Grassroots action is saving the wetlands

By John Hankins and Irene Rauschenberger

The dream to restore the Ormond Beach and wetlands became more of a reality during a public workshop on June 21, outlining the project that experts say is the most important wetland restoration opportunity in Southern California.

It was the first public meeting about the "Pearl Beach Restoration Public Access Plan co-sponsored by the State Coastal Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and the City of Oxnard. The presentation materials (English and Spanish versions) are now available online:

http://ormond.scc.ca.gov

Nature Conservancy provided a brief overview of the restoration project yet to be completed. They needed community input, so they provided an opportunity to speak and/or submit comments online:

http://ormond.scc.ca.gov

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"What other city has three power plants and a Superfund site on the beach? The people of Oxnard have paid their dues."

Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard Mayor Pro-Tem, quoted in a LA Times article about the opposition to a gas-fired "peaker plant," a sentiment shared by the Sierra Club. Read the article at http://tinyurl.com/PuenteOrmondFeature

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Credit Roma & Jean, Ormond's Dream Team

Editor's note: As the dream to preserve Ormond Beach progresses, let's pause to acknowledge the primary activists whose vision has brought us to this point.

By Bob Chianese

Thirty years ago, Roma Armbrust, with her environmental colleague, Jean Harris, advocated the preservation of a wide stretch of Ormond Beach. Their early efforts (they formed a questionnaire (the comment deadline was July 23)).

At least 80 attendees were seated in work groups for discussion. Issues arising from the groups were similar: public access, parking, signage, boardwalks, a visitor center, docents and more. Oxnard Mayor Tim Flynn, Mayor Pro-Tem Carmen Ramirez, and Council member Bert Perello were seen along with the city's Planning Commissioners and staff.

Also in evidence was Ventura Sierra Club activist Nina Dunau, who's been leading photo hikes at Ormond that helped raise funds to purchase an outdoor table and materials for resident docent, Walter Fuller. The Sierra Club has for years advocated for Ormond restoration, often teaming up with Roma Armbrust and Jean Harris who founded the Ormond Beach Observers in 1983 (See adjacent story on these pioneers).

The Coastal Conservancy’s plan "is pursuing acquisition at Ormond Beach with a goal of acquiring at least 900 acres to accommodate wetland and other habitat needs, and at the same time complement the City’s goal to complete development of the south Oxnard community. Acquisition and restoration of these properties could at least triple the extent of habitat at Ormond Beach."

The biological significance of this area and its restoration potential is endorsed by all the federal and state resource agencies that participate in the SoCal Wetlands Recovery Project. Unanimous support is also from the County of Ventura and the City of Oxnard.

Families brought their children because Ventura Audubon had a fun activities and refreshments.

For decades, the coastal wetlands in south Oxnard have been drained and filled to make way for agriculture and industrial uses, but in recent years there has been a concerted effort to purchase private property for restoration purposes, starting with the 2002 sale of 260 acres belonging to SoCal Edison. Currently there is 540 acres of the ultimate goal of having at least 900 acres.

The effort has attracted state and even national attention. See recent new feature here: http://tinyurl.com/OrmondALTimes

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By Jim Hines

The public comment phase for the Interior Department’s campaign to reduce boundaries, eliminate, privatize and/or allow oil and mineral extraction on 26% of America’s national monuments has officially ended.

But the public has heeded the call aggressively: over 2.5 million comments were received, the majority from the official comment webpage but a large number by postcards and letters, according to senior staff in DC.

Too, on Aug. 19 the Sierra Club is organizing a National Monuments Day of Action. Keep your eyes peeled on our web, Facebook and Meet-up pages for details on actions locally; links are listed under Group News, page 7.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone for getting so many supportive and passionate comments for protection of America’s national monuments in before the July 10th deadline. You inundated them so much that they are not sure what to do with so many comments.

Staff says that a preliminary tally shows a 10 to 1 margin in support for leaving the monuments fully intact and protected. In July, Interior announced that four of the 26 monuments will stay as is: Craters of the Moon NM in Idaho, Hardfod Beach NM in Washington, Colorado NM and Canyons of the Ancients NM, also in Colorado.

The most individual comments were for Bears Ears NM in Utah. It is ground zero for the Administration’s campaign to allow more resource extraction as Zinke has publicly stated its boundaries should be reduced to only protect “cultural resources.” Farmers, ranchers, and the oil and gas industry have urged the Utah congressional delegation to push for a rollback of the protected areas so that they could have access to the land for development,” according to the New York Times.

The closest to our Los Padres region is Carrizo Plain National Monument at the southeast of San Luis Obispo County. Others on the list for changes are Grand Staircase-Escalante NM also in Utah, and Grand Canyon Parashant NM on the north rim of the Grand Canyon. These are the big national monuments with economic amounts of oil and gas, uranium, copper and coal.

Sierra Club sent in 203 pages of comments on each of the monuments at issue and sent copies directly to Zinke. Club activists are also showing up when Zinke visits particular sites.

My personal take on all this is if the Secretary follows the expressed will of the American people, our national monuments are safe. But the Secretary also listens to and follows the advice of a very small but vocal group of anti-public lands advocates.

Secretary Zinke is a devoted and obedient servant of the President. In several face-to-face meetings I had with him, he made it very clear that he thinks anti-public lands advocates are the “victims”.

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Gas plant blasted

Oxnard residents rallied strong in their opposition to the proposed Puente power plant that would be the fourth such industrial facility on their beach, backed up by environmental groups, elected officials and many others just before a hearing by the California Energy Commission commenced on July 26.

At issue is SoCal Edison’s proposal to build a gas-fired power plant to provide power during peak use and replace two older gas-fired steam turbines at Mandalay Bay that cause more pollution. Hearing was held at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center.

If you didn’t make the meeting you may still comment via the internet at: http://tinyurl.com/PuenteEComment

Key objections included:

- An LA Times report that the state’s power plants can produce at least 21% more electricity than needed by 2020 without it.

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Cover photo for an Ormond Beach video extolling its worth as a world-class wetland. (Photo contributed)
We go where action is...

Eventually your plan may settle

efforts will also ebb and flow

for environmentalists. Persevere,

due to global warming?

protecting human development

would serve a vital function in

that Ormond and other beaches

nearby clearly doesn't need to be

our hands. A new proposed one

to go, even before its shut down

wastes, run-off, and toxics

into the consciousness of locals,

and others.

coupled with perseverance, is

others.

into the consciousness of locals,

and others.

and environmentally sensitive

dustrial coastlines, run-off, and toxics

also. That an industrial

facilities of this nature should never

be built on the coast where sea

level rise will eventually submerge it.

it would be constructed

a rare 2-acre coastal wetland

that is surrounded by ancient

and environmentally sensitive

dustrial coastlines, run-off, and toxics

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GREETINGS FRIENDS

We rally to defend our planet

By Jim Hines
Chapter Chair

Los Padres Chapter has been going full blast the past couple of months and I am so inspired by the hard work our activists are doing. They truly are the backbone of our chapter and, without them doing what they feel so passionate about, we would not have the victories we have won so far this year. We have been a long time fighting for our environment, but we are realistic and we know we are in this for the long haul. We are the resistance, we encourage, we inspire; but we are human, we hurt, and we feel the pain of our earth. But even then we have rallied and you have made your voices heard in defense of wildlife and wild places. (See story on how you can help on page 5. And if you are not yet a member, it’s only $15 to join at: www.SierraClub.org)

Solar discounts setting soon

ALERT Solar discounts to expire... Community Environmental Council’s Solarize Ventura County -- a community-led, group-purchasing program designed to make going solar through CEC, but the group-purchase discounts will expire. The CEC’s solarize programs have been operating in both counties for a while. It has placed 162 homeowners in Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo counties and the programs have placed a total of 524 homeowners in our environment, but we are realistic and we know we are in this for the long haul. We are the resistance, we encourage, we inspire; but we are human, we hurt, and we feel the pain of our earth. But even then we have rallied and you have made your voices heard in defense of wildlife and wild places. (See story on how you can help on page 5. And if you are not yet a member, it’s only $15 to join at: www.SierraClub.org)

Club’s Big Stick

The Sierra Club was rated “one of the most influential brands in Washington” by the National Journal. And that’s not all -- 1,500 leading policymakers were interviewed in D.C. to determine perceived influence, integrity and respect among a wide range of groups. The Sierra Club was the only environmental organization to make that list.

Put the date on your calendar so you won’t miss out. It’s from 9am to noon Sunday, Sept. 10, 9am to 2pm, adjacent to the Sunday Farmers Market at Channel Islands Harbor. We have added a ride-and...

Free jobs

Come volunteer with the Sierra Ventura Club without spending a dime; here’s what we need: Ventura Sierra Club Board Secretary - Looking for a volunteer to take minutes at 1st Tues monthly board meetings. Time commitment ~ 2 hours per month. Good communication and teamwork skills needed. Great way to make a legacy difference.

Ventura Sierra Club Restaurant Fund Chair - Looking for a volunteer to run restaurant-business fundraiser every other month. Time commitment ~ several hours per month. Friendly organizer skills needed. Restaurants and businesses already known. Contact: Paula.

EVENTS

Aug 10: Fascinating program about the discovery of the USC’s Cutler McCallous sunk in the Santa Barbara Channel. More coming.

Aug 20: Hillsides Conservancy and Surfrider have a volunteer work day at Willoughton Preserve entrance which is at Main Street and the bike path. It’s to create and Ocean Friendly Garden there; please come, details at: www.VenturaHillsides.org/events

ARGUELLO GROUP

NOW ON FB! Keep in touch with our SB North County Group at: http://www.facebook.com/arguellogroup

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

~ Usually on the 1st at 7pm on the first Monday of the month at Union Bank, 15 E. Carrillo St. View the calendar, hikes and issues and join the mailing list for the South Coast Santa Barbara area ( Carpinteria to Oxnard). Contact: www.SBSierraClub.org

~ General meetings with potluck and programs during most months on 3rd Friday at Lompoc Presbyterian Church 1600 E. Berkeley Ave. at 7pm, some when there are potlucks.

~ Volunteers are needed as hike leaders and to monitor issues; your talents could make a difference. ~ Questions? Contact: Rogelio@comcast.net or 350-0629

VENTURA NETWORK

~ Up-to-date information about the western Ventura County group on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/VenturaSierraClubFB

~ MeetUP site for hikes, outings and other fun stuffVENTURA CO. ~ Contact: www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Ventura

~ Regular meetings 1st Tuesday monthly at REI in Oxnard 7-8:30pm. Check before attending: sierraventure@gmail.com

CONCHO GROUP

~ Get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-6259 (hjkwarren.net)
~ Web: www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo
~ Outings: www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/conejo/outings

Kathy and Kent Bullard’s Nissens. (Photo by John Hankins)
We’re fighting, but having fun too

While the federal government is in a frenzy to cut funding to the EPA, craft or cut regulations favoring oil and mining, denying climate impacts, rejecting miles-per-gallon goals and allowing pollution in the land and waters, citizens are fighting back in many silent and positive ways. See page 5 for the many ways you can easily get involved.

And during this culture war, please treat yourself to “nature breaks”; spend time outdoors, take advantage of our many free hikes (on pages 6 & 7) and enjoy the land around you. For that is what we’re all about.

Here’s a glance at all the things we did the last few months. Please join us in the months ahead.

July 26: “Tomorrow, Take Concrete Steps to a Sustainable Future” is a documentary giving an “inspirational look at concrete solutions to help build a more sustainable future.” Co-sponsored by the SB Sierra Club, Community Environmental Council and SB Permaculture Network at the Luke Theatre.

July 26: Puente Power plant proposal found a large rally in opposition that included many Sierra Club activists at a hearing in Oxnard to fight having another power plant on the beach. See story front page.

July 25: No Oil Offshore: Club supported in person or letters to Interior Secretary Zinke that we OPPOSE any more Santa Barbara Channel offshore oil projects, which passed the Ventura Board of Supervisors 3-2. A more solid statement was a 6-1 vote by the Santa Barbara City Council noting “shocking drop in ocean health”, oil spills, commercial fishing and tourism impacts.

July 25: Marine Sanctuary support around our Channel Islands was strongly supported by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors on an unanimous vote. Its opposition will be sent to the Interior Department. Sierra Club support will also be sent.

July 22: Gear Grab: Ventura Sierra Club sponsored an all-day event in which people could sell their used outdoor and sports equipment, ranging from a classic wood-handled ice axe to a tree-hugging tripod. Held at the Working Artists Venture courtyard. Many thanks to hard-working Nina Danza and volunteers.

July 2: INDIVISIBLE Group picnic featured our chapter Chair Jim Hines who “spoke about the threats from the Trump Administration about the federal waters in the Santa Barbara Channel.” Issues included offshore fracking and oil drilling platforms and general weakening of regulations or elimination of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

June 21: Ormond Beach Restoration plans unveiled by conservationists and conservation leaders. Club member Irene Rauschenberger quoted in VC Star: “...very encouraging. The Nature Conservancy has bought property little by little and we’re very blessed.” (See page 6)

June 20: Trail funds: SB Board of Supervisors publicly informed that our chapter is donating $10,000 to realign the Baron Ranch Trail on the Gaviota Coast.

July 18: Big Hearing on Huge Newhall Ranch project (21,000 units) along the Santa Clara River; in LA but at Ventura County line. Sierra Club was there to question impacts on the first 6,000 units, notable greenhouse gas impacts, traffic, air quality, waste disposal et al.

June 17: Bug Farm: Insect Ecology Tour at the Rincon-Ventana Insectaries in Ventura (100 Orchard Dr. Ventura) dedicated to raising beneficial insects to replace pesticides.

June 13: “We’re Still IN” kick-off the Paris Climate Change accord, a statement passed by the Ventura Board of Supervisors with help from 350.org, J4all Environment and Sierra Club, among many others.

June 13: No oil in 3-mile limit: Chapter publicly supports SB 188 by local State Sen. Hannah Beth Jackson, prohibiting the State Lands Commission from approving any new oil and gas development or infrastructure in state waters. EDC is spearheading the campaign supported by many others.

June 13: SB City Council meeting on Taligus Landfill saw the council kick the can around. Gaviota Coast Conservancy has held the line on many significant urban leap-frogging, and now SB County is scrappin’ it out of the project to avoid the coastal zone by digging deeper into the hills of Gaviota. See the LA Times.

June 8: Nature Day that Ventura Sierra Club helped fund for Elmhurst 3rd grade Earth Keepers. They raised trout in the classroom to learn about water quality, food chain, farm raising and loads more … and then released the fry to the wild at Lake Casitas. Many thanks to teacher Marcia Gardina who ran this program for 13 years but is now retiring.

June 7: Community Choice Energy public forum sponsored by the Santa Barbara Sierra Club at the downtown library. Overflow crowd of 120 people at SB Library and broadcast via Facebook Live. Offered crash course in how California communities are taking “power” into their own hands.

June 6: 100% Goal for renewable energy by 2030 was passed by the city of Santa Barbara with heavy lobbying by the Santa Barbara Group.

June 4: Green & Blue, Environmental Defense Center’s annual fundraising fun with music, food, and lots of local beer at Stowe House. Club members were there with wallets open.

June 4: WELD fundraising event for the Los Padres ForestWatch at Thacher School supported by Sierra Club members who also celebrated the Sespe Wilderness’s 25th anniversary.

June 4: Picnic with a Purpose: Annual Ventura Sierra Club picnickers showed off lawn boose ball talent, badminton form, book swaps, barbecue and loads of homemade eats. Many new volunteer commitments were made. We’ll put on a regular Green Scene speaker/ mixer program throughout 2018. ~ Compiled by John Hankins
Club makes it easy to act

Editor’s note: The Sierra Club has a 125-year history battling for the environment, with lawyers and lobbyists in Washington, but mostly the cadre of three million members who work local, state and national issues in their spare time. The club makes it simple to be active, and easy to donate your time or money to the cause.

Here’s how to help, locally and nationally, through targeted actions and/or donations that bolster our volunteer work.

~ Coordinate your passion or hobby with Team Sierra Club to raise essential funds for the fight. Details at: www.TeamSierra.org

~ Do you love the vibes from the women’s and climate action? You don’t need a hobby with Team Sierra Club to be active, and easy to donate your time. The club makes it simple to raise essential funds for the fight. www.addon.org

~ Sierra Rise is an online community working to create a world with justice, sustainability, and genuine democracy for everyone. Read or tell your stories at: http://content.sierraclub.org/sierrarise

~ As for donations, the most direct way is to contribute to our local chapter (SH and Ventura county). For donations, visit: www.SierraClub.org/donate/1000

~ Other ways to donate include signing up for a Sierra Club credit card, leaving a legacy in your name to the Sierra Club in your will, donate a car and many other methods; go to: www.sierraclub.org

~ If you’re not a member, join. If you are a member, ask friends to join or gift a membership. It’s only $15 for new members.

This Ventura River Preserve trail is favored for its cool trails and varied landscape over the 1,600-acre property. (Photo by Perry Van Houten)

Visit Ventura’s new web

If you build it they will come? Quick, name one thing (besides a loaf of bread) you don’t need a website to help in daily life. Even planning a hike or camp trip usually involves a website. You surely turn to a website for science, news, education, travelling, and politics. And now the Ventura Sierra Club has a website: www.siemerrise.org/los-padres/ventura

“Use it to find out what big, blanket policies mean to our homes and neighborhoods,” explains Nina Danza, chair of the Ventura Sierra Club. “For example, the website may have an article of what something like repealing the Clean Water Rule will mean in Ojai.”

Most important, check it out for a calendar of local outings, volunteer actions, and eco topics in our area. Do you have something to show about saving the environment in your backyard? User input welcome! Photos of local enviro activity or scenes may be submitted to posting on the website (subject to editing and approval).

All photos must be original and provided with a statement by the photographer and signed by all persons shown in an image: ‘All distribution and reproduction rights granted to Sierra Club’. Send your thoughts and pics to: Sierrarise@Venturaclub.org

Many thanks to the hard work and many hours creating the website by Jose Flores, Sergio Flores and Steve Calabretto.

Here’s a screen shot of Ventura Sierra Club’s new website. More and more there are being added as you read. It’s at: www.Sierraclub.org/donate/1000

Readers choose best Ojai trails

By Perry Van Houten
Ojai Valley News readers cast more than 36,000 votes in the annual “Best of the Ojai Valley” poll. Of special interest to outdoor recreation fans was the category “Favorite Hiking Trail.”

What makes these trails (or trail combinations) so special? Here’s a rundown of the top three picks and what to expect.

No. 1: Cozy Dell Trail
Readers voted Cozy Dell Trail (023W26) the best hiking trail in the Ojai Valley, perhaps because the fun, two-mile trail takes hikers into a charming, wooded canyon, offers great views and options for longer hikes, while located only ten minutes from town.

To get to the signed trailhead, take Highway 33 north for about three miles (past the Ojai ‘Y’) to a dirt parking area, just south of Friend’s Ranches. Initially, the rocky trail climbs many switchbacks under the cover of oaks, with plentiful poison oak along the way. The trail then moderates before climbing again, then dropping to reach Cozy Dell Rd.

Hardy hikers can take Cozy Dell Trail to Cozy Dell Canyon Rd., then up to the Pratt Trail and Nordhoff Ridge, past the old Nordhoff Peak Fire Lookout, then downhill to Ojai on the Gridley Trail, for a total of about 16 miles.

No. 2: Shelf Road
Closeouts to town, has, for decades, made Shelf Road an Ojai favorite. The easy, two-mile dirt road runs east-to-west from Gridley Rd. to Signal St., and offers excellent views of the Ojai Valley and surrounding mountains. What’s more, new brunch trails give hikers several alternate routes and loop options.

A 1.5 mile road open to vehicle traffic not so long ago, Shelf Road was recently made much more interesting by Ojai Valley Land Conservancy’s (OVLC) creation of the Valley View Preserve (VVP). Hike up the Fow Canyon Trail to the Foothill Trail, and back down to Shelf Road via Luci’s Trail, for a bit of a workout and some nice views.

Due to its popularity, Shelf Road parking can get tight, especially on weekend mornings. Pay attention to the signs posted, and if N. Signal St. is crowded, you can always park at the nearby Pratt Trailhead and walk a short distance to Shelf Road.

No. 3: Via River Preserve
Proximity to town and a network of varied, well-maintained, and signed trails make the Ventura River Preserve (VRP) instantly appealing. If you want to get away from the hustle and bustle without driving far, head for the nearly 1,600-acre VRP.

Opened in 2003 by Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, the VRP offers trails that run along the riverbank, loop trips that take you through oak forests and peaceful meadows, and lofty adventures that take you high above the Ojai Valley. My favorites are Will’s Canyon and El Nido Meadow.

The VRP is accessed from three distinct trailheads: the Oso Trailhead, off Meyer Road; the Riverview Trailhead on Rice Road, and the Baldwin Road Trailhead, off Highway 150. Parking is free at all three trailheads, just heed the posted winter hours.

Here’s our Ventura Sierra Club activist Nina Danza helping visitors fill out political action postcards or joining the club or buying books from there? The Sierra Club’s free streamlined activist network involves a website. You surely turn to a website by Jose Flores, Sergio Flores and Steve Calabretto.

User input welcome! Photos of local enviro activity or scenes may be submitted to posting on the website (subject to editing and approval).
August/September 2017 • Ventura Call 6

Take a Hike!
LOS PADRESCHAPTER

UPDATES: http://lospadres.sierraclub.org

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

August 6
THREE POOLS BEYOND SEVEN FALLS: Primitive trail, some rock climbing. Bring swimwuit. Difficult but short 5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave, 9am. ALEJANDRO 896-1240 (SB)

August 7
MONO CASINO TRAIL: Easy 3 mrt hike in dramatic coastal and then inland scenery. Take a hike to the sea and then inland. Bring water and lunch. Meet at 9am at the hotel parking lot near the seashore. See http://lospadres.sierraclub.org

August 9
ROSEWOOD TRAIL - ANGEL VISTA: Moderate 3.5 mrt with 800' elev. gain. This is a well-maintained trail with lots of foliage. Bring a water bottle, food and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8:00am at the trailhead. From the 101 Fre way take Lynn Road west past Ventura Park Road to the next left at Regal Oak. The trailhead is on the left near the entrance to Regal Oak. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590. (CJ)

August 11
POINT DUME PARADISE COVE BEACH WALK - ZUMA BEACH: Join us for a gorgeous walk along the beautiful waters and edge to Paradise Cove (lido permitting). Some rock scrambling. Bring water, food and wear appropriate footwear. Meet at 8am at that spot. Tote at 8am, 2.1 feet increasing; at 11am, 4.3 feet increasing. Take Kanan to PCH, turn right to Westward Beach Road, drive down to end and meet across from Sunset Restaurant. LILLIAN TREVINO/989-1623. (CJ)

August 12
PEREID METEOR SHOWER CAMPOUT: Expect about 100 people at this event. We hike to Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. Playa conditions permitting, we’ll be camping mid-Playa about 10 miles from a couple of hot springs. We’ll have port-o-potties but little else so bring your own food, water etc but there’s usually a potluck/Dutch oven meal one night. LNT, dogs must be on leash and expect to pick up after them. DAVID BOOK 775-843-6443 (Great Basin Group)

August 13
TRESPASS TRAIL/GAVIOTA HOT SPRINGS: Easy to Moderate Hike from Gaviota Peak/Hot Springs trailhead along a little-used loop trail. About 4.4 miles with short trip to Gaviota Hot Springs. Elevation gain about 500 feet. Also water and snack or lunch available. Bring lunch, snacks, hat, sunblock, etc but there’s usually a potluck/Dutch oven meal one night. Meet at 8am. ROBERT event@gsw.org (SB)

August 14
MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-BATES BEACH: Low tide and sunny. Easy to moderate hike- 6 miles, 800 feet elevation gain but expect2 or more full liter water bottles, hot no-shade conditions. Bring Ten essentials, hiking shoes/boots, bring 2-3 liters of water, food etc but there’s usually a potluck/Dutch oven meal one night. Meet at 8am. ROBERT event@gsw.org (SB)

August 15
HIDDEN MEADOWS TRAIL - Moderate 4.4 mrt with 400’ elev. gain. Bring water, and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 7:30am at the trailhead at the end of Falling Star. Turn on Falling Star/Canoan in Oak Park. FONTAYNE HOLMES 300-4590. (CJ)

August 16
FRAZIER PARK - MT PINOS COUNTRY - Ground to Mount Pinocchio: Moderate, 8 miles round trip, with approx. 1 mile gain. Bring lunch, water, food etc but there’s usually a potluck/Dutch oven meal one night. Meet at 8am. ROBERT event@gsw.org (SB)

August 18
MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-BETHANY BEACH: Low tide and sunny. Easy to moderate hike- 6 miles, 800 feet elevation gain but expect 2 or more full liter water bottles, hot no-shade conditions. Bring Ten essentials, hiking shoes/boots, bring 2-3 liters of water, food etc but there’s usually a potluck/Dutch oven meal one night. Meet at 8am. ROBERT event@gsw.org (SB)

August 19
FRANKLIN TRAIL: Moderately strenuous 10.4 mrt hike with an elevation gain of 1,700 feet. This offers great views of the Channel Islands and the coastline. We will hike mostly moderate to easy or about 1 mile an hour and stop for lunch at the turnaround point. This is a long hike so be prepared. Bring lunch, water and snacks. Meet at 8am. ALEJANDRO 898-1240 (SB)

August 20
MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-BATES BEACH: Low tide and sunny. Easy to moderate hike- 6 miles, 800 feet elevation gain but expect 2 or more full liter water bottles, hot no-shade conditions. Bring Ten essentials, hiking shoes/boots, bring 2-3 liters of water, food etc but there’s usually a potluck/Dutch oven meal one night. Meet at 8am. ROBERT event@gsw.org (SB)

August 21
CLOUD OUTINGS DUE SOON: Group outings should be planning their write-ups for the next Outings Schedule, covering the period of October 2017 thru January 2018 plus at least the first week into February. Questions? Contact Gerry Gening@gcox.net

August 22
MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-ARROYO VERDE PARK: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza in Ventura to drive 20 minutes southeast to Arroyo Verde Park for an easy 2 mile walk through the Gaviota canyon. Park free except on holidays and weekends. Park meals and water. Meet at 8:30am for 2 mile loop trail walk. Trail can be continued next page

Meetups & Ongoing Outings

Santa Barbara
Meetup site by the Santa Barbara Group is a place for people to find all sorts of local activities, including hikes, and see past or photos too. Go to:
http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-SantaBarbara

Regular outings are every Wednesday and Friday nights and every Saturday and Sunday during the day. Every Monday night is Stormy nightingale hike. Meet at 6:30 at the Santa Barbara Mission, Laguna and Los Olivos St. Poles evening rides for an easy to moderate 2.4 mile evening hike in the Santa Barbara front country, beach or back roads. Meet at 6 p.m. at the Santa Barbara Mission at 1615 East Anapamu St. Bring a starlight; optional potluck or pizza afterward. AL SLUGER, 685-2140. (SB)

Sunday and Saturday Night: Usually meets at the Bank of America on Hope and State Steet/Santa Barbara. For details and schedules and who to call, go to:
http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-SantaBarbara

Ventura
Meetup group is open to anyone to hike with and is a super handy calendar of the local official Sierra Club outings. Easiest for fitness at all beginners who are going on intermediate hikes. Meet at the parking lot on overnight backpacks just go to:
http://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Ventura

Every Monday morning. Easy Walks: Join Pat Jump at 9 a.m. Every Monday morning. Easy Walks: Join Pat Jump at 9 a.m. for easy 2 mile extra walk. The hikes will last about two hours and the group sometimes goes for coffee afterward. Call Pat at 643-0270.
Outings...from page 6

rough with rocks and tree roots, and sometimes slippery. For more info call PHIL & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

September 1
STUNT HIGH TRAIL TO SADDLE PEAK: A 3-mile round trip hike with 1000’ elev. gain. See Ocean views. Bring water, food and wear hiking boots. Meet at trailhead at 9am. Take the 101 Fwy. to Las Virgenes Road south for 3.9 miles to a turnout on Millikan Way and turn right onto Stunt Road and go approx. 1 mile and look for orange diamond shaped signs. NO DOGS allowed in this wilderness area. After the pond, we will head back to Harbor and Spinkler. For more info call PHIL & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

September 4
UPPER NEWTON CANYON: Moderate 5.4 mile hike with 600' elev. gain. Bring water, and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 7:30am. Take the 101 Fwy to Kansas Road exit, go off to parking lot just before the third bridge. For more info call FIONA HYNES 300-4590. (CJ)

September 9
HOT SPRINGS - SADDLEBROOK - GIRARD - McMEMENY LOOP: Moderate 8 mile round trip to saddle rock overlook, then back by Bud Girard Trail and then McMenemy Trail to start/bound. Moderate 5.5 mile. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A in upper State St at Hope Ave at 9AM. ROBERT 685-1283. (SB)

September 10
MIDDLE MATILJA CAMP: Moderate 8 mile round and stream, particularly sandy on way to Middle Matilija Camp. There are at least 17 creek crossings, but we will have no problem rock hopping across. Bring at least 3 liters of water, sunscreen, a good pair of hiking boots, and hat. Meet at 9am, Ventura carpool lot (Seaward and Harbor between Chase Bank and Canary). If you are coming from Santa Barbara, meet at the South end of Ocean Drive in State St. and Hope Ave at 8:30am to arrange a carpool to the trailhead. JM 479-7003/646-6934. (SB)

September 11
MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-CANAL ISLANDS PARK at Seaside - Meet at 7am at the Mission Plaza in Ventura to carpool 30 minutes southwest. At 9am, we will leave the park, continue to a campsite at Woolsey and Chesapeake Avenues, walk begins in a non-paved area, and go into the Seabridge commercial area. This 4 mile loop walks passes along some of the most beautiful beach areas, small boats, stand-up paddle boarders, etc. For more info call PHIL & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

September 15
REYES AND HADDOK PEAKS: Moderate 8-mile round trip to Reyes and Haddock Peaks in the Ojai back country. You will be able to drive 4 1/2 miles from Ojai to get to the peaks before lunch to experience some great views. On the way back, the Sespe Wilderness and vistas all the way to the Channel Islands on a clear day. Meet at Ventura carpool - Seaward and Harbor (between the Carrow’s Market and Chase Bank). (The Trailhead is a 1-1.5 hours drive from Ojai). Bring Ten hiking boots, water poles, 3 qts of water, and snacks/ lunch. Sunblock, sun hat and insect repellent. Most rain or temperature extremes. Rain or temperatures above 85° cancels. CALL PHIL & LORA 218-2103. (VEN)

September 16
ROMERO CANYON CANINE HIKE: Hike up a shady trail with a small stream, then loop back down abandoned fire road. Spectacular views of the valley below. Moderate 6 MRT. Well behaved dogs welcomed and encouraged; must be leashed. Bring snack and water for you and your canine companion. Hikers without dogs must call PHIL & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

September 17

September 18
MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-BUBBLING SPRINGS TO LIGHTHOUSE: Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza in Ventura to carpool 30 minutes southwest to Bubbling Springs Park in Oxnard. At 9am, leave parking lot (on Park Ave at Bard St) for 5 mile walking loop to beach pier and Port Huemine lighthouse and back to Bubbling Springs Park. For more info call PHIL & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

September 22
PIKE MOUNTAIN LODGE: Hike in a remote, high and beautiful area of the Los Padres National Forest. We’ll start from the Pineda Blanca trailhead and pass through majestic 100-foot high white rock formations, then into Pineda Blanca Creek canyon and on to Pike Mountain Lodge (elev. 6000'), where we’ll stop for a panoramic view of the Sierra Nevada peak from the top Forks Camp 13. miles round trip with an elevation gain of 2940 foot. Bring layers, water, lunch, sun protection, and the other 10 essentials. Meet at 7:30am at Seaward & Harbor carpool location to drive to Rose Valley Vista (on the opposite side of Highway). For more info, contact TERESA at 746-6030. (VEN)

September 23
LIZARD’S MOUTH CLEANUP: Have fun exploring while making this popular spot a bit cleaner! Beautiful rock formations and wind caves are a pleasure to explore and restore! Easy hike with some boulder hopping. Bring a snack and water. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. Rain cancels. Meet behind B of A in upper S at Hope Ave at 9AM. ROBERT 667-1970. (VEN)

September 24
FJR CANYON: Long (1hr) car pool to Daisy Brown camp back Figureoa Mt. Steep hike up the most beautiful canyon in the area to near the top of Figureo Mt. Moderate 6.5 mrt. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind B of A in upper State St at Hope Ave at 9AM. FOR MORE INFO CALL ROBERT 667-1970. (VEN)

September 25
MONDAY MORNING FITNESS WALK-CANAL ISLANDS PARK at Seaside - Meet at 8:30am at Mission Plaza in Ventura to carpool 30 minutes southwest to Channel Islands Harbor parking near Mrs. 90’s Cafe. At 9am, leave parking lot to walk over Harbor Bridge heading to the Port of Ventura parking lot, then proceed towards the channel Islands Harbor to Silver Strand Beach area. This walk is approximately 5 miles round trip. For more info call PHIL & LORA at 218-2103. (VEN)

September 29
- OCTOBER 1
NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY: Join various N. California outdoor groups for an undetermined volunteer project in the Black Rock Desert about 100 miles north of Reno. Current plans are for a project at Soldier Meadows Hot Spring. More food provided but you’ll have to work for it! There’s usually a work day and a play day so we won’t work all weekend! Call DAVID BOOK 775-943-6443 for more info as we get closer to the event! (Great Basin Group)

September 30
ROMERO CANYON: moderately strenuous dayhike up a beautiful, and scenic canyon to East Camino Cielo road, 6 mrt, 2100’ gain, about 4 hours at a moderate pace, and chance of minor height exposure. Intermediate hikers or beginners with cardio conditioning welcome, under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Bring two liters of water, snacks, and snacks, meet at B of A on State St. at Hope Ave. at 9AM. KRESTI Email: skibergs2@ cox.net (SB)

October 1
GOAT ROCK/RANGER PEAK: Climbing Pink Rock proceeding on for lunch and magnificent views from Ranger Peak. Moderate-strenuous 7 mrt. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9AM. DIANE dianne@gmail.com (SB)

Coastal Clean Up Day 2017
Santa Clara River Gateway
Johnson (by 101)  Sat Sep 16 9am - noon

- Pacific Anytime Fitness
- 2950 Johnson Dr.
- and walk to the sign in table

Gloves, Tools Available

Good for All Ages, Families, Work or Neighbor Teams

- Most Unusual Coastal Cleanup Fossils
- Coastal Cave Coconuts

Naples hiking

The Gaviota Coast Conservancy will host the hikes of Naples and the Gaviota Coast through the summer. To get notice of these opportunities contact: www.gaviotacoastconservancy.org

The public may legally access the beach parking on Dos Pueblos Canyon Road near southbound 101 on-ramp and walking around the white gate (trail starts next to the on-ramp sign) and down Lumann Ave. Leave all gates as you found them, and do not disrupt any livestock that might be there.

The Nature Conservancy & EarthLink will host the Naples and the Gaviota Coast through the summer. To get notice of these opportunities contact: www.gaviotacoastconservancy.org

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The Gaviota Coast is the intersection of two ecosystems, forming a unique environment with an incomparable breath of biodiversity, natural history and sheer beauty. The 2017 Gaviota Coast Photo Contest was held to celebrate and recognize this amazing scenic treasure.

The contest will be repeated in six months, and the public is invited to participate. Showcasing one of the largest remaining stretches of undeveloped coastline in southern California, photographs in the contest give witness to panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, Channel Islands National Park, undeveloped coastal bluffs, agricultural land, varied native habitats, and the Santa Ynez Mountains.

The contest inspired over 100 people to join together in a collaborative process of capturing, archiving, and celebrating the area’s diversity and awe-inspiring vistas.

Knowing that we are in debt to past generations who have protected it, we enjoy it today with a sense of responsibility. We are the stewards of this iconic coastal plain, and it is paramount that we pass on to future generations the resource we appreciate today.

The Trails Council thanks those who shared their photography. It relied on the sponsorship of Samy’s Camera, Boreas Gear, Impact Hub, Gaviota Coast Conservancy and the Santa Barbara County Trails Council. Gratitude also goes out to judges Kevin Steele, Kimberly Kavish, Chuck Place, Christopher Broughton, and Crista Dix who winnowed through 375 images to select the best.

Winners in five categories and best of show can be seen online on our Facebook or on our website: http://sbtrails.org

Best of Show winners are: Ronald Williams (first place), Alex Nye (second) and Susan T. Cook (third). Top honors in each category include: Ronald Williams (Landscape), Tom Modugno (Recreation), Mark Briggs (Wildlife), David Powdrell (Close-up) and Ronald Williams (Only in Gaviota).

Contest proceeds will support the completion of the Baron Ranch Trail spanning 3 miles from Hwy 101 to the Los Padres National Forest.

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