

Zeroing in on Zero Waste Your Questions Answered

San Diego Sierra Club Zero Waste Subcommittee

With this issue of the HiSierran, we are introducing a new section dedicated to answering your questions about zero waste. Please email your questions about zero waste and related issues to zerowastesdsc@gmail.com and we will answer them in future issues of the HiSierran.

Our first question is ***"I want to do my part to recycle, but how do I know what to put in my blue bin and should I wash material before putting it in the bin?"*** For the answer, we reached out to Steve Weihe, Recycling Specialist and TRUE Zero Waste Advisor with the County of San Diego Department of Public Works.

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Keep Recyclables:



1. EMPTY

NO FOOD OR MINIMAL
FOOD RESIDUE.



2. DRY

NO LIQUIDS REMAINING.



3. LOOSE

DO NOT BAG
RECYCLABLES.

Chapter Executive Committee Nominations Still Open



Applications due July 31, 2021

There is still time to submit a nomination or application to run for the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) in the 2021 Election. The committee seeks a diverse pool of candidates, balanced in terms of gender, ethnicity, and geography. The Sierra Club San Diego membership will elect five (5) Executive Committee members in 2021. The two candidates receiving the highest vote will be elected to three-year terms, the next two with the highest vote will be elected to two-year terms and the fifth highest vote will be elected to a one-year term.

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2021 San Diego Regional Plan is Ready for Review

*Karl Aldinger, Conservation Organizer
karl.aldinger@sierraclub.org*

The 2021 Regional Plan has been released in its draft form, and now is the time for the community to read the plan, and give feedback to our local government agency the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). This plan is typically refreshed every 4 years, but COVID 19 stalled the effort a bit since 2015's last revision. It covers transportation planning and funding, land use recommendations, how we protect natural spaces and wildlife, and how the San Diego region is expected to grow.

Yes, planners actually sit down and build project plans for how we'll do these things, and this Regional Plan is an inspired refresh. There are new planners in charge at SANDAG, and it's likely you've heard talk over the last 2 years about the 5 Big Moves including the following:

- **Complete Corridors** are where we rethink the various means of travel, beyond just highways and streets built for cars.
- **Transit Leap** is the advancement of our mass transit including train line expansion and more extensive use of buses and bus rapid transit, where buses run longer distances at higher speeds to give the benefits of rail without the burden of slower infrastructure buildout.
- **Mobility Hubs** create intentional centering of various modes of transportation and building amenities and supporting businesses, making regional travel a better experience.
- **Flexible Fleets** is where mode shift is happening to get more people out of single occupancy cars and using more efficient means of connecting to transit, sometimes called first mile / last mile.
- **Next OS** (next operating system) envisions the way that technology will make our transportation run more smoothly, helping to adapt to the pressures of traffic with managed lanes that can respond by designating more or less carpool lanes, bus only lanes, or even clearing a lane for emergency vehicles. The Next OS also helps you find the many transportation options available to you with a comprehensive system of route planning and convenient electronic payment options.

But it's called the Regional Plan instead of the Regional Transportation Plan because it goes beyond just transportation. And this time around, SANDAG is working to center equity and addressing the Climate Crisis with attention to serving communities that have experienced injustices and

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HiSIERRAN

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

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July/August/September 2021

USPS - 896140

The Hi Sierran is published quarterly by the
San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club,
8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. #101,
San Diego, CA 92111,
for members in San Diego
and Imperial counties.

Periodicals Postage Paid at San Diego, CA.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Hi
Sierran, Sierra Club Member Services P.O.
Box 421041

Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417

Address Correction?

Send your current mailing label and
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Sierra Club
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David Hogan

Sierra Club San Diego recently took a controversial position opposing a proposal by the City of Chula Vista for a pilot program to open some previously closed (but still widely used) trails to mountain biking in Rice and Snake canyons. In general, the Sierra Club supports non-motorized outdoor recreation and is not opposed to responsible mountain bike use of trails where compatible with protection of habitats and wildlife. But Sierra Club opposed opening these particular trails to mountain biking for several reasons: The trails are located in a preserve originally established to mitigate destruction of habitat and endangered species from the nearby Rancho Del Rey development; the City never enforced the previous closure to mountain bikes; and the City only has a short-term grant with no long-term funding or staff resources to manage what will become a very popular biking area. We also opposed the project because Chula Vista did not comply with the rules of their Multiple Species Conservation Plan to consult with government wildlife agencies to ensure that the trails and biking use were located in the least sensitive areas of the habitat preserve.

Mountain biking advocates with the San Diego Mountain Biking Association (SDMBA) and others criticized our position with several unfounded claims including that Sierra Club is opposed to all mountain biking. This claim is false but suggests a need for scrutiny of this issue and Sierra Club's relationship with SDMBA.

The popularity of mountain biking, hiking, and other outdoor recreation is increasing exponentially and the City of San Diego has information indicating an increase of at least 25% in outdoor recreation since the pandemic. As with many outdoor recreation activities, some trail users are responsible and some are not. In South County, hikers routinely trespass on a closed nature preserve in the Jamul Mountains near Upper Otay Lake and cut switchbacks and build rock

piles in endangered species habitat on the popular Mother Miguel Mountain Trail (aka Rockhouse Trail) on the San Diego National Wildlife refuge.

But many mountain bike riders seem particularly inclined to aggressive exhibitions of entitlement and rationalizations for riding wherever and however they desire. Construction and use of unauthorized trails with bike curve embankments and jumps are serious problems at nature preserves where mountain biking is allowed on designated trails such as the Del Mar Mesa Preserve and Mission Trails Regional Park. Dozens of miles of illegitimate trails have been constructed by bikers on just the Del Mar Mesa Preserve and adjoining natural open space in Pacific Highlands Ranch. And some mountain bikers have actively vandalized fencing and signs and even stolen security cameras installed by City of San Diego rangers and volunteers to close and monitor unauthorized trails. Many more bikers use closed trails out of sometimes legitimate but more often feigned ignorance. Other common problems with mountain bike use include several unlawful activities of deliberate downhill speeding in pursuit of personal records, failure to yield to other trail users, amplified music, and nighttime trail use.

Unlawful mountain biking is clearly a problem with far more than just a few bad eggs. The conclusion that bikers are responsible for construction and use of so many illegitimate trails and vandalism is grounded in science. According to a peer-reviewed study of enforcement efforts to curb unlawful trail uses on the Del Mar Mesa Preserve (Greer et al. 2017. Efficacy and perception of trail use enforcement in an urban natural reserve in San Diego, California. *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism* 18 (2017) 56-64), mountain bikers comprised 76.7% of all trail users and over 85.5% of unlawful use at the Preserve. The study followed mountain biking

View from the Chair continued on page 6

Sierra Club Positions on LOSSAN Rail Realignment

By Dave Hogan

Sierra Club San Diego is closely following two major transportation projects by the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) to relocate two segments of the San Diego – San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor (LOSSAN). The first and most urgent project would relocate the rail corridor off the Del Mar bluffs to a new alignment and tunnel between Sorrento Valley and the Del Mar Fairgrounds (Del Mar realignment). And a second longer-term project would bypass the steep Miramar Hill in the City of San Diego University Community and on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar (MCAS Miramar) (Miramar realignment). SANDAG has recently increased the pace of their consideration of relocation of the rail corridor off the Del Mar bluffs due to the extreme vulnerability of the bluffs and tracks to collapse. And the agency is simultaneously conducting emergency projects to reenforce the bluffs until the track relocation project can be implemented.

SANDAG's preferred alternative for the Del Mar realignment would depart from the existing tracks in Sorrento Valley to cross the eastern portion of Los Penasquitos Lagoon, enter a tunnel under Del Mar Heights near the intersection of Carmel Valley Road and Portofino Drive, pass under two nature preserves, Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve Extension and Crest Canyon as well as the Del Mar Heights neighborhood, and exit the tunnel near the intersection of Camino Del Mar and Jimmy Durante Boulevard to reconnect with the existing rail corridor south of the San Diego County Fairgrounds. The proposed Miramar realignment would depart from the existing tracks in Rose Canyon to enter a tunnel under the "Golden Triangle" area of the University Community to connect to a new regional mobility hub at University Town Center, and exit the tunnel to reconnect with the existing rail corridor in Sorrento Valley near the southern end of Roselle Street. Both new alignments would be double-tracked to accommodate freight trains and increased Coaster trains.

The Del Mar realignment to a tunnel under Del Mar Heights would improve rail efficiency and travel times, improve public access to the coast, and support managed coastal retreat by removing the dangerous and unsustainable current rail corridor on the fragile Del Mar bluffs. The Miramar realignment to a tunnel between Rose Canyon and Sorrento Valley would also improve rail efficiency and travel times by avoiding the steep and winding existing rail corridor over Miramar Hill and would improve connections to other public transportation with the regional mobility hub at University Town Center.

Sierra Club generally supports the LOSSAN realignments to secure the rail corridor off the fragile Del Mar bluffs, to support climate-friendly rail transportation, and to improve rail efficiency, travel times, and connections to other public transportation. But many conditions will be necessary to ensure that the realigned rail corridors and tunnels are located and constructed in a manner upholding several important environmental values.

The realigned rail corridors must generally minimize impacts and maximize preservation and restoration of natural habitat, biodiversity, open space, wildlife corridors, and bluffs and beaches. And the corridors must specifically minimize impacts and maximize preservation and restoration of natural habitats and preserves in Los Penasquitos and San Dieguito lagoons, Carroll Canyon, Crest Canyon, Rose Canyon, Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, and University Community natural open space. Realignments should also support managed coastal retreat from rising sea levels and improve public coastal access.

The following are Sierra Club positions on how SANDAG should accomplish these conditions for the two LOSSAN rail realignments to protect the natural environment and benefit people.

Location of Miramar Realignment

For the Miramar realignment, the Sorrento Valley tunnel entrance/exit for the University Town Center tunnel alternative should be located to avoid direct impacts to a riparian habitat preserve and important Native American cultural resource sites along Carroll Canyon Creek.

Locate Tunnel Vents Outside of Existing Preserves

Large vertical vents for new tunnels should not be located in any natural open space including the Crest Canyon Preserve, Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve Main or Extension, or in the University Community. Tunnels should be adjusted as necessary to locate vents in existing developed areas such as parking lots, disturbed vacant lots, and street edges or medians.

Protect & Restore Los Penasquitos & San Dieguito Lagoons

The Del Mar realignment across Los Penasquitos Lagoon and new southern tunnel entrance/exit near Carmel Valley Road should be located as close as possible to Interstate 5 to minimize impacts to the Lagoon. To the extent that some or all of the Del Mar realignment cannot be located out of Los Penasquitos Lagoon, it should be constructed on an elevated viaduct to maintain functioning Lagoon hydrology.

The Del Mar realignment should not impede tidal flow in Los Penasquitos or San Dieguito lagoons.

The Del Mar realignment should include permanent funding to support regular reopening of the primary channels to the ocean for Los Penasquitos and San Dieguito lagoons. Open channels should not be established with jetties.

The Del Mar realignment should include a meaningful mitigation contribution to restoration of a sustainable functioning Los Penasquitos Lagoon estuary ecosystem.

The Miramar realignment tunnel entrance/exit in Sorrento valley should be elevated on a bridge spanning the entire floodplain of either Carroll Canyon or Penasquitos creeks to protect and maintain stream hydrology.

Protect & Restore Wildlife Corridors

The Del Mar realignment across Los Penasquitos Lagoon and Carmel Creek should be elevated on a viaduct to protect an existing movement corridor for deer and other wildlife in

LOSSAN continued on page 4

and between Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve, Los Penasquitos Lagoon, and Carmel Valley east of I-5.

The Miramar realignment tunnel entrance/exit in Sorrento valley should be located as low as possible on the steep bluffs near Carroll Canyon or Penasquitos creeks (depending on the selected tunnel alternative) to protect an existing movement corridor for deer and other wildlife from Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve and Sorrento Valley to Carroll Canyon and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and to facilitate wildlife movement on bluffs above the tunnel entrances/exits.

Remove Old Rail Infrastructure

After realignment of each rail corridor, rail infrastructure in the old corridors should be fully removed and restored to wetlands, coastal bluff scrub, coastal sage scrub, and other location-appropriate native habitats and vegetation.

Removal of old rail infrastructure includes removal of all Del Mar bluff stabilization structures to allow for natural bluff erosion and beach sand replenishment. Removal of deeply embedded pilings along the Del Mar bluffs is likely to be difficult and harmful if attempted at the time of realignment. However, the Del Mar realignment should still anticipate and fund removal of the pilings as they are exposed over time through erosion.

Removal of old rail infrastructure also includes removal of all existing bridges and earthen berms across Los Penasquitos Lagoon, and removal of all existing tracks, berms, trenches, and retaining walls in Carroll and Rose Canyons and in Sorrento Valley.

Historic photographs suggest that fill soils in the existing earthen rail berms across Los Penasquitos Lagoon may have originated from the Del Mar bluffs and should be returned and incorporated into restoration of the existing track cut on the bluffs for eventual natural erosion to the beach if soils are appropriate.

Establish a Del Mar Bluffs Park

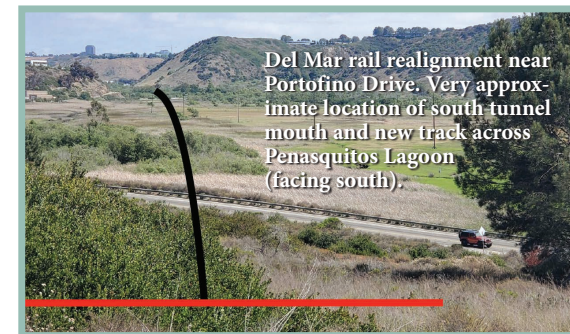
After realignment, the existing rail corridor on the Del Mar bluffs should be reconstructed into a linear park with public walking and bike paths with connections to the beach. However, park and beach access infrastructure should not interfere with natural bluff erosion and managed retreat from expected sea level rise and should be removed over time as necessary.

Other Measures

Construction of the realignment rail segments should address the major threat to local ecologies from invasive non-native plants by barring deliberate planting of non-native plants and providing for permanent control of foreseeable colonizing non-native plants.

LOSSAN rail realignments should retain and improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and connections including along Carmel Valley Road and Jimmy Durante Boulevard, between Sorrento Valley Road and Carmel Valley Road, under I-5 at Carmel Creek, the San Dieguito River Park Coast to Crest Trail, and between the Coast to Crest Trail and Crest Canyon.

Please contact Dave Hogan for additional information or to participate in Sierra Club advocacy to improve the LOSSAN rail realignment projects: hogansierraclub@gmail.com.



It's Pupping Season At The Sea Lion Rookery!

Please keep the pups and people safe!

Carol Archibald

The La Jolla sea lions are having their babies! "Pupping Season" begins in June and ends in October, with most pups born in June and July. Last year there were 54 births. Mating occurs after birthing during August and September. The pups are absolutely adorable, which brings throngs of people to see them; as many as 300 visitors an hour. View them from the sidewalk and they will enchant you.

The La Jolla Sea Lion Rookery is the only sea lion rookery on the mainland California Coast. In order to safely view and enjoy this rare event, you need to be aware of certain precautions during "pupping season".

Newborn sea lion pups are vulnerable. Just like humans, the relationship between mother and pup is one of the most vital and important factors of survival. Pups are born on land, weighing only 16 pounds. After birth, bonding requires 8 weeks of mom-pup togetherness. If visitors separate moms and pups by taking close up photos, blocking their path, or touching the pups, they may be abandoned and starve. Pups cannot swim well until they are 4 months old. This becomes a problem during high tides if viewers accidentally surround them and don't allow the pups a path to dry land. In addition, pups are often left alone on the beach or rocks in groups called a nursery while their moms go out to fish. This is an important time for them to sleep and play.

Sea lion pups are completely dependent on their moms for the first 6 months. Mothers nurse their pups for 6 to 12 months, as pups can't forage for themselves until they are 8 months old. They need to nurse on the beach or rocks with no disturbances. This means you can view pups nursing from their attentive mothers and playing with each other on the beach for many months, making it a most delightful educational and entertaining experience!

Although official NOAA guidelines recommend a minimum distance of 50 yards, adapting to the size of the beach, we recommend a safe viewing distance of 50 ft. It is important to remember they are wild animals and can display defensive behavior when afraid or disturbed. Sea lions are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as well as California State law and the San Diego Municipal Code, making harassment of marine mammals illegal. Harassment includes touching, taking selfies, throwing rocks or sand at them, and picking up pups – anything that changes or disturbs their behavior.

If you witness harassment, please report it to the NOAA hotline at (800) 853-1964.

During pupping season, mother sea lions are understandably very protective of their pups. If visitors get too close or if people touch their pups, they may try to protect them by barking, chasing, or rarely, even biting.

Male sea lions weighing as much as one ton protect the rookery. If harassed, they may bite, and chase visitors away from the rookery. Keeping a safe distance protects people and sea lions and enables visitors to enjoy viewing the animals without disturbing them. Let's just enjoy them playing on the land and in the water by following these safe viewing guidelines:



Photo of seals in nursery by Robyn Davidoff



Recommended Safe Viewing Guidelines

Never approach closer than 50 feet.

View sea lions from the sidewalk.

Use your zoom feature on your camera.

Do not touch sea lions or their pups.

Please watch quietly, keeping your voice low.

Move slowly so as not to scare the sea lions.

Do not feed sea lions.

Never throw anything at sea lions.

Be respectful of sea lions and their habitat.

Sierra Club Seal Society docents will be covering the rookery during pupping season. We are available to give you more information about these amazing animals and make your visit enjoyable and educational. We wear distinctive blue T shirts and are approachable to all visitors.

Sea Lions are well known for their intelligence, playfulness and noisy barking, which contributes to their popularity. La Jolla's Sea Lion Rookery is one of the most popular attractions in the whole of San Diego. The sea lions as well as the harbor seals at Casa Beach (Children's Pool Beach) contribute to making La Jolla the unique jewel that attracts visitors far and wide.

We are privileged to be able to observe these wild animals in their natural habitat. It is an absolute joy to view these beautiful marine mammals, especially during pupping season. Please protect this treasured place!

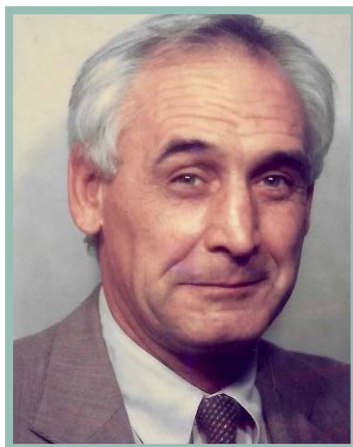
If you see an animal being abused physically, call the NOAA Hotline at 1-800-853-1964

If you see an animal with an injury or fishing gear attached, call Sea World Rescue at 1-800-853-1964.

If you wish to provide better protection for the sea lions: sign our petition on Sierra Club AddUp or/and write to the San Diego Mayor (MayorToddGloria@sandiego.gov) or Joe LaCava Council Member for La Jolla (joelacava@sandiego.gov) asking for better management and a full time ranger. If you have an interest in becoming an educational docent with the Sierra Club Seal Society, please email us at: scsealsociety@gmail.com

John R. Williams

John R. Williams passed on January 23, 2021 with his wife Hallie at his side.



John was a long time Sierra Club member who enjoyed spending time with his family in the mountains and deserts of San Diego County, leading trips for the San Diego Chapter. He was always equipped to offer new insights into the historical and natural aspects of Southern California's terrain, having the opportunity to combine his considerable appetite for reading with his

love for the outdoors. John always embraced the positive aspects of life, had a wonderful sense of humor, and believed that tomorrow may always be a better day. He was greatly loved by his family and all those who knew him.

John is survived by his wife Hallie, their son Zachary (Shay), John's two sons Bradley (Amy) and Bryan (Krista), John's brother Maury, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. John served in the U.S. Navy achieving the rank of Lieutenant Commander. After discharge from the Navy, he earned a PhD. in Educational Administration from Kansas State University and moved his family to San Diego, California. There he became the lead project developer and proposal writer at the San Diego State University Research Foundation.

He will be forever missed.

View from the Chair continued from page 2

forums on social media and found frequent comments supporting direct or implied vandalism. The study also reported that once information on specific locations of study trail cameras was released on social media, the likelihood increased that the camera would be vandalized, removed, or covered.

This brings us to Sierra Club's relationship with the San Diego Mountain Biking Association. In general, an environmentalist is not such simply by nature of their enjoyment or use of the natural environment. Loggers cutting old-growth trees aren't taken seriously if they say they love the forest. Rather, groups or individuals claiming to be environmentalists must enjoy the environment responsibly and actually advocate for its preservation rather than destruction. Tired claims of true environmentalism and even "better environmentalism than environmentalists" are common amongst user groups like off-road vehicle enthusiasts and, now, mountain bikers. Unfortunately, the San Diego Mountain Biking Association is a user advocacy group rather than an environmental organization and they support many issues in direct conflict with protection of the natural environment:

- SDMBA has a history of supporting many new trails or mountain bike use irrespective of impacts to natural open space and biodiversity and refuses to acknowledge that the fundamental purpose of most local nature preserves is to provide mitigation for habitat impacts from development.
- SDMBA lobbied for recent approvals of the awful Fanita Ranch and Otay Ranch Villages 13 and 14 sprawl developments because of promises for mountain bike trails.
- SDMBA aggressively lobbies elected officials to open state and federal designated Wilderness, state Ecological Reserves, and the Pacific Crest Trail to mountain biking.
- SDMBA continues to lobby for even more new trails in preserves with previously completed official compromise trail systems (e.g. Del Mar Mesa Preserve).
- SDMBA pursued and nearly secured development of a huge new mountain biking speed and obstacle track park on the

Cleveland National Forest near Ramona that included trail connections to adjoining preserves and trails that are closed to mountain biking.

- SDMBA aggressively and successfully organized to prevent the San Diego Association of Governments from awarding management of a habitat preserve in Valley Center to the San Diego Habitat Conservancy in favor of the County Department of Parks and Recreation that they correctly perceive as more favorable to more mountain biking.
- SDMBA aggressively opposes law enforcement as means to reduce unauthorized trail use. SDMBA routinely promises self-enforcement of rules but aside from occasional pop-up visitor information and game booths has not provided meaningful visitor contact to reduce unlawful behavior.
- SDMBA supports electric mountain bikes (a.k.a. motorcycles) in preserves.
- SDMBA actively supported and raised funds for the profoundly anti-environmental local California Senator Brian Jones to support more bike trails.

In some circumstances where Sierra Club activists have attempted to work constructively, SDMBA leadership has been hostile, irrational, and nearly impossible to work with on possible shared goals for responsible outdoor recreation. Sierra Club support for reasonable limits on mountain biking is immediately spun as opposition to all mountain biking. And attempts at constructive engagement and debate are typically met with a litany of logical fallacies, red herrings, straw men, and ad hominem attacks. This relationship is not likely to improve without a new direction and leadership at SDMBA.

Back on the trails, we all need to be the best stewards possible of the lands we love for hiking, horseback riding, and yes, even mountain biking. Please take personal responsibility to stay on legitimate authorized trails, learn about the wildlife and plants that depend on that place for their existence, leave no trace, and above all stay friendly with other trail users.

Recycle Right - It Makes a Difference

Did you know the average Californian produces 6 pounds of waste per day? Much of that waste is recyclable but did you know there is a right way to recycle? Follow these practices to Recycle Right, avoid contamination (things that don't belong in the blue bin), and reduce what's sent to the landfill.

Recycle Right by ensuring items are:

Empty - no or very minimal food residue remaining.

Dry - No liquids remaining. Liquids contaminate paper, cardboard and other materials in the bin.

Loose - **DO NOT** bag your recyclables, place them loose in the recycling bin.

Containers with liquids just need to be empty and don't require washing. Things like pasta sauce jars could use a rinse - just add a bit of water, shake it around and dump it out. Doing this twice should leave the jar free of most of the sauce and use very little water in the process. If you are already soaking other dishes, use the water that is already in the sink to rinse the jar, thus using no new water.

For items like a peanut butter jar, a spatula works great. For the leftover residue, a small amount of water and some dish soap works well. Close the lid, shake it and let it sit overnight. This usually loosens enough of the stuck residue to recycle an empty jar.

In the San Diego region, what you can recycle in your blue bin is fairly universal. **This includes paper, cardboard & cartons, plastic bottles and containers, glass bottles and jars and metal and aluminum cans & foil.** Slight variations may occur from city to city so it's best to confirm with your city or county waste and recycling department or your hauler.

Items that should never be placed in your curbside recycling bin:

Plastic bags or bagged recyclables

Plastic utensils, straws and snack bags

Napkins, paper towels and tissue

Paper coffee cups. Although made from paper, coffee cups typically include plastic liners to keep the liquid away from the cup's fiber, making recycling difficult. However, plastic lids and the cardboard sleeve CAN be recycled

Food-soiled paper (i.e. dirty to-go containers)

Batteries and electronic waste

By Recycling Right, you'll ensure your items remain valuable, help make it through the recycling process and won't create a hazard to workers or machinery at recycling facilities. For more info visit the County of San Diego R1Earth.org, the City of San Diego RecyclingWorks.com or WasteFreeSD.org.

reducing the greenhouse gas emissions over time for our whole region. The plan describes many small projects, and big ones, and spans a 2035 milestone and all the way out to 2050. There's a lot to see in the draft megaplan.

You can read the entire draft plan here: sdforward.com

For folks who want to get a taste of the proposed vision, you can also watch the many videos in English and Spanish on SANDAG's YouTube playlist here: bit.ly/sandag2021

And you can use their Data Viewer for a better understanding of how the planners use tools to make these decisions: bit.ly/sandagdv

After you've taken some time to understand some of the plan, if something jumps out at you and you find yourself cheering or getting upset, this is the time to give feedback to SANDAG and let those planners know how you're feeling about it. SANDAG will be holding a series of virtual open houses during the whole last half of June as well as two public hearings. This calendar page has those meeting links as well as the links to give written feedback: bit.ly/sandagcal

As a transportation advocate focusing on improving our system to dramatically lower our Vehicle Miles Traveled and thus quickly reduce GHG emissions, I've found the new vision to be a good first step in the right direction. I work with a team of like-minded coalition partners to weigh in on the plan and really be ambitious in changing how we move and live in San Diego, and we meet with SANDAG staff. Please feel free to reach out to me with your thoughts on the Regional Plan. I'm interested in hearing from our community at Sierra Club and beyond.

The candidate questionnaire is available at <http://sandiegosierraclub.org/> or by emailing scoffice@sierrasd.org.

For more information, please contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Lisa Ross at freudsid@gmail.com.

The Nominating Committee will be happy to send a questionnaire to those who request one. After reviewing returned questionnaires, the Nominating Committee will select applicants for interviews. To be considered for an interview, candidates must return completed questionnaires to the Nominating Committee by July 31, 2021. The Nominating Committee will announce its candidates at the August 11, 2021 Executive Committee meeting. In addition to the nomination process, the Club bylaws allow candidates to qualify for the ballot by a petition process, as specified in the bylaws. Petitions are available by emailing scoffice@sierrasd.org.

The San Diego Chapter Executive Committee is a working board. All members are expected to devote sufficient time, energy, and creativity to projects and commitments and to carry them through to their successful conclusion.

Executive Committee members receive no monetary compensation but may be reimbursed for approved expenses while on Chapter business.

In Honor of Skip Forsht

Eugene Robert "Skip" Forsht, Jr., 70, passed away on April 29, soon after a diagnosis of metastatic cancer. He was a great supporter of the Sierra Club and a true environmentalist who introduced countless people to the joys of nature with his vast knowledge of backpacking and hiking. His enthusiasm was contagious and was shared with everyone involved with the Wilderness Basic Course he taught for many years.

Skip was born in Oakland, Calif., and grew up in East Greenwich. He graduated from Villanova with a degree in teaching. His teaching career started at Mt. Saint Charles Academy and ended in the National City school district where he retired in 2005. Skip is survived by his life partner, Kristin Hembrooke; sisters Debbie Schubarth of Fallbrook and Christine Donald of East Greenwich. He leaves behind many, many friends whose lives he touched with his infectious laugh and warm smile. He was caring and giving, always willing to teach and lead others on a variety of subjects from running to bike rides to home improvements. His diverse group of friends will feel his loss in countless ways.

Donations to the San Diego Chapter in Skip's memory can be made at <http://sandiegosierraclub.org/donate/>.



Helping celebrate the National Sierra Club Award in recognition of the contributions of the Wilderness Basics Course. 2017 Photo courtesy of Stefanie Maio.



At the WBC reunion at Palomar mountain. Skip was the parking police and kitchen staff. 2017 Photo courtesy of Stefanie Maio.



Skip taking Stefanie Maio out on a scouting trip so that she could lead her first WBC backpack... land nav. Feb 2011. Picture courtesy of Stefanie Maio



Picture courtesy of Kelly Aljibury

Chapter Leadership

Chair, Wilderness Basics:
2000-2006

Chapter Executive
Committee:
2006-2008

Chapter Chair:
2008

Chair, Outing Leadership
Training:
2008-2013



Skip (far right) on Michelle Renaud's COL evaluation hike. 2014 Picture courtesy of Michelle

Memories of Skip Forsht continued on page 10.

Sierra Talks

Programs will be live streamed at 7 pm on Sierra Club San Diego Chapter Facebook home page

<https://www.facebook.com/sierraclubsd/>

You can Post questions/comments there during & after the program.

(Video will be at https://www.facebook.com/sierraclubsd/videos/?ref=page_internal)

July 2

The Utah-Arizona Wilderness Buckskin Gulch/Paria Canyon

Starting in Utah at the Wirepass Trailhead, the presentation by Michael Taylor winds 13 miles through Buckskin Gulch -- the walls are sometimes only a couple of feet apart and soar hundreds of feet overhead. It is one of the longest and deepest slot canyons in the world! Wavy sandstone walls twist their way to the sky creating surreal patterns of light.

Ancient petroglyphs, granaries, and campsites indicate that Ancestral Puebloan people utilized the canyon between 200 and 1200. The rest of Michael's hike-tour follows the Paria river and ends at Lee's Ferry where the river empties into the Colorado river.

Michael Taylor joined the Sierra Club in 2009. He took WBC(Wilderness Basics Course) in 2011 and became a COL and joined the WBC staff soon after. He has served as Chair of the Singles Section/Social Section, WBC, and LRSC(Leadership Review and Safety Committee). Michael leads outings for WBC, Bus Trips and San Diego Sierra Club. He was awarded the Outings Leader Award in 2014 and the Chapter Service Award in 2019.

August 6

La Rumorosa Rock Art:

Kumeyaay Shamanistic Expressions
Kumeyaay Native Americans have lived in the San Diego region for at least 10,000 years. They survived and flourished partly because of their spiritual shamanistic system of beliefs. This system is reflected in the rock art that survives in the deserts and mountains east of the City: what can they show us? The presentation will draw on data from 160 sites which cover about 2250 La Rumorosa rock art



panels (lots of great photos). And will include content related to the worldwide pattern for shamanism, using new research coming from all over Eurasia.

The presenter, Dr. Don Liponi [biochemistry], has studied rock art for the past 50 years under the tutelage of such legendary teachers as Bob Begole, Michael Kelsey and Fran Barnes. Don lamented 12 years ago that: "because I could only visit Utah or Arizona on vacations, out of desperation I realized that there was a huge vacuum in Kumeyaay-Patayan archaeology and rock art right in my own neighborhood of southern California, southwestern Arizona and northern Baja." Don proceeded to organize a group of more than 50 professionals, Native Americans, and avocationalists to recover the rock art of these "lost cultures".

September 3 The Natural History of Insects in San Diego

Join Michael Wall, curator at The Nat, for a conversation about some of San Diego's most interesting insects. He'll explore their

behaviors, ecology, and just plain interesting stories. You are sure to walk away with some knowledge that will make you look at the world a different way on your next hike. Information about The Nat's diverse insect collections and projects is at sdnhm.org/science/entomology/

Michael Wall, Ph.D., conducts research on insect evolution and spearheads the biodiversity research and conservation efforts at The Nat. Dr. Wall has served as the curator of entomology at the San Diego Natural History Museum for the past 14 years. Like many museum professionals, he wears many hats and since 2008, he has also served as vice president of science and conservation. Dr. Wall is passionate about collections-based research and regional exploration.



How You Can Make A Difference



There is Still Time to Apply for Group Executive Committee Nominations

The Sierra Club North County Coastal Group (Coasters) is a part of the San Diego Chapter and covers coastal communities from

Del Mar to Oceanside. The great thing about the Sierra Club is it is one of the few environmental organizations where the priorities and activities are driven by the volunteers. The Coasters are a small, welcoming group that is currently focused on local conservation and land use issues, political endorsements, environmental education and working with our partners to enact positive change for the environment in our local communities.

We have an Executive Committee (ExCom) that meets monthly and is responsible for organizing our Group's activities and volunteers and to ensure that our activities are consistent with the Chapter and National Sierra Club. Being a member of the ExCom is an excellent way to learn more about our local environmental issues and to meet like-minded people who want

to work together on behalf of our environment. We will be holding elections this Fall to fill 3 seats on our Executive Committee. If you would like to be considered, submit a name for consideration by the Nominating Committee, or would like more information, contact Barbara Collins at becollins92@gmail.com.

Deadline for Application is July 31, 2021.

Please provide a bio (no longer than 150 words) and a picture

The North County Coastal Group comprises the zip codes of: 92007 - Cardiff, 92008 - Carlsbad, 92009 - Carlsbad, 92010 - Carlsbad, 92011 - Carlsbad, 92013 - Carlsbad PO Box, 92018 - Carlsbad PO Box, 92014 - Del Mar, 92023 - Encinitas - PO Box, 92024 - Encinitas, 92054 - Oceanside, 92055 - Oceanside, 92056 - Oceanside, 92057 - Oceanside, 92049 Oceanside PO Box, 92051 - Oceanside PO Box, 92052 - Oceanside PO Box, 92067 - Rancho Santa Fe PO Box, 92075 - Solana Beach, 92091 - Rancho Santa Fe.

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

For more information go to

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

Memories of Skip Forsht continued from page 8.

Memories of Skip from fellow Sierrans

I always appreciated Skip's enthusiasm and support on my local outings, especially around the holidays when most people were gathering with family. Looking back, I think that the Sierra Club was Skip's family, or at least the part of his family that brought him great joy.

Much appreciated, Kelly Aljibury (Kelly Kreuzinger)

I first met Skip Forsht around January of 2000, when I enrolled in the San Diego Chapter's Wilderness Basics Course (WBC). I believe Skip was the Chair at that time and a few more times later on. We had 250 students in the old place in Mission Valley.

Three years later, I joined Skip and Bill Jeffrey to hike part of Section E of the Pacific Crest Trail, about 54 miles. We met up at Spunky Canyon Campground north of Santa Clarita. We did the trip in 3 long dayhikes, it was fantastic! Beautiful weather, as it was winter. Best time to cross the desert!

Our endpoint for the first day was at Cottonwood Creek, near the California Aqueduct. So we shuttled cars and left my old RV at the end of the hike. When we completed the 16 miles and arrived at my vehicle, the battery was dead, as I had left the headlights on. My heart sank. Here I was, in the middle of the desert, with no transportation for the three of us. I felt terrible.

But then Skip said, "Don't these trucks have two batteries?" And there were two. But the battery cables were on very tight. We searched the RV for tools, but found none. Then he looked around at the desert ground and found a small U-shaped piece of rusty iron hardware from the railroad days. What are the odds? With this tool, he was able to switch the batteries. I was so impressed with his resourcefulness and ingenuity!

Skip was always very encouraging, inspiring me to join the staff

of the North County WBC in 2004 and to become a hike and backpack leader. In 2007, a small team and I started WBC for the Los Padres Chapter in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.

I give Skip credit for this monumental change in my life. And I know he did the same for many others. He willingly shared his knowledge of gear, trails, maps, weather, everything. He was always calm and cheerful. I remember that he said to carry an extra set of car keys, just in case.

Rest in peace, Skip, I know you are hiking that big trail in the sky.
Teresa Norris May 2021

May 15, 2021

Happy Birthday Skip Forsht! Today you would have been 71 and I am still in shock and disbelief that you passed away only 2 weeks ago. You were my biggest cheerleader, best friend, backpacking partner, partner in all the ups and downs; highs and lows. You made me laugh louder and harder than anyone could and I miss you very much. Thank you for all the adventures to all the beautiful places you loved and allowing me to show you the places that were special to me. You were forever the teacher/ instructor, Mr. Fix it, insatiable flirt, light hearted, punctual, quick with a laugh or a joke and ready for any adventure. It was not always easy, but I'd do it again, because you forever changed me. Thank you dear Skip for sharing your final journey with me, it was an honor to be with you and I know I will see you again and again and again. I'll see you in the Redwoods that you loved, I'll hear you in the silence of the desert, I'll feel you in all the sunrises and sunsets and in alpenglow that follows. I know you will be with me as I venture into the Eastern Sierra for years to come and I will carry you with me as well.

Memories continued on page 11

Get Active! Become A Candidate for Our Executive Committee

The Sierra Club North County Group is seeking members to run for the North County Executive Committee (NCG ExCom) in the 2021 Election. The committee seeks a diverse pool of candidates, balanced in terms of gender, ethnicity, from the North County area.

The North County Group membership will elect three (3) Executive Committee members in 2021. The Group Executive Committee has over-all responsibility to assure that the activities and services provided for the members are consistent with the bylaws, rules, and policies of the Chapter and National Sierra Club. These activities may include outings, membership services, financial management, conservation and political programs. The Executive Committee meets monthly and attendance is expected. If you would like to submit a name for consideration by the Nominating Committee, or would like more information, contact Pam Heatherington at info@sierraclubncg.org. Nominations are due by July 31, 2021.

The North County Group includes the following cities and zip codes.

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.



50th Anniversary 50 Hike Challenge celebrating Sierra Club's North County Group & Wilderness Basics Course 50th year

The San Diego Sierra Club North County Group (NCG) and North County Group Wilderness Basics Course (WBC) are celebrating their 50th anniversary with a 50-hike challenge beginning June 1, 2021. Hike up to 50 North County San Diego hikes between June 1, 2021 and May 30, 2022, and you could be eligible for a prize. Rules for the 50 Hike Challenge can be found at <https://wbc.sierraclubncg.org/50-hike-challenge/>. The list of qualifying hikes can be found on our 50 hike challenge page

Follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubNCG>) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/sierraclubncg/>), and tag your photos using the hashtag #NCG50for50!

The Sierra Club North County Group (NCG) is a group of the San Diego Sierra Club Chapter. It was founded in 1971 and is still dedicated to its mission of exploring, enjoying, and protecting the planet, working from right here in our little corner of beautiful Southern California.

In the late 1960s, Escondido was considered to be in the far northern reaches of San Diego County. To participate in Sierra Club activities meant a long drive south to San Diego on old Highway 163 before the creation of the I-15. In 1970 about six like-minded Sierra Club members decided to start a North County Group. With guidelines from the National Sierra Club office, the North County Group wrote by-laws and began meeting at members' homes in Escondido. One of the stated goals of the North County Sierra Club in 1972 was to keep "the outdoors clean and the necessity of conservation."

The Wilderness Basics Course started as the Basic Mountaineering Course. It was held at Del Dios Junior High School in 1971 with 11 students. Over the years, the course curriculum has changed and was renamed to WBC, but the goal of equipping participants with strong knowledge for how to enjoy the outdoors safely continues.

Today, the North County Group has an active Conservation Committee advocating for strong environmental policies in inland North County. Other key activities include leading outings and hosting a Wilderness Basics Course offered from January through March each year.

Memories continued from page 10

I can hear you singing Joni Mitchell: "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till it's gone" as you were these past couple months and I also hear you saying: "No looking back, no regrets." You always wanted life to be fun, drama free, easy and light. You only wanted the best for everyone around you and for me to be happy and healthy. You are loved by so many and your spirit will live on in all of us.

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take but by the moments that take your breath away" ~Maya Angelou. And you had so many of those moments in your short 71 years.

"To make a long story short"....I love you!

Kristin Hembroole

I knew Skip through the Sierra Club's Wilderness Basics program, and was always impressed by his knowledge and willingness to share it with new groups of students each year. He had ongoing enthusiasm which was infectious. Although I did not have a personal relationship with him, he impressed me as being vital to the environmental movement, and an asset to the Sierra Club in particular. He will be missed by all of us who worked with him each year. May he Rest In Peace.

Alice Fichandler

Sierra Club Bus Trips

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

Since 1982 the San Diego Chapter has been offering bus trips to a variety of National and State Parks.

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



Save The Date For The Following Tentative Trips: 2021

July 14-18, 2021

Hoover Wilderness – TRIP CANCELED

One car camp/day hike group and 3 backpacks planned. More information is available on the Chapter website.

Coordinator: Karen Nelson, karen.nmi.nelson@gmail.com.

August 18-22, 2021

Yosemite National Park – TRIP CANCELED

4 backpacks, 1 tentative additional backpack, and a possible car camp option. Check updated website for more details.

Coordinator: PJ Jeffery, pjjeffery1@sbcglobal.net.

Sept. 16-19, 2021

Santa Rosa Island – Bus trip tentatively planned.

Short backpack to campground. Day hikes planned.

Coordinator: Alice Fichandler, alicandorbill@cox.net.

Oct. 1-5, 2021

Zion National Park – Bus trip tentatively planned.

Backpacks and bus camp/day hikes planned.

Coordinator: Kristi Anderson, kabluieis@gmail.com.

Please continue to check the website for updates regarding specifics such as cancellations, sign up dates, costs, deadlines, etc.

www.sdsierraclub.org

Like us on Facebook



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

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

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Bill Tayler
San Diego, ICO Co-Chair



A Few Things We Are Really Looking Forward To Doing Again Soon!

by Bill Tayler

As I write this, it's been nearly 15 months since our last ICO outing (a spectacularly fun weekend of camping at Joshua Tree!), and it looks like it may be a few more months until Sierra Club gives us the go-ahead to resume taking our favorite kids on ICO outings. In the meantime, these are a few of the things that we'll be looking forward to (and here's to hoping it won't be too much longer)!

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

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

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

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



Snorkeling With Sea Lions!



Rock Scrambling in Joshua Tree!



Camping in the Sierra!



Sedona, Sedona, Sedona!

Classified Ads

Mount Laguna Home for Sale.

Unique, modern, solar home surrounded by National Forest in beautiful Noble Canyon. 1300 sq ft, pure well water, and views! hoganhomestead@gmail.com

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:**

**October/November/December
Deadline September 1st, 2021**

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

thomascreative2@cox.net

richard.miller@sierraclub.org

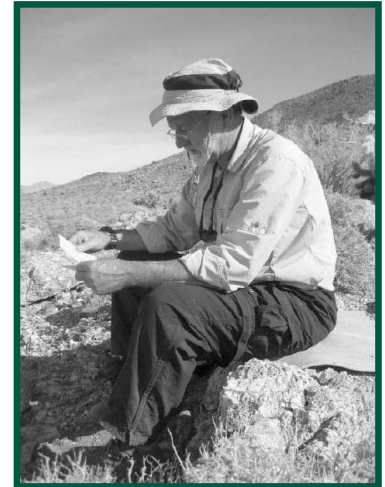
**Submissions are subject to
approval for content and
subject matter.**

Chapter Recipient of Bequest from Skip Forsht

The San Diego Chapter was honored with a \$25,000 bequest from the estate of Skip Forsht. Skip loved the Sierra Club and what we do to protect our wild places, get more people out to nature and teach them how to do it safely and enhance their experience.

Bequests are a vital and continuing resource that strengthens the Chapters ability to preserve our natural heritage for future generations. Skip understood this. Planned Gifts are particularly important to the Chapter as they can provide significant resources to allow continued conservation activities over an extended period of time. We are greatly thankful for his support.

If you have any questions about planning a bequest for the San Diego Chapter, please contact Richard Miller at (858) 569-6005, or email richard.miller@sierraclub.org.



Great Old Broads For Wilderness

"Join the Journey" And Participate In This Extraordinary, Once-In-A-Lifetime Event

Maureen Forney is hosting and promoting this activity up in northern California.

We are traveling to Bears Ears, Utah in July to be a part of this and represent Great Old Broads.

Sign up today to stay connected! Invite your friends.

Let's show support!

<https://www.redroadtodc.org/>

Great Old Broads for Wilderness (Broads) is a national grassroots organization, led by women, that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Learn more and become a member at www.greatoldbroads.org

Order Today!

Check Out Just Some Of Our Sierra Club Products At A Great Price:



Cup with Sierra Club Logo
Price: \$11



Cotton Canvas 1892 Retro Sierra Club Rucksack
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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.

<http://donate.sierrasd.org/products>

Committees & Contact Information

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all in-person meetings have been cancelled and meetings have moved on-line or by phone conference. Please check our Activities Calendar (<http://sandigosierraclub.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

Conservation Organizer: Karl Aldinger
760-331-7885
karl.aldinger@sierraclub.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Meets 2nd Wednesday 6:30 pm Chapter office

Chair: David Hogan (2021)
760-809-9244
hogansierraclub@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: Lisa Ross (2020 to 2023)
lisa@lisaross.com
www.lissaross.com

Secretary: Amanda Mascia (2021)
858-880-8917
amandamascia77@gmail.com

North County Group Rep.
Pam Heatherington
pjheatherington@gmail.com

North County Coastal Group Rep.
Sally Prendergast
760-525-5156
sallyp123@mac.com

Krista Davidson (2021)
404-790-0336
kmdavidson910@gmail.com

Rochelle Hancock (2021)
rae_1024@yahoo.com

Fred Rogers (2021)
619-587-8762
ferogers@gmail.com

David Rousseau (2022)
bayparkdr@yahoo.com

Treasurer (Non-Voting):
Orion Hudgins
orion@orioncpa.com

NORTH COUNTY COASTAL GROUP (COASTERS)

Contact Chair or check website for meeting information.

Chair: Sally Prendergast
760-525-5156
sallyp123@mac.com

NORTH COUNTY GROUP (INLAND)

<http://sierraclubnecg.org>

Contact Chair for time and location.
Chair: Pam Heatherington
858-524-6979
pjheatherington@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Meets 2nd Monday at 6:30pm
Chair: George Courser 858-231-0156
gcourser@hotmail.com

International

Call for meeting information
Jean Costa (619) 463-0721

Transportation

David Grubb 760--753-0273
DavidGrubb@sbcglobal.net

Wildlife

Renee Owens 619-201-1965
renee@wildlifezone.net

Zero-Waste

Michelle De Nicola
619-752-0379
michelle.denicola@gmail.com

SEAL SOCIETY

For meeting and docent information:

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

POLITICAL COMMITTEE

Meets 4th Thursday at 7:00pm

Chair: Fred Rogers
ferogers@gmail.com

OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Meets quarterly, contact Chair for date and location.

Chair: Bob Stinton
sd.outchair@gmail.com

Leadership Review & Safety Committee

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

Meets quarterly, call for information.

Bus Trips

Mike Fry (858) 248-3630

Chapter Outings Leadership Training (COL)

Stefanie Maio
sd.col.training@gmail.com

Pacific Crest Trail

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

WILDERNESS BASICS COURSE (WBC)

Held annually beginning in January

San Diego

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

Escondido

Kelly Conrad
slpypup@gmail.com
www.wbc.sierraclubnecg.org

SECTIONS & SOCIAL COMMITTEES

Bicycle

Call for meeting information. Jerry Fitzsimmons
(858) 224-3437 Membership@sdscls.org
www.sandigosierraclub.org/get-outdoors/bicycle

Photography

www.sandiego.sierraclub.org
Steven Cirone
stevencirone@gmail.com

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS OUTDOORS (ICO)

Call or check website for meeting information.
www.sandigosierraclub.org

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

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

Fundraising/Membership

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

Hi Sierran Newsletter

Managing Editor: Judy Thomas
thomascreative@cox.net

SIERRA TALKS, MONTHLY PROGRAM

1st Friday of every month

Program Manager: Ernest "EL" Lotecka
(760) 533-2725
sdwalks@interactor.cc



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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.

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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

Councilmember LaCava, Parks and Recreation Director Andy Field Recognize Start of Sea Lion Pupping Season Emphasizing "Responsible Tourism"

On June 1, San Diego Councilmember Joe LaCava stood alongside Andy Field, director of the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, recognizing the start of sea lion pupping season and emphasizing the importance of responsible recreation this summer.

"La Jolla's shoreline parks, beaches, and coastlines have always been a summer destination for San Diego residents and visitors," said Councilmember LaCava.

"Unique to La Jolla, is the proximity of seals and sea lions inhabiting the La Jolla coastline. There are few places where you can be on dry land and watch the seals and sea lions up close in their natural state. Being this close has its advantages; it's a memorable experience for children and adults alike. However, we also have to remember that seals and sea lions are wild animals that deserve their space and our respects."

Sea lions are naturally protective and can move surprising fast on land despite their size. During sea lion pupping season, which runs from June 1 until October 31, sea lion mothers and their pups will be vulnerable as the pups cannot leave dry land for the first few months. Mothers will naturally be protective of their pups during the season. This natural process is as delicate as it is memorable and can be dangerous unless common sense safety measures are followed.

Continuing to ensure the safety of both marine animals and humans alike and anticipating many first-time visitors, the City of San Diego is developing additional signage and educational

materials to be displayed this season. These materials will remind

visitors of the importance of maintaining minimum distance from the animals, and other safety protocols around the area.

"We are expecting large crowds at our parks and beaches this summer which is why it is so important that we are taking steps to ensure both the public and sea lions are safe during

pupping season," said Andy Field, director of the City's Parks and Recreation Department. "Park rangers and City partners will be actively engaging and educating the public about the sea lion population, and the additional signage will serve as another reminder to keep a safe distance and not to disturb



these wonderful animals."

In addition to the educational materials provided by the City Parks and Recreation, a City Park Ranger and a contingent of city interns, in addition to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) enforcement agents, will be keeping a watchful eye on the seals, sea lions, and visitors. These specialists will be available to make your visit to the area a safe, as well as educational, experience.

"Just like you, I'm looking forward to spending the summer with friends and family enjoying all La Jolla's shoreline parks, beaches, and rocky coastline has to offer." Said Councilmember LaCava. "When visiting the area, please follow safety guidance, read the signs, and respect the sea lions as well as all our natural environment so we can continue to enjoy them for generations."

Councilmember Joe LaCava represents San Diego City Council District 1, which includes the communities of Carmel Valley, Del Mar Heights, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Torrey Hills, Torrey Pines, and University City.