



# HISIERRAN

*Working To Preserve The Special Nature of San Diego for Over Half A Century*

Vol 74 No. 1

Visit our website at: [www.sandiego.sierraclub.org](http://www.sandiego.sierraclub.org)

January/February 2015

## Sierra Club San Diego Leaders Retreat Sets Priorities for 2015

*Debbie Hecht, Chair, Sierra Club San Diego*

On November 8 and 9th 25 dedicated Sierra Club Leaders attended a one and a half day retreat at Tecolote Canyon Nature Preserve to prioritize our goals for 2015. We asked Group and Committee leaders to discuss within their groups their top priorities and bring that information to the Retreat.

At our request, Sierra Club National sent Allison Chin to facilitate. Allison has been past national Sierra Club President twice and is now a



In front-Karenlee Robinson, 1st row, Ellen Shively, Marty Stevens, Joe Zechman, Kelly Conrad, Suzi Sandore, Richard Miller, Davin Widgerow, Rob Morris. Middle Row-Nick Irvin, Mike Bullock, Dave Grubb, Paul Webb, Diane Nygaard, Dave Rousseau. Back Row: Allison Chin, Starla Rivers, Debbie Hecht.

member of the Sierra Club Foundation Board. She studied Molecular Genetics at USC and UC San Diego, so she knows our town. Her experience, insights, objectivity and good will, were invaluable to our process. She had become a trusted advisor! We are grateful for her continued support.

We heard from the following Chairs: Dave Grubb-North County Coastal, Suzi Sandore, North County Group, Transportation Committee- Mike Bullock, Conservation Committee - Mollie Biggers, Outings -Starla Rivers, Wilderness Basics Course - David Rousseau, Michael Taylor for Sierra Singles, Foster Lodge Committee- Paul Webb, Political Committee- Davin Widgerow, Steering Committee-Debbie Hecht. Leaders also received the results of the Membership Interest Survey, so your input was heard!

*Retreat - continued on page 9*

## Life (WBC) Begins Again

*by Kristi Anderson*

It all started for me back in 1996... it's called the WBC, or the Wilderness Basics Course. That first year of class changed my life. Fast forward 18 years and I'm still here! I now have a unique perspective in that I've been a Chapter Outing Leader, a staff member, edited the 3rd and 4th editions of the WBC book, and in 2014, I was Chair of the San Diego section of the WBC. I had the privilege of running this class that I love.

So what is it like being on staff? Well, it's about being with and working with the best kind of people. A group of people who love the outdoors and who have dedicated themselves to paying it forward, teaching students how to safely enjoy the wilderness – the legacy of WBC. It truly is a community of like-minded individuals who have come together for this one purpose.

The staff is filled with people who, like me, say that WBC has changed their lives. There are roughly 45 staff members currently, and about 65 leaders who lead the various outings. Getting to know the staff, planning each class, and working together to make this yearly huge event happen is sort of magical. Everyone has a role and brings their own unique talents to make the class run smoothly. I've learned so much from the WBC staff members over the years, I've made good friends, and I admire them all. And these smart, interesting, and adventuresome people are incredibly fun to hang out with!

Meeting the students, teaching them what we've learned, and watching them improve is extremely rewarding. And after the first class or two when the students learn that we are all volunteers and see what we do, their appreciation level is palpable.

WBC has changed my life. Through all my different roles WBC has always taught me and given me something. The astonishing thing is that it continues to change my life. I hope you would consider being on staff and joining in the fun -- I highly recommend it. If you are interested, please contact:

**[info@wildernessbasics.com](mailto:info@wildernessbasics.com),**

because on January 20th, 2015, the cycle begins again!

*See Ad and more information on page 4*

# HI SIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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# The View from The Chair



**Debbie Hecht**

Sierra Club San Diego has been hard at work the last few months; we try to include articles on the high points to keep you informed.

**LEADER'S RETREAT:** Two things that you might interest you, are the results of the Member Interest Survey (thank you for participating) and our Leaders Retreat, complete with pictures.

**PLASTIC BAG BAN:** Did you know that Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a state-wide plastic bag ban? We have heard that a group of plastic bag manufacturers will start a signature petition to repeal the law. The Sierra Club recommends that you do NOT sign it. Plastic bags fill up the landfills and are detrimental to sea life. It's easy to get in the habit of carrying reusable plastic bags to the store. We are discussing getting Sierra Club reusable bags.

**FOSTER LODGE:** The Steering Committee has voted to rebuild the cabin at Foster Lodge and the chapter received a generous bequest from the estate of Jim Weinel.

**SOCIAL MEETINGS TO START:** A committee is forming to organize a monthly social meeting. These events should be great fun and a create opportunities to network and meet new people. I am very much looking forward to these events. Stay tuned and look at the email blasts. Thanks to Steering Committee member Joe Zechman, Michael Taylor (Singles) and El Lotecka for taking the initiative!

**ROSE CANYON/ REGENTS ROAD BRIDGE;** Debby Knight of our Political Committee and Executive Director of Friends of Rose Canyon wrote a great article about the Regents Road Bridge issue,

**THE SCOTT PETER'S CAMPAIGN;** Davin Widgerow, Political Committee Chair and hard working Steering Committee member, reports on the Peter's Campaign and he got to meet Joe Biden when the Vice-President was in SD "stumping" for Peters.

**TWO LAWSUITS- CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN-**The Sierra Club prevailed in two lawsuits recently: San Diego's Climate Action Plan and SANDAG's Regional Transportation Plan. It is very disappointing to report that both rulings are being appealed. I personally find it so frustrating when government does not

protect citizen's health and welfare, which I believe is their fundamental responsibility. I am proud that the Sierra Club is taking the lead on these important issues.

**MY GENERATION NATIONAL CAMPAIGN REPORT-** Pete Hasapoulous gives us an update on the activities of Sierra Club National's My Generation Campaign.

**PURE WATER SAN DIEGO-**Megan Behren's, Executive Director of Coastkeeper wrote a great article on Pure Water San Diego, another win for the environment to recycle water.

**THE 1% LAND FUND-** The 1% Land Fund is advancing. This proposal would require that the San Diego Board of Supervisors to place a charter amendment on the 2016 ballot, to be approved by San Diego county voters, to set aside 1% of property taxes as an Open Space Fund each year. This would not raise taxes, but encourage policy makers to budget better. Our committee has been meeting regularly, we are looking to hire an attorney and have two bids from polling companies. We are seeking funding to meet a matching fund donation to pay for the poll of San Diego voters and attorney's advice. We have a donation for part of the expense but need matching funds.

**ACTIVITIES-** And there are lots of OUTINGS activities- go to <http://www.sierraleaderssd.net/SDOPubWeb.asp> including the Jingle Bell bike ride, leadership trainings, Agua Tibia Wilderness Service Project and WBC starts soon.

**SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING-** There will be a talk by Shane Yonston and discussion on Socially Responsible Investing. January 28th.

**WHALE WATCHING TRIP INTEREST?** We are wondering if people are interested in a Whale Watching trip to the Coronado Islands. Please contact me right away if you would want to participate.

There is so much going on at Sierra Club San Diego!! If you have suggestions or would be interested in any of these activities or issues please contact me.

*Happy Holidays,*

*Debbie Hecht, Chair, Sierra Club San Diego*

808-989-3222

hecht.deb@gmail.com



## Regents Road Project Dead?

by Debby Knight

On September 25, San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Council President Pro Tem Sherri Lightner held a press conference on the rim of Rose Canyon to announce the city's intention to protect Rose Canyon Open Space Park and begin the process to end the controversial plan to build the Regents Road bridge project through the canyon. This was a big win for the environment, one that Friends of Rose Canyon, with help from the Sierra Club, has fought for years to achieve. Joe Zechman, Vice-Chair of the San Diego Sierra Club Steering Committee, spoke at the City Council meeting on Sept. 29 to support the beginning of the process to amend the community plan to delete the bridge.

The Regents Road bridge project would build a major new cut-and-fill road and a massive concrete bridge through the scenic heart of one of the city's open space parks. This 50-year-old proposal has never been built for reasons that are more true today than ever: it's unnecessary, hugely expensive, and environmentally very destructive.

In 2002, when she learned that the City planned to build this road, local resident Debby Knight joined with other community members to found Friends of Rose Canyon. Knight, who had recently moved to San Diego from the East coast, loved Rose Canyon as a place to run but knew little about the habitat in San Diego canyons or their importance to San Diego's environment. She contacted Eric Bowlby, head of the Sierra Club's Canyons Campaign. Eric jumped in to support the effort to save the canyon.

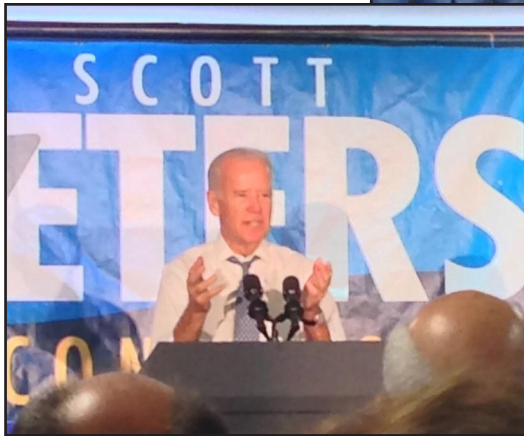
Over the years, Friends of Rose Canyon built a strong grass roots movement supported by the environmental community and an ever-growing list of organizations and political leaders who opposed the bridge project. In 2006, Bowlby, with the agreement of the Sierra Club, spun off the canyons campaign into a new non-profit organization, San Diego Canyon lands, which works to preserve and restore canyons citywide.

The San Diego Sierra Club applauds Mayor Kevin Faulconer and Council President Pro Tem Sherri Lightner for their wise decision to lead the city forward to protect Rose Canyon and to bring the University Community into the 21st century by redirecting the millions of dollars in developer impact fees that would have been used to build the Regents Road bridge project to instead build fire stations and make possible other community projects.

## Sierra Club San Diego Helps to Re-Elect Scott Peters

By Davin Widgerow

Sierra Club San Diego is very proud to have helped re-elect Scott Peters in this year's elections! Not only did the Club work hard to send an environmental champion back to Congress, but we proved that Sierra Club San Diego is again an influential and visible presence in San Diego County electoral



politics.

The Club organized a number of new and unique events in coordination with Congressman Peters' campaign. We hosted a well-attended hike in Mission Trails Park at which we learned about the natural history of the park and Scott Peters' role in protecting it for future generations (special thanks to Starla Rivers). We

co-hosted an environmental forum at which Congressman Peters himself spoke and answered questions about conservation, climate change, water supply, and prospects for environmental legislation in Congress. Sierra Club participated in a Blue-Green Walk with labor, and green-shirted Sierra Club members canvassed precincts for Scott Peters. We held a press conference with the Congressman, and members attended a rally at which Vice President Biden appeared to rally voters.

Very special thanks must go to Brian Elliott and Kiersten Iwai. Brian, a Sierra Club member and our contact with the campaign, provided the ideas, energy, and organization for all these efforts. His passion was essential, and we are excited about the work he will do in the months ahead for Sierra Club San Diego. Kiersten Iwai was the national Club's assignee to the campaign, and she was indispensable at reaching out to members, organizing canvassers, dispatching communications, and distributing t-shirts. We look forward to seeing her again whenever she comes home to San Diego from Montana.

## New "Monthly Meetings" Team Forming Planning Meeting January 22nd

We are looking for volunteers to help bring back a new innovative Monthly Meeting. The team will be responsible for obtaining stimulating videos/slides showing nature's wonders, great hikes, inspiring discoveries, environmental science, activist projects, and more. Team members will review, arrange and/or facilitate media programs and speakers/moderators, help with refreshments and Group, Committee, and Section presentations. Our first planning meeting will be on January 22, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sierra Club office—pizza and soft drinks will be provided. Please let me know if you will attend the meeting or would like to be involved if you cannot attend the meeting: Ernest "El" Lotecka at [sdwalks@interactor.cc](mailto:sdwalks@interactor.cc) or 760.533.2725.

# Wilderness Basics Course 2015

“Experience the beauty of the wilderness with knowledge and confidence!”

## 10 Week Course Starts:

**Escondido - January 6th \$125**

**San Diego - January 20th \$165**

**\$150 for Club Members**

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**

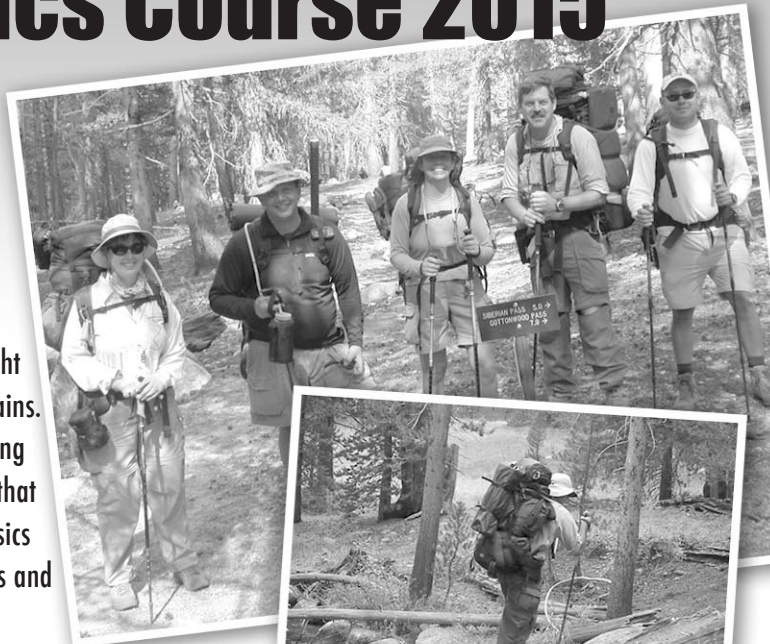
[www.wildernessbasics.com](http://www.wildernessbasics.com)

**Escondido**

<http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/wbc/nc>



**WILDERNESS  
BASICS COURSE**



## Wilderness Basics Course Seeks Vice Chair

Volunteers wishing to join the WBC staff are always encouraged to contact us at [info@wildernessbasics.com](mailto:info@wildernessbasics.com). We currently have a special need for a Vice Chair for the upcoming 2015 class, that person becoming the Chair for the 2016 class. If you are interested, but want to share the position with another, having Co-Chairs is a possibility as well. If you have been involved with the WBC either as a student or staff member in the past this is a great opportunity to give back, as well as to add your unique input and perspective to the 2016 class.

## The Stock Market & Socially Responsible Investing For Positive Impact

You can vote with your dollars! Do you know what companies you invest in through your mutual funds? If stock market investors redirected their cash to socially responsible corporations they would increase the profits of these corporations and negatively affect the bottom line for corporations like Monsanto, BP oil, etc. Did you ever think about how much money could be redirected and invested in socially responsible companies? These companies are also known as sustainable, socially conscious, “green companies” that seek to consider both financial return and social good. In general, socially responsible investors encourage corporate practices that promote environmental stewardship, consumer protection, human rights, and diversity. Some avoid businesses involved in alcohol, tobacco, gambling, pornography, weapons, fossil fuel production, and/or the military. The areas of concern recognized by the SRI industry are sometimes

summarized as ESG issues: environment, social justice, and corporate governance.

Shane Yonston, principal advisor at Impact Investors will be talking on this subject on January 28th, at the Sierra Club, 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego, CA, office at 6:30 pm. Please sign up with by contacting [hecht.deb@gmail.com](mailto:hecht.deb@gmail.com) or call 808-989-3222.

## Social Media and the Young Voters.

The Hi Sierran voters guide in the special election issue, got coverage.



♥ 24 likes  
I\_in\_da\_mood I don't take selfies often, but when I do, it's for a good reason: Just finished voting the environment with my #SierraClub voters' guide and got to vote for my mom for the School Board! Remember to get out there today and use your vote to show what you care about!  
#VoteTheEnvironment #UseYourVote #patagonia #RaiseYourVoice #vote #voted





We discussed increasing staff, from one full time person to possibly include a part time administrative assistant and/or full time Conservation Coordinator. According to leaders, the Steering Committee is doing a good job, it was suggested that we should move geographical locations to be more accessible to members and provide agendas to all before our meeting to build trust and visibility. We identified "silos", which are



Allison Chin, member of the Sierra Club Foundation Board

committees acting independently and missing collaborative opportunities.

We agreed that silos can be lessened by better communication resulting in more collaboration between committees and groups. We kept returning to the importance of improving communication, especially focusing on calendars and our new, soon-to-be-unveiled

website. As discussion continued, we kept identifying the need to engage new members and the importance of providing an orientation so that newcomers can figure out how to get involved. We acknowledged that fundraising needs to become part of each of our activities, not just an activity in itself.

Our priorities for 2015 are: A Climate Stabilization Campaign, Preserving San Diego Lands (including back country lands and the 1% Land Fund), Water (ground water, ocean water and drinking water), Building our Communications through Membership Outreach and creating a monthly social meeting.

The retreat really got people thinking, collaborating, energized and moving!! I am excited to report that the Steering Committee has sent our agendas out early to the Leaders List and attendance at our meetings has increased. Please look for an ad asking for help with the Monthly Meetings, which are expected to start in March. We are working to form a group to create a new member orientation program. The Conservation Committee is discussing a Climate Stabilization Campaign. The 1% Land Fund is moving along, we are collecting money to conduct a poll and hire an attorney to do ballot language and answer questions. We already have almost \$10,000 in matching funds. Check out our new calendar on the website, where you can go to see times and dates for committee meetings, activities and special events:

<http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/home/index.asp>

**Working together we can build a strong Sierra Club San Diego!**

## The 1% Land Fund- Fundraising Request To Meet And Secure Matching Funds

We have a donation for part of the expense but need matching funds. These funds will pay for a poll and an attorney's advice to explore options on a 1% Land Fund. This proposal would require that the San Diego Board of Supervisors place a charter amendment on the 2016 ballot, to be approved by San Diego county voters to set aside 1% of property taxes as an Open Space Fund each year. This would not raise taxes, but encourage policy makers to budget better. The 1% Land fund could be used to seek matching funds and/or to purchase and protect:

1. Parklands and open space
2. Neighborhood parks
3. Natural resources, significant habitat or eco-systems, including buffer zones and lands to support multi-species habitat conservation plans;
4. Trails and access to beaches and mountains;
5. Forests, beaches, coastal areas and areas of natural beauty
6. Watershed lands to preserve water quality and water supply
7. Historic or culturally important land areas and sites;
8. Conservation Easements
9. Land or easements for off the street bicycle lanes and trails.

Is this something that would interest you? Do you belong to an organization that could benefit from these funds? Would they be willing to collaborate and donate some funding? For more information or your ideas, please call Debbie Hecht 808-989-3222 or [hecht.deb@gmail.com](mailto:hecht.deb@gmail.com)

## Do Not Sign Bag Ban Repeal Petition!

Big, out-of-state plastic bag manufacturing companies are trying to block the new statewide plastic bag ban signed into law in September.

This holiday season, you'll probably see paid signature gatherers at malls and other public places, urging people to sign. The big plastic makers will spend as much as \$3 million to pay an army of signature gatherers.

Make sure Big Plastics money doesn't buy your signature. Just say no to any petitions on plastic bag bans.

Sad but true: Some of the signature gatherers may not be forthcoming about what signing the petition would do. They may lead you to believe that signing will help support the bag ban.

In fact, the only ballot petitions circulating now would place on the 2016 ballot a referendum designed to overturn the statewide bag ban.

The ban was established by Senate Bill 270, signed into law by Governor Brown in September. The bill emerged after more than 120 local governments around California imposed local laws to ban or

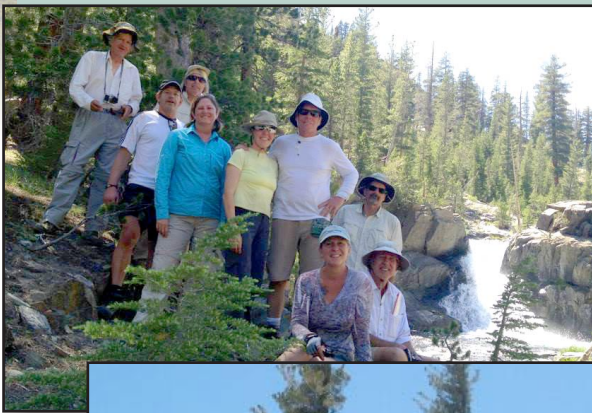


# Sierra Club Bus Trips

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

**For over 33 years the San Diego Chapter has been offering bus trips to a variety of National and State Parks.**

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



## Save the date for the following trips:

### **March 14**

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

**Registration opens January 15**

### **May 21 - 25**

Memorial Weekend Bus Trip - Zion National Park

**Registration opens March 6**

### **July 1 - 5**

4th of July Bus Trip - Yosemite

**Registration opens May 1**

### **August 12 - 16**

Multi-Day Bus Trip - Onion Valley

**Registration opens June 15**

### **September 24-27**

Multi-Day Bus Trip - Channel Islands

**Registration opens July 24**

**For more information or to register for the above Bus Trips, please visit [www.sdsierraclub.org](http://www.sdsierraclub.org).**

Like us on Facebook



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





## North County Coastal Group Activities

The North County Coastal Group (AKA the Coasters) is the geographic division of the San Diego Chapter for the north coastal area, Del Mar to Oceanside. We organize a variety of Sierra Club activities in coastal North County, including outings, social events, and conservation efforts.

In 2015, we are returning to a full meeting schedule. The meetings will be on the third Tuesday of every month. Our meetings are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Encinitas Community Center, 1140 Oakcrest Park Dr, Encinitas, CA.

On Tuesday, January 20, we will have a roundtable discussion on housing policy and the Encinitas housing element update, with a focus on how housing policy impacts greenhouse gas emissions.

On Tuesday, February 17, we will see a video about the role of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in our food supply.

For more news and events, see our web page at <http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/northcounty/Coasters.asp>. You can also sign up for a monthly emailed newsletter at <http://lists.sierraclub.org/SCRIPTS/WA.EXE?A0=SANDIEGO-NORTHCOUNTY-NEWS>.

Or you can find our meetings and events on the San Diego Activities calendar at <http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/Calendar/OARSPage1.asp>

## North County COL Training set for April 11 & 12, 2015

So, you love going backpacking but can't find enough trips? Do you want to go slower or faster or take more photos or take your dogs? It's time for you to step up to the plate and become a COL—Chapter Outing Leader. As a leader, you can set the pace and the place.

The North County Sierra Club will be hosting their Chapter Outing Leader training weekend on Saturday and Sunday, April 11 & 12, 2015. The training is run as a weekend backpack trip where we present the most common problems and scenarios that may happen on a typical Sierra Club backpack trip.

To attend this training, a few requirements must be met:

1. Be at least 18 years of age
2. Be a current Sierra Club member
3. Be a graduate of the Wilderness Basics Class (main chapter or North County)
4. Turn in an assignment prior to the class

To get the assignment or put your name on the list to receive more information about the COL training class, please contact Cheryl Knapp at [Knappfield@cox.net](mailto:Knappfield@cox.net) or 760.310.8819 and join our wonderful group of Sierra Club leaders.

## Club Receives Jim Weinel Bequest

Sierra Club San Diego Chair, Debbie Hecht, announced Sierra Club San Diego received a bequest from the Jim E. Weinel Administrative Trust. Mr. Weinel had been a member of the Sierra Club for over 49 years at the time of his death in March 2013. The funds will be used for the maintenance and improvement of the Foster Lodge facility.

Mr. Weinel had a great passion for hiking, backpacking trips and climbing the Sierra Nevada Mountains. In 2000, Jim was awarded the San Diego Chapter Lifetime Achievement Award. For many years, Jim has been a dedicated conservationist and volunteer. As a long-time Certified Outings leader, Jim's trips were always interesting, well-planned and educational, as he was especially knowledgeable of flowers, trees and birds and always eager to share his knowledge. Jim spent many hours over many years building and maintaining trails, and was an active volunteer for the Pacific Crest Trail and Yosemite Associations.

"On our Wednesday in the Mountains hikes he wore red and white checkered shirts and short pants and used a bent walking stick that reminded me of a German mountain boy scout. Jim epitomized the Sierra Club philosophy and values with his love and respect for our natural world and for those who shared this passion with him" stated Ellen Shively a long time Outings and Chapter leader.

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## Join the MPA Watch Team

In 2012, California's network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) was expanded to include eleven protected offshore and wetland sites in San Diego County. "Take" is restricted in these areas to recover the ecosystem health of our near-shore coastal environment. Yet their sustainable use is encouraged which includes surfing, hiking, diving, kayaking, fishing in some locations and a number of other activities. Additionally, there are public stewardship opportunities to help protect San Diego's MPAs.

One of these activities is a statewide MPA Watch program to collect human use data on how people are using the region's MPAs. These citizen science surveys are contributing to the statewide management and review of California's 127 MPAs. With a quick training, data sheet and clip board, you can help us protect San Diego County's underwater parks.

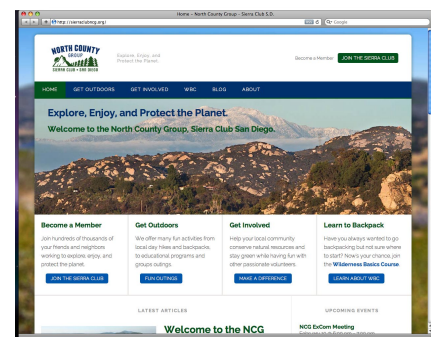
For more information on San Diego County's MPAs and to get involved with the MPA Watch program please email Dave Grubb at [DavidGrubb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:DavidGrubb@sbcglobal.net).

# Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet.

## Welcome to the North County Group, Sierra Club San Diego.

### The North County Group is excited to announce the launch of its new website, [sierrclubncg.org](http://sierrclubncg.org)

With this new site, we hope to reach out to our members and the public to increase the awareness of the activities of the North County Group, what we're planning for the future, and how you can get involved. We will feature hikes and other activities of the Sierra Club and other local conservation groups as well as keep you informed on local conservation and environmental news. We hope that you will visit our site often and that it will inspire you to get involved.



### 2015 North County Group Sierra Club Scholarships

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2015 North County Group Sierra Club Scholarships. Cheryl Broadhead and Erin Hagen of MiraCosta College were each awarded a \$500 scholarship to continue their studies in Landscape Architecture. Both students are working towards their AA degrees and are focused on creating low water use, sustainable landscapes; choosing California appropriate plants and integrating the use of compost and organic material while reducing the use of chemicals. We congratulate them on their hard work and are inspired by their passion and desire to share their knowledge with others.

### Winter General Meeting

Join us for a photographic journey on an African safari at the Winter General Meeting. Learn about Tanzania, one of the most peaceful countries in Africa, and see the incredible animals of Tarangire National Park, Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater. We will also visit a Masai village, a Tanzania school and the uniqueness of Stone Town Zanzibar.

There will also be time to socialize with other Sierra Club members and meet the North County Group staff, and refreshments will be served. The meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015 from 7-9PM in the Mitchell Room at Escondido City Hall, located at 201 N. Broadway, Escondido. We hope to see you there!





# Chapter Outings

## **Wednesday, January 7th Dayhike (M5B) Moderate 5 miles 501 to 1,000 feet elevation change Stonewall Peak Hike**

*Leader Beth Bruton -*

*Assistant Armin Kuhlman*

A very moderate elevation gain of 850 feet over 2.25 miles brings us to a spectacular 360 degree view over Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Watch for deer and wild turkeys on the way. Optional lunch at the re-opened Cuyamaca Cafe at Lake Cuyamaca after the hike.

Bring snack, water, sunscreen, sturdy hiking shoes, hiking poles if you use them. Meet at 9:00 at the Paso Picacho parking lot on Highway 79, 9 miles north from Interstate 8. NOTE: Day use fee for parking is \$8, \$7 for Seniors. Entry kiosk is not staffed mid-week, so exact currency needed for parking. Carpooling is highly recommended. Mission Valley carpool leaves at 8:00. Rain cancels.

*Contact: Beth Bruton*

*bethbruton@sbcglobal.net*

## **Saturday, January 10th Dayhike (H9C) Hard 9 miles 1,001 to 2,000 feet elevation change Whale Peak - Semi Loop Hike From The West Approach**

*Leader Rachel Rench - Assistant Needed*

It's time for the annual trek to Whale Peak from Blair Valley in the Anza Borrego Desert. This hike starts out at the end of Foot and Walker Pass, loops into the trail for the North Approach, and descends back to the desert via Smuggler Canyon and the Pictograph Trail. There will be some steep hills and bouldering on this hike, so you must be in good shape and plan to wear long pants and sleeves for safety. Please email the leader for more information and a reservation for the hike.

*Contact: Rachel Rench*

*rachel.rench13@gmail.com*

619-733-1903

## **Wednesday, January 14th Dayhike (M4C) Moderate 4 miles 1,001 to 2,000 feet elevation change COWLES MOUNTAIN EVENING HIKE FROM BARKER WAY**

*Leader Diane Purkey -*

*Assistant Robert Burroughs*

Abs? What are abs? Where? Oh, they're hidden abs. Join us on this fun, fast-paced evening conditioning hike up the trail less traveled to the top of Cowles Mountain. We'll cover very basic astronomy at the summit, with our great view of the night sky, then loop back down on the dirt fire road. Bring your flashlight and a light jacket. Call for required signup and any changes.

*Contact: Diane Purkey Wilson*

619-865-8598

## **Saturday, January 17th Dayhike (M4B) Moderate 4 miles 501 to 1,000 feet elevation change NORTH FORTUNA MOUNTAIN. Global Warming And Geology**

*Leader Phil Birkhahn - Assistant Needed*

Learn about rising sea-level caused by Global Warming. The same geologic time span relevant for evaluating global warming and climate change is when the flat mesas of coastal San Diego and our coastal bluffs were shaped. The view from North Fortuna of Miramar and Kearny Mesa shows the effect of numerous ice ages over the last 2.7 million years. That entire time, greenhouse gas levels were much lower than already reached and less than half the level we are headed for. Familiar climates will be a thing of past and rising sea level will gradually flood low areas near shore.

The hike may last up to three hours including up to 15 minutes on top to talk about climate change. Easy walking ends about halfway to the top with short steep sections. The last 0.3 mile is steeper and longer than Texas Street out of Mission Valley. Parts of the trail are slippery and rocky, so wear sturdy footwear with good traction.

Contact leader for screening and reservation. Include list of recent hikes or other experience to expedite.

*Contact: Phil Birkhahn*

*pbirkhahn@outlook.com 858-472-5029*

## **Saturday, February 14th (3-B-S) VALENTINE'S DAY COAST RIDE**

*Leader: Jerry Fitzsimmons, 858-224-3437,  
jfitzsimmons@ucsd.edu.*

This is a relatively flat 25-mile, 2.5-hour bicycle ride along our romantic coast stopping for lunch at Bull Taco in Cardiff by the Sea. Each rider will receive a Valentine's Day

favor and poem. Most participants will drive to the Sorrento Valley Coaster Station (free parking and leave their car there) arriving at about 10:00 am to provide enough time to take the #681 Coaster north-bound at 10:17 am, arriving at the Oceanside Transit Center at 10:51 am. For a shorter ride you could hop on the Coaster at Solana Beach or Encinitas. Gather at 10:55 am track-side at the Oceanside Transit Center for the start of the ride which ends at the Coaster station in Sorrento Valley. Don't forget \$\$\$ for Coaster and lunch. Required for all rides: helmet, spare tube, and pump.

## **Tuesday, March 3rd and Wednesday, March 4th Car Camp (H8C) Hard 8 miles 1,001 to 2,000 feet elevation change Cerro Gordo Car Camp**

*Leader Rob Baum - Assistant Liz Baum*

We will do two moderate desert hikes in this geologically unique, historic area. We'll spend one evening car camping. Limit is 12 participants. Dress appropriately for cold weather in warm layers. Outing contingent upon conditions.

*Contact: Rob Baum*

*Robertbaum@netzero.net*

619-772-5615

## **Monday, March 23rd and Tuesday, March 24th XC Ski (S6C) Strenuous 6 miles 1,001 to 2,000 feet elevation change Ski June Mountain To Mammoth Lodge**

*Leader Rob Baum - Assistant Needed*

We'll ski from June Mountain to Mammoth Mountain on this overnight back country tour. Good for intermediate skiers with solid winter skills. Meet at 9:30 am at the Union Bank in Mammoth CA. Outing contingent upon conditions. Pre-registration required, limit is 12 participants.

*Contact: Rob Baum*

*Robertbaum@netzero.net*

619-772-5615

### **DIFFICULTY**

E -Easy M -Moderate H -Hard  
S -Strenuous V -Very Strenuous

### **ELEVATION CHANGE**

A Less than 500 ft.  
B 500-1,000 ft. C 1,001-2,000 ft.  
D 2,001-3,000 ft. E Over 3,000 ft.

Complete current listings,  
<http://sandiego.sierraclub.org>. "Get Outdoors".  
All participants on Sierra Club outings are  
required to sign a standard liability waiver. Outings  
are for adults 18+ and no pets.

**\*\*educational or conservation component**

# **Agua Tibia Wilderness Service Project**

*Starla Rivers, Chair - Outings Committee*

The Sierra Club mission is to “explore, enjoy and protect the planet”. The Outings Program of Sierra Club San



*Picture courtesy of Starla Rivers – Agua Tibia Trail Crew*

Diego spends a lot of time outdoors exploring, enjoying and protecting our local natural resources. Our hikes and backpacks take people out on the trail and introduces them to concepts like the Ten Essentials and Leave No Trace. These concepts enable people to be safe and happy on the trail while protecting the quality of their environment.

In 2014, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Protection Act which gave us so many protected areas for immediate enjoyment while preserving them for future generations. In November, members of the North County Group put together a service trip to the Agua Tibia Wilderness with Fred Braun, a ranger with the Palomar Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest. Agua Tibia is located approximately 10 miles east of Temecula along Hwy 79. So it is an easy drive from San Diego to escape into solitude and nature for a day hike or overnight camping in the nearby Dripping Springs campground. From the peak of Agua Tibia Mountain we could see north to Baldy (Mt. San Antonio), San Geronio and San Jacinto mountains. And to the south we could see as far as Pt. Loma and the downtown skyline!

The purpose of our weekend outing was to perform trail maintenance along

the Palomar-Magee trail. The trails in Agua Tibia had suffered from neglect and the aftermath of the 2007 Poomacha fire which burned approximately 1,500 acres. Some areas of the trail system had become completely impassable according to Ranger Fred. He gave a fair amount of credit to volunteer trail crews like ours

for re-opening these areas. Joining us was a young man, Christian, who works during the week for the California Conservation Corps. The CCC’s motto is “Hard work, low pay, miserable conditions...and

more!” In honor of the CCC, we voted to rename Agua Tibia Mtn as Triple C Peak after a brutal bushwhacking ascent that we just did for fun. Our weekend began with a backpack to our camp Friday night under a moonless and clear sky allowing for fantastic star viewing. Going in Friday night allowed us to be up bright

hike Agua Tibia versus going next door to Palomar Mountain. Ranger Fred explained that Agua Tibia is a wilderness whereas Palomar Mountain is outside the bounds of the wilderness. The wilderness designation means no group campgrounds, roads, machinery such as chainsaws, or even weather stations, never mind an observatory! The lack of such impacts means more wildlife both in quantity and diversity. Ranger Fred had seen a mountain lion on the trail not too long ago so you might not want to hike alone here! In addition, Agua Tibia is a host to 5 different biomes which are defined by different plants such as trees, shrubs and grasses, and plant spacing such as forest or woodland. We saw everything from dense chaparral to mixed conifer growths with Douglas Fir and Coulter Pine.

Without volunteers our beaches would be dirty, politicians would not be educated in key issues, developers would see no need to set aside open space, and our trail systems would be extremely limited. There is only one paid staff member within Sierra Club San Diego so much of the effort in support of exploring, enjoying and protecting our local environment is done by volunteers. Thank you George Greer, Dave Voss, Peter Kiefer and all the other trail angels who help to keep the trails accessible and open

to all. And thank you to Fred Braun of the Palomar Ranger District and the CCC for protecting and maintaining access to the Agua Tibia Wilderness.

If you would like to volunteer to support our local natural resources, opportunities are available with Mission Trails Regional Park, Laguna Mountain

Volunteer Association, and Cleveland National Forest.

To find out more about our local and national wilderness areas, visit

<http://www.wilderness50.sierrasd.org> and <http://www.wilderness.net>.



*Picture courtesy of Fred Braun – Top of Agua Tibia Mountain*

and early for a day of clipping and hacking and cutting overgrowth of ceonothus, manzanita and scrub oak along the trail. While we clipped and hacked and cut, we enjoyed trading trail stories and learning about the area from Ranger Fred. I asked him why someone would want to



## Club and Allies Win Big One for the Environment

By Kathryn Phillips

An effort begun by San Diego Chapter Sierra Club members, and then continued by Sierra Club California, to force the San Diego regional planning agency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through better transportation planning cleared a big hurdle in late November.

Just days before Thanksgiving, the state appeals court affirmed and strengthened a lower court decision in favor of the Sierra Club and its allies.

Sierra Club was primarily represented by a team of attorneys at Shute, Mihaly, Weinberger, led by Rachel Hooper.

The decision by the Fourth District California Court of Appeal essentially told the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) that it didn't do the most basic work required to make sure the public and elected decision makers might reasonably know that the agency's transportation plan would actually increase greenhouse gas emissions and certain ground-level pollution.

"By failing to adequately inform the public and decision makers the transportation plan is inconsistent with state climate policy, the EIR deterred the decision makers from devising and considering changes to favorably alter the trajectory of the transportation plan's post-2020 greenhouse gas emissions," the majority of the three-judge panel wrote in its decision. "When the decision makers are inevitably faced with post-2020 requirements aligned with state climate policy, their task of complying with these requirements will be more difficult and some opportunities for compliance may be lost."

The appeals court decision is the latest step in the Club's effort to make sure the provisions of Senate Bill 375, which addresses planning to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and other climate laws and orders are incorporated and followed around the state. The San Diego plan was the first to be completed under SB 375 which requires that regions produce plans to reduce climate disrupting emissions

through their land use and transportation plans.

Even though the SANDAG plan showed that greenhouse gas emissions would increase between 2010 and 2050 from transportation as a result of the plan's content, the SANDAG board, and then the California Air Resources Board, approved the plan in 2011. The SANDAG plan relies heavily on new road and freeway construction, with a limited nod to creating additional transit options in later years.

Shortly after those approvals, Sierra Club, via Sierra Club California, joined a lawsuit challenging the plan. The challenge, initiated by the Cleveland National Forest Foundation and the Center for Biological Diversity and based on California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provisions, contended that the agency's plan didn't adequately address or mitigate climate disrupting pollution. Additionally, the suit, joined also by Attorney General Kamala Harris, challenged the plan for not adequately addressing toxic air pollutants from transportation.

The majority opinion from the three-judge appeals court panel sided with the Club and its allies on all the major points we raised. This included a ruling that SANDAG failed to consider any alternative to its plan that focused on reducing the number of miles people must drive.

SANDAG has indicated it intends to appeal the case to the California Supreme Court. However, concerns remain that the agency will attempt to undercut the latest decision by looking for a legislative "fix" to its resistance to creating a plan that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and give San Diegans good transportation. Sierra Club California staff advocates are watching for any signs of such a play at the Capitol.



## 100% Clean Energy: Nothing to Fear

by Pete Hasapopoulos

My Generation Campaign

The San Diego region is a leader in innovation, from our exceptional life sciences industry to the renowned research conducted by Scripps Institution of Oceanography. In the clean technology sphere, San Diego is positioned at the front line of the local clean energy revolution, second only to Los Angeles in rooftop solar capacity. Likewise, San Diego has the highest per capita number of electric vehicle purchases in the nation, creating an exciting opportunity—and imperative—to make clean energy the dominant fuel source for the next generation of cars on our roads.

The vision of the Sierra Club's My Generation Campaign is that San Diego (and the rest of the state) will be powered by 100% clean energy. Because of its innovative spirit and head start on clean technology, we believe that our region can be the first to achieve this, becoming America's leader in employing local clean energy to combat climate change. However, like a hike on an unmarked trail over difficult terrain, this journey will have many decision-making points across our own difficult terrain—what John Muir, a self-described lobbyist, called "political quag." Nonetheless, because he was compelled by the profound calling of stewardship, Muir learned to navigate political terrain rather than fear it. In the San Diego region we have 12,000 members. What could we possibly fear? That is what many of our volunteers began to ask last year. They quickly answered with "nothing" and started the journey.

In community organizing there is an adage that "Power is a product of relationship." Our members took that to heart last year, meeting in each other's homes in places like Carlsbad and Chula Vista to connect around common values that became the fuel for powerful action. In Carlsbad our volunteers determined that the City's draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) must be stronger and met with council members to detail how it could be done. After

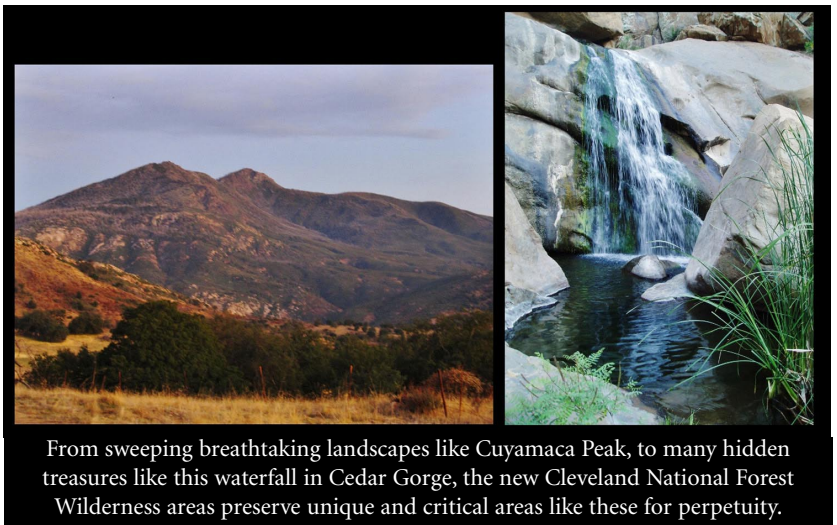
*Continued on next page*

## 3,000 acres of the Cleveland National Forest receive Forest Wilderness Protection.

On October 23, The Cleveland National Forest Supervisor, William Metz, signed the final Record of Decision protecting 43,000 acres of San Diego's backcountry forests. This is a landmark, historic, and courageous action on the part of our Cleveland Forest Managers. These lands have undergone a lengthy detailed evaluation according to the wilderness evaluation criteria in the Forest Management Policy Act (FMPA), the approval process of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Our chapter has been critically involved in this process for over 15 years. These lands include the famous Cedar Creek Falls, and Three Sisters Waterfall in the Eagle Peak Wilderness, along with the San Diego River Gorge, Cedar Creek Gorge, Boulder Creek Gorge, and the El Capitan Mesa containing Conejos Creek. Additionally it protects Barker Valley Wilderness and "Caliente" Wilderness, an area described by the late, great Jerry Shad, in A Foot and a Field in San Diego County, on a hike by its name, Caliente, near Warner Springs, on portions of the Pacific Crest Trail.

As we celebrate the conclusion of the landmark effort we look forward to leading outings into these new designated areas. There will be many member opportunities to participate and get more involved as we ask the public and many groups to write our lawmakers about their experiences there in recommending this area for one more level of protection, a 2/3 Congressional majority establishing Federal Wilderness Protection. In the meantime, US Forest Wilderness protection ensures that these lands will be managed for perpetuity according to stringent federal wilderness standards. Many thanks to our foresters for taking this heroic step for San Diego's future and making the conclusion of the year of Wilderness 50 an especially meaningful one!



From sweeping breathtaking landscapes like Cuyamaca Peak, to many hidden treasures like this waterfall in Cedar Gorge, the new Cleveland National Forest Wilderness areas preserve unique and critical areas like these for perpetuity.

*Clean Energy - continued from page 10*

that, the City took the plan off the fast track for approval and is giving it fresh scrutiny. In Chula Vista, our members initiated a similar venture. They reviewed recommended changes to the City's CAP and were audacious enough to meet with their council members and say, "Why does San Diego have a 100% clean energy goal but we don't see a recommendation to do the same in our city?" When the council met to review the recommendations not long after, one council member called for the 100% goal and said, "I do want to compete with San Diego a little bit." Power is a product of relationship.

If there is one thing that would catapult our region toward the 100% pinnacle it is Community Choice Energy. Community Choice is a nonprofit electricity provider that local governments can set up to bring much more clean energy to residents and businesses at similar or better rates than their fossil fueled monopoly utility. Marin and

Sonoma Counties have it. People love it. The City of San Diego's mayor and city council are considering it, and sometime this year will make a decision. It is no understatement how epic this could be. Imagine an exodus of 500,000 customers from SDG&E's fossil fuel empire with other cities and the county inspired to join. That is why SDG&E is going to fight it, although they will do it behind the scenes and through influential surrogates. So yes, the terrain is going to be rough from here on out, but our San Diego volunteers don't fear it and have begun to navigate it with a deep sense of purpose.

If you live in Carlsbad, Chula Vista, San Diego, or anywhere else and are feeling the profound call to play some part in the climate change epic as it unfolds right here at home, know that the Sierra Club is a place where you have fellow travelers with the collective power to win. We invite you to have a conversation with us about what role you could play. You can reach me at phasapopoulos@hotmail.com.

## Legendary Conservationist Martin Litton Dies at 97

Martin Litton, a passionate environmental crusader and former Sierra Club board member who was known as the "father of commercial river guiding" in the Grand Canyon, died at his home in Portola Valley, California, this past Sunday. He was 97. An accomplished pilot, oarsman, writer, photographer, and fierce wilderness advocate, Litton was involved in some of the biggest conservation battles of the 20th century, playing a key role in keeping dams out of the Grand Canyon, establishing Redwood National Park, and stopping resort development in the Sierra Nevada's majestic Mineral King Valley.



Photo of Martin Litton joining Sierra Club rock climbers at a practice climb in Southern California, circa 1951. Courtesy of Sierra Club Colby Library.



# SAN DIEGO Chapter Activities

**All Activities are held at the Chapter Office 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](http://www.sdeln.org)

## **2nd Friday Movie Night**

**We are moving our movies night from the 1st Friday to the 2nd Friday of the month starting January 2105.**

**January 9, 6:30 pm**

**Movie: DRYING FOR FREEDOM**

**53 Minutes**

Drying for Freedom travels from America's clothes line free yards to India's open-air Laundromats. In the U.S., consumer demand was created for an electric utopia, symbolized by the energy-hungry clothes dryer, which became a necessity, while the zero-energy clothes line became an ugly thing of the past. As electric appliances were marketed, environmental impacts were not considered. Over 50 million Americans now live in communities where clothes lines are banned.

As the "electric dream" is now being marketed in India, the film questions whether bringing electricity to developing countries will contribute to climate change or be done in a different way.

**February 13, 6:30 pm**

**Movie: THE POWER OF COMMUNITY: How Cuba Survived**

**Peak Oil 53 Minutes**

When Cuba lost access to Soviet oil in the 1990's, the country faced an immediate crisis – feeding its population – and an ongoing challenge: how to create a low energy society. Cuba transitioned from large fossil-fuel intensive farming to small less energy-intensive organic farms and urban gardens and from a highly industrial society to a more sustainable one.

This film tells the story of the Cuban people's hardships, ingenuity, and triumph over sudden adversity - through cooperation, conservation, and community, told in the ir own words. Cuba provides a valuable example of how to successfully address the challenges of reducing our energy use.

**January 28, 6:30pm**

**The Stock Market & Socially Responsible Investing for Positive impact**

Shane Yonston, principal advisor at Impact Investors will be talking on this subject. You can vote with your dollars! Do you know what companies you invest in through your mutual funds? If stock market investors redirected their cash to socially responsible corporations they would increase the profits of these corporations and negatively affect the bottom line for corporations like Monsanto, BP oil, etc. The areas of concern recognized by the SRI industry are sometimes summarized as ESG issues: environment, social justice, and corporate governance.

Please sign up by contacting [hecht.deb@gmail.com](mailto:hecht.deb@gmail.com) or call 808-989-3222.

## Pure Water Program

*Megan Baehrens*

*Executive Director*

*San Diego Coastkeeper*

In mid-November, San Diego City Council voted to develop 83 million gallons per day of clean, local drinking water via reuse of our wastewater. The program will be called Pure Water and this new local supply will be phased in over the next 20 years. Moving towards this integrated water management and efficient resource use has been a 15-year fight, and this year we succeeded. Pure Water sets us up to be national leaders. While reuse exists in other areas of the country, the San Diego model will initially be to put the recycled water into reservoirs ("surface augmentation"), which is a new strategy. We will continue to explore options to implement "direct potable reuse," a process that avoids costly pipelines and instead puts purified recycled water directly into our drinking water processing system. With our region importing up to 85% of its water, a new local source promises significant environmental benefits that support not just San Diego County but Northern California and the Colorado River Basin, from which we draw our supply now.

As we continue a collaborative approach to environmental and economic success, San Diego Coastkeeper and others still have the right (and responsibility) to enforce environmental laws and regulations should water quality be negatively impacted in any way by this process. That includes during related construction projects and to protect the ocean from effluent resulting from the sewage treatment process. We are your Waterkeeper and we remain vigilant. But today, we join with the Sierra Club and others to celebrate.

## Get On Your Bicycle and Ride!

Enjoy the outdoors and make friends too. Explore the back roads of San Diego County and neighboring areas with the Sierra Club Bicycle Section.



We offer bicycle rides for all levels and distances (beginner to fast-paced) throughout the year. Weekends at Foster Lodge, Warner Springs Ranch, Anza Borrego, Agua Caliente and more. Potluck suppers, annual beach barbeque and our very own book club. Our monthly schedule of road rides is posted online and in our monthly OutSpoken newsletter.

**Check us out at: [www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/bicycle](http://www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/bicycle)**

For a free sample of our newsletter *OutSpoken*, phone Jerry Fitzsimmons (858) 224-3437 or email: [Membership@sdscls.org](mailto:Membership@sdscls.org).

## Sierra Club Bicycle Section Riders Deliver the Goods

December 6 marked our 20th annual Jingle Bell Toy ride. This year, 27 hardy riders delivered unwrapped toys to the children of St. Vincent de Paul Village. Blessed by beautiful weather, we topped off our day by viewing the Hotel Del Coronado Christmas tree and cruising the Bay on the ferry ride back to the Broadway Pier. Beverly Morisako won the distinction of most festive rider.



## Results from the Member Interest Survey- November 2014

### NOTES:

1. Respondents: 138  
(Not all respondents answered every question)
2. Survey posted in HiSierran as a hard copy and links in the HiSierran and email blasts several times.
3. Several of the questions were very subjective and that information has been very helpful for harvesting new ideas but are impossible to quantify.
4. The objective information that we gained was:

### WHY ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE SIERRA CLUB?

Concern for environmental causes  
82.91%

To stay informed on local environmental issues  
70.09%

To stay informed on national environmental issues  
63.25%

Participate in SC outings and events  
57.26%

Desire to be involved in or take action on a local Environmental issue  
49.57%

Desire to be involved in or take action on a national Environmental issue  
40.17%

Other  
5.64%

### WHAT ISSUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

THEY WERE ASKED TO RANK THESE IN ORDER

Water and Air Quality	8.38%
Wildlife and Habitat	8.26%
Protection of Public Lands & Saving Community Parks	7.92%
Climate Change	7.26%
Energy Issues	6.72%
Recreation (trails)	6.02%
Local Land Use	5.78%
Nation and Statewide elections	4.88%
Fracking	4.68%
Transportation and Roads	4.33%
Other	1.76%

### THE SUCCESS OF SIERRA CLUB SAN DIEGO DEPENDS ON THE CONTINUED PARTICIPATION OF VOLUNTEERS. IN WHAT WAY WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INVOLVED?

Attending outings	42.68%
Service Projects- lodge clean up & plant a tree	41.46%
Social events	34.15%
Contact public officials	29.27%
Volunteering at public events	29.27%
Sharing knowledge on environmental issues	24.39%
Researching environmental issues	23.17%
Serving on a committee	21.95%

See Survey - Continued on page 14



Writing letters to the Editor  
20.73%

Attending chapter planning session  
19.51%

Speaking at public hearings  
17.07%

Leading Outings  
15.85%

Making phone calls to members  
9.76%

Computer or website help  
7.32%

Fundraising  
6.10%

### DO YOU FEEL INFORMED ABOUT SIERRA CLUB SAN DIEGO'S CAMPAIGNS AND ACTIVITIES?

Yes- 80%

No- 20%

### DO YOU READ THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER "THE HISIERRAN"?

Yes 93.75%

No 6.25%

## Classified Ads



Planting love. Growing memories.

### PLANTING LOVE. GROWING MEMORIES.

Give a gift as special as the occasion! The Wishing Tree Company in Encinitas offers beautiful gift trees, delivered and planted. Weddings, babies, memorials, anniversaries. It's easy, lasting and personal.  
www.TheWishingTreeCompany.com  
(760) 753-1760.

## Whale Watch Tour For February To Be Announced Soon-

Get in touch with

Richard Miller

[richard.miller@sierraclub.org](mailto:richard.miller@sierraclub.org) or

call the office

858- 569-6005

## Online or Hardcopy HiSierran

It is very expensive to mail hard copies of the HiSierran! Would you rather get yours online and help save trees and save money for conservation? WE can email you when a new copy is posted online with a link. We PROMISE we will NOT share your email. If you would like to get the HiSierran online, contact Richard Miller at the Chapter Office: 858-569-6005 or HSOPTO UT@sierraclubsandiego.org. The current issue and past issues are available to read online at [http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/hi\\_sierran/](http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/hi_sierran/)

### Classified Ad Rates and Information:

#### 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.

Business-\$20 + \$.50 per  
additional word

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

Sierra Club San Diego  
8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101  
San Diego, CA 92111

Attn: HiSierran Treasurer

Send ad to:

[HSAds@sierraclubsandiego.org](mailto:HSAds@sierraclubsandiego.org)

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United States Postal Service Form 3526 (December 2014)

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

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(2) Paid-In County (3541)	1,000	9,432
(3) Sales Thru Dealers & Carriers etc.	0	0
(4) Other Classes Mailed thru USPS	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution	1,000	9,375
d. Free Distribution by Mail	0	0
(1) Outside County (3541)	0	0
(2) In-County (3541)	0	0
(3) Other Classes Mailed USPS	0	0
(4) Outside The Mail	200	200
e. Total Free Distribution	200	200
h. Total	1,200	9,575

# Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Tayler  
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



## Joshua Tree National Park: A Great Place for Kids

by Bill Tayler, Sr.

The week of Thanksgiving, we were thankful for the opportunity to take a group of kids to Joshua Tree for two nights of camping. Our campsite in Indian Cove Campground was surrounded by the monzogranite rocks that are so perfect for climbing. Without even leaving camp, the kids could climb, explore, find exciting “secret places” and just do whatever they wanted. And that was how they passed the first afternoon.

On the second day we drove into the heart of the park for two great hikes. The morning hike was in Wonderland Ranch Wash where they explored an abandoned

ranch house and a cave that was used as a refrigerator by the ranchers. The hike up the wash goes through and over some great climbing rocks and even some hollow rocks that they could climb inside of. A mile up the wash

is a very large rock formation that makes a challenging but fun climbing experience. We also found an area with Indian pictographs. After lunch we went to the Barker Dam area, headed up another wash, and climbed to the top of one of the surrounding peaks, which involved lots of rock scrambling and a steep slope to navigate. At the top there were fissures and caves to explore. Of course in the evening we had a campfire, a few stories and s'mores.

On the third day we hiked and rock-hopped our way up Rattlesnake Canyon. This is a somewhat difficult hike, with no real trail, lots of scrambling, and a few steep sections. The kids were a bit tired from hiking the day before, but once at the top of the canyon they enjoyed the view and the accomplishment.

So why is Joshua Tree National Park such a great place for kids? Because they can be themselves, explore, play games, have fun in a variety of ways, gain confidence and experience by doing things that they have never done before and to gain an appreciation and respect for the outdoor experience. And, of course, there are the s'mores.



*Inner City Outings (ICO) 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 <http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/ico/>.*

**New Volunteer Orientations** – 6:30 to 7:30 PM every 3rd Thursday of the month, at the San Diego Chapter office: 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 101. Anyone interested in ICO is welcome to attend. Please contact Jim Davis for more information: email [jimdavis77@cox.net](mailto:jimdavis77@cox.net) or call 760-739-8407.

**Join us on an ICO Trip** – Want to see us in action? Join us as a guest on a day trip. Please check the ICO calendar at <http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/ico/> and contact the leader listed for more information.

**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:  
[bill.tayler@sandiego.sierraclub.org](mailto:bill.tayler@sandiego.sierraclub.org)

*Say “No” continued from page 5*

restrict the use of single-use plastic bags by grocery stores. The bill was supported by a broad coalition, including the Sierra Club.

Single-use plastic shopping bags are environmentally damaging at nearly every stage of use. They pollute waterways and the ocean, present hazards to wildlife, and create huge quantities of greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution during their manufacture.

So just say “NO” to petitioners for the referendum when they ask for your signature. Report your experience with the petitioner here.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Phillips, Director





## 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

email: [scoffice@sierraclubsandiego.org](mailto:scoffice@sierraclubsandiego.org)

*Development Coordinator:* Richard Miller

email: [richard.miller@sierraclub.org](mailto:richard.miller@sierraclub.org)

[www.SierraSD.org](http://www.SierraSD.org)

## Committee & Contact Information

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

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office

**Chair:** Debbie Hecht  
[hecht.deb@gmail.com](mailto:hecht.deb@gmail.com)

**Vice-Chair:** Joe Zechman  
619-709-6268  
[joezechman@sierrasd.org](mailto:joezechman@sierrasd.org)

**Secretary:** Karenlee Robinson  
619-572-8451  
[klrobinson@sierrasd.org](mailto:klrobinson@sierrasd.org)

**Treasurer** (Non-Voting): Rob Morris  
858-204-1865  
[ChapterTreasurer@sierrasd.org](mailto:ChapterTreasurer@sierrasd.org)

Nick Ervin  
858-761-1659  
[desertguy1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:desertguy1@sbcglobal.net)

Diane Nygaard  
760-724-3887  
[dandd2@peoplepc.com](mailto:dandd2@peoplepc.com)

Paul Webb  
[pbwebb@sierrasd.org](mailto:pbwebb@sierrasd.org)  
Davin Widgerow  
[dwidgerow@sierrasd.org](mailto:dwidgerow@sierrasd.org)

### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

**Chair:** Nick Ervin  
[Desertguy1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Desertguy1@sbcglobal.net)

#### Forest & Wilderness

Meets 1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm.  
Cindy Buxton  
(619) 934-0323 [iokuok2@hotmail.com](mailto:iokuok2@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](mailto:mike_bullock@earthlink.net)

#### Wildlife

Ellen Shively (619) 479-3412  
[ellenshively@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ellenshively@sbcglobal.net)

### OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, call for information.

**Chair:** Starla Rivers (619)-630-9132  
[sd.outchair@gmail.com](mailto:sd.outchair@gmail.com)

#### Bus Trips

Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

#### Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Jim Jafolla  
[sd.col.training@gmail.com](mailto:sd.col.training@gmail.com)

#### Leadership Review & Safety Committee

Michael Taylor (619 -948-2062)  
[sd.lrsc@gmail.com](mailto:sd.lrsc@gmail.com)

#### Pacific Crest Trail

Rob Langsdorf (858) 454-4777  
[SDSCPCTS@yahoo.com](mailto:SDSCPCTS@yahoo.com)

#### Ski

Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

#### Wednesday in the Mountains

Merrilyn Pope 858-750-3807  
[merrilyn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:merrilyn@sbcglobal.net)

### POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 1st Tuesday

**Chair:** Davin Widgerow  
[dwidgerow@sierrasd.org](mailto:dwidgerow@sierrasd.org)

### FOSTER LODGE COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Wednesday 6:30pm

**Chair:** Paul Webb  
[pbwebb@sierrasd.org](mailto:pbwebb@sierrasd.org)

### WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Annually beginning in January  
<http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/wbc/>

#### San Diego

Skip Forsht  
[info@wildernessbasics.com](mailto:info@wildernessbasics.com)  
<http://www.wildernessbasics.com>

#### Escondido

John Tomlinson (858) 486-4853  
[jctomlinson@cox.net](mailto:jctomlinson@cox.net)  
<http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/wbc/nc/index.htm>

### NATURE KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP

Annual June Weekends, call for information.

Barry Hite (619) 479-8133  
[NKW@sierrasd.org](mailto:NKW@sierrasd.org)

### SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

#### Bicycle

Call for meeting information. Jerry Fitzsimmons  
(858) 224-3437 [Membership@sdscls.org](mailto:Membership@sdscls.org).  
[www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/bicycle](http://www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/bicycle)

### Family

Jennifer Douglas  
(858) 344-5490 [jennifercdouglas@yahoo.com](mailto:jennifercdouglas@yahoo.com)  
[www.meetup.com/SDSierraClubFamily](http://www.meetup.com/SDSierraClubFamily)

#### Photography

[www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/photoclub](http://www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/photoclub)

#### Singles

Michael Taylor (619)-421-3821  
[www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/singles](http://www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/singles)

### INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Call or check website for meeting information.

<http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/ICO>

**Co-Chair:** Bill Tayler, (858) 272-8574

[bill.tayler@sandiego.sierraclub.org](mailto:bill.tayler@sandiego.sierraclub.org)

**Co-Chair:** Ed Barber, (619) 464-0780

[rebsd@yahoo.com](mailto:rebsd@yahoo.com)

### PROGRAM COMMITTEES

#### Fundraising/Membership

Richard Miller (858) 569-6005  
[richard.miller@sierraclub.org](mailto:richard.miller@sierraclub.org)

#### Hi Sierran Newsletter

Call for meeting information (858) 569-6005

**Chair:** Debbie Hecht

[hecht.deb@gmail.com](mailto:hecht.deb@gmail.com)

**Managing Editor:** Judy Thomas

[HSEditor@sierrasd.org](mailto:HSEditor@sierrasd.org)

### NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)

The Executive Committee meets 2nd Tuesday.

Contact Chair for time and location.

**Chair:** Suzi Sandore (760)-484-3440

**Conservation:** Ken Quigley

(760) 723-4425 [escapefor2@roadrunner.com](mailto:escapefor2@roadrunner.com)

### NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP

See the Coastal North County web page for meeting info.

**Chair:** Dave Grubb (760) 753-0273

[davidgrubb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidgrubb@sbcglobal.net)

### LEGAL COMMITTEE

Contact Chair for time and location.

**Chair:** Davin Widgerow

[dwidgerow@sierrasd.org](mailto:dwidgerow@sierrasd.org)

### MONTHLY PROGRAM

**Chair:** Ernest "EL" Lotecka

(760) 533-2725

[sdwalks@interactor.cc](mailto:sdwalks@interactor.cc)