

Vol.'16, No. 4 of 6

Aug - Sept 2016

Condor Call



Split oil...Spoiler plants...EVs...Outings...Fee free...To do

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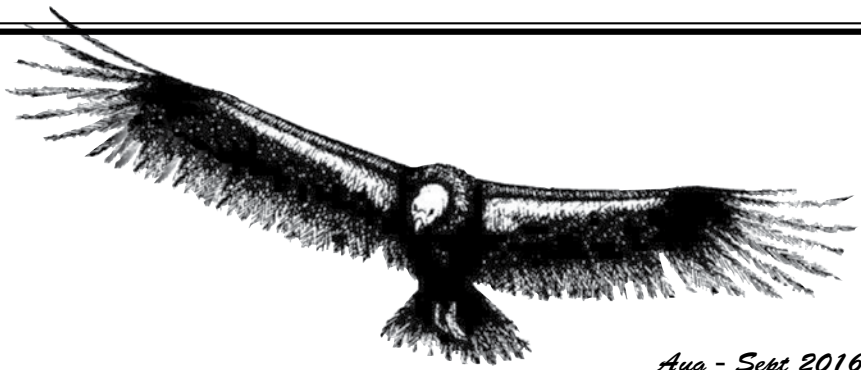
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© Photo by Michael Mead

Condor Call

Journal of Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club
Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties



Aug - Sept 2016

Oil spill a real wake-up call

By John Hankins

When residents in mid-town Ventura were awakened by “a sickening smell” in the early morning of June 23, reaction to the Grove oil spill was immediate and formidable, and yet the pipeline was back up and running only days afterward.

“This spill should be a wake-up call to Ventura,” asserted Mary Haffner, who was just one of many residents who were literally awakened by the stench. She noted the spill happened “from a 75-year-old pipeline I did not know existed next to our backyard.”

The reaction by Crimson Pipeline Co. “was not transparent or forthcoming,” wrote City Manager Mark Watkins to Crimson after a neighborhood meeting a week after the spill occurred. “To find out that Crimson was flowing oil into the pipeline as the meeting was taking place, and your assertion that none of the Crimson personnel at the meeting knew of these actions is

extremely disturbing.”

“The pattern of wrong or incomplete information given to the public disappoints us,” said an editorial in the Ventura County Star. “The stain that Crimson Pipeline has left on that legacy (oil industry’s long, significant history in Ventura) may be remembered for a long time.”

The spill put up to 45,000 gallons into a deep creek bed called Prince Barranca in Hall Canyon and, thanks to residents who reported it, was stopped a half-mile away before it reached the ocean.

The incident was an accident waiting to happen, and the irony is that there were plenty of warning signals:

~ In April, the Ventura Grand Jury reported that: “no single government entity has a complete grasp of critical information such as test history, test validity, and risks associated with the total pipeline array in the county.”

~ The Environmental

Defense Center’s attorney Brian Segee said that since the Refugio pipeline spill in Santa Barbara last year, it has “spent much of the last year investigating the status of the major pipelines in Ventura County, finally resorting to filing a lawsuit against federal agencies for their failure to release needed information. It is clear that Ventura County is crisscrossed with aging pipeline infrastructure and, as has been repeatedly demonstrated with the oil industry and accidents, it is never a question of if, but when.”

~ Crimson has had ten spills in as many years in the state from its 1,000 plus miles of pipelines, according to the U.S. Transportation Department, causing nearly \$6 million in property damage.

Reverberations continue, notably during the Aug. 4 public meeting in Ventura conducted by State Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson and Assembly member Das Williams, which was after the *Condor Call*’s deadline. However, both legislators are likely to promise further actions,

Meanwhile, check out Haffner’s YouTube video of a crew passing bags of oil up the steep Hall Canyon walls:

<https://youtube.com/zbN5bGak2mk>

GO SOLAR

The Sierra Club has partnered with Sungevity to make it easy and affordable for rooftop solar systems, and \$750 will go to your local chapter. Get a free quote and details at:

<http://tinyurl.com/LosPadresSolar>

Pick solar & kick oil

By Condor John Hankins

I’ve had solar panels on our roof for five months now and all is as advertised and more.

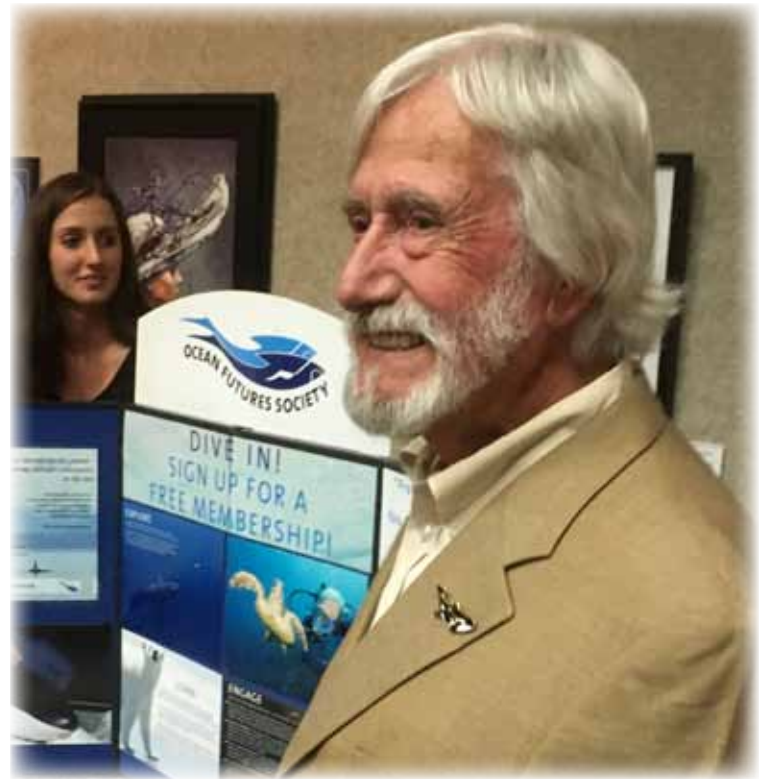
Not only is the sun providing 80 percent of my electric use, my SCE bill is either minus or pocket change. Since the summer began, SCE raised its rates and is replacing its 4-tier system with three tiers ... and that’s just the beginning as it’s estimated that electricity costs in California will rise 5-7% each year.

But I haven’t felt it.

All thanks to the Sierra Club partnering with Sungevity, one of the top two in the nation. With a simple phone call, Sungevity can estimate how much you’ll save with federal and Sierra Club discounts (over \$3,000); just go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/LosPadresSolar>

When you do, reference this number to get \$750 more off your panels: 2519826.



A genial Jean Michel Cousteau was the keynote speaker at a Sierra Club sponsored event in Santa Barbara that opened many eyes to the world-wide threats underwater that we don’t often see. Based locally, his Ocean Futures group (free to join) supports the proposed Chumash Marine Sanctuary, as do we. (Photo by Condor John Hankins)

Cousteau dazzles with ocean tales of new sanctuary

By Robert Bernstein

Jean-Michel Cousteau was the prime speaker at a recent packed event in Santa Barbara to establish a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. But he had some help.

First was an introduction by Chumash leader Fred Collins explaining the Chumash connection to the ocean. They don’t even have a word for “sustainability,” he said, they talk of “thrive-ability.”

Next was a pitch by Andrew Christie from the Santa Lucia Chapter in San Luis Obispo, who set up the event shared with our Los Padres Chapter, since the proposed sanctuary is off the shores of both counties. He urged people to write and sign the petition at:

www.tinyurl.com/CHNMSpetition

Then UCSB Marine Biology Professor Douglas McCauley presented a comparison between land and ocean preservation. If you visited this area on land a thousand years ago you would see Grizzly Bears and many other notable differences. But the underwater ocean would not have changed as much.

One reason is the industrialization of the land, such as mining and agriculture. But that is about to change, McCauley said, explaining that undersea mining and aquaculture are already industrializing the ocean. Just as we have taken steps to create parks and reserves on land, we need to protect the oceans

from over-industrialization.

In 2016 there were more farmed fish raised than fish taken from the wild. That may seem like a good thing, but it has impacts on the ocean ecosystem that may be detrimental.

Cousteau stepped up to tell people about Ocean Futures and how he got involved in ocean preservation.

“He dazzled us all with his knowledge of our ocean resources and the living ocean ecosystem coupled with a wonderful slide show about the existing Channel Islands NMS and Monterey Bay NMS. The Chumash Heritage NMS will fill in the ‘big gap’ between these two existing sanctuaries,” commented Jim Hines, our chapter chair.

When he was seven, Jean-Michel’s famous father Jacques Cousteau put tanks on his back and pushed him in the water. This was before modern certification and was the quickest way for him to get to know the ocean, he said.

People protect what they love. But most of us don’t know the oceans except what little we see on the surface from shore. “And we’re taking more from

continued on page 3

COVER PHOTO

“Morning Walk” along Goleta Beach is a perfect illustration for our back page essay “Nature is Your Neighbor,” and so is the photographer, Michael Mead of Parameters Photography. He’s part of a new exhibit at Salon Patine (3206 State St.) featuring The Santa Barbara Photographers Collective from Aug. 14 to Sept. 18, reception @ 5pm Aug. 14. Others are John Conroy, Carole Daneri and Letitia Haynes.

Our swift response

The Sierra Club’s reaction to the Grove oil spill from an aged pipeline in a Ventura neighborhood on June 23 was swift and effective.

On that same day our Chapter ExCom Chair Jim Hines sent out a quick email asserting “you cannot believe the huge number of calls I have been getting from the news media; just got off the phone with a live interview on KNX News Radio in LA. Our national Sierra Club office has contacted me and is helping me with press inquiries, I am now heading over to the spill site to meet with the press.”

Sure enough, an email blast by the national office under Hines’ signature alerted thousands of members and friends to join us in taking action “to hold the oil industry accountable, prevent this type of disaster again and move us away from fossil fuels.” To

do so, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/GroveOilSpillAction>

Coincidentally, a long-time Sierra Club member and resident near the spill, Bob Chianese, started daily reports complete with photos, commentaries and published accounts. His photo essay “Wild Nature at Work” in the canyon area showed previous incidents of fires and floods. Check it out at:

www.environmentalventura.com

Sierra Club California also sent out a state-wide email blast by its director, Kathryn Phillips, listing other recent spills and asserting “it’s the unacceptable state of reality that oil spills have become the norm here in California” and called on members to contact legislators to act.

~ By John Hankins



Crude oil creek: Ventura resident Tomas Rebecchi was a “first responder” to the Grove Oil spill that went through his neighborhood (see map next page) but was stopped at the Prince Barranca, just above Ventura High School. His photos were used by the Sierra Club, media and citizen groups.

SB spill inspires bill

By Fran Farina

Spill's Bill: For as awful as the Plains All American Pipeline oil spill at Refugio State Beach was in May 2015, it has resulted in something unbelievable, given the current Congress.

Bipartisan legislation known as the PIPES Act (S.2276) to address pipeline safety throughout



the nation passed both the Congress and Senate with unanimous votes and was signed into law by President Obama. Amazing!

Our Congressional Rep. Lois Capps worked this bill very hard to incorporate lessons learned from the Plains spill including a study to investigate corrosion, defining the coastal zone as high consequence areas, and requirements to analyze pipeline inspection frequency.

Injection Rejection: In northern Santa Barbara County, Pacific Coast Energy's project for cyclic steam injection oil

EAVESDROPS

"Solar is clearly an entrenched, competitive, everyday reality for tens of thousands of people in the tri-counties and is bringing significant economic benefit."

~ From Sigrid Wright of the Community Environmental Council, noting that we can now scrap the phrase 'alternative energy' as solar in this area has hit "a monumental milestone" of providing a gigawatt of power.

wells was denied by the Planning Commission on a close 3-2 vote. See separate story on this page.

Oil Train: Further north in San Luis Obispo County, more good news about Phillips 66's Rail Spur Project. Because additional staff and consultant time (including funding to pay for it) plus information from Phillips has not been fully provided, the hearing scheduled for Sept. 22 is probably off the calendar. Also, if Phillips does not provide the money and information by August 15th, the project will be deemed withdrawn. Of course, they could file again.

Spill Over: A new pipeline spill in Ventura County in late June referred to as the Grove incident released over 25,000 gallons of crude oil into Hall Canyon Creek. Fortunately, there was no water in the creek and first responders constructed berms to prevent the oil from reaching the beach and ocean. Crimson Pipeline is the owner responsible for the spill; see article on page 1.

Help Elect: Our endorsed candidates who have vowed to stand up to the oil interests did well in the primary election held on June 7, but most still need our help on Nov 8th. You can visit the Los Padres Chapter website under Political Action and click on Endorsements. See page 3.

Das Williams in Santa Barbara and Steve Bennett in Ventura were elected outright in their county supervisorial races, but all of the other candidates will be on the November ballot.

~ Fran Farina represents the Sierra Club's Los Padres Chapter on the Santa Barbara Environmental Coalition. The Coalition monitors all energy activity in three counties.



A map of the Grove oil spill (see story page 1) down a creek bed alerted residents to what is emerging as a network of old pipelines with scant regulation that go in and near neighborhoods.

Santa Paula, Mandalay Bay energy plant sites opposed

While there was initial confusion that proposals for a Santa Paula peaker plant and another on the coast at Mandalay Bay might be connected, it is now clear they are separate projects.

Neither one is acceptable to the Sierra Club.

The Mission Rock Energy Center proposed by Calpine Corp. near the Santa Clara River and Santa Paula "is extremely incompatible with the thousands of adjoining acres owned by The Nature Conservancy," and building it within a 100-year floodplain is "irresponsible," testified Ventura Sierra Club chair Nina Danza. Offer your own comments at:

<http://tinyurl.com/MissionRockEnergyCenter>

EAVESDROPS

"Letting her rip' is a good way of putting it. It's like pulling the plug in a bathtub — you just open it up and let the river drain it."

~ Now the recommended way of getting rid of the Matilija Dam in Ojai, thereby adding sand to beaches and opening up Matilija Creek to endangered salmon, according to Paul Jenkin, Surfrider Foundation.

As for the Mandalay Bay proposal to build a peaker plant by NRG Corp., the Oxnard City Council is against it as are environmental groups, notably the Sierra Club because it's on coastal land and doesn't need to be there, among other reasons.

But the latest battle this summer is the Mission Rock proposal. Our Chapter members attended two recent meetings about it. The first on June 28 was widely criticized for not having adequate translation service, causing a walkout of about a hundred people. But some stayed, and the *Ventura County Star* printed a prominent picture of our ExCom Chair Jim Hines during Calpine Corp.'s tour for a new peaker plant with the caption: "Jim Hines, environmental advocate at the Sierra Club, tours the proposed site ..." which is at 1025 Mission Rock Road, Santa Paula.

So the California Energy Commission conducted a follow-up meeting on July 28 and over 300 people voiced their opposition, with our Chapter well represented yet again. The meeting lasted five hours over the proposal that would contain five turbine generators with stacks 60 feet tall and using recycled water from Limoneira's wastewater treatment facility.

Another workshop is planned in mid-September, and a preliminary report will be issued after analyzing the public's comments.

Orcutt oil still alive

An oil expansion project that would use cyclic steam injection was denied on a narrow 3-2 vote of the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission on July 13, but it has been appealed to the Board of Supervisors which will likely hear it in October.

Proposed by Pacific Coast Energy Co., it would add 96 new wells to an existing 96-well operations at 1555 Orcutt Hill Rd.

The industry maintains steam injection is different from fracking as it doesn't break up the geology, but instead thins the heavy oil by heat so it can be extracted.

That method, however, which has a high well-casing failure and spill rate, was part of the antifracking Measure P (for Protection) in 2014 in which oil companies spent a record \$7.6 million to defeat the initiative crafted by the grassroots environmental group called the Water Guardians.

"The astounding amount of outside money spent in Santa Barbara against this citizen initiative broke many records," the Water Guardians said, "more than any congressional race in California."

After the July 13 hearing, Sierra Club Santa Barbara Group Chair Katie Davis said "the company gave up and no supporters were there. We outnumbered the company 7-0 in terms of public comment, including myself and Rebecca August (Chair of our Arguello Group)."

The Environmental Defense Center represented the Sierra Club and the Santa Barbara County Action Network.



Hundreds of citizens and many Sierra Club members packed the hearings of the California Energy Commission in June and July to oppose a new "peaker plant" proposal known as Mission Rock in Santa Paula. (Photo contributed)

Condor Call

<http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org> ~ All phone numbers 805 area code

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Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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Typography and production by Dan Fuller

Get a charge out of driving

A big push to jump-start electric (EV) and plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEV) is happening in September during National Drive Electric Vehicle Week -- of which our national Sierra Club is a major co-sponsor -- and our Los Padres Chapter is leading the charge in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Our new Transportation Chair, James Reach, is arranging for events in three locations within the two counties. He needs owners who have either an EV or PHEV to show to the public and volunteers to help plan and set up the events in advance. Reach's Tesla Model S P85DL will be one of those on display. To get involved, contact Reach at 444-6638, reach@101freeway.com

"This is where we owners are able to educate the public about how to own and use these vehicles, which are a pleasure to drive, simpler and less expensive than most potential owners believe," Reach said. "As an EV owner and advocate, I was pleased our ExCom selected me to be its Transportation Chair, and to have the backing of our Sierra Club and its tremendous resources supporting this cause."

The idea to display such vehicles -- ranging from bikes to trucks and cars -- started in 2011 as National Plug-in Day and has expanded to a whole week of activities at communities nationwide. It is a way for the public to not only see and experience electric vehicles, but talk to the owners who have experience with them.

As of press time, local events sponsored by the Sierra Club are still in the planning stage, but are tentatively scheduled to be held in Thousand Oaks, Oxnard and North Santa Barbara County all between Sept. 10 - 18. The Community Environmental

EV Incentive in Ventura

A Ventura County incentive to buy or lease an electric car is worth up to \$2,200 off the price you negotiate with participating Ventura County dealerships.

"This is in addition to manufacturer discounts, state and federal incentives," said Stan Cowen of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District.

It starts on September 1 when APCD staff will conduct a free drawing for 75 EV Discount Vouchers worth \$2,200 off certain Battery EVs and \$1,100 off other Plug-in Battery and Hybrid EVs.

To be eligible, download the short PEV Voucher Discount Application from the website: www.vcapcd.org

You'll be at the home page and scroll down until you see a red car with the headline: "EV Readiness Plan, Charging Station Grants & EV Incentives."

Fill out the form and submit to the APCD office before Sept. 1 to be entered into the drawings, which can be done in person, via mail, email or Fax. Ventura County residents only, and one voucher per residence.

Vouchers may only be used at participating Ventura County dealerships (listed on the APCD voucher application). Make your best deal, and then show them the voucher for additional savings off the MSRP.

Questions? contact Cowen at 645-1408 or stan@vcapcd.org



That's our Transportation Chair James Reach driving State Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson in his Tesla Model S P85DL all-electric zero emissions vehicle. It was during Independence Day, rather apropos as we'd like independence from oil and gas fuels. If you have an EV or PHEV, contact James (see adjacent story) for public display. (Photo contributed)

Council is sponsoring an event in Goleta, and the Electric Vehicle Advocates of Ventura County (of which Reach is a member) is looking to sponsor an event in Ojai.

For specific dates and times, go to: <https://driveelectricweek.org>

EAVESDROPS

"It requires a certain arrogance for a Republican these days to conjure John Muir as a rhetorical ally. Especially when Muir's words are used to support legislation allowing more development in Yosemite National Park."

~ Matt Weiser in a report in the **Sacramento Bee** about the damage Rep. Tom McClintock (R-Elk Grove) is doing as vice-chair of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee. Formerly a representative from Thousand Oaks, he has absconded to Northern California. Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/GOPYosemite>



Sign the Chumash Sanctuary petition to heed the call for protection of the marine environment.

Save rare seamounts

In addition to strongly supporting the proposed Chumash National Marine Sanctuary, the Los Padres Chapter urges the passage of a bill that would establish California Seamounts and Ridges National Marine Conservation Areas.

The bill (HR 5797) was introduced by Rep. Sam Farr

Cousteau...

continued from page 1

the ocean than it's producing," Cousteau said, adding "we have to stop using the ocean as a garbage dump, a sewer."

We have protected 13% of the land in the world, but only 5% of the oceans, and obtaining sanctuary status is a prime opportunity to help, Cousteau noted.

Our initial efforts at protection are paying off; the kelp forests are starting to come back, he said of the current sanctuaries off the Channel Islands and Monterey.

Practical actions include signing the petition, membership in organizations like Cousteau's Ocean Futures group (free, and based in Santa Barbara) and supporting actions like the Sierra Club's campaign to slow down large tankers through the SB Channel, which reduces fuel use and pollution, and less chances of whale strikes.

The speakers stressed that sanctuaries benefit the fishing industry giving marine wildlife a safe place to breed and grow. But it does forbid oil drilling, which is the sanctuary's primary opponent.

Photos of the event are at:

<http://swt.org/act/cousteau-2016-0616/>

(D-Santa Cruz) in the hope it can be passed before President Obama leaves office.

"This is an entirely new type of marine protection. And right here off the coast of Santa Barbara County we have the chance to have two marine national monuments designated by this bill," commented ExCom Chair Jim Hines, who won unanimous approval to support the action.

Seamounts are areas under the ocean's surface which are ancient volcanoes and submerged islands. One is known as the Rodriguez Sea Mount, located about 40 miles west of San Miguel Island, and the other is San Juan Sea Mount located about 50 miles west of Santa Cruz Island.

"Found on the seamounts, ridges, and banks in the Conservation Area are rare deep-water corals, sponges, anemones, tunas, sharks, seabirds, marine mammals, endangered sea turtles, octopuses, and diverse fish populations, some of which are endemic to the area," according to the proposed bill.



WE ENDORSE for Nov 8 ballot

More endorsements on local races etc. in our next issue

Salud Carbajal
Congress, 24th Dist.

Bryan Caforio
Congress, 25th Dist.

Julia Brownley
Congress, 26th Dist.

Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Senate, 19th Dist.

Henry Stern
State Senate, 27th Dist.

Monique Limón
Assembly, 37th Dist.

Christy Smith
Assembly, 38th Dist.

Joan Hartmann
SB Supervisor, Dist. 3

Carla Castilla
Vta Supervisor, Dist. 3

Los Padres Group News

The public is welcome to our programs

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

~ Executive Committee meets at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of every month, either in person at the Carpinteria IHOP, or by conference call. Email Secretary Gerry Ching for the agenda and details: gching@cox.net

ARGUELLO GROUP

~ Board usually meets first Monday of the month at various locations and times. General meetings most months on 3rd Friday at Lompoc Presbyterian Church 1600 E. Berkeley Ave., usually with conservation program 7 - 9pm or 6 - 9pm when there are potlucks.

~Volunteers are needed as hike leaders and to monitor issues; your talents could make a difference.
~ All information on this North County Santa Barbara Group from Rebecca August, RebeccaAugust@mac.com

CONEJO GROUP

~ Get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6295 [mail@hkwarren.net](mailto:hkwarren.net)

~ Web: www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo

~ Outings: www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ Usually meets at 11:30am on the first Monday of the month at Union Bank, 15 E. Carrillo St. View the calendar, hikes and issues and join the mailing list for the South Coast Santa Barbara area (Carpinteria to Goleta) at www.SBSierraClub.org or follow us on Facebook.

VENTURA NETWORK

~ Up-to-date information about the western Ventura County group in *Condor Call* on the Los Padres Chapter website. Address: PO Box 7301, Ventura CA 93006. Also on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Ventura-Sierra-Club/152441931434825

~New MEETUP site for hikes, outings and other fun stuff in Ventura County: www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura

~ Regular board meetings 1st Wed monthly at REI in Oxnard 7-8:30pm. Email Nina Danza to confirm at sierraclubventura@gmail.com

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

Breakfast on the bluffs

Go ahead and sleep in on Sunday, Oct. 2 because the Santa Barbara Group's Annual Breakfast at the Beach event isn't until 10am

Same place, too, because there's no place better than Shoreline Park overlooking the ocean and harbor on the bluffs.

Bring a breakfast item to share, and we'll supply coffee and juice.

Following the potluck breakfast, we'll update you about Sierra Club activities and then there will be an optional guided beach walk.

It's a great chance to meet other members and friends.



Original photo credit: Gage Skidmore

SIERRA CLUB

Take a Hike!

LOS PADRES CHAPTER

UPDATES: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>

WELCOME HIKERS

The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Study footwear is recommended. If you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. All phone numbers are area code 805, unless otherwise noted. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14. A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at the chapter's website:

<http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>

August 6

COLD SPRING EAST: (9 mile round trip with 2775 ft elevation gain) Very strenuous hike ascends one of the most scenic front country trails to Camino Cielo. Optional loop at top adds 1 mile and 300 ft elevation gain. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

LOS ROBLES TRAIL FROM TRIUNFO: Moderately paced 5 mrt loop hike with an elev. gain of 950'. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the parking lot at Triunfo Community Park off of Triunfo Canyon Road and Tamarack Street in Westlake Village. This route provides great views of the Conejo Valley and the surrounding area. JOANNE SULKOSKE 492-3061. (CJ)

August 7

FIR CANYON: Long car pool to Davy Brown camp behind Figueroa Mt. Steep hike up the most beautiful canyon in the area to near the top of Figueroa Mt. Moderate 6.5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

August 8

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. or at 9am at Bates Beach for low tide beach walk for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

August 11

RAY MILLER TRAIL - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 5.4 mrt hike with 700' elev. gain. Rolling hike with switchbacks from the canyon to the ridge with fabulous ocean views, and return on the same trail. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet in parking lot near Freddy's just before the Shell Station on Hampshire Road in Thousand Oaks at 7:30am for carpooling or meet at 8am at the State parking lot with fee next to the trailhead or park at La Jolla Canyon parking on PCH. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590. (CJ)

August 12

CARPINTERIA: FRANKLIN CANYON - Moderate-to-Strenuous 10.4 miles round trip with 2,350 ft. of elevation gain. Hike starts from trailhead at Carpinteria High School, climbs to Ducas Family bench, then continues climbing 2 more miles before turning around. Allow 5.5 hrs. for hike. Carpinteria Valley and ocean views highlight this hike. Bring 10 essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 quarts of water, and snack/lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. MEET at 7:30am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows restaurant and Chase Bank). Rain or temperatures over 85 cancels. LORA 218-2105, PHIL 218-2103 (VEN)

August 13

POLO CLUB - RESERVOIR TRAIL LOOP: Join us on this 4mrt easy-moderate hike to the Summerland Reservoir. Mostly flat, but some steep sections. We'll start from the Toro Cyn Creek trailhead on Via Real near the intersection of Toro Cyn Rd. We'll pickup the Edison Trail back of Summerland and connect with the Reservoir Trail to the reservoir where we'll stop for lunch. We'll return via the Reservoir and Polo Club trails. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

August 14

TRESPASS TRAIL/GAVIOTA HOT SPRINGS: Easy to Moderate Hike from Gaviota Peak/Hot Springs trail head along a little-used loop trail. About 4mrt with

side trip to Gaviota Hot Springs. Elevation gain about 700 feet. Bring swim suit for hot springs. Also water and snack or light lunch. Meet behind the B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT (SB)

HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME!

9am-noon Come out to Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA) to do a morning of environmental restoration on the Santa Clara River. We will be planting native vegetation and doing light invasive plant removal under the direction of UCSB Riparian Restoration scientists. Expect hot weather! Wear long pants and closed shoes. Bring sun protection and water. All welcome! Ages 14 and under need to be accompanied by parent or guardian. Ages 15-18 without parent/guardian MUST bring 2 signed waivers. Print and bring to the event: Sierra Club waiver: <http://tinyurl.com/lk3qytz> UCSB waiver <http://www.ehs.ucsb.edu/files/docs/rm/WaiverElecActivities.pdf> RSVP requested. Directions to Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA) 20395 S. Mountain Rd, Santa Paula: Hwy 126 E to Santa Paula, exit 10th St. and turn left (go under freeway), turn quick right on Harvard, turn right on 12th St. (cross Santa Clara River bridge), go 3.7 mi to 20395 S. Mountain Rd, turn left onto dirt road between farmland to the end (about 1/2 mi). Contact: NINA prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com (VEN)

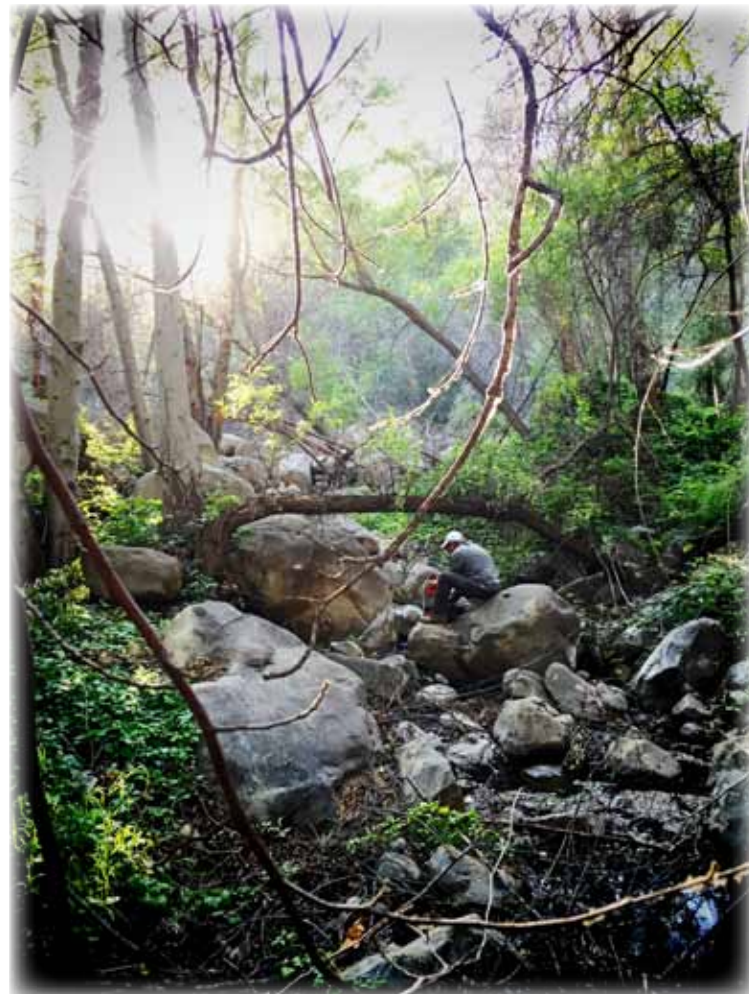
CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE SOON: Outings leaders should be preparing their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering the period of October 2016 thru January 2017 plus at least the first week into February. Submit them to your Group outings chair. Questions? Contact Gerry at gching@cox.net

August 15

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. to walk to Ventura Harbor on trail from Vons parking lot for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

August 19-21

PERSEID METEOR SHOWER IN THE BLACK ROCK DESERT: Come enjoy the Perseid Meteor shower in a dark sky area. We'll probably have about 100 people camping in the widest part of the Black Rock Desert about 100 Miles north of Reno. Expect a potluck, tours, and meteor watching. Sky will be pretty dark in this remote area and the meteors



Murietta Camp area, one of the destinations for our Wilderness Basics Course held every February. Check out our listings for similar adventures in our wild but beautiful backcountry. (Photo by Arturo Hernandez)

show up really well. Side trips to hot springs and the Emigrant Trail likely. DAVID BOOK 775/843-6443 (Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

August 20

FRANKLIN TRAIL: Moderately strenuous 10.4 mrt hike with an elevation gain of 1700'. Let's check out the newly re-opened historic trail in Carpinteria that offers great views of the Channel Islands and the coastline. We will hike at a moderate pace or about 2 miles an hour and stop halfway for lunch and snacks, returning to the trailhead between 3-4pm. This is a long hike and good physical conditioning is recommended. Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring 2 liters of water, snacks, and personal first aid. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. KRISTI Email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

August 21

PIEDRA BLANCA: Strenuous 8 mrt hike across the Sespe and up Piedra Blanca Creek, then some rock and boulder scrambling to our favorite swimming hole. Much of the hike will be in the creek bed, so expect to get wet. It can be very hot in August, so bring at least 3 liters of water, plus electrolytes. Also bring lunch, snacks, hat, swimsuit,

hiking shoes, and sandals for water crossings. Please do not come on this hike if you're not comfortable hiking in the heat or in a creek. Meet at 9am, Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). If you're coming from Santa Barbara, meet at the Bank of America on State St. and Hope at 8:30am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

August 22

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. or at 9am at Emma Wood State Beach to walk through park on beach trail for about 2 hours. For more info call Pat at 643-0270 (VEN)

August 23

HIDDEN MEADOWS TRAIL: Moderate 4.4 mrt hike with 500' elev. gain. Wonderful views of the Santa Monica Mountains, Simi Valley, the Oxnard Plain and the Channel Islands. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the trailhead at the end of Falling Star. Turn from Kanan to Falling Star at corner of the Kolb Catholic Church. Park at the end of Falling Star at the cul-de-sac. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590 (CJ)

continued on page 5

Conditions
A number of campgrounds and roads in Los Padres National Forest are closed or have restricted (no autos) access due to protection of habitats and species or are under repair. Before you go into the local backcountry, it's a good idea to check conditions with rangers. Numbers to call (unless noted all are area code 805):

Los Padres National Forest Districts

Headquarters	968-6640
Ojai District	646-4348
Mt. Pinos	(661) 245-3731
Santa Barbara	967-3481
Santa Lucia	925-9538

Other Areas

Santa Monica Mtns. Area	370-2301
Conejo Parks	381-2737
Simi Valley	584-4400
Montecito	969-3514

Forest Notes
For updated information, news releases, maps, and many other goodies, go to Los Padres National Forest's website: <http://fs.usda.gov/LPNF>

Regional Hike Info
There are a number of websites that give you information as varied as outings, trail profiles, wildflower alerts, trail work opportunities, and much more. Here's a few:
<http://LosPadresSierraClub.org>
www.SBSierraClub.org
www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com
www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com
www.LPForest.org
www.VenturaCountyTrails.org
<http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

Ongoing Outings

Ventura Every Monday Morning
EASY WALKS: Join Pat Jump at 8:30 a.m. every Monday morning for easy to moderate walks in the Ventura and Ojai areas. A long-time tradition, the walks will last about two hours and the group sometimes goes for coffee afterward. Call Pat at 643-0270.

Ventura Every Wednesday
URBAN EVENING HIKE: Weekly hike in Ventura meets across the street from the Mission at 6:45 p.m. for a 4 1/2-mile walk up to Father Serra's Cross for spectacular scenic views of Ventura, the Channel Islands and the sunset. It continues across the hillside, down to the ocean, to the end of the pier, then along the promenade looping back to the Mission. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Contact KURT PRESSLER 643-5902. (VEN)

Santa Barbara Fridays, Wednesdays and Weekends
SOCIAL HIKE every Friday evening for an easy-to-moderate 2-4 mile roundtrip evening hike in the Santa Barbara front country, beach or back roads. Meet at 6 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission; we leave at 6:15 sharp. Bring a flashlight; optional potluck or pizza afterward. AL SLADEK, 685-2145. (SB)
STRENUOUS 5-10 mile roundtrip evening hike on Wednesdays. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission; bring water and a flashlight, preferably head lamp. Hike is designed for conditioning. For details, contact BERNARD MINES, 722-9000.
MODERATE AND STRENUOUS hikes at 9 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Meet at Bank of America at State St. and Hope Ave.

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Outings...from page 4

August 26
 OLD CABIN SITE - POINT MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate 7 mrt hike with 1,000' elev. gain. Bring water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at the end of Wendy Road in Newbury Park at Potrero Trailhead in Newbury Park not later than 8am. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623. (CJ)

August 27
 ROMERO CANYON/ ISLAND VIEW LOOP: Strenuous hike up to a ridge line with the most gorgeous views in SB, Old Island View trail to an OHV road and Juncal, looping back to Romero, 12 mrt, 3000' gain. About 5-7 hours at a moderate pace with several steep spots and some minor height exposure. Experienced and Intermediate hikers only. 18- must be accompanied by a parent. Wear hiking shoes/boots, bring 3 liters of water, lunch, snacks, weather protection, and personal first aid. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. 9am. KRISTI email: sbhikergirl@cox.net (SB)

August 28
 SANTA YNEZ SWIM: (6 mile round trip with 400 ft elevation gain) Moderately strenuous hike follows road and trail to Gibraltar Dam, then returns along the Santa Ynez River for a picnic and swim. Bring plenty of water, lunch and sun protection. It is most convenient to hike in your swimming suit. Wading shoes may be useful for river crossings in wet years. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. PAUL 886-1121 (SB)

CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE SOON: Group outings chairs should be preparing their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering the period of October 2016 thru January 2017 plus at least the first week into February. Questions? Contact Gerry at gching@cox.net

August 29
 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza



Island Trips



Sierra Club California's annual Channel Islands hopping trips has three left. Each one is a 3-day, 3-island, live-aboard cruise to our Channel Islands National Park where this couple, Roger Conrad and Ruthie Marks, are having a great time. Dates are: Aug. 21-23, Sept. 25-27 and Oct. 23-25. For details contact leader Joan Jones Holtz at (626) 443-0706 or email: jholtzhl@aol.com.

shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am behind Ventura city hall at trailhead to walk uphill to the cross for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

September 2
 SOLSTICE CANYON: Moderate 8 mrt hike to Tropical Terrace and beyond, with 1900' gain. Bring lots of water, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at Freddy's before Shell Station on Hampshire Road for carpooling or at trailhead at 8:30am. Leader will be at trailhead only. LILLIAN TREVISAN 498-1623. (CJ)

September 3
 WEST FORK COLD SPRING TO LOOKOUT AND BEYOND: Start on Cold Spring Trail, cross stream and hike west up to the Homestead. Moderate, but steep 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

September 4
 FREMONT TRAIL: Park on East Camino Cielo and walk North along ridge used by Fremont to cross the ridge into Santa Barbara. Superb views of valley. Easy-Moderate, 4 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

September 5
 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. to walk to Ventura Harbor on trail from Vons parking lot for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

September 10
 HISTORIC HWY 150 & STAGECOACH ROUTE: We'll walk a portion of the original Hwy 150 road near Lake Cachuma and explore Arrowhead Island. Then we'll carpool to a location where we can walk on a section of the historic Stagecoach Road that linked Santa Barbara before the railroad. Lunch will be at a turnout on this road. Easy-moderate 4 mrt. Bring water and a light lunch. Long pants recommended as Spring rains brought tall grass. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet us at the trailhead. Call or email for instructions. GERRY 964-5411, gching@cox.net (SB)

September 11
 MIDDLE MATILIJIA CAMP: Moderate 8 mrt along stream, mostly shaded, to Middle Matilija Camp. There are at least 17 creek crossings, but we will have no problem rock hopping across. Bring at least 3 liters of water, sunscreen, a good pair of hiking shoes/boots, and hat. Meet at 9am, Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). If you're coming from Santa Barbara, meet at the Bank of America on State St. and Hope at 8:30am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

ORMOND BEACH CLEAN AND GREEN NATURE WALK: 9am-11am. Stroll through the wetlands, coast dunes and past the surf for a good cause! This is one of a series of hikes to raise funds for an outdoor table for Walter Fuller, resident docent of Ormond Beach. For a requested \$5 donation, come along on a combined cleanup / nature tour. Your host will be on the lookout for notable bird species, will explain beach ecology and scout

for marine mammals. We'll pick up trash along the way (tools provided). Total distance about 2 miles, no elevation change. Wear closed shoes; bring water, snack, and sun protection. Binoculars may be useful! Great for kids with accompanying parent or guardian! No dogs please. End-of-hike rewards for all participants! Contact: NINA prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com (VEN)

September 12
 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am at 45 Alto Drive in Oak View to walk to the creek for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

September 17
 COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY AT SANTA CLARA RIVER GATEWAY: 9am-noon. Sure you can help remove trash on the beach but want to pick up BIG things on Coastal Clean-Up Day? Santa Clara River Gateway is the place to be. This site is hosted by Sierra Club and CalTrout, and last year each of our volunteers took out an average of 56 lb. of trash, by far the most of any site in Ventura County. That's how to help the environment in a BIG way! All ages welcome! We love school, work, and neighborhood groups! Refreshments and tools provided. Freebies for everyone to take home. Park near Anytime Fitness (2950 Johnson Dr.) and walk to the sign in table across from Motel 6. Contact: Nina, email: prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com (VEN)

TEQUEPIS : Hike up to West Camino Cielo from Santa Ynez Valley. View of Cachuma Lake and the Pacific Ocean. Moderate-strenuous 8 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. CHRISTINE 963-2347 (SB)

September 18
 ELLWOOD SHORE/BUTTERFLY BEACH: Walk on a beach and across an open field in the Ellwood area. Children with supervision welcome. Easy 4 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE NOW: Group outings chairs should send their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering the period of October 2016 thru January 2017 plus at least the first week into February. Send to Gerry at gching@cox.net

September 19
 MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura on Main St. or at 9am at Park and Bard in Port Hueneme for low tide beach walk for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

September 23
 FRAZIER PARK - MT PINOS CAMPGROUND TO SAWMILL MOUNTAIN AND BACK: Moderate, 6 miles round trip, with approx. 1500 ft. of gain. Hiking starts in Mount Pinos parking lot and is pretty simple and quick on the old road (now closed to cars) to Mount Pinos. There are great 360-degree views from the summit. From Mt Pinos to Sawmill the trail is fairly moderate with some steep areas between Pinos & Sawmill Mt. Great views looking north from Sawmill. After the return hike to the cars we will stop in Fraser Park for a Mexican meal before heading back to



To protect Ormond Beach's sensitive habitat and animals, new restrictions are now posted, and volunteers are needed to inform the public. (Photo courtesy of Ventura Audubon)

Beach rules working

A new ordinance passed in May to protect Ormond Beach wildlife from disturbance seems to be working already, according to monitors from Ventura Audubon.

"Ordinance signs have been posted at every entrance to Ormond Beach and dog visitation is down. Last weekend our volunteers intercepted two horses and about eight dogs headed to the beach. One gull with a broken wing was captured and now in rehab," Audubon reports

Volunteers said that it is mostly people from out of town who are bringing dogs to Ormond, so they have no idea about the new ordinance.

Some of the snowy plover

nests that are not disturbed have hatched, so a new clutch of little chicks is running around the beach. Audubon also reports a successful least tern colony raising chicks on the north end of the beach. "All of these birds will have a better chance of surviving with the new ordinance," Audubon reports.

If anyone would like to volunteer for a couple of hours of code enforcement and public contact, email:

wsp.ventura.audubon@gmail.com

On Sunday, Sept. 11 from 9am-11am the Ventura Sierra Club will conduct an Ormond Beach clean and green nature walk. See our Outings list under that date for details.

Ventura. NOTE: 2 hour drive each way Ventura to Mt Pinos. MEET at 7:30am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows Restaurant and Chase Bank). Bring ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 qts of water, and snack/lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain/Snow or temperatures of over 85 cancels.

Leaders: PHILIP 218-2103 (VEN), LORA 218-2105 (VEN)

September 23-25
 NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY IN THE BLACK ROCK DESERT: Join us in helping out in this beautiful and remote desert about 100 Miles north of Reno. Plans are not definite yet, but we will

continued on page 6

Outings...from page 5

be doing a work project of some sort. The trip usually includes a day of work and day of play. More information will be available as the time draws nearer. Leader: DAVID BOOK 775/843-6443. (Great Basin Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

September 24

LIZARD'S MOUTH CLEANUP: Have fun exploring while making this popular spot a bit cleaner! Beautiful rock formations and wind caves are a pleasure to enjoy and restore! Short Easy hike with some boulder hopping. Bring a snack and water. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

POINT ME TO THE PARKWAY CONFERENCE: 8am-3pm. Did you know there are thousands of wild acres set aside along the Santa Clara River to preserve the environment? Discover the past, present, and future of these lands held for the Santa Clara River Parkway in a public conference with local speakers and exhibits. Santa Paula Community Center, 530 W. Main Street, Santa Paula. \$5 donation requested at the door, lunch and site tour optional (lunch cost extra at the door). All welcome! Spanish translation will be provided. Contact: NINA prettycheapjewelry@gmail.com (VEN)

September 25

FISH CREEK: Long car pool to Nira Camp, then up the Manzana to Fish Creek Camp, continuing up Fish Creek to a small swimming hole. Moderate 9mrt. Bring lunch, snacks, hat, and a swimsuit if you want to take a dip in the pool. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. JIM 479-7063/644-6934 (SB)

September 26

MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza shopping center in Ventura near Main St. or at 9am behind Ventura city hall at trailhead to walk uphill to the cross for about 2 hours. For info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

September 30

CHORRO GRANDE: Enjoy phenomenal views as we climb to Chorro Springs for lunch. We'll be hiking from 4,100 ft. to 6,400 ft., gaining and losing 2,500 ft. Trip is 8.6 miles round trip. Bring hat, sunglasses, water, lunch, sunscreen, jacket, and other 10 essentials. Meet at 7:30am at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between Carrows restaurant and Chase Bank). Rain cancels. TERESA 524-7170 (VEN)

October 22-23

GHOST TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA: Celebrate Halloween by visiting the ghosts of California's colorful past in the eerie desert landscape near Death Valley. Camp near the historic ghost town of Ballarat. Saturday, a challenging hike to ghost town Lookout City with historian Hal Fowler who will regale us with tales of this wild west town. We'll return to camp for Happy Hour and a potluck feast, followed by a midnight visit to Ballarat's graveyard. On Sunday, we'll tour the town of Ballarat itself before heading home. Send \$8 per person (check payable to Lygeia Gerard), home and work phones, email address and rideshare preferences to Leader: LYGEIA GERARD, P.O. Box 721039, Pinon Hills, CA 92372, 760-868-2179 assisted by MARGUERITE MCGUIGAN. (Mojave Group/CNRCC Desert Committee)

Forest fee lawsuit allows free parking

**By Alasdair Coyne
Keep the Sespe Wild**

After two years of negotiations, a settlement was finally signed in June between the U.S. Forest Service and the four plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the Adventure Pass forest fee program, which will designate free trailhead parking.

Forest visitors may now enjoy free access to undeveloped forest lands, even when their favorite trailheads are next to car campgrounds and picnic areas.

In Los Padres National Forest, the only site to see changes is Piedra Blanca Trailhead in Rose Valley north of Ojai –gateway to the middle Sespe (most Ojai District trailheads are already fee-free).

In Santa Barbara County, the Paradise Road access will remain under fee control at the concessionaire kiosk, whether you are camping or just hiking.

This is the culmination of

Fire hit LP forest

Due to extremely dry vegetation and an increasing fire danger, Los Padres National Forest officials announced that Level III fire restrictions are now in effect until further notice, typically after it rains this fall

It means that all wood or charcoal fires and cigarette smoking are prohibited in all areas of the Forest except for designated campfire use sites. No shooting guns except for those with hunting licenses.

Permits are needed for those who use portable stoves and lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel. Those permits are available free to download at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/lpfnf>.

Anyone not aware of how important this is, just check out these recent fires in forest areas:

~ Pine Fire LP National Forest, 2,300 acres about 11 miles north of Ojai, Sespe wilderness, started June 30, containment July 20.

~ Sherpa Fire in LP Forest burned 7,500 acres 11 miles north of Goleta, Camino and Cielo Ridges, started June 15 to July 11 containment.

~ Coleman Fire burned 2,250 acres in LP Forest near King City, started June 4, containment June 25.

~ Sand Fire, 39,000 acres in Angeles Forest near Simi Hills, started July 22, containment July 30.

twenty years of activism against forest fee programs, beginning with 1996's Recreation "Fee Demo Program," the brainchild of corporate interests, including Disney, which sought to commercialize Americans' relationship with their federal public lands.

Citizen outcry was swift and strong from Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire, Colorado and beyond.

A bipartisan coalition worked to roll back the Fee Demo Program, and when its successor program, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) was passed by Congress in 2004, the new law expressly prohibited the Forest Service from charging fees for access to undeveloped public lands.

The Service, however, just kept right on charging fees wherever they wanted to – including for access to undeveloped areas. Citizen opposition to this egregious situation led to a lawsuit filed in federal court in Tucson, where a judge ruled in 2012 that the agency had to guarantee free public access to those undeveloped areas.

This ruling was binding in nine western states – but, guess what, the U.S. Forest Service (beyond Arizona) kept right on charging those fees and ticketing cars without passes. So a new lawsuit was filed, based on the Tucson case's clear precedent, against the four SoCal National Forests' Adventure Pass.

But the Service was still not about to surrender the money stream coming in from Adventure Pass fees.

In the end the plaintiffs in the lawsuit put in countless hours visiting and photographing 66 car campgrounds and picnic areas adjacent to forest trailheads in SoCal, and making suggestions as to where it was viable to place signs for free trailhead parking. In some cases, due to narrow roads, etc., this has meant a short walk to the trailhead.

The Dept. of Justice attorneys understood that this was the only way to meet the letter of the FLREA fee law and to reach a settlement with plaintiffs.

Signs are now going up that designate the free trailhead parking areas, and the Service says rangers will not enforce Adventure Pass compliance at those 66 sites (mostly in the Angeles Forest) until the signs are up. They will also bring their websites up to date.

POINT ME TO THE PARKWAY A Santa Clara River Conference



Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016
Santa Paula Community Center, 530 W. Main

DISCOVER THE PARKWAY
Program: 8am - Noon
Optional Lunch* & Tour: Noon - 3pm

Open to the Public
\$5 Donation at the Door
*Lunch Fee Extra
RSVP: SantaClaraRiverGateway@gmail.com



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For each approved Sierra Club Visa application that comes through the Los Padres Chapter, we will receive \$40 to help support clean

energy, protect air and water, and save wild places.

"By taking one small action, you'll be making a difference every time you eat out or rent a movie," says Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.

Club cardholders have already diverted over \$44 million away from big banks. Members and supporters in California are invited to join the growing movement from dirty energy towards a new clean-energy economy.

Apply now for a card at: <http://bit.ly/295Ka51>



Local Sierra Club member Mike Stubblefield said it was this lodge in Yosemite that inspired him as a child, as it has thousands of others, to wonder at its historic displays. Now the club is "wondering" if people will give back to ensure it lives on as an inspirational and educational facility.

Save our Yosemite Lodge

The Sierra Club's iconic Heritage Center in Yosemite Valley was built in 1903, and while inspiring and educating 15,000 visitors per year manned by over 100 volunteers, it now needs a helping hand.

Formerly known as the LeConte Lodge, it was renamed last year as the Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center to more accurately reflect its mission.

"I envision community as a place that embraces an ideal of inclusiveness and brings forth the best in us as human beings to preserve and conserve natural resources, wilderness, and all things wild. Here at the Center, we share

that ideal with visitors from around the world and all walks of life," said John Muir historian and curator Bonnie Gisel PhD.

The Center is where the Sierra Club began its journey to become the influential environmental organization it is today, but it now needs funds to keep it going.

You can make a tax-deductible donation by check payable to the Sierra Club Foundation (with the note: "restricted to LeConte Memorial Fund) to 2101 2101 Webster St., Suite 1250, Oakland, CA 94612 or donate online at:

www.sierraclub.org/yosemite-heritage-center



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CALLED TO ACTION

So much for summer vacations

By John Hankins

Members and officers of our Los Padres Sierra Club did not take the summer off from our political activism, and it turned out to be necessary, given an oil spill, energy proposals and events. But we also had fun with all our Outings and similar activities. Here's a sampling:

Aug 4: Our members were prominent participants at the Grove (Crimson) Oil Spill Oversight Hearing in Ventura, arranged by State Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson and Das Williams of the Assembly.

July 28: Well over 300 people protested against the Mission Rock Energy Center, Calpine Corp.'s plans to build a "peaker plant" near the Santa Clara River and Santa Paula during a follow-up meeting held by the California Energy Commission. Sierra Club was well represented and testified against it.

EVENTS

Wheeler Gorge Visitors' Center has public presentations every Saturday, details at:

www.lpforest.org/wheeler

Located 8 miles north of Ojai on Highway 33, during the next two months the programs at 11 am include:

Aug. 6 Wonderful World of Bees, Aug. 13 Sea Birds, Aug 20 Reptiles, Aug 27 Into the Wild with Naturalist Alexa Hohensee and Forester Gordie Hemphill, Sept 3 Saving the California Condor, Sept 10 Rescuing Ocean Animals, Sept 17 Amazing World of Bears, Sept 24 Storytelling of the Chumash.

Sept. 8: "Managing the Channel Islands National Park" by the man who knows, Russell E. Galipeau, Jr. who's been the Superintendent there since 2003. At 7pm at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. Call 456-8747 to register or:

www.sbmm.org

Sept. 17: Annual **Coastal Clean-up** Day is a great way to celebrate and give thanks to the beaches and coastal areas that are so dear to us. There are many events throughout our local Los Padres region, find them anywhere at: <http://tinyurl.com/CoastCleanUpSept17>

Our chapter is co-sponsoring a cleanup at the Santa Clara River Gateway; see details on that date in Outings listing.

Also Explore Ecology is conducting cleanups along SB County beaches (that day and ongoing); email: Mariana@ExploreEcology.org

Oct. 2: Annual **potluck breakfast** at 10am at Shoreline Park with the Santa Barbara Group; optional guided beach walk. Club provides coffee and juice; you provide a breakfast item to share.

Nov 2: "Connecting Landscapes with **Mountain Lions**" talk by wildlife ecologist Anthony Giordano sponsored by the Ventura Hillside Conservancy, 7pm. Wednesday, Nov. 2 at Poinsettia 3451 Foothill Rd. #201 Ventura.

July 14: Ventura County Climate Hub heard from our ExCom Chair Jim Hines regarding energy issues resulting in "a lively discussion" concluding "we can stand united against dirty energy."

July 4: Street Fair in Ventura, sharing the Arts for Earth booth. ExCom Chair Jim Hines was there to greet hundreds of attendees.

July 1: Call to Action on the Crimson (Grove) Oil Spill from a pipeline that sent oil down into a dry creek bed between hillside homes. The email blast urged recipients to call the Ventura Board of Supervisors "to make sure that the oil companies are held accountable..."

July-Aug: *Sierra Magazine* mentions a wildlife overpass in Agoura Hills that our chapter supports: "...Officials are considering building a 165-foot-wide landscaped bridge over the jam-packed 101 freeway to reconnect the Santa Monica and Santa Susana Mountains ... linking together Southern California's population of mountain lions ..."

EAVESDROPS

"The public serves as our eyes and ears, and we rely on citizens to report Coastal Act violations."

~ Andrew Willis, an enforcement supervisor, in response to a critical letter that referred to Ormond Beach. FYI, number to report violations is: 585-1800.

June 29: Our Arguello Group Chair Rebecca August and others testified against the PCE 96-oil well expansion project in the Orcutt Hills, citing inadequate mitigation measures, especially against existing oil seeps and its plans to use steam injection. See story on pg 2.

June 28: Chapter was closely involved with the state hearing for a new power plant (Mission Rock Energy Center) eyed near Santa Paula, which was widely criticized for not having adequate translation service, causing a walkout of numerous people. See story on pg 2.

June 24: Our national office sent out an action alert under 7000 email addresses in Ventura County asking members and supporters to take action by contacting the Ventura county Board of Supervisors regarding the Grove (Crimson) oil pipeline spill in Ventura. A few hundred people responded.

June 21: Our ExCom Chair Jim Hines was honored to speak for an hour at the San Fernando Valley group fundraiser, in which he apprised them of our campaigns to Protect Our Great Wild Paces, Save Endangered Wildlife and Protect Wild Utah. His talk was illustrated by a slide show provided by Condor John's "seemingly endless library of photos..."

June 20: Oh yes, we were at "An Evening with Jean Michel Cousteau" in Santa Barbara to learn more about the proposed Chumash Heritage National



Charles Lester was given the Environmental Hero Award at the Environmental Defense Center's annual Green and Blue fundraising event on June 12. "For decades, he has been an unsung hero for the California coast," hand-picked as the legendary Peter Douglas' predecessor to become Executive Director of the Cal. Coastal Commission in 2012. Unfortunately, he was fired in February on a 7-5 secret session vote, ignoring a groundswell of opposition that is coming back to bite them. Sierra Club members were prominent attendees, joining together for what Douglas famously said: "The coast is never saved. It's always being saved." (Laurie Bailey Photography)

Marine Sanctuary, which our chapter strongly supports.

June 16: Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act was introduced into Congress, with the Sierra Club and our own chapter leading the way. It covers a large portion of Ventura County.

June 12: Sierra Club was prominent at Environmental Defense Center's annual Green & Blue fundraiser, attracting numerous members who helped out while honoring former Coastal Commission Executive Director Charles Lester.

June 8: Our chapter's long-

standing affiliation with the Naples Coalition was approved by the national Sierra Club, many thanks to member Richard Hunt who provided background info.

June 7: Sierra Club strongly supported and testified in favor of a tough new ordinance to protect wildlife and habitat at Ormond Beach. The Oxnard City Council approved it.

June 5: Listed in the *Ventura County Star* as an "outdoorsy thing to do," a guided walk, clean-up and fundraiser was held at Ormond Beach thanks to Nina Danza of the Ventura Sierra Club.



The Sierra Club booth during the July 4th Street Fair in Ventura was shared by other like-minded groups, courtesy of Arts for Earth Foundation. The Foundation's renowned wildlife artist, Mary Jo Murphy, is a club member and made the booth "a real eye catcher for the crowd," said our ExCom Chair Jim Hines. (Photo by John Hankins)

Gaviota a good looker

Do you think the Gaviota Coast is beautiful and worthy of official proof?


Then come to a public meeting at 6pm Thursday, Aug. 18 to support the Gaviota Coast Scenic Highway proposal, held at the Goleta Union School District center, 401 N. Fairview Ave.

Conducted by the Santa Barbara County Planning & Development Dept., the county wants to convince CalTrans to designate 21 miles of Highway 101 on the Gaviota Coast

as a State Scenic Highway, running from the City of Goleta's western-most boundary to Route 1 at Las Cruces.

No new policies, ordinances, or regulations will be adopted, as the county believes "existing policies are sufficient to protect the corridor's natural and aesthetic resources."

Details are available at: <http://tinyurl.com/ScenicGaviota> Or call planner Alyssa Krag-Arnold at 884-8060 or: akarnold@countyofsb.org.



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GREETINGS FRIENDS

Nature is your neighbor

By **Jim Hines**

Exploring America's wild places, which are untouched by man, and our deserts, high country, alpine forests and mountain meadows is one of the many missions of the Sierra Club.

But what about nearby nature outings? We are so fortunate to have so many beautiful but small urban parks which allow us

to enjoy walks along our local beaches, rivers and mountains in the Los Padres Chapter region, places to explore and be close to nature close to home. Just check out our extensive Outings list, many are near your neighborhood.

Feel the ocean air as you explore the beachfront promenade along the Ventura River lagoon. Take a leisurely walk along Shoreline Park and enjoy sweeping vistas of the offshore Channel Islands in Santa Barbara.

The Ojai Valley Trail, part of a series of "rails to trails" programs across our nation, leads you along the scenic Ventura River and through picturesque and historic downtown Ojai.

Need to take a short walk after work to unwind, but don't have lot of time before sunset? Then hit these local community trails like the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden in Thousand Oaks, Santa Paula Trail on the old railroad, Bubbling Springs Park in the city of Port Hueneme, Camarillo's Santa Rosa Park, lovely Carpinteria Salt Marsh Trail, Goleta Beach Park, a walk along the Santa Ynez Valley Park in Buellton, River Park in Lompoc or Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge next to Santa Maria.

You will be amazed at the number of plants and wildlife you will actually see along these urban trails. I often see foxes along the Ojai Valley Trail. Many of these trails are also suited for bicycles and some even for horse riding.

While we place a great importance on preserving the great wild places of America in such far away areas such as Alaska, Utah and Idaho, we must not forget that many of our citizens do not have the time or money to travel to these faraway places, so it makes it even more important that we



Dune sliding at Guadalupe Dunes

have and preserve "nearby nature" right here close to where we all live.

These areas are also great classrooms for local students to learn about the importance of nature and protecting our natural areas.

Yes, being out in urban nature is good for the mind, body and soul, allowing each of us to reconnect and renew ourselves and our respect and appreciation of nature.

See you on the (urban) trail



The Ventura River Lagoon is on our list of a great place to take an "urban hike." (Photo by Condor John Hankins)

EAVESDROPS

"Visiting a national park felt a little like entering sacred ground; it was a place to be quiet, to pay careful attention, to absorb all the details and be grateful."

~ Tom Ribe writing in the **High Country News** about the insult of allowing advertising in our national parks, arising from a new policy that allows ads in return for donations to the National Park Foundation. The answer? "Focused Outrage" that may pressure Congress to adequately fund our public lands.