



# Sierra Uplift

Newsletter of the Sierra Club, Sierra Nevada Group

**Friday, July 15th • Annual Picnic  
Home of the Goars in Grass Valley**

## Picnic & prioritize

Come join us for our annual delightful and delicious event at the home of Bob and Joyce Regan-Goar. The setting is lovely and wooded with a babbling brook (historic canal) running alongside. As an added attraction this year, we will be helping the Sierra Club set its future direction. A brief session to prioritize new and old conservation approaches in a changing world will be quick and painless (we promise!).

Please bring something to put on the barby, your plate and utensils, a dish to share (side dish, salad or dessert) and a beverage of your choice. Ice for drinks and coals for the fire will be supplied by our hosts.

Plan to arrive at 6 pm, mix, mingle, socialize, and help set priorities. We'll eat at about 7 pm.

Directions to the Goars, 14676 Highland Drive, Grass Valley, phone 477-5050, are as follows. From Grass Valley, turn right on Rattlesnake Rd. off Hwy 174 just past Union Hill. Go approximately one mile south to the second Highland Drive sign (it is a loop) and turn left at a house with white picket fence on the corner. The Goars' home is the second on the left. ■

**Fri, Sat, Sun • Aug 19, 20, 21  
Exciting weekend events at CTL**

## Save the Clair Tappaan experience

You may not realize that Clair Tappaan Lodge (CTL) has joined the list of endangered species. The national Sierra Club is threatening to sell it unless we can raise \$100,000 by September 30. As of this date the campaign is going well. Money in hand and matching fund challenges already total over 50% of the goal.

The Lodge, the nearby huts, the beautiful surrounding mountains, the whole ambiance of the lodge embody the spirit of the Sierra Club: care for

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## Sierra Uplift

Published every other month  
by the Sierra Nevada Group  
of the Sierra Club

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## Address Changes

Send old and new addresses to  
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## Web Connections

Find national and local Sierra Club  
news by visiting these web sites:

<[www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)>

<[www.sierraclub.org/ca](http://www.sierraclub.org/ca)>

<[www.motherlode.sierraclub.org](http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org)>

<[www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/sierranevada](http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/sierranevada)>

SNG is a member of the  
Sierra Nevada Alliance, a  
regional coalition of groups. See  
<[www.sierranevadaalliance.org](http://www.sierranevadaalliance.org)>



### Barbara Rivenes: Chair Chat

# Sierra Summit: inspiration, interaction, direction setting

**S**ierra Summit! If that doesn't ring any bells, then you haven't been reading your Sierra Club mail. I'm here to remedy that situation. The Sierra Summit will be the largest gathering of Sierra Club members ever! This gathering will take place in San Francisco at the Moscone Center September 8-11, 2005. I hope some of you will decide to take this opportunity to hear and interact with dozens of dynamic and inspirational speakers at Summit workshops and visit the Expo—an exhibition of the best outdoor and green products available.

Central to the Convention is the participation by 1000 delegates in a historic direction-setting process that will ultimately create the next evolution of the Sierra Club. The previously selected 1000 delegates—I am one of 18 from our Mother Lode Chapter—will meet to define the needs of the organization, set priorities and help direct Club resources. The reasons for this precedent setting process is the need to be able to adapt to the dramatic shifts in our political, social and cultural landscape over the last two decades, to prepare to work more effectively than ever before and to understand, discuss and respond in an open and democratic way.

At our picnic July 15 in the Goar's lovely backyard, I plan to engage the folks who attend in a dialogue about their vision and thinking on eight Conservation Approaches to help direct the Club and guide my delegate votes.

I would really like to hear from you on how you might prioritize among the following by choosing your three highest priority approaches. The eight are (with brief examples of actions):



#### **A) Build a New Energy Future**

(improve fuel economy, accelerate renewable energy production, stop new coal and nuclear power plants, reverse the course of global warming)

#### **B) Defend Federal Lands and Public Waters**

(reform federal forest management to protect ecosystems, designate new federally-protected wilderness, refuges, monuments and parks, wild and scenic rivers and marine protected areas, reform damaging uses such as grazing, oil and gas development, mining and abusive recreation on federal lands)

**C) Promote Wise Consumer Choices**

(promote environmentally healthy foods, promote “green” home products and building materials, promote sustainable transportation choices)

**D) Protect People and the Planet from Pollution**

(clean up/prevent air pollution, clean up/prevent water pollution, safeguard/reduce nuclear waste, make polluters pay for clean-up)

**E) Invest in Building Sustainable Economies and Businesses**

(invest in pollution prevention technology, invest in public transportation, restore sustainable fisheries, invest in forest management to protect watersheds and communities)

The Summit  
will take place  
at Moscone  
Center in  
San Francisco,  
September 8–11

**F) Protect the Global Environment**

(establish fair trade policies, promote first the reduction, then the end of U.S. and global population growth, protect global wildlands/habitats/species/biodiversity)

**G) Protect State and Local Places**

(acquire/designate new local and state parks and open space, stop damaging development and loss of open space/farms and private ranch lands, protect local and state forests and wildlands from damaging uses)

**H) Build Vibrant, Healthy Communities**

(plan and zone for development that limits sprawl, secure access to open space and parks, provide safe walking, biking routes, increase public transportation option/reduce traffic emissions)

All of the above eight Conservation Approaches have many more possible actions. Those mentioned are just for clarification and to draw your interest. I do invite you to either call or email me to select your top three priorities, or join us at the July 15 picnic to cast your vote and help me be your representative at the Sierra Summit. Please call 478-0117 or <rivenes@infostations.com>.

“Eventually, the world will no longer be divided by the ideologies of ‘left’ and ‘right,’ but by those who accept ecological limits and those who don’t.”

— Wolfgang Sachs, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, and Energy

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**Clair Tapaan experience**

the environment, love of the outdoors and outdoor recreation. People who share the same values come from all over the country and meet and make new friends around the fireplace. Sierra clubbers built the lodge and help maintain it. It often is the first place where people are introduced to the Sierra Club. The cost is low enough so families can teach their children to love the outdoors. The lodge experience is part of our Sierra Club history and tradition.

The event-packed weekend begins Friday night with a moonlight hike (full moon) and movies.

On Saturday, after breakfast you will have a choice of several hikes of varying difficulty and emphasis including a Bird Watch Hike, a Local History Hike and a Geology Hike. There will be a wine and cheese reception Saturday afternoon with a short presentation on CTL and a question and answer period. The evening will feature a slide show on the history of CTL, live music and sharing of adventures around the campfire

Sunday morning there will be a choice of a bike ride or hikes and we will end this wonderful weekend with an early afternoon barbeque. We also will raffle interesting and beautiful gifts!

Cost for the entire weekend including food and lodging Friday and Saturday nights will be \$200 (\$60 for children 4-13.) If you choose to come only for the Saturday events the total cost is \$75 (children \$25.) And for only the Sunday events the total cost is \$50 (children \$15.)

The bulk of the above fees will go to the Save Clair Tappaan Fund. The larger part is a donation to the Save CTL Fund and a smaller part covers food and lodging and goes directly to CTL.

Please contact Peter Lemkuhl, CTL Manager, to make your reservation and choose the events you want to participate in (for head counts for the leaders.) Phone Peter at 530/426-3632 or 800/679-6775 or email <ctl@sierraclub.org>.

# Local field trips in July

*For all trips bring lunch, water, sun protection, bug repellent, and wear sturdy shoes for hiking. Optional items to bring: hand lens, plant identification book.*

## **SIERRA NEVADA DEEP ECOLOGY / SFAS JOINT FIELD TRIP**

### **Sunday, July 10 • Grouse Ridge Trek**

With Don Rivenes, Vlad Cardema, and Nina McNair. Meet at 7:30 am at the Rood Center for carpooling or at 8:30 am at the PG&E Discovery trail parking lot on Bowman road. We will bird-watch the trail, and then proceed to the Grouse Ridge overlook by 11 am. There we will enjoy music from Vlad and Nina followed by lunch. We will hike down to Sanford Lake for a swim and views of the proposed Grouse Lakes wilderness. Home by 4:30 pm. Suggested donation to SNDEI of \$10. If you don't want to bird-watch, meet at 9:30 am at the Rood Center for car-pooling.

## **REDBUD CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

*RSVP to Frances Jorgensen, 265-4838 or <fjorgen@nccn.net>.*

### **Thursday, July 7th • Loney Meadows**

Led by Karen Callahan, wildflower photographer, and naturalist Roger McGehee. Easy, mostly level trail around the edge of scenic Loney Meadow near Bowman Lake. Visit this high altitude ecosystem with a naturalist and wildflower photographer to learn how the natives here have adapted to this particular climate and soil. Meet at the Rood Center at 8:30 am to sign in and arrange carpools.

### **Saturday, July 9th • Pahatsi Road**

With Karen Callahan, wildflower photographer, and Suzie Urie, botanist for Tahoe National Forest, Truckee. Our destination is a section of Tahoe National Forest with a landscape formed by Miocene-era volcanic activity. The rocky environment, near Soda Springs at 6,700 feet, is quite level so the short walks will be easy. Meet at the Rood Center at 8:30 am to sign in and arrange carpools.

### **Saturday, July 16 • Ancient Forest Families: Giant Trees & Their Critters**

Led by Don Harkin, forest ecologist and Audubon member. Almost all Sierra mixed pine-fir-cedar-oak-madrone and shrub forests have been "harvested" and "improved" by herbicide spraying, thinning, tree planting, road building, shrub mowing, etc. But this extraordinary Ancient Forest, last partially logged before 1920, contains many trees more than 400 years old and six feet in diameter. We will walk about a mile through this flat terrain that demonstrates forest family dynamics and ecological succession. No dogs. For info: Don Harkin, forest ecologist, 530 265-4048. Meet at the Rood Center at 8:30 am to sign in and arrange carpools.

### **Thursday, July 28th • Burton Park**

With naturalist Roger McGehee. Join us for a stroll through the Burton Homestead. Mostly on well-developed trail, relatively steep in places, with a small section of primitive trail, forested property with wetlands and meadows. Enjoy the first public tour of this new addition to the Nevada County Land Trust and learn about forest ecology.

Directions: Meet at 9 am at the Burton Homestead at 16200 Lake Vera/Purdon Road. From Highway 49 take North Bloomfield Road. At the "T" turn left and immediately bear right onto Lake Vera/Purdon Road. After 1/2 mile you will pass a large blue barn, and a road sign for Astral Trail. Continue on Lake Vera/Purdon Road for another 1/4 mile. Turn left into the driveway at 16200. Look out for traffic! If you reach Excelsior Ditch Camp Road, turn around, as you have gone too far.

*Olivia Diaz*

# Backstage

Twenty-one volunteers pitched in enthusiastically for the five meetings held from January to May this year. With monthly meetings, setting up and taking down could be a big burden, but these folks stepped up, volunteering to set up and take down the tables and chairs, staff the reception desk, and set up the food and beverage service for the monthly meetings and potlucks. It is really wonderful to have people who are willing to give of their time and energy to keep our Club moving along.

You can thank Joan and Paul Armer, Jim Bair, Barb and Walt Carnahan, Charlie Chisholm, Bill Cortright, Karen Cox, Olivia Diaz, Sue and Peter Graf, Don Harkins, Karl and Rachel Hilleman, Kathleen Kershaw, Ernie Malamud, Lois Shelton, John White, Vivian Wood, and our newest volunteers, Maran Hall and Rhonda Lukas, for the behind-the-scenes work of our monthly meetings.

Thanks to Gregg Olson, the Sierra Nevada Group has become more ecological. He brings Melmac cups and plates to the meetings and takes them home and washes them. Gregg also stepped in to run the May meeting, providing a projector and screen as well. One month we panicked at the last minute and Peter Graf went home and brought his slide projector. Trudy Roegner, a new member of the Management Team, has been holding 50/50 raffles for SNG's "Save Clair Tappaan" fund.

If you'd like to join this volunteer corps for the September meeting, please call me at 530 470-8303, or email <odiaz@foothill.net>.

**Karen Cox**

## Conservation Report



### Cottonwood herbicide project

As expected the Forest Service rejected our appeal of the Cottonwood Record of Decision to spray 13,500 acres near Sierraville. The appeal was made by the Mother Lode chapter of the Sierra Club, and several other conservation groups including the Forest Issues Group. The coalition remains steadfast in its opinion that the herbicide spraying is unnecessary (the trees are growing) and is reviewing the decision in order to determine the appropriate response.

### Gold mine in Grass Valley

Emgold Mining Corp, the Canadian gold company that owns the Idaho-Maryland Mine in Grass Valley, has raised \$7 million of the \$300 million they need to open and operate the mine. The company estimates the mine may contain up to one million ounces of gold. The City of Grass Valley will be hiring a consultant to prepare an environmental impact report. This will undoubtedly be a controversial project.

### Yuba River cleanup

Save Saturday morning, September 17 for our annual participation in the Yuba River cleanup. Volunteers from the Sierra Nevada Group and Audubon take on the task of cleaning up Lang's Crossing. If you've never seen the Emerald Falls here is your opportunity to see the falls and help the environment at the same time.

### Ecosystems, dams, and salmon

You've heard of The Healthy Forest Act and the Clean Air Act which actually lessen our environmental protections. Now in Oregon our federal government is arguing that it is not responsible for salmon deaths caused by the dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers because the dams are part of the ecosystem and cannot be removed. A federal judge rejected the Bush administration's \$6 billion plan to improve the Columbia basin hydroelectric dam system, saying it violated the Endangered Species Act. The judge ruled in favor of a challenge by environmentalists, Indian tribes and fishermen to a plan for balancing dams against salmon. Judge Redden rejected the underlying principle of the administration's plan—that the dams are part of the ecosystem. Accepting that assumption would have made the government responsible only for the small percentage of mortality to salmon from changes in dam operations, not for the greater damages from the dams themselves.

### Yuba Highlands

Our Sierra Nevada Group joined in a coalition of other conservation

groups to file extensive comments on the proposed development near Spenceville. Although the deadline has passed, Beale Air Force Base was allowed to file comments after the date because the county must consider all comments of substance.

A letter from the Base states that Yuba Highlands "represents an unprecedented encroachment" on the base and its activities. Beale commented that the draft EIR's noise analysis was insufficient and that training exercises create a noticeable level of noise as well as military aircraft which fly as low as 1,000 feet above the ground on a daily basis. Their comments include a discussion of the PAVE PAWS radar system which was sited at Beale "to avoid environmental impact to the public". PAVE PAWS stands for Precision Acquisition of Vehicle Entry Phased Array Warning System and is designed to detect and track sea-launched and intercontinental ballistic missiles. For more information see <yubahighlands.org>. ■

## Fall meeting dates

We are lining up wonderful speakers, so mark your calendar and plan to attend. These meetings are an excellent way to introduce a friend to the Sierra Club.

Meetings are at Seaman's Lodge in Nevada City, Friday evenings: September 16, October 21, November 18. Details will be in the September/October issue of the UPLIFT and will be posted on our web page <<http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/SierraNevada>>.

# Sierra Uplift

THE SIERRA NEVADA GROUP  
of the SIERRA CLUB  
PO BOX 1042  
NEVADA CITY CA 95959

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NonProfit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 8  
Grass Valley, CA

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## General Meeting

- **July 15, 2005**  
**Annual SNG Picnic**  
Arrive 6 pm to mix, mingle,  
socialize, set priorities.  
Eat at about 7 pm  
  
Home of the Goars,  
14676 Highland Drive,  
Grass Valley  
(see page 1 for directions)

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## Reserve the Dates!

Friday evenings  
Membership meetings  
Seaman's Lodge, Nevada City

- **September 16**
- **October 21**
- **November 18**

For details see  
the September/October  
issue of the UPLIFT  
and our web page  
<<http://motherlode.sierraclub.org/SierraNevada>>.

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## Clair Tappaan Events

- **Friday, August 19**
- **Saturday, August 20**
- **Sunday, August 21**  
**Save the Clair**  
**Tappaan Experience**  
Three days of exciting events  
at Clair Tappaan Lodge,  
a fundraiser for the lodge.  
(See page 1)

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## Regular Committee Meetings

- **Conservation & Management Committee** Meets every fourth  
Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the SYRCL office, 216 Main St, Nevada City.

## Local Outings

- A group meets Wed and Sat mornings at 9:00 am on Sutton Way just up from the Coldwell Banker office. They decide that morning where they are going and their hikes are easy to moderate (5-7 miles). Contact Clarence Motter at 274-3697 or Helen Kelly at 273-7309 for more information.
- Another group whose hikes are longer and more strenuous (6 to 12 miles) meets on Tues and Fri at 8:45 am on Sutton Way just up from the Coldwell Banker office. They also decide that morning where they are going to hike, Contact Vicky Anthony at 274-3863.
- And there is also the **Nevada County Hiking Club**.  
See <[www.ncws.com/akh/hike/](http://www.ncws.com/akh/hike/)>

## July Field Trips (See page 4)

- **Thursday, July 7th • Loney Meadows**
- **Saturday, July 9th • Pahatsi Road**
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