



HISIERRAN

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

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March/April 2015

Climate Action Rally and Walk

In keeping with our Chapter's long term goal of transitioning to 100% Clean Energy, a **Climate Action Rally and Walk** is scheduled for **March 15th at 2 p.m. at San Diego City Hall Plaza.**

The purpose of the event is to call on President Obama and the United States Government to immediately commence a social and economic World War II-style mobilization to restore a climate that is safe, stable, and supportive of human civilization. As happened for 4 years in World War II, such a mobilization might involve suspension of automobile production with auto factories converted to making conservation materials, solar panels and windmills.

The rally at the plaza will include music by the Swamp Critters, a raffle of 2 new bicycles to two lucky rally attendees, and some informative speeches. Then there will be a walk to the U.S. Federal Building at Front Street and Broadway where a notice will be pasted on the front door informing the President and our government of the call for a National Climate Mobilization, followed by a few other speakers.

As part of the national mobilization, the goal is to reduce our country's net greenhouse gas emissions 100 percent by 2025. Another goal is to expand our carbon-neutral agricultural systems. As in World War II, full employment will be achieved.

Sponsoring the event is the Climate Mobilization Action Coalition, which is asking the San Diego Sierra Club to

Climate Action-continued on page 13

Whale Watch Photo Contest

Our winners are Simon Paez, John Garcia and Debbie Hecht. On Sunday February 15, 91 people boarded the boat at H & M Landing in Point Loma and set out for the open ocean outside of San Diego Bay. We saw 4 groups of whales and got some great pictures. If you would be interested in our next whale watch cruise please get in touch with Debbie Hecht hecht.deb@gmail.com



photo: Simon Paez,



photo: John Garcia



photo: Debbie Hecht

HI SIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

Sierra Club San Diego Chapter

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The View from The Chair



Debbie Hecht

Legislative challenges Abound in 2015 and My Challenge to You!

The changeover in politicians at most levels of government is a huge challenge for environmental advocates. We will have to be hyper-vigilant to make sure that hard fought battles in the past for significant legislation will not be overturned. This will mean writing letters, signing petitions or emailing congressmen and senators not to support the Keystone Pipeline, encouraging them to support solar energy and not nuclear energy, coal, gas or fracking, and continuing to support our National Parks and the Endangered Species Act.

Locally we must be vigilant to support a viable Climate Action Plan in our cities to reduce greenhouse gases. We have to be vigilant to make sure that we have a Regional Transportation Plan that has major components of mass transit to get people out of their cars and off the roads and into buses, rail and on their bicycles. We ask you to support the 1% Land Fund to help acquire land that can mitigate lost habitat for endangered species, green spaces to process greenhouse gases and parks to improve the quality of life for all residents of San Diego County. Please help to make sure that the Gnatcatcher stays on the list of Endangered Species, so we can help to protect their habitat. It's very important that you read and participate in our calls to action. Keep an eye out for our monthly email alerts. If you have not signed up to get email alerts from the Sierra Club, we encourage you to go call the office 858-569-6005 to change your preferences.

So what can you do about your day to day living to help our environment? These are simple changes in habits that over a lifetime can put less garbage in the landfill, conserve water and other natural resources, support organic farmers who care for the earth, support merchants who sell natural and organic products, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Most importantly, your conservation practices will serve as an example to your children, grandchildren, neighbors and friends to do the same, which will have an exponentially positive affect on the environment for our children and grandchildren!

Choose a few of these ideas, change your habits, be a good role model and change the world a bit.

- Reduce; reuse and recycle- remember this before you throw anything away!
- Find out about Socially Responsible Stock Market Investing-vote with your dollars. Email me for a PowerPoint on this subject. Thank you to all that attended the first meeting.
- Shut the water off while you brush your teeth.
- Don't buy or use water in plastic bottles- use glass, it's tasteless, non-reactive and can be cleaned easily.
- Explore putting solar panels on your house. Interested in more info? Send me an email.
- Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Research recycling grey water for your home
- Recycle your clothes.
- Use cold water when washing clothes not warm or hot.
- Use cloth towels, not paper towels. Have a cloth towel for hands easily accessible in the kitchen.
- Water landscaping as little as possible, get rid of grass and plant a succulent garden, Find out about xeriscape.
- Maintain your vehicle. Keep proper pressure in your tires to increase gas mileage.
- Consider buying an energy efficient vehicle- diesel, hybrid or best- electric, especially if you can charge it with you solar panels.
- Walk whenever you can.
- Adjust the thermostat up or down 5 degrees.
- Garden organically.
- Conserve electricity.

The View continued on page 4

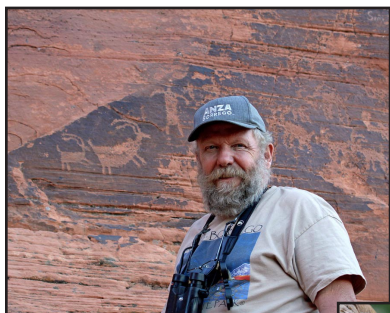
Sierra Talks

Formerly Monthly Meetings

New monthly meetings are on the first Friday, starting with refreshments and representatives from Chapter groups at 6:30 pm and programs at 7 pm with discussions afterward. The location is the Joyce Beers Center at 3900 Vermont St., San Diego, 92103, across the street from Trader Joe's. Parking is available under Trader Joe's and Ralphs Market. Sierra Talks are free and open to the public. Program Coordinator: Ernest "El" Lotecka sdwalks@interactor.cc

March 6th Desert Bighorn Sheep: Wilderness Icon

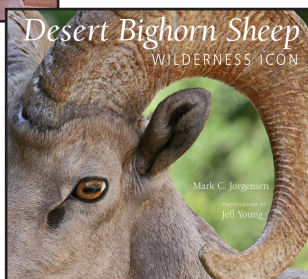
Mark Jorgensen brings his five decades of experience studying desert bighorn sheep and managing their habitat to provide this informative presentation, including high quality desert bighorn



photographs by Jeff Young. The photos feature rare behavior of the elusive sheep in their rugged desert habitat, ewes nurturing newborn lambs, and massive rams in

stunning ritualized combat for dominance. Mark has documented the struggle to provide habitat for the desert bighorn from Nuevo Leon west to Baja California, Mexico, and from Texas west to California. He also has investigated how hunting programs in the United States and Mexico have generated millions of dollars in revenue for bighorn management and conservation programs.

BIO: Mark Jorgensen grew up hiking, camping, and hunting in the western states and western Mexico. He became a State Park Ranger for California State Parks after four summers studying desert bighorn for Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in southern California. He went on to become the last Park Naturalist for California State Parks at Anza-Borrego, as well as a Resource Ecologist, and he finished his 36-year park career as the Superintendent of Anza-Borrego. He is a member of the Technical Staff of the Desert Bighorn Council, Inc., an advisor to the Bighorn Institute, and was an original member of the Federal Recovery Team for the endangered population of desert bighorn sheep in the Peninsular Ranges of southern California.



April 3rd

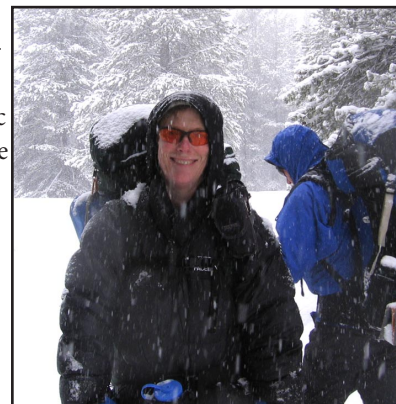
From WBC Snow Camp To The Snows Of Kilimanjaro....and Beyond

Starla Rivers

2015 marks 20 years since I took the Wilderness Basics Course. Who knew that 10 week program would put me on a path to trek the 7 continents? WBC gave me the foundation to build the skills, confidence and connections to set my sights on National Geographic style journeys to explore the wild places of our planet. Among other adventures to date, I have trekked to ancient Incan ruins, gone on safari, slept in base camp on Mt Everest, stared down into Iran from the top of Mt Ararat, walked in Caesar's footsteps, viewed Jim Morrison's last resting place, and shivered in the Tower of London. I have witnessed the impact on the environment as people struggle to survive in harsh environments without access to the simple basics we take for granted such as clean water, adequate food supplies, and free education for all children. I hope you will come to the newly reconstituted monthly meeting of Sierra Club San Diego to hear my presentation and, hopefully, leave with a determination to chart a course for your own journey to the wild places that call to you.

For more information or submissions of subjects for future monthly meetings contact:

Ernest "El" Lotecka (760) 533-2725
sdwalks@interactor.cc



Nature Knowledge Workshop Returns to Foster Lodge

By Barry Hite

The Nature Knowledge Workshop (NKW) will be returning to Foster Lodge this summer with a new, revised format. The NKW is an event with naturalists and biologists presenting workshops and leading nature walks through the natural environs of the Laguna Mountains. This year's workshop will be held on Saturday, June 13 and Sunday, June 14. In the past, the program was an event that spanned two nights and two days, but this year we will present a modified version of the program. Instead of a weekend long event, we will present two, single day programs where participants will attend either Saturday or Sunday (or if desired, both days).

The last time the NKW was held was June, 2013. A few weeks later, the Chariot Wildfire destroyed the small cabin at Foster Lodge, as well as many other buildings in the Shriner's camp across the highway. The chapter has been working hard since then to return the lodge to usability, but restrictions on its use have forced us to modify this year's NKW program.

The restriction with the greatest impact is that no overnight camping is allowed at the site. To accommodate this, we will hold hikes and workshops from 8 AM to 5 PM on both Saturday and Sunday. Participants may register to attend either one or both days, but can no longer camp on the grounds. Several other campgrounds and lodges in the Laguna area are open. Participants wanting to stay overnight will need to make their own arrangements. (As of this

writing, the organizers of the NKW are looking into reserving spaces at the Prado campground across the highway from Foster Lodge, but this has not yet been formalized. Expect the number of these spaces to be limited. Contact Barry Hite for more info: bjhite+NKW@gmail.com).

The cost for this year's NKW will be as follows:

Members:

- *Saturday Only or Sunday Only: \$30 per person*
- *Both Saturday and Sunday: \$50 per person*

Non-members:

- *Saturday Only or Sunday Only: \$50 per person*
- *Both Saturday and Sunday: \$70 per person*

Remember: Overnight stays on site are not allowed. Offsite camping and lodging fees are not included and are the responsibility of the participant.

This year's participants will be able to attend several hikes and workshops, and will receive an NKW handbook. Lunch will be provided.

With the changes to the fire ravaged environs and the new presentation format, this year's Nature Knowledge Workshop will be unique and exciting. To register and for more information, please visit <http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/nkw/>

The View continued from page 2

- Put your water heater on a timer. Turn it off when you go on vacation.
- Use a Kindle or a library book – leave the trees in the forest to process CO₂.
- Buy produce locally and support organic farmers who care for our earth by using no pesticides and organic fertilizers. Your body will thank you for not having to process these toxins.
- Eat at organic restaurants. Here's two lists: <http://www.sharp.com/nutrition/organic-restaurants.cfm> & http://www.yelp.com/search?find_desc=Organic+Restaurant&find_loc=San+Diego%2C+CA
- Turn off electronics at the power strip.
- Ride your bike- good for you and the environment.
- Take the bus, train or public transportation whenever possible.
- Support legislation and candidates that promote sustainability and environmentally sound projects.
- Read the HiSierran to stay involved, give a gift membership to the Sierra Club.
- Make a donation directly to Sierra Club San Diego so your dollars stay to help in our area.
- Save trees! Get the HiSierran by email not a hard copy in the mail.

Take the challenge! Walk the talk! Stay informed and vigilant to protect our environmental laws. Keep me posted! Send me your ideas so we can add to this list!

Working together we can create a healthier San Diego!

Warm regards! Debbie Hecht, Chair, Steering Committee,
Sierra Club San Diego, Hecht.deb@gmail.com 808-989-3222



Political Committee Chair Davin Widgerow

(top row second from right) was selected to be a 2015 San Diego Leadership Alliance (SDLA) fellow. The mission of the SDLA is to develop the next generation of progressive leaders by providing the skills, relationships and opportunities to build a sustainable progressive infrastructure in the San Diego region. Davin hopes to use the skills and relationships developed at SDLA to further Sierra Club's conservation, climate change, and sustainability goals in San Diego.

San Diego Sierra Club Transportation Chair Mike Bullock Presents Paper at San Diego's Clean Car Expo



The February 16th presentation was based on the paper Mike Bullock, Chair, Transportation Committee wrote for the Air and Waste Management Association: *The Development of California Light-Duty Vehicle (LDV) Requirements to Support Climate Stabilization: Fleet-Emission Rates & Per-Capita Driving*.

An Introduction to the topic was provided, including the fraction of the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that come from cars and light duty trucks (Light Duty Vehicles, LDVs), in San Diego County.

The fundamentals of our climate crisis were presented, including its cause, its potential for harm, and existing state mandates.

A climate-stabilizing greenhouse-gas (GHG) reduction target value, for 2030, was calculated, using unambiguous statements by recognized climate experts. The formula for GHG emissions, as a function of per-capita driving, population, fleet CO₂ emissions per mile, and low-carbon fuel standards, was shown.

Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) miles per gallon values, from 2000 to 2030, were presented, as either existing mandates or as an assumption. A table was shown that estimated the LDV fleet miles per gallon, for the intermediate year of 2015, for all the cars on the road. The fractions of vehicles sold that would be Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV), as a function of year; along with an assumed fraction of electricity that would be coming from renewables, in 2030, supported a calculation of 2030 equivalent-fleet mileage. This set of assumptions was dubbed the "Heroic-Measures" (HM) case. This equivalent fleet mileage was used, with population estimates, and the needed factor of emission reduction to support the climate stabilization target, to compute a required per-capita driving reduction, for 2030, with respect to the base year of 2005. Policies to achieve this per-capita driving reduction were described, with reductions allocated to each policy.

To receive a copy of the talk, the Power Point File, the paper, or to request a similar talk, email Mike Bullock, mike_bullock@earthlink.net.

Foster Lodge Update

Sierra Club members knew, even before the embers from the fire died, that the restoration of Foster Lodge to member use and the reconstruction of the destroyed cabin were bound to be a series of long and arduous tasks, complicated by the regulatory framework imposed by the Forest Service. Although we have made significant progress, there have been several setbacks that will continue to create roadblocks in our path to fully opening the Lodge.



First the good news. Due in large part to the efforts of Richard Miller, the destroyed electrical meter and transformer have been replaced, and electricity service to the Lodge is restored. Debris from the cabin has been removed, and the smoke and other damage to the Lodge structure has been cleaned to a usable condition.

Sierra Club San Diego was also fortunate to have one of our members, Jon Luft, provide plans for the reconstruction of the stairway inside Foster Lodge. That project is complete and former inconsistencies with building codes have been eliminated.

Sometime after the clean-up was completed, however, we discovered that a new interruption in electrical service had occurred, this time on a portion of the system that is under the control of SDG&E and not the Sierra Club. After a series of false starts to restoring service because assigned utility personnel were transferred to other projects, a new Land Manager was assigned to work with us to restore service.

We have also contracted for the first phase of the project to restore water service to the Lodge. When complete, this first phase of the total water system replacement may allow limited day use of the Lodge, subject to Forest Service approval. One important item of information that has come from the water project is the news that a key link to the water sources across the road is intact. This removes at least one major obstacle to re-opening the lodge.

Finally, using data from the survey of members conducted last summer, which overwhelmingly supported rebuilding the cabin, we have prepared a programmatic plan document describing what features would be incorporated into a re-built cabin along with general ideas of the size and configuration. Jon Luft has translated this document into a set of very preliminary drawings to elicit member responses. These drawings, which are not architectural plans, have been shown to the Foster Lodge and Outings committees. We will continue to refine these preliminary ideas while exploring costs and funding sources.

Members who are interested in participating in the efforts to re-open Foster Lodge are encouraged to attend the Foster Lodge Committee meeting, held the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Sierra Club San Diego office.

*For more information or to help: please contact:
Paul Webb, Chair of the Foster Lodge Committee
pbwebb@sierrasd.org*

San Diego's Wildlife Underdog Fights Goliath - Again.

Renée Owens

Odds are you've probably heard of our local resident known as the Coastal California gnatcatcher; a feisty little gray bird with a penchant for eating flies and spiders. What you may not know is that over ninety percent of the habitat that the bird and many other species call home, a.k.a. coastal sage scrub, has been destroyed, and what's left is seriously fragmented. This is what prompted the species' listing in 1993 and helped southern California environmentalists (among others) develop a complex set of Habitat Conservation Plans, including the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program. Whether these plans are considered to be conservation success stories or not – a debatable question – the gnatcatcher's ascendance

as a protected species is nothing short of a miracle, given the fact that this bird is one of hottest political potatoes ever listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Once again the bird's feet are on the fire; yet another challenge to delist it has been submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). This isn't surprising given the convoluted political history surrounding of the California gnatcatcher; development interests have been tenaciously fighting its protected status for as long as it has been in the spotlight. As such the species' recovery has been rocky at best. For instance, as soon as FWS announced that a total of 513,000 acres of coastal sage scrub throughout San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties must be protected as 'critical habitat' for the species' survival, developers came out of the woodwork and successfully sued this determination. As a result the bird's critical habitat was reduced to less than 200,000 acres. Even its listing status as 'threatened' instead of 'endangered' was more of a political

move than a scientific one, since the ESA allows for greater 'take' of habitat under the threatened designation. In layman's terms what this amounts to is that it is possible for developers who want to bulldoze gnatcatcher-occupied habitat to get a permit to do so, as long as a mitigation strategy is established that will, at least in theory, offset the negative impacts of the loss perpetrated by the development. A database gathered by the Center for Biological Diversity documents that



such 'take' has resulted in a minimum of the death of 1,280 breeding pairs of California gnatcatchers, if not more.

Such take allowances are at the heart of the question as to why this species has not yet recovered. Due to the compromise of mitigation issued by FWS, developers are rarely told they cannot move forward even when listed species occupy their land. This may surprise some given the creative myth-spinning by anti-environmentalists who decry how the ESA inhibits development. It doesn't. Essential as it is to conservation, the ESA does not have the power to squash projects in their tracks willy nilly, and although FWS is tasked with protecting wildlife, they are not in the business of halting development. Neither are all of their administrators immune to lobbying pressures by corporate entities. The reality is that when the cost of mitigation alters their bottom line, powerful landowners have been repeatedly willing to spend time and money trying to remove the gnatcatcher from its protected pedestal any way they

can.

This time their strategy comes in the form a challenge to the species' existence altogether. The Pacific Legal Foundation along with the National Association of Home Builders and the California Building Industry Association are arguing that the California gnatcatcher isn't genetically unique after all and therefore does not deserve its status. This isn't the first time this argument has been made, what is surprising is that it is being considered based solely on one research study by scientist Robert Zink (whose research happened to be partly funded by grants from real estate developers). Shortly after its publication at least six other geneticists have countered with their own detailed analysis as to how Dr. Zink's work is not based on the "best available science", and their argument is compelling.

Ultimately it will be up to FWS to decide whether one study can completely undo a species recovery plan that began over a quarter of a century ago. What we do

know is that according to FWS, the gnatcatcher is in danger of extinction due to "habitat loss and fragmentation resulting from urban and agricultural development....fire, nonnative plants, and predation." Don't forget that protecting the gnatcatcher helps to conserve many other species as well, including birds, reptiles, insects, plants, and other species that are up against the same foes of habitat fragmentation, pollution, urban sprawl, drought, and climate change.

The gnatcatcher needs your help, and the deadline is looming: you can comment up until midnight on March 2 at www.regulations.gov, using docket number FWS-R8-ES-2014-0058. Tell FWS to do the right thing and protect our coastal sage scrub ecosystems by keeping the California gnatcatcher listed as it should be.

- Renée Owens is a biologist who has held a federal Recovery permit to study and monitor the California gnatcatcher since 1994.

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.

Like us on Facebook



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

Help Define Our Local Climate Action Priorities

Here is your chance to get involved with defining our local priorities for responding to climate change- and then becoming part of the team to actually do something about it. Climate Change was identified as one of the top four priority issues of concern at our Retreat last fall :

“Achieving climate stabilization is an overarching goal of the national Sierra Club that will be integrated with our on-going local conservation, political and community outreach programs. We will coordinate our work with the My Generation clean energy campaign and support international, national, and statewide programs of the Sierra Club on this issue. Our focus in San Diego will include: transportation programs that reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and support conversion to cleaner fueled vehicles; energy programs that transition to 100% clean energy and support expanded rooftop solar installations; land use programs that better integrate land use and transportation systems; and local Climate Action Plans with measurable, enforceable GHG (Greenhouse Gas) reductions.”

We need to focus our efforts on the actions that can make a difference in our region; that enhance, but don't duplicate the work of others; and that engage our members. Here is your chance to help shape our work in this critical area. Contact Steering Committee member Diane Nygaard at dandd2@peoplepc.com to see how you can get involved.



La Jolla Harbor Seals Pupping Season in Full Swing

By Ellen Shively: Wildlife, Committee Chair

Drive over to Casa Beach in La Jolla (aka Children's Pool) this time of year and you will observe the annual pupping season of the harbor seals. The newborn pups weigh about 20-25 pounds and are able to swim shortly after birth. You will be able to see them with their mothers nursing. There have been 4 unobserved births so far this year, but now you can come to see the pups, and if very lucky, another birth.

Females will sexually mature at about 4 years and males at about 3. Unlike sea lions, there is no “alpha male” protecting a harem. Optimal times at this latitude for successful birthing in the wild occurs between early February through mid-April, with the greatest numbers birthed through March 10. Please visit www.sealconservancy.org for more statistics and harbor seal facts. The third trimester of pregnancy is from November through January, followed by the birth, nursing for 4-7 weeks, and weaning when the pup has almost doubled its birth weight. This is followed by a regrouping of the maternal hormonal balance (for about a month), mating and fertilization occurs (opportunity) in the ocean, delayed implantation in the uterine wall for about 4-6 weeks, and then, just like our species, a nine month gestation.

Our Wildlife Committee is working with the Seal Conservancy of San Diego to develop a City-sponsored docent program, restore the popular seal cam, educate the public about the seals, and keep watch over the colony. Thanks in large part to the great response by the local Sierra Club members to their postcard mailing, the City of San Diego received a unanimous decision by the California Coastal Commission approving winter beach pupping season closure with a chain and sign posted 12/15-5/15. For the past 2 years from 5/16-12/14 the City's guideline viewing rope on the sand has helped visitors viewing the seals from the sand to maintain the NOAA recommended fifty foot distance between people and the seals at Casa Beach.

If you are interested in our program at the Wildlife committee, please don't hesitate to contact the Chair, Ellen Shively. See the back page for contact information. We are interested in all things pertaining to habitat and species protection throughout the county.



Chapter Outings

Sunday, February 22, 2015

**Bike Ride (4-B-P) Over 35 miles Rolling Hills
Peppy Pace 12-14 MPH
MISSION BAY EXPRESS RIDE**

Leader Myles Pomeroy 858-565-7262

Assistant Needed

Meet at 8:30 am at De Anza Cove in Mission Bay Park for a 43 mi ride up the coast to Rte 56, then east to Black Mtn Rd, then south and back toward the coast with a snack stop at Einstein Bros. Bagels on the way back. Rain cancels. Joint ride with SD Wheelmen.

Sunday, February 22, 2015

**Bike Ride (3-C) 21 to 35 miles Moderate Hills
MISSION TRAILS PARK**

Leader Ellen Scott 619-405-4819

Assistant Needed

Here's our Sunday Social ride with a twist: Cruise Mission Trails Park by bike. Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot immediately north of the Mission Bay Visitor Center. Expect moderate hills and few regroupings on this 35 mi loop. Bring snacks and water for your dam-side rest break. No restaurant stop.

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

**Dayhike (E6A) Easy 6 miles less than 500 feet
elevation change**

OTAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK -Easier Hike

Leader Roger Lundbohm

rlundbohm@hotmail.com

619-299-0489

Assistant Needed

Hike description: This is an easier hike, accessible by public transportation. We will walk past Otay Valley ponds and lowlands to Finney Overlook and return about 6 miles round trip. Meet at trailhead at 9:36 AM Bring snack or lunch for a break, and water. Rain cancels. For those driving, leave Mission Valley at 8:45 AM.

Directions: Meet at the Palm Avenue Trolley Station about 12 miles S. of downtown San Diego. The trailhead is at the kiosk at the North end of the parking lot, where we will meet at 9:36 AM. By Trolley: Take the Blue Line Trolley South from America Plaza and get off at Palm Avenue. (one leaves America Plaza at 8:33, 8:48, or 9:03, and arriving at Palm 9:06, 9:21, 9:36). By car: Take I-5 South to Exit 5A, take off ramp and follow signs to CA-75 S/Palm Ave, turn left onto Palm Ave, then .2 miles to Hollister Street. The entrance to the parking lot is a left turn just past Hollister Street after crossing the tracks.

Saturday, February 28, 2015

**Dayhike (M7B) Moderate 7 miles 501 to
1,000 feet elevation change
Bernardo Mountain Hike**

Leader Peggy Goddard

pgoddard@pacbell.net

- Assistant Needed

This hike is 7.2 miles with an 800 foot elevation gain. We will be hiking at a moderate pace. Bring at least 2 liters of water and some lunch to eat when we get to the top. We will talk briefly about Leave No Trace and enjoy the beautiful views!

We will start at the Sunset Drive Trailhead. To get there take the Via Rancho Parkway east from I15. Take a right at Sunset Drive (first light) and drive to the trailhead parking lot at the cul de sac or park along the street. We will meet at the trailhead at the south end of the parking lot.

We will start our hike at 10:45 after introducing ourselves and going over safety issues. We should be finished by around 2 pm depending on our pace and how long we stay at the top.

Please contact the leader to RSVP for this hike.

Saturday, February 28, 2015

**(E4A) Easy 4 miles less than 500 feet
elevation change Balboa Park**

Leader Candy Brooks

candanceb957@gmail.com

619-261-4511

- Assistant tba

Meet at Cypress and Richmond, Hillcrest

We will drop down into Marston canyon, across to the Bridle trail along 163. Up the Juniper stairs, Past the dog park, along 6th Ave. Then dropping back down to the bridle trail and retracing our steps to our cars.

Followed by lunch at Pannera in Uptown Shopping Center

Meet at 10:00 am.

Sunday, March 01, 2015

**Dayhike (H18D) Hard 18 miles 2,001 to
3,000 feet elevation change
Let's Go "Get Lost" On Whale, Part IV**

Leader Mark Brown cswc@san.rr.com

- Assistant Needed

"Whale" provides some of the richest, most remote and far ranging cross country exploratory experience anywhere. We'll come and go using new and unexpected solutions. Email

me for required sign-up. If I don't know you send a brief hiking/conditioning "resume" to cswc@san.rr.com

Sunday, March 01, 2015

**Dayhike (M6C) Moderate 6 miles 1,001 to
2,000 feet elevation change
Del Dios To Elfin Forest**

Leader Starla Rivers sriverssd@yahoo.com

- Assistant Needed

Join us on what is sure to be a fine spring day in San Diego. We will begin in the Del Dios Highlands Preserve and wind our way over to Elfin Forest and the WayUp Trail. We will have fantastic 360 views that span from the ocean up to San Geronio. We will return to our cars via the same route so we have a good uphill climb in both directions.

Details will be emailed to qualified hikers a few days prior to the outing.

**Tuesday, March 03, 2015 and Wednesday,
March 04, 2015**

**Car Camp (H8C) Hard 8 miles 1,001 to
2,000 feet elevation change
Cerro Gordo Car Camp**

Leader Rob Baum

Robertbaum@netzero.net

619-772-5615 - 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.

Sunday, March 8, 2015

(3-b-s) San Elijo Lagoon Social Ride

Expect 25 miles with rolling hills on this social-paced bicycle ride (10-12 mph). En route, we'll visit San Elijo Lagoon Nature Sanctuary in Encinitas. www.sanelijo.org. Bring a bicycle helmet, spare tube, water, and snack. Meet at 9:00 am in the Carmel Valley Community Center (3777 Townsgate Drive, 1/2 mi east of I-5) parking lot across the street from Del Mar Highlands Shopping Center. Leader: Ellen Scott, 619-405-4819.

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**

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

(1-a-s) Birding By Bike

Meet at 8:30 am at De Anza Cove in Mission Bay Park for a beginning birding-by-bike outing. There are more than 70 birds associated with the Mission Bay area. We'll identify birds along the San Diego River bike path. Bring binoculars, water, snack, bicycle helmet, spare tube, and a bird guide if you have one. Contact leader in advance if loaner binoculars are needed. Expect about 10-12 miles of bicycle riding and approximately 2.5 hours of birding. Assistant Ellen Scott. Leader: Kathy Askin, 619-849-9865.

Friday, March 13, 2015 to

Monday, March 16, 2015

Outing — XC Ski unrated

Montecito Sequoia Cross Country Ski Trip

Leader Mike Fry - Assistant Alice Fichandler

Contact Monique Alkemade
monique_alkemade@yahoo.com
858-922-7500

Montecito Lodge is based at 7500' and provides a breathtaking view of the Great Western Divide peaks. Join us for some of California's most scenic x-country ski trails. Trip includes lodging, meals, back country skiing with leaders, use of hot tub and groomed trails.

Saturday, March 14, 2015

Outing — Dayhike (E5A) Easy 5 miles less than 500 feet elevation change

COASTERS SATURDAY- OCEANSIDE BEACH

Leader Mac Downing
M2Cdown4Yahoo.com 619-542-9320
- Assistant Needed

Beautiful 9 am beach walk in Oceanside. Great scenes. Bring water and comfortable hiking shoes or boots. Rain or drizzle cancels. Optional lunch at the Broiler in Oceanside Harbor. Hike limited to 20 sign ups Email (prefer) or call Mac. Open to Main Chapter.

Phone calls before 8:30 pm please

Sunday, March 22, 2015

Dayhike (V20E) Very Strenuous 20 miles over 3,000 feet elevation change

Pinto Canyon And In-Ko-Pah Gorge

Leader Mark Brown cswc@san.rr.com - Assistant Needed

Thoroughly spontaneous exploration of the most unknown places we can find in this wonderful world of lost souls and campaneros without hope. We'll attempt to find places as amazing as the "In-Ko-Pah to the Valley of the Moon" trip provides. Recommended that you go on my previous hikes this winter. Email me for required sign-up. If I don't know you send a brief hiking/conditioning "resume" to cswc@san.rr.com

Monday, March 23, 2015 and Tuesday, March 24, 2015

XC Ski (S6C) Strenuous 6 miles 1,001 to 2,000 feet elevation change

Ski June Mountain To Mammoth Lodge

Leader Rob Baum
Robertbaum@netzero.net 619-772-5615
- 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.

Thursday, March 26, 2015 to Monday, March 30, 2015

XC Ski (I) unrated

Rock Creek Lodge Cross Country Ski Trip

Leader Mike Fry - Assistant Alice Fichandler
aliceandorbill@cox.net
619-226-6083

Come join us for a long weekend of outstanding x-country skiing in the Sierras. We will be staying at Rock Creek Lodge for 3 nights, and skiing out the door each day. There are groomed tracks as well as challenging back country trails. This trip is open to intermediate and advanced beginner skiers.

Wednesday, April 01, 2015

Dayhike (M7B) Moderate 7 miles 501 to 1,000 feet elevation change

Santa Ysabel OSP

Leader Pat Gifford
gardenmusic@outlook.com
- Assistant Needed

The 3800 acres between Santa Ysabel and Julian is home to meadow larks, spotted owls, golden eagles, live oak and sycamores along an idyllic stream winding through rolling hills. We will check on the progress of young pines sprouted since the 2003 fires. Take Hwy 78 to Julian. Main St. becomes Farmers Road. Continue on Farmers to Wynola Rd., make a R then a quick L back to Farmers Rd. Go about 1 mi. past the Vulcan Mtn. sign to the Santa Ysabel staging area on the left. A porta potty is available. Thomas Bros. p 1136 A-1.

Heavy rain cancels. Rain prior to May 14 may close the preserve. Call leader to verify. Bring lunch, water, sturdy shoes. Meet at the Farmers Rd staging area at 9:30am. Mission Valley carpool leaves at 8:00am.

Sunday, April 05, 2015

Dayhike (M3B) Moderate 3 miles 501 to 1,000 feet elevation change

DAYHIKE: SHEPHERD POND. Global Warming

Leader Phil Birkhahn
pbirkhahn@outlook.com 858-472-5029 - Assistant Needed

On this hike, learn about rising sea-level caused by Global Warming and new conclusions by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change about damage that will take centuries to millennia to reverse. Views along the way of Miramar and Kearny Mesa show 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 a third of 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.

This 3-mile hike starts Sunday afternoon at the Corte Playa Catalina trail head in Mission Trails Park. The hike will last two to three hours including up to 15 minutes at the pond to talk about climate change. Ups and downs along the way add up to just over 500 feet of elevation gain and loss. 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.

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Dayhike (E5A) Easy 5 miles less than 500 feet elevation change

COASTERS SATURDAY DEL MAR BEACH WALK

Leader Mac Downing
M2CDOW4@YAHOO.COM
619-542-9320 - Assistant Needed

Enjoy easy beautiful morning beach hike in the Del Mar area. We will be along the ocean, with great views. Wear suitable footgear and bring water. Optional restaurant afterwards. Reservations required. To sign up use Email (prefer) or call before 8:30 pm, limited to 20.

Phone calls before 8:30 pm please.

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Dayhike (S15D) Strenuous 15 miles 2,001 to 3,000 feet elevation change

Otay Mountain

Leader Jim Jafolla JimJafolla@cox.net
619-972-1648

- Assistant Needed

Tax day is coming, time for a taxing hike! Otay Mountain is one of San Diego's iconic mountain vistas. Located in extreme southern San Diego County, barely a couple of miles north of the Mexico border. Although just 3,566 feet high, the peak rises quickly

Outings continued on Page 12

Support Us on Climate Ride California!

How can you enjoy an incredible 5-day bicycle ride on the northern California coast while supporting Sierra Club California? By joining Climate Ride and pedaling with 150 cyclists along 240 miles of stunning redwoods, dramatic coastline and a taste of wine country, from Eureka to the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

This “green conference on wheels” and fully supported adventure raises funds for a collection of non-profits working on sustainability and bike advocacy, including Sierra Club California. This year’s ride is scheduled for May 17 through 21.

Climate Ride California is a gorgeous cycling adventure that begins in California’s historic Redwood Empire near Eureka, travels along the scenic coast, and ventures into the famed Russian River Valley before crossing the Golden Gate Bridge into San Francisco. Climate Ride California is more than a bike trip – it’s an inspiring journey with like-minded people who are united by their passion for sustainability, renewable energy, and bicycles – the ultimate carbon-free form of transportation. On the California ride, you’ll experience epic biking, amazing scenery, and dynamic speakers that all combine to make this charitable event exciting, informative, and fun. There are five days of riding

and each one is a new adventure. You’ll pedal under towering redwoods along Humboldt’s Avenue of the Giants, climb the infamous Leggett Hill on your way to spend two full days on California’s rugged North Coast, then take a spin through verdant wine-country vineyards on your way to the City by the Bay – San Francisco. Each evening, our speaker series will provide information, opinion, and discussion on topics such as renewable energy, climate science, and bicycle infrastructure.

Our professional Climate Ride volunteer staff takes care of all the details, so you can focus on riding the 40-60 miles per day of carefully planned routes on scenic back roads. It’s challenging yet doable, and you have all day to make it to the next rest stop. Meals, snacks, bike support, luggage transport, and all of the logistics are included when you reach your fundraising minimum. On the road, the Climate Ride support team is always nearby to assist you, keep you happy and healthy, and make your ride worry-free and memorable.

Anyone who signs up for the ride can raise money for the organization of their choice—and you can choose Sierra Club California. To get started on this ride, you first must register, reach the fundraising minimum and train for the ride. Then when the ride begins in May, be prepared for amazing riding, epic scenery, great speakers and good fellowship with other bicyclists.

Learn more and register at www.climateride.org.

PolComm Postings:

Dispatches from the Political Committee

Davin Widgerow dwidgerow@gmail.com

February 2015. The Political Committee (“PolComm”) continued to move forward resolutely on several projects after the confetti – and tears – faded after the 2014 midterm elections, and we are experiencing exciting momentum in this new year.

PolComm sent congratulatory letters to all our endorsed local candidates who won their election and reelection races in 2014, and offered to meet with them to discuss opportunities to collaborate in the future. PolComm and Steering Committee members met with Deputy Mayor Chuck Lowery of Oceanside in early January to discuss the City’s sub-area plan, the need for a climate action plan, and Sierra Club San Diego’s 1% Land Fund proposal. PolComm is also scheduled to meet with city council members from Lemon Grove and

Imperial Beach in February to discuss our shared objectives. If any members know of specific environmental concerns in their local towns and cities, we encourage them to contact PolComm so that we may be better informed when meeting with local leaders.

In January, PolComm members Brian Elliott and Davin Widgerow gave a presentation to the La Mesa Foothill Dems about the history of Sierra Club, Sierra Club San Diego activities and projects, and about PolComm’s efforts to mobilize environmental voters for Congressman Scott Peters’ reelection campaign in 2014. Just over 100 people attended the event, many of them Sierra Club members themselves, and we were received with great warmth and enthusiasm. Following our presentation, attendees were also given information and materials on the 2015 Whale Watch, the 1% Land Fund, our local solar industry partnership, and the Wilderness 50 Campaign. Special thanks to Jeff Benesch and Linda Armacost for facilitating – looking forward to this summer’s “Meeting in the Park”!

The Committee is also moving forward on several continuing projects. PolComm plans to have informal elected-constituent mixers in both North and South County in mid-2015 so that Sierra Club members can meet with their local elected officials and discuss their goals and concerns. We also began a comprehensive and thorough review and revamp of our bylaws, which have not been updated since 2001. We hope our final revised bylaws can serve as a template for other committees interested in doing the same. Finally, we are assembling our Election 2016 handbook in advance of next year’s big contests, and we are honing in on a final judicial candidate endorsement policy thanks to assistance from our colleagues at National and the Angeles chapter.

As always, PolComm is looking to grow and expand our membership. So, if like politics, want to advocate for bold environmental policies, and enjoy meeting fun and interesting new people, come and join us!



The North County Group will hold its Spring General Meeting on Tuesday, March 24th in the Library of San Pasqual High School from 7-9pm. Our first speaker will discuss hiking the Appalachian Trail and in our second presentation you will learn about the local recreational and volunteer opportunities at the San Diego River Park.

There will be time to enjoy refreshments and socialize with other club members and students of the WBC course.

Save the date!
The NCG Annual Picnic will take place on
Saturday, June 6th at Dixon Lake in Escondido.
Watch for more details in the next
edition of the HiSierran.

To keep up on all the activities of the North County Group, check out our website SierraClubNCG.org



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.

At our meeting in February, we had a well-attended and interesting discussion about housing policy and the Encinitas Housing Element Update.

On Tuesday, March 17, we will have a talk from Marji Fox on Community Gardens and Urban Agriculture.

On Tuesday, April 21 we will have a talk by Lane Sharman on Community Choice Aggregation - a new approach to community-controlled energy choices.

You can 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>



**Sipping Sierran's
WINE TASTING
EVENT**

Come join us at
San Pasqual Winery
Sunday, April 12 at 2pm

Come join friends and fellow Sierrans for a wine tasting social event and fundraiser for Sierra Club San Diego. We are fellow members like you that gather to enjoy and learn about wines all while having the opportunity to engage in conservation and hear about Sierra Club programs. Of course, it is also about meeting new friends, old friends and just plain FUN.

Come join us at San Pasqual Winery, in the heart of downtown La Mesa at 8364 La Mesa Blvd. We will enjoy a flight of 8 wines that you select from a list of about 12 choices, including a variety of white, red and fruit wines. This will be accompanied by plates of selected cheeses and crackers. Additionally, San Pasqual Winery will donate 20% of all bottle sales from the event to Sierra Club San Diego!

All members and their guests are invited to attend and is open to the public. Space is limited and of course you must be of legal drinking age.

Cost is \$30 per person. This will cover all expenses and includes a small donation to Sierra Club San Diego. To make your reservations and purchase tickets, go to <http://donate.sierrasd.org/>. If you would like to pay by check, please call the office at 858-569-6005 to make your reservations and mail checks, payable to Sierra Club, to Sipping Sierrans, 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, Ste. 101, San Diego, CA 92111.

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

2nd Friday Movie Night

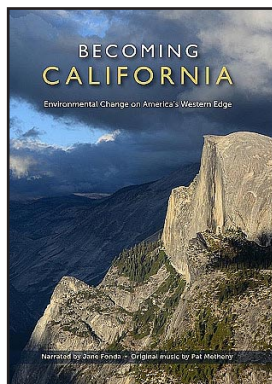
We are moving our movies night from the 1st Friday to the 2nd Friday of the month starting January 2015.

March 13, 6:30 pm

Movie: BECOMING CALIFORNIA – Environmental Change on America's Western Edge

1 Hour, 56 Minutes

Funded primarily by the National Science Foundation and narrated by Jane Fonda, this film is a powerful exploration of our past, present and future relationship with California's changing environment. The film takes us through California's physical and biological history, reviews the exploitation and re-engineering of the area from native colonization 13,000 years ago to the present, and finally, looks ahead to a potential future in which nature and civilization could be partners rather than adversaries.



April 15, 6:30 pm

Movie: UNACCEPTABLE LEVELS

80 Minutes

Unacceptable Levels examines the results of the chemical revolution of the 1940's through the eyes of filmmaker Ed Brown as he interviews top minds in the fields



of science, advocacy and law, a professor of Environmental Health from Boston University, the senior scientist of the Natural Resources Defense Council, the founder of Rainforest Action Network, and the former CEO of Seventh Generation, to name a few. This film poses challenges to our companies, our government and our society to do something about a nearly unseen threat to our environment and our health. The filmmaker believes that with inspired knowledge, small changes can generate a massive impact.

Outings continued from Page 9

from sea level, with great views of San Diego, Mexico and the ocean. The route also takes us past WWII era defensive bunkers. Plan on a 7 hour hike, bring lots of water and trail snacks. Email for sign-up.

Saturday, April 18, 2015 and Sunday, April 19, 2015 Backpack (M7B) Moderate 7 miles 501 to 1,000 feet elevation change

Arroyo Seco Loop Backpack

Leader Pat Klaasen pklaasen@juno.com
619-582-7407

- Assistant Brian Swanson

An easy 1.5 mile backpack from Green Valley Falls in the Cuyamacas to set up at Arroyo Seco Trail Camp. Then a 5-mile dayhike taking the Calif. Riding & Hiking Trail to Falls Fire Rd. and hopefully to G.V. Falls itself. Back to camp via the Pine Ridge Trail. Saturday evening, Sunday morning we'll listen and look for the wild turkeys that roost in the trees near our camp. After packing up we'll head up Airplane Ridge and have lunch at the Monument and learn how this came to be here. The steep descent on Monument Trail returns us to our cars and perhaps a stop at the Descanso Cafe on the way home.

This will be a moderately-paced outing with opportunities to appreciate wildflowers and birds. An expert geocacher will be with us, so if you want to learn or hone your skills on geocaching, bring your GPS.

Some backpacking experience necessary to participate.

Please include your phone #, email, and your most recent backpack.

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 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

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

help sponsor the event and provide a speaker about national and local Sierra Club climate action activities.

Nancy Casady, general manager of Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Co-op, one of the organizers, said, "Climate change threatens the collapse of civilization within this century and confronting this crisis is the great moral imperative of our time. In addition to the March event, she said there will be events in June, September and December with the goal of having 30,000 San Diegans in the streets by December which would be the 3% of the population that Naomi Klein, author of "This Changes Everything," has said is needed to get renewable energy adopted.

Mark Hertzgaard, environmental writer for Scientific American, has said that President Obama is waiting for Americans to get into the streets on this issue.

Organizations that are being asked to join the Climate Mobilization Action Coalition besides the Sierra Club are SD350, the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, the Environmental Health Coalition, the League of Women Voters and numerous others. Club members are asked to recruit groups to which they belong to join the Coalition.

Stanford University Engineer Mark Jacobson's Environmental Engineering group has done the computer modeling on converting the U.S. from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Jacobson, who can be seen on TED Talks, says it will take 6 million workers to do the transition to renewables. He says that the 4 million jobs that will be lost in the coal, oil and natural gas industries can be absorbed into the 6 million renewable energy workers.

Update: THE 1% LAND FUND CAMPAIGN

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) held their annual retreat at the Barona Resort during the end of January. The main topic of discussion was whether to place the Quality of Life half-cent sales tax on the ballot for 2016. This would fund transportation projects and the acquisition of land for mitigation and conservation. This ballot measure would require 66 2/3% voter approval to pass because it will be a new tax.

Sierra Club San Diego presented our 1% Land Fund concept at the retreat as an alternative funding strategy to acquire land for mitigation and conservation. During the month of January we sent an email about the 1% Land Fund to SANDAG Board members and Sierra Club endorsed candidates. We met with or talked to County Supervisors Dave Roberts and Ron Roberts, Mayor of Solana Beach Lesa Heebner, Mayor of Oceanside Jim Wood, Mayor of Carlsbad Matt Hall, Encinitas Council member Lisa Shaffer, Oceanside Council member Chuck Lowery, Coronado Council member Carrie Downey and Del Mar Council member Terry Sinnott.

We are proposing the 1% Land Fund so that voters can consider this method to

- *Protect the sources of San Diego's drinking water supply*
- *Protect local rivers, creeks, beaches and water sources*
- *Acquire/preserve/protect and maintain parks/natural areas and wildlife habitat*
- *Acquire and improve neighborhood parks and recreational areas*
- *Provide hiking and biking trails*
- *Protect San Diego's remaining forests and mountains from large-scale development*

We are proposing that the 1% Land Fund would be a charter amendment placed on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors. This will not raise taxes, but will require a reallocation of 1% of the property tax revenue, which would result in almost \$50 million per year for mitigation and conservation funding. Since this is not a tax, we believe this ballot measure will likely require only a majority approval rate from voters. A recent vote on a similar charter measure in Los Angeles to fund libraries called Measure "L" was approved by a majority of voters in March of 2011. We have asked our attorneys to provide us guidance on this question.

As of mid February, SANDAG has not made a decision on whether to go forward with the half-cent sales tax. We believe that the Chamber of Commerce will be doing a poll to figure out if 66 2/3% of voters will approve the half cent sales tax. The 1% Land Fund may be a viable alternative to fulfill the land mitigation requirement if the SANDAG board decides not to put their half-cent sales tax on the ballot or decides that the entire sales tax amount would be needed for transportation projects.

Our next steps are to hire an attorney, to collaborate with partner groups to educate the public and continue to talk with elected officials. We plan to get a ruling from our attorneys on whether the 1% Land Fund ballot measure would require a majority vote or 66 2/3% vote. We have asked the attorneys to give us sample ballot language for polling.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are raising money for a poll and outreach. We plan to contact over 30 potential partner groups. Do you belong to a group where we could speak about the 1% Land Fund or put a short article in a newsletter? We could use your help on our committee if you are interested in land conservation.

***If you would like more information, please contact Debbie Hecht
hecht.deb@gmail.com or 808-989-3222***

Classified Ads

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:

HSEditor@SierraSD.org

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

scoffice@SierraSD.org.

The current issue and past issues are available to read online at

http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/hi_sierran/

Submission Deadlines for Hi Sierran Newsletter:

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

Upcoming Issues:

May June 2015

Deadline is April 1st

To submit by email, please email to:

HSEditor@SierraSD.org.

Submissions are subject to approval for content and subject matter.

The Hi Sierran Committee is also looking for members to assist with writing, editing and producing an informative and interesting newsletter for our members!

Our Environmental Future

Sierra Club San Diego Works Hard to Protect What You Love

By Richard Miller, Development Coordinator

Thanks to the generous support from our members, for the past 67 years Sierra Club San Diego has been active in the preservation of our environment and in the welfare of our San Diego communities - preserving clean air and water, healthy ecosystems, and protecting special places while promoting livable, walkable, and workable communities. We strive to ensure that San Diego and Imperial Counties' water, air, wild-lands, beaches, transportation and communities are protected and safe for everyone.

San Diego County has a greater biodiversity than any other county in all of North America. Along with the rest of California, it is among the top 10 biodiversity regions on earth. Our mild, Mediterranean climate (hot dry summers and cool, wet winters) combined with varied landforms result in a large number of distinct habitats in San Diego County, including: beaches, salt marshes and lagoons, coastal sage scrub, grasslands, chaparral, oak woodlands, riparian, mixed conifer forests, freshwater marshes and meadows, and deserts. We have many endemic threatened and endangered species that reside here. These are native to our geographic area and are found nowhere else in the world.

Fighting for what we value is a huge expense, even though many experts, scientists, lawyers and volunteers provide their services to the Sierra Club for free. That's why we turn to our members every March to ask for your financial help that enables the Sierra Club San Diego to continue working on your behalf.

Less than \$2.00 of your membership dues are returned to the Chapter.

We depend heavily on generous contributions directly to the Chapter from members and friends.

Now is the time that you can show your appreciation for the work your Chapter does. Your support is an indication of how you value our organization, programs, and the successful work that we do on the local level.

100% of your gift will go to work right here in the San Diego Chapter.

Watch for your fund appeal letter to arrive in the next few days. But why wait? Help us out, right NOW by going to www.sandiego.sierraclub.org and clicking on the Donate Now button. This is a safe, secure, and easy way to contribute. Please donate and we will do the work!

Order Now!

Cotton Canvas Collection of Sierra Club Bags & Backpack



A collection of bags made from olive-colored, cotton canvas and featuring the original Sierra Club seal. Items pictured right to right: Roll Duffel Bag, Messenger Bag, Toiletry Bag (front), Rucksack (back) and Carry-All Duffel w/strap.

Visit our online store at <http://sierraclubsandiego.mycafecommerce.com> to purchase these great items and more!

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Tayler
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



Exploring Wind Caves, Arches and Slot Canyons

by Bill Tayler



down a dirt road through ocotillo and creosote on the way to the trailhead. Windows down, music loud and car tires aimed to catch every bump on the road – of course they were screaming. The screaming reached a crescendo as I pulled up to the edge of a steep drop-off, which is the parking area/trailhead for this hike. So began our trip in January when we took a group of students to explore the wind caves, arches and slot canyons in the eastern part of Anza-Borrego State Park.

The hike starts out with a somewhat difficult climb up along a ridge-

line that has stunning views of mountains to the west and more canyons to the east. And just about when the kids start to really complain about how tired they are, the trail flattens out in front of a rocky outcropping. The kids, who said they needed to rest, immediately scramble up the rocks como los borregos. So much for being tired.

From there, the trail veers west and descends toward a sandy wash. After scrambling down a hillside into the wash, it is a short hike to a shady alcove, carved out of the stone by millennia of floods, which is where we break for lunch. After lunch,

the hike takes us up the main wash, flanked on both sides by small canyons, wind caves and the occasional arch – all of which need to be explored.

Eventually, the long hike up the wash

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 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

starts to take its toll, and the kids begin to ask how long it will be until we reach the cars. Sometimes I look confused, look around, and tell them that we might be lost, but they never seem to believe me. And then, just when they are really getting tired, we reach the beginning of the slot canyon at the end of the wash. The mouth of the canyon is fairly wide, but it quickly narrows until it is necessary to turn sideways to get through a number of tight spots. After the wash, the slot canyon is cool, shady and – for the kids – a bit spooky and foreboding, unlike anything most of them have ever seen. Usually, at this point, the screams of excitement resume... and then, after about ten minutes of winding through the slot canyon, the kids look up and there on the edge of the rim – just where we left them – are the cars. The ride home is usually more quiet – tired and sleeping kids don't make much noise.



ICO volunteer Mike Gilligan and kids exploring the wind caves and arches

A carload of screaming kids early on a Saturday morning can be a very pleasant experience – when their screaming comes from the excitement of bouncing



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@SierraSD.org

Development Coordinator: Richard Miller

email: richard.miller@sierraclub.org

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

Vice-Chair: Joe Zechman
619-709-6268
joezechman@sierrasd.org

Secretary: Karenlee Robinson
619-572-8451
klrobinson@sierrasd.org

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

Nick Ervin
858-761-1659
desertguy1@sbcglobal.net

Diane Nygaard
760-724-3887
dandd2@peoplepc.com

Paul Webb
pbwebb@sierrasd.org
Davin Widgerow
dwidgerow@sierrasd.org

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

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

Chair: Nick Ervin
Desertguy1@sbcglobal.net

Forest & Wilderness

Meets 1st Wednesday at 6:30 pm.
Cindy Buxton
(619) 934-0323 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

Wildlife

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

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, call for information.

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

Bus Trips

Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Jim Jafolla
sd.col.training@gmail.com

Leadership Review & Safety Committee

Michael Taylor (619 -948-2062)
sd.lrscc@gmail.com

Pacific Crest Trail

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

Ski

Mike Fry (858) 748-5166

Wednesday in the Mountains

Merrilyn Pope 858-750-3807
merrilyn@sbcglobal.net

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 1st Tuesday

Chair: Davin Widgerow
dwidgerow@sierrasd.org

FOSTER LODGE COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Wednesday 6:30pm

Chair: Paul Webb
pbwebb@sierrasd.org

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

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

San Diego

Skip Forsht
info@wildernessbasics.com
<http://www.wildernessbasics.com>

Escondido

John Tomlinson (858) 486-4853
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

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Bicycle

Call for meeting information. Jerry Fitzsimmons
(858) 224-3437 Membership@sdsccs.org.
www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/bicycle

Family

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

Photography

www.sandiego.sierraclub.org/photoclub

Social- formerly Singles

Michael Taylor (619)-421-3821
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

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

rebsd@yahoo.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Fundraising/Membership

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

Hi Sierran Newsletter

Call for meeting information (858) 569-6005

Chair: Debbie Hecht

hecht.deb@gmail.com

Managing Editor: Judy Thomas

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

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP

See the Coastal North County web page for meeting info.

Chair: Dave Grubb (760) 753-0273

davidgrubb@sbcglobal.net

LEGAL COMMITTEE

Contact Chair for time and location.

Chair: Davin Widgerow

dwidgerow@sierrasd.org

SIERRA TALKS, MONTHLY PROGRAM

Chair: Ernest "EL" Lotecka

(760) 533-2725

sdwalks@interactor.cc