



Canyon Connection

Newsletter of the Santa Clarita Sierra Club a group of the Angeles Chapter
<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/scg>

Council of Club Leaders Report

Henry Schultz – Angeles Chapter Delegate

Status of the CEMEX Bill

Sandra Cattell

For the past ten years, the Sierra Club has worked with the City of Santa Clarita to find a solution to CEMEX placing a huge sand and gravel mine adjacent to both our city and the Pacific Crest Trail. Congressman Buck McKeon introduced H R 5887 last spring, which was an agreement between the City of Santa Clarita, Cemex, the City of Victorville, and the Department of the Interior to stop this. Unfortunately, it took a great deal of work over time to create the package, and the bill was introduced late in the legislative session. As a result,

see *Cemex* p. 4



At the 2008 meeting of the Council of Club Leaders in San Francisco delegates representing each of the Sierra Club's chapters came together to discuss problems and put forward suggestions for solutions. I spoke with many delegates and came away with many useful ideas. In particular, I had lengthy discussions with delegates from the Alabama, Grand

Canyon, Hawaii, John Muir, Kern-Kaweah, Oklahoma, San Diego and San Geronio chapters. The main job of the meeting was to review resolutions to be presented to the board of directors. Roberts Rules of Order were essential to keep order during the proceedings because there were so many amendments, tablings and clarifications. This is one of the best ways for the grass roots to impact the Sierra Club's Board of Directors. The picture shows chair Lane Boldman speaking to the delegates in Yosemite Hall of Sierra Club's national headquarters.

My roommate, Richard

Miller of the San Diego Chapter, has years of experience with Sierra Club procedures and knows his history. He was kind enough to share his extensive knowledge with me. He chairs Sierra Club California and San Diego Chapter.

The three main presentations were on Project Renewal, the club's national reorganization plan, the State of the Chapters Review, and the State of the Clubs Review. The effort to explain Project Renewal pretty much failed because the implementation is in progress. It tries to separate planning from implementation and it will take some time to see how it works out. Seeing a summary of all the chapters' issues and accomplishments showed that the problems remain much the same – membership growth and money, but the accomplishments are many. Our children's hiking program and the size of our outings program were the items that seemed to get the crowd's attention. On the national level, the fiscal state of the club took center stage. I won't go over the details except to say that there is a serious lack of income this fiscal year. Already the club has reduced 7 regions to 3 to consolidate costs. Many other administrative changes are being made along this line. Executive Director Carl Pope presented a list items under consideration to cut costs, which tells us how serious the financial situation is. Here are some "discretionary funding allotments":

Mission program and campaigns related:

- Shift national outings operation from break even operating structure to working capital provider
- Saving from Chapter funding and life member allocations (\$2 million C4, \$2,400,000 C3) by eliminating allocations to chapters that are not spending their funds, or cutting excess of newsletter expenses

See *Council Report* page 4

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Monthly Meeting & Program

2nd Thursday each month at 7:30 p.m.
(except Aug. & Dec.)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
24901 Orchard Village Rd., Valencia

Meeting Room: Lounge on upper level.
Enter on E. side facing Rite Aid/Kragen
parking lot, opposite main church
entrance. Visitors welcome!

For information: Henry 284-5613

Opinions expressed herein are those of
the individual writers and do not reflect
official national Sierra Club policy
unless expressly stated as such.

Editor: Carla Swift
swiftc@lightspeed.net



Notes from the Chair

by *Dave Morrow*

Thanks to all who made this year's Annual Summer Party/Fundraiser a success. We raised \$455, which will go a long way toward keeping this newsletter and other Santa Clarita Group programs going. Special thanks go to Louise and Henry Schultz who did a wonderful job hosting this event. I think it was one of the best fundraisers ever.

Every year at our fundraiser we honor local Sierra Club members who have volunteered their time in service to our Group and the environment. This year's Green Tiger Award for Activism went to Sandra Cattell, who worked tirelessly this past year on the CEMEX mine bill and other hot issues.



The Green Tiger Award for Outings went to Geraldine Lorme, who over the years has led many local hikes and has been vital in publishing our outings schedule in this newsletter and the Chapter Schedule of Activities.

Lastly, we presented Ray Lorme with the John Muir Award, honoring him for his many years of service to the Santa Clarita Group, as a founding member, and then as Chair, Vice Chair, and now as Outings Chair. Great job and congratulations!

I was unable to attend this year's River Rally (held every September to bring attention to the importance of protecting the Santa Clara River), but Sandra Cattell tells me many people turned out and picked up lots of trash. Thanks to Sandra, Mary Ellen Dittimore, Ray Lorme, and Katherine Squires for helping with our Sierra Club table. I also hear that Sierra Clubbers Lynne Plambeck and Barbara Wampole were next to our table doing good work for the river. It's an important event and I look forward to being there next year. If you would like to help with our tabling efforts, and we have these at several events during the year, please contact me.

Dave

Outings Outpost

Nuns on the Trail by Ken Kerner

On July 12, 2008, Dave Morrow (point) and myself (sweep) led a Sierra Club hike on the Mount Baden Powell trail. We were joined at the Canyon Country rideshare by Mary Patterson, Nina Riga, and a new hiker to our group, Naomi, who informed us that her longest hike had been 5 miles with 1500 feet elevation gain. The Baden Powell hike would be longer and higher than her previous best. Nevertheless, with encouragement along the trail, she successfully reached the summit.

The temperature at the trailhead (6593 feet) was 80° -- not too bad for this time of year. A cool breeze helped our steady progress up the trail. Three fourths of the way up, I witnessed something I had never seen on any trail anywhere in all my hiking years. Looking up, I saw on a switchback above me a nun in full habit! As I blinked a few times trying to comprehend the scene, she was joined by a second nun, also in full habit! It was not my imagination!

Our group of five eventually made it to the summit (9399 feet). There to greet us, and everyone else who made it, were not two, but four nuns, all in full habit (see photo). They had just signed the peak register. This may be a personal experience never to be duplicated on Mount Baden Powell.



The breeze that followed us up the trail was a cool 70 degrees on the summit, prompting us to don our windbreakers. After a 45 minute lunch and rest, with entertainment by a glider above us, we descended to the Vincent Gap trailhead. Traffic on the Baden Powell trail was very heavy on this day.

Carpenteria Beach Hike led by Mary Ellen Dittimore

A talkative group hiked the few scenic miles along the beach and then back to our cars where we set up our umbrellas and carefully placed our coolers (see photo). It was a gorgeous day and there were plenty of sea birds, the more discerning seeking to garner a free meal from our delectable food stores. The brave, like Geri Lorme and Mary Ellen, swam a ways in the slightly cool water but were unable to convince most of the rest of us that more than wading was necessary to make a wonderful day at the beach.



Hike and Event Schedule - Everyone Welcome

Wed, Oct 15 Mission Peak by Moonlight 7PM
See Nov. 12 for details.

Sun, Oct 26 Jackson Lake to Vincent Gap 8AM
Moderate 9 mi, 1200' gain/700' loss from Jackson Lake to PCT and on to Vincent Gap. Beautiful mountains, forested area on northern slopes of San Gabriels. Meet 8 AM at Canyon Cntry Rideshare. Carpool/caravan 1 hour to trlhd. Bring 2 qts water, lunch, lug soles, fsp. Rain cancels.
Ldrs: Dave Morrow (254-5245), Ray Lorme (296-0246)

Sun, Nov 9 North Devil's Backbone Trail 7:30AM
Very strenuous, very rugged 8 mile 4000' loss/gain. Spectacular High Country trip reaches the 3 highest peaks in the San Gabriel Mts. (Pine Mt 9648', Dawson Peak 9575', and Mt. Baldy 10,064'). Magnificent views, gnarled stunted trees and true alpine terrain. Poles a big help. Meet 7:30 AM at Canyon Country Rideshare or 8:30 AM at Inspiration Point on Hwy 2 at Blue Ridge Rd. 1 1/2 hour drive to trailhead from Canyon Country. Last 7 miles are on dirt road. High clearance vehicles helpful. Return time to Canyon Country approx. 6:30-7 PM. Serious well-conditioned hikers only. No Beginners. Rain cancels.
Ldrs: Ken Kerner (251-5156), Gaylon Rodin (263-0568)

Wed, Nov 12 Mission Peak by Moonlight 7PM
Conditioning Hike
Moderate 5 mi, 1200' gain to view San Fernando Valley. Meet 7 PM at trail head (Take 405 Fwy to 118 Fwy W, exit Balboa N, 2 mi to Sesnon, W 1 mi to Neon Way, R to end of street). Bring water, lug soles and flashlight. Rain cancels.
Ldrs: Henry Schultz (284-5613), Gaylon Rodin (263-0568)

Thur, Nov 13 Monthly Meeting 7:30PM
Ileene Anderson, staff biologist at the Center for Biological Diversity, will speak on Tejon Ranch. This area is 1/3 the size of Rhode Island and is highly biologically diverse. Learn about what is being done to protect this sensitive property. There will be refreshments as well. Come and ask questions.

Sun, Nov 23 Los Pinetos 9AM
Moderate 5 mi, 1500' climb to Wilson Saddle. Views of San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys and beyond. Meet 9 AM at Walker Ranch entrance to Placerita Cyn State Park (Take I-5 Fwy N, to 14 Fwy/Antelope Valley Fwy N, exit Placerita Cyn, S 3.3 mi to Walker Ranch entrance. Park along street; do not block gate). Bring water, lunch, and lug soles. Rain cancels.
Ldrs: Ed Benison (254-7517), Henry Schultz (284-5613)

Sat, Dec 6 Sierra Pelona Ridge via PCT 9AM
Moderate 6 mi, 1200' gain with gorgeous views of Bouquet Cyn. Meet 9 AM at Newhall Ave/San Fernando Rd Exit in Newhall (take I-5 to 14 Fwy N (Antelope Valley Fwy), exit Newhall Ave/San Fernando Rd, R (south) to carpool area. Rideshare 40 minute drive to trailhead. Bring water, lunch, lug soles, and fsp. Rain cancels.
Ldrs: Henry Schultz (284-5613), Dave Morrow (254-5245)

Sun, Dec 14 Holiday Brunch 10:30 – 2:30
Come enjoy the season at our Annual Brunch. This popular annual get together brings us together for fun and food. The Schultz's will be hosting the party. Call Henry at 284-5613 to RSVP and indicate the side dish you want to bring. And, of course, bottomless mimosas for all.

Sun, Dec 21 Towsley Canyon Loop 9AM
Moderate 5 mi, 600' gain in Ed Davis/ Towsley Cyn Park. Meet 9 AM at Santa Clarita Rideshare Pt., entrance to Ed Davis/Towsley Cyn State Park. Take I-5 N, exit Calgrove, W to The Old Road, S to park entrance. Park outside main gate. Bring water, lunch, and lug soles. Rain cancels.
Ldrs: Ed Benison (254-7517), Dave Morrow (254-5245)

Thur, Jan 1 New Year's Calorie Burner 12 Noon
Los Pinetos Trail
Join our annual calorie burner up the Los Pinetos Trail. Moderate 6 mi, 1400' gain to ridge between San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. Outstanding view of the two valleys. Meet 12 noon Walker Ranch entrance of Placerita Cyn Park. Take I-5 N to 14 Fwy N (Antelope Valley Fwy), exit Placerita Cyn Rd, go R on Placerita passing main entrance to park and continuing another 1 3/4 mi to gated entrance to Walker Ranch (do not block gate). Bring water, snack, and lug soles. Serious rain cancels.
Ldrs: Ray Lorme (296-0246), Geraldine Lorme

Thur, Jan 8 Monthly Meeting 7:30PM
Our traditional annual Mayor's meeting features Frank Ferry giving the state of the environment and other issues for the city of Santa Clarita. For 15 years, this has been a highlight event. Come and listen – ask questions – hear it from the source and enjoy refreshments. See you there.

Sun, Jan 11 East Canyon to Mission Peak 9AM
Moderate 8 mi, 1400' hike in East Cyn to ridge, following motor way to Mission Peak, then return. Great views of the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. Meet 9 AM at Santa Clarita Rideshare, entrance to Ed Davis/Towsley Cyn Park (take I-5 to Calgrove exit, W to The Old Road, S to park entrance). Bring water, lunch and lug soles. Rain cancels. Ldrs: Henry Schultz (284-5613), Mary Ellen Dittmore (254-8543)

See **Hike Schedule** page 3

SIERRA CLUB WAIVER All Sierra Club Outings require that you sign an "Acknowledgment of Outing Member Responsibility, Express Assumption of Risk, and Release of Liability" before you can participate in the outing. If a minor is going on the trip, the minor's guardian must sign on the minor's behalf.

The Canyon Connection

- Reduce or eliminate the chapter C4 bequest pool
- Cease Leconte Lodge operations
- Phase out adult books program. Make a decision to phase out when the current publishing contract expires in 2010 – this will not save money in 2009.

Investment and capacity related:

- Reduce or cease Sierra Club productions operations
- Prospect direct-mail program – reduce mailing by one million pieces, from 15 to 14 million (if the net contribution in this program is better than budget in 2009, reinvest the amount of higher net contribution)

Fiduciary and administrative related:

- Further increase the risk tolerance of the organization – eliminate half of D&O insurance coverage and increase general liability deductible to 500,000.

These considerations indicate the serious nature of our fiscal problems. It should be emphasized that these are not decisions but at this point just considerations.

In several sessions groups were formed under the leadership of a board member and a CCL member. The first was on chapter funding and generally concerned the problem of C4 funds which are becoming much harder to get.

The second was on business partnerships. It became clear that almost nobody has a real business partnership. The usual position of business is to provide resources as a donation. The contract with Tejon Ranch Corporation is a notable exception, as well as the Clorox agreement for its Green Works products. Contrary to perceptions, the club has a quite clear and reasonable policy on corporate opportunities and cause related marketing. The Clorox agreement satisfies this policy. This policy can be found at <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/administration/policies/finance/corporate-cause-related.aspx/>. When I asked Carl how much money we received for this agreement last year, he said around \$1 million.

A third session focused on reaching out to other groups. Three were highlighted in breakout groups: hunters/fishermen, Latinos, and faith-based organizations. In order to reach out to these groups, we must get involved with their communities, first to build trust. Examples provided by the delegates made it clear that these groups have great potential for growth of environmental activists, but it will require substantial work to develop this potential.

It must be made clear that climate protection is the primary concern of the club. To obtain funding, it is necessary to relate activities to climate as much as possible. Thirty states are fighting coal power plants, for example. I look forward to next year's meeting.

The CCL sent several resolutions to the board of directors, summarized here:

#1: SUPPORT OF CHAPTERS Passed – nearly unanimously The Council of Club Leaders thanks the Sierra Club Board of Directors for their dedication in keeping Sierra Club vibrant and vital in the ever-changing world of non-profit issue advocacy. CCL asks the Board to consider

the following methods of better supporting the chapters: Setting up a national nonprofit corporation for the sole purpose of assisting chapters in seeking and receiving funds from other entities to be used to further the purposes of Sierra Club since Chapters may be eligible for funding from other entities or state/local governmental programs, but current Sierra Club policy forbids Chapters from seeking such funds. Allowing chapters to initiate or continue local and/or joint contacts with donors and potential donors at all levels.

#2: NUCLEAR-FREE ENERGY POLICY -Passed significant majority Asks the BoD to develop a plan to commit legal and program staff, as well as funding for volunteer work, for a Nuclear-Free Energy Campaign to prevent the construction of new nuclear power plants, fuel chain facilities and re-licensing of aging reactors.

#3: AGAINST CLOROX PARTNERSHIP Passed (2/3) Asks the BoD to consider not renewing the contract with Clorox to use the Sierra Club logo on its new Green Works product line.

#4: CHANGE IN ENERGY/CLIMATE POLICY -Passed unanimously -Asks the Board of Directors to reconsider the Club's "2% Solution" policy and consider a significantly increased rate of reduction in greenhouse gas emissions We ask that the Club consider recent publications and the Precautionary Principle in formulating its policy on the target rate for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

#5: NATIONAL RAIL INVESTMENT INITIATIVE - Passed unanimously - Asks the BoD to advocate for a National Rail Investment Program, including high speed rail.

#6: LEVEL K-6 ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM Passed – nearly unanimously - Asks the BoD to encourage the Publication Dept. to promote more books for K-6 children, covering conservation, the environment and eco-systems.

#7: MEMBERSHIP - Passed with significant majority Asks the BoD to direct staff and work with volunteers to re-evaluate existing programs to better retain existing and recruit new members and aggressively explore new membership programs.

#8: CCL-ExCom-Appointed Questionnaire Committee for Chapter Endorsements - Passed with significant majority Asks CCL Executive Committee and BoD to appoint annually a committee to create a questionnaire for chapters making endorsement decisions, and to publish the answers on an on-line candidates forum. The appointed committee, the CCL Questionnaire Committee (CCLQC), would be charged with soliciting questions from chapters and, from these suggested questions, create a questionnaire for those chapters interested in considering BoD candidates for endorsement.

Cemex - continued from page 1

it did not have time required to receive the needed approval.

Rep. McKeon has announced that because of economic issues currently dominating Congress and our country, he intends to reintroduce the Soledad Canyon Mining Act next year in the 111th Congress. The Sierra Club will continue to be a partner in creating a bill with a fair, equitable, and environmentally sound plan, and will work for passage of the bill.

Successful Sierra Club Lobby Day

Taking the Capital by Storm

Sandra Cattell

Last month Isaac Lieberman and I traveled to Sacramento to join with activists from around the state for the annual Sierra Club Lobby Day.

On Sunday we met with our Sacramento staff for background information on the three bills we would be pitching. This included SB 1500 (Kehoe, Proactive Fire Planning), AB 2989 (Fuentes, Outdoor Environmental Education) and AB 2175 (Laird-Feuer, Water Conservation). All three would have a very direct local impact, and our job was to explain these benefits to our nearby elected officials.

On Monday we had a marathon-day, meeting with an impressive lineup of legislators. We visited Assembly members Smyth, S Runner, Benoit, Hernandez, De La Torre, Nava and Krikorian. We also visited with Senators G Runner, McClintock, Maldonado, and Scott.

I was so impressed meeting with some of the legislators whose environmental work I have admired for many years. Isaac called this "the most fun activist activity of the year." We hope our efforts will have a positive effect on our community.



Hike Schedule - continued from page 3

Sun, Jan 25 Vasquez Rocks Ramble 9AM
Easy 3-4 mi stroll among rocks carved by wind and rain, once a hideout for the infamous outlaw Tiburcio Vasquez. Meet 9 AM at entrance to Vasquez Park on street. Take I-5 N to 14 Fwy N (Antelope Valley Fwy), exit Agua Dulce Rd. N, follow signs. Bring water, snack, and lug soles. Serious rain cancels.
Ldrs: Henry Schultz (284-5613), Nina Riga (297-4079)

Sun, Feb 8 Whitney Canyon Loop 9AM
Mod 4 mi, 600' gain in proposed wilderness area along north slope of San Gabriel Mts. Meet 9 AM at south end of Newhall Ave/San Fernando Rd in Santa Clarita. Take I-5 N to 14 Fwy (Antelope Valley Fwy), exit Newhall Ave/San Fernando Rd, R to carpool area. Bring water, snack and lug soles. Rain cancels.
Ldrs: Dave Morrow (254-5245), Henry Schultz (284-5613)

Thur, Feb 12 Monthly Meeting 7:30PM
Speaker to be announced.

Sun, Feb 22 Gold Creek to Oak Spring, Fascination Spring 9AM
Mod 8 mi, 2000' gain in chaparral-covered slopes above Little Tujunga Cyn. We will encounter 2 springs shaded by oak forest. Fast paced, no beginners. Meet 9 AM Canyon Cnty Rideshare, 3/4 hour drive to trlhd. Bring water, lunch, lug soles. Rain cancels.
Leaders: Nina Riga (297-4079), Geraldine Lorme (296-0246)

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Whitney Canyon Hike led by Nina Riga

It was a beautiful day for a hike. It was not just any hike, but Nina's "provisional hike" where she would prove her skills in order to qualify as a Sierra Club hike leader. Nina had already completed all the other requirements to be an "O" rated leader. We hiked by the spring, bubbling with concealed gas, and by the burnt out honeycomb tree. The trail volunteers' work made it much easier to navigate the stream bottom where, to our surprise, there were many flowers

in bloom, including the water loving scarlet monkey flower. The falls were dry, as one would expect in this drought year. Nina did all the right stuff, never letting the group spread out too much, and got a good rating from yours truly. She is now a full-fledged outings leader and is doing a great job! Check out one of her upcoming hikes.



Your Hike Story Here

If you go on one of our outings, write up your experience and send it to me at henry50@pacbell.net. We are looking for broader coverage of our hikes. If you have an interesting outings experience that was not on one of our hikes, share that with our Outings Outpost as well. If you have a picture (digital), send it along with your story and we will make every effort to get it in.

See you on the trail - Henry

YES, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage!
My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

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STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$24	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$32
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Annual dues include subscription to Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1). Dues are not tax deductible.

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SIERRA CLUB - SCV GROUP

To ensure you receive all issues of *The Canyon Connection* and other chapter information, the Santa Clarita Valley Sierra Club asks members to donate **\$10 annually** to defray expenses associated with our newsletter production and mailing. Mail to: 21827 Parvin Dr., Saugus, CA 91350

Yes! Please add my name to your mailing list:

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