Chapter & Group Executive Committee Elections are Underway - VOTE!

A Democratic Sierra Club Demands Grassroots Participation

The annual election for the Chapter’s Executive Committee and the North County and North County Coastal (Coasters) Groups Executive Committees are now underway. Your participation is critical for a strong Chapter. All Chapter members are eligible to vote in the Chapter Executive Committee elections. Please check the ballot instructions to see if you are eligible to vote in the Group Executive Committee elections. Groups are specific geographical areas and not all Chapter members belong to a Group.

This year members will be able to cast their ballots electronically or by using the enclosed paper ballot. If we receive both electronic and paper ballots for the same membership number, only the electronic ballot will be counted.

To Cast Your Ballot Electronically Online, go to: sandiegosierraclub.org/vote/

Each candidate provides a statement about themselves and their views. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Then make your choice and cast your vote!

The Chapter membership will elect two (2) Chapter Executive Committee members. The two candidates receiving the highest vote will be elected to three-year terms.

The North County Group membership will elect three (3) Group Executive Committee members to two-year terms. The North County Coastal (Coasters) Group membership will elect four (4) Group Executive Committee members to two-year terms.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation.

In a typical year less than 5% of eligible members vote in the Executive Committee elections. Our grassroots structure is strengthened when our participation is high. Therefore, your participation is needed in the voting process.

VOTING DEADLINE: 3 pm Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

Welcome to Charles Rilli

Welcome to the Chapter’s new Associate Community Organizer, Charles Rilli. Charles will be leading the Chapters organizing, educational strategies and outdoor activities focusing on land use, parks and open space preservation primarily in south San Diego County.

Charles began his career organizing in South Florida during his time as a University of Miami student. While living there, he became very passionate about environmental protection, specifically concerned with climate change and its effects on his community. Upon graduation, Charles moved to New York City to obtain his Master's in Campaign Management. He has worked on close to two dozen political campaigns, in addition to organizing his community for various issue-based campaigns across the city.

One of Charles’ favorite career experiences is when he led NYC’s Department of Sanitation Curbside Composting Education Program in Queens, NY in 2022. This pilot program educated residents on the benefits of composting and led to an expansion of curbside composting program to all five boroughs.

Charles is an avid supporter of the Sierra Club and excited to take on this new chapter in San Diego, California. Charles first immersed himself in politics because of his concern with climate change, and is excited to join an organization with individuals who have similar concerns and a desire to take action to save our planet. He is an approachable, outgoing leader who is ecstatic to get involved in the San Diego area and make a positive impact in the world. In his free time he enjoys spending time near the ocean, hiking, and running.
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Hi SIERRAN
Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

A View from the Chair

Lisa Ross

Some of the nation’s most powerful tools to protect biodiversity, tackle climate change and challenge environmental injustice are under attack from all sides with a plethora of legislative attempts to weaken The California Environmental Act (CEQA) and its national counterpart the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) through legislation and potential ballot measures.

Ironically, California which has led the nation in environmental protection may now be on the forefront of dismantling the very protections that citizens count on to keep our air and water clean, prevent destruction from natural disasters, ensure livable neighborhoods for all, and reduce greenhouse emissions.

In California, the cynical use of several hot-button issues in the service of sowing division among environmentalists is having an unsavory effect on advocacy groups, aiding legislators who blame CEQA for the State’s ills. The problem of affordable and inclusionary housing, forest wildfire threats, meager public transportation and slow transition to alternative energy lead the way as excuses to deprive citizens of their rights to challenge environmentally unsound projects and deprive them of full disclosure of environmental impacts.

The San Diego Chapter has supported infill and larger-scale development projects through advocacy efforts, successful litigation and participating in planning with the City and County up against powerful well-funded special development interests, ensuring infill projects are close to real or projected transportation corridors and away from high fire risk areas.

Our successes have been precedent setting in San Diego and a testament to how CEQA works for all Californians which over the past decades has resulted in preventing construction in high fire areas, preserving 1000’s of acres of endangered habitat areas, and reducing green-house gas emissions. Most of these cases have been resolved through CEQA settlement negotiations.

This Chapter does not take litigation lightly. A thorough vetting process before landing on the desk of the National Sierra Club Litigation panel that ultimately must green light any lawsuit includes consensus from our committee leadership and legal analysis from our attorneys to determine if other avenues could be pursued, the likelihood of litigation success, the degree of environmental harm and if democratic principles and lawful approval processes were followed.

Let’s not be fooled. Stay Green.
San Diego Chapter Executive Committee Statement

Lisa Ross

Lisa Ross currently serves as Sierra Club San Diego Chapter Chair, elected to the Executive Committee in 2019.

“It has been a pleasure serving the Sierra Club in a leadership position during our 75th Anniversary year.”

She is a writer, communications strategist and fine art photographer. Over 30 years, she has helped shape San Diego environmental and planning public policy through advocacy, political campaigning, and grass-roots organizing.

Recognized by San Diego Press Club and Society for Professional Journalism, her oped’s, many on environmental planning, have appeared in the country’s most influential newspapers and on public radio. This year, her commentary as Sierra Club Chair opposing the “Save Our Sequoias Act” published in the San Diego Union-Tribune has received another San Diego Press Club Award.

Lisa has managed field operations, fundraising, communications and policy for local and national campaigns. In 2019 she directed communications for SAS (Stop All Sprawl): Yes On A, No on B.

She was a strategist for some of San Diego’s important land-use ballot measures that created habitat preserves while allowing clustered housing and commercial development.

Lisa was a Carmel Valley Planning Board Member, Del Mar Mesa Planning Board Chair and is founding co-chair of POPs Protect Our Preserves San Diego. She is a member of San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action, Shaw Valley Wildlife Coalition, and Friends of Del Mar Mesa.

“The next 3 years presents enormous challenges: standing up to development pressure on our habitat preserves, ensuring local chapter autonomy, electing trustworthy public officials, protecting CEQA, and furthering climate goals. I hope to be here to do the work.”

www.lisarosscommunications.com

North County Coastal Candidate Statements

Harold Standerfer

Harold Standerfer is seeking a second term as a representative to the North County Coastal Group (Coasters) Ex-Com. He has been active in the group Political Committee (PolCom) for the past several years, serving as chairperson for the last three election cycles. He is an ardent environmentalist who has focused on election of like minded individuals to public office at the local, county, state and federal level through the PolCom. He has been active in supporting efforts to bring community choice energy to San Diego County through meeting with elected officials and communication with municipal staff members. He also was involved in supporting efforts to enact reach codes to further building electrification. In addition to his volunteer work with the Sierra Club, he is a member of the local Democratic Party Club and serves as a Commissioner on the Mobility and Traffic Safety Commission for the City of Encinitas. He also volunteers on the San Diego Building Electrification Coalition, concentrating on bringing the electrification message to local school districts through contact and education with school board members and administrators.

He is a 12 year resident of Encinitas where he resides with his wife and two dogs.

Paige DeCino

For the last 8 years I have been working with the local Carlsbad Sierra Club team to promote clean energy in our area. We helped educate our residents of the benefits of community choice energy and generated hundreds of letters of support for what is now the Clean Energy Alliance. I serve on its Community Advisory Committee. Our team is currently working to promote building electrification, better transportation and mobility choices and improving our Climate Action Plan.

On the conservation front, I manage www.preservecalavera.org Preserve Calavera’s water quality monitoring program covering Carlsbad’s watersheds with a team of about 20 volunteers. We do standard chemical, physical and biological analysis of the water and have expanded
Entertaining, Poignant, Educational, Inspirational, Certainly Beautiful to Listen to and Watch

Produced By Sierra Club Seal Society Of San Diego

A SEA LION SYMPHONY

An Enchanting Film on the Life of the La Jolla Sea Lions set to Live Music and Poetry

Music
Composed/Conducted
By David Bowser

Drone, Video, Editing
By Emus Communications

Poetry
By Carol Archibald

November 3rd & 4th at 7 pm

Congregational Church of La Jolla
1216 Cave Street, La Jolla, CA
Admission $40
Q&A to follow film

VISIT THE WEBSITE BELOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR USE THE QR CODE:
https://donate.sierrasd.org/product/a-sea-lion-symphony
Sierra Club Seal Society of San Diego Announces The Premiere of 
“A SEA LION SYMPHONY”
A Video on the Life of Sea Lions set to Music

A year ago in 2022, when I was teaching visitors about the behavior and biology of sea lions at the La Jolla sea lion rookery, I ran into Dr. David Bowser, an accomplished Composer and Conductor from Toronto Mozart Players, a subdivision of the famed Toronto Symphony. David had become immersed in the beauty and intelligence of the sea lions and their social milieu, in which adult males and females work together to protect the colony and its pups. This rookery, where about 40 pups are born yearly in the wild, is the only sea lion rookery on the entire California coastline.

A couple of weeks later, Dr. Bowser emailed me a proposal to compose music to accompany a video, which the Sierra Club Seal Society would produce about sea lions living in their natural habitat. He presented his proposal to the Leadership Team of the Sierra Club Seal Society and they were in agreement that this was a very worthwhile endeavor. The purpose of the project is to educate people about the importance of sea lions in the oceanic ecosystem, and the urgent need to protect them in a time of warmer ocean water and climate change.

A Sierra Club Seal Society volunteer professional videographer and drone expert, Paul Emus, set to work to produce the video, assisted by Dr. Bowser and myself. It took us a year but the result is a beautifully-wrought video and musical accompaniment depicting the life of sea lions from dawn to dusk, including a live birth, pups nursing and playing in tide pools, graceful underwater swimming, their amazing surfing ability, and males fighting for territory. Dr. Bowser has composed the music to match the various scenes shown in the video.

This world premiere presentation, A Sea Lion Symphony, depicts the video shown on a large screen, a String Quintet of accomplished musicians playing live on stage and conducted by Dr. Bowser, as well as my reading poetry live. The entire production has been developed and executed by volunteers. This fund-raising event is scheduled on November 3rd and 4th at the Congregational Church of La Jolla at 7 pm. Just click on the QR code on the poster shown here to schedule your admission.

This event is memorable and will leave you in awe of the beauty and intelligence these animals possess. You won’t be disappointed. I envision you will be captivated by the various antics, the adorable-ness of the pups, the devotion of moms and the protection of the bulls.

Carol Archibald, Docent
Leadership Team
Sierra Club Seal Society
to test for eDNA and microfibers. I also work on wildlife movement surveys, grunion monitoring, and whatever other citizen science projects crop up. In 2016 I co-founded the only California Naturalist certification class in San Diego county. We just graduated our 7th group of naturalists.

I am up for reelection to the Coaster’s Executive Committee and seek your vote.

Amelie Catheline

Amidst the myriad environmental challenges, such as climate change and biodiversity loss, I show my passion for nature by taking tangible actions across my personal and professional spheres. I am locally engaged and serving on the board of the Solana Beach Eco Rotary Club since 2019 and EcoFest Encinitas since 2020. My focal areas encompass water conservation, food waste, and zero waste initiatives. Since my induction into the Sierra Club in 2017, I’ve been an active contributor to the North County Coastal Group, assuming a role on the Executive Committee. This role facilitates connections with coastal communities and local entities, effectively extending the Sierra Club’s mission of planetary conservation. As a scientist with a PhD in chemistry, community leader, and environmental advocate, I show an unyielding desire to foster a greener, healthier world and my involvement in local and global projects attests to my dedication to advancing environmental projects. I wish to pursue my role as a member of the NCCG Executive Committee and continue the advocacy and education needed to protect our environment. Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Collins

I’ve been a member of the Sierra Club since 1993 because I believe in its vision and principles: to enjoy, preserve and protect the planet. Since 2018, I have been a member of the Coasters Political Endorsements Committee. I also co-chaired the Sierra Club Oceanside Team for four years. Professionally, I have successfully worked to enact state and local policies to increase residential energy efficiency and sustainability for over 30 years.

Collective action is the most effective way to bring about the changes needed to respond to the climate crisis and environmental degradation. Participating in the Sierra Club, one of the largest and most recognizable environmental organizations in the country, is a powerful way to take collective action. We need to transition to a clean energy economy. The technology is already here, it’s cost-effective and readily available. We need to advocate for and enact the policies locally and nationally that will move us toward driving down carbon emissions so we can build a better future. Equally important, we need to build resilience into our communities to withstand the effects of the climate extremes we are already experiencing.

I also believe that Sierra Club must work toward a more equitable, inclusive and just society. We have recognized for a long time that the most vulnerable people with the fewest resources are also the most negatively impacted by bad environmental policies. I support the Sierra Club examining our own history and our country’s policies that have disproportionately deprived people of color, women and other minorities of equal rights, safe drinking water, healthy air and an equitable share of our country’s prosperity.

I would be honored to continue to serve on the Coasters ExCom and work for local North Coast communities that are sustainable and resilient. Thanks for your consideration!

North County Group Candidate Statements

Joe Houde

I am passionate about resolving our climate crisis. I am a President of North County Climate Change Alliance and represent NCCCA at the San Diego Green New Deal Alliance. NCCCA offers monthly climate webinars, holds in-person networking meetings, maintains Alta Vista Gardens in Vista’s Brengle Terrace Park and lobbies for climate action and equity at north county city council meetings. I am Chair of Excom for North County Group of the Sierra Club. I am also a Climate Reality Leader. In these various roles I make frequent oral
Candidate Statements continued from pg. 6

and written comments to various government agencies and boards. Professionally I have led seminars in many countries and universities with combined audiences of tens of thousands of adults.

As a long-time Sierra Club member, I have enjoyed trips into the Grand Canyon, the Adirondacks, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, the Atchafalaya Swamp and more. As a member of Outward Bound, I have enjoyed mountaineering in the Rockies, hiking and climbing in Joshua Tree, rafting thru Cataract Canyon and sailing in the Florida Keys. I have also trekked to the base camp at Mount Everest, through the Okavango Delta and rafted on the Zambesi near Victoria Falls. I love being out in nature.

I live in Vista and ask for your vote to join the Ex-Com for the North County Inland Chapter.

Rochelle Hancock

Thirty-plus years ago, I learned about the Sierra Club, and knew I wanted to be part of this organization. I’ve been a member for half my life, and I served as the Treasurer of the San Diego Chapter for two years. Now I serve as an interim member of the Executive Committee for the San Diego Chapter. As a child, I learned to love nature spending summers at our cabin in the Colorado mountains. As an adult, I have come to realize that this special world should not be taken for granted. Our planet needs our appreciation, our respect and most of all, our protection from those who would harm and exploit its incredible resources. The Sierra Club is a powerful force and voice in the world. It’s size, resources and organizational abilities enable it to address environmental issues on every level, from local to national. I can think of no other organization I would rather be involved in, and so I am running to continue to serve on the Executive Committee. I believe my experience with National office, my understanding of Sierra Club financial processes, and my administrative skills benefit the Chapter.

My professional background is in finance, specifically banking and research grant administration for the University of California and San Diego State University. I live in Ramona with my husband, two horses, four goats, two dogs, two cats, and a turtle.

Jeff Schmidt

Jeff Schmidt asks for your vote to join the Executive Committee for the North County Inland Chapter.

I have lived in the San Diego area for over thirty years and in Poway for the past ten years. I am passionate about conservation of our remaining Coastal Sage Scrub habitat and about the living things found within. I have been a Sierra Club Member for more than thirty years, and active in conservation advocacy off and on for that time.

I have always been drawn to the outdoors, and as an avid trail runner I enjoy the solitude and tranquility gained from being out in our natural areas. I believe that these areas are vital not only for the survival of our local and diverse wildlife, but also for our own mental and physical well-being. Fortunately, most of our communities have a well thought out conservation plan that if executed properly will meet these needs. Unfortunately, these plans are being subjugated due to the over-inflated value of homes going into open spaces and the underappreciated value of these natural areas. For this reason, I have made it my mission to challenge local officials to apply the habitat conservation plan as it was intended.

I started the Facebook site entitled “Save Van Dam Peak” almost ten years ago to raise awareness and appreciation for the amazing wild ecosystem found within a short distance from my home. Just over one year ago I founded Preserve Wild Poway, a nonprofit public benefit organization. Participating in community and regional planning processes, and collaboration with other stakeholders we can fight for the preservation of wonderful natural areas not just in Poway but the region. I believe that our conservation plans have been losing importance, are under enforced and need grassroots involvement to get back on track. There is no time to delay. Once it’s gone, it’s gone forever.
Zeroing in on Zero Waste - 
Your Questions Answered

San Diego Sierra Club Zero Waste Subcommittee
In this issue of the HiSierran, we'll discuss organic waste recycling guidelines and answer a composting question submitted by a Sierra Club member. Please email your questions about zero waste and related issues to hzerowastesdsc@gmail.com and we will answer them in future issues of the HiSierran. Zero Waste Subcommittee Zoom meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM. If you would like to attend or join the subcommittee, please send an email to hzerowastesdsc@gmail.com.

Organic Waste Recycling
California State Senate Bill 1383 requires the reduction of organic waste disposed of in landfills. Examples of organic waste include food scraps, food-soiled paper, yard trimmings, and nonhazardous wood waste. When organic waste left in landfills decomposes, it releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming. Organic waste that is diverted from landfills is used to produce compost that can be added to soils. In some cases, recycled organic waste produces methane that is captured and used to power vehicles and generate energy.

To comply with SB 1381, the City of San Diego has introduced a new Organic Waste Recycling program that supports the City’s Zero Waste and Climate Action Plan goals. New green bins for organic waste recycling have been delivered to over 250,000 homes with curbside collection in San Diego and collection services are now weekly. More information can be found at https://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/sb1383

A Sierra Club member asked “Green bins have been rolled out for single family homes in San Diego. What about people who live in apartments and condos?” In both the City and County of San Diego, apartments and condos are serviced by private haulers (WM, EDCO, Republic, etc.). These haulers are aware of the requirements for diverting organic waste from landfills. Your landlord, property manager/management company, or HOA is responsible for providing access to a green organic waste recycling bin.

Useful guidelines for organic waste recycling:
Only place food scraps, food-soiled paper, yard trimmings, and nonhazardous wood waste in green bins.

Painted/treated wood, glass and pet waste do not go in the green bin.

Plastic bags are not allowed in green bins, since they do not decompose and would contaminate the finished compost product.

Do NOT place products labeled “compostable” or “biodegradable” in your green bin or blue bin. These bioplastic materials, such as PLA (PolyLactic Acid) and #7 labeled plastic, are used to make food packaging, takeout containers, coffee pods, cups, plates and service wear. These “compostable” or “biodegradable” products must go in the trash because they break down too slowly in composting facilities.

Single use utensils: wood and bamboo can go in the green bin. ALL plastic utensils must go in the trash (even #5 plastic) because they are too small to be properly sorted at materials recovery facilities.

To avoid odors in your green bin, you can:
Store food scraps in your refrigerator or freezer and place them in your green bin on collection day.
Drain liquids from food waste before adding them to your green bin.
Keep your green bin in a shaded area with the lid closed.
Wrap food scraps in paper before tossing them into the green bin.
Rinse your green bin with mild soap and water when necessary. Make sure to pour dirty water onto your lawn and not into the street gutter, which connects to storm drains.
Support Your Passion for a Just and Sustainable World

Planning an estate gift to the Sierra Club is an affordable way to sustain our environment for decades to come and to inspire the next generation of activists like you.

Because most planned gifts are given after your lifetime, your current budget isn’t affected. Many gifts are easy to make. The most popular gifts—beneficiary designations or including us in your will—can be made by updating a form or adding a sentence to your will. Turn this page over to find out more.

No matter the size, your gift to the Sierra Club makes a world of difference. Your generosity strengthens our mission to protect and restore the natural world, while giving you the joy of making a powerful impact on our movement to foster safe communities for all.

CREATE A LASTING LEGACY

Making a gift to the Sierra Club is easier than you may think. To learn more about the benefits of gift planning and explore giving options that could work for you, contact us today.

YOU’RE IN GOOD COMPANY

When you create a legacy with Sierra Club you follow in the footsteps of Rachel Carson and many other forward-thinking supporters who are deeply committed to protecting our world’s natural resources for future generations. Legacy gifts to Sierra Club or Sierra Club Foundation to benefit the Chapter are all recognized with membership in the Rachel Carson Society.
Chapter & Group Executive Committee Ballot Instructions

This year we are offering members the ability to cast their ballot(s) online. (See Below)

All Chapter members are eligible to vote in the Chapter Executive Committee election. Where you live determines if you can vote in the Group Executive Committee election. If you do not live in one of the Group cities listed below, you are NOT eligible to vote in the Group elections. If you live outside of a Group city, but have opted to be a member of a different Group, please vote in that Group’s election.

If you live in these cities, please vote in the North County Group election!

Bonsall, Escondido, Fallbrook, Oceanside zip code 92058, Pala, Palomar Mtn., Pauma Valley, Poway, Ramona, San Diego zip codes 92127, 92128 & 92198, San Marcos, Santa Ysabel, Vista, and Valley Center.

If you live in these cities, please vote in the North County Coastal (Coasters) Group election!

Cardiff, Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Oceanside zip codes 92052, 92054, 92056 & 92057, Rancho Santa Fe, and Solana Beach.

Do I have a Single or Joint membership? The mailing label on this newsletter will indicate whether your household has a single (“SNGL”) or joint (“JNT”) membership. This will be found above your name and before your 8-digit membership number.

Examples:

JNT 12345678 = Joint membership, Membership number (8-digits).
SNGL 12345678 = Single membership, Membership number (8-digits).

How to Vote:

ONLINE: go to http://sandiegosierraclub.org/vote/

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

Executive Committee Candidate Statements can be viewed at http://sandiegosierraclub.org/executive-committee-candidate-statements/

Problems or questions? Please email the Chapter office at scoffice@sierrasd.org or call 858-569-6005.

All ballots must be received by 3 p.m., Tuesday, November 7, 2023. Paper ballots should be mailed or hand delivered to:
Elections-San Diego Chapter Sierra Club, 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101,
San Diego, CA 92111.
You must write your membership number on the outside of the mailing envelope!

Remember To Vote
Chapter and Group Executive Committee Ballots

All Chapter members are eligible to vote in the Chapter Executive Committee election.

San Diego Chapter Executive Committee Ballot
Vote for no more than two (2) candidates, including write-ins, by marking the box next to a candidate’s name, including write-ins. For JOINT memberships please use the second set of boxes to vote. (The order of candidates’ names was randomly chosen.)

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 2

☐ ☐ Lisa Ross
☐ ☐ Write In __________________________
☐ ☐ Write In __________________________

North County Group Executive Committee Ballot
Vote for no more than three (3) candidates, including write-ins, by marking the box next to a candidate’s name, including write-ins. For JOINT memberships please use the second set of boxes to vote. (The order of candidates’ names was randomly chosen.)

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 3

☐ ☐ Joe Houde ☐ ☐ Rochelle Hancock
☐ ☐ Jeff Schmidt ☐ ☐ Write In __________________________

If you live in these cities, please vote!
Bonsall, Escondido, Fallbrook, Oceanside zip code 92058, Pala, Palomar Mtn., Pauma Valley, Poway, Ramona, San Diego zip codes 92127, 92128 & 92198, San Marcos, Santa Ysabel, Vista, and Valley Center.

North County Coastal (Coasters) Group Executive Committee Ballot
Vote for no more than four (4) candidates, including write-ins, by marking the box next to a candidate’s name, including write-ins. For JOINT memberships please use the second set of boxes to vote. (The order of candidates’ names was randomly chosen.)

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 4

☐ ☐ Harold Standerfer ☐ ☐ Barbara Collins
☐ ☐ Paige DeCino ☐ ☐ Write In __________________________
☐ ☐ Amelie Catheline ☐ ☐ Write In __________________________

If you live in these cities, please vote!
Cardiff, Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Oceanside zip codes 92052, 92054, 92056 & 92057, Rancho Santa Fe, and Solana Beach.
This comprehensive course consists of weekly Tuesday night classes and four 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
wildernessbasics.com
Escondido
wbc.sierraclubncg.org

WBC Starting Dates:
Escondido - January 9th
San Diego - January 16th

The Wilderness Basics Course: Preparing Me for My Dream Job

Veronica Giancola, WBC Class of 2004

As a working professional, I spent most of my time in an office, behind a desk, either preparing for or attending meetings. I cherished my weekends and vacations when my friends and I would backpack, camp and hike in Yosemite, Anza Borrego Desert, Sequoia, Kings Canyon and more. A retired friend of mine mentioned a backpacking class she had taken through the Sierra Club. She thought it would be perfect for me, knowing how much I loved backpacking and the great outdoors. Thanks to her, I found the Wilderness Basics Course (WBC as we fondly call it) and my life has never been the same since! That was January 2004.

Although I was an experienced backpacker, I learned something new every week that made me look back and wonder how I survived in the wilderness all those years without this class. I knew I would never step foot on a trail again without my Ten Essentials. Immediately, when the 10-week class ended, I joined WBC staff. I wanted more of this exciting class and to spend more time with the amazing staff of volunteers who ran the course.

I had finally found my tribe!
I tell people, “I took WBC in 2004, and never left”. The wealth of knowledge, expertise, and passion from the staff and leaders made me eager to become an active part of this incredible program. I jumped right in and helped as often as possible. With the encouragement of many staff members, I became a COL 2 Leader and eventually led Bus Trips and Sierra Social outings. The most fun was being an emcee at WBC San Diego for a few years.

The friends I’ve made through WBC, and the memories we’ve created will last a lifetime. After almost 20 years of being part of this amazing class, I finally achieved my ultimate dream job as an Interpretive Park Ranger in Olympic National Park. I no longer sit behind a desk and dream about getting outside. My office is now a trail in the forest where Mother Nature makes all the rules! It’s better than I ever imagined!

WBC prepared me for this adventure, and I am eternally grateful. I’ll see you on the trails.
With Gratitude: My Father’s Gift, My Father’s Legacy

by Bill Tayler

I remember the first time my Dad took me camping. It was around 1974 at a quiet campground on the shore of a small lake in southern Michigan. For me it was perfect – frogs, turtles and snakes along the shore, and plenty of bluegill to catch with the cast of a rod. I fell in love with camping right away. The last time Dad and I went camping was in early May. We tent camped for three nights in Sedona and hiked several miles every day. At nearly 87 years old, he was still going strong.

In the 50 years between those two trips, Dad and I took hundreds of hikes and dozens of camping trips together. Since 2009, many of those trips were with ICO as Dad became one of our most active volunteers, assisting on more than 260 ICO trips. Dad found them a meaningful way to connect kids with nature while also spending time with me. In 2019, Dad’s extensive work with ICO was recognized by the Sierra Club when he was given the Club’s Special Service Award at their annual awards banquet in Oakland.

When Dad and I hiked up beautiful Long Canyon in Sedona on May 3rd, I did not know it would be our last hike together. A few weeks later Dad was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer, and he died on June 18. His death came as a shock not only to me and my family, but also to all of those in our ICO family – adults and kids alike – who knew him and loved him.

Personally, I am immensely grateful that when I was a child, Dad made the time to instill in me his love of nature and the outdoors. And, knowing now what his condition was in May, I am so very grateful that we had the chance to spend that time together – Grateful to have that hike as one of my last and best memories of the man who always gave so much of himself to me, and who taught me to do the same for all the kids I have known over the years through ICO. Every ICO trip I lead and every child I mentor will be part of his legacy. And I know that he would be both grateful for and proud of that.
Classified Ads

Treasurer Needed

The San Diego Chapter is looking for a Treasurer.

1. You should be familiar with nonprofit accounting and QuickBooks and be able to spend 12 hours a month.
2. Work well with others and advise the Chapter Finance and Executive Committee.
3. Prepare financial statements, reports, and assist in budgeting.
4. Monitor and evaluate club activities including fundraising and expenditures.
5. Provide and maintain financial records.

For more information, please email scoffice@sierrasd.org or call the office at 858-569-6005.

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
Send ad to:
info@thomascreative.com

Save Trees-Opt Out Of The HiSierran Paper Edition

Enjoy The Full Color Online Edition

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 the Chapter office:
858-569-6005 or scoffice@sierrasd.org

Submission Deadlines for HiSierran Newsletter:
If you would like to submit an advertisement, story or article please remember these important deadlines:

Upcoming Issues:
January/February/March 2024 Deadline December 1, 2023.

To submit by email, please email to both:
thomascreative2@cox.net
richard.miller@sierraclub.org
Submissions are subject to approval for content and subject matter.

I.T. Technicians Wanted

The Chapter does as much as it does because many volunteers donate generous amounts of time to making it all work. We can always use more hands. The Chapter will soon be moving to new office space, and we need IT people to help us in determining what we need, set up our computers, and what other tasks we need to do.

If you can help, contact Richard Miller at 858-569-6005 or richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Like What You Are Reading?
Support your local Chapter’s work in the San Diego region!

☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $200 ☐ Surprise us! $________

Please make your check payable to Sierra Club San Diego or use your credit card.

Please select payment method:
☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card Number: ____________________________ CVV:_____
Exp. date_______ Name on card:______________________

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Contributions to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible as they support the Sierra Club’s effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts

Return instructions:
Cut out this form and mail it with your check to:

SIERRA CLUB SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, Ste #101
San Diego, California 92111-1315

Donate online:
http://sandiegosierraclub.org/donate
Committees & Contact Information

Due to COVID most meetings have moved on-line. Please check our Activities Calendar (http://sandiegosierraclub.org/news/activities-calendar/) on how you can participate.

CHAPTER STAFF
Chapter Director Richard Miller 858-569-6005 richard.miller@sierraclub.org
Administrative Assistant: Marty Marquez 858-569-6005 martha.marquez@sierraclub.org
Associate Community Organizer: Charles Rilli charles.rilli@sierraclub.org
Conservation Organizer: Karl Aldinger karl.aldinger@sierraclub.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office
Chair: Lisa Ross (2023) lisa@lisaross.com www.lisaross.com
Vice-Chair: Ron Askeland (2025) ron.askeland@gmail.com
Secretary: Rochelle Hancock (2024) Rae_1024@yahoo.com
Interim Treasurer: Rochelle Hancock (2024) Rae_1024@yahoo.com
North County Group Rep: Pam Heatherington pjheatherington@gmail.com
North County Coastal Group Rep: Sally Prendergast sallyp123@mac.com
Susan Baldwin (2025) susanbaldwin@aol.com
Alan Geraci (2025) alan@alangeraci.com
Dale Russell (2023) Dalerussell05@fulbrightmail.org
Agatha Wein (2024) agathawein@gmail.com

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP (COASTERS)
Contact Chair or check website for meeting information.
Chair: Sally Prendergast sallyp123@mac.com

NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)
Meets 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm currently via Zoom https://sierraclubncg.org
Chair: Joe Houde joe@ecinstitute.com

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Meets 2nd Monday at 6:30pm
Chair: Ron Askeland ron.askeland@gmail.com
Transportation
Meets 3rd Wednesday at 5pm
David Grubb davidzgrubb@gmail.com
Zero-Waste
Meets 1st Monday at 6:30 pm
Contact the Committee at zerowastesdsc@gmail.com

SEAL SOCIETY
For meeting and docent information:
Ellen Shively ellsneshively@sbcglobal.net

POLITICAL COMMITTEE
Meets 4th Thursday at 6:30pm
Chair: Stephanie Peck sapeck425@gmail.com

OUTINGS COMMITTEE
Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location.
Chair: Michael Taylor Leadership Review & Safety Committee
Chair: Kris Watkin sd.lrc@gmail.com

Bus Trips
Mike Fry mnfry@cox.net

Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)
Stefanie Maio sd.col.training@gmail.com

North County Group Outings Leadership Training (COL)
Kelly Conrad nccol.training@gmail.com

Pacific Crest Trail
Rob Langsdorf SDSCPCTS@yahoo.com

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)
Held annually beginning in January
San Diego
Kristi Andersen info@wildernessbasics.com www.wildernessbasics.com
Escondido
Yosina Lissebeck ylissebeck@san.rr.com www.wbc.sandiegosierraclub.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES
Bicycle
Call for meeting information. Jerry Fitzsimmons (858) 224-3437 Membership@sdschs.org www.sandiegosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/bicycle

Photography
https://sdphotoclub.com
Alexander Kunz mail@alex-kunz.com

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)
Check website for meeting information. www.sandiegosierraclub.org
Chair: Bill Tayler, btayler@taylerlaw.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEES
Fundraising/Membership
Richard Miller (858) 569-6005 richard.miller@sierraclub.org

Hi Sierran Newsletter
Managing Editor: Judy Thomas thomascreative@cox.net

Ensure your environmental legacy by naming Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now. You can hold on to your assets for as long as you need them and you can change your beneficiaries at any time.

If you have named Sierra Club or your Chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today

LORI SULLIVAN
Director of Gift Planning 2101 Webster St, Suite 1300 Oakland, CA 94612
(800) 932-4270 gift.planning@sierraclub.org myplan.sierraclub.org
San Diego Chapter
8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101
San Diego, CA 92111
On the north side & just west of the 163.
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm
Phone: 858-569-6005
www.sandiegosierraclub.org

2024 SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS

S I E R R A  C L U B

ORDER FORM

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<th>ITEM</th>
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<td>Send your check to: Sierra Club San Diego, 8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, Ste # 101, San Diego, CA 92111. Save shipping costs by picking up at our office. To pay by credit card go to <a href="http://donate.sierrasd.org/">http://donate.sierrasd.org/</a> or call 858-569-6005</td>
<td>$14.36</td>
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SHIP TO:

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City __________ State ______ Zip ______
Phone (_____) ____________________________
Email ____________________________

Sales Tax 7.75%
Shipping: $4.50 for first calendar and $1.50 for each additional calendar. Please make checks payable to “Sierra Club San Diego”

GRAND TOTAL: $14.36

Check out just some of our Sierra Club products at a great price:
http://donate.sierrasd.org/products

Green umbrella with Sierra Club logo. Collapses to 12” making it easy to carry and stow in car, home or backpack. Includes case sleeve. What a great way to show your support for the environment.
Price: $9.95

Travel Blanket
Price: $14.95
This fleece travel blanket features the Sierra Club logo and comes in blue, white and red plaid. It features a packing strap when not in use with a convenient carrying strap.
Dimensions: 40” wide x 60” long
Dimensions Rolled: 11” long by 6” in diameter
Color: Blue, White and Red Plaid

E-conscious organic/recycled ball cap with John Muir silhouette and Sierra Club San Diego.
Price: $20.00
Emerald Forest color cap with oyster colored stitching.