words it is wreaking havoc on people's lives throughout our nation and the world. If we do not change course before global warming

tipping points are crossed, the destabilization of our climate will continue to cause irreversible devastation for both current and future generations. Now more than ever it is important that we be heard as one voice. We can't sit by while the current administration attempts to strip us of our national parks, repeals the EPA's Clean Power Plan, and allows new coal mining on Federal Lands. We must speak up, speak out and be heard. The North County Group Sierra Club has attended several events in 2017 to get our message out there and will continue to do so. If elected for a third term my goal would be to educate our members on climate change, to join our forces with other chapters to protect our national parks and to continue to bring people into the wilderness so they understand what we are protecting.

Originally from Wisconsin, I grew up hiking, backpacking, and camping. I came to California with the United States Marine Corp in the early 80's and found the Sierra Club through the North County Wilderness Basics Course. After completing the course I became a Chapter Outings Leader (COL) and lecturer and lead trips for both the San Diego and North County group Wilderness Basic Courses. I am passionate about the wilderness, desert and open spaces and love to share this with others. I would be honored to serve the North County Group Sierra Club for an additional two years.

Kit Davis



I was fortunate to have been raised exploring and appreciating the outdoors, and have been an avid back-packer, climber, and hiker since childhood. When a friend mentioned we join WBC in 2002 I was interested; but I had no idea how incredible the course information, trips, and the people would turn out to be. I was hooked! I joined the WBC Staff in 2002, became a Chapter Outings Leader, and have volunteered for WBC over the years. I am now the WBC Outings Team

Leader and Treasurer. It's rare and wonderful to be involved with people who love the outdoors and are committed just as I am to helping others safely enjoy and respect the wilderness, and I've been blessed with great friendships.

I have served on the North County Group Executive Committee for the last 2 years as well as on the board of several local not-for-profit organizations. I have been able to backpack and climb extensively in the Sierras and other wilderness areas, and love to take people with me to enjoy these incredible treasures. Volunteering with the Sierra Club joins my love for bringing others outside with my commitment to ethically enjoy and protect our resources, and to give others an opportunity to do the same.

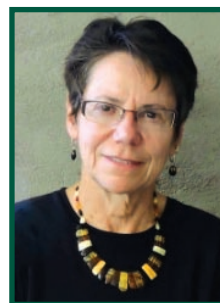
Laura Hunter



As a resident of Escondido for over 25 years and a long-time supporter and member of the Sierra Club, I would like to join the NCG Board to support efforts to protect habitat in our local inland North County region and defend it from several development projects that threaten our wild and open areas. I recently retired from Environmental Health Coalition where I was a campaign

director and worked in environmental justice in the South Bay area. Last year, I became the coordinator of the new Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Coalition working to protect habitat in the County. I believe strongly in the goals of the Sierra Club and would love to bring my experience to the North County Group. The NCG has a more important role to play than ever since both the new federal and local Escondido administrations have proved to be devastating to environmental protection and conservation. There is a lot we can do together to save and protect the areas we love. Thanks for your consideration.

Cheryl Knapp



Throughout my career as a music teacher, many lessons were drummed into me. Two lessons come to mind—the ability to be flexible and the need for transparent communication. Likewise, being flexible and communicating well in a volunteer organization such as the Sierra Club are imperative especially with today's political challenges. My goals are to move our North County group

toward more conservation and political action, reach out to more members and to look for solutions to past and future problems. (Sierra Club member since 1977)

Wilderness Basics Course 2018

"Experience the beauty of the wilderness with knowledge and confidence!"

10 Week Course Starts:

Escondido - January 9th

San Diego - January 9th

This comprehensive 10-week course consists of 10 Tuesday night meetings and 4 weekend trips to the local deserts and mountains. The weekend trips include car camping, navigation, backpacking and even snow camping (you'll love it). Choose from outings that range from easy to extremely challenging. The Wilderness Basics Course is only offered once a year. It is open to both members and non-members of the Sierra Club.

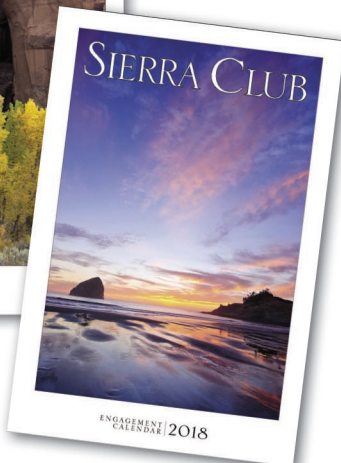
For More Info and To Register:

San Diego
www.wildernessbasics.com
Escondido
wbc.sierraclubnbcg.org



Enjoy, explore and protect the planet

2018 Sierra Club Calendars



**Members
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Order Form

Item	Cost	Qty	Total
Engagement Calendar <input type="checkbox"/>	\$15.95 \$14.95	_____	_____
Wilderness Calendar <input type="checkbox"/>	\$14.95 \$13.55	_____	_____
Sales Tax 7.75%		Subtotal:	_____
Shipping: \$4.50 for first calendar and \$1.50 for each additional calendar. Please make checks payable to "Sierra Club San Diego" and mail to:		Sales Tax:	_____
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NORTH COUNTY GROUP

FALL GENERAL MEETING

OCT 10

ESCONDIDO CITY HALL
MITCHELL ROOM
201 NORTH BROADWAY

7PM - 9PM
Light Refreshments

GUEST SPEAKERS

DIANA LINDSAY
COAST TO CACTUS:
THE CANYONEER
TRAIL GUIDE TO
SAN DIEGO OUTDOORS

JIM CURTS
LIGHTWEIGHT
BACKPACKING

In Memorial - Rob Morris



Rob Morris, a long-time Sierra Club member, passed away suddenly in July. Rob joined the club in 1978 during the second phase of the U.S. Forest Service Roadless Areas inventory review. In the early 2000's he became active in the San Diego Chapter as an office volunteer providing administrative support at the most detailed and technical of levels. Later he gave his time and effort doing background research and played a major role in the compilation of the 20,000 page administrative record for the long-running lawsuit the Chapter has against U.S.

Gypsum in Imperial County.

In December 2012, Rob was elected Treasurer of Sierra Club San Diego, a role he continued to his death. Beginning in 2014 Rob oriented the new Steering Committee to the complexities of Sierra Club financing and worked hard to keep the Chapter on the fiscal straight and narrow. Later that year the National Sierra Club recognized the merit of his work and appointed him a member of the Chapter Treasurer Assistance Support Team, providing assistance and mentoring to eight other Chapter Treasurers across the country. Rob recently became active in the North County Coastal Group where he also served as Treasurer

Steering Committee member Karenlee Robinson stated, "As a member of the Chapter's Finance Committee, I can safely say that it will be hard to find anyone who dedicated more time, energy or expertise to the Club than Rob Morris and for that we are all very appreciative and grateful. **"Thank you Rob."**

A Solution to Tijuana Sewage?

Chapter Helps Form Group to Solve Issue

Sierra Club San Diego Vice Chair Peter Andersen and Conservation Committee Chair George Courser have formed an international, non-governmental coalition that will initiate a study of the water system and sewer system of Tijuana, Mexico. The goal is to locate the main leaks and problems in the sewage system of Tijuana with goal of stopping pollution of the Tijuana River, problems on both sides of the border, and pollution in the Pacific Ocean from the mouth of the Tijuana River. Fortunately, a group of high level Mexican architects and engineers believe they know where the problems are and how to fix them. This coalition of Sierra Club San Diego, Environmental, Engineering, Architectural, and Education groups will produce a report on the sewer and water system with a plan to reducing illness and sewage spills that create health concerns for the citizens of Tijuana and residents along the Tijuana River.

The coalition includes the Sierra Club San Diego, the newly formed Sierra Club San Diego Mexico Section, San Diego Global Knowledge University, the National Council for the Construction Industry in Mexico, The Tijuana Association Professional Architects (Colegio de Arquitectos de Tijuana), and the Tijuana Association of Civil Engineers (Colegio de Ingenieros Civil de Tijuana). The coalition determined that the highest priority project was to investigate, produce a report, and begin to take action to help alleviate the sewage and water problems in Tijuana. Plans for raising money for the project will be next.



Call for Nominations

Sierra Club activities are driven by volunteers at the local level and are one of the only environmental groups where volunteers set the agenda. With the re-launch of the North County Coastal Group, now is a great time to get involved and be a part of your local Sierra Club group from the ground level!

The North County Coastal Group (NCCG) will be holding elections this February to fill four (4) vacancies on its Executive Committee. The NCC Group Executive Committee has overall responsibility to assure that the activities and services provided for the benefit of the members are consistent with the Bylaws, Rules, and Policies of the Chapter and National Sierra Club. These activities may include outings, membership services, financial management, conservation and political programs. The Executive Committee meets monthly and attendance is expected. If you would like to submit a name for consideration by the Nominating Committee, or would like more information, contact Diane Nygaard at dnygaard3@gmail.com.

Names must be submitted by November 15, 2017.

The North County Coastal Group comprises the zip codes of:

92007 - Cardiff, 92008 - Carlsbad, 92009 - Carlsbad, 92010 - Carlsbad, 92011 - Carlsbad, 92013 - Carlsbad PO Box, 92018 - Carlsbad PO Box, 92014 - Del Mar 92023 - Encinitas - PO Box, 92024 - Encinitas, 92054 - Oceanside, 92056 - Oceanside, 92057 - Oceanside, 92049 Oceanside PO Box, 92051 - Oceanside PO Box, 92052 - Oceanside PO Box, 92067 - Rancho Santa Fe PO Box, 92075 - Solana Beach, 92091 - Ranch Santa Fe.

Candidates may also submit their names through an alternative process by submitting a petition.

For more information go to

<http://sandiegosierraclub.org/get-involved/coastal/>

North County Coastal Group Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, October 10th

7:00 to 9:00

Power House Community Center

Del Mar

Presentation and Panel discussion on Sea Level Rise

also

Discussion with local elected official on environmental issues

Everyone Welcome!



The North County Group Sierra Club joins the San Diego Children's Museum for a day of fun

In July the North County Group Sierra Club teamed up with other local organizations for the San Diego Children's Museum Outdoor Explorer Series, "It's Summer! Go Outside". This Series is designed to open doors for children to have a broader understanding of our natural world and a deeper connection with nature. The North Country Group

created Nature Journals for the event and had a great time showing the kids how to do leaf rubbings, identify sounds in the wilderness and talking to the parents about kid friendly local hikes.

San Diego Children's Discovery Museum (SDCDM) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization providing hands-on educational exhibits and programs focusing on science, art, and world cultures for over 100,000 visitors including children, families and school groups annually. Each week the Museum features different activities and hands-on challenges around the month's outdoor theme. This is a great opportunity to enjoy some outdoor family time in a kid friendly space and the North County Group was happy to be a part of it!

Watch our website and Facebook page for more fun events like this. <http://sierraclubncg.org/>



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

NEW MEMBER & ACTIVIST'S ORIENTATION

Thursday October 12, 6:30pm – 8pm

See cover for full details and to RSVP.

Looking to get active? Want to find out more about the Sierra Club in San Diego? Looking for a hike, bike ride or how you can help protect our natural world and communities?

Then attend our Activist's Orientation and learn what you can do and how to get more involved in our efforts to protect the environment.

2nd Friday Movie Night

October 13; 6:30 PM

Movie: "Seed, The Untold Story" (2016) : 1 Hour 34 Minutes

Few things on Earth are as miraculous and vital as seeds, worshipped and treasured since the dawn of humankind. In the last century, 94% of our seed varieties have disappeared. As biotech chemical companies control the majority of our seeds, farmers, scientists, lawyers, and indigenous seed keepers fight a David and Goliath battle to defend the future of our food. These heroes rekindle a lost connection to this critical resource and revive a culture connected to seeds. Called "A symphony of hope" by Anchorage Press, "Seed" features speakers Vandana Shiva, Dr. Jane Goodall and Winona Laduke.



November 10; 6:30 PM

Movie: "From The Ashes" (2017) : 1 Hour 22 Minutes

This documentary explores the experiences of Americans in communities across the country as they wrestle with the legacy of the coal industry, and what its future should be. From Appalachia and the horrors of moun-



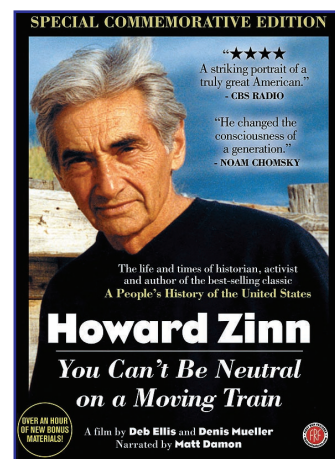
tain-top removal to strip mines and polluted lands in the Powder River Basin, the film goes beyond the rhetoric of the "war on coal" to present compelling and often heartbreaking stories about what is at stake for our economy, our climate, and the health of our people.

December 8; 6:30 PM

Movie: "You Can't Be Neutral On A Moving Train"

(2004) : 1 Hour 18 Minutes

This film looks at the amazing life of renowned historian, activist, and author Howard Zinn. Following his early days as a shipyard labor organizer and bombardier in World War II, Zinn became an academic rebel and leader of civil disobedience in a time of institutionalized racism and war. His influential writings shine light and bring voice to factory workers, immigrant laborers, African Americans and the working poor.



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: <http://sandigosierraclub.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

October 6

Rigs to Reefs: Exploring the Future of Offshore Oil and Gas Development

In California, there are 27 oil and gas platforms found off the coast, each home to a thriving, unique ecosystem. A recent study published by the National Academy of Sciences concluded that "...the oil and gas platforms off California are among the most productive habitats globally."



Our presenters, Emily Callahan and Amber Jackson, met at Scripps Institution of Oceanography where they received their M.A.S. in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation. Combining a diverse range of experience, from tech to environmental consulting, they united to co-found Blue Latitudes. Blue Latitudes' mission is to unite science, policy, and communications to create innovative solutions for the complex ecological challenges associated with offshore energy structures.

Ms. Jackson and Ms. Callahan have successfully conducted a multitude of research expeditions around the world. Recently, Blue Latitudes was awarded Explorers Club Flag #83 to accompany an expedition to Malaysia to investigate the ecological, cultural and economic potential of repurposing an offshore platform as an eco-tourism hotspot. "As the world's natural reefs continue to disappear due to overfishing, run-off and pollution, we believe that repurposing offshore energy structures as artificial reefs may be the best decision for the future of our oceans. It's time to think creatively about the resources we have and proceed forward boldly with radical new tactics for ocean management."

November 3

Baja Adventures by Boot, Burro and Kayak

Graham Mackintosh, who described himself as the "least adventurous person in the world," set out to walk around the coast of Baja, surviving off the sea and the desert. The almost two-year, 3,000-mile trip spared and changed his life! Graham returned to his home in England, where he wrote his first book, *Into a Desert Place*, and received the prestigious "Adventurous Traveller of the Year" award.



Next time, he walked from the Mexican border to Loreto with a pack burro which took him down the rugged, mountainous interior of Baja -- visiting many of the old missions along the way. Later, Graham spent four months in Baja's Sierra San Pedro Mártir with two adopted street dogs. These adventures lead to his second and third books.

In addition to these stories, he will tell about his two months kayaking and hiking the second largest island in the Sea of Cortez -- Isla Angel de la Guarda (the fourth book, *Marooned With Very Little Beer*). Graham continues to head to Baja whenever he can, and is currently working on a new book about returning to those places he has found particularly fascinating.

NOTE: Sierra Talks will not be held in December due to the first Friday being December 1. That is the same date as the December Night festival in Balboa Park with long traffic delays as well as other conflicting holiday events.

The Mottos Match: Announcing a Sierra Club and Seal Society Merge

No doubt you have read many articles in this newsletter touting the harbor seals of La Jolla and the efforts to protect and preserve their well being by various members of the Club. Often called, “a unique natural treasure”, the small cove which is bordered by a seawall, a lifeguard station and a sandstone cliff overlook, has made the 180 ft. long Casa Beach a valuable seal “safe harbor” for this stable colony of marine pinnipeds .

A small unincorporated group of docents known as the Seal Society of San Diego proposed joining the San Diego Sierra Club as a subcommittee or campaign. Both groups recognized the mutual benefits of merging, such as the sustained advocacy for our coastal wildlife by the Seal Society, and the nearly universal recognition of the Sierra Club as a major environmental frontrunner. The proposal was approved by both the Conservation and the Steering Committee over the summer.

In a collaborative statement, several objectives for the campaign have been identified:

1. *Building up a larger core of active docents through recruiting members among the Sierra Club's various publicity venues such as this newsletter and the website. Other members will be acquired through community service projects of various schools, summer internships, and through the “Volunteer Match” online publicity.*
2. *Increasing the on-site presence of docents at Casa Beach to explain basic habits and needs of the seals for using the beach as a “haul out” site for resting in their natural habitat.*
3. *Presenting more off-site community presentations , and child-focused hands on programs through art, crafts and writing.*
4. *Enhanced support and cooperation from other oceanic-focused wildlife groups, especially including the environmentally sound principle of the seal's value to the health of the entire marine ecosystem.*
5. *Present well-prepared justification for increased city government protections through better signage and management of this beach.*
6. *Ensure renewal of the permit for beach closure as a rookery for giving birth and nurturing the pups over the winter months.*
7. *Maintaining the rope fixture during the summer months as a reminder that it is a “shared use” beach and the seals must be given adequate space to avoid human disturbances.*
8. *Promote safe viewing for both visitors and the seals.*

While still in the final stages of development, the proposal is assured of the support of this chapter and members are already immersed in plans to implement the program. If you are interested in volunteering to help establish this worthwhile project, please contact longtime conservation activist Ellen Shively at ellenshively@sbcglobal.net or phone her at 619-479-3412.

Resist Playing Monopoly

By Pete Hasapopoulos, Sierra Club My Generation Campaign

That's a strange title for an article but let me explain. When Trump talks about letting fossil fuels run free again, he's not only talking about coal and oil companies. He's talking about Sempra Energy, a San Diego based Fortune 500 multinational that is the largest natural gas utility in America.

The monopoly known as SDG&E is a Sempra subsidiary and therefore is fighting to maintain dirty gas as the backbone of our electricity supply. This is why SDG&E sought approval for three gas plants in our region and now wants to build a \$600 million pipeline from Rainbow to Miramar that we don't need. SDG&E is living out Trump's dream right before our eyes and using the power of monopoly to do it.

We can break the monopoly with Community Choice Energy, which allows a city, county, or a group of them to form a not for profit electricity provider that takes control over the types of power that keep our lights on and the rates we pay for it. Over 70 California cities are served by Community Choice. They are getting much more clean energy than provided by the monopolies at the same or lower rates.

The City of San Diego hired energy experts to conduct a technical study and the conclusion was that the city would benefit from Community Choice. Mayor Faulconer will make a recommendation to the city council sometime before December. The city council is planning to vote on it in January. The cities of Del Mar, Encinitas, and Carlsbad are preparing to collaborate on a study, with the thought that they could form a Community Choice electricity provider together. Oceanside has been part of the discussion with those cities but, as of early September, has yet to make a decision about joining the study. Solana Beach is on a path to do Community Choice on its own. And some other cities are beginning to take a look at Community Choice.

Sierra Club has wonderful teams of volunteers working on getting Community Choice across the finish line. They have been meeting with council members, throwing house parties, running op-eds, getting businesses and neighbors to endorse Community Choice and more. We also have many college students with us on this ride, including the stellar young folks from our new student organization Sierra Club at UCSD.

We have room for volunteers with a little or plenty of time. If you are in the north coastal area, visit our website ccenorthcoastal.org and if you are in San Diego visit ccesandiego.org to see the opportunities and get in touch with us. Or send a note to pete.hasapopoulos@sierraclub.org and I'll be ready to talk.

Add up the populations of San Diego and the north coastal cities and you get close to two million people. Imagine that. We could take control of the electricity supply for that many people and Trump can't do a thing about it.

What a way to resist.



Whale Watching Trip

Experience the Best of Nature • Sunday, January 14, 2018, 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. Past trips have seen as many as 15 whales. We will also have onboard a marine mammal biologist, naturalist and researcher of gray whale conservation to lead our trip and provide interesting facts about the creatures we observe.

This is the 10th year that we have offered this chartered trip. The boat is modern, spacious, and has a comfortable galley. Unlike other whale watching cruises that only last a few hours and barely get you out of San Diego harbor, we really get out to where the whales are migrating along our shores. We also do not pack you on like sardines; we have a limited number of seats as opposed to hundreds. Bring your cameras and binoculars to make this a memorable whale watching trip.

Cost for Adults is \$55 and a child 6-13yrs old is \$30.

Reservations can be made online at

<http://sandigosierraclub.org>, by calling 858-569-6005 or by check, made payable to "Sierra Club San Diego" and mailed 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. No tickets will be issued. By making payment you are officially registered and will receive notification and confirmation.

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

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Chapter Forming New Section to Address Border Issues

The San Diego Chapter is forming a new section of the club called Sierra Club Mexico. The section is being formed to study and repair the sewage system in Tijuana by an alliance that included collaborations with San Diego Global Knowledge University, the Colegio de Arquitectos de Tijuana, the Colegio de Ingenieros Civiles de Tijuana, the Camara Mexicana de la Industria de la Construcción and the San Diego Country Sierra Club. This historic union between the professional architects and engineers, in Tijuana, the largest professional association for the construction industry in Mexico, a global electronic university, and the largest environmental organiza-

tion in the world recognizes that environmental problems are global in nature and transcend national boundaries. It also recognizes that transborder problems have engineering, architectural, educational, and environmental components that require interdisciplinary collaboration. This alliance will seek solutions to transborder environmental problems by raising funds for basic studies, data collection, and a robust multi-media campaign to raise awareness in the communities on both sides of the border. Representing Sierra Club were George Courser, Conservation Committee Chair, Peter Andersen, Vice-Chair of the San Diego chapter, Miguel Cardenas Sr. and Miguel Cardenas Jr. of San Diego Global Knowledge University, Jesus Ignacio Carlos Huerta Past President and founding member of the Colegio de Arquitectos de Tijuana, Fidel Perez Velarde, Past

President and Founding Member, Colegio de Ingenieros Civiles de Tijuana, and Manuel Becerra Lizardi, National Vice President, Water and Hydrology Section, Camara Mexicana de la Industria de la Construcción.

For more information contact:

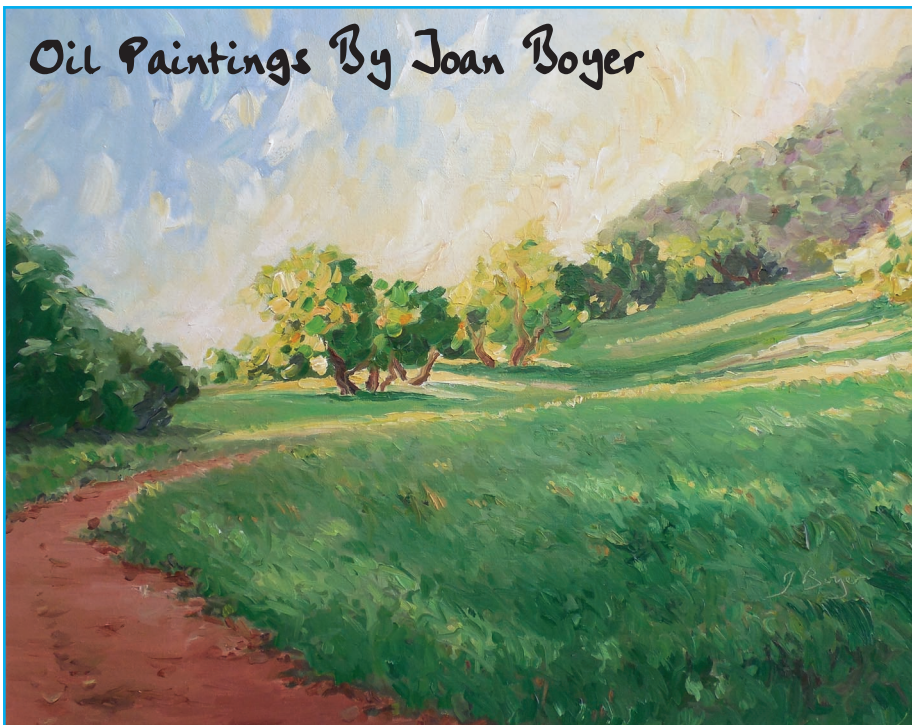
Dr. Peter Andersen, Vice Chair, San Diego Sierra Club 619-857-4233

Mr. George Courser, Chair, Conservation Committee, San Diego Sierra Club 858-231-0156

Dr. Miguel Cardenas Sr., President, San Diego Global Knowledge University 619-863-9157

Dr. Miguel Cardenas Jr., Chief Academic Officer, San Diego Global Knowledge University 619-518-1944

Oil Paintings By Joan Boyer



Landscapes and Seascapes

Studio 2, Spanish Village Art Center
Balboa Park, 1770 Village Place, San Diego 92101
(619) 792-8498 • www.joanboyerpaintings.com

Sierra Club Helps Protect Undeveloped Canyon near SDSU

In early June, San Diego Sierra Club wrote a letter to San Diego State University (SDSU) objecting to two large dormitory expansions into an undeveloped canyon north of SDSU. Following several months of investigation, background research and a site visit by George Courser, Sierra Club San Diego Conservation Committee Chair and Sierra Club San Diego Vice-Chair, Peter Andersen the letter indicated that phases two and three of the dormitory expansions destroyed an undeveloped coast sage scrub canyon, a functional ecosystem that is part of the MSCP. The phase one dorm expansion was planned for an existing parking lot and was supported by San Diego Sierra Club. On July 11 SDSU formally withdrew both phase two and phase three, exactly what was advocated by San Diego Sierra Club. The Sierra Club thanks SDSU from recognizing that “the elimination of phases two and three will result in reduced environmental impacts...” The Sierra Club continues to believe that we must preserve our canyons and parks, which are vital to our quality of life.

The Chapter's Wilderness Basics Course received a Special Achievement Award at the Club's Annual Meeting and Awards program on September 15 in Washington DC.

For over sixty years, the San Diego Sierra Club has sponsored the Wilderness Basics Course (WBC) training over 20,000 individuals in San Diego how to enjoy the wilderness outdoors comfortably and safely. The WBC exemplifies the motto of the Sierra Club to “Explore, Enjoy and Protect” the wilderness and our environment. Students are taught a myriad of skills over a 10-week course with over 50 speakers ranging from outdoor ethics, selection of camping equipment, how to pack a backpack, map and compass and GPS skills, how to avoid getting lost and a lot more.

During the 10-week course there are four overnight backpacking outings in small 12-15 member groups led by two Chapter Outings Leaders who tutor stu-

dents on how to camp and backpack safely. The last outing is a snow camp backpack which provides students with skills that give them knowledge and confidence to be able to handle weather extremes



Stephanie Maio (center), Chair 2016 WBC accepts award from Executive Director Michael Brune (left) and President Loren Blackford.

encountered while in the outdoors. The outings leaders share knowledge of the flora and fauna of the local deserts and

mountains. Throughout the 10-week course, the mission and values of the Sierra Club are shared with students and they are encouraged to join in the effort to protect what they have learned to enjoy and appreciate during their Wilderness Basics Course.

The Course which began in response to a family getting lost and dying tragically in the nearby San Diego mountains has provided an enormous public service to the San Diego community. The WBC course has served to create generations of leaders for the San Diego Sierra Club who become activists engaged in Sierra Club activities after graduating from the Wilderness Basics Course. The Sierra Club San Diego Wilderness Basic Course is truly deserving of recognition for providing service to the Sierra Club Outdoors Program for over sixty years teaching thousands of participants about the value of outdoor activities and our wilderness environment.

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Tayler
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



Snorkeling With Sea Lions in La Jolla Cove

by Bill Tayler

One minute, Erica was snorkeling next to me, holding loosely onto my arm for some security as she watched Garibaldi, sea bass, and mackerel... and the next she was clutching onto me with all the strength a 10-year-old can muster. A couple of California sea lions had swum by to check us out – up close and very personal – and too close for her comfort. But as fear gave way to fascination, her grip released and she became entranced at the scene playing out right in front of us: two young adults, swimming around us and each other in circles, blowing bubbles and play-biting each other, occasionally swimming right below us, and generally unconcerned with our presence. Moments like these make our snorkeling trips to La Jolla Cove some of the most memorable for both kids and adults alike.

This August, we took four snorkeling trips to La Jolla Cove with kids ranging in age from 7 to 11. Some of them had been snorkeling with us last year, but for most it was their first time experiencing life below the surface of the ocean. For kids who have never ventured beyond the beach, snorkeling is a challenge (their first time being in water too deep to stand in, filled with fish and sea grass, is often a bit scary), but it is also something that most of them quickly come to love. Time and again, we see kids start the trip afraid to venture far from shore (even when attached firmly to an adult), and end the trip filled with confidence in their new snorkeling skills and with excitement at the marine world that has been opened to them. Not all kids get the “full” sea lion experience that Erica did, but they all leave with great memories and stories to tell their friends and families. And we are all looking forward to more of the same next summer!

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

Volunteering With ICO –

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@taylorlaw.com) or by telephone (858-531-5442)

Join us on an ICO Trip – Want to see us in action? Join us as a guest on a day trip. Please contact Bill Tayler at btayler@taylorlaw.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

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



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Sierra Club Members

(up to 25 words)

Private party

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

Business-\$15 + \$.50 per additional word.

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:

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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:

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October/November/December 2017

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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://sandigosierraclub.org/news/newsletter/>

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Help Wanted

Volunteer needed to assist the Chapter Treasurer.

Bookkeeping or accounting experience helpful.

For more information please contact

Karenlee Robinson

619-224-0404 or

klrobinson@cox.net

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (USPS Form 3526)

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Committees & Contact Information

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

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Morgan Scarth 203-470-2580
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Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office

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619-787-0676
rfalawsierraclub@gmail.com

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Secretary: Karenlee Robinson
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Paul Webb
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Treasurer (Non-Voting):
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rae_1024@yahoo.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
The Executive Committee meets 2nd Tuesday.
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
SDSCPCTS@yahoo.com

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

San Diego

Michael Taylor
info@wildernessbasics.com
http://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.sandiegosierraclub.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.sandiegosierraclub.org

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

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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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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

North County Group Executive Committee Ballot and Instructions

The following ballots are to elect members of the North County Group Executive Committee. The Group Executive Committee governs the business of the Group. They are the key committees responsible for making important policy decisions and setting priorities for the future. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes in descending order will be elected. Please follow the instructions on the ballot regarding the number of votes allowed. Write-in candidates are allowed.

How to Vote: You must write your membership number on the outside of your mailing envelope (below your return address is a good place). Your membership number is required for your vote to count (this is how the election committees can verify that you are a member). Your membership number is the eight (8) digit number that appears above your name and mailing address on the back cover.

If you are unable to locate your membership number, please call the Chapter office at 858-569-6005.

North County Group Executive Committee Ballot

North County Coastal Executive Committee Members are elected to serve a term of two (2) years.

Vote for no more than three (3) candidates, including write-ins, by marking the box next to a candidates name, including write-ins. For JOINT memberships please use the second set of boxes to vote.

☐ ☐ Kelly Conrad

☐ ☐ Kit Davis

☐ ☐ Write In: _____

☐ ☐ Cheryl Knapp

☐ ☐ Laura Hunter

☐ ☐ Write In: _____

All ballots must be received by 5 p.m. DECEMBER 4, 2017
Ballots should be mailed or hand delivered to:

NCG Elections-San Diego Chapter Sierra Club
8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101,
San Diego, CA 92111

If you live in these North County Group Zip Codes, Please Vote!

92003 Bonsall

92059 Pala

92074 Poway

92025 - 92027 Escondido

92060 Palomar Mtn

92078 - 92079 San Marcos

92028 Fallbrook

92061 Pauma Valley

92081 Vista

92029 - 92030 Escondido

92064 Poway

92082 Valley Center

92033 Escondido

92065 Ramona

92083 - 92085 Vista

92046 Escondido

92069 San Marcos

92028 Fallbrook

92058 Oceanside

92070 Santa Ysabel

92127 & 92128 San Diego

92198 San Diego

How to Mail Your Ballot:

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