

## Activists Make Major Contribution to Chapter Finances

by Ford Robbins

A recent survey undertaken by the Fundraising Committee reveals that Chapter activists are indeed active and working hard for environmental protection.

The Chapter Fundraising Committee sent the survey to 80 Chapter activists—those folks who we believe spend their volunteer time advocating for the environment and resource protection. We wanted to know just how much they contribute to the Club's conservation goals in terms of time, miles driven and non-reimbursed miscellaneous expenses such as photocopies, postage, telephone, etc.

Of the 80 questionnaires sent, 38 were returned. From the returns we have learned that, in 1993, our activists have contributed 15,333 hours of hard work, driven 57,655 miles to attend meetings and hearings, and have contributed \$8,775 in out-of-pocket expenses. That averages out to 590 hours, 2306 miles and \$338 per responding activist! Using conservative equivalent values, our responding activists have contributed \$90,000 towards environmental protection.

In March, the Chapter will be asking you to contribute to the annual fund drive. In 1994 we will be focusing on resource recovery issues and wilderness issues. Please consider our activists' contribution as you consider yours.

## Greetings from New Lobbyist

by Doug Fraser

I am pleased to be the lobbyist for the Chapter in the upcoming New Mexico legislative session, scheduled to begin on January 18. I have been involved in the New Mexico legislative process since the spring of 1970, and I've lobbied or worked on related legislative matters for various municipal and state agencies through the 1980s. I'm both a civil engineer and lawyer. In the 1970s I was the chief attorney for the old New Mexico Environmental Improvement Agency.

Since this is a short session of the Legislature, most of the issues that the Club will be dealing with will relate to funding of state programs that impact the environment. Of environmental program initiatives, we are anticipating legislation on tire, oil, and battery recycling.

## 1994 Chapter Budget

### Projected Income

Dues, national Sierra Club	\$ 25,000
Income, March appeal letter	7,000
Lobbying incentive grant	1500
Newsletter advertising	240
Newsletter reimb. (SC Foundation)	1,400
Reimb. from Chap. meeting attendees	1,800

TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME \$36,940


### Anticipated/Budgeted Expenses

Insurance/other charges	\$ 2,380
Dues subventions to groups	5,000
March appeal letter expenses	1,800
Lobbyist salary/expenses	3,600
Newsletter expenses	11,616
Chapter meeting expenses	2,440
Chapter admin. expenses	1,500
Contingency reserve	3,694
Issue Chair expenses (\$375 x 12)	4500

TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES \$ 36,530

# Legacy

What will yours be? You joined the Sierra Club because you are concerned about the well-being of the Earth. Continue your involvement by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. For more information and confidential assistance contact John Calaway, Sierra Club Planned Giving Program, 730 Polk St., San Francisco, CA 94109, (415) 923-5538.



# RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

News of the Rio Grande Chapter  
Sierra Club • January 1994

## Chapter Adopts 1994 Budget

by Susan Gorman

The Rio Grande Chapter Executive and Conservation Committees met at the Black Range Lodge in Kingston, December 3-5, to face the difficult business of reviewing project plans, developing the 1994 budget, and electing new officers.

The results of the Chapter Executive Committee election were announced and the new members are George Grossman, Susan Schock, and Pat Wolff. Other changes resulted because Carol Morrison of the El Paso Group has decided to resign and Marc Bedner of the Albuquerque Group will be resigning to move to Tennessee. The ExCom voted to appoint the next highest vote getters to any open positions, so Gwen Wardwell will fill Carol's slot and Marc's position will be filled by the next person in line when his letter of resignation is received.

Normally, the ExCom elects officers at this meeting but two of the new members, Pat and Susan, were not able to attend the portion of the meeting when this was scheduled. We

decided to proceed with elections and to require an absolute majority of votes. George Grossman and Gwen Wardwell were nominated for Chair, but neither candidate received an absolute majority so we will wait until the next meeting in March, 1994 to proceed with the elections. In the meantime, the current officers will continue.

Major revisions were made to the administrative budget to bring expenses in line with anticipated income (see budget on back page.) The *Rio Grande Sierran* is a major expense and we discussed, at length, ways to reduce its cost. It was decided to convert the editor position back to a volunteer job. Kevin Bixby has agreed to be interim editor and train the new editor. More cuts were needed, however, so we voted to publish issues in January and February, and thereafter go to bimonthly issues (March/April, May/June, etc.) We urge each group to consider alternative methods for communication such as an Information Hotline using a more sophisticated phone answering machine or service.

The money we save on the newsletter will be used to support other conservation work. Each Issue Chair will have \$375 to use for phone, fax and mail costs. Chairs are urged to make fundraising a part of their action plans.

Some new issue chairs were appointed: Roger Peterson (Grazing); Sue McIntosh (Wildlife); Jay Sorenson and Marianne Thaeler (Federal Facilities, Toxics, and Land Use); George Grossman and Tom Brasfield (Wilderness); Susan Gorman (Political Committee); Nick Webster (Oil and Gas). Conservation Chair Tom Brasfield will be the official contact for the BLM and Forest Service.

The good news for the groups is that they will again receive a portion of the dues revenues to use for conservation and administrative costs. This money was not distributed in 1993 due to shortfalls.

## The N.M. Mining Act — an Update

by Sue McIntosh

The subject of non-coal mining regulations dominated the summer and fall for a few of us. The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department established a technical advisory committee and several issue working groups, and set off on a flurry of meetings and working sessions that lasted until the early part of September. The goal was to develop regulations under the New Mexico Mining Act, which had been signed into law by Governor King in April, 1993.

Our participation on the Technical Advisory Committee and the work groups was long and tedious, but by the end of the process, Sierra Club and other environmental groups had heard enough to produce our own complete draft of proposed regulations. In September, we offered these to MMD. In November, MMD staff produced a set of draft regulations influenced by our version, but far from ideal.

Chief among our concerns is the broad discretion given to the Director of Mining and Minerals. MMD's draft gives the Director unbridled discretion on many fundamental issues to override regulatory criteria. There are other substantive concerns, and the Sierra Club, along with the N.M. Environmental Law Center, will be drafting detailed comments soon. The point is to provide, for the newly constituted New Mexico Mining Commission, the best material with which to work. The Commission will ultimately adopt final mining and reclamation regulations, probably by the end of spring, 1994.

It should be noted that Governor Bruce King made some excellent appointments to the Mining Commission, notably Dr. Art Montana, a scientist of impeccable credentials, and N.M. Tech professor Val Green, a great friend of the earth.

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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 Gwen Wardwell, Chair (505) 438-3060  
 Susan Gorman, Vice-Chair (505) 265-3231  
 Marc Bedner, Council Delegate (505) 299-2004  
 Blair Brown, Alb. Rep. (505) 265-3231  
 George Grossman (505) 982-1024  
 Sue McIntosh, Santa Fe Rep. (505) 982-4146  
 Ted Mertig (915) 852-3011  
 Jana Oylar, Treas. (505) 984-2020  
 Susan Schock (505) 388-2854  
 Marianne Thaeler, So. NM Rep. (505) 522-3421  
 Wyona Turner, El Paso Rep. (915) 585-0251  
 Pat Wolff (505) 989-1663  
 Ben Zerbay (505) 526-6207

**Conservation Chair--Tom Brasfield** (915) 584-8739

**Conservation Issue Chairs**  
 Diamond Bar--Ted Mertig (915) 852-3011  
 Energy & Trans.--Ken Hughes (505) 988-9297  
 Federal Facilities, Toxics, & Land Use--

Jay Sorenson (505) 884-4314  
 Marianne Thaeler (505) 522-3421  
 Grazing--Roger Peterson (505) 983-7559  
 National Parks--Ben Zerbay (505) 526-6207  
 Oil & Gas--Nick Webster (505) 325-2366  
 Petroglyph Nat. Mon.--Ike Eastvold (505) 255-7679  
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## Agencies Need to Act on Bird Deaths

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is to be commended for calling attention to bird and bat deaths caused by oil field equipment in New Mexico (so called "heater treaters.") Before PETA's Albuquerque press conference last November, few people were aware that thousands of birds and bats are killed each year by open vent stacks associated with heater treaters and dehydrators.

This quiet slaughter could be avoided by installing inexpensive covers on the vent stacks to prevent perching or entering. To their credit, some of the larger oil companies have already done this, but others arrogantly resist making any changes.

PETA rightly called on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take action using its authority under federal law. But PETA missed an opportunity to point out several state agencies that have been delinquent on this issue.

The agency responsible for environmental regulation of the oil industry in New Mexico--the Oil Conservation Division (OCD) of the N.M. Department of Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources--has shown little interest in the problem. The N.M. Department of Game and Fish and the State Land Office has taken the position that it lacks authority to protect the environment on its lands under oil and gas leases. This odd interpretation of its trust responsibilities ignores language in the Land Office's own leases that requires oil companies to comply with environmental laws.

Until the attitude of these state agencies change, the oil industry will continue to call the shots on much of its fiefdom in New Mexico. -KB

## LETTERS

Editor:

At a closed meeting in December, the out-going Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee decided to remove me as chapter Wildlife Issues chair. However, I will remain active on the ADC issue and as a newly elected ExCom member, I will continue to do all I can to expose and stop the government's war on wildlife. Sierra Club members who wish to be on an ADC-activist mailing list should send me their phone numbers and addresses.

Patricia Wolff

P.O. Box 401, Santa Fe, 87504

Editor:

Last month I received a vote of confidence from the Sierra Club membership and was elected to the Chapter ExCom. Along with the two other new members, I should take office in January. Unfortunately, our voices will not be heard during the 1994 NM state legislative session, because the 1993 ExCom voted to forgo the January ExCom meeting and to extend Gwen Wardwell's term as Chair until March. The 1993 ExCom also voted on the 1994 budget, appropriating most of the money for lobbying and leaving many

critical environmental issues pitifully underfunded at the expense of politicking with the King administration.

One such issue is proposed wilderness grazing development on the Diamond Bar allotment. Two years ago the Chapter pledged to "pursue the Diamond Bar issue through to litigation." The Forest Service has released a draft environmental impact statement which satisfies neither pressing ecological concerns nor the permittee; all parties involved agree that the Diamond Bar decision will go to court. 1994 will be a critical period for gathering field data for this precedent setting case. I have worked on the Diamond Bar and other public lands grazing issues as a full time volunteer for nearly three years, and will continue the fight. To help, please contact me at 988-2854.

Susan Schock, Silver City

Gwen Wardwell Responds:

The motion to replace Pat Wolff as Wildlife Chair was passed in an open meeting of the Executive Committee. The decision to hold meetings in March, June, September, and December was

## Dressing for Cross-Country Skiing

by John Turnbull

The selection of proper clothing for skiing is much more critical than for hiking because of hypothermia, frostbite, and other hazards unique to cold weather. When participating in a ski tour, always ask how far you will be from your vehicle. On tours of more than a few miles, proper clothing literally can be a matter of life and death.

### Layering

The basic system of dressing for active cold-weather pursuits consists of layering clothing. As you exercise more, or the weather gets warmer, you shed layers to avoid excessive perspiration. When you stop, or the weather turns colder, you add a layer or two to keep warm. The three layers are: the under-layer, next to the skin; the insulating layer(s); and the outer weatherproof shell.

### Skiing the Chama Area

There is wonderful skiing from late November through April on Cumbres Pass, above Chama. Call the Chama Ski Service (provided by Bob and Missy Porter) for latest info on trails and snow conditions, advice on lodging, and to reserve rental equipment (including Telemark). 756-2492.

The under-layer is basically long underwear, but *not* the usual cotton material. Select a "wicking" synthetic material like polypropylene or Thermax™ which, unlike cotton, will not absorb and hold moisture, but will pass it away from the skin to be evaporated. Keeping the skin dry is key. If a person has any money for clothing, this garment, and particularly the upper half, is the priority. Silk underwear, although it feels nice, does not wick moisture like the synthetics. Turtlenecks and zip-up mock turtlenecks are desirable since they protect the neck, an area of high heat loss. On warm days your underlayer may be the only upper body garment you need, so select one that looks nice.

The insulating layer(s) may be a wool

### Letters (cont.)

made by the ExCom in 1992, as was the decision to adopt the annual budget and elect officers at the December meeting each year. A motion was made at the December, 1993 meeting to hold a January meeting, but died for lack of a second. The Diamond Bar issue was not one of the top conservation priorities for 1993 or 1994.

sweater or shirt (again *not* cotton, which, when damp or wet, will lose most of its insulating value.) In cold weather you may want a couple such layers, including possibly an insulated vest (synthetic-filled, not down.) You have a lot of selection here. The newer polyester fleece garments, PolarTec™ and Polar Lite™, I have found to be particularly good, even in extreme conditions. Like wool, they have the marvelous capacity to continue insulating even if wet.

For your legs, which do not radiate nearly as much heat as your upper body, wool or synthetic trousers are best. Levis, being cotton, will dampen. A lot of people ski in Levis anyway, and wicking underwear goes a long way to offset their shortcomings. The expert can usually get away with it. The beginner who is falling a lot and getting wet definitely should not. On long tours, nobody should wear cotton. Lycra tights, except on very cold days, serve well, and are popular. Always select the insulated variety.

Concerning synthetics, Sierra Clubbers should note that since last year Mauldin Mills has introduced a high-quality fleece material, almost identical to its time-proven PolarTec™, that is made entirely from recycled plastic bottles. When shopping, watch for this on the label.

Ideally, the outer weatherproof shell should have a hood, and be either waterproof or very water-resistant. It must be "breathable" to prevent dampness building up inside. Coated, non-breathable synthetic materials are positively deadly. In most cases the moisture from perspiration is a much greater problem to worry about than moisture from snow or rain. Gore-Tex lined shells are very effective, but expensive. With a good polyester fleece underneath, a water-repellent (but not waterproof), uninsulated, and inexpensive nylon jacket with hood usually will serve fairly well.

### More Specifically...

Wet feet mean misery, and could result in frostbite as well. The same layering principles apply here. I prefer a thin wicking polypropylene sock liner next to my skin, and a wool or wool/polypropylene insulating sock over that. Be sure to buy boots big enough to accommodate the socks you will wear. To keep snow out of the tops of the boots, and to prevent the laces icing up, gaiters are very effective. For most ski touring, of any distance, in deep snow, they

### Chapter Spring Ski Weekend

We are scheduling a Chapter ski trip to Alpine, Arizona (near Reserve, N.M.), for President's Day weekend, Feb. 19-21. The Forest Service has several areas around Alpine designated for skiing, and maintains a groomed trail for those wishing to try free-style skate technique.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to ski some new country (at least for most of us) and become acquainted with people from other groups. It should be lots of fun! Accommodations will be inexpensive, possibly free. Ski rentals are available locally. Also, people coming through Silver City may rent equipment from Sierra Club folks at Gila Hike and Bike. There will be a variety of activities, and it's open to people on all skill levels. For the beginners there will be ski lessons provided by Ben Zerbay and John Turnbull. We are planning a big do-it-ourselves dinner one evening, and donations may be asked to pay for the fixings.

See your group pages for contact names and phone numbers.

--JAT

are essential. The better ones have breathable material on the upper portion, which is desirable.

The head is the area of greatest heat loss by far, as much as 50 to 60 percent. Try to find a cap that will stop the wind. An inexpensive wool or synthetic knit cap is what you want. Some of the more expensive caps now come with a nice wicking polypropylene band. When the weather is warm and sunny a knit cap will cause perspiration. On these days a light, brimmed hat is preferred.

For your eyes, wear sunglasses. The snow will reflect enough light to almost double what your eyes normally receive. Be sure to get either glass or ultraviolet-filtering polycarbonate lenses. Cheap plastic lenses let the UV through, even as they cause your pupils to dilate. Cheap plastic lenses may be worse than none at all.

For your hands, loosely-woven knit gloves are definitely out. I prefer a shell-type glove, with a water-repellent outer surface. Select one with a cuff, to keep snow out if you fall. This type glove comes in all price ranges. Carrying an extra pair is a good idea. A ring or snap to allow you to hang the gloves on your belt is handy for drying them as you shuffle along.

Most people find that their cross-country ski clothes, because of their functionality and lightness, become winter favorites. Consider this when shopping.

Much of this article appeared in the Jan. 1993 *Sierran*. The author has conducted ski classes and tours for many years.

# ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

## January General Meeting: NM 1994 Legislative Update

The 1994 New Mexico Legislative Session begins January 18 and promises to be filled with battles for the environment. Representative Cicso McSorley and Sierra Club lobbyist Doug Fraser will present a summary of the legislation to watch and guidelines about how to be involved in the process.

We will meet on Monday, January 17th, 7:30 PM, in room 2401 of the UNM Law School at the NW corner of Mountain and Stanford NE. Please be aware that during the school year, even after normal hours, there is a \$1 fee for parking in the lot. The permit can be obtained inside at library desk, or you can park on the street. Please bring a cup if you care to have the refreshments provided by the Club. Preceding the main program, we mention upcoming events and outings, recaps of outings and alerts on issues with opportunities to write letters and to get involved. If you have questions or would like additional information about the meeting, please call Evelyne Buie at 266-5267. Hope to see you there!

### January Potluck - Sunday, January 9

Continuing our newly revived Albuquerque Group tradition, we are going to again have an informal 'Potluck Supper' on Sunday evening, January 9th, beginning at 5PM. Stefan Verchinski has offered to be our host. He lives at 2700 Espanola NE, which is one block north of Menaul, four blocks east of Louisiana.

All members are invited to come by and stay for as long as you can. There's no formality, just a chance to meet some of your fellow members in a more casual atmosphere than the general meeting. We'll plan to eat around 6PM, so bring a dish to share and your own plate and utensils and join us. Keep your eye on the Sierran for the date and time of the next one. See you there

#### Conservation Defined by Susan Gorman

Did you ever stop to think that all Sierra Club work which is not Administration is Conservation? The Excom is responsible for overseeing all the Club's administrative tasks and must approve all statements and positions expressed by Club members.

The real substantive work on issues is designated Conservation. In an interconnected world, issues are not separate, and trying to divide them often results in that well-known phenomenon of not being able to see the forest for the trees. Issue Activists need to come together to share ideas and seek connections. Everyone in the Club with an interest in environmental issues is a member of the Conservation Committee! As the new Group Conservation Chair, I will focus my efforts on building more grass-roots support for all of the issues facing us. I pledge to bring new energy to this task and have set a goal to find at least one actual committee member to work with each Issue Chair.

The Conservation Committee meetings will be changed to Conservation Working Sessions, and everyone is invited, cajoled, and begged to come and get involved (or at least see what others are doing). The Working Sessions will be held at the Sierra Club office, the 4th Monday of each month, 7:00 PM (NEW TIME). To help make these sessions productive, anyone who wants to initiate an issue discussion should call me at 265-3231 by the Wednesday before the session.

#### Conservation Issue Focus - Water

The Chapter Water Initiative is building momentum and opportunities to help are multiplying. Does the sight of water flowing onto pavement from unnaturally green lawns make you angry? When you turn on the tap to get a glass of water, do you wonder about its purity? Does the news about industrial water users who plan to pump groundwater and return it to the Rio Grande make you question the judgement of our elected officials? Don't just get angry, get involved! If you live in the Albuquerque area and drink water, these issues hit you where you live! Volunteer today! Call Susan Gorman at 265-3231 for more information.

### Save Yale Park!

The Campus Community Coalition (a UNM student chartered organization) is working to save Yale Park from being destroyed by a proposed new UNM bookstore. If the bookstore is built, the ancient trees will be cut down and the block-wide park north of Central between Yale and Cornell will be destroyed. The Campus Community Coalition (CCC) proposes instead that the park be revitalized as a demonstration garden for native plant, low-water use landscaping, retaining all the trees. If you can help or have comments on Yale Park goals, please call David Stewart 260-0239 or Jim Lewis 881-7423. -- Jim Lewis

#### Yale Park Goals

1. Attractive boundary for UNM.
2. Attractive view for visitors.
3. Pleasant walking and picnic area for students, faculty, staff, business people, neighborhood residents, and Popejoy Hall patrons.
4. Place for festivals - music, art, and dance.
5. Preservation of one of the few parks on Central, retaining all trees.
6. Display of native trees, shrubs, and grasses, and types of habitat (forest, dry shrub, desert, meadow), each identified with a sign.
7. Mulch most of the area with pine needles, leaves, and grass clippings from UNM campus.
8. Porous pavement paths suitable for wheelchairs, walkers, joggers, bicyclers, and rollerblades.
9. Demonstration of:
  - a) Water conservation by use of native plants, mulch, and surface contours to eliminate runoff.
  - b) Recycling and retention of all plant nutrients from UNM campus.
  - c) Absorption of pollutants and noise from Central traffic by surface contours and native plants.
10. Convenient and safe bicycle racks.
11. Adapt existing sprinkling system into an adjustable watering system to establish new plants.
12. Find ways to make Yale Park safe.

#### Programs for 1994

Evelyne Buie has agreed to arrange programs for the General Meetings. She has already started work on the 1994 schedule and asks for input on future programs. Call her at 266-5267 to discuss your ideas for great programs this year.

**1994 Albuquerque Group Executive Committee Named**  
The election results are in: Nick Persampieri, Richard Barish, and Blair

#### 1994 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

Jay Sorenson	884-4314
Blair Brown	265-3231
Richard Barish	247-8079
Nick Persampieri	281-7845
Nick Nicolaus	884-5433
Stefan Verchinski	888-1370

The Albuquerque Group of the Sierra Club depends entirely on the efforts of volunteers. To help our efforts, call the following issue coordinators:

ADMINISTRATION		
Activities/	David Morrison	344-8693
Special Planning		
Books/	vacant	
Calendars		
Newsletter	Dorothy Brethauer	275-6113
	Larry Compton	899-0679
Outings	David Morrison	344-8693
	Stan Kauchak	292-9138
Programs	Evelyne Buie	266-5267

CONSERVATION		
Conservation	Susan Gorman	265-3231
Chair		
Air Quality	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Bosque	Richard Barish	247-8079
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Las Huertas	Marion Davidson	867-5178
Mining Reform	Blair Brown	265-3231
Petroglyphs/		
Westside	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
Population	Michelle Meaders	266-8823
Public Lands	Barbara Stone	265-5304
Waste/	David Bouquin	265-7853
Recycling		
Water	(vacant)	
Wildlife/	Barbara Bates	888-0388
Endangered Species		
Wildlife/	Susan Larsen	897-2527
Mexican Wolf		

## CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at the Club office at 207 San Pedro NE.

- Jan 6: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
- Jan 4: Activities and Special Planning Meeting, 7PM, Sierra Club Office.
- Jan 9: Potluck Supper at Stefan's. See article on page 1. 5 PM.
- Jan 11: Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM. (different time this month)
- Jan 15: 12 noon. **Deadline** for articles for February group newsletter. Macintosh preferred. Call Larry if supplying hardcopy only.
- Jan 17: **Sierra Club General Meeting**, UNM Law School, Rm 2402, 7:30 PM
- Jan 18: NM Legislative Session begins.
- Jan 24: Conservation Working Session, 7:00 PM.
- Feb 3: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.
- Feb 8: Activities and Special Planning Meeting, 7PM, Sierra Club Office.

Brown have won. The 1994 Executive Committee will elect officers at the January meeting, January 11 (new date).

David Bouquin and Bob Cornish have resigned (thanks to both for their fine support). The Excom will make appointments to fill several vacancies at the January meeting. Please call Jay Sorenson, 884-4314, if you want to be considered for appointment.

**Abbreviations:** WSA-Wilderness Study Area SW-Sandia Wilderness NM-National Monument SC-Sierra Club

# OUTINGS

**Thur Jan 6 & Sat Jan 8**  
X/C Ski Lecture & Lessons in Santa Fe

Certified ski instructor, John Turnbull of the Santa Fe Sierra Club Group will offer a beginners lecture Thurs. night on X/C history, clothing, and skis. On Sat. the class will be taken to the field to practice their kick & glide, turns, and stops. Contact John Turnbull at 982-9329 or Stan. Leader: Stan Kauchak 292-9138

**Sat Jan 8 Leisure Miles: 3+ Car: 300**  
**Chaco Outliers Exploratory Hike**  
Last year, we went into Kin Y'aa and Kin Bineola. This year, we will take a look at a couple of the other outlying ruins from the Chaco era such as Pueblo Pintado. Bring lunch. Call for meeting time and location. Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

**Sun Jan 9 6:00- 9:00**  
**Potluck Dinner**  
Relaxed way of meeting people. Bring a dish of food, your own drink, plate, cup, and utensils. Stefan's home is at 2700 Espanola NE, one block north of Menaul and east of Louisiana. Stefan 888-1370

**Sun Jan 9 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3**  
**Geological Windows Hike, Petroglyph National Monument**  
View thousands of petroglyphs. Bring sturdy shoes, camera and binoculars. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

**Sun Jan 9 Moderate Miles:6 Car:150**  
**Aspen Vista X/C Ski, Pecos**  
We will ski up a service road in the Pecos, just below the wilderness boundary. This is the area known as the Teseque Basin, that is being proposed for the Santa Fe ski area expansion. Meet at Winchell's, San Mateo and Academy at 9:00 AM. Call David for details 344-8693. Leader: Susan Larson

**Sun Jan 9 Moderate Miles:5 Car: TBD**  
**X/C Beginners Tour**  
Now that you have practiced your kick and glide, turns and stops, here is your chance to perfect your technique on the trail before you return those rental skis. The tour is especially designed for beginner class participants. Location to be determined (TBD). Contact John Turnbull at 982-9329 or Stan. Leader: Stan Kauchak 292-9138

**Tues Jan 11 Winter Camping Course/ Car Camp**  
This is part one of a three lecture series that culminates in a winter car camp in Feb. We will cover insulation, tents, calories, foods, hypothermia, roasting marshmallows and having fun. Meet at 7:00, call for location. Other sessions will be on Jan. 25 and Feb. 8. Leader: Craig Dill 224-9795

**Sat Jan 15 Leisure**

Miles: 1-2 Car: 70  
**Beginners X/C Ski Instruction in the Sandias**

Basic instruction by John Turnbull. Learn about equipment and practice techniques. Dress warm in layers. Bring snacks, light lunch, and water. Meet at the Sierra Club office. Contact Stan for details 292-9138. Leader: John Turnbull

**Sat-Mon Jan 15-17 Moderate Miles: TBD Car:300**  
**D.H. Lawrence Ranch X/C Ski**  
Join us for a three day two night X/C ski trip at the D.H. Lawrence Ranch. Austere cabins, group prepared meals, and an all around good time awaits. Participation is limited so please call to reserve your spot. Leader: Stan 292-9138.

**Mon Jan 17 PreMeeting Dinner**  
Meet at 6:00 PM at Los Cuates Mexican food, 4901 Lomas NE. David 344-8693

**Sat Jan 22 Leisure- Moderate Miles: 4-5 Car: 100**  
**Tent Rocks ACEC Hike**  
In this Area of Critical Environmental Concern, we will slither through the slot canyon, onto the mesa while meandering among the towering pedestals known as the Tent Rocks. Meet at Sierra Club office at 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. Nov. trip was cancelled due to a storm. Leader: Bob Cornish 255-6037

**Sat Jan 22 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3**  
**Boca Negra Arroyo, Petroglyph NM Hike**  
Ancient agricultural terraces and 1000's of petroglyphs. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

**Sun Jan 23 Leisure Miles:0 Car:90**  
**Bald Eagle Watch, Cochiti Dam**  
At the break of dawn we will watch the fishing activities of several bald eagles. Dress extremely warm, bring binoculars. Welcome a new leader and birding enthusiast, David. Meet at 6:00 am., behind Winchells, San Mateo and Academy. Leader: David Thume 271-1839

**Tues Jan 25 Winter Camping Course (see Jan 11)**

**Fri Jan 28 Moderate- Strenuous Miles: 10 Car: 130**  
**San Antonio Hot Spring X/C Ski**  
Enjoy a magical moon lit ski to the warmth of the San Antonio Hot Spring. Snow can be icy. Full moon and weather permitting. Call for details. Leader: Stan Kauchak 292-9138.

**Sat Jan 29 Leisure- Moderate Miles: 3-4 Car: 160**  
**El Malpais NM- Arch and Crater**  
El Calderon is a crater on the west side of

the monument that we will hike up. We will move over to the east side and hike up to the natural arch. Bring lunch and dress warm. Meet at the Sierra Club office. Call for details. Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

**Sun Jan 30 Leisure Miles:3-4 Car:20**  
**Tres Pistoles Spring Canyon**  
Easy hike. We will check out a cave (?) and head up to the spring. Wear warm clothes and sturdy shoes. Meet 9:30 AM at the Sierra Club office 207 San Pedro NE. Welcome a new leader with a flair for natural history. Leader: Richard Rivera 266-5267

**Sun Jan 30 Moderate Miles:4 Car:130**  
**Mistletoe Canyon X/C Ski**  
One of the more popular marked X/C ski trails in the Jemez Mountains, Mistletoe Canyon is close enough to Albuquerque to be able to enjoy the beauty of the trail and still be home before dark. Contact Stan 292-9138 for details. Leader: Barbara Stone

**Sat Feb 5 Moderate Miles:7 Car:160**  
**Bluewater Canyon ACEC**  
Great hike, that few people know, in this riparian canyon surrounded by pinyon-juniper. Welcome a new leader Craig. Craig has led hundreds of outings for the Dallas group. Meet at 9:00 AM. Bring lunch and dress warm. Leader: Craig Dill 224-9795

**Sun Feb 6 Strenuous Miles:13 Car:10**  
**South Peak Snowshoe, Sandias**  
We will hike up Embudito trail until we hit snow, strap on snowshoes and continue on up to south peak. Brisk walk for your weekly aerobic workout. Meet at SC office. Leader: Stefan Verchinski 888-1370

**Sun Feb 6 Moderate- Strenuous Miles: 4 Car: 130**  
**Las Conchas Burn Trail To East Fork Parking Lot X/C Ski**  
A beautiful hike in spring, summer, and fall, it should be just as beautiful covered in snow. A moderate X/C ski overall, expect strenuous conditions as we climb from the canyon floor up to the East Fork Ridge Trail. Leader: Stan Kauchak 292-9138.

**Sun Feb 6 Leisure Miles:3 Car: 3**  
**Piedras Marcadas Hike, Petroglyph National Monument**  
1000's of petroglyphs. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP. Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

**Tues Feb 8 Winter Camping Course (see Jan 11 description)**

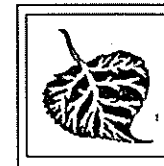
**Sat- Mon Feb 19-21**  
**Rio Grand Chapter X/C Ski, Az**  
X-ski the White Mountains in Arizona. (See John Turnbull's article this issue.) Leader: John Turnbull 982-9329

## the LORAX Sierra Club El Paso Regional Group

### JANUARY MEETING

We are beginning 1994 with a speaker whose October presentation was cancelled. We are pleased to have Pete Emerson rescheduled for our January meeting on Wednesday, January 26. Pete is Senior Economist for the Environmental Defense Fund, and he will outline EDF's plans to promote improved air quality in the El Paso-Juarez area, and address the environmental implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The program will start at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, January 26, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Mertig, 852-3011.



The Environmental Center

*Thanks...* Recent improvements at The Environmental Center include shelves for the camping gear of our Inner City Outings program (ICO) and a new sidewalk along Paisano. Thanks go to our talented contractor, Mike Episcopo & Associates, for excellent work on both projects. Thanks are also due Jobe Concrete Products for donating cement for the sidewalk.

**Reserve Saturday, January 29, on your calendar!**  
**Annual Sierra Club Wine and Cheese Party**  
7 pm  
**The Environmental Center**  
800 So. Piedras

*Bring a bottle of wine, either crackers or a chunk of cheese, and 10-15 slides to show the beautiful and exciting places you've trekked. See you there!*

### CALENDAR

January 5	EXCOM (7 pm at 800 So. Piedras)
January 13	Deadline for El Paso newsletter information (send to 331 Vista del Rey, 79912)
January 26	General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)
January 29	Annual Wine & Cheese Party (7 pm at 800 So. Piedras)
February 2	EXCOM (7 pm at 800 So. Piedras)

### GROUP DIRECTORY

<b>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b>		
Chairman/Public Lands	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Secretary	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Member/Outings	Mike Episcopo	833-3770
Member	Betsy Julian	544-5741
Member/ICO	Richard Rheder	544-5659
Member	Debbie Tomaselli	584-3929
<b>CONSERVATION</b>		
Environmental Quality	Tom Brasfield	584-8739
Franklin Mtns	John Sproul	545-5157
Political Action	Jim Bell	581-8864
Population	OPEN	
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Environmental Center	OPEN	
Group/LORAX Mail	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
Membership	Carol Morrison	545-1701
Office Rep.	Neil O'Hara	565-4735
Publicity	OPEN	
LORAX Editor/SIERRAN	Wyona Turner	585-0251

**Sierra Club Environmental Center**  
800 S. Piedras  
532-9645, 532-4876

Please send any changes or corrections in membership to Carol Morrison, Membership Roll  
728 Kern Drive/79902

Send LORAX information to  
Wyona Turner, Editor, 331 Vista del Rey, 79912

### CLUB NEWS

Many thanks to Carolina Greenfield for her service to the Club as Membership Chair. Carol Morrison will assume those duties in 1994. Congratulations to our newest excom member, Debbie Tomaselli. Elected along with Debbie were Richard Rheder and Betsy Julian. Election of officers will be at the January excom meeting.

Welcome to new members  
William Goslin Dareck Hellep  
Arturo and Rosario Holguin Grace Luna  
Mrs. J.G. Mason Socorro Sargent  
Marty Snortum Steve Stewart Jana Wilhelm

### FRANKLIN MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS COALITION ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

All Sierrans are cordially invited  
Saturday, January 22, at 6 pm  
Luby's Cafeteria, 1010 Chelsea St., El Paso  
**Speaker:** Ron Holliday, Director of Public Lands Division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
**RSVP** by January 20 to Jane Fowler (598-2448)

## OUTINGS

**MT. RILEY-EAST POTRILLOS CARCAMP**  
West of El Paso

DATE: January 8-9, 1994  
 CLASS: Very easy  
 LIMIT: 20, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Weldon and Betty Fisbeck, 581-0174

**ORGAN PIPE CACTUS CARCAMP**  
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, AZ

DATE: January 15-17, 1994  
 CLASS: Easy  
 LIMIT: 16, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Mike Episcopo, 833-3770

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument contains the largest wilderness area in Arizona, the 300,000-acre Organ Pipe Wilderness. The Monument exhibits an extraordinary collection of the plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert. The group campsite within the Monument has been reserved for our two-night stay. An entrance fee is required. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DEPARTURE TIME: We will leave El Paso Friday evening and carcamp at Steins, NM. Saturday morning we finish the drive to the monument. Dayhikes are planned and departure will be early Monday morning. Call Mike for further information and reservations.

**WINTER BACKCOUNTRY OUTING**

DATE: January 22-23, 1994  
 CLASS: Moderate, backcountry skis or snowshoes necessary  
 LIMIT: 6, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Debbie Tomaselli, 584-3929, or Wyona Turner, 585-0251

Winter backpacking experience required. Snow is a prerequisite for this outing, so location will depend on snowfall. A day trip is planned with a possible overnight camp. Call Debbie or Wyona for details.

**BIKE RIDE****Mt. Riley, east of El Paso**

DATE: Saturday, January 29, 1994  
 CLASS: Easy +  
 LIMIT: None, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Richard Rheder, 544-5659

Come ride to Mt. Riley with the El Paso Bicycle Club. This 30 mile (+/-) mountain bike ride through the desert will begin at the Santa Teresa Airport and end at the bedrock mortars with a picnic lunch. There will be an ad-hoc sag service to take you and your bike back to the starting point. Call Richard for more information and reservations

**RON COLEMAN TRAIL DAYHIKE**  
Franklin Mountains State Park

DATE: Sunday, January 30, 1994  
 CLASS: Moderate  
 LIMIT: 20, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Carolina Greenfield, 594-7342

This beautiful hike in the Franklin Mountains begins at McKilligan Canyon. We then climb to the crest, which we follow to South Franklin Peak before descending to Transmountain Road. There is a minor scramble at one point (assistance will be available), and we pass The Window, a natural arch. The views are spectacular along this four-mile hike. Elevation gain is about 2,400'. Join us.

**BUSH MOUNTAIN BACKPACK**  
Guadalupe Mountains National Park

DATE: February 5-6, 1994  
 CLASS: Moderate +  
 LIMIT: 10, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Kathy Sunday, 778-8030 (wk)

It's time to go to Bush Mountain again! At 8,631', Bush Mountain is the second highest peak in Texas. Beginning in the Pine Springs Campground, we will hike the Tejas Trail to the ridge, then head northwest on the Bush Mountain Trail to our campsite located in a wooded area below the peak. Views from this trail are outstanding. Total roundtrip trail mileage is 14, with a 2,900' elevation gain. All water must be carried in. Call Kathy early for details and reservations.

**CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT CARCAMP**  
Southern Arizona

DATE: February 12-13, 1994  
 CLASS: Moderate  
 LIMIT: 20, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042

We will depart El Paso early Saturday morning and drive to the National Monument via Bowie, AZ. We have the group campsite reserved for Saturday night. Campground fees will be shared among participants. Entrance fees to be paid by each vehicle. We plan to take dayhikes both Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, hiking at least one new trail. The hiking is moderate, 5-7 miles per day, on well maintained trails. Come visit one of the most scenic places in the Southwest. Call Rollin for details and reservations.

**Plan Ahead for these holiday & summer treks!**

Feb. 19-21	Presidents' Day Snow Fun Weekend in Alpine, AZ. This is a Chapter outing and promises to be a lot of fun. (Jeanne French, 592-1660)
March 19-24	Spring Break Grand Canyon Backpack (Mike Episcopo, 833-3770)
June 19-26	Gila Backpack (Laurence Gibson, 594-7342)
July 16-24	Colorado Backpack (Laurence Gibson)
August	Wyoming Backpack (Laurence Gibson)

## OUTINGS REPORTS

**Rain Creek Trail Maintenance Carcamp, 10/3-11/93**

The Club hadn't worked on Trail 189 since 1986, so it really needed some work. All those bushes we had chopped had grown back across the trail and most of the waterbars constructed by George Mader, Jim Owen, Bill Phillips, and Don Schwartzkopf had washed out years ago. Undaunted, an inspired group drove to the Sacaton trailhead Friday night, set up camp in a pretty spot along Rain Creek, and started to work

clearing Trail 189. Under the expert direction of John Soucy, Trailboss of the Glenwood Ranger District, we were able to make a major impact on most all sections of Trail 189.

After working hard on Saturday and Sunday, Mike figured we deserved some time Monday morning to explore up Rain Creek. Led by Mike and John we found a surprisingly clear trail, considering the Rain Creek Trail was taken off maps some 15 years ago. Many thanks go to all the participants: Mike Episcopo, Rafaela Schuller, Carolina Greenfield, Laurence Gibson, Gus Pina, Sandy Anderson, Julie, John Soucy and leader Rollin Wickenden.

**McKittrick Canyon Dayhike, 10/24/93**

The annual pilgrimage to view the splendid Fall foliage in McKittrick Canyon is one of the most anticipated Club hikes. Thirty Sierrans and guests were not disappointed in the vivid colors displayed by aspen, oak and mountain maple. The trail was crowded, as expected. The Park Service had an unusual number of personnel stationed at stream crossings and trail forks admonishing hikers on proper behavior. But the day was warm and sunny and everyone enjoyed the easy seven-mile trek. The traditional stop at the Cornudas Cafe to gorge on green chili burgers ended the congenial trip led by Dale Harris.

**Backpack in the Guads, 10/30-31/93**

A duo of backpackers braved icy roads to reach Pine Springs trailhead on Saturday morning. Since El Capitan was clouded over, Alice Anderson and Michael Bromka opted to climb the escarpment via Bear Canyon. A blanket of newfallen snow set off orange-leaved maples. Up top, a chilling breeze urged us down the Bow Trail to grassy calm. Juniper Trail meandered through woods dappled by sun and snow. At Tejas Campsite, we pitched one-person tents antiparallel on leaves left snowless by a previous camper's tent. The still night air allowed a bare candle to light supper. Sunday morning's dayhike brought us down Marcus Trail to view double-breasted Lost Peak, which looks a bit like Dolly Parton sleeping. Trailside tracks and scat offered evidence of deer, rabbit, fox, squirrel, and bobcat. The descent of Tejas Trail displayed last summer's burn and new anti-erosion grading. A rising Jack-o-lantern moon lit our Halloween departure from the Guads.

**Rincon Mountains Backpack, 11/26-28/93**

Five eager campers set out at noon, Thanksgiving day, and drove 290 miles to carcamp in the Coronado National Forest. Bright and early Friday, Richard Rheder, Michael Bromka, Ana O'Neill, Wesley Leonard, and leader Mike Episcopo donned backpacks and hiked west into the Saguaro National Monument. An elevation gain of 4,000' was stretched evenly over nine miles, allowing us to relish an ever expanding vista. We reached

Manning Camp amid towering Ponderosa Pines with plenty of daylight left to pump water from a pristine creek.

Saturday's layover was no layabout. Our dayhike over a mere 6.5 miles afforded us view after breathtaking view in nearly all directions. The proximal sprawl of Tucson was beggared by forests, foothills, patch snowscapes, icy streams, sunbathed rockfaces, and mountains far and near. We topped Mica Mountain, 8,555', highest in the Rincons. That evening we shared a

cheery campfire with our lone neighboring backpacker, Tucson Larry, whom Wesley mercilessly pumped for details of the Rincon backcountry. Fears of bear activity that night proved to be merely Richard's snoring.

Sunday's hike out brought more splendid views, particularly stark and steep Rincon Peak, which had Mike planning a return trip. Only our last mile was marred by the barren and pie-spotted waste of open range grazing.

**Lunar Eclipse Outing, 11/28/93**

Near Hueco Tanks State Park we set up our gear prior to the event. With clear skies and a full moon the stars were very dim. As the earth's shadow crossed the moon, the sky lit up with many stars. Through Rob Vaughan's telescope we observed a slim ring of light around the moon during totality. Gene Grogh photographed the partial phases. Melissa and leader Dan Oppliger made hot chocolate as it did get cold.

Dear Friends,

My teaching exchange to El Paso in 1993 has been a wonderful year and the El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club has contributed greatly to this. I wish to thank all the leaders for making the walks possible, for their friendliness and willingness to share knowledge. This also applies to the many hikers I have met. It has been a very special time for me.

Apart from the outings, I have enjoyed the monthly meetings. Not only have they been informative, but fun as well.

Should any member find themselves in Australia, I would be happy for them to visit with me and share some bush walking with me. My address is available from Wyona Turner or Mike Episcopo.

Sincerely,

Toni Beattie

SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1994

RACING TOWARD THE ECOLOGICAL SHORE

Glen Kaye, chief of interpretation and visitors service with the National Park Service, will be our featured speaker. He will cover basic environmental issues, looking at population and the fundamental elements of human ecology through regional and global events and trends. Mr. Kaye has been studying the relationship of over-population affecting the environment for 30 years and will have a slide show documenting the changes that are occurring as a result of population growth on the environment and the ramifications thereof. People think that the environment is the problem, but the basic problem is too many rats on the planet. A lot of his studies have to do with research into the population growth along the U.S./Mexican border. In 1961, Nogales, Mexico's population was at 20,600. Projected population into the year 2012 is more than 940,000!! We expect that Mr. Kaye's disclosures will open up some eyes.

There will also be a discussion about the 1994 New Mexico Legislative session and the bills that the Sierra Club plans to support.

If you are concerned about *THE ENVIRONMENT* and the problems caused by *OVER-POPULATION*, be at the Unitarian Church (Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo) Tuesday, January 18, 1994, at 7:30 PM. The meeting is free and open to all!

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Executive Committee of the Santa Fe Group will meet at noon at the offices of Jurgens, Tallmadge & With, 322 Montezuma on Tuesday, February 1, 1994. Everyone is welcome to attend — and bring your lunch!

The Conservation Committee of the Santa Fe Group meets at 7:00 PM on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the group office, 440 Cerrillos Road. All conservation matters to be brought before the Executive Committee should be presented first at the Conservation Committee meetings for discussion and recommendation. The next meeting is January 25, 1994, 7:00 PM.

ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to newly elected Ex Comm members Vicki Gabin and George Grossman and to newly reelected members Norma McCallan, Mark Mortier and Lionel Soracco.

S.F. CITY COUNCIL AND MAYORAL RACES

The S. F. Group plans to endorse candidates for the upcoming City Council and Mayoral elections in March. The Group's political committee will make endorsements, based on answers to a questionnaire, as well as personal assessments of candidates' commitment to the environment. Water, land use, transportation and growth top the list of issues. To participate in the Group's political committee, call Ken Hughes (474-0550).

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

Chair — Jana Oyler*	984-2020	Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926
Vice-Chair — Coby Muckelroy*	983-5453	Phone Tree — Martha Anne Freeman	438-0697
Secretary/Treasurer — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Membership — Pat Stevens	982-5051
Conservation — Van Perkins*	983-8801	Kids' Sierra Club — Justine Freeman	988-9126
Chapter Representative - Sue McIntosh*	982-4146	Education/Recycling/Office —	
Publicity & Programs — Helen Moser*	438-3365	Carolyn Keskulla	982-9570
Fundraising —		Outings — Norbert Sperlich	983-1962
Political Committee — Ken Hughes*	988-9297	Norma McCallan*	471-0005
		Mark Mortier*	983-5870

\* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

Terms expire 12/93: McCallan/Mortier/Muckelroy/Oyler/Soracco  
12/94: Hughes/McIntosh/Moser/Perkins



>>>>>>>>> SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS <<<<<<<<<<<

Thu Sat Sun January

- 1 Arnold and Carolyn Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike up Arroyo Chamisa. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 2 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate Hike in La Bajada area. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 6 John Turnbull (982-9329) Indoor Ski Class Introduction to Cross-country Skiing. A discussion of Nordic skiing, including its history, various applications, and relationship to Alpine (downhill) skiing; Nordic equipment, especially for backcountry skiing; and what to wear. Unitarian Church. 7:15 PM to approximately 9:15 PM.
- 8 John Turnbull (982-9329) Outdoor Ski Class Beginning Cross-country Skiing - Basic Techniques. An introduction to fundamentals of Nordic skiing, classical style, emphasizing backcountry needs. Probably at Los Alamos Golf Course, but possibly elsewhere, depending on snow. Bring snacks or a small lunch and water. Equipment may be rented at most shops. Leave 9:00 AM from Wilderness Exchange (next to Osco Drug Store), return early afternoon.
- 8 Brian Johnson (983-5672) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Tour in Amole Canyon/U.S. Hill (near Peñasco). Call leader for time and reservations.
- 9 John Turnbull (982-9329) Beginner Cross-country Ski Tour Snow permitting. Vicinity to be determined. Thoughtful pace, with time to look at the trees. About six miles. Instruction in assessing and skiing various terrain. Bring snacks, at least one quart of water, and generous lunch. Leave 9:00 AM from Wilderness Exchange (next to Osco Drug Store), return about 4 PM. Carpooling.
- 9 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike Leave 9 AM. Destination depends on snow and weather.
- 15 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Tour Wherever snow is good. Leave 8:30 AM. Call for details.
- 15 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Easy/Moderate Hike on La Bajada. Dogs allowed. Leave 9 AM.
- 16 Bob McKee Moderate Hike on Red Dot-Blue Dot Trail, near White Rock. Calls taken at 471-0005 re time and meeting place.
- 22 Steven Janus (988-4137) Moderate/Strenuous Snowshoe Tour up Ravens Ridge to Lake Peak. Leave 8 AM from entrance to Fort Marcy Sports Complex.
- 23 Louise Leopold (988-4592) Moderate Hike Galisteo Basin to Waldo. Dogs allowed. Leave 9 AM.
- 22 & 23 Margo Wilson (1-744-5860) Moderate Day Hikes Saturday and Sunday in T or C area, including the Percha Box. Drive down Friday PM, camp out at Margo's house Fri & Sat, pot-luck supper Sat nite. Local contact Norma McCallan (471-0005). Get away for a weekend, enjoy the warmer and balmier climes of T or C.
- 29 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike near Ojo Caliente. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 30 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) And A River Runs Through It Easy 6 Mile Hike along Santa Fe River. Leave 9 AM.

Interested in ski touring, but nothing is scheduled? There may be a last-minute trip happening, or if there is sufficient interest one may be arranged. Phone either John Turnbull (982-9329) in Santa Fe or Stan Kuchak (292-9138) in Albuquerque. The non-scheduled trips often are the best of all, taking advantage of new snow, etc.



SIERRA CLUB -- Santa Fe Group  
440 Cerrillos Road  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
Telephone 505/983-2703

**Outings Notes** -- All outings, unless otherwise specified, leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old Santa Fe Trail (across the street from the State Capitol and Patis Corbae). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay 5 cents a mile to the driver of the car in which hiker rides. Hikers should bring a lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather — leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader has the right to alter destination of hike or cancel the trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs are not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.

Sat Sun February

- 5 **Lionel Soracco** (983-6715) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Trip in the Jemez. Leave 9 AM.
- 6 **Norma McCallan** (471-0005) Easy to Moderate Hike from Galisteo Dam to Waldo. Minimal elevation change. Dogs allowed. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 12 **Joe Whelan** (984-0746) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Trip Call leader for destination. Leave 8:30 AM.
- 13 **Victor Atyas** (471-7545) Easy Hike Destination depends on weather and road conditions. Leave 9 AM.
- 13 **Steven Janus** (988-4137) Strenuous Snowshoe / Tele / Cross-Country Trip to Santa Fe Baldy. Call leader for time and meeting place.
- 19 - 20 - 21 **Saturday-Sunday-Monday**  
**John Turnbull** (982-9329) Chapter wide Cross-Country Ski Weekend in Alpine, Arizona. See chapter story for details elsewhere in the newsletter. Don't miss this one!
- 19 **Julie Montoya King** (438-7197) Easy Hike from Diablo Canyon to Rio Grande and back, weather permitting. Leave 9 AM.
- 20 **Bob McKee** (672-3426) Moderate Hike from Otowi Bridge along Rio Grande. Call leader for time and meeting place.
- 26 **Norraine Sanders** (984-0386) Moderate Hike on Forest Road 79; 600' elevation gain. Leave 8 AM.
- 27 **Elizabeth Altman** (471-8490) Easy to Moderate Cross-Country Ski Trip where snow is best. Call leader for information.

**A NIGHT TO SAVE  
THE BIG TESUQUE**

Friday, January 21, 1994 7 PM - 11 PM  
LA FONDA HOTEL Only \$5 per person

Help save the Big Tesuque and have a ball doing it! To keep your feet dancing, the popular *Lumbre del Sol*, the *Big Tesuque Ramblers*, and a jazz band will provide continuous music. John Nichols, author of *Milagro Beanfield War*, will be there for inspiration. Door prizes and entertainment provide further stimulus. Proceeds will be used by the Santa Fe Ski Area Containment Coalition for legal and operating expenses necessary to save the Big Tesuque and halt further expansion at the Santa Fe Ski Basin.

Tickets will be available at the door. For advance tickets and further information, call 989-7289 or 471-1509.

**UNDERSTANDING LIVING TRUSTS**

Santa Fe Group member Kenneth Buccieri of First Interstate Bank has offered to meet with any of our members who are interested in learning about revocable living trusts, a very important and useful estate planning method that has relevance for just about everyone regardless of age or income and could be of long-term benefit to the Group.

For more information, call Ken (989-6504).



**THE TELEPHONE TREE**

The Santa Fe Group Telephone Tree needs new members before the 1994 Legislature convenes in January. Since there is always turnover, we need new volunteers constantly and are in the process of updating the list of participants in preparation for the upcoming session. The phone tree is usually active only three or four times a year, and the time commitment is small; callers are asked to call only five other members.

The purpose of the telephone network is to distribute information on environmental issues among our members and to let our elected representatives know our positions. Environmental issues expected to be introduced are: 1) recycling of batteries, tires and motor oil; 2) reorganization of Dept. of Game & Fish to provide personnel to manage non-game wildlife. See feature articles elsewhere in the newsletter for details.

To those many persons who have worked in the past and continue to work on the phone tree we say thank you and extend special recognition to Jo Kenney, Carolyn Keskula, Norma McCallan and Bob Langsencamp for their cheerful, dedicated service the tree's inception over five years ago.

To be more effective, the phone tree needs you. For information call Martha Anne Freeman (438-0697) or Dorothy Grossman (982-1024).

**Southern New Mexico**

**THE LOG** SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP  
Meetings

General Membership Meetings

**DIRECTIONS:**

General Membership and Student Sierra Club Meetings are held, unless otherwise specified, in 107 Science Hall at NMSU. For persons coming from town, the directions are: Enter NMSU on Espina St., after you pass University Ave. proceed to the second Stop sign, Stewart St. Turn left (east). At the next Stop sign, Sweet St., turn left again. Parking lot immediately on right at the corner. Walk between buildings at the NE corner of the lot. Walk straight ahead and enter Science Hall. Room 107 is down a hall which is through doors at east side of the lobby. There are usually little signs posted.

**Thursday, January 27, 1994 7:30 PM.** Speaker Patrick Crist, Manager of GAP, satellite vegetative mapping project. You have read about national biodiversity mapping programs? See some of the work. Maps and slide presentation.

**February 24, 1994. 7:30 PM.** Speaker, Jim Winder, member of our Executive Committee. Topic "Riparian Areas. What are they? Can arroyos be restored to flowing streams?" Slides and a chance to ask questions.

Student Sierra Club General Meetings

**Thursday, January 20, 1994. 7:30 P. M.** Welcome to the Spring Semester. All students invited. Lets plan hikes, camping trips, parties, meetings!

**Tuesday, February 2, 1994. 7:30 P. M.** Speaker. Jose Salinas Watershed and Air Management with the Forest Service.

Executive Committee Meetings. All members are welcome to attend..

**Tuesday, January 11, 1994,** first meeting of the new ExCom. Election of Officers, designation of new Committee Chairs, set calendar, approve outings, and plan General Membership Meetings. Pot luck at 6:30 PM at Marianne Thaeler's home. Call for directions 522-3421.

Outings

Hikers meet at north Pan American Center Parking Lot to car pool to the trailhead.. Call the leader to find out the specific time, degree of difficulty, and what you need to bring -lunch and water always of course.. Other trips, you need to call the coordinator.

**Saturday, January 6, 1994.** Cross-country skiing, in Cloudcroft.— if there is snow! Call Ben Zerbey for more information 526-6207.

Saturday, January 22, 1994. Hike at Aden Crater in southern Dona Ana County. Call Jim Basler for more information 521-4822.

Saturday, February 5, 1994. Work Project. Mason Ranch. Stabilization of the ruins of a Butterfield Stage Stop. Call Ben Zerbey for details at 526-6207. (See article for some more details.)

February 19-20-21, 1994. Chapter cross-country ski trip to Alpine Arizona. Ben Zerbey will be the co-ordinator 526-6207.

March 12, 1994. An easy hike to Baylor Pass. Meet at North Pan Am Center Parking lot at 8:30 AM. Call Marianne Thaeler at 522-3421 for more information.

### Group Directory

Marianne Thaeler, Chair	522-3421
David Pengelley, Student Advisor	646-3901
Ben Zerbey	526-6207
Cheryll Blevins	524-4861
Jim Winder	267-4227
Tony Chiaviello	525-1802
Erika Kocsis	522-0726
Jim Basler	521-4822
Marian Nygard	522-4689
Myra Price	524-0261
Andrew Hands	

### Student Directory

Lori Schmierer President	526-1093
Myra Price, Vice-president	524-0261
Phil Rotherham, Treasurer	
Carol Evans, Programs Chair	
Greg Paglia, Secretary	
David Pengelly, Student Advisor	646-3901

## Otero Mesa - Field Trip Report

Eight of us took the loop trip starting in Las Cruces, through Anthony Gap, east on the "Newman Power Station Road", north on Highway 54 past Oro Grande to State Road 506, and finally to Alamogordo and back to Las Cruces. This afforded us a 360 degree view and appreciation of the Organ Mountains which all agreed was dramatic in October.

The destination of our Field Trip was Otero Mesa. Otero Mesa is reached by traveling east on State Road 506 (dirt/gravel, good condition) toward Timberon and Pinon.

We were fortunate enough to have as our tour guides two BLM managers who added immensely to the quality of the trip with their knowledge of plants and grazing strategies as well as their general enthusiasm. The essence of Otero Mesa is the grand quality of the grasslands, including black grama communities which are nearly unparalleled in the southwest. The Mesa is south of the Sacramento Mountains and is nearly 20 miles long. The view of the Sacramento Mountains to the north, the

Guadalupe and Brokoff Mountains to the east, the Organ Mountains to the west, and Wind Mountain to the south is spectacular, particularly at dusk. The grasslands appear immense, vast, and in excellent condition.

Besides identifying nearly a dozen grass species, we enjoyed the company of several antelope herds. We counted 134 antelope this trip. They do like to play, racing our vehicles, and finally dashing in front of us and diving under the fences head first!. (The last two strands of barbed wire have been removed so as to cause no harm to these beautiful animals.) We caught sight of a lone Barbary Sheep, an exotic species, on the escarpment. We saw mountain bluebirds, a sage thrasher, and a pair of kestrels. We saw tall yucca communities and a prairie dog town.

Some of the history of this area is revealed in Edward Abbey's "Fire on the Mountain", which you may have read.

The "Range Master Plan for Fort Bliss, Texas" includes plans for a low level bombing range, a radar tracking station, and bivouac for 500-800 troops on New Mexico's Otero Mesa. Roving Sands, the annual mock wars on McGregor Range, have already included static Patriot Missile sites on the Mesa. One only need visit this unique area to raise the question of the necessity for such moves. The land is withdrawn from the Dept. of Interior, BLM, for military use, but at present continues to be managed by BLM for grazing (no resident ranchers) and for multiple use.

Entry to Otero Mesa is by military Access Permit only, but Otero Mesa is managed by the BLM under multiple use and the public can watch wildlife, hike and camp here with an access permit.

### MASON RANCH STABILIZATION PROJECT

By Ben Zerbey  
Want to work on an archeologic project? Here is your chance.

Volunteers are needed for a service project to perform stabilization work at the Mason Ranch, 25 miles northwest of Las Cruces. The Mason Ranch was a way-station on the Butterfield Trail and was operated under contract to the American Transportation Co. of Mesilla in the 1860's and 1870's. The ruins of the ranch house and corral lie on New Mexico State Trust Land and have been added to the State Historic Register by the Historic Preservation Officer. The rock and adobe walls are in serious need of stabilization as they have eroded over the years. On February 5 & 6, 1994 we need to gather about 15 volunteers to construct check dams and diversion structures to protect the historic resources. Come prepared to work. It is fun and rewarding. Professional personnel will be on-site to supervise the work. Anyone wishing to participate or need further information call Ben Zerbey at 526-6207.

### BLM WILDERNESS ISSUE STUDY COMMITTEE

For over 15 years the Sierra Club and other environmental groups throughout New Mexico and west Texas, have been particularly concerned for the last remaining areas of publicly owned lands outside of National Parks and National Forests which are 5,000 acres or

greater in size and are roadless. These areas are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Over the years many people have been involved. We are always looking for members who are interested particularly in Wilderness. If you have never explored these areas, or are interested in map and compass field trips, or are interested in championing the cause of Wilderness in other ways, a "new" BLM Wilderness Issue Study Committee is forming. If Wilderness is your special interest, call Marianne at 522-3421.

### DIAMOND BAR

The long awaited Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Diamond Bar grazing Allotment Management Management Plan has been released by the Mimbres Ranger District of the Gila National Forest. The Comment Period ends February 28, 1994. This exceptionally long Period, according to the cover letter, is because time extensions will not be allowed. A "Preferred Alternative" is included.

The Diamond Bar is located in both the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness Areas. The Gila was the first designated National Forest Wilderness area, and therefore the oldest in the country. The Diamond Bar is the largest grazing allotment in the southwest. The gross acreage of the allotment is approximately 145,580 acres of which the Forest Service considers 84,106 acres can be fully utilized by domestic livestock under existing management. The FS is planning to change the existing management. There are 130 miles of stream within the allotment, only 50 miles are protected from cattle intrusion.

The DEIS includes the "improvements" planned, that is stock tanks, fences, etc. Since cows migrate toward water, the bull dozing and dynamiting of stock tanks is the most recent, post cowboy, method of moving cattle and is supposed to keep cows out of the riparian areas..

According to Susan Schock, Executive Director of Gila Watch, "If you have not received a copy of the DEIS, please contact us." "If you have questions or comments, please contact me at (505) 388-2854."