Gun-toting ‘Patriots’ think we’re the enemy

Editor’s Note: when our national lands rep Jim Hines sent this out to a few hundred people, it was reshared by hundreds and put in various newsletters. While it is a dark subject that not everyone is comfortable talking about, it needs to be heard. Many activists must sometimes put up with violence when working to protect our national public lands.

By Jim Hines

Sometimes you must dodge bullets to protect the environment. What an eerie feeling to walk into a meeting hall in southern Utah where some in the crowd wore sidearms and those sitting in the back had rifles by their chairs. Yes, it was a patriotic meeting; there were American flags, but they were flying upside down (the international signal of a nation in distress) and the gun-wearing attendants are part of the American Patriot Militia Movement (APMM). We were there to hear speakers rally the crowd about the “enemy”, which they see as the United States Government. I attended a similar rally in Montana as well.

The APMM is not just a bunch of individuals who oppose federal government ownership of land, they are large in numbers across the western U.S., very well organized and most importantly have powerful friends in the right places such as state homes around the west, in Congress, the Interior and the White House.

This is the dark side of America which so many people do not want to talk about, but friends, it is real. I read about this in the news and now I have seen with my own eyes the power the APMM has and it is alarming.

Here in the progressive central coast region we bask in our environmental success, speak out at public hearings without fear and are applauded. But speak out in Utah and Montana, among others, and your life gets threatened, your car vandalized, and you are followed home from the hearing and harassed. Frightening time to be a protector of America’s national parks and other national public lands in 11 western states.

And the fact that the APMM has regular meetings with certain members of Congress, Interior executive staff and White House officials tells us that we have to work even harder to be the voice for protection of YOUR national parks and lands.

I will continue to be there to that voice, to counter and meet with the officials I mentioned above, will YOU?

Outings leader extraordinare did it with heart and BBQ

By Diane Soini

Editor’s Note: One of our major leaders for Sierra Club’s free hikes, trail maintenance and trail issues has been Tony Biegen, our titular Santa Barbara Outings Chair. Well, he’s giving up the Chair for — a chair? A party was recently held to honor him, and the author below read a glowing tribute to one of our chapter’s Giants.

By Diane Soini

hundreds of years ago, Keith was the outings chair. The internet was new. The iPhone did not exist. Tony became outings chair. We had our own sign up waiver written by Jim Vanyo. The only criteria to become a leader was you had attended a hike or two with us.

Since becoming chair, Tony has barbecued countless tri-tips for us using oak bark collected on our trails. We appreciate its generosity feeding us so much delicious food.

Tony shepherded our group through the mountain bike wars. He represented the Sierra Club position to the local trail community and the local hiking community’s interests to Sierra Club National.

Eventually the issue died down, the open space became more important and trail building became a larger trail community commitment. The trail community is much larger now and Tony had a hand in that. Tony protected Jim Vanyo’s interests in where his money would be used and donated $10,000 to the Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA) for the purchase of equipment for trail restoration after the Rey fire destroyed the Santa Cruz trail.

The LPFA has raised close to $20,000 but the damage is so extensive more work is required to achieve it. We trust that Tony Vanyo would be pleased because Jim was a trail builder and old timer who had the patience needed to do it.

Tony made sure the local group did not forget Jim’s wishes for the money he left. Tony did a lot of trail maintenance work himself. A lot was done on Lost Valley and Hurricane Deck, but he went to many volunteer days and did his own unofficial volunteering. His commitment to our trails always went further than the requirements of the outings chair job description.

Tony was instrumental in setting the replacement to Art Benkam’s $5 book of hikes, a replacement book that never came to be. Much of his efforts on that project are on his website:

www.SantaBarbaraTrailGuide.com

Tony was there through the transition to more stringent requirements for leaders helping to lead new leaders into the new process.

As a hike leader himself he felt appreciated and overviewed. We met many foreigners, tourists from all over the world, new students and researchers and new residents to Santa Barbara. Tony introduced them to our wilderness and welcomed them, sharing local natural history and stories.

Making the schedule was always easy because early on the schedule was published in the Condon Call, the SH Independent and the News Press. Maybe also the Valley Voice? Each paper had their continued on page 2

Renewables get real

By Katie Davis

Fires and Spills

In my inbox this week I see a 2,100-gallon oil spill into a creek area in Orcutt AND a 2-acre wildfire in CA just across the 101 on “Old Rig Road” in northern Santa Barbara County.

While it’s too early for the cause of the fire to be reported, recent fires in CA Cayon have been caused by oil companies there. Orcut and Cayon and just happen to be the two locations in San Barbara County where energy-intensive cyclic steam oil production is currently occurring to access the thick, difficult tar sands oil we have left. Cayon is also where a massive expansion of said cyclic steam is proposed.

AERA, the limited-liability operation owned by Exxon and Shell (designed specifically to take risks its parent companies wouldn’t take), and a couple of small speculators are proposing to drill over 750 oil wells through the Santa Maria groundwater basin, a primary source of drinking water for the region. Opposition to these projects has been slowing them down. The fires and spills are a reminder that we need to stop them for good.

Oil Oceans

This week I also got news that the Greenpeace SFGA has finally been plugged and abandoned, and platforms Hogan and Houcinh in federal waters off of Carpinteria are ceasing operations as of Sept. 30. In addition, a ban on new offshore oil leases passed Congress thanks to the work of sponsors such as our own Congressman Salud Carbajal.

These are positive signs that we are finally protecting our ocean from oil drilling. However, we are not so naive to think Trump will sign such as bill. In fact, his administration is considering opening new offshore oil leases, including in the Santa Barbara Channel, only they are holding the lease plan until after the 2020 election so as not to fan the flames of opposition.

In addition, Exxon is proposing to restart its offshore oil platforms that have been shut down since the 2015 Plains Pipeline oil spill on Refugio beach and transport the oil via 70 tanker trucks, 24 hours a day along the 101. That stretch of the Gaviota coast falls in Supervisor Joan Hartmann’s district, a seat the oil industry will be targeting for takeover in 2020 in order to ensure its projects are approved. Her campaign is years away from the fossil fuel industry, and she will continue to fight for the future of the Santa Barbara coast.

Barbara Outings Chair. Well, he’s become outings chair. Tony holds John Muir’s words close to his soul. Read Diane Soini’s tribute to him below. (Photo by Robert Bernstein)
Attend CA Deal summit

Over more than two decades, Sierra Club California and our allies have been pushing state agencies and the legislature to accelerate adoption of zero-emission vehicles, and a summit on Oct. 26 in Pasadena will assess the present and future.

SB recycling Styrofoam

There is now free Styrofoam recycling in Santa Barbara thanks to Heal the Ocean and MarBorg Industries, which called “a powerful tool on an exceptionally destructive source of ocean pollution” by HTO. The pilot program will “densify” Styrofoam into viscous material that is refrigerated into useable products such as mirror and picture frames and packing material.

“We hope the public will help make this a success by using the free drop-off locations, and by only bringing in clean styrofoam of any size and shape,” noted a program flyer, but those pesky packing “peanuts” are not included because they gum up the machines.

Drop-offs are at 20 David Love Place in Goleta and 132 Nopalitos Way in Santa Barbara.

“BIG thanks go to Brian Irgolatte of MarBorg,” said Hillary Hauser, HTO executive director.

Ventura does not yet Styrofoam recycling; however, Supervisor Steve Bennett was successful in having the county board exhibit use of the at the county Harbor, parks, government center and county-county board events. It’s a technique that cuts them off from the source.

Renewables... continued from page 1

vehicle miles or the burning of almost 15 million gallons of oil. It would provide hundreds of jobs and infuse tens of millions of dollars into our county. It shows that we do have alternative technologies to oil development.

Too, SB County ofﬁcers just adopted a Strategic Energy Plan that shows huge solar potential in our area, and it plans to remove impediments to solar development. Battery storage projects are slated to replace gas-fired power plants in Oxnard, and renewables are cost-competitive with fossil fuels across the board. They also already employ five times more people in California than fossil fuels.

Kickin’ Addiction

All this means I see the path opening up to kick our addiction to fossil fuels. We have ambitious master bike plans, a commuter train between Ventura and Santa Barbara, recharging electric cars and charging stations wherever you go. Our buses are going electric and the county fleet is going electric.

I myself have been driving electric for nine years now, and I don’t expect to buy another gas car ever. Join me in the pledge to drive electric or not at all: https://tinyurl.com/NewCarEV

Interior doesn’t want your vote

By Jim Hines

The U.S. Secretary of the Interior has issued what is essentially a “gag” order to all federal land management agencies when it comes to commenting on proposed energy projects, which would have negative impacts on America’s national parks and lands.

The order directs that all local federal land managers must submit any comments they have to Interior for review prior to providing any comments on mineral projects such as mining and drilling in or close to national parks. That office will decide if comments should be part of the official record.

This would, of course, affect Channel Islands National Park (CINP). In late 2020 the Administration plans to roll out a plan to dramatically increase offshore oil drilling in federal waters in the Santa Barbara Channel surrounding the park. While we all know that there will be horrendous impacts to the marine environment surrounding the park, this new Secretary of Interior will prevent CINP staff from commenting on those impacts!

This leaves it up to people like us to ensure that CINP concerns are to be made available to decision makers. This is a delicate issue as we don’t want dedicated national park service employees to be penalized, but the Interior also wants the officials that such as southern Utah and New Mexico has quietly worked with national park managers and it was the Sierra Club which ultimately presented concerns without the official involvement.

EAVESDROPS

“Our government continues to ignore the seriousness and urgency of the climate crisis – It’s pure evil.”

- Yevon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia with his wife Malinda (Ventura residents), announcing he will give another $10 million in profits and cash from Trump’s “irresponsible corporate tax cut” from 35% to 20%, instead, the money will go to grassroots groups fighting climate change.

Outings leader... continued from page 1

own rules and publishing deadlines. Once published the schedule was fixed in time. Things changed with the advent of the internet. Like news it changed our relationship to the community and ability to reach an audience. MeetUp was at once a competitor and a useful tool and a frustrating app that never quite fit our model of many cat-like leaders. Nobody yet has a plan out of this.

Santa Barbara Hikes, at one time considered a divisive threat to Art’s old and to the replacement book that never came to be, became what I always hoped it would be, which was an easy place to find the schedule. It has a clear, new approach, but maybe it’s time for someone new to bring that into fruition. Check it out here: www.santabarbarahikes.com

Tony with his wit, his stories, his big smile and big heart has been our leader for so long it’s hard to imagine the Sierra Club without seeing his face. We are all deeply grateful for all he did for us. Thank you for the commitment you showed to the Club, to our trails and to all of us all these many years.

POSTSCRIPT on the future: “The plan is that I’ll be working with Marco and Alejandro Andrea to take over the role. They’ll be doing more and Sanctuary to coming months. I expect that the transition will be complete before the end of the year. They are driving up the responsibilities, so it is not a large burden for a single person.”
Saving our natural world

By Carla Bollinger

A wide-ranging meeting covering topics of wildfire, sustainable growth, poison free land, public transportation, wildlife corridors, recognition of a historic Native American passage through our area and toxic politics were all connected by the theme: Saving our Natural World.

By Jim Hines (Sierra Club)

The public is welcome to our programs and events. For more information visit www.sierraclubventura.org or call 341-6295 - from Hugh Warren.

Part of ‘Saving our Natural World’ event is the 100-year-old National Parks Conservation Assn. at: www.npca.org (Photo by Erick Adino)

Links to 805 EV agencies

Join the movement to bring all-electric transportation solutions to our area! For more information contact: www.electricdrivestory.org

This coalition of agencies is working to encourage strong businessman, government owners and the public to lead local action to increase access to today’s cleaner, more efficient electric vehicles.

The magic of Autumn

By Jim Hines

Greetings Friends:

The Autumn season is upon us. What a delightful time to be out and about enjoying our natural world. This month’s Sierra Club chapter region... sunny warm days topped off by bright starry skies. We are experiencing nature in so many ways.

The cooler nights of Autumn are allow for the turning of color of some of our native trees in the high country areas such as Mount Pinos and Frazier Mountain. Our inland valleys such as the Santa Ynez, Ojai and Lockwood Valleys. For me the trail I am seeing the berries on the native Toyon shrub turning red as well as Autumn blooming CA fuchsia with their gray foliage and bright orange flowers which are loved by hummingbirds. The creeks are still flowing. Adding a delightful sound.

We are just starting to see a few over-wintering bird species moving from cooler north but, our local birdlife abounds from small songbirds to the large birds of prey such as hawks, eagles, osprey and falcons.

Help sustain our work via Member Circle

Support the Sierra Club’s Los Padres Chapter of the Future by becoming a member of our new Sustaining Member Circle.

By Carla Bollinger

Many months ago, Jim Hines, Sierra Club's Los Padres chapter co-founder, kicked off a campaign to support our Los Padres chapter so that we can launch our Autumn Outings, make connections with the community and foster clean transportation and growth, healthy environment and sustainable jobs for the future.

By Jim Hines

The magic of Autumn

I am seeing lots of deer in areas of open fields and saw several foxes in the Lake Casitas area recently. And don't forget that beach walks are a great time of year. The Autumn season in our home gardens finds us planting what are known as cool season vegetables such as edible pea, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, spinach and lettuce varieties. In the cool season we find flowers. You will find the delightful fragrant color of sweet peas and stocks. Also pansy and viola varieties as well as stately snapdragons, colorful calendulas and Iceland poppies all of which do well when planted at this time of year and will produce and bloom right through next Spring.

We are just starting to see a few over-wintering bird species moving from cooler north but, our local birdlife abounds from small songbirds to the large birds of prey such as hawks, eagles, osprey and falcons. By Jim Hines (Sierra Club)

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Events

Oct 13: Shoreline Picnic with optional beach hike has become an annual Santa Barbara Group tradition for all members and guests. It’s a potluck, bring enough to share. This is a Leave No Trace event; club will provide water and soft drinks from 9-11am, located at Shoreline Dr & Santa Rosa Place, Santa Barbara.

Oct 20 Santa Barbara Wildlife, our friends at Los Padres Forest Watch are conducting their 15th annual fundraiser from 3-6:30pm at the 2300 Garden Street, Room 100, Thomas Rd., Buellton. For details and tickets go to: www.sfpnw.org

Oct 23 Local Impacts of climate change for Goleta area and what we can do about it feature our own Chapter Chair, Katie Davis, Event starts at 7pm at the Encina Royale Clubhouse, 250 Monrovia Bay Lane, Goleta. Part of the Climate Reality Project; details here: https://tinyurl.com/GoletaClimate

Oct 26 "The California Deal: Making it Stronger and Greener for Everyone" is a forum sponsored by Sierra Club and featuring our Chapter Chair, Katie Davis, speaking on transportation for the planet. See details and registration go here: www.sierraclub.org/california/summit

Climate strikes: were there?

Editor's note: The author is part of Sierra Club California/ Nevada Wildlife Team and is vice-chair of our Local Chapters.

By Jim Hines

When, we are worn out, lots of wins for wildlife the past few weeks. We have been walking the halls of the state capitol of California and Nevada, speaking at public hearings, holding public rallies and giving tours of wildlife areas we would like protected to various decision makers.

Our meetings with the Governor and his staff have been productive and have led to his signature on banning the hunting of bobcats and banning the trapping of mammals for fur.

The Governor also supports our top priority wildlife highway crossing, the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overpass over the very busy 101 freeway in the Agoura Hills area of western Los Angeles county. An ordinance favoring it was recently passed by Ventura County Supervisors called Wildlife Overway Zone Ordinance, affectionately called WOZO. However, it is expected go under judicial review by opponents.

We have been meeting with CA Fish and Game Commission (F&G) staff to designate as 'critical habitat' for mountain lions for various open space land areas within the counties and Los Angeles. Hopefully a decision will be made this Fall.

Members of our wildlife team routinely speak at F&G and Nevada Board of Wildlife and Parks meetings on various wildlife issues. Our seat on the Wolf Management Team has also allowed us to be part of the stakeholders who are working on a plan to protect gray wolves and their habitat in northern California. Our rally in Sacramento in May drew hundreds of people supporting their protection.

We have joined a national Sierra Club lawsuit to stop the Trump administration from dismantling the federal endangered species act.

We also joined our national Sierra Club office in a lawsuit to stop the construction of the U.S.-Mexico border wall which would impede wildlife crossing in the areas where the wall is proposed and where we are engaging the U.S. Government over the use of long line nylon drift nets, which are used in the commercial ocean fishing industry to catch a targeted fish species, but also entangle and kill other marine mammals each year. Plenty of meetings with the feds but no real results yet.

I had a meeting with the President’s new Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and conclude that she is going to take the position in a direction which is NOT friendly to our natural life. Not the best meeting I’ve had recently.

And finally, after two years of myself and members of our wildlife team appearing before the F&G hearing on a ban of lead and silver bullets in hunting in California, that ban is now in effect, just as good as the bear hunting season began in our local backcountry. Only steel shot should be used in hunting in this state now.

Our power is in the number of us along with your help have been a powerful voice for the voiceless and our precious and endangered wildlife.

Wins for wildlife

have been writing letters on the Wolf Management Team meetings, holding the attention of various decision makers. We have been walking the halls of the state capitol of California and Nevada, speaking at public hearings, holding public rallies and giving tours of wildlife areas we would like protected to various decision makers.

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Solar deal

Sierra Club is partnering with SunPower to make it easy for anyone (member or not) to go solar and save money with a proven company backed by the club.

This is especially critical in the Ventura area which has joined the Clean Power Alliance, an advantage for lower prices. Santa Barbara County residents can also save money simply by having solar.

You’ll receive a $1,000 mail-in rebate while the Sierra Club will get $1,000 to support its work in clean energy.

Condor John (editor, Condor-Cult) took advantage of the club’s deal three years ago and it was full of comments today about how residents’ bills have gone up since Ventura joined the club. The reason for the increase is that the state has had a spike in energy costs and the city of Ventura has had a utility rate increase.

Click on the link to get a free quote and find out how much you can save:
http://snipurl.com/SC.SideSolarQuote

EAVESDROPS

"Leonardo was a great lover of Nature and animals, and would buy birds in the market and release them from their cages."

Quote from the Leonardo da Vinci exhibit held recently at the Reagan Library in Simi, showing his genius embraced the mechanical and natural worlds.

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Climate strikes: we were there?

Nov 3: Ojai Raptor Center will open its doors to the public for a rare opportunity to meet raptors and tour the Center from noon to 4pm on a sunny Sunday, 3700 Baldwin Rd., Ojai. For details go to: www.OjaiRaptorCenter.org

Nov 10 'Mud & Dust', an illustrated talk by local professor Jim Durcik (also a Sierra Club-member) which will feature his film "Alaska is Melting," Starts 7pm at Oxnard Community College's Performing Arts building.

Nov 14 Marine Mammals, Sentinel of Ocean Health is a lecture by Dr. Samuel Dover with information that they are barometers for current climate events go to www.sfpnw.org for more info: 2300 Garden Street, Room 100, Thomas Rd., Buellton. For more info go to: www.ClimateRealityProject.org Cdtwlee2855@gmail.com

Nov 20 Alternative Uses of Oil Platforms, an "Expo" with tabling and presentations along with a keynote speaker, from 1pm-5pm at SB Maritime Museum, 113 Harbor way. Details at: https://sfbmm.org

Nov 20 Green Jobs issues will be a conversation with local labor union and Sierra Club members are participating via its Climate Reality Project. Starts 5:30pm at the BEW Local 413 meeting room, 100 Thomas Rd., Buellton. For more info go to: www.ClimateRealityProject.org Cdtwlee2855@gmail.com

It has taken months to craft the unique Ethnobotany Native Plant Interpretive Garden and trail at the Fillmore Fish Hatchery and you can help spruce it up before the official opening Nov. 2. See story below. (Photo by Sergio Flores)

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Our power is in the number of us along with your help have been a powerful voice for the voiceless and our precious and endangered wildlife.
**Action on climate, EVs, wildlife**

By John Hankins

Activity sure picked up in the August-September period over Los Padres Chapter volunteers put in weeks if not months of volunteer activity ... enjoying it all the time.

Just scan the below list and see that we’ve been up to the Sierra Club’s motto of Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet. Or EEPP if spoken out.

We act like this all year and still we find time to enjoy the outdoors.

If any of these resonates, please join us; see Group News box on page 3 for contacts and links where you can get involved. Don’t forget to join any of our free outings (see pages 6-7). Oh, and if you are in the area, donate, read the stories on pages 3 and back page or go directly to: www.ClimateStrikeSB.org

Sept 27 Dirty Duo of disgraced former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and local oil mouthpiece Mike Stoker were ‘greased’ with a large group of protestors when they came to participate in a Republican fundraiser. This rally for the environment was hosted by Los Padres ForestWatch, Sierra Club and Food & Water Watch.

Sept 27 Global Climate Strike was held locally at De la Guerra Plaza in Santa Barbara, following the successful Sept. 20 strike by students. Sierra Club was a sponsor for www.ClimateStrikeSB.org and we had action items, such as asking attendees to pledge that their next car will be electric, calling SB Supervisors to oppose fracking and holding a booth by Exxon’s oil truck proposal, as well as supporting wind energy project (Lompoc has one pending). Strike Games...

Sept 23 Town Hall in Ojai on reducing pesticide use and the transition to organic farming was co-sponsored by the Sierra Club.

Sept 22 Peace Festival in Ventura featured our Chapter Vice-Chair Jim Hines, who notes that while it is the first city in this country to declare a climate emergency. He spoke along with Marie Lakan of CHERO.

Sept 3 “Can Grease Oil’s Wheels?” an article by Maya Chiando is “an impressive job of showing the oil industry’s greeningwashing techniques,” said our Chapter Executive Director Jon Ullman, in a rebuff that was published on The SR Independent’s online news. The article was about Cat Canyon oil industry wanting to expand. Jon Ullman called it “window dressing,” and cited county staff analysis.

Aug 29 Bucking Trucking: Not only do coastal cities oppose ExxonMobil’s plan to truck its offshore oil to refineries (due to the shutdown of Plains Pipeline causing Refugio oil spill in 2015), so do businesses and some Chambers of Commerce. Our Chair Katie Davis in a letter rebutting the Goleta Chamber’s endorsement of the trucking. Go here for details: www.DefendThePacific.org

Aug 31 Ormond Beach Restoration and Public Access Plan was attended by Ventura Sierra Club reps and were part of workgroups which gave input and ranked preferences. See the plan at: http://www.ormond-ce.ca.gov.

Aug 31 Watershed Coalition for Ventura County attended by Sierra Club and local businesses including Kendra Chan, 26, Oxnard and Alexandra Kurtz, 26, Santa Barbara during the fire that happened on the dive boat Conception Sept. 2. Two local residents died: Kendra Chan, 26, Oxnard and Alexandra Kurtz, 26, Santa Barbara. The full list can be seen here: https://www.s Recap.ca.gov/2019/09/06/local-residents-identified-as-victims-Dive-boat-Conception-fire/

Editor’s note: Pregnancy test, electric scooters and way too much plastic stuff were among the estimated 251 tons of debris and recyclables found at this year’s C.A. Coastal Clean-up Day Sept 21 that coincided with a similar international event. There were a thousand clean-up sites in virtually all counties, the largest in the event’s history. Over 96,000 volunteers participated, and although the full figures are not yet tallied, here’s what happened at one of the sites in Ventura County.

Ventura: “You only got one country and if you don’t take care of it, your loss,” said a volunteer named Jasmine, 17, about the cleanup. It sparked Jasmine’s interest even though she wasn’t going to get any extra credit. These two young women are a great example of how college students understand the need to care about the environment. They were among the thousands cleaning up sites in virtually all counties, the largest in the event’s history. Over 96,000 volunteers participated, and although the full figures are not yet tallied, here’s what happened at one of the sites in Ventura County.

Jim Danza made the audience laugh when he said “Alaska is Melting.” It was very cinematic, leaving people wanting to see more and might go to watch it. That opportunity will happen in 4 pm Nov 7 at Oxnard Community College in the performing Arts building. His talk is entitled “Mud & Dust” where he will also show his film “Alaska is Melting”

For more information or questions, email him at: Jamtanz@cox.net.

Aug 30 Gavin Newsom toured and approved of the site of the future Liberty Canyon Wildlife Overpass above the 101 freeway in the Agoura Hills. The project was led by local wildlife biologists, trail developers and County Wildlife, trail groups and officials.

Aug 24 PLAN Network had an action meeting where our Chapter vice-chair Jim Hines spoke about current threats to local rivers and public land nationally. Read story on page 1.

Aug 20 Edhat Coverage of one of our free Sierra Club hikes featuring hiker leader Gerry Ching, Outdoor Chair Tony Bing and photographer (also hiker leader) Robert Bernstein.

Aug 17 Wild & Scenic Film Festival event by the Ventura Land Trust had Sierra Club presence via a booth and numerous members attending this annual fundraiser.


Aug 14 Risky Business: Our Chapter Chair Katie Davis was quoted in Noozhawk about Sierra Club’s ongoing purchasing ERG and intending to expand oil drilling operations in Cat Canyon but maybe with a solar component. Davis said: “You can dress it up with solar panels and pretty words. This is a risky, dangerous and speculative project with class one significant and unavoidable impacts that should be put on hold rather than later.” Read the story here: https://nvanow.com/OilPlan

Aug 13 Summer Potluck by Ventura Sierra Club in which we put up a couple canopies, added lawn chairs, mixed in a box ball set, sprinkled with conversation and topped it off with the Rincon Rovers barbershop quartet.

Aug 8 Forest Protection editorial by our Arguello Group Chair Rebecca August (also of Los Padres ForestWatch) appeared in the Ventura County Star. To read the Op-ed and or submit a comment, visit: www.LPFW.org/savNePA

Aug 5 Danza has a way to make an audience laugh, such as inserting onto his slides some cartoon characters and

**River trails a dream**

By Sam Marin

A successful night happened at the Ventura(s) Out event Sept. 10 on the importance of preserving the Santa Clara River, featuring Professor Jim Danza who tinkelated the group with ideas for a bike path and native plant walkways.

While the audience wasn’t as large as those who showed up for the summer film “Gaviota” younger people in their 20s to early 30s attended. Seems like more of the young adults are hearing about the Sierra Club and wanting to get involved. There were so many people that some bought out fans to keep cool. Danza is professor of geography and environmental science for Oxnard College, Chair of Friends of the Santa Clara River, and a Ventura Sierra Club member. He is informing people how important it is that more should help preserve the river.

It was an example to inspire people to step up for what they want to change; that it’s possible to make an idea reality.

Diana, 19, always wanted to help the environment and she told her friend Jasmine, 17, about the cleanup. It sparked Jasmine’s interest even though she wasn’t going to get any extra credit. These two young women are a great example of how college students understand the need to care about the environment. They were among the thousands cleaning up sites in virtually all counties, the largest in the event’s history. Over 96,000 volunteers participated, and although the full figures are not yet tallied, here’s what happened at one of the sites in Ventura County.

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WELCOME HIKERS
The public is welcome at all outings, listed unless otherwise noted. Please bring drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Study forums are 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. Note that most of Santa Barbara County is in the new 805 overlay area - dial 911 from outside phones. [1-805-number]. Pets are generally not allowed. A payoff to go into the local backcountry is to must accompany children under the age of 14.

A frequently updated on-line listing of all outings can be viewed at http://lospadres2.sierraclub.org/.

This website also contains links to Group web pages and other resources. Some regional Groups also list their outings on Meetup sites. See this page.

October 5

October 6
ARROYO VERDE DOUBLE LOOP: Meet at 8:30am in the first parking area beyond the park entrance of Four Seasons. Parking is free for the week. The hike will consist of 2 loops for a total of 5 miles with a 700-ft. elevation gain. The loop has some steep sections but the second loop is easy. Leashed dogs are allowed. Prepare for sun by bringing a hat and water. The leader is SUZANNE TANAKA (VEN).

October 12
SATIWWA LOOP TRAIL TO OLD BONEY: Fossil and Upper Sycamore Loop. 9am. Meet at Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa, 4121 Pisoni Rd, Newbury Park, 93020, drive down to the furthest parking lot where the road ends. We’ll hike at a moderate pace for 9 miles with 1700 ft elevation gain. There are some steep sections so the hike is not recommended for beginners. Bring 2 litres of water, snacks, sunscreen and anything else you may need for a full day of hiking. Contact GERARD 1-805-212-0798 or balleycarrr@hotmail.com (SB)

October 12
SHORELINE PARK PICNIC AND WALK: Share a potluck breakfast. Bring food to share. Coffee and fresh squeezed orange juice provided. Meet in the middle of Shoreline Park, N. Arlington St. near Sierra St. 8am. Breakfast will be followed by ROBERT 1-805-685-1289 / eventsvt@swt.org (SB)

October 14
LOCKOUT PARK & TORO CANYON: Meet at 8am at Lockout Park in Summerland (use Evans Ave offramp from HWY 101) This is a 6 mile moderate level hike with an 800 foot elevation gain. We will hike in Toro Canyon and along the Polo Club Trails to the Greenwill Preserve. From there its uphill for views of Summerland and the ocean and then down Evans Ave to fun cars. Coffe and a bit of coffee in Summerland post hike. Bring a q of water, poles and sun screen. Temperatures greater than 85F or rain cancaled. Led by LORA & PHIL. 1-805-218-2103 (VEN)

EAVESDROPS
“We came all this way to experience the most important thing that we discovered the Earth.” — Apollo 8 astronaut William Anders

October 19
DOWNTOWN OXNARD URBAN WALK: 9:15am to 12:30pm. Walk 4 miles with 1700 ft. of elevation. There are some steep sections so the hike is not recommended for beginners. Bring 2 litres of water, snacks, sunscreen and anything else you may need for a full day of hiking. Contact GERARD 1-805-212-0798 or balleycarrr@hotmail.com (SB)

October 20
SWEETWATER TRAIL: A hike

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 you can post or see photos too. Go to: www.meetup.com/SantaBarbaraSierraClub/

Meetup is open to anyone to join and is a super handy calendar of the local official Sierra Club outings. Ease into fitness at beginner walks, get out on intermediate half or white day hikes, or make new friendships on overnight backpacks. Just go to: www.meetup.com/SantaBarbaraSierraClub/

Editor's Pick
November 2
GRAND OPENING DAY: Ethnobotany Native Plant Interpretive Garden Fillmore Fish Hatchery (162 E. Telegraph Rd.) 10am - 12pm. Gala public opening and tour of this new environmental learning center! Many events, including project of the Friends of the Santa Clara River under grant funding from the California Department of Conservation, with UCSB and the Santa Clara River Conservancy support. We accepted the ribbon to participate for about 3 years building the site along with volunteers from the public. Enjoy the trail through the garden and learn about our local ecology, wildflowers, and Tataviam peoples of the area who used these plants for food, medicine and other habitat needs. We’ll have locally grown refreshments, native plants to take home and more! Kids under 14 with adult welcome. No dogs. diazal@gmail.com

November 3
FLOWER PEAK FROM GIBRALTAR ROCK: We will drive to Gibraltar Rock, above the Rattlesnake Trail. We will then hike a steep, little-known trail to Flower Peak. Some rock scrambling and agility required. The Wednesday hikes sometimes call this "The Medicine Circle". Elevation gain is about 700 ft during the hike. Please bring a snack or lunch and a liter of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at 9am. ROBERT 1-805-685-1289 / eventsvt@swt.org (SB)

PILAR BLANCA TRAIL TO TWIN PEAKS: Meet at the Pilar Blanca Trailhead on Hwy. 33 to Rose Valley turnoff. Trail head on Camino del Monte Santa Clara. Trail length 3 miles across private access road. Meet parkers at Van’s parking lot in Ventura, Harbor Blvd. entrance. 9am. Hike starts 10am, miles with RT’900 elev. gain. Bring 10 Essentials, food/water, warm gear. Rain forecast on Friday, high water.

continued next page
We’ll start the hike in the Vons Shopping center on the corner of Avenue C and Main St. Meet at 8:30am and park near O’Reilly’s Auto Parts facing Main Street. From here we will hike to the Cross, through the Botanical Gardens, down Kalorama to the pier. We’ll walk to the end of the pier, then along the Promenade and River back to our cars. Total distance is 5 miles and flat for the moderate climb to the cross. Wear comfortable walking shoes, a hat and bring a drink. Water. Led by LADY MAURÉNE HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

November 16 CATHEDRAL PEAK LOOP II. Head up Mission Canyon trail and then branch off onto a steep and rocky primitive trail to Cathedral Peak for lunch. Spectacular views, including the Poolek canyon, echoes from the canyon. Return downtown west to Jesusita trail. Bring 2-3 liters of water. Rain cancel. Led by LADY MAURÉNE HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

November 23 GAVIOTA PEAK/TRESPASS LOOP. Approximately 7 mile hike with an elevation gain of 2200. We will ascend the fire road to the saddle and return via Trespass trail. We will have a short break at the top for lunch. Bring 2-3 liters of water. Rain cancel. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KRISTI email: sbbrkergi@gmail.com (SB)

November 25 MARINA PARK TO VENTURA HARBOR. Meet at Marina park near the bathroom at 8:45. We will walk through the Ventura Keys, to the docks, and on to the Harbor. Distance is about 5.5 mile and flat. There are facilities and water at the trailhead. Leashed dogs are ok. Prepare for sun and exposure and bring water. Led by MAURÉNE HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735. (VEN)

December 8 RATTLESNAKE TO FLORES PEAK. Hike up mission canyon to Gibraltar Road (1500). We will follow the road to a steep, climbing ridge and up to the top of the ridge. Rattlesnake 7.9 m. There is some rock scrambling and exposure involved so must be comfortable with heights and ledges. Bring 2-3 liters of water. Rain cancel. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 9am. KRISTI email: sbbrkergi@gmail.com (SB)

December 14 LA CUMBRE PEAK VIA Rattlesnake Trail. Beautiful views from the highest peak on the front range. Strenuous 11 m hike with 3200 elevation gain/gain. Experienced hikers only. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. at 8am. 1-805-644-6934 (SB)

December 14 TOPA TOPA BLUFF ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK. Strenuous 16-mile out and back hike with a 4.487 ft. elevation gain to Topa Topa Bluff (elev. 3,300 ft). Fun revelry and scenic views of the Oxnard Plain and Channel Islands.


do not hallucinate.

The public and members often just see the Sierra Club’s free hike listings and forget the ambiance, comradeship, and nature. But there’s so much more behind the scenes, notably the fact that the most popular hikes are only trained in navigation and often more flora and fauna, but most members will not comment on the challenges, which requires refresher courses.

So, it’s great to know that the Sierra Club leaders and provisional leaders participated in a half day Wilderness First Aid class on Sept. 21, held at Church of the Foothills in Ventura. Each participant reported that “this was the best first aid class I’ve ever attended.” Other leaders expressed similar thoughts and thanked the Los Padres Chapter for funding this program.

Notables participating included ExCom Secretary GERRY Ching, Santa Barbara Group Chair Tony Hope, and 8 other Santa Barbara hike leaders. Conejo Group Chair Hugh Warburton led the class with other leaders from that eastern Ventura County region made the trek. Chair of Outings Chair Steven Bryne, Ventura Group Outings Chair Teresa Norris and 15 other leaders from Southern California hike leaders completed the total.

Matt Mayer, founder of 4Front Adventures, led this intensively interesting learning experience. He presents the information from the point of view of someone who has been a hiker and a guide, and is very knowledgeable in wilderness experiences.

The class fulfills the basic first aid course required every two years for hike leaders.

We were especially happy to have two additional leaders for this trip. They have already completed the Sierra Club’s Outings Leader Training 101 and will be leading their provisional (test) hikes in the near future.

Speaking of which, the chapter’s Wilderness Basics Course is in the planning stages and will open enrollment for its Fall 2020 season.

This colorful and alluring photo of a Bristelecone Pine won a big award during the Ventura County Fair and we were fortunate enough to have it brought to us by Suzanne Takana, hike coordinator who is also a key member of our Wilderness Basics Course.
Dreaming of pure air along Rincon bike path

By Jon Ullman

I’m riding on what could be the most stunningly beautiful bike path in America, the Rincon Bike Trail. To my left, I breathe in the cool breezes of the Pacific Ocean. To my right, I inhale six lanes of nauseating auto exhaust. I’m hoping the ocean breezes push out the car fumes, but I’m not too sure.

It’s Sunday afternoon and Angelenos are returning home after a fun Santa Barbara weekend. Their car air is being filtered or they are moving so fast, exhaust fumes don’t hit them. Not the same for me.

The noise is different too. I hear their cumulative engines. I hear the steel piercing through air. I hear the rubber hitting concrete. I hear all of it.

Should I wear headphones next time? Should I wear a 3M mask or just turn my head to the ocean? What if all the cars were electric? How long will that take to happen?

Then my thoughts turn toward more immediate battles we’re fighting, such as the 70 trucks a day Exxon wants to add to the 101 on the Gaviota Coast. The tracks are to restart three oil platforms halted in 2015 after the onshore pipeline burst and spread oil for miles on the Pacific coast. Exxon will be pushing for those early next year, and we’re going to have to fight hard to stop them. We’re also going to be fighting Exxon and Shell’s subsidiary AERA, which wants to expand drilling onshore too. But it’s not just stopping dangerous oil expansion. We at Los Padres Sierra Club are moving our communities to carbon-free living faster than ever.

The changes are coming fast. Thanks in large part to our activities, Community Choice clean energy has blanketed Ventura County and soon will be in Santa Barbara County. Our volunteers are fighting to bring new all-electric buildings codes to our cities. We’re pushing to expand solar, wind and battery storage. And through car shows, we’re proving that electric cars are now mainstream. Many can be purchased or leased at a reasonable price with electricity costing a third of gas.

Is all this happening fast enough? We won’t know until we get there.

As the sun sets in front of me on the 101, I dream of riding my bike on this path when the air is pure.

It’s going to happen.

Editor’s note: Jon is the Los Padres Chapter’s executive director.

EAVESDROPS

“The only other times climates have changed this fast here on Earth are associated with the occasional asteroid impact. There’s never been anything like it in all of human history.”

~ Bill Nye, the Science Guy.

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