Our actions bring results

By Katie Davis

We’re ending the year with a round-up of good news on the energy front!

Positive Energy

The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission voted unanimously on Nov. 20 to approve the Strauss Wind Project, demonstrating that we have real renewable energy resources to invest in.

Location over 2,970 acres east and northeast of Lompoc. (Source: SB County)

This renewable energy reduces up to 200,000 metric tons of CO2 annually via 30 wind turbines up to 492 feet tall.

Member Circle wants YOU!

Support the Sierra Club’s Los Padres Chapter by becoming a SUSTAINING MEMBER.

All it takes is pledging $20 a month or more to support our local chapter.

Contributors to the Circle receive advance notice of events, updates on local environmental advocacy, a subscription to Condor Call, an invitation to an exclusive annual outing, and a gift.

By joining our Sustaining Member Circle, you are directly supporting the local work our chapter is doing on the ground in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties … every dollar you donate stays local! Need examples? Read the SIGHTINGS column on pg 4.

Your commitment allows our chapter to be nimble, to respond quickly when called upon, to engage local experts and, most importantly, to make connections with the people who want to make a difference in our local communities.

Our proposed polluting oil projects in North County. Located in the windy hills near Lompoc, it would generate enough clean, renewable energy to power nearly 4,500 homes each year with less than half of the turbines previously approved by the County under an earlier version. The project will include state-of-the-art features such as “active control technology” that would shut down turbines if large birds are detected on site.

We need your generation in our region to make our grid more resilient and reliable, reducing our reliance on distant energy sources transmitted by long powerlines vulnerable to fires and outages, and to make up for the energy deficit we’ll be in with the planned retirement of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in 2025.

The project would double renewable energy generation in our county and help us meet the state’s 100% renewable energy goal, while providing hundreds of jobs, contributing an estimated $40 million dollars in tax revenue over the life of the project.

Mission Possible

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Inspirited WBC grad now on staff

By Emily Csanski

Attending WBC was so inspirational and informative that I went home after each class motivated to pour over maps, books, and websites, looking for wilderness trips I wanted to add to my bucket list.

I loved learning about how to use a compass, even though some may think of it as an “old-fashioned” skill in the age of GPS and cellphones (both of which may not work in the wilderness).

The speakers were both informative and entertaining. They covered everything from gear to safety to flora and fauna and beyond. Unfortunately, I broke my toe one week into the class and was unable to attend any of the back包装 trips. I’m looking forward to getting a second chance in 2020 to practice the skills I’ve learned in WBC and to continue making connections with the friendly experts who lead WBC.

Early bird entry fee for wilderness course

By Sean and Gina Cole

Do you want to spend more time outdoors in nature? Have you ever wanted to learn more about hiking, camping, and backpacking?

Would you like to improve your wilderness skills?

Look no further! You’ve found the Los Padres Wilderness Basics Course, now in its 11th year.

This basics course serves people of all levels and is designed to improve and teach the basic skills needed to enjoy the wilderness.

Eight classroom sessions will guide the students on four exciting outings.

Evening classes will be held at the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) and my family’s ranch bordered the forest. I would often dream that someday all of the Lake Casitas Watershed lands below the Peak would be forever protected for its natural beauty, open space and wildlife habitat.

And now my dream is starting to come true, for these lands are now part of a LPNF land protection bill currently before Congress which would set aside 190,000 acres of wilderness lands within the forest as well as 150 miles of national wild and scenic rivers throughout the counties of Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. The bill also has wilderness protections for the Carrizo Plain National Monument in eastern San Luis Obispo.

There are several current proposals by the Trump Administration to allow oil and gas drilling in those lands, including proposed uranium mining

continued on page 2

Students will receive advance notice of events, and will be prepared with the latest information.

It’s easy to join, just go to:

www.sierraclub.org/donate/1000

...at $20 or more per month.

“Hiking is not escapism; it’s realism. The people who choose to spend time outdoors are not running away from anything; we are returning to where we belong.”—Jennifer Phan Davis

Inspired WBC grad now on staff

Emily Csanski took the 2019 Wilderness Basics Course and loved it so much she got further training and is now a staff member of the upcoming WBC starting Feb. 19, 2020. Here she is on her first conditioning hike, happily crossing a stream on the way to Sycamore Canyon.

(Phot0: Anna Szymoniak-Chung)
**Our actions... continued from page 1**

announced a few new initiatives under the directive to, “become carbon-neutral by 2045 and manage the decline of oil production and consumption in the state.” Also to fulfill its new mission: “protect public health and safety while advancing the environment” as outlined by its legislation as Assembly Member Monique Limon and signed by Gov. Newsom in October.

This includes a moratorium on certain new cyclic steam wells, specifically in places that have been violating the law against “surface expressions,” a euphemistic way of describing highly-pressured, explosive oil spill. The others involve greater consideration of ways to protect human health in communities adjacent to oil projects, like human health in communities on certain new cyclic steam wells, by Gov. Newsom in October. A recent legislation by our own Assembly that protects the environment “as outlined in health and safety while safeguarding consumption in the state.” Also to practice in the Oxnard field until Dec. 2020 away from oil extraction.”

the Oxnardtar sands. Supervisors

Our coalition members

the Sierra Club and many partner organizations worked hard to develop this legislation and we are now starting a massive outreach campaign to obtain congressional support for passage of the Act via a coalition.

The coalition members gathered for a day-long planning conference Nov. 12 in Ventura to develop a comprehensive planning strategy to get our bill through the House, Senate and onto President for his signature. The coalition includes Sierra Club, P.E.W. Foundation, Los Padres ForestWatch, Environmental Defense Center and Wilderness Society, among at least 70 other groups.

The bill is comprehensive, our campaign is bold, and we urge all to help support it. This will include community outreach across the counties and walking the halls of power in D.C.

We really have our work cut out for us, considering the record of this Administration. To help and to learn more, go to www.CentralCoastWild.com

This was a local event of the global “24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action.” Our Chair Katie Davis interacted with the electrical workers union (IBEW 413) in Buellton, where it pays people while training in all aspects of solar installation, storage systems, efficiency and more. (Photo: Katie Davis)

**Solutions are here and now**

By Katie Davis

“Solutions are here and now”

In the global “24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action,” on Nov. 20, over 1,300 climate leaders gave 1,750 presentations in 40 countries, all 50 U.S. states, and on seven continents. They presented in reading rooms, auditoriums, classrooms, libraries, offices — some of even presented in treehouses, on boats, and in parks, and at least one person presented underwater!

In Santa Barbara County, we were pleased to join the local International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW 413) to talk about the big questions: Must we change? Can we change? Will we change?

As a trained presenter with Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project, I went through its latest climate presentation and explained the consequences of inaction. Facts include:

- 19 of the 19 hottest years on record have occurred since the year 2000.
- Climate is changing at an unnaturally rapid rate, faster than species can evolve and adapt.
- Millions of people and trillions in assets are at risk from sea level rise, already costing $653 billion in economic losses in the past two years.
- The three most expensive wildfires in world history have happened in the last two years — all in California.
- We cannot burn most of the world’s current fossil fuel reserves if we want to preserve a livable planet.
- Wind, solar and storage are now cost competitive with fossil fuel energy. The world has agreed on goals in the Paris Climate Agreement and countries are meeting those goals. In the U.S. for so California, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, D.C., Washington and Puerto Rico have all committed to moving to 100% clean electricity.

“Solar installer” is forecast to be the fastest-growing job category in the U.S. through 2026, and “wind turbine service technician” is second. There are already five more jobs in California in renewable energy than in fossil fuels.

Brian Gregory with IBEW said, “a transition from fossil fuels needs to be a clear plan that is realistic. We don’t want to transition from good paying union jobs to low paying non-union jobs.” He explained the importance of local energy generation to provide resiliency, and he talked about the union’s free electrical apprenticeship program that takes graduates from local high school, veterans, and others to provide a program that pays people as they learn, starting at $17 an hour with structured raises and advancement. Safety is paramount in everything we do,” he said. Its Buellton-based program includes training on solar PV installation, EV charging stations, lighting controls, efficiency, and energy storage systems. Learn more at www.SB1ATC.com.

**WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?**

Donate to an environmental legacy by joining Sierra Club in your favorite Sierra Club Chapter or in your own area. If you want to know how much, do you need them and can your Tax-deductibles at any time.

If you have named Sierra Club or your church as a beneficiary or would like to discuss how you can change your beneficiaries at any time.

LORI SULLIVAN
Director of Development
2011 Webster St., Suite 1200
Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 952-4370
 foundations@sierraclub.org
mptan.sternoclub.org

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CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

-- Member in the news column, entire page: Ventura Channel

SANTA BARBARA GROUP

We meet 1st Tuesdays, noon to 1:30pm of each month. Meets at Hill Adobe 11 E. Carrillo St. View the calendar, issues and join the mailing list for the South Coast SB area at: www.sierraclub.org/los-padres

ARGUELLO GROUP

Our North County Group would like to restart regular meetings and programs. Keep informed on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/ArguelloSierraClub

VENTURA GROUP

1st Tuesday monthly at Ventura Bike Hub, 490 N. Ventura Ave, 7-8:30pm. WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND RSVP as location is subject to change: https://www.facebook.com/VenturaSierraClub/

Get latest info about the western Ventura County group via Facebook and a blog: https://wwwVENTURA/venturasierrachannel3B

-- NEW MEETUP file for rides, outings etc: www.meetup.com/VenturaSierraClub/

CONCEJO GROUP

Events, outings and meetings will be sent to you if you sign up at www.facebook.com/sbsierraclub

Otherwise, get all information on this eastern Ventura County Group from Hugh Warren, 341-8259 multi@warren.net www.sierraclub.org/los-padres/concejo/contejo

Ventura revamps web

Ventura Sierra Club leader Nina Danza has announced a new look to its website with a “big thank you to Samandrii Lloyd-Knauf, our new website administrator, for getting it going with a new blogpost. “I hope this tool will put out information at any time instead of waiting for an email blast and spread out our social media,” she wrote. The VSC website spread the link on your social media, going with a new blogpost.

Supporting the shift is part of the Sierra Club’s ongoing work to confront the legacy of racism and oppression, while working to build a future that respects the rights of Indigenous peoples and the connections between equity, justice and the environment.

The 34-acre parcel on the corner of Huurne Road and Parkitius is critical for the Oxnard’s Advanced Water Purification Facility expansion and to serve as buffer zone transition onto the Ormond Beach Restoration Plan (ORBPR) reserve.

In alphabetical order: 1st member 2nd member

Robert Bernstein

Katie Davis

Toy Vobrey

Luz Reyes-Martin

John Mui, the founder of the Sierra Club, said: “The battle we fought, and are still fighting, is but one part of the eternal conflict between right and wrong.”

I believe this protection of our ecosystems is more critical than ever. I believe a Chair Barbra has a powerful role to play in creating a more sustainable future.

As current Chair of the SB Group, I have enjoyed working on many fronts to secure recent victories, including getting Santa Barbara and Goleta to adopt a 100% renewable energy by 2030 and to start a Community Choice Energy plan to advance local clean energy.

I helped get Metropitan Transit Authority adopt all 100% electric buses and helped build opposition to massive oil expansion proposals in the County. As a member of Sierra Club’s National Marine Team, I am fighting Trump’s efforts to destroy our marine environment and reduce or eliminate our national marine sanctuaries.

I am a member of the Climate Reality Project and serve on the Air Pollution Control District’s Advisory Council.

NOTE: Only members of the CONCEJO GROUP can vote for the candidates below. A 2nd 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 but not enlarge it.

Mail ballot by Dec 31 to:

Santa Barbara Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 2046, Santa Barbara, CA 93130

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

1st member 2nd member

Robert Bernstein

Katie Davis

Alex Pujo

Luz Reyes-Martin

Write-in candidate (optional)

Enter your Sierra Club member ID #

Note: only to assure a valid confidential vote, it won’t be tied to your name.

Vote for SB Group...and Concejoe

Alex Pujo

Luz Reyes-Martins

Vacation is a way to live life better for all living creatures when we live close to town, drive less and walk more.

Newer transportation options are increasing access for everyone, not just automobile drivers and passengers. Transit, bicycle and pedestrian access are a reality in parts of Santa Barbara but still a challenge where antiquated zoning policies encourage sprawl and create a false choice between quality of life and housing supply.

I am a founding member of the Coalition for Sustainable Transportation (AST) and a member of the Bicycle Coalition since 1994. I currently serve on the executive committees of the Santa Barbara Group and Los Padres Chapter, and Co-chair the Political Committee. Thank you for your support.

A steadfast and vocal advocate for the environment and climate action, Luz is passionate about advocating for people and working with communities to achieve environmental justice.

The product of public education -- K-12 schools, she attended S t a n f o r d U n i v e r s i t y and then went on to obtain a Master of Land Use Planning and Master of Public Administration degrees from UCSB.

She currently serves as the secretary of the Santa Barbara Executive Committee.

She often speaks on issues of climate activism and environmental issues to City Councils, communities groups and community gatherings.

In the community, she serves on the Board of the Taxation School District Board. She is in her second term, having been re-elected in 2018. In that role, she is a vocal advocate for addressing climate action and environmental issues in areas under the purview of the School Board: food systems, energy use and generation opportunities, water, sustainability and curriculum.

Luz has worked professionally in the fields of economic development, land use planning, public affairs and communications. She would be honored to continue serving on the ExCom.

Vote for SB Group...and Concejoe

Robert Bernstein

Luz Reyes-Martins

Dec 2019/Jan 2020 • Condor Call 3
Our environmental impacts

By John Hankins

Lots of good news happened in the October NOV period when our Los Padres Chapter volunteers witnessed and helped progress for clean energy and more river-friendly work (and play). Just scan the list below and see that we’ve adhered to the Club’s motto of Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet.

We do this all the time. 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 want to donate (it helps a lot), read the stories on pages 1, 4 & back page or go directly to:

www.sierraclub.org/donate1000

Dec 2: Bike Lane and greener, more river-friendly project for the proposed Olivas Park Specific Plan saw Sierra Club members lobby for more river-friendly project for the Ventura City Council. See story this page.

Nov 29: Ethnobotany Trail work at the Fillmore Fish Hatchery sponsored by Sierra Club and featuring REI employees. Great work preparing for next year’s grand opening.

Nov 20: Strauss Wind Project in Lompoc unanimously approved by the SB County Planning Commission meeting. Our Sierra Club strongly supported this project. We sent our alerts prior to the hearing via our National Add Up action portal, see story page 1. Check it out at: https://involve.us/straussWind

Nov 20: Green Jobs was a big topic when our Chair Katie Davis hosted a Yosemite reforestation event and featuring local electrical workers’ union, in Buellton. The union is on board with ongoing training to install solar panels and other electrification jobs, go to its website: www.IBEW413.org

Event was part of the Climate Reality Project. For more info: www.ClimateRealityProject.org

Nov 19: “Reinvigoring Power: America’s Renewable Energy Boom” was shown at an Arguello Group meeting in Orcutt, a new location for the group hoping that it will be a more central place and closest to the largest city (Santa Maria) in the county. Special thanks to Rosemary Holmes.

Nov 19: Major Victory for the environment sparked by Gov. Newsom’s announcement to achieve carbon-neutrality by 2045, followed by Sierra Club mentioned in follow-up on its own actions (with others) that caused a moratorium on steam injection practices in Ventura County and opposition to SB County’s Car Canyon oil field projects.

Nov 18: Signed on to appeal Planning Director’s approval of a car and contractor storage yard for the old Petromex site off Ventura Avenue. Our chapter was one of 13 organizations participating, ranging from CFCRD to Woolsthorpe Chumash Foundation.

Nov 14: Computer Overwhelmed when our vice-chair Jim Hines sent out an action alert about our Central Coast Heritage Protection Act to around 5,000 email addresses in the tri-counties resulting in at least 4,000 comments, probably many more due to sharing. Proof that Sierra Club (especially Jim’s missives) really motivates people.

Nov 13: Sierra Club attended the free Home energy storage workshop discussing about pairing solar with battery storage, sponsored by Community Environmental Council another was held at Ventura’s Museum on Dec. 2. For a video and more info go to: www.CECSB.org/home-energy-storage

Nov 9: Chapter Retreat in which our retreat groups gathered in Carpinteria to forge action plans for 2020 and beyond.

Oct 31: People for Bikes conference sponsored by Sierra Club and featuring our Chapter Chair, Katie Davis, speaking on transportation.

Oct 23: Local Impacts of climate change for Goleta area and what we can do about it featured our Chair, Katie Davis, speaking on transportation.

Oct 16: Rally at Huemeno Rd site against to the Port of Puente’s plan to put a “temporary” vehicle storage for thousands of vehicles on the 350-foot levee between Perkins and Savyers Roads by a coalition that attracted counter-protesters, many of whom work at the Port. Lead sponsor CAUSE claimed “intimidation.” The coalition included the Sierra Club, Surfrider, among others, others.

Oct 13: SB Group annual tradition of a potluck event at Shoreline park and a beach bike celebrating months of activity.

Nov 12: Flying mammals we call bats was the topic of a Volunteer(s) Speaker series by naturalist Kris Mashburn who offered insights into these intelligent and mosquito-eating species. See story pg 5.

Nov 12: Coalition Launched in Ventura to what may be our largest campaign ever, Central Coast Heritage Protection Campaign (CentralCoastWild) with dozens of groups signing on already. See story pg 1.

Need better bike way

By Nina Danza

For 25 years the City of Ventura has planned to extend Olivas Park Drive and connect to Johnson Road at the Hwy 101 southbound ramp (see purple line on map). Not a bad idea, except two accessories of the project are to:

1) Build a levee between the road and the Santa Clara River (brown line on map).

2) For the purposes industrial use, paving acres of the adjacent land (pink and yellow areas on map).

Really? Haven’t we learned anything in the past 50 years? It’s not IF they will fail but WHEN. Channelizing rivers and stream runs in killing the ecosystem and fouling water that just might be your household supply. FEMA bail out flooded properties with your tax money and leniency reb Wilson and over.

And how wonderful for the hundreds of thousands of drivers on Hwy 101 to get a view of what the city planning staff will allow for the area ... want for it ... packed import/export cars! What a waste of opportunity. Sierra Club wants a more environmentally acceptable vision for the area. We want the Santa Clara River to be valued, for its north bank to be open as a recreation corridor and to let the floodplain do what it does best: natural flood protection, water quality improvement, and to host plants and animals that are necessary for life on earth.

“The levee is a done deal,” according to staff; “it was subject to an EIR and approved by council years ago and nothing is going to change.” If not a complete make-over then, there are many things that would make the plan better.

1) Change the unsafe on-street, painted bike lanes into a 2-way SAFE protected bike lane along the river side of Olivas Park Dr,

2) Provide access from the protected bike lane onto the levee for river views, birdwatching and education.

3) Add connectivity from the requested protected bike lane to the Johnson Rd bike transportation infrastructure (see street cross section). Imagine! Connectively for people bike riding from where they live almost to the beach!

This is still a work in progress, so please find out more and help by contacting:

SieraClubVentura@gmail.com

WBC gives $ back

By Teresa Norris

The Los Padres Chapter Wilderness Basics Course continued in tradition of philanthropic giving in November by deciding how to donate $5,000 of its earnings to local outdoor organizations.

To the Los Padres Chapter, WBC is giving $2,000, comprised of $400 each for Outings and Ventura County Trails Access and $1,200 for the Chapter to use as it wishes. Also, WBC is sending $200 to each of the four Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club Groups: Santa Barbara, Arguello, Ventura and Conejo.

The four mountain Search and Rescue groups are getting checks of $400 each: Upper Ojai, Fillmore, Santa Barbara and Lower Ventura County.

To the Los Padres Forest Association, we’re giving $300, to Friends of the Santa Clara River $300 and to Los Padres ForestWatch $200.

WBC takes pride in giving back to outdoor communities in our area so please find out more and help by contacting.

WBCclosetoYou@gmail.com

Leave a lasting legacy

Making protect the planet your legacy.

Have you ever wondered how you could do more to protect our wild lands, stop climate change, or advocate for local environmental protection that you wish to leave a gift to?

By any chance, you have left a gift to us, we hope you will let us know. Notifying us gives us the chance to thank you and ensure that we are honoring your wishes for the use of your gift.

Many of you have supported our Chapter over the years. Your gift costs nothing now but you can change your mind at any time. Your gift will benefit our Chapter and hope the donations can help them.

To the Los Padres Chapter, WBC WBC is giving $2,000, comprised of $400 each for Outings and Ventura County Trails Access and $1,200 for the Chapter to use as it wishes. Also, WBC is sending $200 to each of the four Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club Groups: Santa Barbara, Arguello, Ventura and Conejo.

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Movers and shakers from our Los Padres Chapter came from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties to create effective plans. We’ll become better prepared to resist, persist and head toward a renewable future. Shown are (clockwise from left) Katie Davis, Mike Stubblefield, Jon Ullman, Jim Hines, Irene Rauschenberger, Liz Lamar, David Gold, “Condor” John Hankins, Gerry Ching, Emily Engel, Martha Sadler and Alex Pulp. (Photo Robert Bernstein)
Bats good, but cuddly?

Editor’s note: This is part of our popular and free Ventura (Ojai Valley) events program featuring the fascinating world outdoors every other month. Next one is Jan 14; program TBA. Keep apprised of these events at www.meetup.com/SierraClubVentura.

By Nina Danza

For 30 years Kris Mashburn has made bats seem cute and cuddly to anyone who was listening.

“My love affair started simply when visiting Zion National Park and hearing the ranger state that bats are the most hated animal alive,” she explained to an attentive audience.

She said bats don’t flap wings like a bird; they ‘swim’ through the air, which means they can travel backwards and upside down. They are the only mammals capable of sustained flight, and they do it with their very long spread-out digits covered with a thin membrane.

You may know they eat crickets, but they also sound like a cricket in communicating, and they also consume enormous amounts of insect pests.

One bat baby (called a ‘pup’) is born to a mother only once a year, and the females live together in big groups sharing childcare. Imagine trying to find your own kid in a big group of hundreds close together. Well, the moms find their own pup by its voice. If a mom does not return any morning to the colony, another mom will adopt it.

No pup goes orphaned.

The highlight of the program was a little cute and cuddly bat to show everyone. It was no bigger than 1/3 of her palm, curled up and hiding its face…scared of us. It absolutely charmed us!

Thank you to Rachel Envoeldsen, our program chair for bringing out wonderful evening programs every other month about local adventures and special things that are found right here in Ventura County.

Our leaders are trained

It’s been two years since the last Los Padres Sierra Club (Outdoor Leader Training for backpack leaders (OLT 201)) so it was well attended and well scoped by the Wilderness Basics Coarse which will add more talent to its already skilled group of backpack leaders.

Eight enthusiastic graduates gathered at WBC co-founder Teresa Norris’ place for presentations, discussions, problem solving scenarios and role-play with debriefings… and fresh blueberries and some chocolate.

One advantage of the Sierra Club’s training materials for the OLT 201 is it allowed for discussions that inspired varied perspectives which enriched all of our experiences. Some highlights were: a tent set up on top of the fire pit for added warmth (hmmmm - glad for the debris!), lunch at La Fonda with a harrowing backpack search and rescue story for finding the missing person – who was so into his role-play curled up by the chimney – that he bawled me out for finding him.

It was a fun day shared with lovely people who put their heart into the training. Sierra Club is lucky to have them on board and so will our hiking participants. Congratulations to Alejandro Andreotta, Gina and Sean Cole, Heather D’Anna, Kim Hocking, Gabe Valdez, Victoria Vohland, and Vicki Wilson. Also to Teresa for her leadership.

By Allissie Fisher

Trained hikers saved a life

By Perry Van Houten

Editor’s note: A version of this article appeared in the Ojai Valley News; we have added information about the couple’s involvement as staff members of the Sierra Club’s Wilderness Basics Course (WBC).

A volunteer with the Ojai Upper Search and Rescue (SAR) team and his girlfriend were recognized for their lifesaving efforts in the High Sierras.

On Oct. 3, Ojai SAR volunteer Brandon Nichols of Santa Paula and Heather D’Anna of Ojai were both presented with a lifesaver award from Madera County and the Cal Office of Emergency Services commendation award, for coming to the aid of two fallen hikers. During Ojai SAR’s fundraising event three days later, they were also recognized by their peers to applaud the “amazing story.”

Because there was no cellular service, Heather hiked out of the area to summon help, while Brandon went on a mission to help the hikers. He found that one of the hikers, a 53-year-old Glendora man, had died in the fall. He helped the other victim hike more than a mile to safety and advanced medical care.

The pair also assisted Madera SAR in recovering the body of the hiker killed in the fall.

Brandon Nichols and Heather D’Anna received an award for rescuing a fallen hiker while on vacation. They are shown here with Brandon’s son, Kurt atop Sandstone peak during a WBC anniversary. (Photo: Condor John)

LEARN TO BACKPACK
AN 8 WEEK COURSE IN VENTURA

Wednesdays, 7:00–9:30 PM
+ four exciting wilderness outings
February 19 – April 8, 2020

You can depend on our new hike leaders who’ve gone through extensive training. They are (top from left): Gabe Valdez, Alejandro Andreotta, Vicki Wilson, Gina Cole, Sean Cole and bottom row: Victoria Vohland, Kim Hocking, Heather D’Anna. (Photo by Teresa Norris)

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Because there was no cellular service, Heather hiked out of the area to summon help, while Brandon went on a mission to help the hikers. He found that one of the hikers, a 53-year-old Glendora man, had died in the fall. He helped the other victim hike more than a mile to safety and advanced medical care.

The pair also assisted Madera SAR in recovering the body of the hiker killed in the fall.

Brandon Nichols and Heather D’Anna received an award for rescuing a fallen hiker while on vacation. They are shown here with Brandon’s son, Kurt atop Sandstone peak during a WBC anniversary. (Photo: Condor John)

LEARN TO BACKPACK
AN 8 WEEK COURSE IN VENTURA

Wednesdays, 7:00–9:30 PM
+ four exciting wilderness outings
February 19 – April 8, 2020

You can depend on our new hike leaders who’ve gone through extensive training. They are (top from left): Gabe Valdez, Alejandro Andreotta, Vicki Wilson, Gina Cole, Sean Cole and bottom row: Victoria Vohland, Kim Hocking, Heather D’Anna. (Photo by Teresa Norris)

Our leaders are trained

It’s been two years since the last Los Padres Sierra Club (Outdoor Leader Training for backpack leaders (OLT 201)) so it was well attended and well scoped by the Wilderness Basics Coarse which will add more talent to its already skilled group of backpack leaders.

Eight enthusiastic graduates gathered at WBC co-founder Teresa Norris’ place for presentations, discussions, problem solving scenarios and role-play with debriefings… and fresh blueberries and some chocolate.

One advantage of the Sierra Club’s training materials for the OLT 201 is it allowed for discussions that inspired varied perspectives which enriched all of our experiences. Some highlights were: a tent set up on top of the fire pit for added warmth (hmmmm - glad for the debris!), lunch at La Fonda with a harrowing backpack search and rescue story for finding the missing person – who was so into his role-play curled up by the chimney – that he bawled me out for finding him.

It was a fun day shared with lovely people who put their heart into the training. Sierra Club is lucky to have them on board and so will our hiking participants. Congratulations to Alejandro Andreotta, Gina and Sean Cole, Heather D’Anna, Kim Hocking, Gabe Valdez, Victoria Vohland, and Vicki Wilson. Also to Teresa for her leadership.

By Allissie Fisher
WELCOME HIKERS

The public is welcome at all outings listed, unless otherwise specified. We are drinking water to all outings and optionally a lunch. Studied hikers are normally required. If you have any questions about a hike, please contact the leader listed. Leaders are familiar with trails in the area and are qualified to lead hikes. 

December 6

AFTEROON HIKE, PARADISE FALLS: A 2 mile hike on the Hill Canyon Trailhead at 1pm, 10241 Hill Canyon Road, Camarillo. Two and four-legged friends are welcome. Walk about 5 miles to Paradise Falls. Bring water and wear walking shoes. Hiking poles are useful for water crossings. Rain cancels hike. JUDITH, 1-805-509-2026 (VEN)

December 7

PHANTOM TRAIL: Moderate 5 mrt with 1000 feet elevation gain. Views of the San Joaquin Valley. Meet in parking lot near Fred's and Alexia's. Bring food and water. JUDITH, 1-805-341-6295, (SB)

RATTLESNAKE TRAIL: Moderate 5 mrt hike with 1300 ft gain. Rattlesnake Trail is a primitive trail up 700 feet to the peak. Meet at the trail head for about 9am-10am. Strenuous 7 mrt. There is some rocky scrambling and exposure involved. Bring your own water trailer and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 3am. (SB)

OLD CABIN SITE: Meet in the Saticoy parking lot at the end of Via Gisata drive off Pinto Rd. In Newbury Park for a 9am start time for a 5.5 mile moderate hike with 700 feet of elevation gain. Bring water and at least a liter of water. The trail is rocky in spots so sturdy hiking shoes are recommended. No dogs allowed. Bring water. Leashed by SUZANNE TANAKA (VEN)

PAUL COMADO - CHEESEDIBORO LOOP. SHEPARD'S FLAT. Generally strenuous 9 mrt hike with 1100 feet of elevation gain and bring water. Bring water and at least a liter of water. The trail is beautiful and scenic. Bring water. Leashed by SUZANNE TANAKA (VEN)

December 8

LAKE CASITAS: Meet at the lake entrance 11000 Santa Ana Rd for a 3 mile hike. This time of year we have been recent rain, we will turn left and walk to the lake loop bench. If the trail is muddy, we will run right and walk through the campgrounds. Bring water and be well-prepared. Bring water and weather gear. Additional meetup points. LOUISE KOVACS 818-318-0290, (CJ)

SIERRA CROSS, See Dec. 11 posting for details.

December 9

COLD CREEK TRAIL - CALABASAS PEAK: Moderate 4.8 mile hike with 850 ft gain. Meet in parking lot at the west end of PCH and plenty of water. Meet behind B of A on upper State St. at Hope Ave. 3am. (SB)

December 10

MEETING AND LUNCH. COMING TOGETHER. Come be part of making something real by planting and having fun! Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, hat and water. We have very short notice to get your own if you'd like. School will use this trail to learn about all aspects of river ecology and connect it to local pollution. Come be part of making something special! Every 3rd Saturday of the month starting the 21st of December. Meet at 9am -12pm HOLLY (VEN)

December 11

FILLMORE FISH HATCHERY: Join Friends of the Santa Clara River for a self-guided tour to learn about the Santa Clara River fishery. LEIGH ANNE EAVESDROPS. (SB)

Meetups & Ongoing Outings

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:

http://www.meetup.com/SierraClub-SantaBarbara

Meetups are posted for Friday and every Saturday and Sunday during the year.

Wednesday night: Snaunia conditioning hike. Meet at 6:30 at the Santa Barbara Mission; we leave at 6:15 sharp. Bring a flashlight; optional potluck or pizza afterward. AL SLADEK, 710-766-766. (SB)

Thursday night: usually meets at the Bank of America on Hope and State Street. Starting times vary. For detailed schedules and who to call, go to: http://www.SBHiKES.com

Ventura

Meetup group is open to anyone to join and is a super handy calendar of the local official Santa Barbara outings. Ease into fitness at beginner walks, get jog on Saturday, intermediate trail to half day hikes, or make new friends! And evening backdrops. Just go to:

http://www.meetup.com/SBHiKES/
Outings...from page 6

1567 Spinaker Dr. Enjoy the sunset and then drive or walk to nearby Ventura Pier for a happy hour location by TBA. Wear or bring protective beach walking attire, water, head cover, sunscreen, and water bottle or Limit water intake. Credit cards, Leashed dogs welcome. Note: this reader does not check Meetup comments. Questions will be addressed at the headline. ANGELA COLE, 1-805-657-8735, (VEN) January 1

SIERRA CROSS, See Dec 11 posting.

3 SANTA ROSA TRAIL - Wildwood Park. Moderate 4.6 mile hike with 550 feet of elevation gain. Bring a day pack, water and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am at the west end of the park on Westlake Blvd from the 101 at Wendy Dr and head south on Moore Rd., drive to the end. Hike is 6 miles one way and 12 miles round trip. January 11

LOS ROBLES TRAIL, Thousand fontayneholmes@att.net the small parking lot on the corner of PIUMA TRAIL: Moderate 5 mrt hike with credit cards. Leashed dogs welcome. Note: this reader does not check Meetup comments. Questions will be addressed at the headline. ANGELA COLE, 1-805-657-8735, (VEN) January 1

VENTURA HARBOR AND Settling Ponds: Meet at 8:45am at the corner of Moorpark Rd and Seaward and Harbor near Chase Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. at Hope Ave. ROBERT 1-805-685-1283 / event@swt.org January 2

SB RIVERA URBAN HIKE: Easy to moderately strenuous hike about 5 miles one way. Bring water, sun protection and a light lunch. Meet at the corner of Hill and Edison Road trail. Primitive trail, and north to the lighthouse then head north to the ocean. Credit cards, Leashed dogs welcome. Note: this reader does not check Meetup comments. Questions will be addressed at the headline. ANGELA COLE, 1-805-657-8735, (VEN) January 5

SIERRA CROSS, See Dec 11 posting.

BACKCOUNTRY HIKE FOR WOMEN ONLY (Horseshoe Bend): Hike in San Rafael Wilderness will pass through lovely areas of oak woodland and riparian habitats, where you can stop out into the open, and can be cool at the start and warm at the end. Wear layers and prepare for instructions. GERRY (SB) info: sbhikergirl@cox.net January 16

SULPHUR MOUNTAIN: Meet at the north side of the mountain road at 8:45am for a 9am start time. Parking is limited so please try to carpool. We will walk the access road through the pastures to the overlook and return to our cars. Total distance is about 4 miles with a 500' gain. It can be cool at the start and warm at the end. There are no water nor facilities along the trail. Leashed dogs are welcome. MAUREEN HERNANDEZ, 1-805-657-8735, (VEN) January 18

OUTINGS HEADERS: WRITEUPS DUE IRON, 8:45 am. They should be received by the period of Feb-May, plus 2 weeks into May. They must be typed or your writeups to your Outings chairperson, do so NOW! January 2

PLAIN TRAIL: Moderate 5 mrt hike with 700 feet elevation gain. Bring water and wear lug-soled shoes. Meet at 8am in the Malibu area near the Malibu Post Office at 30095 Edinger Road. Junior League of Ventura County, So Ventura County, and north to the lighthouse then head north to the ocean. Credit cards, Leashed dogs welcome. Note: this reader does not check Meetup comments. Questions will be addressed at the headline. ANGELA COLE, 1-805-657-8735, (VEN) January 5

SIERRA CROSS, See Dec 11 posting.

January 10

LOIS Ponds TRAIL, Thousand Oaks: My dog loves this trail Meet at the Los Padas Trailhead at 1pm (Moorpark Rd, south of the 101, go 0.3 miles, left on Los Padas for 500'). This hike is about 4 miles with an elevation gain/loss 750 ft. Trail leads through a beautiful riparian woodland. We do the loop with a short side trip. Hiking poles are a good idea as water (for you and your leashed and un-leashed dog) for a long walk. Ruth JUDITH, 1-805-509-2026 (VEN) January 11

SAN MARCOS FOOTCARE RESERVES: Hike on a 5-mile trail and smooth trails 3 mrt leisurely walk with emphasis on native plants and a light lunch. Optional. Rain or muddy conditions. Meet at Bank of America parking lot 3790 St. Barbara Blvd, Thousand Oaks. DALE 1-805-696-1874 (SB) January 15

OUTLEGS HEADERS: WRITEUPS DUE NOW, Send Feb-May outings and any wildlife. Leashed dogs welcome. Note: this reader does not check Meetup comments. Questions will be addressed at the headline. ANGELA COLE, 1-805-657-8735, (VEN) January 15

AGAIN LEADERS: WRITEUPS DUE NOW, Send Feb-May outings and any wildlife. Leashed dogs welcome. Note: this reader does not check Meetup comments. Questions will be addressed at the headline. ANGELA COLE, 1-805-657-8735, (VEN) January 15


DANIELSON MONUMENT Hike at Rincon Sierra Vista/Salabah. Easy to moderate 5.5-mile hike with about 1400 ft. of elevation gain/loss. Exit the 101 at Wendy Rd and head south toward Malibu. Take the Edison Road trail. Primitive trail, and north to the lighthouse then head north to the ocean. Credit cards, Leashed dogs welcome. Note: this reader does not check Meetup comments. Questions will be addressed at the headline. ANGELA COLE, 1-805-657-8735, (VEN) January 21

BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL to Sandstone Peak and Miske Mokwa Trail Loop: Sam one of the most beautiful hikes in the mountains of Ventura County. Moderate pace for 6 miles with an elevation gain of 1000'. Meet at the Miske Mokwa Parking Lot, the trailhead is 1.5 miles east of the corner of Seaward and Harbor near Chase Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. You are if coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet at the trailhead, email me for instructions. GERRY (SB) 1-805-657-8735, (VEN) January 21

JOE'S LOOP: Meet at 8:45am for a 9am start time. Park near the bathrooms at the end of Greenmeadows Road and a 1.5 mile walk up to near the Rattlesnake Trailhead on Figueroa Mtn Rd. Rain cancel. Meet at 9am at the Bank of America parking lot, Hope Ave & State St. If you are coming from north of Santa Barbara, you can meet at the trailhead, email me for instructions. GERRY (SB) 1-805-657-8735, (VEN) January 21

MIDLAND SCHOOL HIGH COUNTRY LOOP: Explore some of the Midland School trails on this moderate 5.5 mrt hike, including the High Country Loop returning via the Old Mission Creek Road. Bring water, a light lunch and sun protection. There is a shaded area and can be very cool at the start of the hike. Hike returns via the Rattlesnake Trail. Meet at the front of Starbucks at La Cumbre Plaza, 3815 State St. Space KG-138; sbhikergirl@cox.net January 23

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FOOTPATHS TO THE COAST: A 5-mile loop with 700' gain starting at the top. Wear hiking shoes. PETE (VEN) pete33@juno.com January 23

SIERRA CROSS, See Dec 11 posting.

January 19

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William, see December 20, page 5. The italicized text is the project's name, and the number following indicates the project's number. The italicized text is the chapter's name, and the number following indicates the chapter's number.
Help us help environment

There is no time to waste! As the climate continues to change, the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter is committed to continuing the fight locally and nationally, but we need your support.

As 2019 ends, please remember us in your year-end giving. Your generosity supports advocacy and outreach that protect, preserve, and promote the wild lands of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties … and your give stays here.

What happens in our backyard makes a difference – we provide an example for other regions to follow across the country, such as declaring ... and providing alternatives to fossil fuels. We conduct hundreds of free hikes, lobby for clean air and energy and more.

Your donation is tax deductible if you give directly to our non-profit Sierra Club Foundation; otherwise it is not BUT your gift supports our effective citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.

**IRS Required Minimum Distribution**

For members over the age of 70 ½ who must take out required minimum distributions (RMD) from IRA accounts, we are a particularly good place to contribute. If you don’t take out your RMD by the end of the year, you will get a 50% federal penalty tax.

Here’s the best tip: you can have your RMD donated directly to our non-profit Sierra Club Foundation, so it won’t be counted as income. If you take your RMD as income, you will get a tax deduction if it goes to the Foundation.

With your help, we will continue to win the fight – for ourselves and future generations, and for the wild.

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**Wild animal help lines**

The fires and floods that have ravaged our region have also disturbed wildlife who are right in the thick of it.

Wildlife Care of Southern California handles a lot of questions relating to animals after storms and fires, but even in more normal seasons its advice holds up.

“Be aware that wild animals may be passing through or taking a break in your yard or drinking from your pool. Don’t haze them away, just be extra vigilant about keeping your small pets inside and allow wildlife the time and space they need to recover. If the animal is injured call a wildlife rehabilitation facility.”

Locally, the Governor 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 passed this year by Ventura County Supervisors called Wildlife Overway Zone Ordinance, affectionately called WOZO. However, it is expected to go under judicial review by opponents.

We are also excited that our formal request to have the state designate as critical mountain lion habitat certain lands in Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties. The issue will be heard by the Fish & Game Commission at its December meeting in Sacramento.

We will be on the prowl at the meeting speaking out for Central Coast mountain lion habitat protection.

~ By Jim Hines

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**WOZO! On prowl to protect**

California mountain lions, notably the big cats of the Santa Monica Mountains, are threatened by habitat loss, rodent poisons and loss of habitat connectively.

New film just released in October tells the story of the importance of reducing the barriers to mountain lions, such as freeways. It is produced by our good friend Kate Remsen of UC Davis Wildlife Center. Many of our local mountain lions are featured in the film.

It is called “CA Mountain Lions: The Connection Conflict”. See it on YouTube here: https://tinyurl.com/MtLionStory

I am so proud of the work my Sierra Club California Wildlife Team is doing, in partnership with the Mountain Lion Foundation, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service and the CA Governor’s office. All are working together to protect this important species.

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**P-77 is the newest cat to join the National Park Service’s long-term study of mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains and surrounding region.**

This is a photo of P-77 by Marc Muench. Or watch the film on YouTube here: https://tinyurl.com/MtLionStory