



SIERRA
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Sierra Uplift

Newsletter of the Sierra Nevada Group of the Sierra Club
January - February 2004

Issue 8, Number 1

General Meeting

The Sierra Nevada Group of the Sierra Club

BOY, HAVE WE GOT SOME TREATS FOR YOU!

*We have two programs that are not to be missed.
They feature great speakers and world travelers.*

Friday evening, January 16, 2004

Papua New Guinea

Nick Jedenoff will tell tales, show slides and artifacts, and play music from Papua New Guinea. Slides include warriors in Easter(!!!) costumes, diving on coastal reefs, bush plane landings, sago palm harvesting, betel nut hallucinations, coastal native villages, and Gauguin-like images of full tropical moon over still evening bays. Accompaniment will include the sweet (recorded) sounds of children singing in pidgin. This exploratory sea kayaking tour can be repeated via Mountain Travel Sobek <www.mtsobek.com> (888) 687-6235. A larger selection of Papua New Guinea images collected by Nick and others can be viewed at: <http://home.infostations.net/ngeorge/papua_new_guinea>

Friday evening, February 20, 2004

Animals & People of Kenya

This slide show by Ted Beedy will illustrate the animals and people that a group of avid California birders saw and met during a 3-week birding tour of Kenya in late 2001. While birding was the main focus of this trip (our group found 633 species), Ted will also have slides of the vast herds of mammals and natural landscapes of Kenya. He will also talk about the need for conservation of the remaining rain forests, savannas, and wildlife of Kenya and the important grass-roots efforts of local Kenyans to preserve these essential resources.

Please join us for our usual yummy potlucks. Just bring your own utensils and a dish to share. Potlucks begin at 6:30 p.m. with the presentation at 7:15 p.m.

Location: Seaman Hall at the west end of Pioneer Park, Nevada City

We need your help with the set-up and take-down at our potluck and program events. It involves arriving a little early and staying a little later. Potlucks are great fun, but it does require more effort than a regular meeting set-up. So please volunteer to help us continue these pleasant evenings.

Call Barbara at 478-0117 or sign up at the next meeting.

Chair Chatter

by Carolyn Hinshaw

Wow, It's 2004 already - and the Sierra Nevada Group has some big changes looming.

In the Newsletter department: Our newsletter editor is moving and we are actively searching for his replacement. I am convinced that there is someone in our 1200 member organization that has the computer skills to take this on. And maybe they are thinking that the newsletter could use some updating. We are open to suggestions for change and are willing to give the new editor a lot of creative leeway if he/she wants to revamp our publication. The newsletter is published bi-monthly; it is compiled from articles submitted by various members and sent to the printer electronically. Essentially the editor compiles and formats the newsletter and asks the contributors to edit it before he/she sends it on.

In the Newsletter Circulation department: The same group has been folding and labeling our newsletter for many years and we are looking for ways to give some help to these wonderful members who have shouldered the responsibility for so long. There are now businesses who do mailings and we will look into the cost of getting the newsletter done commercially. If anyone knows of such a business, or of another arrangement we might investigate (do you belong to other organizations that publish a newsletter? How do they get it published?), please let us know.

In the Volunteer Outreach department: We have come to the conclusion that the Management Committee is falling down in the area of recruiting member volunteers for the various activities we undertake. We are planning to search for someone with the skills to do Volunteer Outreach.

This person doesn't need to be an environmental policy guru but rather a people person who can recruit and encourage new volunteers and figure out ways that we can engage new volunteers in activities that will help them feel a part of our organization.

If anyone out there would like to volunteer - or has ideas on how we can fill some of the above positions, give me a call at 477-1320.

Conservation Committee Report

by Karen Cox



Framework. There must be a lot of action going on behind the scenes judging by what I see in the newspapers.

In case you have forgotten the story, after years of study and many workshops, meetings and comments the Forest Service adopted the Framework. After Bush took over, the administration started reviewing the Framework, saying the regulations were too restrictive. In June a draft was released which proposed more aggressive logging and the elimination of some grazing restrictions. Now the Los Angeles Times has a long article titled "Criticism delays U.S. adoption of Sierra Forest Protection Plan". The paper reports that the Forest Service has delayed adoption of the changes to the Framework until January. Scientists and others have faulted the proposed changes, saying that the agency has failed to provide a sound scientific justification to weaken the protections. Detailed comments (many submitted by Craig Thomas and friends from the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign) warn that stepped-up logging could harm declining wildlife species, possibly pushing them on the endangered species list. A week after the LA Times article, Rep. John Doolittle, Rep. Wally Herger and others sent a letter to the Forest Service saying that the Sierra Nevada is dangerously overgrown and urged "common sense" revisions to the Framework. I worry when I see "common sense" used about wildlife and the forest. Often it seems to indicate an interest in the economic and business aspect of the situation rather than what is best for the environment.

Endangered Species. President Bush recently signed legislation aimed at speeding fire-prevention efforts by expediting timber-thinning projects. The expedition includes removing a safe-guard for endangered species. The new policy, which does not require congressional approval will allow biologists for the Forest Service to determine whether or not the project will impact listed species. Prior to this the Forest Service had to obtain approval from the Fish and Wildlife Service before taking any action that would adversely affect an endangered plant or animal.

Continued on Page 5

***** VOLUNTEERS NEEDED *****

Would you be willing to give just a few hours of your time every other month to help prepare this newsletter for mailing? It's a great way to meet other nature lovers and help out our Sierra Nevada Group at the same time. Mailing parties are usually held Saturday mornings at the end of the month. Please join our group today by calling Rachel @ 274-9477.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

News Letter Editor: The Sierra Nevada Group's newsletter, the Uplift, is published 6 times a year. The editor is responsible for reminding the Group of the bimonthly deadline, assembling the various articles into newsletter form, and sending it in electronic form to the printer. Our circulation person, Rachel Hilleman, and her steadfast crew takes it from there and gets it folded and mailed.

Our Newsletter Editor, Ed Lynch, is moving to Southern California but will provide the information that the replacement will need to take over the job.

Please call Carolyn at 477-1320 if you can help us keep our members informed .

Attention Blood Donors

Did you know that the Sierra Nevada Group has a Donor Club number on file at the Bloodsource Center on Sutton Way? When one of our members donates blood they can ask that Bloodsource add their donation to the Club's total.

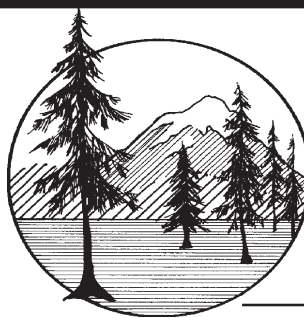
The next blood drive will be held on March 18, 2004 at the United Methodist Church of Grass Valley.

For more information contact Jerry Foote at 272-5878

Opportunity to demonstrate your Trivia skills!

SYRCL's Quiz Night will be held again on February 21, 2004. This fun and exuberant event benefits the Laura Wilcox Scholarship Fund. Many local organizations get together a team of 8 for the competition.

The SNG geezers who participated last year have lost a few more brain cells and are looking for some younger replacements. If any of you would like get together a team of 8 and represent the Group give Barbara Rivenes a call at 478-0117 more information.

**SNG
Outings****Sunday, January 4, 2004
Cross Country Ski**

If we get enough snow and enough people (4 minimum) we will do a moderate cross country ski outing wherever the snow is good. Meet at Rood Center at 9 a.m., return around 4 p.m. Bring water, lunch and ski gear. Call Jean (477-7902) before 1/1 to sign up.

**Sunday, January 18, 2004
Snowshoe Hike**

We will likely go to the Castle Pass area for a moderate snowshoe hike. Meet at Rood Center at 9AM and return around 4PM. Call Jean before 1/14 to sign up and for more details (477-7902). Must have at least 4 signups to go. Severe weather cancels.

"All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you chose to participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version."

A backpack and camping swap and sale is being scheduled for April 2004. Additional details next issue, or contact G B Tucker at 265-2432

**GOT IDEAS ?
... FOR A GREAT OUTING ????**

Any special place you'd like to go? Anything special you'd like to learn about our wonderful natural resources?

Call Jean (477-7902) or Carolyn (477-1320) and share your thoughts.

12th Annual Run Thru The Colors "warm, dry and successful"

Carolyn Hinshaw, SNG Chairperson

The Sierra Nevada Group's major fundraiser held every October since 1992 saw a record 420 participants this year - about a third ran the 10K, a third the 5K and a third were walkers. The day after the race a resident of Nevada City called me and asked me for a Sierra Club membership application. She said that a large group of people came by her house the previous morning and they looked like they were having so much fun that she wanted to find out more about our organization.



I would like to acknowledge all the volunteers and local merchants that helped make the RTTC possible this year.

Our biggest thanks go to the couple who gave birth to and nurtured this undertaking all these years :

Richard and Theresa Thomas

And our Publicity Chairperson this year:

Sharon Bailey-Bok

Then there are the members who helped at the registration tables, at the Start and Finish lines, and as Timers, etc:
Bob and Joyce Coar, GB Tucker, Barbara and Don Rivenes, Barbara Tanner, Allan Eberhart, Butch and Virginia Thresh, Curtis Bok, Kent and Mollie Gallagher, Nancy Lowinger, Charlotte Bolinger, Gary Johnson, Howie and Lydia Elder, Celia Thomas, Jessica Randoh, Bryon Arendale, Susan Stradinger, Ian Woods, Dave Moyer, Ralph Hitchcock, Charlie Aron and Al Aron, Phil and Linda Horning, Julie Carville, Karl and Rachel Hilleman, Charlie Chisholm, Ernie Malamud, Olivia Diaz

The Volunteers who feed the runners after the race, who have risked frostbite some years (but thankfully not this year)

Wendy Thibeault, Lorry Fukill, Marilyn Nelson, Linda Austin, Carole Miller, Nancy Minett, Vicki Anthony, Bob Pittenger, Carolyn Hinshaw and Edith Lufkin

The Course Monitors who kept the runners from straying:

Carol Wright, Karen Cox and Kathleen Kershaw, Cynthia Pierce, Rebecca McCoy, Steve Nicola, Tom Tomisser, Sue and Peter Graf, Jerry Delty, Jim Hurley, Annie Ewing, Jerry and Donna Foote, June Urgehauer, Bo Littig and Jeanne Duerst, Nancy Diette, Linda Post and Larry Shumaker, Sharon Ross, Will Stockwin, Joan and Carle Bumpass, Dean Nelson, Wendy Thompson, Carol Nimick, Paul Sokoloff, and Theresa Tucker

All the local merchants who supported the RTTC this year:

Daleys, Albertsons, SPD, Briar Patch, Bubba's Bagels, Flour Garden, Grocery Outlet, NID, and Big 5 Sporting Goods

And our faithful Sierra Club Calendar purveyor:
Phyllis Porteous

Thanks to all from the Sierra Nevada Group - we couldn't have done it without you! And If I have inadvertently omitted someone, my sincere apologies.



Conservation Report, Continued from Page 2

Some see this as a conflict of interest in that the agency whose job is to do the logging will also make the decision about protection for rare animals and plants.

Wilderness. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal by the Bush administration which argues that it is not required to follow the law and protect wilderness. The original suit was filed by conservation groups in 1999 after the BLM refused to protect Utah's redrock canyon country from off-road vehicle (ORV) damage, in violation of federal law. In 2002 the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals held in favor of the conservation groups that the Department of the Interior could be held accountable for its failure to follow the law and its own rules to protect Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) from ORV damage. A ruling by the Supreme Court in favor of the Bush administration would impact WSAs all over the west. The Supreme Court will decide whether the administration can continue to ignore the law and allow ORV damage to continue.

Good Article. Rep. Tom Udall, New Mexico, writes that President Bush has been carrying out an assault on our national forests through arcane rules, stealth riders and misnamed legislation. Read his short, well-written article, "Our publicly owned forests are being subverted" at the High Country News' web site, ww.hcn.org.



Volunteers are everywhere...

We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop. **Mother Theresa**

I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again. - **Mahatma Gandhi**

Better one friend with a dish of food than a hundred with a sigh. - **Yiddish proverb**

First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do - **Epictetus**

Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity - **Horace Mann**

The mode in which the inevitable comes to pass is through effort - **Oliver Wendell Holmes**

He who does nothing for others does nothing for himself—**Goethe**

"A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit." **Greek Proverb**

"The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." **Ghandi**

Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do. **Goethe**

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know. The only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." **Albert Schweitzer**

From the editor:

If you don't take action to support what's important to you, who will?...

If not now, when?...

If not here, where?...

Sierra Nevada Group Needs YOU!

NOW!

Sierra Uplift

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of the Sierra Club
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NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
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Grass Valley, CA

Monthly Meetings

Conservation and Management Committee

Meets every 4th Monday at 6:30 p.m.
at the SYRCL office at 216 Main St.,
Nevada City.

Address Changes

Send old and new addresses to
Sierra Club Member Services
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80328-2968

Web Connections

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

<http://www.sierraclub.org> and
<http://www.motherlode.sierraclub.org/sierranevada>

Sierra Uplift

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