

May / June 2005



Friday May 20 • General Meeting • Seaman's Lodge, Pioneer Park, Nevada City

Nevada Wilderness Project Slideshow

The Nevada Wilderness Project is a non-profit organization based in Reno committed to saving spectacular, rugged-and imperiled-public lands in Nevada as permanent wilderness, which is the strongest protection possible.

The group works to promote a personal understanding of wilderness through citizen-led inventories of public lands deserving wilderness designation. It also creates a growing and enduring grassroots commitment to wilderness values by helping to bond people who care about wilderness with the places that deserve protection.

Since the Project's inception in 1999, there has been tremendous success working with Coalition partners to protect nearly two million acres of Nevada's Wilderness, even though Nevada's wild areas may be the least known in the country.

Come to a slide presentation by Erika Pollard, National Outreach Director for the Nevada Wilderness Project. Erika will take you on a tour of many of Nevada's wild places from the Mojave Desert of Southern Nevada to the vast Basin and Range country of Eastern, Central and Northern Nevada. While sharing some of the varied and extraordinary treasures of these little-known Nevada wildlands, Erika will also explain the unique political opportunity in Nevada to continue protecting more of Nevada's wild places over the next few years.

Please join us on Friday, May 20 at Seaman's Lodge in Pioneer Park, Nevada City. Dinner potluck begins at 6:30 pm; program starts at 7:30.



Photo: The Nevada Wilderness Project

Barbara Rivenes: Chair Chat

Goar and Tucker to be honored

I hope that a large number of you out there will come to the Mother Lode Chapter's Annual Awards Party at Clair Tappaan Lodge. The date is Saturday, May 14 with the festivities starting around 5 p.m. Earlier in the day a hike is offered by HikingTony@earthlink.net. The plan is to hike to the top of Donner Peak, though I wonder whether snowshoes or crampons may be needed. Check with Tony at 916-448-3230.

—continued on page 2

Sierra Uplift

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

SNG Team

Chair

Barbara Rivenes 478-0117

Vice-Chair

Gregg Olson gregg@olsonmft.com

Treasurer

Charlie Chisholm 272-1168

Secretary

Edith Lufkin 265-5065

Outings

GB Tucker 265-2432

Membership

Donna Foote 272-5878

Circulation

Rachel Hillemann 274-9477

Political Chair

Jim Hurley 265-9334

Conservation Chair

Karen Cox 265-3265

Forest Practices Chair

Peter Elias 477-7795

Program Chair

Ernie Malamud 470-8303

Management Team

Trudy Roegner
. trudy.roegner@co.nevada.ca.us

Media & Publicity

Edith Lufkin 265-5065

Volunteer Coordinator

Olivia Diaz 470-8303

Ex-Com Delegate

Barbara Rivenes 478-0117

Website Administrator

Ernie Malamud 470-8303

Sierra Uplift Editor

C McKinney chetani@sbcglobal.net

SNG Information 265-2033

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:

<www.sierraclub.org>

<www.sierraclub.org/ca>

<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>



Clair Tappaan Lodge is in need of our support and is one of the reasons the Chapter decided to have its Annual Party there. For those of you who haven't been to the Lodge, it's a chance to spend time in a rustic, cozy lodge with atmosphere — the kind you pay high prices for in today's world — in a splendid setting. Lots of good food, drink and like-minded people, some of whom will be getting well-deserved awards.

The cost is \$12 for dinner and if you want to stay overnight, the charge is \$47 for members. Please call Linnea Fronce at 916-441-6205 for reservations.

Several of those well-deserved awards are going to two of our own Sierra Nevada Group members — G.B. Tucker and Bob Goar.

G.B. Tucker is a former 5th District Nevada County Supervisor and keeper of the environmental flame during his four tough years as the lone vote on issues we hold dear. His service to the Sierra Nevada Group began just as our Group was getting organized in the early 1980s and has really never wavered. Always a valued member of the Management Team, he most recently is serving as Outings Chair, planning excellent backpacking experiences and winter sports activities. For years he also represented the Group at monthly Chapter meetings in Sacramento — an important part of keeping our far-flung members informed. I don't how many former Marines are Sierra Club members, but if they are anything like G.B., then the Club is well served.

Bob Goar is another member whose dedication is awesome. A thirty-one year member who met his wife, Joyce, on a Sierra Club hike, Bob always has fresh ideas and energy for our Group. Because he knew so many members liked to grow and eat fresh food, he created the successful Garden Party several years ago — perhaps to be repeated in the near future. He and Joyce have hosted countless fundraising dinner parties and the Group's annual July picnic. Bob has served as Treasurer, Membership Chair and construction guru for any shelter and booths needed for fairs and Run Through The Colors. We are fortunate to have Robert Goar in our corner — someone who can't keep his hand down when volunteers are needed.

Join us
on May 14
at Clair Tappaan
Lodge, a splendid
setting for some
well-deserved
awards

So all the more reason to join us at Clair Tappaan Lodge on May 14 and honor two fine men, G.B. Tucker and Bob Goar! ■

Management Team News

The Bicycle Recycle Project

The Seven Hills Middle School Bicycle Recycle Project was once again awarded a grant from our Management Team. We feel that this worthy project, while not strictly an environmental endeavor, promotes a sense of responsibility and community that our future citizens will need. The whole project was described at length in the May/June 2004 Uplift. Citizens understanding bicycle mechanics may become an even more necessary resource in a future with less oil. For more information on the Project, please contact <randtthomas@sbcglobal.net>.

Fundraising

Fundraising has been a *big* topic for the Team of late. An outstanding example of *sprawl* and classic leapfrog development has captured our attention in Yuba County. Yuba Highlands is slated to be a new town of 5100 homes in an area about 20 miles distant from Marysville and Grass Valley *and* smack dab next to Spenceville Wildlife and Recreation Area. It is also adjacent to Beale Air Force Base, bringing forth the issue of encroachment — not a positive development for those folks whose economic prospects depend on the Base.

The last Uplift described in detail our concerns and how to get involved. In addition, a wealth of links to relevant documents and press coverage can be found at <yubahighlands.org>.

The Management Team itself has gotten involved in a big way. We have joined with Friends of Spenceville and Sierra Foothills Audubon Society to hire a planner to wade through the more than 600 page draft EIR and produce brilliant comments to persuade the developers and decision-makers that the project as conceived has so many flaws and taxpayer costs that it is unfeasible. Failing that, we have a lawyer in the wings for any next steps. Obviously, this all costs money! We would like to urge you to consider donating to these efforts. If you do the math, 1300 members times \$25 is \$32,500, moving us toward a goal that can really be powerful. Checks can be sent to Friends of Spenceville, our fiscal agent, at 10066 Robinson King Road, Nevada City, 95959. ■



Five hikers stop to admire cloud patterns across Nevada wildlands. Photo courtesy of The Nevada Wilderness Project.

Karen Cox

Conservation Report



Because I have been away for a month (birding along the Texas Gulf coast) I don't feel current on

the latest breaking environmental issues. As an alternative I decided to revisit and update some of the issues presented at our past Sierra Club meetings.

Martis Valley

At our September meeting we heard from Tom Mooers of Sierra Watch about the planned development for Martis Valley and the ongoing effort to challenge and improve the proposed development. In February, the Placer County Superior Court offered a tentative decision that directed Placer County to set aside its development approvals and suspend development because their Martis Valley Plan is flawed. The county had failed to evaluate the potential impacts of its development plans. The judge will issue his final ruling soon and Sierra Watch expects that Placer County and the developers will appeal the victory. Sierra Watch is prepared to defend against the appeal.

On another front, Sierra Watch and its partners have come to an agreement with Northstar developers that will provide funding (probably more than \$30 million over 25 years) for regional conservation purchases. In addition the agreement includes a cap on future development at Northstar, limiting development to less than 800 acres and permanently protecting 4,900 acres of Martis Valley land.

Hetch Hetchy

At our October meeting we heard about efforts to restore the Hetch Hetchy valley to its original pre-dam condition. Recently, Sacramento Bee associate editor, Tom Philp, won the Pulitzer Prize for editorial writing. His series of articles and editorials argued for the restoration of Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley.

Clair Tappaan Lodge

At our February meeting, Peter Lehmkuhl, lodge manager, talked about the current threat to the Lodge because of budgetary problems, and the effort underway to "save" Clair Tappaan. One avenue being pursued is to increase the use of the Lodge. If you would like to be part of this effort reserve a spot at the Lodge for the night of May 14 and attend the Mother Lode chapter banquet as an added bonus. Phone 800-679-6775 or e-mail <ctl@sierraclub.org>. Only \$47 for Sierra Club members. ■

Olivia Diaz

A few good volunteers

I am looking for volunteers to fill a few posts:

- Political Action
- Telephone Tree callers
- Monthly meetings
- Reception
- Food table
- Coffee/Tea
- Set up and take down tables and chairs

My goal is to have a large crew of volunteers so that no one gets stuck every month.

How about giving half an hour of your time to help your local Sierra Club run smoothly and be able to respond to calls to action? You don't have to wait for me to call you. Why don't you give me a call and tell me what you'd like to do to help out the Club?

Contact Olivia Diaz, (530) 470-8303, <odiaz@foothill.net>.

Fundraising for Clair Tappaan

The Sierra Nevada Group and the Lake Tahoe Group are planning a joint fund raising event for the "Save Clair Tappaan" campaign. It will take place at the Lodge sometime in late summer. Keep tuned for a time, place and details.

For updates contact Ernie Malamud, (530) 470-8303, <malamud@foothill.net>.



Petroglyphs in the Mt. Irish vicinity, Nevada. Photo courtesy of The Nevada Wilderness Project.

Peak oil theory

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia <en.wikipedia.org>

The Hubbert peak theory, also known as peak oil, is an influential theory concerning the long-term rate of conventional oil and other fossil fuels production and depletion. It predicts that future world oil production will soon reach a peak and then rapidly decline. The actual peak year will only be known after it has passed. Based on available production data, proponents have predicted the peak years to be 1989, 1995, 1995-2000, or, according to one influential group, 2007 for oil and somewhat later for natural gas. This may lead to major catastrophic consequences for the world since modern civilization is dependent on cheap and abundant fossil fuels, especially for transportation. The Hubbert peak theory, while controversial, is increasingly influencing policy makers both within the oil industry and government.

The implications of a world peak, or lack thereof, are large. Economic growth and prosperity since the industrial revolution have, in large part, been due to the use of oil and other fossil fuels. Almost all agree that fossil fuels are finite and must be replaced with alternative energy sources in the future. Opinions differ on when this will happen, how to replace the fossil fuels, and how difficult this will be.

A short Peak Oil reading list

Overshoot: The Ecological Basis of Revolutionary Change by William R. Catton Jr., University of Illinois Press, 1980. Although in print for 25 years, the concepts are as critical as ever. Gives the central ecological understanding: the circumstance that the Age of Exuberance is over, population has already overshoot carrying capacity, and prodigal Homo sapiens has drawn down the world's savings deposits; and its consequence, that all forms of human organization and behavior that are based on the assumption of limitlessness must change to forms that accord with finite limits.

The Party's Over: Oil, War, and the Fate of Industrial Societies by Richard Heinberg, New Society Publishers, 2003. After oil production peaks, there will be less net energy each year to do all the work essential to the survival of complex societies. Documents our entrance into a new era, as different from the industrial era as the latter was from medieval times.

Powerdown: Options and Actions for a Post-Carbon World by Richard Heinberg, New Society Publishers, 2004. Overview of the likely impacts of oil and natural gas depletion; options for industrial societies during the next decades, including "Last One Standing," the path of competition for remaining resources, and "Powerdown," the path of cooperation, conservation, and sharing.

Opportunity for Dialogue

Town Hall Conference

We were recently introduced to a new institute in Nevada County: the Town Institute. Its mission is to support an ongoing forum for dialogue, idea exchange, communication, and action for the residents of Nevada County to discuss the effects world policies, environment, and energy instability will have on our community.

Town Institute organizers have planned a conference on Saturday, May 21 in Grass Valley at the Veteran's Hall beginning at 9 a.m.

The subject to be discussed at this conference is petroleum, the peak oil phenomenon, and the effects it will have locally.

Both Utah Phillips and 1st District Supervisor Nate Beason are scheduled to make remarks, plus a documentary film entitled *The End of Suburbia* will be shown to introduce the subject and stimulate dialogue.

Organizers are hopeful that the conference will educate the community on the effects of peak oil and open discussion on possible strategies to manage these effects. They aim to provide a beginning for action planning so that we may meet the coming situation together as a community.

To attend the Town Hall Conference day there is a recommended donation. Food for lunch will be available.

For more information, or to read and post comments, please log onto the blogsite <townhallinstitute.org>. People may also phone 470-8381. ■



Sierra Uplift

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

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

General Meetings

Friday evenings

May 20, 2005

Seaman's Lodge, Nevada City
6:30 Potluck
7:30 Program

Erika Pollard:
**The Nevada Wilderness
Project**

July 15, 2005

Annual SNG Picnic

T-shirts from past Run Through the Colors

Low, low price of \$5 each.

- ◆ 2001 (white with lamppost and maple leaf, X-large only)
 - ◆ 2002 (ash with race logo, large and X-large),
 - ◆ 2003 (black with *Run Through the Colors*, medium and X-large).
- Contact the Thomas family at 265-2666.

Regular Committee Meetings

- **Conservation & Management Committee** Meets every fourth Monday, 6:30 p.m. at the SYRCL office, 216 Main St, Nevada City.
- **Newsletter Mailing Party** Join like-minded Sierra Clubbers to get out the mailing of *Sierra Uplift*. Celebration occurs on the last Saturday of even-numbered months. Contact Rachel Hillemann at 274-9477.

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 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/>