

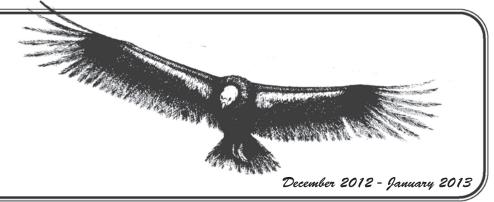


Court victory . . . Aftermath . . . Outdoors . . . Group elections

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# Condon Call

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



# 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.

significantly, Most 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

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

title is Deputy Executive Director,

but he specializes in taking on

special projects, such as moving

the nation past petroleum energy.

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

Locally, the Los Padres

Bruce Hamilton's official

Lois Capps.

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

Trevor Smith applied for the

special designation last year and

it was embraced, going from "an

obscure local issue to a nationally

is also of local importance: trying

to get oil and gas companies to

reveal the chemicals they use

in hydraulic fracturing, aka

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

Lauren Randall of the

Another project for Hamilton

recognized campaign."

"fracking."

materials."

continued on page 5



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 gettogethers, 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 growth. 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 vet recorded.

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

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

Recently, we welcomed 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

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.

Condor Call e-version in full color with hot links to emails and websites, and it's a pleasure to

Check out the e-version out

http://lospadres.sierraclub.org and if you like what you see, you can stop the print version and get

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.



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 read that way.

at our website:

it sent to your computer.

To sign up, provide your name, phone number and email to: CondorJohn@gnusman.com

### **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)

# Historic 'ice can stoves' survive

**By Robert A. Burtness** and Craig R. Carey

Historical curiosities abound throughout our local forest: aging lookout towers, the few remaining guard stations, old and faded signage ... all testaments to a rich legacy.

In 1977, Bob Burtness serving as the chairman of the



BSA's Mission Council Camping Booklet Committee — had the opportunity to sit down with and interview retired Los Padres National Forest Supervisor Stephen Augustus "Gus" Nash-Boulden, a legend in forest lore. It was Supervisor Nash-Boulden who'd brought the ice can stove to the Forest Service.

As Burtness related in the fifth edition of his guide, it all started back in 1919, when a butcher in Banning built a stove from a 100-pound ice mold. Ice

1920s worked in the Cleveland and San Bernardino National Forests, was shown this ice can stove, and "before the year was over, several of them were installed in some campgrounds. They proved to be so popular that the butcher offered the Forest Service all of his discarded ice

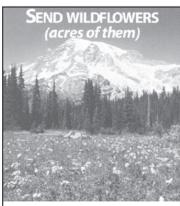
supplanted by other (notably the Klamath style) stoves over campgrounds. In 1935, the around the forest.

And while few new ice can

Even today — nearly a full century since the introduction of the stove to our woods — scores of these "venerable veterans of the wilderness" still dot the trail camps.

Disasters (History Press, 2012).

Craig R. Carev is a Scout leader, frequent wanderer of the Los Padres backcountry, and author of Hiking & Backpacking Santa Barbara and Ventura (Wilderness Press, 2012).



Memorial or Commemorative gifts are a unique way to honor an individual or special event and at the same time provide important funding towards Sierra Club's long-term goals. And like the memories you hold, For more information, call (415) 977-5653.

planned.giving@sierraclub.org 85 Second St.,

San Francisco, CA 94105 Chapter Contact Catherine Graham 682-1357

molds were steel containers used to freeze water into blocks to keep perishables cool during transit in the days before refrigeration.

The Supervisor, who in the molds. A short while later, the 100-pound size was superseded by a larger 300-pound size."

The ice can stove was the years, especially in car USFS's Region 5 "Public Camp Manual" detailed how stove and cooking needs were changing

"The ice-can stove has been proved unsuited for the more largely used camp," the manual stated. "No more stoves of this type should be constructed except in isolated hunter camps. Existing concrete bases built for receiving ice cans should be maintained and available ice cans stored, for use as the present ice cans wear out and need to be replaced."

stoves were distributed in the Santa Barbara (later Los Padres) National Forest in the 1930s, they were the workhorse of those decades, and long into the 1950s were still heavily used and frequently encountered by backcountry trekkers.

Robert A. Burtness is a longtime Scout leader, Los Padres NF volunteer wilderness ranger, and author of The Santa Barbara B-24

this is a gift that will last forever.

Memorial/Commemorative Program

## **Information Please!**

By Arthur Unger

Just as the Condor Call keeps us informed of chapter and group doings, email newsletters from Sierra Club headquarters inform us of national environmental issues. We can become members of the Sierra Club's Online Community. The newsletters offer opportunities to contact President Obama and other officials about issues currently being decided. Below is a list of most and to get any of them, go to: www.sierraclub.org/email

### GENERAL NEWSLETTERS

The Insider (biweekly): Our flagship newsletter.

The Green Life (weekdays): Daily tips for living well and doing

**Daily Ray of Hope** (weekdays): Inspirational quotes and usersubmitted images.

Currents (weekly):

Holding decision-makers accountable.

**Coming Clean**:

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune's blog.

**Sierra Student Coalition News**: The latest for environmentally

minded students. The Buzz (monthly):

News from the Sierra Club's Building Bridges to the Outdoors Program. **Clubhouse Updates** (monthly):

How to use Sierra Club's organization and contact leaders.

### **ISSUE NEWSLETTERS**

**Green Trader** (monthly): Responsible Trade campaign news. **Hotline** (twice monthly): Global Warming campaign news. **PopNews** (monthly): Global Population campaign news.

# Gaviota plan has trail to nowhere

**By Mark Lunsford** 

It's common knowledge that investors who speculate in land seek to buy cheap and sell high in order to obtain the best possible return on investment.

While this has been going on in California since the state was formed, such speculation has depleted so much biological richness that most of Southern California's coastal Mediterranean ecosystems have been severely degraded.

In this context, developers have turned to the Gaviota Coast, the last best safe harbor for the region's biodiversity. Makar Properties LLC of Orange County is one such entity.

Makar and their partners, Brooks Street, now propose the Paradiso del Mare project between Naples and Goleta. Makar purchased 210 acres from Arco in the 1990's thinking it would build a golf course and promised to merge the 20 Naples Township lots as a condition of the annexation, but it never did. The Surfrider Foundation eventually won when the project was denied by the Coastal Commission in a second go-around.

Today's Paradiso del Mare project is an attempt to develop two large, rural residential luxury estate type compounds in contradiction to the spirit, if not the letter of the agricultural zoning.

The house it proposes on the seaside lot will be located where it will block the existing public access to the beach at Naples, with an offer for a "floating easement" nearby, but there is no feasible location in that area.

This means it is offering a

promise for an easement sometime in the future if a location can be found. We need a trail not a

It just so happens that on one of Makar's lots further up the coast there is a suitable location for a trail to the beach but they don't want to offer it because they want to develop these lots in the future. Makar is able to apply for 10 houses on their Naples lots if they can acquire the necessary water.

There are some attractive aspects of this project. While there is no vertical access trail to the beach, there is a trail running up and down the coast between Driftwoods and the new house they want to build.

However, the trail is essentially a trail to nowhere. It doesn't continue beyond the new house they want.

We should all ask that the trail issues be worked out NOW, in this environmental review, not later on a vague promise.

apprised of To keep developments along the Gaviota Coast or to get involved, call 683-6631 or log on to: <u>www.</u> GaviotaCoastConservancy.org www.SaveNaples.org

### BULLETIN

Santa Barbara County's long-range plan that will govern development, protection and/or access to the Gaviota Coast is now being released in sections, and the public's input is crucial.

The section on energy and infrastructure was just released in late November. To comment, get on the update list or more details, use the keyword 'Gaviota Coast' at:

http://longrangesbcountyplanning.org/



This "monster rock" was removed from the Gridley Trail during a recent volunteer work party led by Ojai District Ranger Heidi Anderson. You too can join these important work parties on the first Saturday of every month; simply contact Heidi at handerson@fs.fed.us. (Photo by Heidi Anderson)



Shown is a great example of "ice can stoves" that still exist after nearly a century in the Los Padres National Forest. This one is located in the Timber Creek area, just off the proposed Condor Trail. (Photo by Craig Carey)

> Condor Call All numbers 805 area code ONLINE: http://lospadres.sierraclub.org EDITOR: John Hankins 452-2885 260 Pacos St. Ventura CA 93001 - condorjohn@gnusman.com

DEADLINES FOR ALL ISSUES: Copy Deadline: 15th — Advertising Deadline: 20th of month preceding publication. PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

**ADVERTISING: Contact Condor Call Editor** 

February/March, April/May, June/July, Aug./Sept., Oct./Nov., Dec./Jan. SUBSCRIPTIONS: Free to members

> Non-members, \$6 per year, Contact: Editor John Hankins (see EDITOR address, phone and email above) Photos, news, tips always welcome!

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Transportation: Michael Chiacos Treasurer: Richard Hunt, 966-4157, Richard.Hunt@LosPadres.SierraClub.org

Typography and production by Dan Fuller



During the Santa Barbara Group's annual holiday party Dec. 8, Paul Cronshaw will share his experiences installing solar panels on his house. You can also contact him at pcronshaw@cox.net. (Photo by Paul Cronshaw)

### **SANTA BARBARA GROUP**

### **Annual party** on Dec. 8

All members and friends are invited to the Santa Barbara Group's annual potluck holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 8.

In addition to great food and guests, Paul Cronshaw will talk about his experiences installing solar power on his home in the Santa Barbara area. He'll reveal the ins and outs and answer questions. He can also be reached at pcronshaw@cox.net.

This is a great opportunity to catch up with some old friends and to make a few new ones. Your local Sierra Club leaders will be on hand to answer questions about local happenings -- and they would love to hear your thoughts and ideas. We would especially like to see some of the new members who joined the Sierra Club during the year.

The doors will open at 5:45 p.m. to begin setup of tables and chairs, otherwise come at 6 p.m. and expect the party to run about 2 ½ hours at the Unitarian Society, 1535 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara.

Please RSVP to Jim Balter at 689-2716 or via email:

santabarbara.group@sierraclub.org

This is a potluck, so bring food and beverages (wine or beer if you like) to share. The Club will provide disposable dinnerware, but you are encouraged to bring your own reusable items so we can keep our footprint low.

To learn more about the Santa Barbara Group, go to our

http://lospadres.sierraclub.org/ santabarbara

### **VENTURA SIERRA CLUB**

# **Celebrate season with** festive meal & music

All Sierra Club members and their friends are cordially invited to come and celebrate the season and our many environmental successes this year, hosted by the Ventura group.

The party will feature a festive dinner, holiday music and door prizes. The Club will provide turkey and ham; cider, soft drinks and other non-alcoholic beverages; paper plates, cups, and napkins; and plastic eating utensils. Those who wish beer or wine should bring their own.

The event takes place from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14 in the parish hall at St. Paul's Church, 3290 Loma Vista Road in Ventura - directly across the street from the County Hospital.

Each attendee or couple

should bring a dish to share with up to five other guests, plus appropriate serving utensils.

If your surname begins with the letters 'A' - 'G,' bring stuffing or a vegetable dish; 'H' - 'M,' bring dessert; 'N' - 'S,' bring a salad; and 'T' - 'Z,' bring hors d'oeuvres. To help defray its expenses, the Club is requesting a \$15 donation per adult and \$7 for children under 12. If you cannot afford \$15, donate what you can.

So that the Club can plan the amount of food, everyone should RSVP. You can respond call Carol Marsh at 984-3590 or online at RSVP@VenturaSierraClub.org

willing to help set up the room before the party or clean up afterwards.

## Condor Classifieds

SEEK PARTNER(s) for 52-foot Amel Mango Ketch in Ventura. (805) 650-7736.

FIND YOUR SB HOME at www. SBHomeSearch.info. Kevin Berni Coastal Properties, and UCSB '80. Call (805) 564-3400 or www. sbre.com.

**ACUPRESSURE MASSAGE**, rest your back and feet. Call Paula, 687-4671.

**USED CELL PHONES** for sale as benefit for the Santa Barbara Group; 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 connected; if for any reason you want to return it within that time, you'll get a full refund. Call 962-8415.

**SAVE THE TOWN** from demolition;

go to SB city planning hearings, 630 Garden St. Gebhard room, agendas posted there or ast www. SantaBarbara.ca.gov/abr or /sfdb, /hic, /sho, /pc and city council. Very important Chumash burial grounds everywhere, don't add on to your house, no condos, no building. Go to the hearings or write comments and Save the Town!

SAVE THE OLD GROWTH redwood houses, shed and 1960s workshop at 1236 San Andres from massive condo project, also Val Verde. Call the SB City Planners at 564-5470, ask for Danny Kato. Tell your friends, call your legislators. Save all SB from demolition of similar historic houses throughout the city and Cottage Hospital. We need another Pearl Chase! Help

# Club's in tune with voters

The Los Padres Sierra Club was mostly in tune with the majority of voters in the aftermath of the November election, judging by its endorsements in local, state and national races.

The most obvious was the reelection of President Barack Obama, who the Club endorsed because of his environmental credentials over the challenger. The Club's executive director, Michael Brune, commented: "During his first term, Barack Obama was the first president to clearly articulate a vision of America leading the world toward a clean-energy future that can meet the challenge of a changing climate. Now, he has four more years to deliver on that promise."

For the House of Representatives, our endorsees Lois Capps (District 24) won reelection, and so did Julia Brownley (District 26), but newcomer Dr. Lee Rogers (District 25) did not.

For the State Senate, endorsees Hanna-Beth Jackson (District 19) and Fran Pavley (District 27) won; and for Assembly, Das Williams won easily but our endorsee Edward Headington (District 38) lost.

Voters and the Club supported Prop 39, which would tax multistate businesses to help fund clean energy, but the proposition (37) supported by the Club to

Los Padres Group News

The public is welcome to our programs

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Usually meets the fourth Thursday of every month in Carpinteria. Email Chair Gerry Ching for the agenda and details: gching@cox.net

### **ARGUELLO GROUP**

~ Board meets first Monday of most months often with a program. All information on this North County Santa Barbara Group from Jerry Connor, 928-3598 or email: <a href="Monnor.gd2@">Connor.gd2@</a> verizon.net Volunteers are needed as hike leaders and to monitor issues; your talents could make a difference.

### **CONEJO GROUP**

Get all information on this southern Ventura County Group from John Holroyd, 495-6391 or backpacker2@earthlink.net. On the web: http://lospadres.sierraclub.org/conejo

### **SANTA BARBARA GROUP**

- ~ Get the latest updates on events and issues of this South Coast Santa Barbara area at <a href="https://www.SBSierraClub.org">www.SBSierraClub.org</a>; also join our email list by contacting <a href="https://stephen@lospadres">Stephen@lospadres</a>
- ~ Annual holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 8, see details this page

### **VENTURA SIERRA CLUB**

- ~ Up-to-date information about the northern Ventura County group at www.VenturaSierraClub.org
- Come and bring friends to celebrate season in a gala gathering Friday, Dec. 14,

require genetically engineered food labels lost.

The two propositions that were opposed by the Club were also opposed by the voters. They were Prop 31 (a faulty state budget reform measure) and Prop 32, prohibiting political contributions by payroll deductions which primarily affected unions.

In local races, Ventura Supervisor Steve Bennett won reelection to the joy of the Los Padres Chapter because of his support of Save Our Agricultural Resources (SOAR), which he coauthored and will come up for extension in a few years.

SOAR requires a public vote

if agricultural land is proposed to change to urban uses, and a similar tool, Measure G in Goleta, was also successful and endorsed by the Club. In fact a whopping 71 percent of Goleta voters backed the measure. Also in Goleta, Sierra Club member (and endorsee) Ed Easton won reelection.

In the city of Carpinteria, one of our endorsed candidates, Fred Shaw, won but Kathleen Reddington did not. For the Carpinteria Water District, the Club endorsed a slate of three to challenge incumbents, and one of them, Polly Holcombe, did make



Also call Carol if you are Hike leaders and their friends from the Los Padres Sierra Club gathered for a well-deserved annual potluck on Oct. 7 complete with music from Glendessary Jam. Let's all say thank you to our hike leaders, who spend untold hours on the trail and tune up their skills off the trail just so they can share the wilderness with the public (Photo by Robert Bernstein)

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A classified ad in the Condor Call reaches over 6,500 Sierra Club members in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Ads cost only \$6 for three lines, and 75¢ for each additional line per issue. Specify by circling the months below. Deadline for next issue is January 23. Questions? Call the Condor at 452-2885.

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

Name	Name:															
Phone	Phone:															

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### **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 Muqu 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 15mile-round-trip hike from 1850feet 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

### **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**

370-2301 Santa Monica Mtns. Area 381-2737 Coneio Parks 584-4400 Simi VGalley 969-3514 Montecito 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.VenturaCountvTrails.org http://Hikes.VenturaCountyStar.com



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? Gerry Ching (gching@cox.

### 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 enacks and lunch Creek cro

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-

### **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

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

### 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

### 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, familyfriendly 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 Parkand-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 CANYON CREEK to Nordhoff Ridge fire road to reef trail to White Ledge Camp to Sisar Canyon trailhead: A strenuous and fast-paced oneway 12.5-mile hike, 1900 feet of elevation gain. Carpool at 8am in Oiai 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 turnoff 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)

### muse-icle Hiker on the Roof is a

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

Okay, not the world, but my world, our home. Our 20-vear 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

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

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 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 fastmoving puffy white clouds, toward a range of high snowcapped 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.)

### **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 RĪDGE: 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. TÓNY 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 Resevoir. Mostly flat, but some steep sections. We'll start from the Polo Club trainead on Toro Cyn Rd. We'll pick up the Edison Trail back of Summerland and connect with the service road to the resevoir where we'll stop for lunch. We'll return via the Resevoir 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 China (gching@cox.net).

### January 18

THE OLD CABIN MUGU STATE PARK: Moderateto-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 repellant, 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 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

**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 LOOP: **SPRINGS** Moderate 4mrt hike covering Springs, portions of the Hot 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

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.





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

"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

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."

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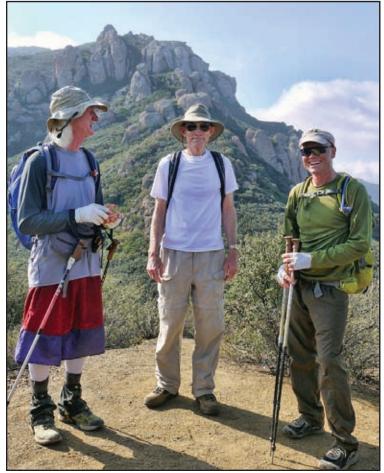
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Bianca Acevedo literally stopped to smell the roses during a Sierra Club outing near the Santa Barbara Mission led and photographed by hike leader Robert Bernstein.

### Our hikes smell good Join the Club

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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

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 wordmaking 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

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 rustcolored 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? N o t all of us slept well that night.

Q: You have hiked portions of the

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 longlived, have a cooperative society, mate for life and engage 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.

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 moderately-paced 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. Moderatestrenuous 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

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

# **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-

To support our effective action programs (not taxdeductible), 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 McOueen Helen O'Neill Wayne and Deborah Pendrey Jim and Judy Robinson R. R. Zappala



### 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

~ "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.

**New trail guide finds** 

tavor with expert hikers

Santa Barbara & Ventura" of the book are overwhelmingly positive

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

and experienced hiker. I will definitely have the book handy in my

office as a useful resource. Wahoo!" Heidi Anderson, Los Padres

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

by people who know the local backcountry:

Club's Wilderness Basics Course.

Forest Ranger.

maps and graphics.

Reviews of Craig R. Carey's the "Hiking and Backpacking

~ "It is put together in an easy-to-read format that one can

~ "Craig has done an excellent job ... for both the beginner

~ "This guidebook explores trails that you will not find



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

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 Together, cycle. 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 H

### **CATHERINE MULLIN**

"Inthepresent 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 Good wishes are direction. not sufficient; we must become actively engaged."

-- His Holiness the Dalai

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



### 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.

### 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:	<u>1st member</u>	2 <sup>nd</sup> member
Jeff Weiss		
Barry Weaver		
Dean Thompson		
Ken Naylor		
Write in candidate if desired:		
Enter vour Sierra Club member	r ID # (from Con	dor Call label d

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.)

### **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 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.

### 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:	<u>1st member</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> member</u>
<u>In alphabetical order:</u> Jim Balter		
Angela Boyd		
Jacky Lopez		
Catherine Mullin		
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

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.

### 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:	1st member	2 <sup>nd</sup> member					
Rick Koppel							
Liz MacGovern							
Ellen Sanders							
Write in candidate if desired:							

/rite 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.)

### SIERRA CLUB

LOS PADRES CHAPTER P.O. Box 31241 Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1241 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. Postage PAID Santa Barbara, CA Permit No. 9

### **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.

coastal Want to see shorebirds, spectacular sand dunes and offshore marine mammals? Then plan a visit to the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Wildlife National 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.

Fromtheoceanenvironment 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