



Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

HiSIERRAN

Serving San Diego And Imperial Counties

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April/May/June 2026

The Theme Of This HiSierran Newsletter Is Borderlands

Protecting the Pathways: Saving Wildlife Migration Corridors Along the Border

By Michael King, Community Organizer
Sierra Club San Diego Chapter



In November of last year, a group of environmental advocates from across the country gathered in Tucson, Arizona to strategize about how to protect some of the wildest remaining parts of our country. From the Otay and Jacumba Wildernesses of California to the stunning San Rafael Valley in Arizona and the magnificent Big Bend National Park in Texas, many of our nation's—and our continent's—most crucial species migration corridors lie along our southern border with Mexico.

This group of advocates, ranging from wildlife biologists, professional environmental activists, Native groups and academics to red-country ranchers along the border and concerned private citizens, is working to protect our natural heritage and fight for places and species that cannot speak for themselves. It is a small but deeply committed coalition determined to stand up to the Goliath of our current administration and the billions of dollars in special-interest funding that stand to benefit from border wall construction and border militarization.

Over the past several months, the San Diego Chapter has become a major player in this effort and an active member of this coalition. Across three zones, our borderlands here in the San Diego Chapter are in peril.

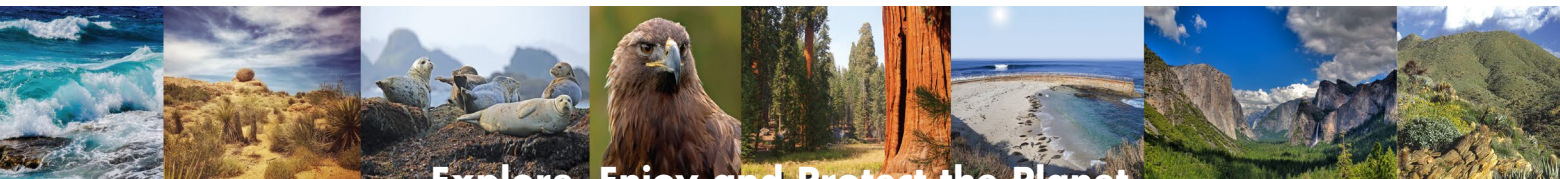
In the Otay Mountain Wilderness Area—home to several endangered and vulnerable species such as the Tecate cypress and mountain lions—Customs and Border Protection and the newly established National Defense Area under the “Department of War” have been laying razor wire that threatens wildlife with severe injury and death. They have also used dynamite to blast apart sections of one of San Diego’s largest protected wilderness areas to produce gravel and sand for new wall construction.

Further east, border wall construction is set to resume in the Tecate border region, which is home to endangered species such as Thorne’s hairstreak butterfly and the Quino checkerspot butterfly. These insects depend on threatened species like the Tecate cypress for their survival, meaning further ecological disruption could trigger cascading impacts across the ecosystem. Wall construction and increased military and Border Patrol presence also pose risks to fragile vernal pools, which support many vulnerable species found nowhere else in the world.



Further down I-8 in Imperial County, one of the most significant threats to habitat connectivity exists within the Jacumba Wilderness, which runs along the border west of Calexico. In recent months, the government has installed new razor wire along some of the last remaining gaps in the wall, threatening one of Southern California’s most iconic and endangered large mammals: the Peninsular bighorn sheep.

Protecting the Pathways continued on page 6



Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

HiSIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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Lisa Ross

Called the “Devils Rope” by the native peoples populating the Western Prairies, few inventions served to establish the property ownership economy than barbed wire, and with it, the destruction to almost extinction of wildlife like the bison and absolute annihilation of the indigenous way of life.

Coiled concertina wire, aka razor wire because of its deadly spikes, is fast becoming emblematic of the US/Mexico Borderlands across the nation, maiming, killing and fragmenting habitat of migratory animals and birds.

Despite acknowledged sensitivity of the habitat in Marron Valley, owned by the City of San Diego for over 100 years, in November of 2025 the Marines began laying concertina wire 30 feet from the border wall, stomping on rare plants and blocking City access to survey the biological impacts.

So lethal to endangered and threatened habitat in San Diego’s protected open space preserves, the City of San Diego is hauling the Departments of Defense aka War, Homeland Security, Navy and US Customs and Border Patrol into court for trespassing on the sensitive lands.

Named specifically in the litigation is former Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, a ringleader of the cabal responsible for the borderlands reign of terror. If you can kill your 14-month-old puppy, why worry about endangered Peninsular Bighorn Sheep, jaguars and low-flying raptors.

Writing in a press release supporting the litigation in January 2026, the San Diego Sierra Club Chapter applauded the City’s unusual step to aggressively defend land protected under agreements with the Federal government through the nationally lauded Multiple Species Habitat Plan (MSCP) permitted under the ever-battered Endangered Species Act.

Unusual because the City has been criticized over decades for failing to enforce or in some cases even develop management plans for its network of connected habitat preserves as required under those agreements.

The largely successful environmental and housing conservation planning began under the administration of then-Mayor Susan

Golding in the mid-1990’s. The MSCP was negotiated among stakeholders that included environmental and recreational groups, housing developers and property owners, creating networks of preserves connected by wildlife corridors, avoiding the deadly habitat fragmentation of earlier development plans.

The connected habitat conservation strategy has been especially critical for the survival of the depleted herds of Peninsular Bighorn Sheep that seasonally migrate from eastern San Diego County where they give birth to Mexico in the summer in search of water. It doesn’t take a wildlife biologist to predict the demise of the already listed endangered species without intervention.

Until November, efforts to provide watering holes on the US side of the border appeared to have some success and hoped for openings in the border wall might have helped. But the addition of the wire could be the proverbial nail in the coffin as wildlife often gets tangled up in the deadly wire or seek more perilous alternative routes.

Certainly, the Marines tasked with this very unpleasant duty did not sign up to damage a habitat preserve, a job that began in December 2025 after the area was designated part of the 210-mile Otay Valley National Defense area, corralling several protected habitat preserves like the Otay Mountain Wilderness, home to the recently listed mountain lion.

Unlike the dinosaurs, most threatened species decline over time, largely the result of shifting environmental conditions. The thinning herds of Peninsula Bighorn sheep from 1100 in 1971 to only 400 twenty years later began in the hills of Riverside where encroaching development sent them south.

Now listed as endangered by the California Fish and Wildlife, instituted conservation measures including expanding and protecting wildlife corridors have returned the numbers to 1971 levels. Concertina wire snaking through our borderlands threatens to stymie those efforts.

As C.S. Lewis warned us, the surest road to hell is the gradual one. For our threatened habitats along the southern border, the Devil’s Rope marks the way.

Protecting San Diego County

Mark West, Chapter Director

The first time I stood at Friendship Park at the western edge of the border, I was struck less by the steel and more by the landscape. To the north, the Tijuana River Estuary spreads into a mosaic of wetlands—one of Southern California’s last intact coastal marshes. To the south, homes and hills rise quickly from the Pacific. Pelicans wheel overhead, oblivious to politics. The wind moves freely. The river, which flows continually polluted, does not stop to show a passport.

For many people, the border is a line. For those of us at Sierra Club San Diego, it is also an ecosystem.

Our mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth. Some have asked why that mission brings us to the border. The answer is simple: the borderlands are wild places. They are home to estuaries, coastal sage scrub, desert canyons, and mountain ranges that support an extraordinary web of life. And whether we like it or not, the communities of San Diego and Tijuana are inseparable—ecologically, economically, and culturally.

San Diego and Tijuana share more than a boundary. We share air. We share water. We share wildlife corridors that long predate modern politics. We share families, industries, and innovation. Ideas developed in San Diego—clean technology, advanced manufacturing, medical devices—are often produced and distributed by companies in Tijuana. The region functions as a single economic engine. But it also functions as a single airshed and a single watershed. Environmental consequences do not respect the line on a map.

Consider the air.

Every day, tens of thousands of vehicles line up at border crossings. Wait times frequently exceed an hour. Engines idle in place, burning gasoline and diesel while families sit in traffic and goods wait to move. That idling is not abstract; it translates directly into particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and greenhouse gases released into a shared basin. Border communities—often working-class neighborhoods on both sides—bear the brunt of that pollution. Children breathe it. Seniors with asthma feel it. And the climate absorbs it.

If we are serious about protecting public lands and advancing environmental justice, we cannot ignore a system that structurally produces air pollution at this scale.

Or consider the water.

The majority of the Tijuana River watershed begins in Mexico. It flows north across the international boundary and empties into the Pacific Ocean at the very southern portion of Imperial Beach. Yet too often, what reaches our shoreline is untreated or partially treated sewage. The river flows continually polluted, carrying the consequences of aging wastewater treatment plants, insufficient capacity for growing populations, and chronic underinvestment on both sides of the border. Decades of inaction by officials in both the United States and Mexico have compounded the problem. Infrastructure has failed to keep pace with reality. Promises have outlasted budgets.

The result is devastating and undeniable. The beaches of South County close for months at a time, and some portions have remained closed for years. Entire stretches of coastline that families once relied on for recreation and livelihood are inaccessible.

The estuary suffers under the weight of contamination. Navy service members training in the surf fall ill. Residents lose access to the coastline that defines their community. Wildlife that depends on the marsh is exposed to toxins that ripple through the food web.

This is not a “Mexican problem” or an “American problem.” It is a binational systems failure. When we advocate for modernized sewage treatment facilities, enforceable cross-border agreements, and sustained federal investment, we are acting squarely within our mission. Protecting the Tijuana River Valley means defending one of Southern California’s most precious ecological landscapes—and standing with the communities who live beside it.

Then there is wildlife.

The mountains that trace the border—Otay Mountain, the Sierra de Juárez, the Peninsular Ranges—form a critical habitat corridor linking Southern California to Baja California. Apex predators such as mountain lions and bobcats require expansive territories. In arid environments where prey is already scarce, mobility is survival. Genetic diversity depends on animals being able to roam across vast landscapes.

The expansion of border infrastructure has fundamentally altered that equation. Continuous steel bollard walls, graded enforcement roads, intense lighting, and the installation of concertina wire create physical and behavioral barriers. In places where wildlife once moved seasonally between mountain ranges, they now encounter impermeable fencing. The wire does not distinguish between human and animal; it slices habitat into fragments. For species already stressed by drought and development, this loss of connectivity is devastating.

We cannot claim to protect biodiversity in San Diego County while ignoring the fragmentation of the corridors that sustain it.

Engaging at the border is not a departure from our mission. It is a logical extension of it.

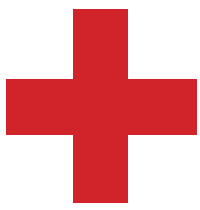
To explore the environment here is to witness a binational ecosystem shaped by desert, ocean, and river. To enjoy it is to recognize the shared culture and deep appreciation for this landscape that exists on both sides of the boundary. To protect it is to address the structural forces—pollution, infrastructure neglect, habitat fragmentation—that threaten its future.

Some may be uncomfortable when environmental advocacy intersects with border policy. But the Sierra Club has long understood that environmental protection and human well-being are inseparable. Clean air at the ports of entry improves public health. Modern sewage treatment protects surfers, soldiers, and shorebirds alike. Wildlife corridors sustain the resilience of desert and mountain ecosystems that define our region.

San Diego and Tijuana are linked by more than commerce. We are linked by watersheds, migration routes, prevailing winds, and a shared coastline. The challenges we face at the border are complex, but they are not optional. Ignoring them will not make them disappear; it will only allow them to worsen.

When we stand at the edge of the estuary and watch the river meet the sea, we are reminded that nature does not recognize the barriers we construct—even as it bears the consequences of our failures. Our responsibility is clear. Wherever ecosystems are stressed—especially in places where policy and infrastructure have amplified that stress—we must show up.

Because protecting the environment in San Diego means protecting the environment of the borderlands. And protecting the borderlands means working, persistently and collaboratively, toward solutions that honor both the people and the wild places that call this region home.



American Red Cross

Wilderness and Remote First Aid by Simple Continuing Education

**There are two classes offered with the following dates
please choose either the April or July classes**

*Must attend both part 1 and 2 to complete
the course*

Part 1 for April

(Zoom online – link will be emailed upon paid registration)

Saturday, April 18, 2026. 9am-5pm

Part 2 for April

(in Briar Crest Park 9001 Wakarusa Rd. La Mesa, CA 91941)

Sunday, April 19, 2026. 9am-5pm

Part 1 for July

(Zoom online – link will be emailed upon paid registration)

Saturday, July 25, 2026. 9am-5pm

Part 2 for July

(in Briar Crest Park 9001 Wakarusa Rd. La Mesa, CA 91941)

Sunday, July 26, 2026. 9am-5pm

What you will learn/practice:

When Help is Delayed: - Emergency Action Steps

- Emergency Moves and Prioritizing Care

Physical Exam and Report Record Transfers
and Evacuations

Preventing Disease Transmission & Use
of Tourniquets

Preventing Infections - Head and Spinal Injuries

Chest and Abdominal Injuries - Burns and Shock

-Hypothermia - Major Bites and Stings

*This option combining virtual classroom and in person skills and
scenarios is recognized by the American Red Cross as long as
participant attend all sessions.*

Participants must ...

- Have history of adult CPR training prior to attending (BLS CPR meets this requirement)
- Be capable of performing strenuous activities (such as bending, lifting, kneeling, etc.)

As a result of the course, participants will ...

Earn a 2-year Wilderness Remote First Aid card from
the American Red Cross

Be prepared for:

- Minor Emergencies • Scouting
- Hiking • Backpacking
- Living or Working in Rural Areas
- Sierra Club Treks • Disasters



**Cost: \$250 for 2-day Wilderness Remote
First Aid Course**
(due before the first class)

**\$175 (discounted rate) for
Sharp employees, Sierra Club and
Scouting members.**

\$50 for Adult CPR w/AED
(offered before the course for this additional fee)

To meet CPR requirements, provide proof of CPR training in the
past or do one of the following.

Dates reflect April classes or July classes:

- 1) Complete Adult CPR w/AED through American Red Cross, American Heart Association or other OSHA approved provider.
- 2) Attend online instruction with our instructor and provide copy of card with registration on
Friday, April 10 or Friday, July 17 2026 from 6-8pm online via
Zoom AND demonstrate skills on
Sunday, April 19 or Sunday, July 26, 2026 during class.

To register (or ask questions),

1) Call or email Kevin Opheim **(619) 300-4219**
(24 hours a day)

2) Send payment, due by

Wednesday, April 1, or Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

With Venmo, use email or phone number

KevinO@MySimpleCE.com

Continuing Education: Provider approved by the
California Board of Registered Nursing,

Provider Number #16990 for 4.0 contact hours (\$20 additional fee)

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.



Bus Trips Are Back!

We're excited about restarting the San Diego Chapter of Sierra Club 2026 Bus Trips.

MAMMOTH BUS TRIP-SAVE THE DATE :

SEPTEMBER 9-13, 2026.

CAMPGROUND AND DAY HIKING.

Sign-ups will be posted on the website later this year.

www.sdsierraclub.org

Like us on Facebook



CST2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Locations and dates are subject to change due to permit availability.



Our New Chapter & Communications Coordinator.

Hello there! I'm Abra, and I'm so excited to have joined Sierra Club San Diego as the Chapter & Communications Coordinator.

Bay Area born and raised, I moved to San Diego to attend UCSD (Go Tritons!) and, aside from two very cold years in Boston, never looked back. After 15ish years in San Diego, I can finally call myself a local.

I have a master's degree in nonprofit public relations from Boston University (Go Terriers!) and a professional background in content and brand management across healthcare technology, retail, interior design, and health and social services. I'm thrilled to be back in the nonprofit space where my marketing career began!

As a California native, I've had the privilege of going on adventures all across our amazing state, especially in beautiful Southern California. I look forward to helping our community enjoy, explore, and protect the planet throughout San Diego. When I'm not working, I love seeing local theater, walking with my dog around Pacific Beach, and hanging out poolside with my Kindle.

I look forward to meeting you all!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Pat Holland

Food



In the US, it is common practice for sewage sludge with toxins to be used as fertilizer on farmland. (<https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/press-releases/848/sludge-victims-tell-their-stories-to-the-senate-committee-on-environment-and-public-works>) USDA Organic Standards do not allow this practice for organic production of food. (<https://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/issues/1050/sewage-sludge/how-do-i-know-if-my-food-was-grown-in-sewage-sludge>)

How would you like to eat? Below you may find what you want to eat to be healthy.

Coastal Roots Farm in Encinitas has an organic Pay-What-You-Can Farm Stand on Thursdays and Sundays. (<https://coastalrootsfarm.org/contact/>)

The local Mom and Pop grocery chain Jimbo's, with 4 locations and two more on the way (<https://jimbo.com/>), has an all organic salad bar and a hot food bar which lists all ingredients of their prepared hot food and whether the ingredients are certified organic, or are vegan. Jimbo's also has an organic sushi bar and an all-organic produce department which does not accept produce with Organipeel coatings. They sell Botanical Interest Seeds all of which are tested to be Non-

GMO by the Non-GMO Project. You can subscribe to Jimbo's newsletter or go to their website to see their specials.

If you shop or eat elsewhere, you can interview the store's produce manager, and other department managers.

Web searches for organic restaurants, coffee shops, organic bakeries, organic breweries, organic grocery stores, organic farmers markets and farmstands, and interviewing business owners or managers may help you locate what you want to consume near your home or when you travel.

You may also find what you want via a web search for organic bed and breakfasts, and organic farm stays when you travel in the USA, and abroad.

Landscaping

There is recent research that living within one mile of a golf course in the US gives you a 126% increased risk of developing Parkinson's Disease. (<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/residential-proximity-golf-courses-linked-parkinsons-disease-2025a1000bau>) Sadly, all but one or two golf courses in the US use toxic chemicals (synthetic pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers). You might want to tell golfers and those who work at golf courses about this.

Our Chapter's Food, Agriculture and Landscaping Committee

We need you if you care about what you put in your and your loved ones' mouths; if you care about what you and your loved ones' breathe from toxic or non-toxic landscaping.

If you would like to learn and/or help, call Pat Holland at 858 455 1033 land line with call screening and answering machine. I'd love to hear from you. To be included in invitations to our group, please provide your email address and best times that you are available for committee meetings.

Protecting the Pathways continued from page 1

The Peninsular bighorn sheep is a migratory species that moves into California during the winter months to breed and returns to Mexico in the summer to access more reliable water sources. Without intervention to allow passage across the border or provide artificial water sources in the desert, the species could face significant stress as soon as this summer. Additionally, endangered plants such as Crucifixion Thorn have already been documented as damaged by heavy machinery used in wall construction and by Border Patrol and military vehicles illegally off-roading within the wilderness area.

Protecting habitat and ecological connectivity here in San Diego is a major undertaking, and many of these threats are unfolding right now. While the chapter will continue documenting the damage to our wilderness areas and sensitive species, we urgently need volunteers and advocates to help push for immediate solutions to protect the Peninsular bighorn sheep and other vulnerable wildlife.

There are real actions we can take. Working with our Conservation Committee, we will advocate for federal agencies—including Customs and Border Protection and the Bureau of Land Management—to remove harmful razor wire, open floodgates in the border wall to allow wildlife passage and install artificial watering sources that could help sustain Peninsular bighorn sheep during the coming summer months.

But we cannot do this alone. Protecting these landscapes and the species that depend on them will require a strong and organized community willing to speak up, engage decision-makers, and shine a light on what is happening in our borderlands.

If you care about protecting our wilderness areas and ensuring wildlife like the Peninsular bighorn sheep can continue to migrate and survive, please join us in this effort. Reach out to me at michael.king@sierra-club.org to get involved with the San Diego Chapter's conservation work on borderlands protection.

Together, we can help defend some of the most fragile and important ecosystems in our region.

Senior Gleaners of San Diego County

By Lisa Lindgren, General Manager

As most Sierra Club members and environmentalists likely already know, gleaning is a historical practice going back to medieval and even biblical times. According to The Old Farmers Almanac, “A gleaner is someone who collects excess fresh foods from a variety of sources in order to provide them to those in need.” Gleaning feeds people, reduces waste and keeps methane-creating organic matter out of our landfills.

For over thirty years Senior Gleaners of San Diego County (<https://seniorgleanerssdco.org>) has relied on senior volunteers, ages 55+, to pick produce in residents’ backyards and orchards that would otherwise go to waste, then transport and donate the produce to non-profit distribution sites that feed individuals facing food insecurity. Grocery stores also donate surplus food that is transported by Senior Gleaner volunteers. As many as 75 distribution partners located throughout the county receive this food to feed people in need.

Senior Gleaners picked and transported 232,330 pounds of fruit to food distribution agencies, churches, and other sites in 2025. An additional 175,827 pounds of surplus groceries from participating grocery stores were transported by Senior Gleaners volunteers, resulting in over 418,000 pounds of produce that fed people, not landfills. This represents a significant contribution to the



locations throughout San Diego County that distribute food to the thousands of children and adults who rely on the produce donations.

Senior Gleaners operates throughout San Diego County deploying almost 200 older adults in this effort. While the peak gleaning season winds up by early summer, some produce and grocery pickups continue year-round. If you have trees to register for either still this season or the next one, you can register them at https://seniorgleanerssdco.org/site_registration.php. Small residential yards are welcome in addition to larger groves. Volunteers only work a couple of hours on weekday mornings. No minimum hours are required, and many people love the outdoor work and the camaraderie of meeting like-minded folks. If you are interested and are 55+, sign up here <https://seniorgleanerssdco.org/volregistration.php>.

For more information, contact info@seniorgleanerssdco.org.

Jacumba Wilderness and EH Visits To This Wilderness

by Edie Harmon

The Jacumba Mountains Wilderness have been my front yard since I moved here in 1977 and began exploring canyons and washes long before they were designated as wilderness in 1994. This wilderness is a series of north-south valleys, separated by mountains.

Each valley is at a different elevation with visibly different geology, often on opposite slopes of the canyons that go in many different directions following earthquake faults. Many years ago, I met a team of geologists from University of Chicago in canyons across from my home as they were mapping what they called the most incredibly complex geology of the Jacumba Mountains. Many canyons have dry waterfalls, piles of boulders and empty into sandy washes that carry fast moving water during hurricanes, flash floods and even local downpours. Some canyons have almost vertical sandstone formations on one side and rocky slopes with twisted rock formations on the opposite side.

Where I have explored, each valley and each canyon have its own unique geology and assembly of wildflowers, bushes, ocotillos, and trees that respond to even small rains. Large rains leave standing water in low-lying sinks that support rings of different vegetation depending on how long it takes water to sink in or evaporate. Since 2020 when border barrier construction started in the wilderness

there have been more than eight flash flood and flooding events so the threatened Crucifixion Thorns in Skull Valley are once again healthy and producing abundant seeds after years of slow die-back from years of drought. The Skull Valley sink area now has hundreds of mesquite trees much taller than I am and competing for water with the Crucifixion Thorns.

The central part of Skull Valley sits on top of a sandstone formation usually covered with sand carried down by flooding or windblown sand coming north from Mexico. The large dune that appeared to hug the mountain on west has narrow canyons between dune and mountain and another canyon/gully from top to bottom that reveals that the dune is really a thin layer of sand on top of the sandstone with cracks or covering part of decomposed granite of mountain. Plant life on dune is varied and depends on whether surface is mostly moving sand dune or sand over decomposed granite. Desert pavement on slopes above washed reveals several prehistoric foot trails that are thousands of years old and can be followed across both Skull and Davies valleys and seen on Google Earth.

To the west is Davies Valley at higher elevation, with more rainfall and many more species of cacti, annuals, and bushes. During a flash flood, water flowed down Pinto Wash and crossed the border barrier at depths higher than the border gates leaving sand on well rusted bollards more than six feet above the constructed border road. Since 2020, Border Patrol agents have assured me that it is perfectly safe for me to hike and explore the Jacumba Wilderness, its valleys, canyons and washes alone, just try not to fall and always

Jacumba continued on page 11

Protecting Seals and Sea Lions in La Jolla

Submitted by Robyn Davidoff and Carol Archibald



The Sierra Club Seal Society works on the front lines of the human-wildlife interface in La Jolla. Too often, visitors approach seals and sea lions to take selfies, pet them, or get a closer look. These disturbances can stress the animals and sometimes trigger defensive behavior such as lunging, chasing, or biting. Our mission is simple: protect wildlife while helping people enjoy these remarkable animals responsibly.

Educating the Public

Seal Society volunteers spend about 40 hours each week educating visitors at Point La Jolla, La Jolla Cove, and Children's Pool Beach. Docents explain seal and sea lion behavior, describe the animals' breeding cycles, and remind visitors to observe wildlife from a safe distance of at least 20 feet (about three car lengths). A phone's zoom lens works better—and is safer—than getting too close.

UCSD Pup Patrol

For the third year, the Sierra Club Seal Society partnered with UC San Diego to launch the UCSD Pup Patrol program at Children's Pool Beach. This year, 69 students studying Environmental Science and Marine Biology were trained as volunteer docents.

Students help educate visitors and also conduct daily counts of seals and pups for three months, contributing to broader efforts to monitor California's harbor seal population.

Each year, newborn pups receive names based on a theme. This year's theme—fruits and vegetables—led to tropical names like Lilikoi, Papaya, and Guava. More than 41 seal pups had already been born at the time of publication.

Student Voices

Students say the experience has been both rewarding and eye-opening. Many note that approaching visitors was intimidating at first, but quickly became enjoyable as people showed curiosity and enthusiasm about marine wildlife.

Docents say the program builds communication skills, connects them with nature beyond campus, and allows them to share the excitement of seeing newborn seal pups with visitors from around the world.

Respect the Beach Closure

Children's Pool Beach is legally closed during harbor seal pupping season from December 15 to May 15. Despite this protection, footprints are frequently seen in the sand.

If you see someone on the beach during the closure period, please politely ask them to leave and notify lifeguards. Photos or videos documenting violations can also be sent to scealsociety@gmail.com.

Talk and Walk Programs

In February, the Seal Society hosted four free "Talk and Walk"

events at Mangelsen's Images of Nature Gallery. Presentations covered the history of seals in La Jolla—documented as early as 1887—along with seal behavior and reproduction. Each talk was followed by a docent-led walk to Children's Pool to observe the animals responsibly.

Advocating for Sea Lion Protections

The Seal Society continues to advocate for stronger protections for sea lions at La Jolla Cove, especially during pupping season. Recommended measures include ranger staffing, public announcements reminding visitors to keep their distance, protective barriers around vulnerable animals, and multilingual signage.

Rangers are now actively monitoring the Cove and making announcements to help keep both people and wildlife safe.



Group photo of a tour Nathan, Carol and I gave to the Biologists studying vertebrate human wildlife conflict.

Working with Wildlife Experts

In March, Seal Society leaders guided 51 professional biologists from across the United States and the United Kingdom on a tour of La Jolla's seals and sea lions. These researchers study human-wildlife interactions and develop strategies to reduce conflict while promoting coexistence.

Women Who Inspire Recognition

Seal Society Chair Robyn Davidoff was nominated for California Senator Catherine Blakespear's Women Who Inspire event during Women's History Month. She was recognized for leading the Seal Society's docent program and advocating for the protection of La Jolla's marine mammals.



Robyn Davidoff at Senator Catherine Blakespear at the Women Who Inspire reception

Upcoming: Sea Lion Talk and Walk

During the peak sea lion pupping season in June and July, Seal Society volunteers will host four free Sea Lion Talk and Walk programs at Mangelsen's Images of Nature Gallery (7916 Girard Avenue). Each event includes a 30–45 minute presentation followed by a walk to La Jolla Cove to observe sea lion mothers and pups.

Beach Cleanup Opportunities

April 25 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

I Love A Clean San Diego – Creek to Bay Cleanup
Team Captain sites: Scripps Park and Children's Pool Beach
September 19 | 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

I Love A Clean San Diego – Coastal Cleanup Day
Team Captain sites: Scripps Park and Children's Pool Beach

For volunteer information, visit:

<https://www.cleansd.org/events/list/page/2/>

Zeroing in on Zero Waste - Your Questions Answered



San Diego Sierra Club Zero Waste Subcommittee

In this issue of the HiSierran we'll review the 13th Annual Zero Waste Symposium that was held on February 18, highlight work done by the Senior Gleaners of San Diego County, and share information on healthy eating.

Please email your questions about zero waste and related issues to zerowastesdsc@gmail.com and we will answer them in future issues of the HiSierran. Zero Waste Subcommittee meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM. If you would like to attend or join the subcommittee, please send an email to zerowastesdsc@gmail.com.

13th Annual Zero Waste Symposium



Sierra Club was a sponsor of Zero Waste San Diego's 13th Annual Zero Waste Symposium which was held on February 18. The Symposium was sold out, with 260 in-person and virtual attendees. This year's theme was Dedicated to Real Solutions and Circular Economy Innovation.

The keynote presentation, Sparking the Behaviors Behind Zero Waste: A Practical, Evidence-Based Framework, was presented by Jennifer Tabanico, President of Action Research, a firm that specializes in applying behavioral science principles and community-based social marketing to address a wide range of environmental behavior changes. Her main point is that waste



Jennifer Tabanico, President of Action Research

problems are behavior problems. While knowledge and attitudes are important foundations, people do not act solely on what they know or believe. Community-based social marketing is an evidence-based framework for designing and

scaling programs that foster safe, healthy and sustainable behaviors. Process overview: (1) select behaviors, (2) identify barriers & benefits, (3) develop strategies, (4) pilot test strategies, and (5) implement broadly & evaluate.

Nick Lapis, Director of Advocacy with Californians Against Waste, discussed Plastics and Packaging in California and why we can't back down from our commitment to tackling plastics and packaging in the face of industry lobbying and federal headwinds.

Legislative successes over the past five years include:

- **Fighting food waste and expanded recycling (AB 660 and SB 279)**
- **Stopped greenwashing (SB 343, AB 1201, AB 1857 and AB 881)**
- **Expanding the bottle bill (SB 1013, SB 353 and AB 962)**
- **Recovering batteries and battery-embedded products (SB 1215 and AB 2440)**
- **Preventing plastic pollution (SB 1046 and SB 1053)**
- **Establishing a right to repair (SB 244)**

California's Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act (SB 54), passed in 2022, is an Extended Producer Responsibility law that requires all single-use packaging and food service ware to be recyclable or compostable by 2032. Californians Against Waste is working to counteract recent efforts that would weaken SB 54 by adding loopholes and giveaways to the plastics industry.

Nicole Suydam, President and CEO of Goodwill of Orange County, discussed how Goodwills across the state are helping drive the circular economy through expanded donation efforts, strategic reuse and repair partnerships, and proactive policy engagement. This coalition is proactively partnering for the good of the state and planet, leveraging their deep industry expertise, to help steer a transformative Extended Producer Responsibility bill (SB 707) that will redefine textile production and sales in California.

Bob Hill, who is retiring after over 20 years as EDCO's Director of Recycling & Logistics, was honored as the 2026 Hero of Zero Waste.



Laura Anthony, President of Zero Waste San Diego, Bob Hill, and Zero Waste San Diego Director Richard Anthony.

Remembering Larry Klaasen



Larry Klaasen, a longtime activist and Sierra Club Life member, passed away at age 81 on January 8 from pancreatic cancer. Larry was best known for his Chapter leadership, conservation work and Outings activities.

In the 1970's, Larry joined the Chapter's Sierra Singles to "meet women who backpack." Well, that worked out when he met Pat Halsey at a Singles board meeting in 1984, finding a

dedicated backpacking partner. They married in 1987 at Foster Lodge.

Larry was active in Chapter leadership, serving in several roles. He was elected by the Chapter members to serve on the Chapter Executive Committee in the late 1990's and was Chapter Chair in 1998 when the then-current Chair bowed out. He then took on the role of Chapter Treasurer and was instrumental in managing Chapter finances for 14 years.

Larry was a Chapter Outing Leader for about 25 years, leading day hikes, local backpacks, and Bus Trip backpacks, and organized one of

the popular Grand Canyon bus trips. He participated in a half-dozen Sierra Club National Service trips.

The Chapter awarded Larry its highest honor with the Silver Cup Award in 1998. His dedication and service continued, receiving the Chapters Environmental Stewardship Award in 2006 and the Distinguished Achievement Award in 2012.

Larry may have been best known for his 30+ years battling invasive tamarisk in our deserts and was a weekly Weed Warrior, volunteering for Tecolote nature park and Lakeside Riverpark Conservancy. Larry was a board member for the Desert Protective Council for many years. He generously supported many environmental organizations. Larry's involvement with Sierra Club helped round out his lifelong environmentalism.

Nick Ervin, who served on the Chapter's Executive Committee, remembered Larry this way:

"My old friend Larry and I met in 1982 through a mutual Sierra Club contact. I had moved to San Diego about five years earlier and the local chapter had been a main source for meeting folks and enjoying the outdoors, particularly the local desert. For so many

Remembering Larry Klassen continued on page 14

The "NOT-So-Smart Wall": A \$46.5 Billion Assault On The Borderlands Region.

The Sierra Club, with communities along the U.S.-Mexico border, strongly opposes U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) plans to construct a devastating and unnecessary "Smart Wall." This project, funded by the recent \$46.5 billion "Big Ugly Bill" allocation to the Department of Homeland Security, is a rebranded expansion of failed policies that will inflict lasting ecological and social harm, and is far from "smart."

The first wave of contracts, announced on October 10th, 2025, and totaling over \$4 billion, will fund 230 miles of new physical barriers and nearly 400 miles of surveillance technology, impacting landscapes from California to Texas, this will cover some of the most remote areas in the border and will include wilderness areas, national monuments, state parks, national forests, etc.

Branded now as a "Smart Wall," the project is just more of the same very familiar strategies. It consists of:

- **Secondary walls, creating a double-barrier in many areas including floating barriers.**
- **Hundreds of miles of new roads for border patrol vehicles.**

- **An array of surveillance equipment, including cameras and harmful lighting systems This infrastructure will transform vast swaths of ecologically and culturally sensitive areas into permanent militarized zones, further fragmenting wildlife corridors, erasing the culturally significant places that have been stewarded by Indigenous people since time immemorial, and continuing to industrialize desert landscapes.**



Coronado National Memorial AZ, by Erick Meza



Concertina wire in remote areas of the border, Photo Erick Meza

If all this is not enough the Department of War, in collaboration with Border Patrol agents, deployed an historical amount of concertina wire in some of the most remote and fragile areas of the border.

The administration has once again invoked waivers to bypass dozens of core environmental and cultural protection laws, just as was done in the previous Trump administration. This continues to create a dangerous precedent of lawlessness in our borderlands.

Real solutions address the root causes of migration and prioritize the health of our shared environment, not the profits of private contractors.

The Borderlands Program out of the Grand Canyon Chapter works in collaboration with border chapters to stop this madness and protect some of the very last wildlife migration corridors we have left.

From Pollution to Protection

by Charles Rilli

Deputy Chapter Director, Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

At the end of February, Sierra Club San Diego officially launched its new “From Pollution to Protection” campaign. This campaign is being led by the South Bay Task Force, marking an important step toward mobilizing community members and advancing solutions to the long-standing Tijuana River pollution crisis. The kickoff event took place at YMCA Camp Surf in Imperial Beach, bringing together local residents, environmental advocates, and Sierra Club members for a day of connection, action, and learning along one of San Diego’s most impacted coastlines.

The campaign aims to transform growing public concern about cross-border pollution into organized community action and policy advocacy. For decades, untreated wastewater, industrial discharge, and trash flowing through the Tijuana River watershed have contaminated beaches, damaged sensitive habitats, and threatened public health in the South Bay. Communities such as Imperial Beach and surrounding coastal areas experience frequent beach closures and degraded water quality, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive, binational solutions.

“From Pollution to Protection” seeks to elevate this issue by engaging Sierra Club members, strengthening regional and bi-national partnerships, and advocating for lasting infrastructure and policy solutions that address the root causes of the pollution. Working with our newly formed South Bay Task Force, Sierra Club San Diego is building a collaborative platform where volunteers, community leaders, scientists, and policymakers can work together to push for meaningful action.

The campaign kickoff embodied this spirit of community engagement. The day began with yoga on the beach, allowing participants to connect with the coastal environment and reflect on the importance of protecting it. With the Pacific Ocean as a backdrop, attendees gathered for a moment of mindfulness before transitioning into hands-on stewardship.

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let them know where I will be going before I start. Thus, no need for BP vehicles to drive in wilderness to find out if I am an American or a border-crosser. I have photo documented border barrier construction, flash flood damage to roads and infrastructure, road and infrastructure repairs failures, jackrabbit die-off from rabbit hemorrhagic virus. I have been monitoring where Peninsular Bighorn Sheep are moving across valleys and mountainsides, foraging on many species of bushes, stripping bark from acacias, and leaving piles of pellets where almost vertical canyon wall formations meet the sand of washes.

When I first discovered concertina wire on a slope where there was no bollard barrier, wildlife biologists were able to convince CBP in DC to order it removed so sheep could cross the border to reach water sources in Mexico. In November, first Marines, and then Soldiers carried 25-pound coils of concertina wire on their backs up the mountain where it crosses the border at the SE corner, then it ended up being three sets of c-wire coils to create what amounts to a “killing field” for

Following the yoga session, volunteers participated in a beach cleanup along the Imperial Beach shoreline. Armed with gloves, bags, and determination, participants removed trash and debris from the sand, an immediate, tangible way to care for the coastline while also drawing attention to the broader pollution issues affecting the region.

The event also included an informational discussion on the Tijuana River pollution crisis, where participants learned about the environmental, ecological, and public health impacts of ongoing contamination. Speakers and organizers highlighted the importance of sustained advocacy, regional cooperation, and bi-national investment in wastewater infrastructure and watershed management. A Camp Surf staffer also highlighted the water quality testing they are doing and the impact of the pollution crisis on their camp. The discussion created space for questions, community dialogue, and ideas about how residents can play an active role in shaping solutions.

The South Bay Task Force will play a central role in advancing the campaign’s goals. This volunteer group will focus on organizing community engagement efforts, supporting advocacy campaigns, and helping Sierra Club San Diego elevate the issue at the local, state, and federal levels.

By combining community engagement, environmental stewardship, and policy advocacy, the “From Pollution to Protection” campaign aims to ensure that the Tijuana River region moves toward a future where coastal ecosystems are restored, communities are protected, and the beaches are open and the air is clean and safe for everyone.

Community members who want to help tackle the Tijuana River pollution crisis are encouraged to get involved.

If you are interested in joining the South Bay Task Force and working on solutions to the Tijuana River pollution crisis, please reach out to charles.rilli@sierraclub.org.

sheep and other smaller wildlife. Marines kindly gave permission for me to take photographs because what they did was next to impossible and not believable if I hadn’t watched and listened to their answers to my crazy questions! The bollard barrier along the border has done terrible damage to the environment, drainages and impacted sheep and other wildlife use of their traditional areas used for survival.

Heavy equipment is used to try to repair road damage, but operators say the repairs are cosmetic and good until the next rain, but good paying jobs. I have hiked in wilderness every month of the year and try to be extra careful when temperatures reach 110o. Most interesting times to hike are ASAP after each potential flash flood because fast moving water changes local geology. Border Patrol agents have rescued me five times since 2020, once from a strong wind that kept knocking me over when I was in a boulder field on the mountainside and looking down on a sandstorm coming up from Mexico.

The next canyon to east was calm, but I could not have walked the 3 miles to get there. If Marines and Soldiers could carry concertina wire up the mountain, 25 pounds at a time, then they should have no problem removing it 25 pounds at a time! Peninsular Bighorn Sheep need military help to access water in Mexico. Many thanks.

Sierra Club Youth Column

Madeleine Adams

Mission Vista High School, Climate advocate



When I entered high school I knew I wanted to engage with other climate-oriented youth. Through relentless promotion, I managed to scrounge up a small group of people to join my environmental club. From our first meeting, it was so refreshing to see fellow students genuinely invested in climate action. I realized then that the reason I had previously felt alone in my climate anxiety wasn't because my peers weren't concerned about climate

change but because of the lack of encouragement and community surrounding the issue for young people.

Holding on to this vital need for a youth climate community in order to inspire meaningful action, I became a part of the Sierra Club to help bridge the gap between students and the organizations that fight for our futures. In my year and a half on the North County Chapter Executive board, I have come to realize just how eager Sierra Club representatives are to spread their message to high schoolers.

This enthusiasm of the Sierra Club was epitomized when I brought North County Chair of Excom Joe Houde and Associate Community Organizer Michael King to guest speak at my own high school. Even with Costco pizza as our bait, I didn't have high expectations for the turnout. To my surprise, over twenty inquisitive students came to listen (maybe solely for the pizza...).

Mr. Houde and Mr. King gave their insights on pursuing green pathways to foster excitement for those career fields by explaining both the vitality of environmental jobs to protecting our earth but also the promising outlook of the green industry. The students' subsequent questions for these guest speakers sparked a great discussion, making me hopeful for what my generation will do to address climate change. All of this happened only within a lunch period, but it was incredibly moving to experience.

Since then, I have been organizing similar guest speaking events with the Sierra Club at high schools in my district. I am excited to say that the Sierra Club is also coming again to my high school to bring climate education directly to my peers.

In this last year of my high school journey, I have wondered how future students will be able to learn from vital resources such as the Sierra Club without me there. However, while I may be the one to encourage youth climate engagement, it takes a whole group of people deciding to unite under this common cause in order to actually stimulate change. In that way, I am hopeful that the Sierra Club will continue to broaden their engagement with high schoolers to inspire these young people to really consider their role in the world of climate action. I encourage the Sierra Club to reserve specific committee spots for youth voices, whether high schoolers, college students, or otherwise, to most accurately reflect the diversity of our climate community. Perhaps recruiting youth voices as representatives for the Sierra Club will encourage more youth membership to further Sierra Club's environmental aspirations.

A VERY SPECIAL EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

**We are excited to share that
Sierra Club National selected our
Sierra Club chapter as a partner for
their new Earth Day celebration,
Sierra Sessions**

Sierra Sessions is a streaming fundraising concert series that brings communities together through music, storytelling, and environmental action. The series will feature singer-songwriters sharing their music and reflections on nature, climate, and environmental justice, using culture and creativity to inspire broader participation in the environmental movement.

As part of this partnership, Sierra Club San Diego received a microgrant to host an Earth Day event in our community. We will have a Sierra Sessions Earth Day celebration and viewing party paired with our **"April Pints For The Planet series."**



Please join us on
APRIL 22ND AT 6 PM AT

ORIGINAL 40 BREWING IN NORTH PARK, SAN DIEGO.

In addition to the concert, we'll have Earth Day-themed trivia (with prizes), community engagement, information about our ongoing campaigns, and a few special surprises you won't want to miss. Bring your friends and family, and help us celebrate Earth Day and our wonderful San Diego home.

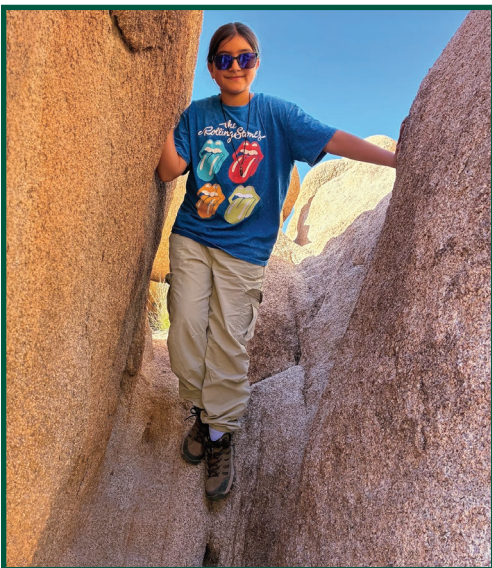
Inspiring Connections Outdoors



First Time Campers in Joshua Tree

by Bill Tayler

In early March we took a group of kids camping in Joshua Tree for a night, including a few 4th grade girls who had never been before. For a first-time camping trip, it's hard to beat Joshua Tree, with its beautiful Mojave desert scenery, solitude and, best of all, endless opportunities for climbing the monzogranite rocks right at camp. And these three girls certainly made the most of it! Although the end of the trip came way too soon for them, they are all looking forward to going back again for more exploration of this wonderful place.



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

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

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

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

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Sierra Club Members (up to 25 words)

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Business- \$15 + \$.50 per additional word.
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Payment must be made at time of

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Sierra Club San Diego

4241 Jutland Drive, Ste. #303

San Diego, CA 92117

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Submission Deadlines for HiSierran Newsletter:

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

Upcoming Issues:

July/August/September 2026

Deadline June 1, 2026.

**To submit by email,
please email to both:**

thomascreative2@cox.net

scoffice@sierrasd.org.

Submissions are subject to

approval for content and

subject matter.

Remembering Larry Klassen continued from page 10

years together we hiked sometimes remote desert places where few ever really went. True desert rats are rare, and he was truly one of that unusual breed.

Later, with wife Pat, we not only reveled in desert wilderness but also went “tamarisk bashing” together. Larry, until near the end, always seemed to be volunteering for conservation work or other causes. My younger adult son still vividly recalls several tamarisk bashing trips long ago as we cleared areas of the exotic shrub under the auspices of the El Centro BLM office. Dear Larry had undergone the training necessary to handle the herbicide required.

I remember just over a year ago Larry, Pat and I had a marvelous day trip out to the Mud Hills area of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. And just six weeks before his passing we drove out to the local desert together and enjoyed a sunny day. He had hoped to be able to do one more of he and Pat’s traditional New Year’s desert campouts with several friends. Alas, it was not to be.

Aside from leading outdoor trips over the years for the club, Larry was not averse to doing the less glamorous work of administration for the San Diego chapter. He spent years as Treasurer and possibly other jobs of which I am not aware.

Another thing I admired about the Klaasens has been their thirst for adventure and widespread travel. I scarcely have known anyone who spent as much time outdoors on trips as well as in international travel. Remarkable. His was genuinely a life well-lived and I will miss his companionship as a fellow desert rat and overall fine human being. The local chapter owes him a great debt for all his efforts over the decades.”

Eric Bowlby, Former Canyons Campaign Coordinator for the San Diego Chapter and Founding Executive Director Emeritus, San Diego Canyonlands, wrote the following:

“Larry Klaasen, A Strong Environmental Leader and Friend.

Larry was a volunteer leader/pillar for the San Diego Sierra Club, serving on the Executive Committee in 1999 when I

joined the club and met him. My goal at the time was to save San Diego’s precious wetlands and watersheds and I made a career out of it by leading the Club’s Canyons Campaign.

Like he did for so many people and causes, Larry mentored me and supported the canyons effort with indispensable skillsets. For example, the first canyon “friends-group” we established was for Switzer Canyon in North Park (1999). Larry joined the group and their monthly stewardship work parties.

As the campaign grew, he helped me navigate the Sierra Club bureaucracies for hiring new staff by taking on a leadership role on the Human Resources Committee.

On the ground, he was the most effective weed warrior I have ever met, and weeds were our biggest challenge in restoring the highly degraded urban canyon and creek habitats.

He achieved his Qualified Applicator’s License (QAL) for herbicide, and certification for chain-saw use and helped us eradicate highly invasive and tenacious weeds from dozens of urban canyons, throughout San Diego County. He also helped restore lakes, streams and desert habitats.

He knew the ropes for working on publicly owned lands and quickly developed relationships with rangers and land managers in several jurisdictions, City, State, and Federal.

It took grit and determination and repeated work parties to eradicate noxious *Arundo donax*, Tamarisk, Pampas grass, ice plant, and other aggressive, invasive weeds.

I live in La Mesa now and when I visit Lake Murray, I remember how choked the shoreline was with tamarisk and how beautiful it is now with our native vegetation and trees. Larry and his chainsaw led huge work parties to restore Lake Murray, and I was one of the volunteers under his wing.

It was wonderful to have his friendship. We spent half of our time together laughing and enjoying life. His support for me personally was instrumental throughout my career.

In 2008, when the Canyons Campaign was growing exponentially, Larry helped me spin off and launch a new, dedicated non-profit, with a focused board of directors and agenda for the canyons. Then he supported the

Remembering Larry Klassen continued on page 16

Committees & Contact Information

Some meetings still offer the option of attending on-line. Please check our Activities Calendar (<http://sandiegosierraclub.org/news/activities-calendar/>) on how you can participate.

CHAPTER STAFF

Chapter Director Mark West
858-569-6005
mark.west@sierraclub.org

Deputy Chapter Director:
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charles.rilli@sierraclub.org

Community Organizer:
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michael.king@sierraclub.org

Chapter & Communications Coordinator
Abra Landau
(619) 357-6548
abra.landau@sierraclub.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm
Chapter office
Contact Chair or check website for location

Chair: Lisa Ross (2026)
lisasierraclub@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: Alan Geraci (2028)
alan@alangeraci.com

Secretary: Pam Heatherington (2027)
pheatherington@gmail.com

Treasurer: Rochelle Hancock (2027)
Rae_1024@yahoo.com

North County Group Rep:
Joe Houde (2028)
joe@ecinstitute.com

North County Coastal Group Rep:
Sally Prendergast (2026)
sallyp123@mac.com

Ron Askeland (2028)
ron.askeland@gmail.com

Susan Baldwin (2028)
susanbaldwin@aol.com

Alan Geraci (2028)
alan@alangeraci.com

William Morse (2028)
williamdavidmorse@gmail.com

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP (COASTERS)

Contact Chair or check website for meeting information.

Chair: Sally Prendergast
sallyp123@mac.com

NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)

Meets 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm currently via Zoom <https://sierraclubncg.org>

Chair: Joe Houde
joe@ecinstitute.com

SOUTH COUNTY TASK FORCE

Meets every other Wednesday at 4pm via zoom. Reach out to **Charles.rilli@sierraclub.org** to join

COMMITTEES

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Monday at 6:30pm
Chair: Ron Askeland

ron.askeland@gmail.com

Zero-Waste

Meets 1st Monday at 6:30 pm
Contact the Committee at zerowastesdsc@gmail.com

SEAL SOCIETY

For meeting and docent information:
email: scealsociety@gmail.com

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location.

Chair: Kris Watkin
sdoutchair@gmail.com

Leadership Review & Safety Committee

Chair: Lynn Nebus
sd.lrsc@gmail.com

Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Stefanie Maio
sd.col.training@gmail.com

North County Group Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Kelly Conrad
nccg.col.training@gmail.com

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Wednesday at 6pm

Chair: Kathryn Burton
kathrynsburton@gmail.com

WATER COMMITTEE

Meets 3rd Tuesday at 6pm
Chair: Stefan Frutiger

stefan.frutiger@outlook.com

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

San Diego

Bryan Pray
info@wildernessbasics.com
www.wildernessbasics.com

Escondido

Yosina Lissebeck
ylissebeck@san.rr.com
www.wbc.sierraclubncg.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

PHOTOGRAPHY

Chair: Chris Gaines
info@sdphotoclub.com
<https://sdphotoclub.com>

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Check website for meeting information.
www.sandiegosierraclub.org

Chair: Bill Tayler,
btayler@taylorlaw.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Hi Sierran Newsletter

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thomascreative2@cox.net



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www.sandiegosierraclub.org

Sierra Talks

New Monthly Sierra Talks Team Looking For Volunteers To Create Stimulating Virtual Meetings

The team will be responsible to review, arrange and facilitate online media and speakers.

Volunteer participation may be needed during presentations.

Speakers will be needed for videos or slides to show nature's wonders, great hikes, inspiring discoveries, environmental science, activist projects and environmental research.

*Please let us know if you would like to be involved to assist presentations or can present on first Fridays of the month.
office email: scoffice@sierrasd.org*

Remembering Larry Klassen continued from page 14

fledgling organization on the ground helping us succeed in our restoration projects. The campaign grew to 16 full-time staff and thousands of volunteers.

He also rolled up his sleeves in a huge way removing Tamarisk from Lake Murray and vast areas of the desert. He worked with many other organizations such as the San Diego River Park Foundation, YMCA, Groundwork Chollas Creek, Board of the Desert Protective Council, on and on.

I asked for his help routinely. Once he replied, "What are you roping into now?"

Larry and Pat, his wife of 38 years loved nature, loved snow skiing and loved travel, full stop. Often, when I e-mailed Larry, his auto-reply would indicate where they were in the world such as:

"Looking for glaciers in Alaska... back 9/9" (Aug. 2013);

"Mammoth - got snow, and warm sun. Back 2/24." (Feb. 2014);

"Chasing Utah powder. Back 3/10" (2014);

"Exploring eastern Europe. Back 5/23" (2014);

"Celebrating the coming New Year in the desert (2016)".

He and Pat had generated lots of fun. For example, they were vol-

unteer ushers for the Acoustic Music San Diego concerts at the Normal Heights United Methodist Church, and they always invited us to join and enjoy the show. They had a huge pool party for his 75th birthday.

I'm honored to have been asked to share my cherished memories of Larry. As I write I find myself in awe of who he was, what he accomplished, and though we had lost touch sometimes, how much I miss his presence in the world."

Larry's other interests included genealogy, geocaching, bridge, Thistle sailing, and birds. He loved traditional Irish and Scottish music. He had an adventurous life of travel, skiing, river rafting, rock climbing, and hiking. He is survived by his wife Pat, Pat's son Scott, 2 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, his brother Jon and sister Susan. If interested in attending Larry's Celebration of Life, on May 16, please contact pklaasen@juno.com, no later than May 2, for details.

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.

To honor Larry's work to protect and better our environment, donations can be made to the Sierra Club San Diego Chapter at

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