



SIERRA
CLUB

Nov./Dec 2005
Volume 42, No. 10

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GENERAL MEETING

Global Environmental Options 101: What We All Need To Know!

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Meet Your New Executive Committee - an open house for chapter members:
Dec. 16, 6:30-8 p.m., ECOSLO/Sierra Club 1204 Nipomo Street, SLO.

No General meeting in December. Happy Holidays!



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SANTA LUCIAN



Protecting and Preserving the Central Coast

The official newsletter of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club • San Luis Obispo County, California

Can This County be Saved?

Hour of decision nears for two disastrous land use plans

RPD: 11/3

The RPD Ordinance
Thursday, November 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in the SLO City/County Library

The proposed Rural Planned Development ordinance was crafted in back rooms with no public input and beneath the heavy hand of development interests.

Creston Citizens for Ag Land Preservation (CCALP) has neatly summed up the results. The language of the ordinance, they write, is "smoke and mirrors to hide the inconsistency with established policy and State Law; to hide the end run around the Williamson Act; to hide the end run around the lot line law; and to hide the significant and irreversible harm this thing will do to the county.

"The proposed ordinance is inconsistent with all current rural development policies established by the County, and has not been considered or planned for in the County General Plan, Framework for Inland Planning or Resource Management System.

"In addition the proposed ordinance would significantly conflict with the goals and policies stated in the Clean Air Plan. The Ag Commis-

sioner has pointed out conflict and inconsistencies with the Ag and Open Space Element. The Resource Protection Division of the State Department of Conservation has pointed out violation of the intent of the Williamson Act.

"How can it be sensible to spend

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VOTE for Your 2006 Executive Committee

Ballot Inside

Your ballot for our Chapter's election for the Executive Committee is on the fourth page of this newsletter. Express yourself; vote for the candidates whom you think are most capable of governing the Santa Lucia Chapter. They are willing to take on this commitment. You, as chapter members, need to show your support and vote. Cut out your ballot, vote, and send it in to

continued on page 4

TDC: 11/22

The TDC Program
Tuesday, November 22 at 9 a.m. in the SLO County Government Center



For nine years, the County's transfer of Development Credits program has been supposed to direct development away from rural and agricultural lands and toward areas with existing development: A policy of putting development density where density already exists.

Not only has it failed to do this, it has done the opposite. Neighborhoods and the neighbors of landowners are notoriously unwilling to accept additional density as "receiver sites." The Bonnheim Ranch, the single largest "sending site" and seller of TDCs, has in return received a conservation easement that is fraught with controversy. To date, not one lot in a single antiquated subdivision has been retired by the program, one of its primary

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Vote NO on Props 73, 75 & 76

The Sierra Club opposes Propositions 73, 75 & 76 on November's special election ballot, and urges all Californians to vote No on these initiatives.

Regarding Prop 73, Sierra Club supports a woman's right to choose and to have unfettered access to family planning services. The Sierra Club supports voluntary family planning as an important part of our work to protect public health, promote healthy communities and defend the earth's wild places. Proponents of Proposition 73 view this as an opportunity to advance their larger agenda to systematically tear down the principles established in Roe v. Wade.

"Prop 73 is a blow to women's reproductive freedom, and would be an unreasonable burden on young women from abusive homes, as well as victims of incest," commented Paul Mason, a representative of Sierra Club California. Sierra Club joins the California Medical Associa-

tion, California Nurses Association and Planned Parenthood in opposing this initiative.

The Sierra Club also opposes Prop 75, the effort to limit the political activities of labor unions. "As a grassroots volunteer-driven group, Sierra Club supports the right of membership organizations to engage in political activities, and we oppose Prop 75's biased attempt to shift power toward big corporations," explained Bill Magavern, Senior Representative for Sierra Club California.

Proposition 76, the Governor's proposal to change California's budget process, is strongly opposed by the Sierra Club. "Prop 76 would allow the Governor to slash budgets for environmental protection under a variety of fairly common circumstances, without any oversight or involvement by the Legislature," said Mason. "This new authority could be devastating in the hands of an anti-environmental Governor."

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"Every good thing,
great and small,
needs defense."

— John Muir



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INTRODUCTORY \$25

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



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85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105-3441
or e-mail:
address.changes@sierraclub.org

Visit us on the Web!

[www.santalucia.
sierraclub.org](http://www.santalucia.sierraclub.org)

Outings, events, and
more!

Santa Lucia Chapter General Meeting

Global Environmental Options 101:

What We All Need to Know!

November 15, 7-9 p.m.

Paso Robles High School earth science and biology teacher Mark DiMaggio is an expert at inspiring students in how to reduce their biological footprint, survive in the wilderness, and to integrate the principles of environmentalism in their daily lives through his GEO environmental education program. Now it's your turn to get inspired!

"Today, GEO stands as one of the startlingly few classes that offer any sort of environmental studies, even a simple ecology course, in county high schools. With an emphasis on understanding issues holistically, empowering students through real-world projects, and discovering the wonders of nature, DiMaggio...is creating an ecoliterate student body."

-- Katie Renz, *HopeDance*, March-April 2003

Tuesday, November 15

7 - 9 p.m.

Ludwick Center

864 Santa Rosa Street (corner of Mill)

San Luis Obispo

Why do We Keep Having This Problem?

Wanted at the Board of Supervisors: Leadership

As we try to make clear on our front page — and shouldn't have to for anyone who has lived here for a while — San Luis Obispo has a problem, and it's not getting better.

Idle rumor has it that there may actually be a rubber stamp that passes back and forth between the Supervisors and the Planning Department, one that says: "OK - MND," meaning "approve this proposed development with a Mitigated Negative Declaration — no significant environmental impacts."

If true, it would explain a lot: The chipping away of our agricultural and rural lands, felled oaks, shrinking habitat and vanishing wildlife; the specter of monster malls in rural neighborhoods (good morning, Templeton!), the giant sucking sound of vanishing water (hello, Nipomo!), the non-commitment to affordable housing except for the continued mouthing of the words (welcome to Cypress Ridge!), and the death of a thousand cuts faced by urban fringe neighborhoods at the hands of developers with a free pass from having to consider the cumulative impacts of their developments (alas, Arroyo Grande!).

In June, the Board had before it the Rural Planned Development ordinance — a developer's dream that would allow subdivision of a 20-acre lot down to 1-acre parcels in ag and rural areas — and chose to keep it alive and circulating among advisory councils rather than accede to overwhelming demand by the public and the County Ag Commissioner to kill it.

And then there's the TDC program. On October 4, after a year of punting, the Supervisors ignored the overwhelming majority of those who spoke at the Board meeting, their own advisory councils, and their Planning Commission, all of whom were telling them to shut down the TDC program and pass an urgency ordinance to do so. They punted again and delayed a decision until November 22.

No Supervisor made a motion for a moratorium on the program, or for an interim moratorium while the Supervisors deliberated. The idea of an urgency ordinance to suspend TDC permit applications until the Board had decided on a course of action was waved away without discussion, virtually guaranteeing a land rush for TDC permits in the month and a half until the Board's November 22 meeting — a last-chance fire sale to fully exploit the loopholes in the severely flawed program, get applications into the pipeline and lock in development of substandard lots before the program can be shut down or reformed. The Board succeeded in making a serious problem worse.

This Board will continue to thwart the will of citizens and the advisory councils by the expedient of "continuing" agenda items that threaten the will of the pro-development Board majority — and then continuing them again, until enough members of the public drop off, can't take yet another day off work, can't continue coming back to another Board meeting on the same issue...and then the Board can return to its preferred natural habitat: A nearly empty hearing chamber, where votes can be taken in comfort, with the least number of eyes upon them.

The standards set in carefully crafted Area Plans, based on community needs and concerns, are routinely being discarded, one development at a time, raising the question of why the County has a General Plan at all.

This is happening for one reason: The Board of Supervisors lacks leadership. Next year, the 2nd and 3rd district seats are up for grabs. This is an opportunity create a Board majority that will actually listen to the community instead of reflexively bending the knee to development interests, who have a clear vision of what they do and do not want life in San Luis Obispo to become, and have the will to implement that vision.

Let's take that opportunity.

SANTA LUCIAN

Andrew Christie
EDITOR/LAYOUT sierra8@charter.net

Karen Merriam
Jack McCurdy
Tarren Collins
EDITORIAL BOARD

Mariko Fujinaka
GRAPHIC CONSULTANT

The Santa Lucia is published 10 times a year. Articles, environmental information and letters to the editor are welcome. The dead-line for each issue is the 1st of the prior month.

send to:

Editor, Santa Lucia
c/o Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.
santalucian@sierraclub.org

Santa Lucia Chapter

2005 Executive Committee

Karen Merriam
CHAIR kmerriam@digitalputty.com

Steven Marx
TREASURER

Eliane Guillot gelgu2003@yahoo.com
MEMBER

Jack Morrow jlmorrow@earthlink.net
VICE CHAIR

Cal French ccfrench@tcsn.net
MEMBER

John Ashbaugh
MEMBER

Cal French
COUNCIL OF CLUB LEADERS

The Executive Committee meets the fourth Friday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at the chapter office, located at 1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo. All members are welcome to attend.

Standing Committees

Political
Sarah Christie

Conservation pam@ecoslo.org
Pam Heatherington

Membership
ccfrench@tcsn.net
Cal French

Acting Program Chair
Letty French lmfrench@tcsn.net

Litigation
Jan Marx janmarx@fix.net

Diablo Canyon Task Force
Rochelle Becker
beckers@thegrid.net

Desal Task Force
Jack & Bea Morrow
jlmorrow@earthlink.net

Other Leaders
Speakers Bureau
Ira Winn 805-781-9466

Open Space
Gary Felsman 805-473-3694

Calendar Sales
Bonnie Walters 805-543-7051

Chapter History
John Ashbaugh 805-541-6430

Publicity
Margaret Hennesey 805-481-2240

Activities

Outings
Eliane Guillot gelgu2003@yahoo.com
Gary Felsman 805-473-3694

Canoe/Kayak jbeigle@charter.net
Jack Beigle 805-773-2147

Equestrian bdenneen@slonet.org
Bill Denneen 805-929-3647

General Information

Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

Chapter Coordinator
santa.lucia.chapter@sierraclub.org
Andrew Christie 805-543-8717

Chapter office hours are Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

1204 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo

www.santalucia.sierraclub.org

SLO is AWOL on Climate Protection

184 mayors sign on...but not yours

No longer waiting for the federal government to act on the urgent threat posed by climate disruption to the environmental and economic health of our communities, mayors and other local leaders are putting into place winning energy solutions right now. By using the innovative technologies of cleaner cars, energy efficiency and renewable energy, cities across America are protecting our health and environment, while saving taxpayer dollars.

On February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol, the international agreement to address climate disruption, became law for the 141 countries that have ratified it. On that day, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels launched an initiative to advance the goals of the Kyoto Protocol through leadership and action by American cities. Mayor Nickels, along with a growing number of other U.S. mayors, is leading the way via the creation of the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

By the time of the U.S. Conference of Mayors met in Chicago last June, 182 cities in 38 states had signed on. The Conference likewise endorsed the agreement.

Under the Agreement, participating cities commit to take following actions:

Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions ranging from anti-sprawl land-use policies to urban forest restoration projects to public information campaigns;

Urge their state governments and the federal government to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto Protocol — 7% reduction

TDC

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goals.

Last May, the County Planning Commission urged the Board of Supervisors to pass an urgency moratorium to halt all new TDC applications. The Board's advisory committees have urged termination of the program. The Board failed to take this advice.

"Our Community has worked very hard to attempt to figure out how to make a TDC program function as it was intended," says Susie Hermreck, Chair of the Nipomo Community Advisory Group. "We have tried to structure the ordinance within the concept of good planning. We are unable to make the program work. The reality is that this ordinance will continue to create problems. Unfortunately, it will never solve the problem that it was intended to solve."

TDCs have become a subdivision assistance program. If it continues, development will continue to sprawl, flinging itself outward, consuming the last of San Luis Obispo's ag and rural land.

Either the Transfer of Development Credits program goes down, or this county does. To tip that balance, you have to show up. Fill out a card and speak, or just be present in support when the Supervisors meet to decide the fate of the program at the New County Government Center on November 22. Check the agenda at www.co.slo.ca.us to see when TDC's are scheduled to be heard, but be prepared to take the day.

from 1990 levels by 2012;

- Urge Congress to pass the bipartisan Climate Stewardship Act, which includes clear timetables and emissions limits.

On the campaign's website, there is a map of participating cities whose mayors have signed on. Dozens of them are in California, but there's a big, embarrassing blank space between Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz.

You can change that, in three easy steps:

1. Go to www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate and read the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

2. Print it out and mail to your mayor with a letter asking him to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and sign on your city. (Scroll down to "participation form," print out separately and include it so the mayor can sign it and send it in)

3. Call the mayor's office and ask when he or shee will be signing it. Show up at the next city council meeting (bring your friends) and ask him the same question. Repeat as necessary.



Yes, it's this easy.



At a time when U.S. oil dependence is increasing, and the threat of global warming is heating up, the Sierra Club has launched a "Cool Cities" campaign that encourages local leaders throughout the country to move forward with innovative solutions to reduce heat-trapping global warming pollution. This campaign showcases local leadership on the part of over 180 U.S. mayors to curb global warming in stark contrast to the Bush administration's history of missed opportunities and broken promises on global warming.

"Mayors around the country aren't waiting on the federal government to move forward with real clean energy solutions like hybrid cars and renewable energy," said Glen Brand, Regional Representative for the Sierra Club's Global Warming and

RPD

continued from page 3

up to \$250,000 for an EIR? How is it sensible to expose the taxpaying public to the expense of litigation, substantial penalties for Williamson Act violations and either substandard service or unknown expenses for public services and roads, especially for law enforcement and fire safety?

"We do not need or want this proposed ordinance in any form."

To beat back the RPD, as many residents as can fit into the room need to come to the meeting of the Advisory Councils at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 3rd, in the SLO City/County Library. Tell the Supervisors you will not sacrifice SLO by allowing them to write sprawl development into law.

Energy Program. "These cities show that we can curb global warming and save money at the same time."

"The Cool Cities campaign will tour the country and advocate for local energy solutions that can help cities meet their climate protection commitments."

The October 12 launch began a national fall tour to over 20 "Cool Cities." Each tour stop will feature a rally where "Cool City" mayors and local Sierra Club leaders will call for proven local energy solutions that will re-energize our cities and help curb heat-trapping global warming pollution.

To accompany the tour, the Sierra Club has released a new guide, "Cool Cities: Solving Global Warming One City at a Time." The guide explains the steps toward making cities "cool" and tells success stories from a broad range of cities, from greening municipal vehicle fleets with hybrid cars in Houston and Charlotte; energy efficient street lights and buildings in Salt Lake City and Scottsdale, Arizona; to renewable energy investments in Waverly, Iowa and Columbia, Missouri.

The guide is available online at sierraclub.org/globalwarming/coolcities.

TAKE ACTION!

Want to make a difference in the fight to stop global warming? Looking for more information about the problem and how it can be solved? Sign up for The Hotline, and receive the Sierra Club's global warming alerts, at: www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/e-newsletter



Biodiesel: Fueling Change

By Luke Politeo
Vice President, AgriFuels LLC

"The use of vegetable oils for engine fuel may seem insignificant today, but such oils may become, in the course of time, as important as petroleum and the coal-tar products of the present time."

-Rudolf Diesel, 1912

There is a change in the air. Some people think it smells like hamburgers, others say french fries, and lots of people are getting hungry.

It isn't a new restaurant; it is exhaust from the new fuel people are using in their diesel engines. Biodiesel is diesel fuel made from vegetable oils and fats, and can be used in any diesel engine with few to no modifications. It is the fastest growing alternative fuel, and people all over the world are making and using it. Farmers, fleet managers, and truck drivers are all embracing biodiesel. Biodiesel is touching the hearts and minds of the young and

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Election 2005: Santa Lucia Chapter Executive Committee

the chapter office today!

The four winners of this election will start their terms on December 16 when the outgoing ExCom adjourns their meeting. The newly-elected ExCom will then convene a brief meeting to establish Officers and set the date for their January meeting. The three highest vote getters will serve three-year terms each. The fourth highest vote getter will serve a one year term.

IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION

- Mark your ballots for no more than 4 candidates.
- Cumulative voting is not allowed. (More than one vote for one individual)
- Vote only one ballot per member. A second ballot is included for two-member households.
- Deadline for receiving ballots is by 5:00 pm on 6 December 2005 at

the Chapter office.

• Enclose your ballot in an envelope and clearly write your name and SierraClub membership number on the envelope. Then sign it.

Like this:

Printed Name
Membership Number
Signature

Send to:

Santa Lucia Elections Committee,
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406.

Or you may drop it by the office at 1204 Nipomo St. in SLO between 11:00 am and 5:00 pm

Your membership will be verified, then the ballot removed and separated from the envelope. Both are saved until the new Executive Committee orders them destroyed.

Candidate Statements

Katherine Wassenberg

Hello! As a Santa Lucian Executive Committee member candidate, I offer our chapter a fresh perspective and willingness to facilitate an outreach to our younger community members.



Having graduated from San Luis Obispo High School in 2000 and Cal Poly in 2003, I have a local foundation and educational connection, through which I can contact the next generation of Sierra Club members.

My conviction and care of the environment resonates deep into my soul and life. As an environmentalist, I choose to live simply and ever strive for greater sustainability. But, I believe that being an environmentalist is more than a choice—it is a need. Fulfilled only by a commitment to spending time in nature and daily appreciating her beauties.

Already I have encountered many of like heart through our chapter and am encouraged to meet more of you. In serving our chapter, I hope to bridge the gap between the current lifetime Sierra Club members and the future ones.

Steven Marx



I've served as an ExComm member on and off over the last ten years, putting in two stints as chapter Treasurer. I enjoy working with our present team and with our Chapter Coordinator. My commitment to the Club's national and local goals has been strengthened by attending the recent Sierra Summit.

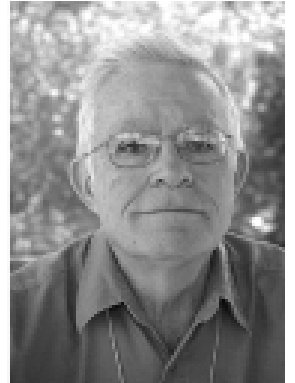
If elected to another term, I plan to focus my efforts on streamlining our finances, on strengthening our fundraising efforts, and on trying to build

membership and involvement among young people.

At Cal Poly, where I've been since 1988, I developed the Cal Poly Land project, edited *Cal Poly Land: A Field Guide*, taught courses in Environmental Literature and Writing about Place, and organized three University-wide Earth Day programs on Education for Sustainability.

Cal French

I am currently serving on the executive committee as membership chair, delegate to the Sierra Club's Council of Club Leaders, and a member of the litigation committee. I want to help the Santa Lucia Chapter work on these issues and programs:



Protecting open space, native species, and wilderness values on our coast, in our forests, along the Salinas River and its tributaries, and on the Carrizo Plain National Monument and its neighboring state and national lands;

- Increasing active membership in the chapter and developing leadership, especially among younger members;
- Raising adequate funds to support our chapter's staff person, currently Andrew Christie, who has made a positive and significant difference in our effectiveness;
- Making our towns and cities more livable, more energy efficient, and less polluting or our air and water;
- Cooperating with other conservation organizations in accomplishing our goals.

I am a retired teacher, now living in the Adelaida area west of Paso Robles. A member since 1966, I have served in all sorts of Sierra Club

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BALLOT

Santa Lucia Chapter Elections November 2005

Households with two members may return their ballots in the same envelope.

You must write your Sierra Club membership number(s) on the envelope. Do not write a membership number the ballot.

Households with more than two members may make duplicate ballots.

Mark an "X" in the box next to the candidate's name. Vote for no more than 4. Order drawn by lot:

Cleve Nash

Jono Kincade

Cal French

Steven Marx

Katherine Wassenberg

Do not write your name on this ballot. Put ballot in envelope, print your name and Sierra Club membership number on the envelope. Return to :

**Elections Committee
Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401**

This ballot may be reproduced

This ballot is for the second member of a two-member household

BALLOT

Santa Lucia Chapter Elections November 2005

Vote for no more than 4.

Cleve Nash

Jono Kincade

Cal French

Steven Marx

Katherine Wassenberg

Do not write your name on this ballot.

Put ballot in envelope, print your name and write your Sierra Club membership number on the envelope. Return to:

**Elections Committee
Santa Lucia Chapter
P.O. Box 15755
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401**

This ballot may be reproduced

California Coastal Art and Poetry Contest

The California Coastal Commission invites California students in kindergarten through 12th grade to submit artwork or poetry with a California coastal or marine theme to the annual Coastal Art & Poetry Contest.

Up to eight winners will be selected to win \$100 gift certificates to an art supply or book store, and each winner's sponsoring teacher will receive a \$40 gift certificate for educational supplies.

Students may have their work featured on Commission webpages and materials, and/or public venues.

Entries must be postmarked by



January 31, 2006, to be eligible. For contest rules and entry form, visit www.coastforyou.org, email coast4u@coastal.ca.gov, or call (800) Coast-4U.

Candidate Statements

positions at the local, state-wide, and national levels. Currently, I am the chair of the national Conflict Resolution Team.

Jono Kinkade

I am a Cuesta College student studying Environmental Conservation and Sociology. After growing up in Santa



Margarita and a stay in Thailand when I was 18, I made the decision to find my niche as an activist. Last year I co-founded Grassroots, a Surfrider Taskforce. We began looking at campus issues such as recycling and polystyrene, campaigning for Measure Q, and raising environmental awareness. As a taskforce for the San Luis Bay Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, we provide assistance to their various environmental campaigns. Last year I served as president of Grassroots and representative to the Associate Students of Cuesta College. This year I am Grassroots'

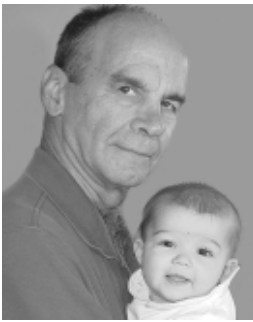
Community Liaison and Activities Director on the ASCC Executive Cabinet.

I must inform you that this spring I'm going to Thailand for three months, and I will transfer to a school out of the area this fall. However, I still believe I could contribute, bringing to the table organizational experience with youthful energy dedicated to working for a more sustainable, earth-conscious future.

I have become particularly interested in the Sierra Club after returning from a Sierra Student Coalition Training Program. I look forward to both contributing to and learning from the future campaigns of this organization.

Cleve Nash

I am a former editor of the Santa Lucian and a former founding board member of North Coast Small Wilderness Area Protection. "Former," frankly, because a few years ago I got selfish. I wanted more time to spend in my hobbies of wildlife photography and



bicycling. I figured contributing money to organizations fighting the good fight was sufficient.

I can't say I haven't enjoyed the period of shirked personal responsibility. But events during those years leave no conscionable alternative other than to do whatever I can to help this country regain the values of John Muir.

One of my gravest concerns is what I perceive as a diminishing of those values with each generation. Sierra Club is graying and, I fear, losing contact with the future. If elected, I will push for initiatives that reach out to young people and present them with wonders no Nintendo or Ipod can.

Happily, I see there are a couple of young people who want to serve on the ExCom. Please vote for them before you vote for me.

County Health Commission Expands GMO Task Force

The County Health Commission's Task Force on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) was formed at the request of the Board of Supervisors in the wake of last year's Measure Q ballot initiative, which was aimed at keeping genetically engineered crops from being grown in SLO County. Though the measure was defeated, it put the issue on the agenda for many SLO citizens who remain concerned about the health, environmental and economic impacts of GE crops locally grown. The Board of Supervisors requested that both the Health and Agricultural Departments form task forces to investigate and gather information.

Controversy has plagued the Health Commission task force since it began. The selection process, conflicts of interests, and material to be reviewed have repeatedly come under fire at the task force meetings and in complaints to the Health Commission.

HopeDance

WAL-MART: The High Cost of Low Price takes the viewer on a deeply personal journey into the everyday lives of families struggling to fight Goliath. From a family business owner in the Midwest to a preacher in California, from workers in Florida to a poet in Mexico, dozens of film crews on three continents bring the intensely personal stories of an assault on families and American values.

Come see what Wal-Mart is hiding.

Santa Barbara:

Sunday, November 13, 7pm: La Casa de Maria in Montecito (suggested donation \$10)

Monday, Nov. 14, 7pm: Faulkner Gallery in the Santa Barbara Library, 40 E. Anapamu (suggested donation \$5)

San Luis Obispo:

Friday, Nov. 18, 7pm at the SLO Library (Osos & Palm) (suggested donation \$5)

Saturday, Nov. 19, 12pm, 2pm, & 4pm at the SLO Library (Suggested donation \$5).

No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

The criteria used in the application process for the selection of task force members was never revealed. Of the five public task force members, three were actively involved in the No on Measure Q campaign. Although applications were submitted, no one from the Yes on Q campaign was selected for the task force, including a registered dietician who also teaches at a local community college.

At the October 17 meeting, after

continued on page 6



Coastal Cleanup on the Morro Bay Sandspit

By Jack Beigle

We launched six boats on a search and remove mission to pick up trash on the sand spit. We were fully equipped with gloves, empty plastic bags for trash and other bags for recyclables. We also had data sheets to record the various items that we picked up.

Each boat took a different section

of the spit and we walked along the tide line picking up and recording items. After cleaning a section the kayakers would tie their bags on the kayak deck and paddle down the coast to the next beach that had not been cleaned and repeat the process.

After lunch we consolidated the debris and packed the bags into our canoe. (Sometimes there is an advantage in having a kayak that can't carry many bags.) The most frequently found items were plastic food containers. The strangest item found was a receiving tank from a porta-potty. How could someone leave the lower half of their toilet setting on the beach?

The paddle back to the marina was slower with 50 pounds of trash onboard but the wind was at our backs. We were tired but we had the good feeling that our good deed had, in a small way, improved the estuary.

Check the outing schedule and join us on the water.

SHADOW RUN RANCH

2720 La Panza Road
Creston, CA

CAN YOU SEE YOURSELF

horseback riding, hiking, picnicking, camping out under the stars in the meadows and valleys of this pristine 150-acre wildlife preserve? Ride or hike to the forty-acre meadow on top of the ridge and enjoy the spectacular views. Relax by the pond with the frogs and goldfish and enjoy all that Mother Nature has to offer.

However if you prefer you may stay in the 4-bedroom, 2-bath mobile home or in the custom 1-bedroom, 1-bath home above the 2-stall barn.

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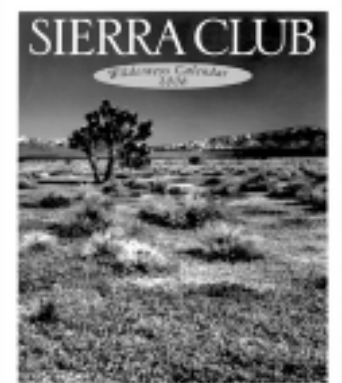
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For mail orders, write or call the Chapter office, p.o. box 15755, San Luis Obispo, CA 93406; (805) 543-8717. For in-town pick up, call Bonnie at 543-7051.

Diablo's Day in Court

On October 17, San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and the Sierra Club got to challenge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's contention that, when it comes to nuclear power plants, time stopped on September 10, 2001.

Our day in court at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco came after two years of legal maneuverings. Mothers for Peace and the Sierra Club contend that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission should have examined the environmental consequences of a large-scale terrorist attack, invited public comments and explored alternatives before licensing PG&E to store high-level radioactive waste in casks in a new structure at the plant on the San Luis Obispo County coast.

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer and the states of Washington, Utah and Massachusetts has joined the case. Lockyer's office cited confirmation by the federal govern-

ment of evidence that terrorists are seeking to target U.S. nuclear plants.

Several eyebrow-raising assertions arose in the court room around the circumlocutions of the PG&E and NRC attorneys, who tried to make the case that no one can definitely say that terrorists will ever attack a nuclear facility.

Judge Stephen Reinhardt asked the NRC lawyer why the agency contends that that possibility of a terrorist attack is remote or unforeseeable, when the federal government has clearly been stating to the contrary for the last several years.

"Isn't that what we're being told constantly?" he asked.

"Not by us," said the NRC attorney. "Then by the president," Reinhardt said.

Lawyer Diane Curran represented the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and the Sierra Club. "Diane made the case clearly, easily communicated why this is an unacceptable

risk and how the NRC has failed to keep us safe," said David Weisman of the Santa Lucia Chapter's Diablo Canyon Task Force. "The PG&E and NRC attorneys' attempts to refute her on case law were weak. The NRC was in the position of saying they can't quantify exactly what the terrorists would do, at the same time that they are making preparations and improvements in anticipation for a (small) attack at nuclear plants. They are simultaneously claiming it's too unlikely a possibility to require them to spend the money to protect the dry cask storage facility at Diablo Canyon, and saying they aren't re-



At the Ninth Circuit, left to right: Liz Apfelberg, Morgan Rafferty, attorney Diane Curran, Jill Zamek, June von Ruden.

quired to hold hearings or make the discussion part of the plant relicensing process."

Should the appellate court rule in our favor, a public hearing must be held on these issues, and the spent fuel project put on hold until they have been resolved.

Biodiesel

continued from page 3

old, rich and poor, Democrats, Republicans, and other parties. As fuel prices increase, the need for alternatives is pressing, and Americans are doing something about it.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita had devastating impacts on people, and

cans agree it just makes sense to use biodiesel when they hear of the environmental, economic and energy security benefits it offers."

The new Energy Bill contains a renewable fuel standard that states by 2012, five percent of our fuel will be

Biodiesel on the Central Coast

Any diesel engine can run on Biodiesel, fuel that can be grown and produced locally. Yet more oil wells are approved for Los Padres National Forest, and battles rage over offshore

Where to Go to Learn More

The National Biodiesel Board, www.biodiesel.org is the best source for comprehensive Biodiesel information.

Join the Biodiesel Alliance:

What Part of "Global Warming" Do We Not Get?

... It's about time for denial to come to an end. We're no longer talking about theory, about computer models of what might happen. We're talking about what is happening, all around the world, with almost unimaginable speed. Other countries have at least begun to try to deal with the problem, implementing small first steps like the Kyoto Protocol.

But... Washington is governed by a bipartisan consensus that somehow the laws of physics and chemistry don't apply to us. In early August a paper by a Massachusetts Institute of Technology researcher in the journal *Nature* showed that hurricanes were 50 percent stronger and lasted 60 percent longer than a generation ago. In early September a Georgia Tech team showed that the number of category 4 and 5 storms had doubled. You've seen the results on every TV screen and magazine cover.

Exactly how much more do we need to know? Exactly when are we going to roll up our sleeves and get to work?

- Bill McKibben, excerpt from essay for the Land Institute's Prairie Writers Circle, Salina, Kansas

to the extraction, refining, and distribution of petroleum products, and pushed crude oil prices to record levels. President Bush told the nation "The storms have shown how fragile the balance is between supply and demand in America." Biodiesel addresses this problem by stabilizing supply with a homegrown product. With unrest in many OPEC nations, large economic growth in India and China, and crude prices through the roof, many Americans agree that the time has come for Biodiesel.

Joe Jobe, CEO of the National Biodiesel Board, noted "Biodiesel crosses party lines. It crosses many sections of our society. Most Ameri-

ethanol and biodiesel. Five percent may not seem like a lot, but it represents a minimum of 7.5 billion gallons of fuel per year. Even a small percentage of fuel grown in the US can have a stabilizing effect on energy prices and energy security. According to the National Biodiesel Board (NBB), the trade organization for Biodiesel, more than 500 major fleets use Biodiesel, and over 600 retail stations are selling it. In Europe, where diesels make up 50% of the passenger cars, Biodiesel is even more abundant. One thing is certain; you will see more Biodiesel in the future.

drilling in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. Local groups like the Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (www.c5.org) and the Cal Poly Biodiesel Club are working hard to educate our community about renewable fuel options in the area. Through the efforts of local Biodiesel companies and petroleum distributors, Biodiesel is now available to customers on the Central Coast, with more locations on the way. J.B. Dewar has been selling it for years, and is opening a public fueling station in San Luis Obispo. McCormix Corp. in Santa Barbara also has Biodiesel available for delivery and 2 retail locations in Santa Barbara and Goleta. These local companies have been performing rigorous testing to ensure the Biodiesel they sell meets ASTM D 6751, the quality standard. Biodiesel pricing is variable, but the rise in diesel prices has made Biodiesel cost competitive. Please call them for prices.

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(805) 543-0180

McCormix Corporation
22 North Calle Cesar Chavez
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
(805) 963-9366

(Look for a Paso Robles pump soon!)

www.biodiesel.org/aboutnbb/alliance -- a diverse coalition of organizations, agencies and businesses from across the nation helping others to recognize the benefits of biodiesel to human health, the environment, national energy security and the US economy.

Luke Politte can be reached at lukepolitte@agrifuels.com or by telephone at (805) 995-1972.

GMO Task Force

continued from page 3

hearing pointed public comment on the make-up of the task force and its obvious bias, and after a standard political ploy by one Commissioner -- *it's late, we're all tired, let's table this until the next meeting (when hopefully fewer of you people will be here)* -- failed due to vocal objection from the audience, the Health Commission voted unanimously to balance the professional background on the task force.

The Commission is now seeking a biomedical researcher, a biomedical ethicist and a public health professional.

SLO GE-Free activist Elizabeth Johnson was optimistic. "Hopefully, this positive compromise will help balance the pro-GMO ag bias of the existing committee, and add the kind of professional membership I expected to see when the group was initially formed."

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Local Government Meetings

- City of SLO--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 781-7103
- Arroyo Grande--2nd and 4th Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 473-5404
- Atascadero--2nd & 4th Tues.; 466-8099
- Cambria CSD -- 4th Thurs.; 927-6223
- Grover Beach--1st & 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.; 473-4567
 Grover Beach Planning Commission-- 2nd Tues.
- Morro Bay--2nd & 4th Mon.
- Paso Robles--1st & 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m.; 237-3888
- Pismo Beach--1st Tues., 5:30 p.m.; 773-4657
- Los Osos CSD board-- 1st Tues. & 2nd Mon., varies
- California Coastal Commission-- 3rd Tues., varies
- SLO County Board of Supervisors-- every Tues.; 781-5450
- SLO Council of Governments; 781-4219
 SLOCOG Citizens Advisory Committee--1st Wed. every other month, 6:00 p.m.
 SLOCOG Board--1st Wed. every other month, 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

highlights from recent Chapter meetings

Conservation Committee meeting
 October 18, 2005

Chair called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Present: Pam Heatherington, Sue Harvey, Leslie Krinsk, Jack McCurdy, Jan Marx; staff Andrew Christie; guests Jono Kinkade, Carla Saunders, Lynn Harkins.

COSE: The SLO City Planning has deleted 110 pages from the original 125-page Open Space element from 1994 and scheduled a single meeting to review the changes, prob. over the holidays, assuring minimum public notice. Changes would allow commercial development in open space. Planning Commission must review full document and the Land Use element. Chapter Coordinator to prepare letter to Planning Commission.

Duke plant site: Sale of the power plant could reap tax benefits for Duke depending on structuring of sale. Grant funding for public process likely from other sources; Chapter will contribute. Consensus vote to endorse Tobey Crockett's vision for a regional cultural/arts/food center, work with CalPoly engineering students on realization.

RPD: County Planning presenting to advisory committees Nov. 3; committees will send a letter to Supervisors urging termination of process considering adoption of ordinance.

Bt Corn: SLO GE-Free is polling members to see who would be interested in purchasing GE corn test kits at cost, \$3.50 each from a 100-lot.

Desal: The Cambria contract is silent as to ownership; should Cambria be bankrupted, it would force a sale and privatization of water source. Current technology can reduce state water use by 20%. Committee will approach Green Building Council for Determine current Cambria water use and how much it can

conserve. Resolution to urge National SC to oppose bills HR 1071 and S.1016 subsidizing desal plants, exacerbating unsustainable coastal development. Unanimous.

Andrew Christie recommended as Chapter liaison for Club's Corporate Accountability Committee.

Sierra Club "Cool Cities" campaign: Committee members will present to Morro Bay council.

Los Padres: New report has declared Los Padres one of nation's most endangered forests, cites oil drilling and unlawful off-road vehicle abuse as the two biggest threats to ecosystems and recreation opportunities here. The new management plan will open more of the forest to development. Forest Service has declared oil drilling will expand across 52,000 acres of the forest. Report on web at www.lpfw.org

Camp Wellstone - activist training: Consensus in favor for sending local activists. Need a ruling from national SC on whether it would be c3 or c4 funds.

MBNMS: Sanctuary expansion resolution endorsed by Environmental Caucus of CA Democratic Party at their Oct. meeting. Media interest; Sen. Boxer is sponsor of current bill to expand Farallones and Cordell Bank Sanctuaries to protect Sonoma Coast from drilling. Blakeslee has SCC joint endorsement resolution to expand MBNMS.

Los Osos sewer: Send to ExCom for post-recall policy decision. A new EIR or supplemental would mean LOCSO will have to evaluate a regional treatment approach.

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For more information and confidential assistance, contact
John Calaway

Sierra Club Planned Giving Program
 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441
 (415) 977-5538.

Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo County

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Outings and Activities Calendar

All of our hikes and activities are open to all Club members and the general public. If you have any suggestions for hikes or outdoor activities, questions about the Chapter's outing policies or would like to be an outings leader, call Outings Leader Gary Felsman (473-3694). For information on a specific outing, please contact the outing leader. Outings Leaders please get your outings or events in by the 1st for the next month's outings.

Hiking Classifications:

Distance: 1 = 0-2 mi., 2 = 3-5 mi., 3 = 6-9 mi., 4 = 10-12 mi., 5 = 12 mi. or more.

Elevation Gain: A = 500', B = 1000', C = 1500', D = 2000', E = 2500', F = 3000' or more.

November 4, 5, 6 and 7, 2005, Black Cone Trailwork Trip. Come join the VWA Trail Crew as we continue our efforts to reclaim the scenic Black Cone Trail deep in the heart of the Ventana high country. We'll be lopping brush out of the trail corridor and repairing the trail tread as necessary. Expect a 10 mile hike into and out of base camp from the China Camp trailhead. For more information or to reserve a place, contact Boon at boon@ventanawild.org. Sponsored by the Ventana Wilderness Alliance.

Sat. Nov. 5, 10 a.m.: Bring your dog! Madonna mountain hike for dog-owners. This round-the-mountain hike is less than 4 miles, and will be enjoyable for you and your dog. Meet in the Madonna mountain parking lot. Bring water for yourself and your dog. As with all hikes in SLO county, be aware that your dog may be exposed to ticks, rattlesnakes, and poison oak. Contact Linnaea: 423-3813

Nov. 5th, 9 a.m., Irish Hills Work Party. Come help the City of SLO maintain its local trails. Bring water, pants and sturdy shoes. Snacks will be provided. Meet at the top of Highland Drive in SLO. Call 781-7300, or visit the City's website www.slocity.org/parksandrecreation/parkrangers.asp for information.

Sat-Sun., November 5-6. East Mojave Primitive Carcamp. Join us on this weekend near the dark moon to hike 1 mi., 700' gain to the top of beautiful Kelso Dunes where we'll enjoy the desert panorama and hear the booming caused by the grains of sand sliding together. Sat night Happy Hour, potluck and campfire. On Sun, we'll do another beautiful hike through a Joshua Tree forest. 2WD ok. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Sierra Club), 2 sase, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Reserv/Co-Ldr: Bill Spreng, P.O. Box 129, Victorville, CA 92393; (760-951-4520). Co-Ldr: Lygeia Gerard (818-242-7053). Mojave Group/CNCC Desert Com

Nov. 11(vets day), 12, 13, 14 - Arroyo Seco Trail Work Party. Come help the Ventana Wilderness Alliance work on the Arroyo Seco

Trail. Crew members will be brushing the trail corridor and cutting out deadfall in an ongoing effort to reclaim this important route from The Indians to the coast ridge. Contact Leader: Dave Knapp - dknapp1@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Ventana Wilderness Alliance.

Sat., Nov. 12, 9:00am: Three Hazards hike in Montana de Oro SP: Enjoy views from the Ridge Trail and a beach walk on this 6 mi., 1100 ft. loop hike. We'll climb up Hazard Canyon to Hazard Peak, then descend to the ocean to Hazard Reef. Meet at Bloody Nose trailhead, at junction of Pecho Valley Rd. and Sand Spit Rd. Park in dirt parking area at junction. Bob Schwartz, 441-9508, <rws_usa@yahoo.com> (3C)

Sat., Nov. 19th. Another trip up Guadalupe Dunes to the top. Bring a lunch, wear sandals, dress for breeze. Go south on 101 to Santa Maria. Take 166 west (Main St) past Guadalupe to the end. Go thru gate to Preserve (small fee) down to the parking lot at the beach. We'll meet there. Details and meeting time call Jim Wilson 786-0243

Sat-Sun., November 19-20. Carrizo Plain Antelope Protection Carcamp. With little rainfall and few water sources, the species that live here are both hardy and endangered. Particularly beautiful are the pronghorn antelope which evolved in these wild, open spaces. Then cattle ranching left a legacy of endless fences - which are deadly to the pronghorn. Join us for a weekend in this remote area removing fencing for their benefit Camp at KCL campground, bring food, water, leather work gloves, and camping gear for the weekend. Potluck Sat night. Rain cancels. Resource specialist: Alice Koch. For more information, contact Leaders: Cal and Letty French, 14140 Chimney Rock Road, Paso Robles, CA 93446, (805-239-7338). Prefer e-mail: ccfrench@tcsn.net. Santa Lucia Chap/CNCC Desert Com

Sun., Nov. 20th, 10 a.m., CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY. Here is a chance to get a little exercise before that Thanksgiving Dinner. Join us for a picnic and a short hike on the sand spit. Bring your boat and equip-

ment, PFDs, binoculars and your picnic lunch. HIGH TIDE 11.38 AM 5.3' LOW TIDE 7.47 PM 0.2' PUT IN 10:00 AM, LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY STATE PARK MARINA. Details call Jack Beigle 773-2147

Nov. 24, Thurs., THANKSGIVING LAND CONSERVANCY HIKE: Call Land Conservancy of SLO at 544-9096 for details

Sat., Dec. 3, 10 a.m.: Bring your dog! Hike the West Cuesta Ridge road with your dog for some spectacular views. Meet at the top of the Cuesta Grade, at the pull-out off Hwy 101. This is a hike along a mostly dirt road, but is great for dog-owners: minimal exposure to snakes, poison oak, or ticks! Approx. 4 miles out and back. Contact Linnaea: 423-3813.

SUN., DEC. 4, 10 a.m., CANOE/KAYAK MORRO BAY SAND SPIT: A winter paddle to the sand spit for a short hike and picnic lunch. Take a break in your Christmas shopping and join us on the bay. You can write your friends Back East and tell them about this outing. We usually get beautiful weather this time of year. A short business meeting will follow lunch to discuss future outings. Bring your boat and equipment, PFDs, windbreaker and a picnic lunch. HIGH TIDE 11:00 AM 6.4' LAUNCH AT MORRO BAY STATE PARK MARINA, LOW TIDE 6:43 PM - 0.9' PUT IN 10:00 AM. Details Call JACK BEIGLE 773-2147

Dec. 9, 10, 11 - Arroyo Seco Trail Work Party. Come help the Ventana Wilderness Alliance work on the Arroyo Seco Trail. Crew members will be brushing the trail corridor and cutting out deadfall in an ongoing effort to reclaim this important route from The Indians to the coast ridge. Contact Leader: Dave Knapp - dknapp1@gmail.com. Sponsored by the Ventana Wilderness Alliance.

Sat., Dec. 17, 8 a.m.: Vicente Flat. Enjoy great ocean views and coast redwoods on this 10.5 mi., 2300 ft. hike in the Ventana Wilderness. Possible ticks and poison oak in places. Carpoolers meet at Spencer's Market in Morro Bay at 8am or at Washburn Day Use Area (N of

46th Annual Sierra Club Anniversary Dunes Walk

Come rain or shine, storm or a beautiful hiking day, our walk will take place. This is the 46th year, for the now famous Annual Anniversary Nipomo Dunes Walk of the Santa Lucia Chapter of the National Sierra Club. This walk has annually celebrated the founding of our chapter on the first Saturday in January since 1961(Except when it falls on New years Day).

The leader of that first walk was a young environmentalist who was called "The Lady of the Dunes," due to her efforts to save the dunes from a PG&E plan to build a nuclear power plant in the heart of the fragile, scientifically rare natural resource wonderland at Oso Flaco. Kathleen Goddard Jones led this walk almost every year since 1961. This year we will walk with fond memories of Kathleen.

Come and help us celebrate our chapter's history at **9:00 am on Saturday, January 7, in the Oso Flaco Lake parking lot!** Coming from the north, take Hwy.1 south from Pismo Beach, approximately 10 miles. As you drive down off of the Nipomo Mesa, watch for a sign on the right reading "Oso Flaco Lake Road," turn right and continue 3 miles. The road ends in the parking lot. Coming from the south, take Main St. in Santa Maria toward the ocean, turn right on Hwy 1. Drive slowly through Guadalupe (25 mph), cross the Santa Maria River and continue approximately 3 miles. Watch for a sign on the right reading "Oso Flaco Lake Road," turn left and continue 3 miles. The road ends in the parking lot.

Plans have been made for short, medium and long walks. Carpool if possible. There is a \$5.00/car parking fee. Bring a picnic lunch, binoculars, a camera, if you wish, and warm, snuggly clothing (a woolen cap is good). The dunes may have winter breezes.

Call Jack Beigle for additional details, 773-2147

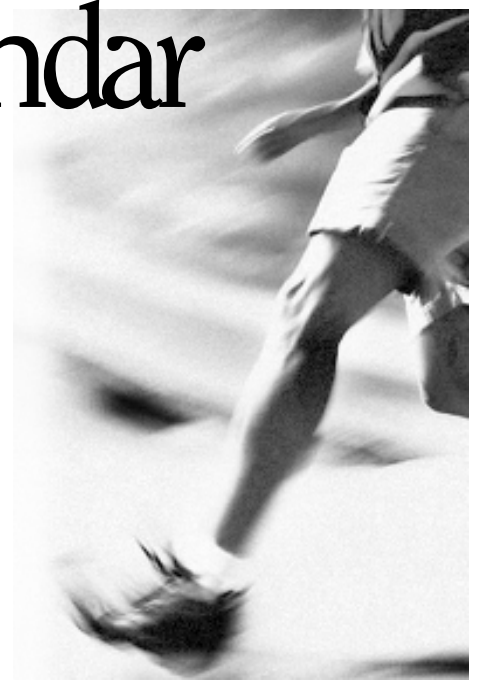


Photo by Joaquin Palting

Cambria, just S of San Simeon SP Campground) at 8:45am. Or meet at the trailhead at Kirk Creek Campground on Hwy 1 at 9:45am. Rain cancels. Bob Schwartz, 441-9508, <rws_usa@yahoo.com> (4D)

Friday-Tuesday, December 23-27 Holiday Ski trip: Hutchinson Lodge; Here's our first ski trip of this season to Hutchinson Lodge, which is the small lodge near Clair Tappaan. We'll have the whole lodge to ourselves to celebrate the holidays. The lodge has 2 lofts for sleeping, a large living/dining room with 2 wood-burning stoves, and a sauna. Cost of this long weekend/person is only \$110 for 4 nights/members. Non-members/\$120 for 4 nights. Price includes all meals! (Vegetarian meals available.) X-country ski rentals and lessons available (for a fee) at the main lodge in addition to free access to groomed trails right from the back door. Free shuttle bus from the lodge to nearby cross-country and down-hill ski areas. We will all share cooking and cleaning chores. For reservation and trip information, send the completed form below, a check for the total amount (payable to Sierra Club) and a SASE or e-mail address to Hutchinson Ski, P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz 95061. Mail-in reservations must be received by Dec. 13. Information will be mailed to you on Dec. 15. Early reservations are a must, space is limited. Refunds for cancellations are 100% before Dec. 15, 50% by Dec. 21, none after the 21st. For more details call leader, George Jammal, (831) 335-7748. Sponsored by the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Dec. 25, Sun., CHRISTMAS DUNE CENTER HIKE: Call Dunes Center at 343-2455-105 for details.

Jan. 1, Sun, 0930 ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY MUSSEL ROCK HIKE: This will be the 29th NY's attempt at MR Peak. Last year rain turned most of us back. Call or e-mail a few days before for details: 929-3647 or BDenneen@SLONET.org

This is a partial listing of Outings offered by our chapter. Please check the web page www.santalucia.sierraclub.org for the most up-to-date listing of activities.