



April 2017

LORYX

Sierra Club 101

by Laurence Gibson

It's complicated! Even those of us who have been around the club for years are always learning new things about the SC.

For one thing, our structure is complicated. We have three levels: National, Chapter and Group.

The National SC (around 2 million members) recently moved from San Francisco to Oakland with dozens of employees there as well as an important office in Washington, DC for lobbying, etc. Our dues money goes to National, which also has its own roster of \$10,000+ donors.

Our mid-level is the 63 Sierra Club Chapters nationwide. Some are huge (7 in California alone) with teams of staffers and many groups. Others, like our Rio Grande Chapter (8,000 members) are relatively small. The RGC has 5 groups and one full-time staffer, Chapter Director Camilla Feibelman, plus Communications Director Mona Blaber and Chapter Lobbyist Dan Lorimier, who also serves as Conservation Coordinator. The Chapter receives funding from National for operations and fellowships. Donations are solicited during specified "windows" as well as from media.

And last, we have our Group level, composed entirely of volunteers. The Groups are funded with a small "dues subvention" from National as well as rewards from the parent Chapter. Our RGC has been very generous to the El Paso Group by supporting the Loryx as well as allowing us to fundraise during the March window reserved for chapters. We are also the only group in two states, a nod to our geography here 600 miles from Austin, headquarters for the Lone Star Chapter (22,000 members) which covers the rest of Texas. You may have seen us referred to as the El Paso

Regional Group, because we do include Hudspeth and Culbertson Counties in our membership. But as far as National is concerned, we are simply the El Paso Group (500 members). Finally, I'd like to say a word about fundraising. We have just survived the triple whammy of Sierra Club pleas for \$: National in February, Chapter in March and then my Group letter, not to mention the new monthly giving deduction concept! Please consider targeting your gift using the "Think Globally, Act Locally" mantra. Your El Paso Group pledges to spend it locally and wisely!

El Paso Group Sierra Club
Presents

EL PASO PREMIER *WILD WAYS*

Meet other members of the El Paso Sierra Club and enjoy the El Paso premier showing of *Wild Ways*. This 60 minute film, underwritten by the El Paso Group, explores how newly established wildlife corridors offer hope to endangered species. Before the film we will present an update on our efforts to protect wildlife corridors in Big Bend National Park and adjacent Mexico.

Refreshments in the lobby at 10 am

Meeting in the auditorium at 10:30

Saturday am, 10 to 12 April 8, 2017

**Chamizal National Memorial Auditorium
800 S. San Marcial St. El Paso, TX 79905**

Outings

Black Range Backpack

Date: May 15-18
Place: Aldo Leopold Wilderness north of Mimbres, NM
Class: Strenuous
Mileage: 30 miles
Contact: John Walton
walton@utep.edu

The Black Range is without doubt the wildest place in Southern New Mexico. The bear population alone

is an indicator of the solitude to be experienced there. The first day we will place a vehicle up by Lookout Mountain on the Continental Divide Trail and return to Black Canyon, attempting to reach the Box to camp. The second will be easier with a hike and camp at Reeds Peak, site of one of the Black Range fire lookouts. Day 3 will be still shorter with a hike down to the gorgeous camp at Reeds Meadow. The final day we'll take the Continental Divide Trail out to the road and drive back home.

Hillsboro Peak Backpack

Date: May 18-19
Place: Aldo Leopold Wilderness
Class: Moderate
Mileage: 10 miles round trip
Contact: John Walton
walton@utep.edu

At 10,001 feet Hillsboro Peak is always a fun challenge. Our trailhead will be Emory Pass above Kingston, NM. This early the spring should have good water. A personable fellow mans the fire lookout. Great campsites abound here.

El Paso Group
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Outings continued...

Gila Memorial Day Backpack

Date: May 26-29
Place: Gila National Forest
Class: Strenuous
Mileage: 18 miles minimum
Contact: Harry Newman
swtraveller@aol.com
Starting near the Gila Visitor Center on Friday, this "light and fast" trip will go from TJ Corral to the Middle Fork/Little Bear intersection. This features beautiful views for 5 miles, until we descend into Little Bear, where the canyon starts narrowing. We will cross the Middle Fork several times returning to the TJ Corral.

Glass Recycling Update

Many Sierrans rejoiced in early 2016 when the city's Environmental Services Department instituted a year-long pilot program for glass processing with a ribbon-cutting ceremony down at 1034 Pendale in Lilly Limon's District 7. For months now there have been rumors that the program would die because it was "losing money." (Since when do city services have to make money?) The latest from ESD Director Ellen Smyth: "The glass pilot program officially ended February 1. We are putting the results together to present to the City Manager to see what he wants to do going forward." I repeat; if Las Cruces can do this, why can't we?

2017 Leaders and Staff

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