

The **VENTANA**
 MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB



**JUNE, JULY,
 AUGUST
 OUTINGS**

See page 9 for flower identifications.



All photos this page by Rod Yeager

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet



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DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

All materials for publication must be received by the deadlines listed below. No exceptions.

SUBMISSIONS FORMAT

Please limit articles to 800 words; letters to 300. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Email to dfbulger@cruzio.com. Mail hard copy to editor, address below.

PHOTOS

Photos submitted to *The Ventana* must meet the following requirements: No laser copies or inkjet outputs. Electronic photos should be no smaller than 1200 x 1100 pixels or 300 dpi. Cover photos must be 3000 x 2000 pixels. Film photos, slides, or negatives are fine. Please call the editor if you have any questions.

WHERE TO SEND SUBMISSIONS

Send submissions to Debbie Bulger, Editor, 1603 King Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, dfbulger@cruzio.com.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Do not call editor! Send address changes to: address.changes@sierraclub.org or use the mail-in coupon in each issue.

POSTAL NOTICE

The Ventana (015057) is published 6 times a year, (Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., Dec.) paid by subscription included in membership fee, by The Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, 511 River Street, Santa Cruz, 95060. Periodical postage paid Santa Cruz, CA and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Sierra Club, *The Ventana*, P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604.

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Carpentry & Software:

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<http://ventana.sierraclub.org>



2010

Ventana Publication Schedule

Issue	Deadline	Mailing Date
#4	Aug. 2	Aug. 18
#5	Sept. 20	Oct. 6
#6	Nov. 29	Dec. 15

Articles received after deadline may not be published.

Support cleaner energy

Many of you are glued to televisions and computers watching the updates on the disastrous BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf. Only some of you may remember the oil drilling platform blowout that oc-

curred off shore in Santa Barbara on January 28, 1969. The Santa Barbara spill was estimated at 100,000 barrels of oil and the slick covered 800 square miles including 35 miles of shoreline.

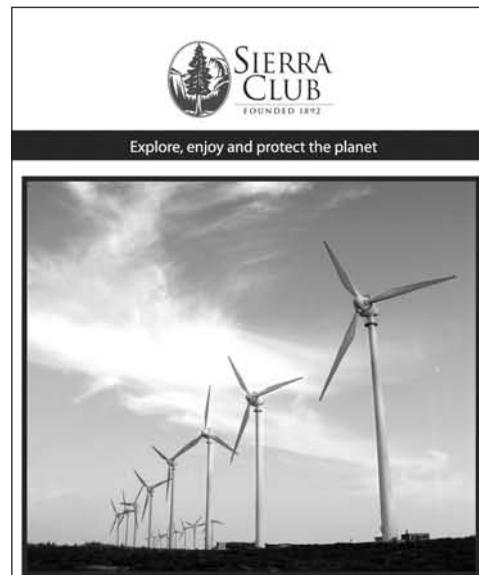
The BP spill is already over a million barrels and spreading with catastrophic consequences for wildlife and public health. The Country's dependency on oil has created an industry that is out of control. Deep water drilling practices such as BP and other companies employ now involve drilling much deeper than in the past. The Deepwater Horizon well has been reported to have been drilled possibly as deep as 25,000 feet compared to less than 200 feet in Santa Barbara.

Are there any other, safer sources for cheap oil? Not really. Oil from tar sands

has been proposed by a Canadian pipeline company called Keystone XL and has already been researched and opposed by the Sierra Club. Tar sands oil is literally the dirtiest fuel out there—its production generates three times as many greenhouse gases as traditional crude and consumes up to five barrels of water for one barrel of oil.

Environmental groups can pressure legislators and agencies to wield better control of resource industry practices, but the better policy is for everyone to reduce their dependency on oil. There are very real consequences for the public's demand for cheap energy. We all need to support cleaner, safer sources of energy now.

—Rita Dalessio



It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

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What goes around comes around

What a thrill! I recently pulled a bowlful of potatoes out, of all places, my compost heap. They are the progeny of a green potato I tossed out about six months ago, now miraculously transformed into life-giving food. Another sign that Mother Nature will take care of us if we take care of her.

We have not been doing a very good job of taking care of Mother Nature lately. I'm talking about the calamitous BP oil spill in particular and our national energy policies and practices in general.

As I write this we are on Day 53 of the Deepwater Horizon well explosion. The display of dead and dying oil-covered birds on the nightly news is enough to make this coastal resident sick. The tremendous cost in human lives and human livelihoods underlines the close link between human well-being and environmental health.

And oil is not our only dirty energy source. Burning coal, which generates 54% of the electricity produced in the United States, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists, is the single biggest air polluter in the country, spewing soot, toxics, and carbon dioxide into the air, fouling our waterways, and causing acid rain, climate change, and deaths and disease to miners. The Upper Big Branch Mine explosion killed 29 West Virginia miners in April of this year. Worldwide, *thousands* of coal miners die each year.

There hasn't been a major nuclear power plant disaster since the 1986 Chernobyl explosion, but minor incidents occurred in Japan, France, and Russia in the 1990s. Chernobyl released radiation across Europe and killed 31 people immediately. Thousands more suffered birth defects, thyroid cancer, leukemia and other after effects in the ensuing years.

And yet, the United States government continues to heavily subsidize these dirty power industries. Dirty energy subsidies total in the billions per year. The exact amounts are hard to ascertain because of the tangle of tax credits, tax breaks, and other giveaways from state and national governments. In February, President Obama called for elimination of more than \$2.7 billion in tax subsidies for the oil, coal, and gas industries. And that is only considering direct subsidies, not the indirect costs to our health and well being.

Instead of heavily subsidizing our dirtiest sources of energy, we should be subsidizing and providing incentives for our cleanest, renewable sources of energy: solar, wind, wave, and others.

Many of us have gone the extra mile to transition to clean energy. We are using less. We put on sweaters instead of turning up the thermostat. We are driving less and converting to more fuel-efficient cars. Many of us have installed solar panels on our roofs. Of course, we all could do more, but the truth is that individuals cannot do it alone.

We must lobby for change at the national, state, and local level. What needs to change are the policies and laws that favor dirty energy over clean energy. What needs to change are policies which give a higher priority to automobile travel than travel by train, bus, bike, or foot.

That change will only come when people express themselves loudly and clearly to our elected officials. After watching more oil wash up in the Gulf, after reading about shrimpers out of work in Louisiana, pick up your phone, email, or write the President, Senators, Congresspeople, and other politicians urging an end to dirty energy and investment in clean energy.

Are you angry enough? Sick enough? Sad enough?

—Debbie Bulger



Technology always fails

by Richard Stover, PhD

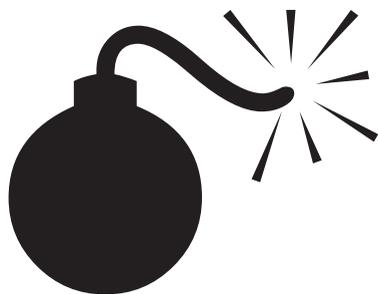
If there is one fact we should all learn from the catastrophe in the Gulf it is that technology always fails, eventually. As a scientist who has spent his career developing high technology machines, I know this to be as true as any law of physics. Technology in the best of hands will eventually fail. In the hands of government boosters and profit-driven companies it fails even more often because nobody is seriously trying to keep it from failing.

When the consequences of failure in a technology can be devastating, it should be national policy to just SAY NO, no matter how small we think the chance of a failure may be. Failure is inevitable.

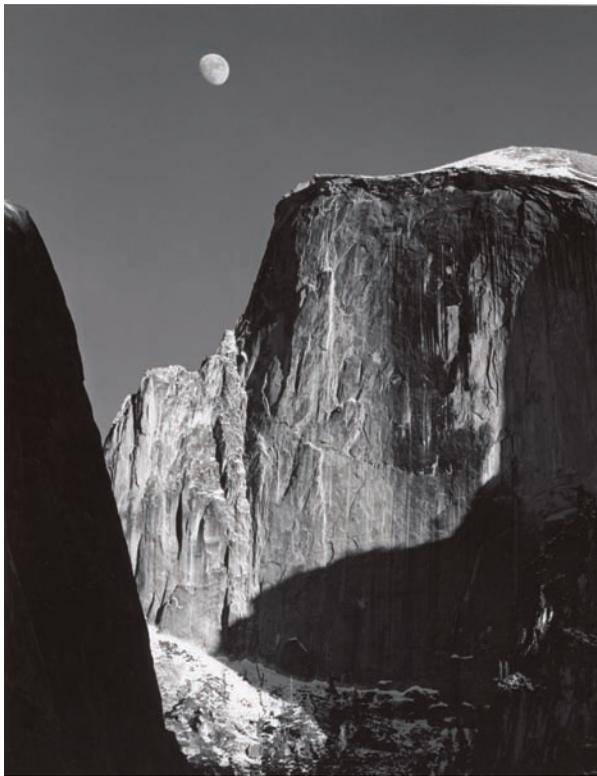
This cautionary principle applies to offshore oil drilling and to nuclear energy. President Obama's reckless boosterism for nuclear energy will eventually lead to a technological failure and a disaster that could make the Gulf catastrophe look like a nice day at the beach. The nuclear power industry can't get private financing, can't get insurance, and can't even dispose of its own waste. The private sector has declared it too dangerous, and it survives only on billions of dollars of taxpayers' money and the same sort of ridiculously low liability limits that Congress has given to oil polluters.

In the U.S we have the technologies to make the U.S. independent of oil and nuclear power. Solar, wind, and other truly green, renewable technologies can provide us with all the energy we need while creating many thousands of jobs that can't be exported. These technologies are low-impact and relatively safe. When my solar roof panels die, the neighborhood doesn't die with them. If a plane crashes into a wind turbine, it becomes a note in the nightly news, not a national disaster.

The reasons we are not now on the road to clean, safe energy independence are primarily political or social. It is the job of President Obama to provide the leadership to overcome the political obstructions. Everyone who cares about the safety and security of the country, the environment, or the well-being of children needs to send a letter to President Obama and to our members of Congress to tell them to stop sending billions of our dollars to the nuclear industry and instead spend that money to jump start our clean, safe, renewable energy future.



Museum to display Ansel Adams prints



Ansel Adams, Moon and Half Dome, Yosemite National Park, California, 1960, gelatin silver print, from the collection of Anne Adams Helms, collection Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona, (c) 2010 The Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust.

From July 10 through October 3 the Monterey Museum of Art is featuring an exhibition of more than 70 masterworks by Ansel Adams. *Ansel Adams: Portrait of America*, features images chosen by the artist in one of the few completed Museum sets of these photographs. The magnificent and iconic landscapes as interpreted by one of America's greatest artists is presented in collaboration with Ansel Adams' heirs. The Monterey Museum of Art is the exclusive West Coast venue for this exhibit.

In 1978, Ansel Adams selected the images he wished to make available to museums and art institutions. Although he was able to complete a substantial number of the prints, his death in 1984 curtailed the long-range plans for the project. As a result, only a few complete "Museum Sets" were produced.

"Visitors will experience America through the eyes of this genius in one of Monterey's most unique gallery settings—an historic mansion estate," said the Museum's Executive Director, E. Michael Whittington.

The Museum is located at 720 Via Mirada, Monterey. Museum hours are Wednesdays - Saturdays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sundays 1-4:00 p.m. \$5 general admission. Sierra Club members will receive a 2 for 1 admission discount by mentioning their Club membership. For more information please visit www.montereyart.org.

Chapter board member teaches healthy eating

Ventana Chapter executive committee member Nicole Charles's day job is educational events manager for Everyone's Harvest/Consecha Para Todos, a Marina nonprofit dedicated to creating healthy communities and equitable food webs.

Nicole has been designing a new food education program targeted to youth to discourage youth obesity and diabetes. The program, Edible Education for Healthy Youth, has been awarded a \$22,000 grant from the Nancy Buck Ransom Foundation. Part of the education process is teaching young people where their food comes from and pointing out connections between food and the environment.

"Everyone's Harvest and I are really excited to implement this critically important program. Diabetes and obesity rates are surging throughout Monterey County and the rest of the U.S. By creating programs that promote healthy lifestyles and target youth, we're able to tackle the problem sustainably, economically and efficiently," said Nicole. The funds will finance a pilot program of three series of six free sessions over two months in Greenfield, Marina, and Pacific Grove.

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Widen Highway 1 or invest in alternatives?

What's your highest priority?



Despite a State mandate to lower greenhouse gas emissions and at a time when the Gulf Coast is being smothered in oil, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) is driving hard to begin construction on yet another segment of a wider Highway 1. The current project is the one-mile stretch between Morrissey Boulevard and Soquel Avenue.

Widening Highway 1 continues to be the highest priority for the Regional Transportation Commission, to the detriment of more sustainable transportation choices

such as developing the rail corridor, improving transit, and building bikeways and sidewalks. The estimated cost for creating the envisioned eight-lane highway from Santa Cruz to Larkin Valley Road is \$640 million.

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required for this nine-mile highway project, which would add new part-time car-pool lanes and new exit-to-exit auxiliary lanes. But the SCCRTC and Caltrans plan to begin building the Morrissey to Soquel Avenue auxiliary lanes segment without the EIR. They have self-approved a minor environmental study that does not meet EIR standards and only looks narrowly at the current one-mile segment. The minor study does not examine the big picture of impacts of the full widening project, such as induced traffic and increased greenhouse gas emissions, nor does it examine environmentally superior alternatives.

The Sierra Club and the Campaign for Sensible Transportation believe proceeding this way is illegal under CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act. The Campaign for Sensible Transportation is currently suing Caltrans to include the segment in the EIR for the whole project. Until the EIR is complete, there will be no data on whether widening the highway would produce more greenhouse gas emissions than other alternatives.

The Sierra Club believes that the Regional Transportation Commission is not investing adequate resources in alternatives to the 1950s auto-centric model of highway widening. Placing the highest priority on sus-

tainable transportation choices instead of on highway widening would enable people to get around with less driving.

Instead of widening the highway, more resources should be invested in Transportation Demand Management programs which can reduce automobile trips. Such programs offer incentives not to drive and not to drive alone, and include free or low-cost bus passes, discount parking for car-pools, vanpools, bike shuttles, emergency rides home, car sharing, and infrastructure projects which make it easier and safer to walk and bike. As an example, if there were more pedestrian and bicycle bridges across Highway 1, fewer people would drive if their destination were nearby but on the other side of the highway. If there were a bicycle trail along the rail corridor as there is in many other cities in the United States, many more people would travel by bicycle than do now. Many cities have both bike trails and passenger trains side by side on their rail corridors.

Providing safe ways for children to walk and bike to school can dramatically decrease the number of car trips to school. Designing and building mixed-use projects, including affordable housing, enable people to live near worksites and stores instead of having to drive to work and shopping. Providing more low-impact travel choices is the best way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

California Climate Action Goals call for reducing greenhouse gas emissions 30% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. According to the City of Santa Cruz Climate Action Coordinator, greenhouse gas emissions from transportation have increased 13% in Santa Cruz from 1996 to 2008 instead of decreasing. To achieve the 2020 goal, emissions would have to drop 38%.

The way to decrease transportation emissions is to prioritize and invest in more efficient modes of travel. This means more than cleaner burning cars. It also will require less individual car use and more sustainable transportation choices for people.

How to help

- Contact your Santa Cruz County Supervisor (all are members of the SCCRTC)

and tell them to make sustainable transportation the highest priority for the Regional Transportation Commission.

- Offer to host a fundraising coffee at your house where a member of the Campaign for Sensible Transportation would present a slide show.

- Contact Paul Elerick, 688-2304, or visit sensibletransportation.org for more information or to make a donation.

Online brochure computes true cost of driving

You may have wondered what it really costs to drive your car. Right away most people think of the obvious costs: purchasing and maintaining a car, gas, oil, insurance, registration, parking, and tolls. Many people also know that other costs associated with automobiles are paid for by taxpayers. These indirect costs include highway construction and maintenance. Since those fees don't come directly from a driver's pocket, they aren't usually considered as costs of driving. However, indirect costs are very real, along with other hidden environmental and social costs that drivers and non-drivers alike pay to support automobile travel.

Commute Solutions, funded by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, has revised its brochure, *The True Costs of Driving*, on its website, www.commutesolutions.org. To help compute what your costs are, the website includes a link to a driving calculator.

When one considers both the indirect and direct costs of driving, taking the car instead of, say, a bike becomes more expensive. For example, if gas is \$3/gallon and your car gets 30 mpg, you might initially think it costs only 10¢/mile to drive somewhere. But if you consider all the costs, that number is more like \$1.36/mile.

Direct costs of driving include insurance, registration, motor vehicle taxes, any finance charges, depreciation, gas, maintenance and tires, parking, and tolls. Indirect costs include travel time, collisions, road and highway construction/maintenance, and operation, free parking at destinations, waste disposal for car batteries, tires, etc., air pollution, road noise, carbon dioxide reduction, external resource consumption, water pollution, and more.

What is not considered in the brochure are the indirect costs to health due to sitting in a car as opposed to choosing more active transportation and the cost to the environment from catastrophic oil spills. Perhaps in the next edition.

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Club report explores ending oil dependence

Makeover

If you visit the Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge near Donner Summit, you'll be glad to hear that volunteers have remodeled the men's bathroom near the men's dorm. Planned and supervised by Rich Johns, the project replaced plumbing, updated electricity, and installed new tiles, fixtures, walls, and ceilings. Sounds like almost everything!

Weed whackers

Friends of Quail Hollow Ranch County Park announced that volunteers donated over 1300 hours of time pulling invasive French broom in the park. Way to go! If you want to volunteer to pull invasive plants at various local sites in both Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, check out the opportunities listed on page 6.

Bird sanctuary

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology reports that the coffee you choose can have an important impact on birds. Scientists have established that the traditional method of growing coffee—beneath the canopy of a forest, rather than chopping down the trees for sun-grown coffees—provides vital habitat for birds. Shade-grown coffee plantations can support more than 100 bird species compared to 6-12 species in sun-grown monocultures.

Make a difference. Buy shade-grown coffee and help the birds.

Pedal for dinner

A Copenhagen hotel is offering a free meal to guests who generate at least 10 watt hours (about 15 minutes of cycling) of electricity on hotel exercise bikes. Instead of having to sing for your supper, you could pedal for it.

Club activist

Michigan Sierra Club member Lynn Henning was awarded a \$150,000 Goldman Environmental Prize, considered the "Nobel" prize for environmental activism. The Goldman Prize is awarded annually to grassroots environmental heroes from each of the world's inhabited continents. When factory farms surrounded her property, Henning organized farmers, the EPA, and enforcement officials. Her work has resulted in hundreds of citations for violation of environmental laws as well as national publicity and consumer education.

On drugs

In a disturbing report issued by USGS scientists, researchers found that wastewater treatment plants that receive discharges from pharmaceutical manufacturing plants had 10 to 1000 times higher concentrations of drugs in their effluents. In the treatment

plants studied, which emptied into streams in New York State, the drugs were in measurable concentrations more than a mile downstream from the outfall.

The study compared two wastewater treatment plants that received more than 20% of their discharge from drug formulation facilities to 24 wastewater plants across the nation which did not treat drug factory discharges. To learn more visit www.usgs.gov.

Goodbye sulfur dioxide

EPA announced on June 3 a new limit on sulfur dioxide pollution which is estimated will prevent 54,000 asthma attacks annually and save up to \$33 billion in health costs each year. Sulfur dioxide in the air is a major contributor to acid rain and comes from sources such as coal-fired plants.

The Sierra Club and Secure American Future have jointly issued a report outlining how the United States can end its dependence on oil. The report, *Ending our Dependence on Oil*, advocates linking both transportation policies and spending to reducing oil dependence, not perpetuating it.

The facts are powerful:

- The United States uses nearly 400 million gallons of gasoline every day.
- Most of the oil we use comes from foreign countries at high risk for instability; oil dependence threatens U.S. economic security.
- Our oil consumption contributes significantly to climate change which will cost Americans hundreds of billions of dollars over the coming decades.

The report urges charting a new course for transportation that cuts the connection

to oil. Recent fuel economy standards for new vehicles are an important step, however, much more must be done. Even the most aggressive implementation of current goals will only make a small dent in the problem we face. Incrementalism has its place, but so does visionary leadership.

Specific actions examined in the report include:

- Continuing to tighten fuel economy standards for all vehicles,
- Developing electric vehicles,
- Investing in rail for both passengers and freight,
- Creating livable communities where transit, walking, and biking are easy,
- Using new, cleaner fuels.

To read the full report visit the Sierra Club national website (www.sierraclub.org) and type "Ending Oil Dependence" in the Search window.

You might not be planning for climate change, but the State is

Would you like to fly on an airline that didn't have an emergency landing plan? Remember those laminated cards in the seat pocket in front of you? They graphically depict the airplane, the location of all the exits, and give you instructions about what to do in the event of a crash landing. Knowing that your flight attendants have been trained in evacuation procedures and have rehearsed emergency actions helps alleviate your concerns.

In that same vein, the State of California has a Climate Adaptation Strategy, adopted in December of 2009. The State is taking Climate Change seriously because of its predicted effects on California which include rising sea levels, higher temperatures, more frequent wildland fires, and shifts in the water cycle such as faster snowmelt.

A 2008 report by UC Berkeley and Next 10, a non-profit agency, estimates taking no action to reduce or minimize climate change would result in "tens of billions of dollars per year in direct costs." Coastal

real estate is especially at risk. In November 2008 Governor Schwarzenegger ordered state agencies to develop the Climate Adaptation Strategy which is slated to be updated every two years as we learn more about climate change.

Adapting to climate change does not mean that the State will not work to mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Rather, it is an admission that we cannot completely reverse the changes that have already been set in motion and acknowledges that we must work on both adaptation and mitigation at the same time.

The report contains data documenting past trends and current predictions as well as recommendations regarding water management and conservation, building in areas vulnerable to future flooding, wildfire prevention and management, energy conservation and increased use of renew-

able energy, emergency response plans, and other areas of state planning.

The 200-page document including references is formidable. Appendix E contains a table of short term strategies for specified agencies to complete before the end of 2010. The full report is available to download or review at www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation/count/click.php.

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LAND USE | ENVIRONMENT | NATURAL RESOURCES | GOVERNMENT

Sierra Club Events

Muir's March sponsored by Restore Hetch Hetchy

Walk in the footsteps of John Muir to raise awareness and resources for the campaign to restore the Hetch Hetchy Valley. In 1913 the city of San Francisco won congressional approval to build a dam and submerge Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park under 300 feet of water.

From August 1-7, three groups of Muir's Marchers will be guided on a 7-day, 45-mile trek across Yosemite, each following a separate route. They will converge atop the O'Shaughnessy Dam where they will be joined by activists from around the state to rally for the restoration of the Hetch Hetchy Valley.



Prior to participating, each marcher must raise a minimum of \$1913 for Restore Hetch Hetchy, the national campaign to bring the Hetch Hetchy Valley back to life. All levels of backpackers are encouraged to participate.

For more information on how to participate, visit www.hetchhetchy.org and click on Muir's March.



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Saturday, June 26

Hands across the Sands

Join hands on the beach with other activists to demonstrate against offshore oil drilling. The purpose of the event is to steer America's energy policy away from its dependence on fossil fuels and into the light of clean energy. Gatherings will take place at the Santa Cruz Main Beach, in Carmel, at Seascapes Beach, Cowell's Beach in Santa Cruz, Waddell Beach, and other places. To find a site near you visit <http://handsacrossthesand.org>. Sponsors include the Sierra Club, The Center for Biological Diversity, Audubon, The Ocean Conservancy, Surfrider Foundation, and other groups.

July 30-August 2 and October 17-19

Channel Islands Trips

California's Channel Islands are Galapagos USA! Three- and 4-day fundraiser cruises on July 30 - August 2 and October 17-19 sponsored by Sierra Club. All depart from Santa Barbara. Fees: \$785 July/August and \$590 October include bunk, meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will lead hikes. For more info contact jholtzhl@aol.com. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to leaders: Joan Jones Holtz & Don Holtz, 11826 The Wye St, El Monte, CA 91732.



Russell Boone

Channel Islands visitors return to the Truth to relax, eat dinner, and sleep after hiking and sightseeing during the day.

Friday - Sunday, August 13-15

Clair Tappaan weekend

Enjoy a wide choice of guided hikes on Saturday and Sunday, swimming, music, and a Saturday evening program by the Donner Summit Historical Society at this gala fundraising event at the Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge at 7000

feet in the Tahoe Sierra. Cost for the entire event including 2 nights lodging and 6 meals is \$155 for adults and \$75 for children. To make reservations, call 800-679-6775 or email ctl@sierraclub.org.



Clair Tappaan Lodge is located near Donner Summit at 7000 feet.

Sunday - Monday, August 15-16

Lobby Day

Join other Sierra Club members in Sacramento to lobby legislators on Sierra Club priority bills. See details in article on p. 7 and learn about priority bills on the same page. Training provided. For more information and to register, contact Annie Pham, lobbyday@sierraclubcalifornia.org or 916-557-1100 x 107.

Non-Sierra Club Events of Interest

The following activities are not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. The Club makes no representations or warranties about the safety, supervision, or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service.

Monday, July 12

Sanctuary Center Groundbreaking

Representative Sam Farr and Dr. Larry Robinson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, will be featured speakers at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center groundbreaking near the Wharf in Santa Cruz. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Sunday - Saturday, August 1-7

Muir's March

Backpack in Yosemite with a professional guide and raise money to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley. See article this page for more info.

Thursday - Sunday, August 24-29

Blue Ocean Film Festival

View the world's best ocean films and hear from the filmmakers. Featured speakers include Jean-Michel Cousteau, Dr. Sylvia Earle, and Brian Skerry, a *National Geographic* photographer. Passes available for purchase at www.blueoceanfilmfestival.org or by calling 324-0357. Various locations in Monterey.

Santa Cruz CNPS

Habitat restoration

Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Santa Cruz Co. Wear layered work clothes. Bring water & gloves. Tools provided. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We work rain or shine, but if things get particularly unpleasant, we call it a day. Contact Linda Brodman, redwdrn@pacbell.net, 462-4041. Website: www.cruzcnps.org.

July 10, Sunset Beach State Park

Monterey CNPS

Habitat restoration

Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Monterey Co. Wear layered work clothes. Bring water & snacks. Tools & gloves provided. Carpools meet at Rio Rd. Park and Ride. Rain or shine. Contact Jan Shriner, jshriner@mbay.net, 236-0905. Website: www.montereybaycnps.org.

Watsonville Fourth Saturday

Habitat restoration - Watsonville

Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Meet at the Fitz Wetlands Educ. Resource Center at Pajaro Valley HS. Gloves, tools, and snack provided. Call Jonathan Pilch, 728-4106, for more info. No experience necessary.

Saturdays

Garland Ranch Hikes

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District docents lead hikes at Garland Ranch every Saturday. An updated list of all hikes may be found on their website: www.mprpd.org.

Club working for passage of environmental bills in State Legislature

The Sierra Club has prioritized six bills which have passed the Assembly and are in the Senate and four bills which have passed the Senate and are in the Assembly. Deadline for passage is August 31. If you attend the Club's Lobby Day in Sacramento, these are the bills we will be working on. If you are unable to come to Sacramento, please contact your legislators and express your support for these bills.

AB 1975 (Fong): Water Conservation

Would require the installation of meters and sub-meters on individual units in a newly constructed building for which the first occupancy permit is issued on or after January 1, 2012. Sub-metering ensures water users receive an appropriate signal regarding the volume and cost of their water use, providing incentives for responsible water use. This bill is sponsored by Sierra Club California.

AB 1947 (Fong): Solar Energy

Would allow publicly-owned utilities to use up to 1 megawatt worth of California Solar Initiative funds to build large solar systems within their service area, and provide their customers the opportunity to offset a part or all of their electricity needs with the power generated by these solar systems. Enactment of AB 1947 would result in more distributed solar power, new green jobs, and more equitable participation in the California Solar Innovations program.

AB 1998 (Brownley): Solid Waste: Single Use Carryout Bags

Would prohibit a store from providing a single use carryout bag to a customer after January 1, 2012. Stores would be required to make reusable bags available for purchase by the customer.

AB 2223 (Nava): Wildlife Protection

This bill would prohibit the use of toxic shot in state wildlife management areas. Lead shot is extremely toxic to wildlife. It can linger in the environment for years as a potent contaminant that harms the health of wildlife up and down the food chain.

AB 2289 (Eng): Smog Check Program Reform

Would save money for consumers and the state and reduce air pollution by 70 tons per day by enacting critical updates to California's Smog Check program. Would implement on-board diagnostic testing for vehicle model years 2001 and newer and more stringent performance standards for facilities testing older, more polluting vehicles.

AB 2575 (Chesbro): Salmon Protection

Would direct the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to implement a pilot project for the improved protection and repair of the riparian zone in watersheds with listed anadromous salmonids.

SB 1100 (Corbett): Battery Recycling

Would make the manufacturers of household batteries responsible for their collection and recycling, saving money

for taxpayers and ratepayers.

SB 1157 (DeSaulnier): Toxic Pesticides in Schools

Would prohibit all public schools from using the most highly toxic pesticides on school property, with certain exceptions.

SB 1207 (Kehoe): Fire Planning

Would direct the Office of Planning and Research to update its general plan advice document relating to fire hazards and its CEQA guidelines to address wildfire risks.

After 2015, cities and counties would have to update the safety element of their general plans to address risks of wildfire in state responsibility areas and Very High Hazard Fire Severity Zones. Given the crushing expense of defending fires in developed wildland boundary areas, this planning is necessary to manage risks to people, property, and forest ecosystems appropriately.

SB 1445 (Desaulnier): Reducing Vehicular Emissions

Would provide much needed planning funds to help local transportation planning agencies complete their strategic plans to move people efficiently while reducing greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks. The funds would come from a \$1 increase in the vehicle license fee.

Help the environment by lobbying in Sacramento

Join other Sierra Club members in Sacramento for the Club's annual Lobby Day Sunday and Monday August 15th and 16th. You will be part of a team that will help Sierra Club California pass our priority bills during the most exciting and challenging time of the year at the State Capitol. Participants will have opportunities for interaction with other activists and our professional lobbying staff, as well as with legislators and their staff.

This is a two-day event. On Sunday afternoon our advocacy team will train you on how to lobby and brief you on our priority bills so that you can effectively advocate for them. On Monday, in teams, you will work the halls of the Capitol attending meetings with legislators scheduled from morning through the afternoon.

Have fun and save our environment at the same time! Past participants have found it to be an eye-opening and rewarding experience. Participants should expect to pay some costs, but some travel reimbursements are available.

For more information and to register, contact Annie Pham at lobbyday@sierraclubcalifornia.org or 916-557-1100 x 107.

John Laird for Senate District 15

Sierra Club has endorsed John Laird for Senate District 15, which encompasses much of the Ventana Chapter including Watsonville, Monterey, Pajaro, Prunedale, Pacific Grove, Marina, Moss Landing, Scotts Valley, Felton, and Carmel Valley among other local communities.

The special election was June 22 and one candidate needed to receive 50% plus one vote to avoid a run off. When *The Ventana* went to press, the election had not occurred. If there is a run off scheduled for August 17, we hope you will be sure to help Laird in any way you can and be sure to vote!

Laird is no stranger to Sierra Club members who applaud his 100% Sierra Club voting record during the six years he served in the State Assembly.

Laird was the original proponent of the

parks access pass measure that voters will likely consider this November to finally provide adequate support for California's State Parks.

Laird is a significant leader in coastal issues authoring legislative measures on the coastal trail, stormwater runoff, invasive aquatic species, cruise ship dumping, sea otter protection, oil spill response funding, and enhancing the marine protection process. He has worked to increase funding to the Coastal Commission and has promised to continue that fight.

The Ventana Chapter is particularly pleased that John Laird authored AB 2945 in 2008 which added 413 acres of new wilderness area to the State Park system at Limekiln State Park in Southern Big Sur.



REVIEW

Fight Back, Forest Defenders Handbook

reviewed by Betsy Herbert, Ph.D. *

At long last, the original 1994 *Don't Wait for the Chainsaws... Fight Back!* booklet has been completely updated! I commend author Jodi Frediani for enhancing the content and format in this great new 2009 version, while retaining the spirit and organization of the original, which flew off the shelves when it was first released.

The intent of the original was to create a useful guide for concerned citizens to exercise their legal rights to be heard in the complex and unfriendly state government process of reviewing commercial logging plans. The 2009 version, aptly titled *Fight Back! Forest Defenders Handbook, A Citizen's Guide to Timber Harvest Regula-*

tion, continues in that vein. It provides updated contact information, great new photographs, and a real-life case study that clearly demonstrates the amazing power of an informed and organized neighborhood group.

Kudos to Jodi Frediani, who helped research the original version and who has been reviewing timber harvest plans and writing about forestry issues for 25 years. Her new 2009 Version 3 *Fight Back! Forest Defenders Handbook* is easily accessible on-line, and will undoubtedly assist folks throughout California in bringing about better forestry.

To download a copy visit www.treesfoundation.org or the Ventana Chapter website, www.ventana.sierraclub.org, and search for Fight Back.

*Betsy Herbert is the author of the original version of *Fight Back!*



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American pika

If you go backpacking in the Sierra this summer you might be lucky enough to see an American pika. This small, herbivorous animal is adapted to the cold and lives in boulder piles at high elevations. During the summer pikas gather food which they dry for use in the winter.

Climate change is a serious threat to these adorable animals because they can die from overheating.

Despite scientific evidence that the pika is threatened by global warming, the California Fish and Game Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to protect this species when petitioned by the Center for Biological Diversity.



Ventana staff

July 12 Groundbreaking for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Center

Construction will begin on the long-awaited Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center at a groundbreaking ceremony on July 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The center will be built at Pacific and Beach streets near the Wharf in Santa Cruz, a location selected after a two-year study of 23 sites. Representative Sam Farr and Dr. Laraine Robinson, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, will be featured speakers at the groundbreaking. The Marine Sanctuary Center will feature dynamic, interactive exhibits for both children and adults, a wide-screen theater, a hands-on geology lab. Visitors will receive practical information about how to conserve the Sanctuary's natural resources with an emphasis on the interconnectedness of marine life and impacts of land-based human activity. A goal of the Center is to have visitors walk in the door as ocean lovers, and go out the door wise ocean stewards, helping to preserve Monterey Bay and the ocean for generations to come. The building itself will conform to LEED Platinum Building standards of silver or better.



New website identifies local flowers



Rod Yeager

Pink Sand Verbena (*abronia umbellata*) is a prostrate perennial and was the first California flower described by science. This one was photographed at Pebble Beach.



Rod Yeager

Chapter members hiking in the flower-filled areas of the Central Coast often come across flowering plants they are unable to identify. This year, especially with all the rain, we occasionally see a lovely blossom completely unfamiliar or possibly an old friend whose name we cannot remember. Help is just a click away.

Now, there is a new website for plant identification specifically for our region provided free to all by Dr. Rod Yeager, a retired physician.

After purchasing a home eight years ago on the Monterey Peninsula, Yeager became enamored with the near-perfect climate and natural beauty of the area. Hiking and exploring the forests and fields with new friends including Chapter founders Jud Vandevere and Corky Matthews, Rod quickly learned the names and favorite locales for many of our nearly 1500 local plants. Unable to purchase a comprehensive guide to the flowers with full color photos and location guidelines, he set out to learn digital photography and website technology as well as plant identification. Rod's objective was to develop a readily available, inexpensive resource for hikers and plant enthusiasts who wish to learn about wildflowers and enhance their knowledge of the natural world around them.

So far, there are over 800 flowering plants found in Monterey County on Dr. Yeager's website (many also occur in Santa Cruz County) grouped by location and name. Specific locations documented include Marks Ranch, Palo Corona, Garland Park, Fort Ord, and Pebble Beach.

Check out this valuable resource at www.rodyeager.com, and take a hike at some of the locations Yeager has cataloged.

Flowers on page 1:

large photo

Butter and eggs (Triphysaria eriantha ssp. eriantha)

small photos, l to r

Woolly Blue Curls (Trichostema lanatum)

Crimson Columbine (Aquilegia formosa)

Yellow Mariposa Lily (Calochortus luteus)

Fairy-lantern (Calochortus albus)

Vinegar Weed (Trichostema lanceolatum)

Look for the Leopard Lily in damp places such as stream banks.

Letters and calls needed to support Ventana wilderness bill

Last November, Representative Sam Farr introduced HR 4040, the Big Sur Management Unit Act of 2009, into the U.S. House of Representatives. If passed, this visionary piece of legislation would greatly enhance the protection of biological and recreational resources in the Ventana Region and Big Sur Coast. In essence, HR 4040 provides for a guaranteed share of the Los Padres National Forest budget, a wild future for some of the central coast's last undammed rivers, and permanent protection of recreational and biological values that define the Ventana region. But this rare opportunity may well be delayed without an outcry of public support.

The bill's most significant provisions will establish the Big Sur Management Unit of Los Padres National Forest; designate over 90 miles of Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers including Big Creek and portions of the Arroyo Seco, San Antonio, and Carmel River; convert the closed Arroyo Seco-Indians Road to the Arroyo Seco National Recreational Trail creating unparalleled opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling; add 2000 new acres of federally-designated Wilderness; and establish the Jeff Norman Botanical Area within a rare stand of endemic maritime chaparral on National Forest lands immediately south of Pfeiffer Beach.

HR 4040's best hope of passage is inclusion in an omnibus public lands bill prior



Mike Splain

Hikers pause on the divide between the Arroyo Seco and San Antonio Rivers.

to the end of the summer session. Representative Farr needs to hear from you. Please don't hesitate; write him a letter today. Express your support for the Big Sur Management Unit Act of 2009, and urge him to request a committee hearing.

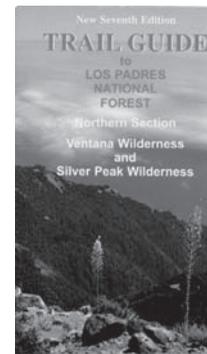
Contact info

The Honorable Sam Farr, 100 West Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901. Salinas Office

424-2229, Washington, D.C. Office 202-225-2861, samfarr@mail.house.gov.

You can submit an electronic letter to Representative Farr and find out more information about HR 4040, by visiting www.ventanawild.org.

Get Trail Guides from REI or online



The Ventana Chapter Trail Guide and Map featuring trails and campsites for the Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness is available for \$14.95 plus tax at the REI store in Marina or online at: <http://www.rei.com>. Type "Los Padre Trail Guide" in the search window, and there it is to order.

"We know how to limit greenhouse gas emissions. We have a good sense of the costs—and they're manageable. All we need now is the political will."

—PAUL KRUGMAN

Channel Island trips filling up; reserve your place now

July 30 - August 2

October 17-19

If you want to visit the Channel Islands with Sierra Club this summer or fall, you will need to reserve a place soon; the spots are filling up fast. These trips are fundraisers for the Club.

Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. Enjoy the frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds.

Hike the trails to find wildflowers and plants found in no other place on earth. Kayak or snorkel the pristine waters—or just relax at sea.

These live-aboard, eco-tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel *Truth*. Fee (\$785 for July-Aug trip; \$590 for October) includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with

the group to lead hikes, call attention to items of interest, and present evening programs.

To make a reservation mail a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information 626-443-0706; jholtzhl@aol.com.



Joan Jones Holtz

A kayaker approaches the mouth of Painted Cave, Santa Cruz Island, Channel Islands National Park.

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OUTINGS RATINGS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

All outings begin and end at the trailhead. Carpooling to and from the trailhead is strictly a private arrangement between the driver and the riders. Carpool drivers are not agents or employees of the Sierra Club.

EXPLANATION OF RATINGS:

The outings described vary in difficulty from leisurely walks to strenuous hikes. The following explanation is a general guideline. (For more information about the difficulty of a particular outing, call the leader).

Walk: Between 2-5 miles, leisurely pace.

Easy: No more than 5 miles; slight elevation gain; easy pace.

Moderate: 5-10 miles; up to 2000' gain; boots; better than average fitness required.

Strenuous: May involve off-trail hiking; demanding pace; for experienced hikers in good condition only.

MEETING PLACES

DIRECTIONS:

Rio Road Park & Ride: This parking lot is on Rio Road in Carmel.

Save-Mart / Bagel Bakery: (formerly Albertson's) South of Monterey on Hwy. 1. One mile past Ocean Ave., turn L on Carmel Valley Rd. Almost immediately, turn R at the light. Save-Mart/ Bagel Bakery on the R.

Santa Cruz County Government Center: The large grey building at the corner of Ocean & Water in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of the parking lot nearest to the intersection.

Felton Faire: The shopping center at the junction of Graham Hill and Mt. Hermon Rds. in Felton. We meet at the edge of the Safeway parking lot nearest Graham Hill Rd.

41st Avenue / Sears: From Hwy. 1 in Capitola take the 41st Ave. exit. Go toward the ocean on 41st Ave. Pass the main Mall entrance and turn right into the next entrance near Sears. We meet behind the bank located at 41st and Capitola Road.

MPC parking lot: Monterey Peninsula College Parking Lot. From Hwy. 1 take the Fisherman's Wharf exit, go straight one block, turn L and L again into the first parking lot: A. Site of the Thurs. Farmers Mkt. Plenty of parking with no fee on weekends.

carpool news

Meet 1 hour before formal meeting time in order to save gas and protect the environment when participating in out-of-county outings. Informal (no leader) carpool meeting spots:

Santa Cruz: County Gov't Center.
Monterey: K-Mart Seaside

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ridesharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

Participants will be required to sign a liability waiver. To read it before choosing to participate on an outing go to www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms.

JUNE

Thursday, June 24

HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE OR GARZAS CREEK

We'll feast our eyes on spectacular Leopard Lilies if the Mitteldorf road construction project allows. Otherwise, we'll enjoy the Garzas Canyon loop. 6 or 4 miles; both hikes have beautiful redwoods and picturesque creeks. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Sunday, June 27

HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE

5-mile loop with 1700' elevation gain and great terrain variety. We'll follow the Soberanes Creek Trail into a sublime redwood grove, then climb steeply to grassy knolls for a spectacular view at lunch. The flowers are great! The descent will be along Rocky Ridge with more views. Boots highly recommended; hiking poles helpful. Bring water and lunch. 9:30 a.m. Call for meeting location. Leader: DJ Goehring, 277-9908.

Tuesday, June 29

SENIOR HIKE: FALL CREEK

Shady 3-mile hike in redwood forest partly along creek. Some moderate uphill, rocky in places. Lunch at limestone kilns. After lunch we'll do another mile or so. No restrooms. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Felton Faire near Safeway before 9:50 a.m. To go direct, park in Empire Grade lot up from Hwy. 9. Bring water, lunch, repellent, and \$3 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Wednesday, June 30

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

We'll hike the Wilder Ridge Loop, taking the Zane Gray cut-off. Lunch at overlook on loop trail. Mostly open terrain, rolling grasslands, and a few wooded areas. 6 1/2 miles, 600' elevation gain. Good chance of seeing raptors. Bring water and lunch. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. Leader: Tom Davey, 331-8430.

Moving?

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on p.15 or email address.changes@sierraclub.org
The post office charges us 70¢ each if they handle the address change.
Please help the Club by handling address changes in a timely fashion.

Thanks!

JULY

Saturday, July 3

HIKE: MEDICINE BUDDHA, GROVER GULCH LOOP

This is a local outing to avoid holiday traffic. Moderate 5-6 miles and up to 1100' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, July 3

HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE

Our easy 6-mile hike with little elevation gain winds along Williams Creek through a serene redwood forest. We'll see a nice variety of ferns and flowers including spectacular Leopard Lilies. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Wednesday, July 7

HIKE: SARATOGA GAP OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

Let's hike some of the Skyline preserves that are part of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. This trail through a mixed-evergreen forest of massive Douglas firs and a few California nutmeg trees is part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail and connects Saratoga Gap with Upper Stevens Creek County Park. We'll wind through shaded hillsides northeast of the gap until we come to the Charcoal Road Trail which takes us down to Table Mountain for lunch and a spectacular view of the San Francisco Bay Area. Pileated woodpeckers were first sighted on the east side of the Santa Cruz mountains here in 1990, and they are now known to breed in this area. Bring lunch and water for this 8-mile hike with some up and down hill after the 1st mile and a lot of mostly level trail. Meet at Sears 41st Avenue at 9:00 a.m. to carpool (\$4), or meet us at the parking lot on the northeast corner Hwy. 9 and Skyline Blvd. at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Friday, July 9

HIKE: WEST MOLERA

We'll hike up Hidden Trail and Ridge Trail, enjoying views of Pico Blanco and Post Summit. After lunch we descend via the Panorama Trail and Bluff Trail with views of the ocean and Point Sur. Bring lunch, water, and a sweater or windbreaker as the ocean breeze can be cold even at this time of year. Optional sandals or aqua shoes for a possible river crossing. Meet at the Rio Road Park & Ride at 9.30 a.m. for



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this 8-mile hike with 1200' elevation gain. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Saturday, July 10

WALK: ASILOMAR/PEBBLE BEACH

A 4-mile loop, starting on neighborhood streets and then thru dunes between fairways, out to Point Joe

and back along the beach boardwalk. Quiet neighborhood, beach wildflowers, possible wildlife. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Drive and Asilomar Blvd., Pacific Grove. Call to reserve a place and for meeting time. Bring snack and water. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, July 11

SWIM/HIKE: ARROYO SECO

This outing has also been called an amphibious hike. We start at the Arroyo Seco parking lot and hike about 3 miles to get into the water. We'll wade and walk upstream through several small waterfalls, then swim through deep ponds and the narrow gorge to reach the big waterfall. When we are lucky, we climb it and enjoy lunch further up in the sun. Only real good swimmers and energetic hikers are encouraged, kids over 12 with parents are welcome. Put your food in double plastic zip lock bags in an old rucksack. Wear tennis shoes or water sandals with toe protection and a bathing suit underneath your hiking outfit. A rubber mattress or a floating device is nice to float downstream. Bring water, lunch, sunblock and a hat; also \$ for carpool. Reserve the whole day and call for reservation and time. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, July 13

SENIOR WALK: CAPITOLA STAIRS/DEPOT HILL

We'll go up and down stairs (short & long) in Capitola to Depot Hill. About 3 miles. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Jade Street Park. Bring water and lunch or eat at one of the restaurants in Capitola. Restrooms. Leader: Denise Lucy, 464-3808.

Tuesday, July 13

HIKE: MILL CREEK REDWOOD PRESERVE

This 5 1/2-mile in-&-out hike with 250' elevation gain takes us along a beautifully terraced trail to a scenic coastal overlook. Stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Sunday, July 18

WALK: LIFE'S A BEACH

Let's check out some new and some revised versions of beaches near Monterey. This easy walk will include driving from the meeting point to Fort Ord State Beach and then driving to a Monterey beach to look at an amazing sea wall and some interesting boardwalks. Joyce Stevens will join us to tell about a not-so-long-ago battle over part of the beach. We might even spend some time on the beach! Meet at the Fort Ord Thrift Shop parking lot (Lightfighter Exit from Hwy. 1, and park in front of the only building there) at 9:15 a.m. Bring water and snack, binoculars if you have them. Plan to end up near Monterey about noon or so. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, July 20

SENIOR WALK: WILDER

We'll wander Four Mile Beach and walk the Wilder bluffs for 3 easy miles on this beautiful coast. Port-a-potty on trail. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Avenue or near Shen's Gallery at King & Mission Sts. before 9:50 a.m. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Prepare for sun and wind. Leader: Janet Schwind, 425-3845.

Wednesday, July 21

HIKE: SKYLINE RIDGE OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

This preserve of 2100 acres has 2 artificial ponds, grassy slopes, and chaparral-covered hillsides. It was once owned by "Sunny Jim," mayor of San Francisco and then governor of California in the early 1900s. Near the Daniels' Nature Center is an Ohlone Indian grinding stone. We'll hike the 7 miles of the Grand Loop Trail which also visits adjoining preserves: Monte Bello, Coal Creek, and Russian Ridge. See some of the Bay Area's most beautiful terrain with forested canyons and shady oak woodlands. This is

one of the best places in the Bay Area to see raptors. Bring lunch and water for this moderate hike. Meet at Sears 41st Avenue at 9:00 a.m. to carpool (\$4), or meet us at the Russian Ridge parking lot on the northwest corner of Hwy. 35 and Alpine Rd. across from where Page Mill Rd. meets Skyline Blvd. at 10:15 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Thursday, July 22

HIKE: LAND OF MEDICINE BUDDHA

This 6-mile loop with 500' elevation gain includes a lovely redwood forest, a beautiful creek and stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water but no lunch; optional \$10 vegetarian lunch in LMB's dining room. Arrive early; we depart at 8:30 a.m. sharp from Shell station by Home Depot in Seaside or from the back parking lot of the Congregational Church of Soquel at 9:20 a.m. sharp. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, July 24

HIKE: BUTANO STATE PARK

We'll do the Candelabra/Doe Ridge Loop from the Park's relatively new trailhead on Gazos Creek Rd. About 7-8 miles, and 1400' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, July 25

HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE

5-mile loop with 1700' elevation gain and great terrain variety. We'll follow the Soberanes Creek Trail into a sublime redwood grove, then climb steeply to grassy knolls for a spectacular view at lunch. There should still be some flowers! The descent will be along Rocky Ridge with more views. Boots highly recommended; hiking poles helpful. Bring water and lunch. 9:30 a.m. Call for meeting location. Leader: DJ Goehring, 277-9908.

Sunday, July 25

HIKE: MARATHON EAST TO WEST

We'll start at China Camp and hike the 24 miles to the Ranger Station in Big Sur on the Pine Ridge Trail. This hike is very beautiful, unforgettable, breathtaking, and very strenuous with several steep uphill parts and a long downhill. Participants need stamina, endurance, and must be able to pick up that second wind after 12 miles. Starting time will be very early. Limited to 7 people only. Transportation will be provided. Call well ahead of time and leave your information, so your call can be returned. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.




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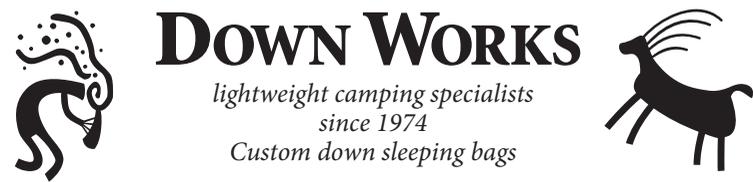
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OUTINGS

Tuesday, July 27

SENIOR HIKE: NISENE MARKS

Shady 3-mile hike beginning at Marcel's Trail, cross creek and view twisted tree & hidden garden. Moderate ups and downs. Lunch at George's picnic area. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Avenue. To go direct, park at kiosk near park entrance. Primitive restroom. Bring lunch, water, repellent, \$1 carpool and share of entrance fee. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Wednesday, July 28

HIKE: FALL CREEK

Fir, oak, and madrone dominate the area. The park is known for its wide variety of ferns—15 altogether. We'll cross the creek once without a bridge, a little rock-hopping. Bring water and lunch. 7 miles, 1000' elevation gain. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Avenue. Leader: Tom Davey, 331-8430.

AUGUST

Sunday, August 1

HIKE: TURNER CREEK TRAIL

Thanks to the Ventana Wilderness Alliance and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, this trail in the Ventana Wilderness is open again. It starts at Botcher's Gap at the end of Palo Colorado Road climbing up on the Skinner Ridge Trail. Maybe we can arrange a loop hike. It should be ideal for a hot summer day, being mostly shaded by large trees. 8 miles with 800' elevation gain. Bring water and lunch. Meet at the Rio Road Park & Ride at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Sunday, August 1

WALK: CARMEL RIVER BEACH

An early morning walk from Carmel River Beach to Monastery Beach via the hill and back via the Bluff Trail. Enjoy views of Point Lobos and listen to the surf. About 3 miles. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather; windbreaker recommended. Bring water and a snack. Meet at the parking lot at Carmel River Beach at the lagoon (south end of Carmelo in Carmel.) Call leader to reserve a space and for meeting time. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Tuesday, August 3

HIKE: JACKS PEAK

Jacks Peak offers quiet forested trails with spectacular views of Monterey, the Bay and Carmel Valley. 5 1/2 miles with 700' elevation gain. Stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30 a.m. sharp from the NW corner of Whole Foods parking lot in Monterey. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.



John Howerton

Hikers enjoy the expansive views and wildflowers along the Vicente Flat Trail in May.

Wednesday, August 4

HIKE: HENRY COWELL REDWOODS

Cowell has some very old redwoods and some rare, for this area, Ponderosa pines. Lunch at Cable Car Beach. Trailhead will be at Powder Mill Pipeline parking area on Graham Hill Road. Bring water and lunch. 6 1/2-miles, 800' elevation gain, with a nice view of Santa Cruz. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Avenue. Leader: Tom Davey, 331-8430.

Thursday - Sunday, August 5 - 8

BACKPACK: YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Visit the sublime Ten Lakes region, one of John Muir's favorite locations. This 3-night, base camp outing is suitable for backpackers with some experience (7 miles; 2300' elevation gain). Individual commissary. Space for 15. Contact leader for details. Leader: DJ Goehring, 277-9908.

Tuesday, August 10

SENIOR HIKE: CABRILLO SALVIA GARDENS

3-mile hike with uphill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Avenue. Bring lunch, water, \$1 carpool. Leader: Brooke Ewoldsen, 475-6188.

Wednesday, August 11

HIKE: SANTA CRUZ GARDENS PARK

This is one area that is close, in back of Dominican Hospital, yet has expansive views over the Santa Cruz Harbor and Monterey Bay. The resort has an interesting history of varied uses. We'll wander around narrow trails beside a creek to an apple orchard and

back. Bring water and lunch for this moderate 6-mile hike. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Avenue to carpool (\$1), or meet us at the corner of Cabrillo and Katherine in front of Santa Cruz Gardens Park at 9:20 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Thursday, August 12

HIKE: MAPLE FALLS

This 6-mile Nisene Marks hike with 700' elevation gain takes us through a lovely forest along beauti-

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OUTINGS

ful creeks and eventually to serene Maple Falls. Some agility is required. Stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 8:40 a.m. sharp from Shell station by Home Depot in Seaside or from parking lot behind Aptos Station at 9:30 a.m. sharp. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, August 14

HIKE: CORTE DE MADERA COUNTY PARK

We have not been back to this San Mateo County Park in some time. I haven't quite decided on the route but expect 6-9 miles and up to 1400' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call me close to the date if you desire more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff 462-3101.



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Sunday, August 15

WALK: STROLL BIG SUR BEACHES

Let's slather on the sun block and explore some of the sandy beaches of Big Sur. We'll start at Garrapata Beach and then continue on down to Molera State Park, where we'll stroll out to see if the river still flows to the ocean. Bring water, lunch or snack (you might want to eat in one of Big Sur's great restaurants) and sandals or flip-flops to wear for the river crossing. A hat to ward off solar rays will save the leader the obligation to call for a rescue. Meet at Rio Road Park & Ride at 9:15 a.m. We'll have time to stop on the way back for a treat in the village. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, August 17

SENIORS WALK: LOVERS POINT

3-mile walk from Lighthouse Field to Neary Lagoon to Santa Cruz Wharf. Bring lunch or eat at one of the wharf's restaurants. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Avenue or at Lighthouse Field parking area at 9:50 a.m. \$2 carpool. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Wednesday, August 18

HIKE: POGONIP

Stop at old spring boxes, Lime Kilns, and old club house. Hike through meadows, redwoods, and a few creeks. Bring water and lunch. 6 1/2 miles, 600' elevation gain. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Avenue. Leader: Tom Davey, 331-8430.

Saturday, August 21

HIKE: LOS PADRES DAM/CARMEL RIVER.

Let's start at Princes Camp, walk to the Los Padres Dam, and hike up the Carmel River as far as we

want. Should be shady most of the time and the creek crossings are easy. Maybe there will be enough water for a dip at Bluff Camp. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Mid Valley Shopping Center in Carmel at 8:00 a.m. Park opposite the Chase Bank. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Saturday - Sunday, August 21 - 22

BRISTLECONE PINES

Come with us to the beautiful White Mountains to camp, hike, and just relax. On Saturday, we'll hike the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest on a moderate 5-mile round trip interpretive trail, followed by a picnic lunch and a short optional hike to a nearby old mining cabin. Back at camp, we'll enjoy Happy Hour, a potluck feast and a campfire. Sunday pack up and head home. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Sierra Club), 2 large SASE, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Reservationist/Leader: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 294726, Phelan, CA 92329, 760-868-2179.

Sunday, August 22

HIKE: PINNACLES FULL MOON

Experience this 23 million year old volcano (that is moving at 1/4 of an inch a year) as you never have

before. It's like being on another planet. You will be able to use your wildest imagination when seeing the jaggedy formation set before you. Call leader and leave your information, so call can be returned. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Tuesday, August 24

SENIOR WALK: NEW BRIGHTON BEACH

Leader will take us along the back way down to the beach past museum and cement ship. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Avenue. To go direct, take Hwy. 1 to Park Ave. exit, right at stop sign to Kennedy and park on street. Bring lunch, water, \$1 carpool. Restrooms available. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Tuesday, August 24

HIKE: GARZAS CREEK

Our 4 1/2-mile loop with 800' elevation gain takes us through a redwood canyon and along Garzas Creek with six picturesque crossings. Stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

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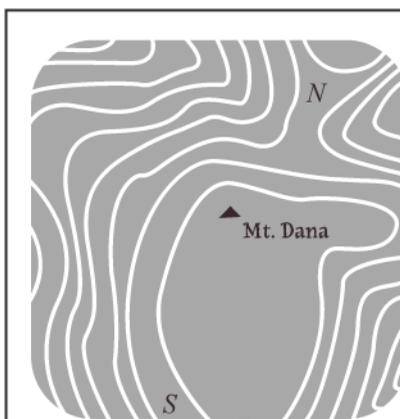
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 Email: chapter@ventana.sierraclub.org—Website: www.ventana.sierraclub.org

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	Nicole Charles	2936 Yorktown Court,	Marina, CA 93933	925-381-1982
	Dale Agron	26122 Carmel Knolls Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	624-3038
	David Kossack	P.O. Box 268	Davenport, CA 95017	427-3733
	Marika Martin	1205A Otter Lane,	Pacific Grove, CA 93950	233-2188
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Chair	Mike Splain	P.O. Box 66882	Scotts Valley, CA 95067	359-2489
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	Debbie Bulger	1603 King Street	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	457-1036
Pajaro River Committee				
	Lois Robin	robin@baymoon.com		861-464-1184

Santa Cruz County Group of the Ventana Chapter
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 Mailing Address: Sierra Club, Santa Cruz Group, P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604
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	Dennis Davie	P.O. Box 651	Capitola, CA 95010	566-7447
	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	761-3263
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	Ken Reiller	990 Hecker Pass Rd.	Watsonville, CA 95076	728-4046

MEETING SCHEDULE	
Ventana Chapter (Monterey County)	Santa Cruz Regional Group
Information: 624-8032	
Executive Committee: First Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place and time	Executive Committee: Second Wednesday of the month; Call 460-1538 for meeting place and time.
Conservation Committee: For dates and times, call 655-8586.	Conservation Committee: Call 761-3263 for meeting dates and times.
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