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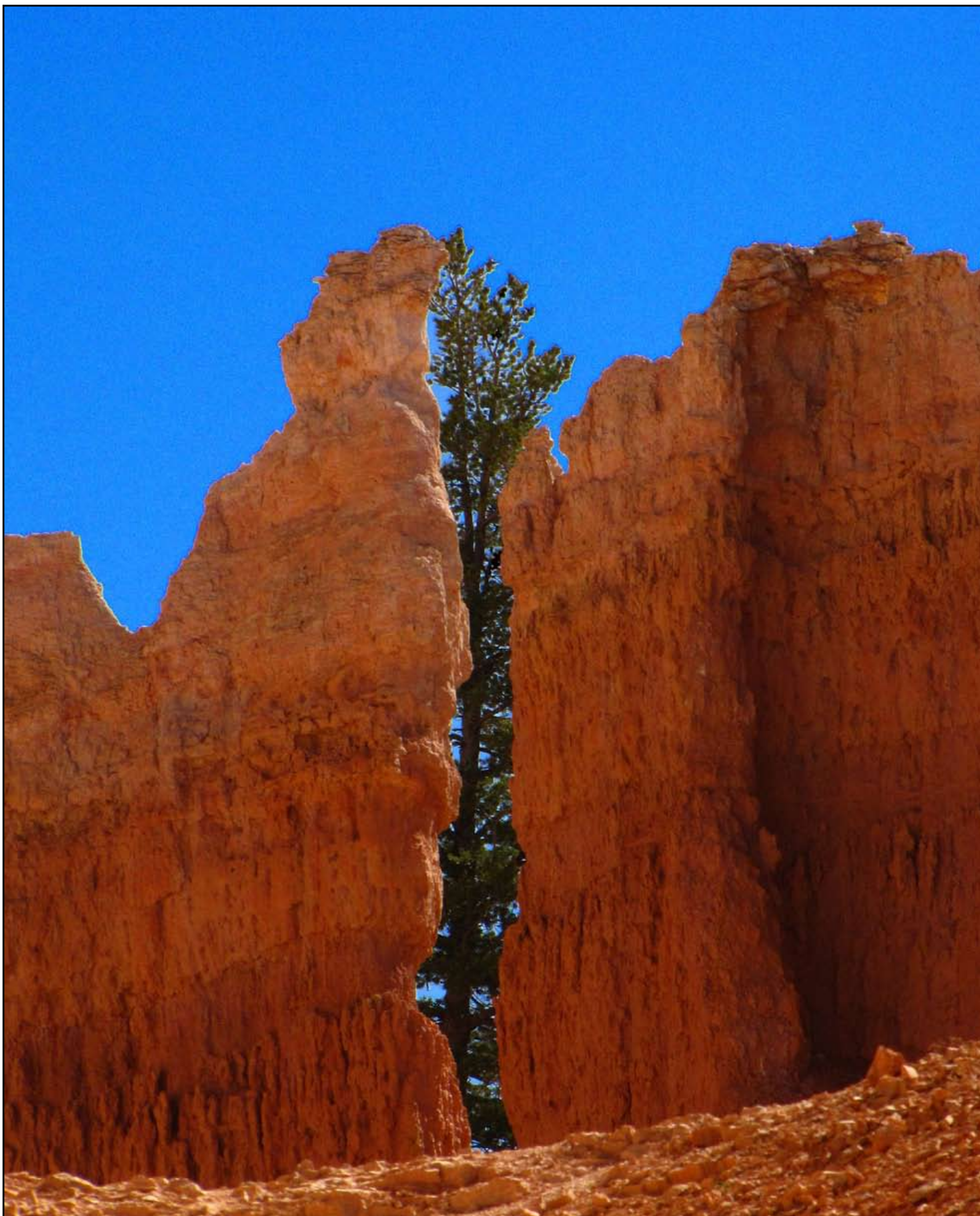
*Journal of Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club*

# Condor Call

*Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties*



*August - September 2012*



Wild visions.....Chaparrel.....Condor trip.....Candidates

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# Condor Call

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



August - September 2012

## Another vision evolves for our local wilderness

By Jim Hines and Jeff Kuyper

Wilderness advocates in communities throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura counties have created a vision for preserving a full range of connected wildlands in the southern Los Padres National Forest under the banner of the Los Padres Wild Heritage Campaign.

Organizers spent the better part of three years building community support, which recommends more than 200,000 acres for formal wilderness designation and seeks to

add more than 120 miles of creeks and rivers to the nation's Wild and Scenic River system.

The Wild Heritage proposal wants to create one contiguous network of wilderness areas in the forest. It would permanently protect one of the country's best remaining assemblages of Native American rock art, protect portions of the Chumash badlands, White Ledge Peak, and a significant portion of the upper Santa Ynez River watershed.

The proposal would not impact any current motorized access, retains remote fire roads and preserves mountain bike access along popular trails. Details of the Wild Heritage proposal can be found at [www.lospadreswild.org](http://www.lospadreswild.org).

Several parts of the original Wild Heritage proposal were modified to benefit mountain biking access. For example, the Condor Ridge proposed wilderness area was changed to a Scenic Area for cycling groups who were concerned that designating wilderness there would preclude them from using the Tequepis Trail, a very popular mountain bike route.

From the beginning, Campaign organizers were determined to resolve conflicts before any bill was introduced to Congress. The idea was that a smaller bill supported by the entire community would be better than a larger bill with numerous opponents. The success of this strategy is reflected in the broad

support the proposal enjoys.

Another proposal

In February, Congressman Elton Gallegly (R-Simi Valley) introduced a controversial piece of legislation that would expand the boundaries of three wilderness areas in the Los Padres National Forest, while also opening up new areas of the forest to motorized off-road vehicles and mandating a controversial exchange of land.

The bill – dubbed the Los Padres Conservation and Recreation Act of 2012 (H.R. 4109) – would extend the current boundaries of the Sespe, Matilija, and Dick Smith wilderness areas in the heart of the Los Padres National Forest, increasing the size of these areas by 63,576 acres (20 percent). It would also protect 89 miles of back country streams, including Mono and Indian Creeks in Santa Barbara County and the upper Sespe and upper Piru creeks in Ventura County. The bill also establishes a new 18,520-acre Condor Ridge Scenic Area along the crest of the Gaviota Coast in Santa Barbara County.

The bill is controversial because of the concessions it makes to off-road vehicle users, such as recognizing two "OHV (Off-Highway Vehicle) Areas" in the Ventura County backcountry totaling 65,833 acres, where vehicles such as dirt bikes, quads, and four-wheel drive vehicles would be encouraged. It also proposes the construction of three new OHV routes in remote areas of the forest and would open 69 miles of remote forest roads to vehicles.

Finally, it requires the Forest Service to trade several hundred acres of public land around Lake Piru to United Water District. Under this land exchange, the federal government would give away 440 acres of public lands in the Los Padres National Forest, including Blue Point Campground, a stretch of Piru Creek, *continued on page 2*



We lost both of these ecology giants, but their legacies will live on for generations ... In 2006, Coastal Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas received the Environmental Defense Center's Environmental Hero award from former SB Supervisor and Coastal Commissioner Naomi Schwartz, herself a recipient. Both passed away this year, Peter on April 1 and Naomi on June 4. Their hard work and contributions to the environment are incalculable, and as people they were inspirational. Naomi, a long-time Sierra Club member, was a dedicated public servant, a role model and a trailblazer. Peter was key figure in drafting a proposition in 1972 that created the Coastal Commission, and he fought for the coast as its director since 1985. He coined the famous phrase: "The coast is never saved. It's always being saved." (Photo courtesy Environmental Defense Center)

See this issue in

**GLORIOUS COLOR**

<http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>

## What does club think?

Want to know what the Sierra Club thinks?

The club doesn't render an opinion on everything under the sun, but over the years it has crafted statements from Agriculture to Wildlife Conservation.

Just go to [www.SierraClub.org/policy](http://www.SierraClub.org/policy).

At the top of the page there is a policy window that brings you to general areas (such as Biotechnology, Environmental Justice, Military, Nuclear Issues and Land Use policies, among many others. To hone in on a specific, go to the search box at the bottom of the page.

The website also gives you the club's purposes and goals and its mission statement, which is:

*"To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth;*

*To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources;*  
*To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives."*

### EAVESDROPS

**"In the outdoors, to have that energy and excitement and enthusiasm is pure gold."**

-- Teacher and outdoor maven Matt Inman of Ojai Valley School, whose outdoor program for middle school students is extensive, comprising backpacks, island treks and education about ecology.



The Los Padres National Forest from West Camino Cielo shows its mostly wild and natural beauty, but as "The Land of Many Uses," there are competing visions for how to manage it (see story above). Check out more of Erin's wonderful outdoor photos and other venues at [www.ErinFeinblatt.com](http://www.ErinFeinblatt.com). (Photo ©Erin Feinblatt)

## Press gives club whole lotta love

By John Hankins

Outing Outing -- The Los Padres Sierra Club got wonderful coverage in the Ventura County Star on July 21 with a prominent hiking feature entitled, "On the Trail to Fitness," in the print and web version, plus a narrated video on the web.

"Want to work up a sweat? Lose a few pounds? Tone those leg muscles? See nature at its purest? Then hiking might be the ticket for you, and you'll likely run into folks with like interests," wrote Monica Lara, in detailing hike leader Stephen Bryne's Sierra Club outing up Horn Canyon. Photos by Karen Quincy Loberg accompanied the article and she also posted a video.

You can read and see both by going to the Star's website ([www.VCStar.com](http://www.VCStar.com)) and searching for "Horn Canyon hike" or the name of the reporter or Bryne.

The article gave Sierra Club outings a major boost, over and above normal coverage of outing notices and should attract many more young people due to our new "meet up" social networking announcements. Its take on fitness was also a major draw along with evoking a curiosity about the local trails.

**Tip of the Edhat** – In Santa Barbara, Robert Bernstein of the SB Group is a regular writer online at Edhat, and he often gives accounts of his Sierra

Club hikes with a link to his photos, vastly expanding our visibility in the community.

Most recently, he penned a short feature on the man behind the long-running Friday night hikes who is long-running himself: 70-year-old Al Sladek. Robert reported that Al has been leading the Sierra Club Friday evening hikes in Santa Barbara since 1974; almost every Friday for 38 years non-stop. Al just celebrated his 70th birthday "and we had a little party for him on the trail and at the potluck/slide show on Friday July 13."

The comments on Edhat after the article: "...and the guy can swing dance, too!" and "Long may he lead."

This year alone Robert has written about the steep Cold Spring hike, Gaviota Caves bushwhacking, Gibraltar Rock via Rattlesnake Trail, jellyfish exhibit at the SB Sea Center, a record number of hikers to the Playground, Earth Day weekend, Figueroa Mountain wildflowers, Pinnacles National Monument, hike to Inspiration Point where they found an owl and singing frog, Rocky Pine Ridge, Tangerine Falls, and a

*continued on page 2*

### COVER PHOTO

On a trip to Bryce Canyon slots, photographer Niall Fritz caught sight of this tall tree growing perfectly in an opening of the rock walls. (©Niall Fritz)







# Breakfast by beach is a tasty tradition

# Smart meters modernize grid

## Ventura BBQ a savory event

In turn all of them thank Carol

A man in a grey t-shirt is cooking on a large, traditional outdoor grill. He is surrounded by other people, some wearing hats, in a wooded area. A sign in the background reads "SIERRA CLUB".

## Club's lodge has deals

## Condor Classifieds

**USED CELL PHONES** for sale as a benefit for the Santa Barbara Group of Sierra Club. Only \$15 - \$35 for older cell phones with charger. Also chargers for older phones: \$2. Guarantee: You have 3 days to get your cell phone up and running. If for any reason you want to return it within the three-days, you may do so and get a full refund. Call 962-8415.

# Classified Ad Placement Form

Enclose a check made out to the Condor Call, 260 Pacos Street, Ventura, CA 93001

[illegible]

Number of Issues: Feb/Mar • Apr/May • June/July • Aug/Sept. • Oct/Nov • Dec/Jan





Craig Carey signs his new book entitled “Hiking and Backpacking Santa Barbara & Ventura” at Barnes and Noble in Ventura. A mapmaker by profession, he embarked on a two-year journey culminating in this up-to-date 400-page paperback which he says is so complete, “if it’s out there, it’s probably in here.” Web and Kindle versions are in the works. Meanwhile you can get it at local bookstores or through Wilderness Press. (Photo by John Hankins)

**August 6**  
Monday Morning Walk: Meet at 9am at Ventura Harbor at the corner of East Harbor and the small boat center to do a circle & Settling ponds. Pat 643-0270 (VEN)

**August 11**  
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. Meet at 9am Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). JIM 447-1876/644-6934 (SB)

**August 12**  
EAST PINERY ROAD: Long

car pool through Happy Canyon to Figueroa Mt. Nearly level walk on a dirt road through beautiful pine forest with views of the back ranges. Easy 3 mrt. Optional steep descent to Fir Canyon adds 2 miles to hike. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

**August 12-14**  
Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park, 2012: 3-Day, Live-Aboard, Multi-Island Cruises. Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. Enjoy the frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on rare sea and land birds, and for whales and dolphins. Watch for the endangered Island Fox. Hike trails bordered by blankets of wildflowers and plants found no other place on earth. Kayak or snorkel the pristine waters--- or just relax at sea. All tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68’ twin diesel Truth. Fee for all tours, \$590, includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes, call attention to items of interest and present evening

programs. This fundraising cruise benefits Sierra Club California. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information 626-443-0706; [jholtzhn@aol.com](mailto:jholtzhn@aol.com) (Sierra Club California and Angeles Chapter)

**August 13**  
Monday Morning Walk: Meet at 9am under the overpass at San Jon Rd to walk to the end of Pierpont Blvd and return. Pat 643-0270 (VEN)

**August 18**  
ROCKY PINE RIDGE - SHORT ROUTE: From Camino Cielo, hike

into this wonderful pine tree/rock region and skirt along the ridge line. Short, moderate morning hike, 4-5 mrt. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 682-8290 (SB)

**August 18**  
HUENEME LIGHTHOUSE HIKE: We will tour the Hueneme lighthouse and learn the early history of the Hueneme beach, pier and dock area. Then, we’ll head for the beach pier and the memorial to the Alaskan Airlines plane crash. After the hike, we’ll enjoy the Beach Festival, then head for a great Vietnamese lunch nearby. Meet at 9:30am at Seaview and Ventura Road, or carpool from the Von’s parking lot on Seaward in Ventura at 8:45am. For more info, call TED at 985-8963 (VEN)

**August 19**  
SHORELINE PARK PICNIC AND WALK: Share a potluck breakfast. Bring food to share. Coffee provided. Meet in the middle of Shoreline Park at 9am. Possible hike down to the harbor and back. (SB)

**August 19**  
CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE SOON: Outings leaders should be preparing their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering the period of October 2012 thru January 2013 plus at least the first week into February. Submit them to your Group outings chair. Questions? Contact Gerry at [gching@cox.net](mailto:gching@cox.net)

**August 20**  
Monday Morning Walk: Meet at 9am at the small boat supply yard on Harbor Blvd to walk into McGrath State Beach Park and McGrath Lake. Pat (805) 643-0270 (VEN)

**August 25**  
PLAYGROUND: Explore the labyrinth of boulders forming a

natural playground off West Camino Cielo. Some rock scrambling and agility required. Always a new route! Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

**August 25-26**  
Backpack to Maple Camp on the North Fork of Matilija Creek: This strenuous hike will be approximately 7.5 miles each way and will gain approximately 2250 ft of elevation. This hike is not recommended for beginners. Limited to 10 participants. Trip will depart from Mission Plaza in Ventura on Aug 25 at 7:30am. Rain cancels. To reserve your spot and for more info, call STEPHEN 794-1150 (VEN).

**August 26**  
MISSION RIDGE: Hike up Rattlesnake trail to the connector onto Tunnel. From there we’ll take a primitive trail to a high ridge for a lunch break. From there we’ll loop back down to Rattlesnake. Moderately strenuous 7 mrt. Bring plenty of water and lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 682-8290 (SB)

**August 27**  
Monday Morning Walk: Meet at 9am at Mission Plaza to walk into Emma Wood State Beach Park & Beyond. Pat 643-0270 (VEN)

**September 1**  
MONTECITO –SUMMERLAND/ ORTEGA HILL TRAIL LOOP: Rediscover several of Montecito’s neighborhood roads and trails. An easy-moderate 4 mrt on back roads and trails. We will start this loop hike from the Greenwell Preserve back of Summerland. We’ll hike up a short trail to the hills above Summerland, meeting Ortega Ridge Road. We’ll have a light lunch near the QAD plant. After lunch, we’ll continue on the Ortega Hill Trail, then return via the Coffin Family and Summerland

# Camping cuts digital noise

By Hannah Somers  
What does it mean to be a camper in the digital age?

In addition to being an environmental cleanse from the toxins and chemicals that burden our everyday lives, camping now serves as a technological cleanse.

While companies have come up with solar powered chargers and digital devices, campers are pushed more towards self-reflection and human interaction, especially when out of range. They can enjoy the solitude and peace that comes along with the camping experience.

Perhaps this trend will create a spike in visitor traffic and an overall interest in California’s open space preserves.

This sentiment is echoed in

the recent re-opening of McGrath State Beach in Oxnard. California’s budget woes threatened to close the park in 2011. However, an outpouring of support from Ventura County, private donor Peter Mullins and a federal grant saved the park from closing its doors to the 650,000 visitors who flock to the park’s pristine coastal wetlands each year.

Perhaps the more tech savvy our worlds become, the more our open space preserves will hold value and continue to survive future economic downturns due to the unique place they have in the minds of modern campers.

Overall, such a convergence of support for a park like McGrath hopefully marks a trend in which the desire to preserve open spaces across the country will be the norm. Most importantly, parks will serve as an outlet for digitally jaded minds as a place where nature reigns and technology is put on hold.

In a recent NPR interview, Park Superintendent Rich Rozelle summed up the uniqueness of McGrath State Beach by saying, “When you are walking the beach, through the sand dunes, you can almost put yourself back 200 years to what California used to be like.”

**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](http://www.SBSierraClub.org)  
[www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com](http://www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com)  
[www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com](http://www.SantaBarbaraHikes.com)  
[www.LPForest.org](http://www.LPForest.org)  
[www.VenturaCountyTrails.org](http://www.VenturaCountyTrails.org)  
<http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com>

**Ongoing Outings**

**Ventura Every Monday Morning**

Join Patricia Jump every Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. for moderate walks in the Ventura and Ojai areas. Now in its seventh year, the walks last about two hours, and the group sometimes goes for coffee afterward. Call 643-0270.

**Ventura Every Wednesday**

**URBAN EVENING HIKE:** Weekly urban hike in Ventura meets at 6:45 p.m. for a 4.5-mile hike up hill to Father Serra's Cross (spectacular scenic views of Ventura, sunset, and the Channel Islands); hike continues across hillside, down to the ocean, and out to end of the pier; then along beach promenade to mouth of Ventura River; up the Ventura River to Main Street, and finally loop back to the Mission. People interested in this hike should meet across the street from the San Buenaventura Mission. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Contact KURT PRESSLER, 643-5902. (SP)

**Santa Barbara Area**

**SOCIAL HIKE:** An easy-to-moderate 2-4 mile roundtrip night hike in Santa Barbara front country, beach, or back roads. Meet at 6pm at the Santa Barbara Mission. Leave at 6:15pm sharp. Bring a flashlight. Optional potluck or pizza afterward. AL SLAYDEK, 685-2145. (SB).

- A strenuous, 5- to 10-mile roundtrip night hike on Wednesdays. Meet at 6:30 p.m. at the S.B. Mission, 2201 Laguna St. Bring water, flashlight. (Hikers in this group like to wear head lamps to keep their hands free.) The hike is designed for conditioning. For more information, call leader 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.

**Monthly Programs**

**ARGUELLO GROUP:** Slide shows, speakers, and movies—third Friday of each month. Inquire for details: 928-3598. (AR)

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Help keep Highway 1 beautiful. Adopt-a-Highway trash pickup from the Lompoc 'Wye' to the Base boundary. Meet at Vandenberg Village Shopping Center parking lot at 9 a.m. on the fourth Saturday of odd-numbered months. Rain cancels. Contact: CONNIE, 735-2292.

**Outing Notes**

The two-letter abbreviations at the end of each outing is a key to the group that has organized the outing.

AR: Arguello Group  
CJ: Conejo Group  
SB: Santa Barbara Group  
VEN: Ventura Network  
WLA: West L.A. (Angeles Chapter)

*All phone numbers are in area code (805) unless otherwise noted.*

The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Sturdy footwear is recommended. If you have questions, contact the leader listed. Pets are generally not allowed. A parent or responsible adult must accompany children under the age of 14.

A frequently updated listing of all outings can be viewed at [www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lospadres](http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lospadres). This website also contains links to the group web pages.



trails. Bring a light lunch and water. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

**September 2**  
HOT SPRINGS VIA SADDLE ROCK: We will hike from E Mountain Drive through the recently acquired Hot Springs trail area. After a brief stop for a view from Saddle Rock we will continue to the Peace Rocks mesa for an even more expansive view and then on to the ruins of Montecito's old Hot Springs resort. Not much of a hot spring flows these days so we won't be doing any bathing in the Hot Springs. 3 mrt with a few steep sections. If everyone is up for it we can add an optional 1.5 mile hike up to the Cold Spring Trail. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. STEPHEN 574-9445 (SB)

**September 2**  
CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE SOON: Group outings chairs should be preparing their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering the period of October 2012 thru January 2013 plus at least the first week into February. Questions? Contact Gerry at gching@cox.net

**September 3**  
Monday Morning Walk: Meet at 8:30am at Corner Park & Bard Rd. in Port Hueneme to carpool to nature preserve and Arnold Rd. to walk to Hueneme Pier. Pat 643-0270 (VEN)

**September 7**  
WILDWOOD PARK (T.O.) AND MORE: We will do a cross section of six parks that are in or adjacent to Wildwood Park. This will be a 10-mile hike (about 5.5 hours) with a few stream crossings, some cross country hiking, but mostly trekking on various lesser traveled trails. Because of the length of the hike and the various ups and downs (about 1750 feet of gain/loss) this is a moderately strenuous hike. Meet at 9am in the paved parking lot near bathrooms. (Directions: Take the 101, exit at Santa Rosa Road and drive east. Turn right on Hill Canyon Road and continue half a mile to parking lot/bathrooms.) Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, 3 quarts of water, and snack/lunch required. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain cancels. For more info, call PHILIP 218-2103 (VEN).

**September 8**  
DABNEY CABIN: Long car pool to Nira Campground, then a long nearly level hike down Manzanita Creek to Dabney Cabin. Strenuous 14 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. NOTE EARLY START TIME! TONY 682-8290 (SB)

**September 9**  
RED ROCK TO GIBRALTAR DAM: Hike up the road to Gibraltar Dam, then back past a popular swimming area. Moderate-strenuous 6.5 mrt. Bring swimsuit, wading shoes, lunch and water. Optional side trip to old mercury mine adds 4 miles. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

**September 10**  
Monday Morning Walk: Meet at 9am at Mission Plaza to walk north on Bryce trail and return. Pat 643-0270 (VEN)

**September 15**  
HIKE LEADER BBQ: This is an opportunity for our hike leaders to get together and enjoy and learn from one another. If you are a hike leader, want to be a hike leader, or are a friend of a hike leader, you are welcome to join us for this pot luck BBQ. Please call for details

TONY 682-8290 (SB)

**September 15-16**  
Bright Star Service and Hike: The Bright Star Wilderness Area, north of Ridgecrest, has been impacted by both trash and by illegal ORV trespass. On Saturday our group will assist BLM Wilderness Resource Specialist Marty Dicks putting up barriers, concealing illegal routes, and placing signs. Sunday is reserved for a long hike through the interior of the wilderness to visit Cortez Creek and monitor a cherry-stemmed vehicle corridor. The ponderosa forest and chaparral should provide a delightful diversion in the early fall. Leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

**September 16**  
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)

**September 16**  
CONDOR CALL OUTINGS DUE NOW: Group outings chairs should send their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering the period of October 2012 thru January 2013 plus at least the first week into February. Send to Gerry at gching@cox.net

**September 17**  
Monday Morning Walk: Meet at 9am at Casitas Vista parking under freeway to walk north on Bryce trail to new bridge. Pat 643-0270 (VEN)

**September 21-23**  
National Public Lands Day in Black

## Fee Free Days

This year's final "Fee Free Days" for visitors to the Los Padres National Forest are:  
Sept. 29 -- National Public Lands Day  
Nov. 10-12 -- Veterans Day weekend  
This includes all areas where an "Adventure Pass" is normally required. Local exceptions to the Fee Free Days include the Lower Santa Ynez Recreation Area (Paradise Road in the Santa Barbara Ranger District), reservation fees and group site fees.

Rock: We will be doing assigned service work and celebrating National Public Lands Day in the Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Immigrant Trails NCA. All meals except lunch are provided. Contact closer to the date for full details Graham Stafford 775-686-8478 graham@grahamstafford.com or Pat Bruce of Friends of Nevada Wilderness pbruce@nevadawilderness.org. (Great Basin Group-Toiyabe Chapter)

**September 22**  
ALISO CANYON: A leisurely loop from Sage Hill campground on a marked trail alongside a stream. Easy 3.5 mrt. Optional descent to Upper Oso adds 1.5 miles to hike. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

**September 22**  
LA JOLLA CANYON/RAY MILLER TRAIL LOOP: Beautiful, moderate 7.5-mile walk up La Jolla Canyon Trail, with a few steep parts, stopping for a snack at the campsite, continuing on up to South Overlook Trail, then the Ray Miller trail and back down to the starting point. Sweeping views of the ocean, islands and Santa Monica Mountains. Total gain about 1100 feet. Bring water, snack, sunscreen, 10 essentials. Parking fee in lot or park on PCH. Meet at 9:45 a.m. at La Jolla Canyon, Point Mugu State Park. For more info, call TERESA at 746-6030 (VEN).

**September 23**  
SAN YSIDRO MUTLI-TRAILS: Hike up San Ysidro, over to Cold Springs, down to Hot Springs to a primitive trail to Saddle Rock and McMenemy trails. Bring lunch and at least two liters of water. Strenuous 12 mrt. Prepare for an all-day adventure. This hike is not suitable for beginners or people with health issues. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DIANE 455-6818 (SB)

**September 23-30**  
Historical Virginia Trip: If you've always wanted to see some of the most famous historical spots in and around Virginia, this 8 day/7 night trip is for you. Fly into Washington Dulles Airport, then bus to the historical sites: Colonial Williamsburg; Jamestown, the first English settlement in America; Yorktown Battlefield where George Washington won the climactic battle of the Revolutionary War; Appomattox Court House where Lee surrendered his army to Grant;

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# GREETINGS FRIENDS

## The Santa Monicas: mountain to the sea

By Jim Hines

They are beautiful, wild, a natural place of solitude and setting right in the middle of one of the largest urban areas on our planet.

They are the Santa Monica Mountains, starting at the sea at Pt. Mugu State Park and stretching



70 miles to Griffith Park in Los Angeles. From the beauty of the ocean at Malibu to the grass

covered oak savannahs outside of Agoura Hills, it's a wild place where mountain lion, deer, and majestic birds-of-prey intermingle with large ocean-view mansions and upscale subdivisions.

We are urban, but we need the wild and this is where the clash of man and the natural world comes together.

The Santa Monica Mountains are part of two Sierra Club chapters, the Los Padres and Angeles, crossing two counties, Ventura and Los Angeles.

Starting as a vision over 30 years ago, Congress created the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA), which now includes within its boundaries over 130,000 acres of state parklands, protected open space, recreational areas and wildlife habitat. It is governed by the state Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the National Park Service.

The Sierra Club has been a major player in protecting the area through the club's Santa Monica Mountains Task Force.

Several weeks ago on a beautiful Saturday, under 200 year old oaks and native sycamore trees, the partnership of local state and federal agencies was celebrated with the grand opening of the Santa Monica Mountains visitor center located at the historic King Gillette Ranch in the heart of mountains.

The Los Padres Sierra Club in Ventura County has some of the largest open space and parkland parcels of these protected lands:

~ Pt. Mugu State Park includes beach camping as well as inland trails and campsites.

~ Rancho Sierra Vista in Newbury Park is the site for interpreting the Native American (Chumash) culture in the mountains.

~ Circle X Ranch offers camping in the shadow of Sandstone Peak, a well known natural landmark in the western Santa Monicas.

~ Sprawling grasslands dotted with majestic oaks and home to one of the largest birds-of-prey habitats in southern California are among the Cheeseboro Palo Comado canyons, owned by the National Park Service and the state-owned Upper Las Virgenes Preserve.

Whether you enjoy hiking, camping, walking on the beach, wildlife viewing or just finding comfort in knowing that one of the most beautiful wild areas in California is protected, you will find all of this and more in the Santa Monica Mountains. Check out these websites:

[www.nps.gov/samo](http://www.nps.gov/samo)  
[www.smmc.ca.gov](http://www.smmc.ca.gov)

See you on the trail.

## New ranger

A man who has an extensive background in fire, range management and law enforcement is the new Los Padres National Forest ranger for the Santa Barbara District as of August.

John "Pancho" Smith comes from a similar post on the Croatan National Forest in North Carolina. He has a 40-year career in federal service, ranging from a seasonal fire employee, foreman, game range manager and law enforcement officer.

Smith replaces Doug Dodge, who retired recently after serving as the Santa Barbara District Ranger since 2009.



A Humboldt lily was among the blooms and buds in a recent Sierra Club outing. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

## Nature buds

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# One Day of the Condor at Hopper Mountain

By Mike Stubblefield

The story of the California condor is one of those rare and wonderful exceptions where humans have been successful in bringing an endangered species back from the brink.

And they are right here in our own backyard in the Sespe Condor Sanctuary, where lies the Hopper Mountain Wildlife Refuge, an obscure and seldom visited 2471-acre research facility run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Here, condor chicks are studied from birth, then later tagged and tracked via GPS as adults. For condor fans, Hopper is Shangri-La, and just as hard to visit.

How does someone actually get to visit the Hopper Refuge? One way is to wrangle a seat on an occasional field trip as a guest of the Friends of California Condors Wild and Free, a nonprofit that works with the Wildlife Service to enhance public awareness.

Our Day of the Condor arrived in June starting at a Fillmore shopping center parking lot surrounded by an impressive array of well-used 4WD trucks, the vehicle of choice to navigate the way to Hopper, which is a bewildering labyrinth of narrow, winding, steep and treacherous fire roads that hug the mountainside.

We were briefed by Carol Langford, a Friends’ board member. My wife, Janis McCormick, and I plopped into the rear seat of Friends’ President Vince Gerwe’s truck and soon we’re headed out of Fillmore on Goodenough Road along Sespe Creek.

Vince expertly maneuvers his truck up the worst mountain road I’ve ever experienced, occasionally punctuated by an electric gate that opens only for oil field workers and Wildlife Service personnel.

At the top of a ridge we pull off where there is a commanding view of

the Sanctuary. Everyone jumps out with binoculars, spotter scopes and cameras with long lenses. Suddenly, there’s a collective gasp as someone spots a few condors already riding the mid-morning thermals.

The condors aren’t that close, but it’s the first time I’ve ever seen a condor. The adult condors have a nine-foot wingspan, and in flight they glide, silently, on rising thermals of warm air, like a big black feathered glider.

Later, we reach the old ranch house that serves as the headquarters for the Wildlife Service staff, site of Ari Hopper’s homestead dating to 1883 while the home was built in 1930 by Eugene Percy. After cattle grazing, oil companies bought the land and in 1974 the Wildlife Service purchased it and established the Refuge.

After lunch, we crowd around a monitor to watch adult condors returning from a successful scavenger hunt to feed the chicks.

When the Service began its efforts to bring back the big birds in 1982, there were only 22 condors left in the wild. Had it opted to do nothing, they soon would have become extinct. Today, thanks to a zoo breeding program, there are 416 condors, 236 of them in the wild and 180 in captivity. The Sanctuary here is one of only three places on the planet with condors; Arizona and the Andes in South America are the other two.

After watching the birds on the monitor we drive over to the “condor condo,” a brand new structure where chicks are prepared for life in the wild. One-way glass coatings on the windows allow biologists to study the birds without being seen.

As we leave the condo and head for the trucks to start the long drive back down on the road from hell, someone spots a bevy of the

big birds at play - 15 or more - lazily riding those thermals above a nearby ridge. I wish we didn’t have to leave so soon. This very special place lies scarcely more than 25 miles from my home in Oxnard, yet few of us will ever be able to visit it, because if it were opened to the public the condor population would surely decline.

To protect them - mainly from ourselves - we cannot love them to

death, as we are sometimes inclined to do with other species.

With this in mind, I strongly urge you to support their work any way you can.

A good place to start is the Friends’ program, which does regularly scheduled refuge clean-ups, outreach, education programs, advocacy and fundraising. Check them out at [www.friendsofcondors.org](http://www.friendsofcondors.org).

## Pick your piece

This summer the Sierra Club launched “My Piece of America,” a brand new website and information hub where Americans can share our favorite outdoor places and take action to protect special areas.

Upload and share a photo of your favorite piece of America with your family and friends, and inspire them to take action, too. My Piece of America gives users a way to channel their renewed passion into enduring lands protection so this and future generations can enjoy the great outdoors.

The site highlights ongoing work by the Sierra Club to permanently protect public lands in today’s technology-driven age – including campaigns along the California Coast, the Sierra Nevada, San Gabriel Mountains, and the Berryessa Snow Mountain region, to name a few.

Visit the site at:

<http://content.sierraclub.org/mypieceofamerica/>

## Bioneers are Eco-pioneers

The third annual Central Coast Bioneers Conference aimed at restoring the natural world will take place October 19-21 at the Monday Club in San Luis Obispo.

Presentations from internationally-known speakers from the Bioneers main stage in San Rafael will be transmitted live to Central Coast attendees, who can choose to attend all offerings or select single day passes.

Bioneers is a gathering of scientific and social innovators who have demonstrated visionary and practical models for creating resilient communities and restoring the natural world. The popular event includes 16 workshops, plus films and field trips in areas ranging from activism to health and food.

For details, call 548-0597 or visit: [www.centralcoastbioneers.org](http://www.centralcoastbioneers.org)

## Plug into cars’ future

The Sierra Club and partners are teaming up for National Plug in Day on Sunday, September 23, part of events in over 50 cities.

Visit [www.PlugInSB.org](http://www.PlugInSB.org) or contact Los Padres Sierra Club’s Transportation Chair, Michael Chiacos if you can participate or for event info at [mchiacos@gmail.com](mailto:mchiacos@gmail.com).

Electric Vehicles achieve 100 miles per gallon (mpg) equivalent, produce zero tailpipe emissions, and on California’s clean electric grid reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 75 percent. EVs get cleaner as they age – California’s grid is improving from 20 percent renewable energy in 2012 to 33 percent renewables in 2020, and coal is being phased out.

Contrast this to oil, which is getting dirtier as we use up the easy oil and are moving toward tar sands and deepwater oil, with the attendant environmental disasters. Many EV owners are taking it a step further and “Driving on Sunshine” by charging up through

solar panels on their homes.

These huge benefits are why the Sierra Club has launched the national Go Electric Campaign to encourage the transition away from dirty oil. “EVs require no gasoline and emit no pollution from their tailpipes, present a critical opportunity to slash pollution, reduce dependence on oil, create American jobs, and improve national security,” according to the campaign’s website at: [www.sierraclub.org/electric-vehicles](http://www.sierraclub.org/electric-vehicles).

EVs are also very fun to drive, with electric torque providing plenty of power and a quiet, smooth ride. While most owners charge up conveniently at home, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties now feature almost 100 public charging stations. Is this enough to make you consider an EV?


Learn more and come meet local owners of the Chevy Volt, Nissan Leaf, Plug in Prius, Tesla Roadster, and more at National Plug in Day.



During the Ventura Fourth of July Street Fair, a young girl is fascinated with the length of a single condor feather. The group conducts forays into the restricted Condor Sanctuary and mans an information booth on Cerro Noroeste Road in the Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge through September, a prime location to see the wild condors. (Photo by John Hankins)

### The 2012 Central Coast Bioneers Conference


a program of Ecologistics, Inc.



Reimagining Civilization in the Age of Nature

## October 19-21

### Historic Monday Club San Luis Obispo



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

- Outings...from page 5*
- Monticello home of Thomas Jefferson; Shenandoah Valley and the Appalachian Trail; Harpers Ferry site of John Brown’s revolt; Gettysburg Battlefield; Fort McHenry site of the Star-Spangled Banner; Annapolis and the US Naval Academy, ending with a cruise on Chesapeake Bay. The cost is \$1,250 for Sierra Club members, \$1,350 for nonmembers (based on double occupancy). Includes lodging, all breakfasts, transportation in Virginia to and from Dulles Airport, and admission fees to scheduled locations. Lunches, dinners, airfare are not included. \$500 deposit to reserve, balance due 7/1/12. For application forms send email to Mike Sappingfield, at [mikesapp@cox.net](mailto:mikesapp@cox.net), Subject line: “Sierra Club California Virginia Trip”, or, if you prefer mail service, send request to Mike Sappingfield at 25352 Via Juanita, Mission Viejo, CA, 92691 and include 2 SASE (Sierra Club California and Angeles Chapter)
- September 24**  
Monday Morning Walk: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Lake Casitas to walk to bench. Pat 643-0270 (VEN)
- September 29**  
ROMERO CANYON TO CAMINO CIELO: Walk all the way up this mostly tree shaded trail to the top. Great views of back country. Moderate-strenuous 9 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 30**  
URBAN HIKE TO FRANCHESCI PARK: Start near the Mission, walk through the Riviera, then up the “1000 steps” to a great view of the city and harbor. Return via Las Tunas Rd. Some steep sections. Moderate 4 mrt. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)
- September 30**  
TED’S FAMOUS BEACH HIKE AND STEAK FEED: Join Ted for an easy six-mile-round-trip walk along the beach from Rincon to Carpinteria. Then cook your own steak, chicken or fish at The Palms. To carpool, meet at 1:45 pm at the Carrows parking lot, between Carrows and the Chase Bank, on the corner of Seaward and Harbor Blvd. in Ventura. Or meet us at the starting point for the hike, at Bates Beach/Rincon parking lot. For more info, call TED, 985-8963 (VEN).



Matt Perko plugs in his Chevy Volt, one of many new vehicles that eschew gas. Learn about them at National Plug-in day in Santa Barbara Sunday, Sept. 23. (Photo contributed)





Doc Caballero shows the new version of his "Mileage Hiking Maps," comprising over 1,000 miles of 158 local trails for day hiking. For details see his ad on this page. (Photo by John Hankins)



The fully electric Tesla sports car is always a prime attraction at the Green Block; this one is owned by Timothy and Pamela Rodgers of Ventura, who also have an all-solar home. (Photo by Larry Older)



It takes a village, or at least a quartet, to man the Sierra Club booth. The volunteers are (from left) Mike Stubblefield, Jim McComb and his daughter Shannon, and Jim Hines. (Photo by John Hankins)



City of Ventura had a booth where you spin a dial and then decide whether or not it's recyclable. (Photo by Larry Older)

## Green Block attracts thousands

The Ventura Sierra Club's "Green Block" during the July 4th weekend was chock full of visitors who were drawn to the booths and exhibits, indicating a heightened interest in the environment.

"There were a lot of visitors who were seriously focused on the environment and the things they could do to help it," said Larry Older, who organized the block just off Main Street. He also said he had good feedback from the groups who took part.

At the head of the pack of participants was the Ventura Sierra Club's booth and adjacent

was the club's Wilderness Basics Course display.

Other participants included the city of Ventura's water agency and environmental services, Doc Caballero's Mileage Hiking Maps, a group urging folks to support the initiative to require disclosure of Genetically Modified Foods, Mike Maguire's hand-made velomobile, the Master Gardener Course, Turning Point Foundation, Planet Solar, and Friends of the Ventura River.

Always a treat was the line of hybrid and electric cars organized by Michael Chiacos

which boasted a wide variety of transportation, including two ebikes. The vehicles were provided by Vista Honda and Paradise Chevrolet and various owners, and included two electric Teslas, Nissan LEAF, Volt, Cruze Eco, Civic Hybrid and CRV.

Older praised the volunteers who made it all possible, saying "they deserve an award or two or three." They included Mike Stubblefield and his wife Janis McCormick, Kathrine Heinzman, Teresa Norris, Jim Hines and Jim McComb and his daughter Shannon.

## Gaviota Coast investors back off

A consortium including two developers and a private equity firm that appeared poised to purchase the Santa Barbara Ranch property (aka Naples) to develop leap-frog housing along the Gaviota Coast have terminated their planned purchase from FirstBank.

"The original project was a house of cards, and it is now obvious that site constraints preclude development of this property for anything but open space and agricultural uses," said Marc Chytilo, the Naples Coalition's attorney. "We applaud the partnership for abandoning plans to attempt development at Naples and hope this can lead to the preservation of this important parcel as public open space."

FirstBank acquired the property through foreclosure in 2010 from the original developer, Matt Osgood, after Osgood defaulted on outstanding loans. Two developers, BondRok Partners, LLC and Tom Gray of Preserve Communities, Inc. formed a partnership with Boston-based private equity firm CrossHarbor Capital Partners for the planned purchase

and development of Naples.

The partnership asked the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to approve the transfer of a "development agreement" affecting a portion of the property on May 15. Environmental Defense Center, Surfrider and the Naples Coalition (which includes the Los Padres Sierra Club) opposed the transfer, and the Board was hesitant to approve it. Less than one month later, the partnership terminated its efforts to acquire and develop the property.

"The development of this property has never made sense," Chytilo said. "The Gaviota Coast possesses open space of national significance. Anyone attempting to develop on these lands faces the unrelenting opposition of Santa Barbara's environmental community and must overcome an insurmountable series of hurdles, ranging from lawsuits, uncertainties over the effectiveness of approvals, a stringent Coastal Commission review, public rights of use and access based on historic prescriptive use of the

property, and the absence of a certain water supply."

Nathan Alley, attorney for the EDC and Surfrider Foundation added, "Naples is irreplaceable ... we will continue to pursue our lawsuit challenging the County's 2008 approval of the Santa Barbara Ranch Project, and we will advance a plan to ensure long-term preservation of this precious coastal property."

~ Editor's note: this update was provided by the Naples Coalition; to keep apprised of the issues, go to: [www.savenaples.org](http://www.savenaples.org).

## Help elect our endorsed candidates

The candidates and propositions below have earned the Sierra Club's endorsement on the Nov. 6 ballot for the Santa Barbara and Ventura region. Please go the websites or call to help with the campaigns, ensuring the best possible outcome for the environment. More endorsements and profiles will appear in the next issue of Condor Call.

**PRESIDENT Barack Obama**  
[www.barackobama.com/state/CA](http://www.barackobama.com/state/CA)  
(312) 698-3670

**US CONGRESS**  
**District 24 Lois Capps**  
[www.cappsforcongress.com](http://www.cappsforcongress.com)  
(805) 884-0202

**District 25 Dr. Lee Rogers**  
[www.leerogers2012.com](http://www.leerogers2012.com)  
(661) 200-9205

**District 26 Julia Brownley**  
<http://juliabrownley.com>  
(805) 330-1070

**STATE SENATE DISTRICTS**  
**District 19 Hannah-Beth Jackson** <http://hannah-beth2012.com> (805) 203-6337  
**District 27 Fran Pavley**

<http://franpavley.com>  
(818) 921-6825

**STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**  
**District 35 Das Williams**  
<http://daswilliams.org>  
(805) 452-1214  
**District 38 Edward Headington**  
<http://www.edward2012.com>  
(805) 620-7038

**VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**District 1 Steve Bennett**  
<http://bennettforsupervisor.com>  
(805) 653-0831

**STATE PROPOSITIONS**  
**Proposition 32. OPPOSE** - Prohibits political contributions by payroll deduction. Prohibitions on contributions to candidates.  
**Proposition 37. SUPPORT** - Genetically Engineered Foods; mandatory labeling.  
**Proposition 39. SUPPORT** - Tax treatment for multistate businesses; clean energy and energy efficiency funding.  
For details on the propositions, go to: [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/)

## More solar opportunities

The Community Environmental Council (CEC) is kicking off its second Solarize Santa Barbara program starting August 8 through Nov. 9.

Solarize Santa Barbara is a group purchasing program for solar electricity. All homeowners within the southern Santa Barbara area are eligible. The purpose is to make it easier and cheaper for local homeowners to switch to solar electricity.

Anyone interested is encouraged to attend one of three introductory workshops this fall to learn how to participate in the group purchasing program, including financing options and leasing. For dates, times, and locations, call 963-0583 Ext. 105, visit [www.solarizesb.org](http://www.solarizesb.org), or email at [info@solarizesb.org](mailto:info@solarizesb.org).

The program may overlap

a similar "Rooftop Revolution" sponsored by the Sierra Club, which is available throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, not just Santa Barbara's South Coast. Check it out at: <http://sierraclub.org/solar/sungevity>

### EAVESDROPS

**"The only thing they had in common was stupidity."**  
- Reaction to a high number of deaths in Yosemite Valley last year, mostly from amateurs climbing rocks and swimming above the falls, and due to visitors ignoring posted warnings. Reaction was a letter by Phil Brimble to the L.A. Times on its story "A park full of peril."

## Condor Call e-version available

It's easy to order up the Condor Call e-version in full color with hot links to emails and websites, and it's a pleasure to read that way.

Check out the e-version out at our website (<<http://lospadres.sierraclub.org>>) and if you like what you see, you can stop the print version and get

it sent to your computer.

To sign up, your name, phone number and email to:  
<[CondorJohn@gnusman.com](mailto:CondorJohn@gnusman.com)>

Note to those already getting the e-version: if you change your email, let us know, we are getting error messages back on about a dozen subscribers.



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# Hike a mile for amazing views

By Craig R. Carey

*“The top of Reyes Peak was lit by the fire of sunset, and a soft wind from the sea moved through the pines.”*

— Louis L’Amour, *“The Californios”*

The Condor Trail traverses a great many terrain types, and over tread of widely disparate quality. One of the easiest stretches to navigate — and one of the few along which the option to car-camp avails itself — is along Pine Mountain Road.

From the eastern end of the Road, the Condor Trail is set to follow the undulating Reyes Peak Trail for a beautiful six-mile stretch through mature conifer stands before intersecting with the Gene Marshall - Piedra Blanca

National Recreation Trail.

But only a mile from that 7000-foot parking area at the



end of the Pine Mountain Road is another great destination and the high point of the Pine Mountain massif: Reyes Peak. Popular with area peak-baggers and those seeking amazing views clear out to the Pacific, the 7514-foot summit of Reyes Peak was also the site of a Forest Service fire lookout.

The lookout towers of the Los Padres National Forest have a long and proud history ... but the history of the 14’ x 14’ lookout atop Reyes

Peak is among the shortest. Built in 1927 (when the Los Padres was still known as the Santa Barbara National Forest), the lookout tower was destroyed only five years later in the infamous Matilija conflagration of 1932. As with many lookouts from the era, its steel beams were delivered by mule teams. Later, during the Matilija Fire, most of the fire camps were likewise supplied by mules, given the inhospitable terrain.

During its construction, Reyes Peak also benefitted from its nearest and most plentiful local resource — timber — and featured numerous beams sourced directly from the area’s namesake pines. Jim Blakley’s history recounts the sad irony of how the marine layer prevented the Reyes Peak lookout from spotting the Matilija Fire in the inferno’s nascent stages, despite the fact the lookout was the closest tower to the fire’s point of origin.

The fire moved with such ferocity the lookout man is said to have barely escaped with his life.

The lookout’s shortened life also means it did not survive to see the Second World War, and as such wasn’t pressed into service by the Aircraft Warning Service to warn against approaching Japanese aircraft.

Remains of the lookout abound: a portion of the roof



The Reyes Peak Tower didn’t last long, ironically ravaged by fires it was built to detect. (Photo from Los Padres National Forest archives)

still sits idle in the meadow to the north; a battered bedframe just off the approach scramble; concrete footings, timbers, and twisted steel reinforcement bars protrude from the summit. These are weathered testaments to a forest tradition long past.

*Editor’s note: Craig R. Carey is a frequent wanderer of the Los Padres backcountry and author of the new guide, “Hiking & Backpacking Santa Barbara and Ventura” (Wilderness Press, 2012).*



Metal rebar and other indications of the Reyes Peak Tower still exist and the site is one of the best spots to see as far as you can see. (Photo by Craig R. Carey)

Next issue of  
**Condor Call**  
comes out 1st of October  
**DEADLINES:**  
**Editorial: September 21**  
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