The Sierra Club's Scottish Colleagues:

The John Muir Trust

By John Hutchison

On a hiking trip in Scotland this summer, my group met and heard from West Highland community advocate and conservationist, John Hutchison. John, a past-chairman of the John Muir Trust (JMT), agreed to write about the activities of the JMT and links he has made with the U.S.—Ed.

Sierra Club founder John Muir is best known as the "Father of the National Parks" for his work in Yosemite, but the conservationist is also revered in his native Scotland. The UK's biggest wild land charity with 11,000 members was named the John Muir Trust in his honor.

Although the JMT was founded as recently as 1983, there is an historical link with the Sierra Club since Sierra Club President Larry Downing was involved at its inception.

The JMT has three main spheres of activity: advocating for wild land; owning land for conservation purposes and education.

Advocating for wild land can be a tough job with modern development pressures, particularly power lines and wind farms. Extreme steps such as taking the Scottish government to Judicial Review in the Court of Session can be expensive.

Unlike the Sierra Club, the JMT owns land in order to demonstrate best practice for conservation purposes. Managing the excess population of red deer is a major concern. Like other conservation-minded landowners, the JMT is keen to minimise the deer numbers to let natural habitats flourish, fostered by allowing tree growth.

Dec. 18: Support Hiking Access to the Preserve

In August, the city of Rancho Palos Verdes decided to discontinue the night hiking permit for the Sierra Club in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. RPV is also considering limiting the number of parking spaces near the preserve on Forrestal Dr. and Park Pl. The city council will take up the issue at the Dec. 18 meeting. Please attend. Make a brief statement or at least show your support by wearing a Sierra Club T-shirt. See you at Hesse Park, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd, RPV, 7 p.m., Tues., Dec. 18. We don’t know the order of the agenda, so bring reading matter.

AQMD Committee Says "Ban MHF" – Maybe

by Steve Dillow, Conservation Co-Chair

In the Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Refinery Committee meeting on Sept. 22, several experts supported the view that “modified” hydrofluoric acid (MHF) is no safer than unaltered HF, and that the mitigation efforts do little or nothing to protect the community. And after hundreds of citizens were allowed their minute to speak, the committee spoke, and eventually directed its staff to draft a directive (Rule 1410) to phase out MHF. That is, unless the refineries could prove that their mitigation efforts are effective. So far, Exxon has refused to allow the formulation or the test results to be released, and even threatened to sue over it. We are supposed to just "trust" them. The staff has until May to complete the document.

“...the risk to public health from an accidental release of this chemical is too great to accept,” said Clark E. 

(See JMT p.2)
Through the John Muir Award the JMT reaches many people, mostly young, encouraging them to find a wild place, research it, carry out some conservation work and then tell others. There are three levels of competence; Discovery, Explorer and Conserver. The Award isn’t only about teaching youngsters; the bigger picture is about identifying and nurturing the next generation of community environmental activists. Currently there are 28,000 Awards in the UK each year -- impressive. The JMT won the Sierra Club’s EarthCare Award in 2013, championed by Doris and Richard Cellarius of Prescott, Arizona.

As part of the commemoration of John Muir’s death in 2014, Scotland named a 134-mile cross-country hiking route as the John Muir Way. Starting at Muir’s Birthplace in Dunbar and traversing the more populous part of Scotland, the Way is nevertheless attractive as can be seen here: http://johnmuirway.org/

John Hutchison is also well known to the Sierra Club as a former Volunteer of the Month. He met with the Sierra Club main board in Sarasota in 2010 and hosted President Allison Chin’s visit to Scotland in 2013. Here he is planting a redwood tree at the Presidio: http://blogs.sierraclub.org/scrapbook/2010/04/planting-a-tree-for-john-muir.html

Creatures of the Night

Jim Buentgen scans the brush with a special flashlight on evening hikes. He often finds what others miss, hiding in plain sight: scorpions. The nocturnal arachnids are only two or three inches long at maturity and their brown or tan bodies blend in with surrounding brush. But under a black (ultraviolet) light, they fluoresce a bright turquoise color.

Rise for Climate LA Targets Oil Drilling

By Melanie Cohen, Conservation Co-Chair

On Sept. 8, 350.org and many local environmental justice groups including Physicians for Social Responsibility – LA and Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) held “Rise for Climate LA,” a rally calling for a state commitment to no new permits for oil or gas drilling, and a transition to 100% clean energy. Leaders called for 2500-foot setback for a health and safety buffer around oil well sites. Specifically at issue is AllenCo Energy, which operates 21 drilling sites next door to low-income housing, day care centers and numerous schools and colleges. AllenCo is attempting to reopen a site in downtown L.A. Maro Kakoussian of Physicians for Social Responsibility said, “We are fighting for all existing sites and all new sites.” Unfortunately, the state assembly bill, AB3146, which addressed part of this issue, calling for testing for airborne chemicals on existing well sites, died on the floor due to pressure from oil and gas industry lobbyists.

For further information on this issue please contact: http://www.cbecal.org/organizing/southern-california/https://www.stand.la/allenco.html
Hummingbirds: The Fastest Things on Wings

Hummer! I recognized the feathery buzz whirring by my head earlier. Now, as I write, I catch sight of one through the window by my desk. She is sitting on a telephone wire draped toward our house, her long, curved beak a slender exclamation point to her tiny body. SITTING!

I've always been fascinated by hummingbirds, constantly in motion, so small their eggs are no larger than the eraser on a pencil. It wasn't until I moved to California from the East Coast that I saw one at rest. Among all the birds, hummingbirds have the highest body temperature, the fastest heart rate, and the largest brain and heart in proportion to their size. Their life span is five to eight years in Southern California. In eight years a hummingbird's heart beats about three million times, the same number of heartbeats in the life of an eighty-year-old human! They can fly 25-30 miles per hour, and males have been clocked at 60 miles per hour in their courting dives. They require more energy to live than any other warm-blooded animal. It's estimated they visit 1,000 individual flowers a day. No wonder they sit and rest from time to time!

A number of species visit Southern California during migration. A few, like the Anna’s and Allen’s, are year-round residents. Anna’s hummingbird, *Calypte anna*, is our largest hummingbird and abundant year-round in Los Angeles County, especially the coastal lowlands, foothills, and urban areas. Anna’s back is iridescent bronze-green with a gray chest and belly. The male’s crown, chin and throat are a brilliant rose red. It's the only North American hummingbird with a red crown. Allen’s hummingbird, *Selasphorus sasin*, is also a common resident.

This aggressive hummer used to be restricted to the Channel Islands. Allen’s are smaller than Anna’s and have rufous (rust-colored) accents instead of red. Males in breeding plumage sport a green back with rufous on the tail, sides and flanks. They are resident in coastal sage, willows, gardens, and parks throughout the coastal lowlands, especially common near the coast. Both species expanded their ranges as we landscaped with more and more exotic shrubs.

The adult hummer’s throat patches, or gorgets, are covered with iridescent feathers. Pigment does not create their coloring, instead the structure of the feathers reflects different colors as the bird moves and the angle of the light changes. Hummingbirds feed on flowers of many colors, without preference, but their vision skews red so they can see red flowers better.


Wishing you abundant opportunities to observe these fascinating creatures, in your yard and on the trail.
Activities Calendar

Note: Activities may be changed, added or cancelled. Always check the online calendar. Search: sierra palos activities. You'll find current information and maps to hike meeting locations.

Weekly Conditioning Hikes

Monday Nights O: Rancho Palos Verdes: Slow moderate 2 hr. 4-6 mile hike: Some streets, some trails overlooking the ocean, and city lights. Some steep trails. Only one group, not for beginners. Arrive early, leave at 8:30 p.m. Meeting place varies. Find the location at angeles.sierraclub.org/palos_verdes_south_bay/current_activities_calendar (You can find it by searching the keywords: sierra palos activities.) Ldr: Bill Lavole

Tuesday Nights O: San Pedro/PV: Conditioning Hike Slow/ moderate 2 hr, 4-6 mile hikes on flat/hilly streets/trails to explore fauna/terrain in San Pedro/PV. Arrive early. Leaves 6:30 p.m. from 8th and Averill, San Pedro. Bring 1 liter of water. No dogs. Rain cancels. Ldrs: Joyce White and Kevin Schlnegger

Tuesday Nights O: Hermosa/Manhattan Beach: Moderate 1 1/2 hr, 4 mile hike on greenbelt and hilly streets. Good for beginners. Leave 7 p.m. from far end of parking lot of Hermosa Valley School (1645 Valley Dr.) We walk on the greenbelt wood chip path, sidewalks and roads in Hermosa and Manhattan Beach. There are some minor hills (about 130 feet of total elevation gain) The route is 4.1 miles long. We finish by 8:30 pm. Leashed dogs are allowed if they well behaved. Ldrs: Chris Albertson, Sharon Brossier, Paul Rosenberger.

Thursday Nights O: Palos Verdes Peninsula: Not for beginners. 5-6 mi in 2 hours with many hills through various areas on the Peninsula. Multiple speed groups. Start in the slowest group and work your way up. (The faster groups may not be able to wait for anyone who cannot keep up.) Please come EARLY so that everyone can sign the waiver by 6:30. Meet in the Peninsula Center parking lot (Hawthorne & Silver Spur) near Hamburger Habitat (enter from Silver Spur at Silver Arrow). Ldrs: William Lavole, Brooks Chadwick, Joyce White, Zoltan Stroll, Jacques Monier, Kevin Schlnegger.

Executive Committee Meeting. First Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. the PVSB Group Executive Committee meets to discuss matters relevant to the Group. Meeting open to all Sierra Club members. Call a committee member for location.

IMPORTANT NOTICES
In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/local-outdoors/resources or call 415-977-5528. In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. For bus trips, our seller of travel number is CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

NOTICE REGARDING MINORS
On local pvsb hikes, minors must be accompanied by a parent.
For overnight trips:
Each minor participant must have a Minor Waiver form, available at http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sites/angeles.sierraclub.org/files/docs/get_outdoors/SierraClubMinor_Waiver.pdf. If the minor is not accompanied by a parent or guardian, they must also have a Medical Treatment Authorization & Consent Form (Minor Release) available at http://angeles.sierraclub.org/sites/angeles.sierraclub.org/files/docs/get_outdoors/SierraClubMinorRelease.PDF signed by a parent or guardian. Minors not having these signed forms shall not go on the hikes.

Activities continued, see p. 6.
Activities subject to change. Always check the online calendar. Search: sierra palos activities.

Notice: For all weekend hikes, wear lug sole boots; bring a snack & water. If you anticipate rain, wear rain gear. Activities are held rain or shine but may be altered in inclement weather. Minors permitted if accompanied by a parent.

Nov 4 Sun O: Hike Coastal San Pedro. Moderate hike, 6 miles, 2.5 hours, 700’ elevation gain. Please join the PV-SB and 20s & 30s groups as we explore coastal San Pedro on foot. We will meet at CRAFTED at the Port of Los Angeles at 8:15 a.m. Hike leaves promptly at 8:30 am. We will hike west and enjoy spectacular ocean views along the seashore. We will loop around White Point Nature preserve and head back to CRAFTED. Bring water, sunglasses, hat, snacks, boots and a sense of adventure. Candle making social event posted separately for after the hike. Sorry, no minors. No dogs. Ldrs: Kevin Schlunegger and Krista Muscarella.

Nov 4 Sun. Holiday Candle-Making Workshop Start the season right. Make a custom scented candle with the PV-SB and 20s & 30s groups of the Sierra Club. Create a 9 oz. soy candle, with 90+ fragrances to blend, for $25. Candle making typically takes 1.5 hrs + 1-1.5 hrs for the candle to solidify. While you wait, design and print a label. Additional candles $15 each, no advance purchase necessary! Meet 11am, Banter & Bliss, CRAFTED, Port of L.A., 112 E. 22nd St, San Pedro. Only 40 seats; sign up now. Pay by cash or credit card on day of event. Reserve your spot at www.SC2030.org by Nov.1st. Pre-workshop hike posted separately for after the hike. Sorry, no minors. No dogs. Ldrs: Kevin Schlunegger and Krista Muscarella. Note: The Sierra Club is not affiliated with Banter & Bliss nor supports or endorses the organization.

Nov 10 Sat O: Point Fermin Park Hike. 6 miles, 500’ gain, 2.5 hours. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot at the northwest corner of 22nd St and Miner St in San Pedro. We will walk on surface streets to the west end of Pt. Fermin Park and maybe down to the beach. Leaders: Steven Morris and Galen Helsey.

Nov 24 Sat O: George F Canyon Hike. Join us for a slow 6 mi, 1200’ gain, 2.5-hr hike through trails near the Nature Center. Hike starts at 8:00 a.m. from the trailhead on Palos Verdes Dr East, 1/8 mile south of Palos Verdes Dr North. Rain cancels. Ldrs: Linda Werk and Judy Shane.

Dec 1 Sat O: Friendship Park Hike. 7 miles, 1000’ gain, 3 hours. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Bagdanovich Recreation Center (from S. Western Ave and W. 9th St in San Pedro, go west one block to Friendship Park Dr and go up the hill, turn left at intersection and proceed to parking lot). The route covers trails in Friendship Park and the Marymount, Switchback, and San Ramon Trails. Ldrs: Steven Morris and Barry Bonnickson.

Dec 8 Sat O: Hills and Trails Hike. Join us for a slow 6-mi, 1,000’ gain, 2.5-hr hike on the hilly trails in the peninsula. Hike starts at 8:00 a.m. Meet in the Peninsula Center (Hawthorne & Silver Spur) parking lot near Hamburger Habit (enter from Silver Spur at Silver Arrow). Rain cancels. Ldrs: Judy Shane & Linda Werk.

Dec 10 Mon O: Holiday Lights Hike. Easy social hike to enjoy the holiday lights of Sleepy Hollow. Meet 7 p.m. in Redondo Beach Riviera Village parking lot across from Trader Joe’s, 1 block west of PCH & Palos Verdes Bl via Vista del Mar. The hike will last about 1-1/2 hrs. Bring comfortable walking shoes & red lens flashlight. Ldr: Bill Lavoie, Asst. Ldr: Zoltan Stroll.

Dec 15 Sat O: George F - PVLF Hike. 6.5 miles, 600’ gain, 3 hrs. Meet at 8:00 a.m. on Palos Verdes Dr East, 1/8 mile south of Palos Verdes Dr North, at trailhead. We will take the Junes, Botanical Garden, Moccasin, Chandlers Park, Palos Verdes Dr North and School Trails. Ldrs: Steven Morris and Barry Bonnickson.

Dec 22 Sat O: Forrestal Area Hike. 3.3 miles, 900’ gain, 2.5 hrs. Take Palos Verdes Dr South to Forrestal Dr, north to gate. Meet at gate at 8:00 a.m. Hike along the Pirate, Mariposa, Flying Mane, Canyon, Dauntless, Conquerer, Barn Owl, Panorama and Klondike Canyon Trails. Ldrs: Steven Morris and Dorothy Chadwick.

Dec 29 Sat O: Ocean Trails Hike. 4.5 miles, 800’ gain, 2.5 hrs. Meet at 8:00 a.m. Take Palos Verdes Dr South to La Rotonda Dr to end, and into the trail parking lot (inside the gate). We will take the Prickly Pear, Ocean Vista, East Portal, Gnatcatcher, Switchback, Dudleya and Lakeview Trails, and will walk beside the ocean and visit tidal pools. Ldrs: Steven Morris and Terri Straub.

Apr 19, 2019 Fri O: Moonlight Hike from White Point. Meet at the parking lot on Paseo Del Mar just east of the southern end of Western at 7:30 p.m. About 3 miles, 700’ elevation gain. 1.5 hours. Easy walk with beautiful moonlight over the Pacific Ocean. Important: Park on Paseo Del Mar, not in parking lot. Ldrs: Joyce White and Stephen Bradford.
Sat, Jan 19, 2019 - Mon, Jan 21, 2019 (MLK Weekend) I: Anza-Borrego Car Camp

I: Spend 2 nights at campsites in the pretty and comfortable Borrego Palms Campground in Anza-Borrego State Park (running water and showers). Optional early arrival Fr nite. Day hikes include a beautiful desert slot canyon hike (about 7 mi, 1000’ gain), an interpretive trail to a palm oasis (3 mi, 500’ gain), and a section of the Pacific Crest Trail (8 mi, 1000’ gain). Slot-canyon hike will require some moderate rock scrambling. Optional group dinner in the town of Borrego Springs Sun. night, happy hour and campfire Sat. night. Cost: campground fee split among participants, max $40/person, collected on trip. Send email address, experience, conditioning, phone numbers, rideshare information to leader: Dean Wallraff deanraff@arsnova.org (818) 353-426; Beth Martin whmscll@gmail.com (626) 396-9701; Keith Martin keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net (209) 962-7421   Level: Moderate(I)