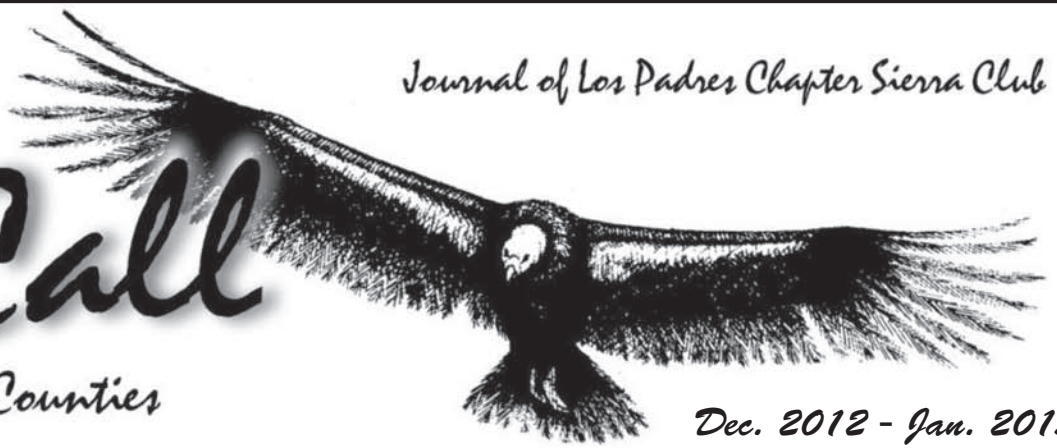


Vol. '12, No. 6 of 6

Journal of Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club

Condor Call

Serving Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties



Dec. 2012 - Jan. 2013



© Photo by Robert V. Schwemmer

Court victory . . . Aftermath . . . Outdoors . . . Group elections

Page 1

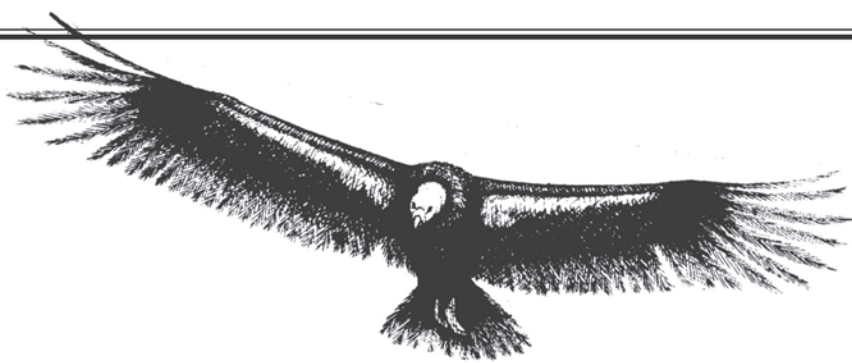
Page 3

Pages 2,5,6

page 7

Condor Call

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



December 2012 - January 2013

Judge supports our lawsuit over Ormond project

By Environmental
Defense Center

Ventura County Superior Court Judge Glen Reiser issued an order rejecting the City of Oxnard's approval of the SouthShore project and certification of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Ormond Beach Specific Plans.

The Oct. 15 order was in response to a lawsuit filed by the Sierra Club, Environmental Coalition of Ventura County and Environmental Defense Center (EDC) in July 2011, and requires the City to redraft and recirculate a new EIR. The lawsuit alleged that Oxnard's approval violated state planning and environmental protection laws.

Most significantly, the lawsuit sought to protect the ecologically sensitive Ormond Beach wetlands from proposed nearby development.

"This decision marks a significant step forward in the community's attempts to protect the Ormond Beach wetlands," remarked Linda Krop, Chief Counsel for EDC, who along with

EDC Staff Attorney, Karen Kraus, represented the environmental groups.

"Not only will the City have to redraft the EIR to consider impacts to the wetlands, other important coastal habitats, and water resources, but the public will be an integral part of that process. As the Court noted, the City must conduct a 'good faith, reasoned analyses' of the impacts that will be generated by the proposed development."

The judge agreed with environmental groups that the EIR failed to adequately describe the existing biological resources that would be harmed by the proposed development. The Court noted that the Ormond Beach wetlands constitute "one of the largest and most important coastal wetland, estuarine and dune complexes remaining in Southern California."

The Court directed the City to go back and "conduct scientifically appropriate surveys both on-site and offsite" in order

continued on page 5

Club's 'agitator' visits

The Sierra Club's self-described "chief troublemaker and agitator" paid a visit to local chapters just before the November election to, well, agitate and raise funds for Club-endorsed candidates, notably Julia Brownley, Fran Pavely and Lois Capps.

Bruce Hamilton's official title is Deputy Executive Director, but he specializes in taking on special projects, such as moving the nation past petroleum energy.

Locally, the Los Padres Sierra Club has him to thank for creating the Resilient Habitats Campaign which designated the Ormond Beach wetlands as one of only three areas of concern along the California coast. Member

Trevor Smith applied for the special designation last year and it was embraced, going from "an obscure local issue to a nationally recognized campaign."

Another project for Hamilton is also of local importance: trying to get oil and gas companies to reveal the chemicals they use in hydraulic fracturing, aka "fracking."

Lauren Randall of the Sierra Club Victory Corps (who attended UCSB and worked for Capps as an intern) arranged Hamilton's visit and worked hard to entice members to help on the election, "whether you want to knock on doors, make phone calls or simply help organize materials."



Aerial photo of the Ormond Beach wetlands area with the power plant on the shore in the middle and wetlands on either side of it, 275 acres of which is controlled by the California Coastal Conservancy. The 1,545-unit South Shore project would encroach further into the open space. (Aerial photo contributed)

Wilderness class takes a breather

By Teresa Norris
WBC Chair

Instead of having our Wilderness Basics Class in 2013, the WBC Board and I have decided to spend more time on organizing and documenting the many tasks we complete to make it happen and take it to the next level.

Meanwhile, we'll still have hikes and backpacks, which will be used for scouting trips, rather than for training students. We'll have a party and some informal get-togethers, too.

During the break in handling the enormous details of putting on classes, I envision creating a handbook that would document our procedures and also assist future volunteers in leading the program. This will provide us with valuable information, and make it easier for new staff members to carry

on the effective work of our current staff.

In addition, we plan to spend time working with our chapter. I will stay with WBC for the present time. However, other chapters typically rotate the leadership roles, and I envision that in the future, some of our hard-working volunteers may be willing to step into positions of increased responsibility.

In December 2007 (can it really be 5 years ago?) when I asked the Los Padres Sierra Club Steering Committee to sponsor WBC, they voted to approve the project, even though we didn't have many details to give them. We have since documented a few of our procedures, but many are not yet recorded.

I look at our decision to take a pause as helping WBC to achieve the next stage of

growth.

Moving forward to next year, we'll be meeting regularly, starting in January, to accomplish our goals.

Recently, we welcomed two new WBC Board members: Jerry Connor and 'Condor' John Hankins, the editor of *Condor Call*. They both bring serious wilderness expertise and experience to WBC. I look forward to their participation and the valuable contributions they will bring to us.

Many thanks to all of our WBC supporters; I hope you have had time to enjoy the wilderness and get outside this year, maybe hiking on some fragrant mountain trails or walking on the beach beside the ocean waves.

My husband Tom and I travelled to Boston and the coast of Maine in August, and treasured the time we spent with our granddaughter there.

It is these moments in the outdoors that are the reason for creating a wilderness class to enhance the enjoyment for everyone who participates. We expect to come back with renewed vigor and great ideas.



Sierra Club deputy director Bruce Hamilton (from left) came to Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, arranged by Lauren Randall of the club's Victory Corps, to rally members and the public to vote for club-endorsed candidates (read how we did on page 3). Also shown are Los Padres Legal Chair David Gold and Outings Chair Mike Stubblefield. (Photo by John Hankins)

Sign up for online news

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, provide your name, phone number and email to: 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.

COVER PHOTO

A juried exhibit at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum runs through March, entitled "Moments in Time" by local photographers. This is one great example, called "Rediscovery of Ancestral Roots," celebrating the Chumash paddling a reconstructed tomol to the Channel Islands. (©Photo by Robert V. Schwemmer)

A group of people are gathered outdoors in a wooded area, playing musical instruments. In the foreground, a man with a white beard and a straw hat plays a banjo. Next to him, a man in a blue Hawaiian shirt and a straw hat plays a double bass. To the right, a woman in a purple tank top and a red cap plays a violin. Further right, a man in a white shirt and a straw hat sits in a folding chair, also playing a violin. In the background, a green sign with the words "SIERRA CLUB" is visible. Other people are standing and walking around in the shaded forest. The ground is covered with dry leaves and rocks.

[illegible]

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



December 7
CHUMASH TRAIL TO MUGU PEAK TO LA JOLLA CANYON TRAILHEAD: 4.5 mile, moderately paced, one-way hike from Chumash trailhead to La Jolla Canyon trailhead. Short car shuttle required. Start at trailhead for Chumash Trail, a steep and strenuous climb to Mugu Peak Trail, then on to the La Jolla Valley Loop trail, stopping at Mugu Peak (1266 feet) along the way. End by turning southwest on La Jolla Canyon trail, past the waterfall and ending at La Jolla Canyon trailhead. Meet at 9am in dirt parking lot near Chumash trailhead. Hiking/trail boots, 2 quarts of water and snack required. Sunscreen, sun hat and insect repellent recommended. Rain Cancels. For more info, call LORA at 218-2105 (VEN)

December 8
RATTLESNAKE TRAIL Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to meadow. Easy 3.5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the trail head on Las Canoas Road at the bridge at 9am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

SANTA BARBARA POTLUCK HOLIDAY PARTY: See story on page 3 for details. Please RSVP by email. For details email santabarbara.group@sierraclub.org, or call JIM BALTER at 689-2716. (SB)

December 8
ANNUAL TOPA TOPA POTLUCK PARTY: Strenuous 15-mile-round-trip hike from 1850-foot trailhead to 6367-foot summit of Topa Topa bluff, with a 4517 elevation gain. Parking at the trailhead can be tight; you should carpool, if possible. The hike starts at 7am from the Sisar Canyon trailhead and the party starts around noon on the Topa Topa Bluffs. It generally takes from 3 to 5 hours to reach the Bluffs, depending on conditioning and weather. You are invited to join a moderately paced group leaving the trail head at 7am. Bring a tasty treat to share, and socialize with fellow eccentrics for a few hours. December at 6400 feet can be chilly so cozy clothing is in order. For more info, contact JOHN WILSON (Pinetar90@Yahoo.com) (VEN)

December 9
SAN JOSE CREEK LOOP: This is an easy 3 mrt hike, exploring the neighborhood trails and roads of San Jose Creek in North Goleta. We will begin near the intersection of N. Kellogg and Calle Real and follow the creek on trails and



Snowfall on the Condor summit on Mt. Pinos reminds us that it's a great time to hike, snowshoe or ski the backcountry. (Photo by Kim Homan)

adjacent roads. We'll travel north of Cathedral Oaks Rd., then return via creek trails, retracing part of our initial route. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. GERRY 964-5411 (SB)

PLAN YOUR OUTINGS: Take a break from your holiday shopping to plan your outings for the next Condor Call outings schedule. It will cover Feb-May plus 2 weeks into June. Then get your writeups to your Group Outings Chair. Questions? Email Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net).

December 14
VENTURA SIERRA CLUB HOLIDAY PARTY: All members and friends are invited to come and celebrate the season and the Club's many environmental successes this year. For details, see story on page 3. RSVP at RSVP@venturasierraclub.org, or call CAROL MARSH at (805) 984-3590.

December 10
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30 am at Mission Plaza to carpool to the trolley, or meet us at the trolley no later than 9am (the trolley leaves at 9:04am). We will ride the trolley (25 cent fare) to Ojai, then return on the trail. For more info, call Pat at 643-0270 (VEN)

December 15
MISTLETOE HIKE: Collect some mistletoe on this stroll in a wooded mountain area. Children with supervision welcome. Easy 4 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope & State St. VICKI 563-4850 (SB)

MIDDLE SESPE CREEK: Strenuous 9-mile hike; a one-way trip with shuttle from the Piedra Blanca Trailhead. Beautiful views of Sespe Creek drainage with lunch stop at Rock Creek. Bring the 10 essentials, appropriate footwear, at least 100 oz of water, along with snacks and lunch. Creek crossings

will be wet. Rain cancels. Meet at 7:30am at 100 S. Santa Clara St. in Ventura (free parking lot near the Museum of Ventura County). We will carpool to Piedra Blanca Trailhead in Rose Valley off of Hwy. 33 (Adventure Pass required) and drop some cars at the old Beaver Camp. Trail is not well-maintained. Long pants recommended to protect against brush. Hike Leader approval required. For more information, call STEPHEN at 794-1150 (VEN)

December 16
SAN YSIDRO TO THE FALLS: Hike past a favorite rock climbing location to a seasonal waterfall, then return to a pool for lunch. Easy 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. STEPHEN 574-9445 (SB)

December 17
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am to carpool to Lake Casitas at 9 am to hike the North Trail to Cabana. For more info, call

Hiker on the Roof is a muse-icle

By Mike Stubblefield
Editor's note: Outings Chair Mike Stubblefield can see the Topa Topa Bluffs from the roof of his house, and its calling will take him there Dec. 8; join him and see if you can pick out his roof from the bluff.

I've just come down from seven weeks on the roof of the world.

Okay, not *the* world, but *my* world, our *home*. Our 20-year roof was already three years past its warranty, so Janis and I dragged ourselves up there, stripped off the old roof, replaced water-damaged plywood panels and fascia boards, removed a chimney for a fireplace we never

PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

December 20
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT THE HARBOR, AND DINNER: Meet at 6pm at Carrow's Restaurant parking lot in Ventura (corner of Harbor and Seaward) to carpool. Dress warmly. Reservation required for dinner. For more info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN)

December 22
WEST FORK COLD SPRINGS TO GIBRALTAR: Start on Cold Springs Trail, cross stream and hike west up to an old water tunnel. Continue on up a pretty canyon to Gibraltar Road. Moderate, but sometimes steep 4.5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVID P. 705-3025 (SB)

December 23
LITTLE PINE MOUNTAIN: A challenging hike to a 4,000 foot peak in the back country. Strenuous 12.5 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 682-8290 (SB)

December 24
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am at Mission Plaza to walk into Emma Wood and beyond. For more info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN).

December 25
RATTLESNAKE: TRAIL Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to meadow. Easy 3.5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the trail head on Las Canoas Road at the bridge at 9am. Rain Cancels. BERNARD 722-9000 (SB)

December 26
TOLAND PARK STROLL: Come visit a hidden park high above the Santa Clara valley, between Santa Paula and Fillmore. Slow, family-friendly walk suitable for looking at the natural world or taking photographs, 1 mile around paved

loop, about 150 feet elevation gain/loss. Bring snack and water. Rain does not cancel. Meet at 10am at entrance to Toland Park, 0.6 miles north on Toland Road from Highway 126 (look for sign on right). For more info, call TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)

December 31
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 9am on the corner of Park and Bard in Port Hueneme to do a walk at the beach and the length of the pier. For more info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN).

January 4
ROSE VALLEY - LION CANYON CREEK and waterfall: An easy to moderate 6-mile round trip hike on mostly level terrain and some stream crossings. If time permits and the group agrees, we will also hike the west fork waterfall, which adds a mile. Carpool at 8am in Ojai at the Rotary Club's Park-and-Ride lot at the intersection of HWYs 150 and 33. See the hike below for more details. For more info, call LORA at 218-2105.

January 4
ROSE VALLEY - LION CANYON CREEK to Nordhoff Ridge fire road to reef trail to White Ledge Camp to Sisar Canyon trailhead: A strenuous and fast-paced one-way 12.5-mile hike, 1900 feet of elevation gain. Carpool at 8am in Ojai at the Rotary Club's Park-and-Ride lot at the intersection of HWYs 150 and 33. An ADVENTURE PASS is required for all vehicles parking in Rose Valley. It's a 14.5 mile drive up HWY 33 to the Rose Valley turnout and several more miles to the trailhead. Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, sunhat, 3 quarts of water and snacks (lunch for longer hike) required. Rain cancels. For more info, call LORA (218-2105) or PHIL (218-2103) (VEN)

used, installed five skylights over the garage (her new art studio), then installed 2200 square feet of tarpaper and shingles.

It was a big job. Except for a couple of two-day timeouts, we pretty much spent the other 43 days on the roof.

Some days, as we wilted under the relentless heat, we were forced to confront the undeniable reality that our aging bodies weren't as adaptive to this kind of abuse as they once were.

Sunhats, sunscreen, plenty of cold water and NPR on the radio helped. But what helped even more were occasional daydreaming breaks to gaze north toward my favorite local playground, the Los Padres National Forest.

Outing Notes

Key to outing locations (noted in parenthesis at the end of each listing)

AR – Arguello Group

(Northern SB County)

SB – Santa Barbara Group

(Southern SB County)

VEN – Ventura Network

(Northern Ventura County)

CJ – Conejo Group

(Southern Ventura County)

LA – Los Angeles Chapter joint hikes

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 listed are within 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: <http://lospadres.sierraclub.org> This website also contains links to Group web pages and other resources.

Directly north, Topa Topa Bluff, and Hines Peak just behind it, dominated the view. To the east stretched the long ridgeline of the Topa Topa Mountains and to the west stretched Nordhoff Ridge, punctuated by Chief Peak.

One day, as I was daydreaming about getting up there again as soon as possible, I had an epiphany moment: hiking, backpacking and mountaineering are not totally unlike roofing. It's hard, sometimes dangerous work. You have to maintain a presence of mind in the here and now, be aware of your environment, and sometimes make decisions with real consequences.

You have to do so in a weather environment that is unpredictable. You chip away at it every day - you get up early, eat, pack up, hike all day, find a place to make camp, eat, sleep, repeat, until you reach the end of the trail. Just like roofing.

Roofing of course is completely devoid of the aesthetic and sensory overload of being Out There on a trail winding its way up along a burbling stream, through towering junipers and pines, in a glacier-carved canyon, under a deep blue sky with fast-moving puffy white clouds, toward a range of high snow-capped mountains.

That's why I'm glad my chores are done and I can put roofing behind me as I head back to the high country. I hope you will join me at the Christmas Pot Luck on top of Topa Topa Bluff on December 8 (see Outings listings on page 4.)

Check Conditions	
Any number of campgrounds and/or roads in the Los Padres National Forest may be closed or have restricted (no autos) access due to protection of habitats, repair or adverse weather. Before you go into the local backcountry it's a good idea to check conditions with rangers. Numbers to call (unless noted, all are 805 area code):	
Los Padres Forest Districts	
Headquarters	968-6640
Ojai District	646-4348
Mt. Pinos	(661) 245-3731
Santa Barbara	967-3481
Santa Lucia	925-9538
Forest Notes	
For updated information, news releases, maps and many other goodies, go to the Los Padres National Forest's website: http://fs.usda.gov/LPNF	
Other Areas	
Santa Monica Mtns. Area	370-2301
Conejo Parks	381-2737
Simi VGalley	584-4400
Montecito	969-3514
Channel Islands	966-7107
Local Hiking websites	
There are a number of websites that give you information as varied as outings, trail profiles, wildflower alert, trail work opportunities and much more. Here's a few:	
http://LosPadres.SierraClub.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 ½-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.	
Monthly Programs	
ARGUELLO GROUP offers slide shows, speakers and movies, the third Friday of each month. Call for details: 928-3598.	
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.	

January 5
MISSION RIDGE: Hike from Tunnel Trail up to near the Rattlesnake Connector and then up a primitive trail to the top of a ridge. Return via Edison Road trail. Primitive trail, steep at times and some boulder hopping. Moderately strenuous 6 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

January 6
BUTTERFLY HIKE: Walk on a beach and across an open field in the Ellwood area to see the winter home of the Monarch Butterflies. 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. DAVE 563-4850 (SB)

OUTINGS WRITEUPS DUE SOON: Outings for the next Condor Call are due soon. They should within the period of Feb-May, plus 2 weeks into June. If you haven't gotten your writeups to your Group Outings chairperson, do so NOW!

January 7
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at Mission Plaza at 8:30am to carpool to Ojai Land Conservancy to do Willis Canyon, starting from Rice Road. For more info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN).

January 12
DIVIDE PEAK Very strenuous 12 mrt hike from Matilija trailhead to Divide Peak. Experienced hikers only. Great views of Ojai and Lake Casitas. On a clear day, all 8 Channel Islands are visible. Wear lug-soled shoes, bring water, food. For those in Ventura meet 7:45am at Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Carrows). From Santa Barbara meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 7:15am. (note early start time) to arrange carpool to trailhead. TONY 682-8290 (SB) JIM 447-1876/644-6934 (VEN)

January 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 Polo Club trailhead on Toro Cyn Rd. We'll pick up the Edison Trail back of Summerland and connect with the service road 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)

January 14
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at Mission Plaza at 8:30am or at Foster Park at 9:00 am to hike into park and up Sky High Road. For more info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN).

January 15
OUTINGS WRITEUPS DUE NOW: Send Feb-May outings writeups for the next Condor Call outings schedule to Gerry Ching (gching@cox.net).

January 18
THE OLD CABIN SITE, MUGU STATE PARK: Moderate-to-strenuous 9-mile-round-trip hike (Upper Sycamore Canyon, Boney Mountain and Fossil trails), with 1600 feet of elevation gain, up to the old cabin site in the northeast part of Mugu State Park. Approximately 6 hours at a moderate pace. Meet at 9:30am at Wendy and Potrero Rd in Newbury Park. Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, sun hat, insect repellent, 3 quarts of water and snack/lunch required. Rain Cancels. For more info, call LORA at 218-2103 (VEN).

January 18-20
DEATHVALLEYWILDERNESS RESTORATION: We will work with Death Valley National Park Wilderness Coordinator Charlie Callagan on restoration activities in the Park. Project this time will be picking up debris in the Panamint Valley area of the Park. Requires hiking in about one and a half miles and carrying out what we pick up. Camping will be at either Panamint Springs or Wild Rose Campground. Arrive Friday afternoon and work for part of the afternoon, work will continue on Saturday, with a potluck Saturday night. Sunday may be a work day or perhaps recreational. Leader: KATE ALLEN, kj.allen96@gmail.com, 661-944-4056. (CNRCC Desert Committee)

January 19

TANGERINE FALLS: Discover one of Santa Barbara's closest yet, after a few weeks of rain, most dramatic hiking destinations. Less than 1.5 miles from the trailhead we will experience the highest waterfall in Santa Barbara's front country. This is a moderate hike but it does entail a few boulder hops over the creek and several short but steep uphill sections. 2.75 mrt, 500 ft elevation gain. Tangerine Falls can be a challenge to find on your own, so going with a group is the perfect way to experience the falls for the first time. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind the Bank of America at 9am or at the Cold Spring Trailhead at 9:30am. STEPHEN 574-9445 (SB)

January 20
INSPIRATION POINT: Hike up Tunnel Rd., then by trail to a point with beautiful views of the coast and mountains. Easy 3.5 mrt. Bring a snack and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DAVID P. 705-3025 (SB)

January 21
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Canada Larga to walk up the canyon. For more info, call PAT at 643-0270 (VEN).

January 26
HOT SPRINGS LOOP: Moderate 4mrt hike covering portions of the Hot Springs, Vincent (Saddle Rock), Girard and McMenemy trails. We'll start at the Hot Springs trailhead, head up the Saddle Rock, connect with the Catway and stop for a light lunch at the Girard trail overlook. Return by way of the McMenemy trail. Great views of the South Coast. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

January 26
TOLAND PARK STROLL: Come visit a hidden park high above the Santa Clara valley, between Santa Paula and Fillmore. Slow, family-friendly walk suitable for looking at the natural world or taking photographs, 1 mile around paved loop, about 150' gain/loss. Bring snack and water. Rain does not cancel. Meet at 10am at entrance to Toland Park, 0.6 miles north on Toland Road from Highway 126 (look for sign on right). For more info, call TERESA at 524-7170 (VEN)

January 27
CANINE HIKE RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to meadow. Mostly shaded trail. Moderate 4 mrt, 1000 ft. elevation gain, optional additional 1.5 miles up to Gibraltar Road and back. Well behaved dogs welcomed and encouraged; must be leashed. Bring snack and water for you and your canine companion. Hikers without dogs welcome too. Meet at B of A parking lot upper State Street at 9am. Hike limited to five dogs - please call to reserve your dog's place. Rain/fire cancels. If in doubt, call leader the day before hike. SALLY 689-7820 (SB)

January 28
MONDAY MORNING WALK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza to carpool to Lake Casitas to walk beside the lake. For more info, call

continued on page 6

Ormond...from page 1

to assess potential impacts and consider additional mitigation measures.

The EIR also failed to consider the impacts of sea level rise on the wetlands, including the potential future loss of wetlands, and the fact that introducing new development would interfere with the ability of the wetlands to naturally migrate inland in the future.

Other items that need to be analyzed further included plans to mitigate the impacts to the wetlands, important bird foraging habitat and the full water supply demands of the project.

"The Court's ruling breathes life into the fight to protect the Ormond Beach wetlands," said Janis McCormick, President of the Environmental Coalition. "The public must remain vigilant to make sure that the City does a better job to make sure that Ormond Beach remains viable as an ecological, recreational and economic asset for the community."

The SouthShore project intends to build 1545 new housing units and pave over a vast open space area that currently protects the Ormond Beach wetlands. The wetlands, located south of Oxnard between Port Hueneme and the Point Mugu Naval Base, support numerous rare plants and wildlife, including more than 200 species of migratory birds.

Although part of the wetlands have been historically filled in to create agricultural fields and industrial development (notably the shuttered Halaco aluminum recycling facility, now an EPA "Superfund" clean-up site), the area is still considered an important habitat area.

In recent years, the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) has been acquiring property to permanently protect and restore Ormond Beach. If successful, the SCC's restoration plan could become one of the largest preserved coastal wetlands in southern California.



Bianca Acevedo literally stopped to smell the roses during a Sierra Club outing near the Santa Barbara Mission led and photographed by hike leader Robert Bernstein.

Our hikes smell good Join the Club



Hiking guide Craig Carey's son Jack "allowed me to view the wilderness and its gifts through fresh eyes ... as a refuge and a place full of wonder." (Photo by Craig Carey)

New hike guide shows place full of wonder

By John Hankins

"If it's out there, it's probably in here."

Not only is that a great slogan, printed in a new trail guide for our local backcountry by Craig Carey, it's an explanation of his meticulous method.

"Hiking and Backpacking Santa Barbara & Ventura" took two years to research and write at a time when Carey was working full time for a graphics and map firm, and raising a family.

During those years trekking hundreds of miles in the southern Los Padres National Forest, he encountered a mountain lion which crossed his path "cool as you please," lumbering bears, a close encounter with a golden eagle and being stuck in a tent for 14 hours awaiting the weather to mellow out, among many other adventures.

Carey didn't write the guide for money -- "you don't get rich writing hiking manuals" -- but for the love of the outdoors, notably our own Los Padres National Forest and the front country trails.

"I saw gaps in other backcountry books," he explains,

and a lot of updating was crucial. Recent guides concentrate on the easy, front-country trails and the most famous local guide written by the late Dennis Gagnon was last reprinted in 1991 and a lot has happened to the forest since then.

A similar gap in time happened with the Los Padres Sierra Club's guide, written by Art Benkaim a generation ago and not reprinted in many years, although current hike leader Tony Beigen is rewriting and updating it on the web.

A particular attribute of the guide brings out Carey's wild

continued on page 6

EAVESDROPS

"Kids remember this stuff forever, and they may even write a book about it one day!"

~ Craig Carey, who did spend some of his kid days in the Los Padres National Forest, and wrote a book about it. The new guide is called "Hiking and Backpacking Santa Barbara & Ventura."

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
Email _____

☐ Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.
Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX

Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



F94Q W 1000 1
Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org



On top of ol' Boney Mountain in the Santa Monica Mountains are (from left) hike leaders John "PInetar" Wilson, Al Sladek and Stephen Bryne. (Photo contributed)

New hike guide...from page 5
sense of humor, such as describing that there are some large animals in the forest, "some larger and more dangerous than you."

Or when describing how parts of the Los Padres have become a garden spot for marijuana crops, some backed by foreign cartels, he advises, "leave the area immediately and certainly don't help yourself to any samples..."

Another fine attribute is it's designed so you can customize your own trip from the nearly 100 routes that are clearly described and mapped.

It is chock-full of information gained by hiking on the trail in all kinds of weather conditions and alone, with a friend or dog and his family. Lots has happened to the trails in the 20-plus years since Gagnon's book, due to fire, storms, closures, openings, connections and many new areas designated as wilderness.

Finally, Carey gives credit for his backcountry roots to his parents, "college sweethearts in the Bruins Mountaineering Club" who strapped him onto a Kelty

pack when he was only 6 years old.

He also credits his own young kids, Li'l G and Jack, "who allow me to view the wilderness and its gifts through fresh eyes and remind me to not see it as a project, but rather as a refuge and a place full of wonder."

Editor's note: The guide is available in local bookstores and on the web at [Wilderness Press](#), [Amazon](#), and [BN.com](#) with a list price of \$18.95, but often with discounts. Carey will send you an autographed copy for \$20; contact him at craigrcarey@gmail.com or visit www.craigrcarey.net.

EAVESDROPS

"No amount of word-making will ever make a single soul to know these mountains. As well seek to warm the naked and frostbitten by lectures on caloric and pictures of flame. One day's exposure to mountains is better than cartloads of books."

~ John Muir (1870s)

Meet 'Pinetar' - veteran hike leader

By Stephen Bryne

Editor's note: Longtime Sierra Club hike leader John Wilson, aka "Pinetar," sat down with interviewer Stephen Bryne and shared some of his thoughts on hiking and backpacking in this area because his knowledge of the local backcountry is second to none.

Q: How long have you been hiking in this area?

A: Since 1972 – I used to live in Newbury Park and would hack my way through the hills to get to Westlake. The trip would take me over the highest point owned by the Rasnows family and they often would kindly invite me in for tea. Today the official Los Robles trail system connects Newbury Park and Westlake.

Q: You hike a lot in Los Padres NF and the Santa Monica Mountains. Do you prefer one area over the other?

A: After so many years of walking I now find most all regions delightful; the joy is just in being out there with open eyes, whether scaling a vertical wall or strolling a country road, the time is precious.

Q: Do you venture further afield, such as to Joshua Tree, Santa Ana Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains or to the Sierras, to hike or backpack?

A: Like most hikers I've roamed our diverse lands from the Anza Borrega to Alaska. Years ago in the British Columbia Rockies I was determined to reach the foot of a glacier but was without a backpack. I found a sapling, wrapped our sleeping bags and food around this pole and headed off. Wasn't long before we stumbled upon a giant pile of steaming purple scat. For the first time in my life I was in serious grizzly country and the author of the pile was close by. That grizzly kindly let us get to the glacier and back without incident, but the persistent feeling of dread has ever since led me to pack full strength bear spray when in grizzly country.

Q: Have you ever gotten lost or disoriented out there?

A: Three incidents come to mind, once in the remote Aquarius Plateau of Utah, once in the San Jacintos and on both occasions a compass saved the day. The third time was in the Sespe, returning from Whiteacre Peak; I managed to travel in a complete circle all the while thinking it was a straight line. The bad thing about going in a circle is that you know you're completely messed up. but the good thing is that you're back where you started so you know where you are.

Q: Have you had any dangerous encounters with animals such as snakes or mountain lions?

A: Well, once a very large rust-colored black bear took undue interest in three of us on the slopes of the Topa Topa range. It kept advancing uphill towards us, moving from bush to bush, getting closer and closer. Not a good sign. It could not smell us because we were upwind and so it was investigating to see what kind of thing was making all those strange noises. Once it got a good look at us and realized that we were not bears it turned and in slow motion retreated downhill away from us. Close call? No. All of us slept well that night.

Q: You have hiked portions of the

Outings...from page 5

PAT at 643-0270 (VEN).

January 31

VISIT TO BARD MANSION: Take a docent-guided tour of the historic Thomas R. Bard Mansion and botanical gardens at Naval Base Port Hueneme. Lunch afterwards in Bard Mansion dining room. The tour is free; lunch about \$10. This outing is limited to 15 people, and reservations are required by January 15. All participants must undergo a military security check. Call CAROL MARSH at 984-3590 for details and reservations. (VEN)

February 1

LOOP IN OJAI VALLEY VIA FUELBREAK TRAIL (aka Gridley Fire Road): 6.5-mile loop, moderately-paced hike, approximately 3.5 hours total. Start from Pratt/Foothill Parking area, hiking north, then east on Fuelbreak Trail to (paved) Gridley Road. Walk on paved road south to Shelf Fire Road, then west on Shelf Fire Road back to Pratt/Foothill Trail and then south to parking area. About 900 feet elevation gain. Meet at 9am at Pratt/Foothill Trailhead Parking area in Ojai. Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, sun hat, 2 quarts of water and snack required. Rain cancels. For more info, call PHIL at 218-2103 (VEN).

February 2

RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Hike up a wooded canyon with scenic views to Gibraltar Rock. Moderate 5.5 mrt. Bring a snack and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. DIANE 455-6818 (SB)

February 3

BASE OF CATHEDRAL PEAK SPINE: Start at Tunnel Trailhead toward Seven Falls. Make steep climb to the base of the Cathedral Peak Spine. Moderate but difficult 3 Mile Round Trip 800 foot gain with some boulder hopping. Bring water and snack or lunch. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. ROBERT 685-1283 (SB)

February 9

STEVENS PARK - JESUSITA TRAIL: Hike across meadow and up wooded area to an inspirational view of Santa Barbara. Moderate-strenuous 8 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. TONY 455-4212 (SB)

February 10

COLD SPRING TRAIL TO THE MONTECITO OVERLOOK: Experience the best of Santa Barbara's Front Country hiking

Pacific Crest Trail, do you hope to complete this trail one day?

A: Yes, and the Appalachian Trail and the Continental Divide Trail and, and.

Q: I heard that you are working on a book, is this true?

A: No, no book.

Q: If you had a spirit animal or totem, what would it be?

A: In the last few years I've been impressed by and become rather fond of ravens. They are long-lived, have a cooperative society, mate for life and engage in playful activities throughout life, even making their own toys. Have to confess that you might find me trying to talk to them - only on Sundays mind you.

trails in an exhilarating three mile loop-hike. In just three miles we will hike through the riparian woodland of Cold Spring Creek. Moderate 3 MRT hike with a 1,000 ft elevation gain. This hike is a great way to discover one of Santa Barbara's most popular power walks. Bring water and a snack. Meet behind the Bank of America at 9am or at the Cold Spring Trailhead at 9:30am. STEPHEN 574-9445

February 15

OJAI VALLEY (LORA) - HORN CANYON TRAILHEAD TO THE PINE CAMP: Moderate-to-strenuous hike up beautiful Horn Canyon, 5 miles round trip, with 1750 feet of elevation gain. Allow 3 hours. Carpool at 8am in Ojai at Rotary Club's Park and Ride Lot on intersection of HWYs 150 and 33. Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, sunhat, 3 quarts of water and snack (lunch for longer hike) required. RAIN CANCELS. For more info, call LORA 218-2105 (VEN)

OJAI VALLEY (PHIL) - Horn Canyon to The Pines to Gridley Trailhead via Nordhoff Ridge Fire Road. Strenuous and fast-paced 18.5 mile hike with 3800 feet of elevation gain. Carpool at 8am in Ojai at Rotary Club's Park and Ride Lot on intersection of HWYs 150 and 33. Ten essentials, hiking boots and poles, sunhat, 3 quarts of water and snack (lunch for longer hike) required. RAIN CANCELS. For more info, call PHIL 218-2103 (VEN)

Donations R appreciated

Thank you to all who sent in donations to the Los Padres Sierra Club 2012 Appeal, and below are more people who contributed.

We accomplish what we do on a tiny fraction of what the other side spends, but we do it thanks to your contributions and literally thousands of hours put in by our volunteers.

If you haven't yet contributed, simply send your donation to: Los Padres Sierra Club, PO Box 31241, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241.

To support our effective action programs (not tax-deductible), write the check to: "Los Padres Sierra Club," and for a tax deductible donation, make it out to "Sierra Club Foundation."

Anonymous
Jane Durah
Linda Gray Daly-Calderon
Glenn Havskjold
Sheryl Hone
Toni McQueen
Helen O'Neill
Wayne and Deborah Pendrey
Jim and Judy Robinson
R. R. Zappala

New trail guide finds favor with expert hikers

Reviews of Craig R. Carey's the "Hiking and Backpacking Santa Barbara & Ventura" of the book are overwhelmingly positive by people who know the local backcountry:

~ "It is put together in an easy-to-read format that one can actually utilize without scratching the head and saying 'What'? I am really excited about how it will help with the WBC's trip planning," said Alisse Fisher, co-chair of the Los Padres Sierra Club's Wilderness Basics Course.

~ "Craig has done an excellent job ... for both the beginner and experienced hiker. I will definitely have the book handy in my office as a useful resource. Wahoo!" Heidi Anderson, Los Padres Forest Ranger.

~ "This guidebook explores trails that you will not find described elsewhere," Fritz R. Ward of Crestline wrote on Amazon. Ward was particularly impressed with the maps, which Carey told Condor Call was accomplished by using USGS maps as a base, stripping out all the vegetation and layering other more updated maps and graphics.

~ "As befitting a 21st Century hiking guidebook, each hike includes GPS coordinates for every major point of interest along the route," wrote Frank Kehl Jr. of Paso Robles, also on Amazon.



Don't get **LOST**, use my

"Mileage Hiking Maps"

by Dr. James R. Caballero

158 Detailed Day Hikes over 1,000 Miles of Local Trails

In Ventura, SB, & LA counties. Each CD has miles hiked, rating, elevation gain/loss, time on trail, driving directions, safety tips, photos from the trails, and much more! *All for about .16 cents a hike!*

Featured in the LA Times and Sierra Club "Condor Call."

Money Back Guarantee-FREE s/h **Revised, Up-dated, & Expanded**

(805) 485-0160 or (805) 984-5394 \$25.00



The good news is that rattlesnakes rarely bite unless provoked or threatened; and if treated promptly, the bites are rarely fatal. Up to 8,000 people are bitten by venomous snakes each year in the U.S., and only about five of those die. In no case should tourniquets be used, nor should any incisions or suction be applied to the wound; instead, the victim should remain calm and get medical help ASAP.

Back away from bears

A woman was chased by a bear and scratched on the Gridley Trail in the Ojai area, forcing a temporary closing of the trail in late October.

“It is imperative that hikers using the Forest trails understand bear behaviors and take appropriate actions to provide for their safety,” said Charlie Robinson, Recreation Officer on the Ojai Ranger District. “Generally, bears are more active in the morning and evening hours, and hikers are encouraged to use another trail or hike at another time of day to avoid encountering bears.”

Trail users are strongly encouraged to seek additional information about bears by visiting these websites: www.BeBearAware.org www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/bear.html

The key piece of advice on the Bear Aware website is to “give bears a chance to identify you as human, and not a threat. If the bear stands up, it is trying

to see, hear and smell you better. Talk firmly in a low-pitched voice while backing away. Avoid direct eye contact as bears may perceive this as a challenge or threat.”

Rangers also say if you are attacked or have an aggressive encounter, contact the state Department of Fish and Game at (951)-782-4353.

EAVESDROPS

“Sierra Club supporters and volunteers did some amazing things this election cycle. Together, we engaged millions of voters and fought back against big polluters’ deep pockets -- proving that corporations are, in fact, not people.”

~ Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, lauding the reelection of Barack Obama and other hopeful signs during the November election.

SANTA BARBARA GROUP HAS FOUR SLOTS OPEN

CATHERINE MULLIN

“In the present circumstances, no one can afford to assume that someone else will solve their problems. Every individual has a responsibility to help guide our global family in the right direction. Good wishes are not sufficient; we must become actively engaged.”

-- His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Our “global family” includes animals, plants, water, air and minerals. All these relations need protection today more than ever. I would like to put thought and passion into action by joining the Santa Barbara Sierra Club ExCom.

I am a veterinarian with a specialty in shelter medicine. This encompasses all the medical, behavioral and environmental challenges that face animals as they are housed in shelters. I am trained to be able to assess and evaluate all aspects of health relating to population dynamics. In the same way I am also interested in the environmental health of wildlife.

I am a relatively new transplant to the left coast and have become passionate about our Channel and mountains. My background in epidemiology and public health issues has made me aware and informed about the many issues facing wildlife, resulting in habitat loss and



SANTA BARBARA GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

Santa Barbara Group Executive Committee Ballot

(See candidate statements this page)

NOTE: Only members of the SANTA BARBARA GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second box is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one *Condor Call*. You may photocopy or cut this ballot from the *Condor Call*.

Mail ballot **before** Dec. 31 to:
Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 31241, Santa Barbara CA 93130

Vote for NO MORE THAN 4 (FOUR) persons, including write-in option if you wish.

In alphabetical order:	1 st member	2 nd member
Jim Balter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Angela Boyd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jacky Lopez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Catherine Mullin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Write in candidate if desired: _____

Enter your Sierra Club member ID # (from Condor Call label or membership card) _____

(Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)

climate change due to mainly human activities.

Foremost I believe we as a species must lower our carbon footprint. I am an avid proponent of increasing local bicycling for transport and making public transport the travel choice for everyone. Land must be kept wild to ensure there is enough space for wildlife and plants to flourish. When undeveloped land is enjoyed by people it must be done responsibly knowing that we are there as guests.

My scientific background can contribute to the Sierra Club by providing background for environmental policies and statements. I will try to go beyond individual rhetoric and look for truth in what we as a club can do for our surroundings.

JIM BALTER

I’ve lived in Santa Barbara for nearly 17 years. My primary mode of transportation is a bicycle. I have participated in Sierra Club hikes, and I have also hiked and camped at Kings Canyon, Yosemite, and other beautiful and precious areas throughout California.

I believe that climate change and energy policy must be our nation’s number one concern, as we are reaching tipping points that cannot be un-tipped; action cannot be delayed. And it’s vital to educate people and get them



involved in the political process.

There’s still a big disconnect in the public’s mind between “fire” and “earlier, longer fire season resulting from global warming.” Personal action like recycling and “leave it cleaner than you found it” is great, but we need to go beyond that to curb the destructive activities of our society.

I have served on the ExCom of the Santa Barbara Group for the last four years, and have been asked to serve for another two years if you so choose. In addition to diligent attendance at ExCom meetings, my contributions have included program chair, volunteer coordinator, and preparation of Convio mailings.

My agenda is to faithfully execute Club policy and to represent the interests of our members.

ARGUELLO GROUP STATEMENTS

JEFF WEISS

I have been a member of the Arguello Group since 2012. My primary interest is leading and helping with outdoor programs.

I completed the Los Padres

Chapter’s Wilderness Basic Course, and became a certified hike leader after leading my qualifying hike. I have also have assisted on two backpacking outings. My focus is on promoting sustainability and hiking.

BARRY WEAVER

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for twenty years. I organized Lompoc in Bloom Program, Nature’s Wonders Night at Lompoc’s Olde Towne Faire, and worked for Los Angeles Unified School District Outdoor Education Program.

DEAN THOMPSON

I have been a member of the Arguello Group since 1999. Shortly after that I became a hike leader and lead the Tuesday night hikes for several years. My main interest in Sierra Club is in protecting hiking areas.

KEN NAYLOR

Ken is an environmentalist who believes that overpopulation and overconsumption will destroy the world. When Ken is not saving the world, he enjoys hiking, backpacking, snow skiing, photography, and foreign travel. In the past, he also participated in ocean sailing and taught celestial navigation.

ARGUELLO GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

Arguello Group Executive Committee Ballot

(See candidate statements this page)

NOTE: Only members of the ARGUELLO GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second box is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one *Condor Call*. You may photocopy or cut this ballot from the *Condor Call*.

The Arguello Group’s By-Laws permit up to 9 members of the ExCom, but we have been operating with 8 for several years. Approximately half of the total slots are open for election each year.

Mail ballot **before** Dec. 31 to:
Arguello Group, Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 333, Lompoc CA 93438-0333

Vote for NO MORE THAN 5 (FIVE) persons, including write-in option if you wish.

In reverse alphabetical order:	1 st member	2 nd member
Jeff Weiss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barry Weaver	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dean Thompson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ken Naylor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Write in candidate if desired: _____

Enter your Sierra Club member ID # (from Condor Call label or membership card) _____

(Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)

CONEJO GROUP MEMBERS ONLY VOTE

Conejo Group Executive Committee Ballot

(No candidate statements available)

NOTE: Only members of the CONEJO GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A second box is provided for households with dual memberships who get only one *Condor Call*. You may photocopy or cut this ballot from the *Condor Call*.

Mail ballot **before** Dec. 31 to:
Conejo Group, Sierra Club,
643 Old Farm Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Vote for NO MORE THAN 3 (THREE) persons, including write-in option if you wish.

In alphabetical order:	1 st member	2 nd member
Rick Koppel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Liz MacGovern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ellen Sanders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Write in candidate if desired: _____

Enter your Sierra Club member ID # (from Condor Call label or membership card) _____

(Number is only to ensure a valid confidential vote. It will not be tied to your name.)

GREETINGS FRIENDS

Our area is rich with wild life

By Jim Hines

Imagine seeing one of the largest birds on earth, the largest whales, glimpse the quickness of a cougar and be serenaded by cheerful songbirds. This



and more is all possible when you visit our many rich wildlife areas of the Los Padres Sierra

Club's area.

No wonder we currently have three federally protected national wildlife refuges in the Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Want to see coastal shorebirds, spectacular sand dunes and offshore marine mammals? Then plan a visit to the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge Complex located along the northern Santa Barbara County coastline and into San Luis Obispo. This complex is a mix of federal, state and county owned lands open for public access for wildlife viewing.

One of the largest birds on our planet can be seen by guided trips into the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge north of Fillmore, which was the first designated Refuge in our area. Home to one of our largest symbols of wilderness, the protected California condor, it

also is teeming with numerous mammals ranging from small rodents to mule deer herds and black bears.

The conifer forest/oak woodlands which make up Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge on the Ventura/Kern County line in the Lockwood Valley area was originally established as a refuge for the California condor. These federal lands include protected habitat for Kit foxes, Pronghorn antelope, Tule elk and the endangered blunt-nosed Leopard lizard.

Note that both Hopper Mountain and Bitter Creek National Refuges are not open to the public. But from time-to-time public tours are given by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff or groups such as Friends of the California condor. Contact the service at its office in Ventura for information on refuge visits:

www.fws.gov/hoppermountain/BitterCreekNWR

Whales, sea otters, seals, dolphins, sea turtles, elephant seals and marine birdlife all abound in the rich marine habitat of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Located offshore of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties and surrounding Channel Islands National Park, this marine habitat wonderland is filled with some of the greatest marine mammals on our planet.



A coyote howls at the moon, evoking the fact that the forest in our "back yard" is still wild and full of great critters. (© Photo by Larry Allen)

Boat excursions out of both Santa Barbara Harbor, Ventura and Channell Islands (Oxnard) harbors offer the public a great experience exploring our unique marine environment. The marine sanctuary has visitor centers in Santa Barbara Harbor and Channel Islands Harbor. On the web:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov>

To experience the beauty and richness of what early California looked like, plan to spend the day exploring the National Park Service owned Cheeseboro and Palo Comado canyons, just north of Agoura Hills. They have one of the largest concentrations of birds-of-prey in California.

Oak savannahs provide habitat for mule deer grazing under the massive oaks, bobcats preying on small rodents in

the grasslands, and the few remaining mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains ecosystem migrate through the canyon, as well as plentiful reptiles, colorful songbirds and large numbers of coyotes.

From the ocean environment to protecting the habitats of our most endangered species, our wildlife viewing areas are places which enrich our lives and create an awareness of how important wildlife of all types are in the natural environment.

See you on the trail!

Next issue of
Condor Call

comes out 1st of February

DEADLINES:

Editorial: January 21

Advertising: January 23

Questions? Call 452-2885