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FEBRUARY 1993

RIO GRANDE

**SIERRAN**

Environmental News of New Mexico and West Texas

## Sierra Club Group News

**Albuquerque Group (see pages 12-14):**

John Turnbull, Santa Fe Sierra Club member, leader of cross country ski outings and professional ski outings, will talk about the history of Nordic and Telemark skiing, provide pointers on selecting equipment and clothes, and recommend ways to learn or get better. Preceding the main program, we will have the news from the '93 Legislature. The Feb. meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 15th, at 7:30PM, UNM Law School, Room 2401, on the NW corner of Mountain and Stanford NE. Please bring a cup if you care to have refreshments provided by the Albuquerque Group.

**El Paso Group (see pages 15-17):**

The tentative speaker for our Feb. program is Susan Schock Grinold, who will talk about the destructive grazing practices allowed by the US Forest Service on public lands. Susan has studied the grazing issue for many years, and is currently the head of Gila Watch, based in Silver City, NM. The program will start at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, Feb. 24th, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

**Santa Fe Group (see pages 18-20):**

Tour the country of New Zealand with Native Kiwi Bill Drake and his wife Jan Peacock. They will present a colorful slide show at the general membership meeting Tuesday, Feb. 16, 7:30 PM, at the Unitarian Church on Barcelona (between Don Gaspar and Galisteo).

**Southern NM Group (see pages 21-23):**

General meetings are the fourth Thursday of the month at Science Hall room 102 on the NMSU campus. The NMSU Student Sierra Club will resume its meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. We hope to see you there!

## NM Legislature Convenes

The New Mexico State Legislature opened this year's 60-day legislative session on January 19. For the first time, the Rio Grande chapter has two full-time lobbyists working on the environmental issues expected to come up this session. But the key to our effectiveness is the support of "citizen lobbyists," i.e. our membership. Even this so-called "long" session leaves a very short time for consideration of all the issues which will come before the legislatures. To keep up with rapidly developing changes, please contact your group conservation chair to be part of a telephone tree.

The chapter has identified four priority issues for 1993. Our top priority continues to be regulating the mining industry, both at the federal and state level. In New Mexico, the chapter is working with other members of the Mining Action Coalition ("MAC") to enact a **hardrock mining bill**, described in detail in last month's *Rio Grande Sierran*. Alternative mining bills are likely to come before the legislature; the proposal supported by the Sierra Club can be identified simply as the MAC bill.

Our focus on wildlife at this year's legislative session is the effort to **defund Animal Damage Control**, as described in the article on page 6. We are also supporting efforts to maintain funds for the NM Game and Fish Department in the face of a threatened dismantling of wildlife programs due to reduced sales of hunting and fishing licenses. Other legislative threats to wildlife include proposals to restrict the state endangered species program, in particular preventing the recognition of the Mexican spotted owl and goshawk as state endangered species. Finally, we are supporting a ban on the use of steel-jaw leghold traps.

Other priorities for this legislative session are support for **renewable energy** programs and, closely related to this, reform of **transportation** policy.

There are, of course, many important issues affecting the environment, which are not covered by these priorities. Following are some of the issues which the Sierra Club, along with the Conservation Voters Alliance, see as important issues coming before the legislature.

State law currently directs that New Mexico **air quality** standards be "no more stringent" than federal standards. We are supporting efforts to repeal this provision. There is also a danger that the Environment Department could lose federal funds if matching funds are not appropriated by the state. The hope is that the department can at least catch up with a budget it had under the Carruthers Administration, when it had \$622,000 more than it does today.

A **border environment memorial** is directed to the congressional delegation to protect the jobs, environment

*continued on page 11*

**Let Your  
Legislators Hear  
From You:**

**Capital Switchboard  
986-4300**

**To keep up with rapid  
changes, get on your  
group telephone tree.  
Call your group conser-  
vation chair for details.**

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 Susan Gorman, Vice Chair (505) 265-3231  
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Contributions are welcomed from members and non-members. Send to *Rio Grande Sierran*, 207 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108. Articles on Macintosh disc (any format) or IBM disc (high-density 3 1/2" ASCII or WordPerfect) should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Letters and articles are subject to abridgement at the editor's discretion. Typed articles must be received a week earlier than the disc deadline. Call editor for modern information.



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## LETTERS

To the Editor:

This concerns an item in the "Outings" section of the January 1993 [*Sierran* Albuquerque group section]. The announcement for the Jan. 16 Aspen Vista Ski Tour, led by Susan Larson, was more in the way of an editorial expressing opposition to the Santa Fe Ski Area expansion. I disagree with this position. I most emphatically support the expansion, and deny that the expansion will be environmentally harmful. It seems that it has become politically correct in Santa Fe to oppose the expansion, and I suspect that many who are opposed have not taken the time to, or are not inclined to, examine the issue on its merits. I would especially expect more from Sierra Club members, who usually show themselves to be thoughtful and fair people. An example of such ill-informed or deliberately misleading opposition is the above referenced item, and I wish to respond to comments contained therein.

The first two sentences state: "We will ski up a service road in the Pecos Wilderness. This is the area known as the Tesuque (sic) Basin, that is being proposed for the Santa Fe Ski Area expansion." This makes it appear that the expansion would violate the Pecos Wilderness, something any clubber should of course resist. But that is NOT the case. The Tesuque Basin is NOT in the Pecos Wilderness, and to mislead the membership in this regard is contemptible.

The next sentence states: "This expansion would have an adverse affect (sic) on wildlife, water quality and the Pecos Wilderness boundary." In response to this, I must ask WHAT wildlife would be impacted in the winter by DOWNHILL skiers in the Big T—ermine? On the other hand, x-c skiers who bring their dogs, as they are invited to do by Ms. Larson, will not only be responsible for the damage their dogs do to the track on the Aspen Vista Road, but will also have to see to it that their dogs don't chase whatever wildlife is to be found at that altitude at that

time of year. In the summer it is hikers and their dogs that will disturb wildlife, not a few mute lift towers. As to water quality, I have seen no definitive statement probing that degradation is sure to occur. As to downhill skiers intruding on the Pecos Wilderness boundary, which follows the ridge tops, the tops of the proposed lifts will be below the ridge tops, thus requiring downhill skiers to climb uphill to gain access to the boundary, something few will do....

The next sentence states: "An increase in crowding is also expected." Is it? The purpose of the expansion is to relieve current crowding and reasonably accommodate the growth that can be extrapolated from past skier growth figures (8%/yr. average over the past 30 years). The degree to which skier numbers increase in future years will be more a function of the popularity of Santa Fe than it will be the expansion of the Ski Area, and it is not fair that the Ski Area be made a whipping boy for anti-growth sentiment, when the Ski Area is making a reasonable and good faith effort to alleviate present problems.

I am indeed distressed that the membership has been misled by this item, and I call upon all members to examine the facts before taking a position on the Santa Fe Ski Area expansion.

Steve Miller  
 Sierra Club member  
 Santa Fe

## CALENDAR

- March 6: Chapter Conservation Committee, Kingston
- March 7: Chapter Executive Committee, Kingston
- March 13: Outing Leaders Workshop, Santa Fe
- March 19: NM State Legislative Session ends
- March 20: Spring begins
- March 26-29: Endangered Species Act Lobbying, Washington, DC
- April 29-May 2: "Circus" meeting of Board of Directors, RVP Forum, Sierra Club Council, San Francisco

## Cross-Country Skiing Has a Long History in New Mexico

by John Turnbull

Many people harbor the mistaken idea that cross-country skiing is a relatively new invention. On the contrary, it is positively ancient, with origins reaching back to the late Ice Age, some 10,000 years ago. It was the utilitarian means by which humans could inhabit the snow-bound northern latitudes of Europe, and to hunt the Woolly Mammoth, giant Bison, and other animals of the Pleistocene Age. Skis from as long ago as 6000 years, excavated from European peat bogs, are almost indistinguishable from hand-made skis of this century. For the imaginative and romantic, skiing is a link with all ages past.

Interestingly, the Native American populations of North America evolved the webbed snowshoe in response to the same needs. Very light and stable, and very slow. The ancient European hunter, armed with a heavy spear, relied on the downhill speed of his skis to close with the quarry. No doubt the runaway ski and high-speed face plant originated about this same time!

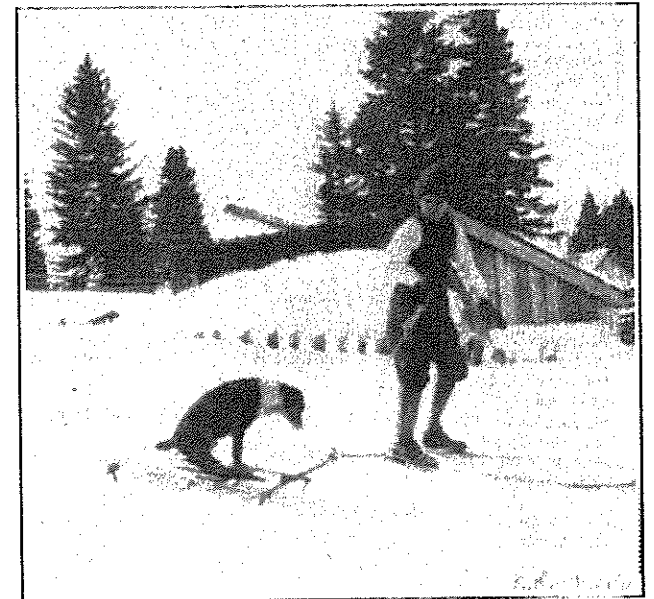
New Mexico has a bit of unusual cross-country ski history of its own. In the Rocky Mountains immigrant Norwegian and Swedish miners and loggers fashioned skis as early as 1850. In the West much of the US Mail, in winter, if it moved beyond the railroad lines, moved on skis. As late as the 1920s mail was carried on skis from the rail terminal in Chama south to Tierra Amarilla, El Rito, and other New Mexico communities.

In the late 19th or earliest 20th Century immigrant Swedish carpenter Auguste Holmes settled in Chama. A skilled woodworker, he fashioned skis for local Chama residents. The skis pictured here, clearly hand-made, may well have been Auguste's creations. Working at one time on a ranch, Auguste routinely commuted the 15 miles from Chama on skis.

Kenneth Lively, born in Chama in 1910, and a lifelong resident, still active today at age 82, grew up on skis. He is pictured here, about age 10, in 1920, near his home on Cumbres Pass, where his father was employed as station agent for the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad. His dogs Bob (on the sled) and Bowser were his constant, and often his only companions.

For most of history skiers utilized a single staff rather than two thin poles. Poles would come later with the advent of downhill sport skiing. Kenneth is seen here with a staff. The comparatively rough wood ski bases seemed to provide sufficient grip. Kenneth recalls that the major concern was snow sticking underneath, and he remedied this with ordinary paraffin wax, in the same way that modern skiers apply commercially-prepared glide wax.

Kenneth, as a teenager, earned money trapping fur-bearing animals in winter, and routinely skied down the north



Kenneth Lively, about 10 years old, in 1920, on Cumbres Pass. Note long, hand-made skis.




Kenneth Lively, early 1920s, with friend, skiing with single staff.

(Historic photos provided by John Turnbull. More photos can be found throughout this issue.)

continued on next page

**Manzano Mountain Cross-Country Ski Center**



**Celebrates Reopening**  
 25 Scenic Kilometers Groomed Trails  
 and Set Track for all Levels –  
 Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced  
 Telemark Hills – Skating Lanes  
**LESSONS**  
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**Open Daily 9-4. For Conditions Call 384-3088/384-2209**  
**Located within the Cibola National Forest**

#### Cross-Country Skiing *from previous page*

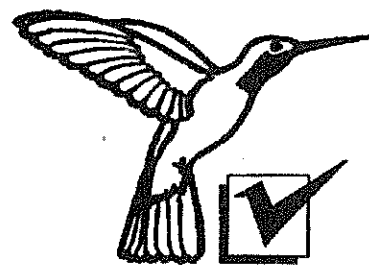
slope of Cumbres Pass toward Osier, Colorado, managing his traps. At the end of the day he would catch the evening train from Antonito back to Cumbres Station. For amusement during the long snow-bound weeks of winter, Kenneth would frequently ski the 18 miles from Cumbres Station down the south slope to Chama, then catch the eastbound afternoon train back home. This same run is popular today with recreational skiers, though few make the entire distance. When the snow is fast, it is thrilling.

According to Kenneth, by the early 1930s there were about a dozen ski enthusiasts in Chama. They pooled their efforts to clear a slope and build a rope-tow, about four miles west of Chama. This run, still visible today, may have been the earliest organized recreational ski area in New Mexico. Skiers flew down the hill on their cross-country skis and boots, there being no difference in equipment in the early days of Alpine (i.e. downhill) skiing. Stem turns and stem christies were the rule with the free-heel cable and strap bindings, and heavy, edgeless skis of the era. Around 1946, back from military service, Kenneth bought his present equipment: a pair of white, US Army skis, surplus from the 10th Mountain Division.

The Cumbres Pass area offers some of the finest cross-country skiing in the Southwestern United States. The skiers, so much in evidence here today, are not the first to have passed this way.

Sierra Club members in the Albuquerque and Socorro areas will be happy to hear that the Manzano Mountains Cross-country Ski Center, operated by Sierra Club members Jan and Jo Moore, has been granted a Forest Service permit, and is open for business near Tajique, about an hour from Albuquerque. Phone 1-384-2209 or 1-384-3088. Twenty-five kilometers of groomed and scenic trails, for classical or free-style. Telemark slopes. Overnight accommodations nearby. Classical and skate skis available for rent. A great place to learn, too.

—John Turnbull.



## NM Taxpayers: Don't Forget Share With Wildlife

Near the bottom of the New Mexico income tax form is a checkoff box for Share with Wildlife, a nonprofit fund dedicated to wildlife and its habitat in New Mexico. Although Share with Wildlife is part of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, the program is supported entirely by contributions—many of those from New Mexico taxpayers like you. By checking the box on your tax form, you can give as much as you want of your refund to the program.

Share with Wildlife funds research, habitat protection, wildlife rehabilitation and public education, focusing on projects to benefit wildlife that do not receive funding from any other source, including many threatened and endangered species. This is what makes the program important and unique.

Your contributions have helped such diverse species as the boreal owl, Gila monster and endangered bighorn sheep.

You can make a difference. Your donation is a vote for the future of the wildlife of New Mexico. And if you have an accountant prepare your tax form, please tell him or her you want to "check it off" for Share with Wildlife. Or you can donate directly by sending your contribution to New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, 141 E. DeVargas Street, Santa Fe, NM 87503. Thank you to all our past contributors, and please "check it off" again this year.

Claire Tyrpak

Share with Wildlife Coordinator

# Petroglyph Monument Alliance Meets on Management Plan

by Ike Eastvold, Petroglyph National Monument Issue Chair

American Indian, environmental, and other groups have formed the Petroglyph National Monument Alliance, an information-sharing network built around a Blue Ribbon Panel of resource and planning experts. Concerned with an aggressive emphasis on recreation and facilities development in the Monument's early General Management Plan alternatives, the groups have sought help from the Panel's experts in biology, archaeology, anthropology, geology, Pueblo Indian religion, and National Park planning. The first meeting January 5, 1993, began with a field tour of the Monument, and then in the Sandia Pueblo Tribal Council chambers, an afternoon discussion session among Panel members and representatives from the National Park Service and City of Albuquerque Open Space Division. Sandia Pueblo Governor, Inez Baca, also invited Alliance members to dances that night in the village church, and festivities January 6th, on All Kings Day.

The following summary should be used by readers in reacting to the General Management Plan Newsletter available from the Park Service this month. If you are not already on the Newsletter mailing list, send your name and address to: NPS Newsletter Mailing List, 123 4th Street, SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102; or call them at 766-8375.

• The patchwork zoning approach to planning fragments the true spiritual, natural, and cultural unity of the park. A new, comprehensive approach is needed.

• As an example, since no known endangered species existed, the Panel's biological experts felt habitat values were being neglected, and, instead, "management was for the rocks." They felt new roads and active recreation would cut off the biological exchange essential to a living ecosystem, like

moving an island further offshore; and that, because of this neglect in the Plan, the biological data base was "less than paltry. It's pathetic." They offered their technical expertise to help cure these deficiencies, but felt they had not been listened to in the past, and that volunteer assistance for biological survey work was available, but had not been sought out.

• Biologists felt they were alone, "arguing in a vacuum," until they discovered that American Indian experts were worried about the same fragmentation, but from a cultural and religious perspective. To Pueblo Indian communities, the volcanoes, mesa, escarpment, plants, animals, and petroglyphs are viewed as integrally connected within a single, spiritual landscape, and further connected to landscapes in the Sandia and Jemez Mountains, and other components of a larger sacred geography. Indians recommended that visitor use be limited, compatible with these values, and controlled through special management such as guided tours.

• Everyone united in calling for decisive interim management to cut down on vandalism and resource degradation. Authority in the Monument's establishment act should be used for prompt graffiti removal, fencing, signs, and patrol, even where lands are not yet acquired. Otherwise, as one Panel member pointed out, the long-range General Management Plan effort was tantamount to "moving the deck furniture around while the Titanic sinks."

• Panel members with National Park planning backgrounds called for stepping up public education on the national significance of the Monument, like "a Gettysburg address that will grab people and make them understand" what the park is all about. Panelists also called for a return to the emphases in the actual legislation es-

tablishing the Park. Protection from urbanization and vandalism, with preservation, education and research priorities, are the main legislative purposes.

The Blue Ribbon Panel will meet next in March to review the NPS Newsletter, and then again in the Fall to discuss the draft General Management Plan alternatives.

In the interim, Sierra Club members need to write their comments to the Park Service at the address above, stressing the urgent need to re-focus planning efforts on the unique spiritual, cultural, and natural values of Petroglyph National Monument. As one Panel member, Russ Dickenson, former director of the NPS, summed it up:

"This is finally the opportunity to strike out in a new and unique direction. There is no need to be bound by the so-called lessons of the past. This assemblage of cultural and spiritual significance is found nowhere else in the world. Multiple zoning has been greatly overdone. We need to view the Monument as one cultural zone with maximum protection."





# Coalition Forms to Cut State Funds for ADC

by Marc Bedner

Over the past several months, a growing number of wildlife advocacy, environmental, and animal protection organizations throughout the West have been educating themselves and the public about the tragic slaughter of wildlife that is being paid for in large part by state and federal monies. This program, called Animal Damage Control (ADC), is as much a problem in New Mexico as it is in the other western states.

The Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club has joined with Forest Guardians and Sangre de Cristo Animal Protection to form an *ad hoc* coalition for the specific purpose of working together on the ADC issue during the 1993 legislative session. Quite simply, our goal is to see that the New Mexico state allocation for ADC not be appropriated. Even though the various coalition members may have goals which are different or even sometimes conflicting, we believe strongly that our collective voices can have a tremendous impact on the issue of ADC. There will be no other agendas addressed through this coalition.

The state legislature appropriated \$390,793 for ADC activities in New Mexico for the 1991-2 fiscal year; ADC is requesting that the legislature appropriate \$324,404 for 1992-3. Why should New Mexico taxpayers have to spend their hard-earned money on senseless wildlife killing to subsidize the ranching industry? Why should we be funding the poisoning, trapping and aerial gunning of wildlife at all? We are sure that through input from the citizens of New Mexico, our legisla-



Protestor at State Capitol demands an end to state funding of ADC  
(photo ©1992 by Marc Bedner)

tors can find other programs that are more in need of and *deserving* of these hard-earned tax dollars.

The ADC appropriation will be considered by the House Appropriations & Finance Committee as part of the general appropriations bill, HB2. Max Coll, the chairman of the committee, has expressed an interest in cutting off ADC funds. Phone calls and letters are especially needed to the other members of the committee: Henry "Kiki" Saavedra, Patricia Baca, George Buffett, Barbara A. Perea Casey, Richard Knowles, Robert Light, Danice Picraux, Earlene Roberts, Nick Salazar, Paul Taylor, David Townsend, Luciano "Lucky" Varela, Jeanette Wallace, Kenneth Wallin, Leo Watchman, Ima Lee Wells, Darla Whitney-Welles. A

hearing is tentatively scheduled for 1 PM on February 18.

Since the appropriation is funneled through the NM Department of Agriculture and NM State University, the Agriculture Committee may also be hearing the bill. Once the House has approved the bill, it will be heard by the Senate Finance Committee, chaired by Senator Ben Altamirano.

There may be an attempt in the legislature to overturn the recent Land Office policy curtailing ADC activities on state land.

For more information contact Marc Bedner at 299-2004 or the Coalition to De-Fund Animal Damage Control, 612 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite B, Santa Fe, NM 87501, 988-9126.

## New Mexico State University/New Mexico Department of Agriculture Animal Damage Control

	1990/1 Actual	1991/2 Actual	1992/3 Budget	1993/4 Budget
<b>State Appropriation</b>	<b>\$449,938</b>	<b>\$390,793</b>	<b>\$324,404</b>	<b>\$324,404</b>
County contracts	\$42,000	\$24,706	\$23,000	\$23,000
Private contracts	\$54,100	\$52,850	\$51,800	\$51,600
State contracts	\$15,751	\$28,898	\$22,000	\$22,000
Farm&Range Improvement Funds	\$415,727	\$407,586	\$435,086	\$435,086

# It's Time to Ban Steel Jaw Traps

by Rita Getty

Last summer I went for a hike with my two Dalmatians, Harmony and Gracie, in the Sandia Foothills. Gracie found a steel jaw trap. If the trap hadn't already caught an animal (a crushed, bloody, chewed-off paw was caught in the trap) it would have caught Gracie, either killing or maiming her.

Steel jaw traps are a serious threat to public safety here in New Mexico. They can catch a child, adult, pet, show cat or dog, and endangered animal like an eagle, or livestock. They were invented over two hundred years ago when population density was less than one person per square mile.

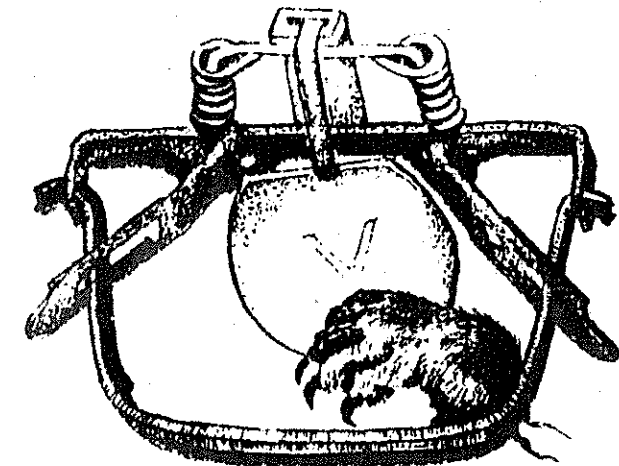
Today, with over a million and a half residents and millions of tourists in New Mexico, steel jaw traps are an unacceptable menace to anyone who ventures outdoors.

Steel jaw traps are barbaric. Studies liken the pressure exerted when one of these traps springs to the force exerted by four football players slamming a car door on your hand. Most animals have to have their legs amputated if they don't die from shock and pain.

Alternative traps are available which neither threaten the lives of children, pets, livestock and endangered species nor inflict barbaric torture.

Three states, Massachusetts (1979), Rhode Island (1978), and New Jersey (1984), have outlawed these traps. They are banned in over 65 countries. The European Community has not only banned their use but also banned the import of any furs caught with these dangerous outdated devices. New Mexican fur trappers will not be able to sell their furs to European countries if they use these types of traps.

In New Mexico, Taos and Corrales have recently banned the use of steel jaw traps. The New Mexico Legislature is considering a bill to ban steel jaw traps in this state. Please take a few minutes to call and write both your



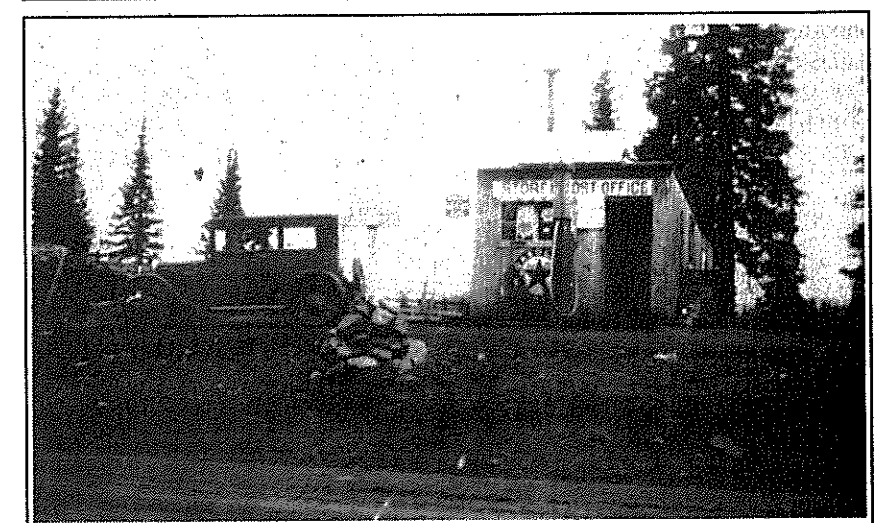
State Senator and Representative and urge them to vote FOR the Steel Jaw Trap Ban legislation. Ask your friends to make calls, too.

If you or someone you know has an animal that has been injured by a steel jaw trap, please call 299-4490.

If your pawed and feathered friends could do the same they would.

About the Author: Rita Getty is a freelance writer, photographer, animal lover and the author of the Steel Trap Ban Bill.

The steel jaw leghold trap consists of a metal ring, hinged at the middle, and activated by a powerful spring. When an animal steps on the "pan" at the center, the steel jaws snap together on the limb. The grip must be tight enough to prevent the creature from prying its foot loose. Debilitating injuries often result from the trap's closing impact and the animal's frenzied struggle to free itself. These include fractured bones, lacerations, gangrene, and broken teeth from biting at the painful grapples.



Cumbres Pass General Store, run by Mr. Lively after graduation from high school, around 1927

# Transportation Efficiency Strategies

By Ken Hughes, Energy & Transportation Chair, Rio Grande Chapter

Given the exigencies of the new federal policies as well as that of the State Energy Policy, this article suggests seven transportation efficiency recommendations. They are based on what is being done in other states as well as nascent efforts underway here in New Mexico. Together they point to fundamental changes needed in how we pay for transportation choices as well as how we can open up new transportation options for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. If New Mexicans are given accurate information and options, while including the true social and environmental costs of their transport choices into pricing, they will act wisely.

## Replace gasoline tax with highway user fees on certain roads based on vehicle miles traveled plus externalities

Current methods of paying for roads do not include the full cost of road maintenance, nor do they adequately charge those who use our roads. Air pollution, noise and congestion are all considered "externalities" to be borne by society at large.

A true user-fee road finance system is needed, so that road wear costs are recovered, road capacity is efficiently allocated, and externalities are internalized. In other words, it's time to bring into line the price of auto use with the costs of highway travel.

The current gasoline tax system does not cover all costs. Just to keep up with 1965 levels, the New Mexico gasoline tax would have to increase by 12¢/gallon. The gas tax is not a true user fee, but rather an excise tax on fuel. Moreover, not all purchasers of gasoline place equal demands of roads, since road construction and maintenance costs vary from region to region. Hence some road users pay too much, while many are under-charged.

User fees for vehicles who travel on specific highways and bridges that are particularly burdened by traffic would

create a system of pay-as-you-drive for the true costs of road wear and tear. Fees could vary by peak congestion periods, vehicle emissions, length of trip, and/or number of vehicle passengers, and they could also vary annually depending on the estimated costs for that year. This ensures financial stability and social equity, since the user only pays for services provided. And externalities are captured when assigning a value to emissions, noise, non-point water pollution, health care and property damage. While difficult to accurately quantify, it is far better to estimate some value than to state that there are no external costs, which in effect the current gas tax system does.

Collection is made possible through new electronic technology called Automatic Vehicle Identification (AVI). AVI systems identify vehicles on the move as they pass certain spots, and record data in a computer. Users then pay the road charges either through credit accounts that they set up with a state agency or through monthly billings.

*Action to date:* Singapore has successfully collected user fees using AVI technology since 1975. The Dallas North Tollway automatically bills drivers a higher amount for travelling during peak hours, with electronic tags the size of a credit card affixed on windshields. New Orleans' Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, New York City's Lincoln Tunnel and the entire Oklahoma Turnpike use AVI. And the State of Oregon, which already has weigh-in-motion scales for trucks on its interstates, is scrapping the gasoline

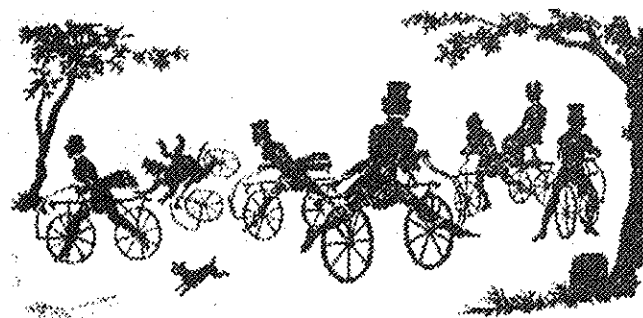
tax in favor of a road toll, with a pay-as-you-drive via AVI policy at its heart.

## Adopt congestion pricing

Road costs are highest where cars place the most demand on them. Congestion pricing, like electric utility or telephone peak pricing, would capture fees by those using the services the most. But a gas tax across the board, designed to capture social costs, would be unfairly high in rural counties and to urban residents not driving at peak periods.

*Action to date:* Peak period tolls, along with mileage-based registration fees and employer parking charges, are being phased in by the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Bay Area of California, with nearly \$2 million of the toll revenues underwriting mass transit. Portland is incorporating congestion pricing through electronic toll collections into its package of transportation efficiency measures. In Southern California the South Coast Air Quality District has a series of market-based measures to work in concert with congestion pricing, including a \$2 car registration fee to fund clear air and congestion relief programs, vehicle mileage fees and parking fees for places of employment, shopping malls and other commercial areas. These are based on an Environmental Defense Fund study which showed that these policies could decrease vehicle mileage trips by 12%, daily travel

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# Transportation Efficiency continued from previous page

times by 24%, hydrocarbon emissions by 19% and fuel use by 19%.

## Initiate pay as you drive (PAYD) insurance plan

This plan would charge the variable-cost portion of auto insurance on the basis of miles driven. This requires a direct payment to any insurance carrier. The fee can be placed either at the fuel pump, where part of the billed premiums would be converted to an adder on to the price of gasoline, or through annual odometer readings. Thus, fixed fee rates would be replaced with rates based on miles traveled or gas consumed. An at-the-pump payment plan also removes uninsured motorists from the road, a major problem in New Mexico.

*Action to date:* Pennsylvania, under prodding by a National Organization of Women lawsuit, is considering PAYD based on annual odometer readings. Florida and California are considering paying insurance at the fuel pump.

## Tax parking benefits, reward alternatives

Free parking is so common that its costs to the employer and society are rarely considered. In fact, employees and customers have come to expect parking. Yet rarely is "free" a greater misnomer. Providing employees parking costs as much as \$1,657 per space per year. And more land devoted to parking, up to one half of many central business districts, means less for tax-generating residential, commercial and industrial activities. Truly, parking exemplifies well the adage that cars make a good servant but a poor master.

Reducing or eliminating free parking is an important part of any transportation efficiency strategy. Charging parking fees has been found to reduce single passenger driving by up to 30%. But to be truly effective, parking strategies should bolster options such as ridesharing, mass transit, walking and bicycling.

The tax treatment of employer-provided transit benefits for alternatives to Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) parking (e.g. public transit, ridesharing, vanpooling, high occupancy vehicle use, telecommuting, walking, bicycling

and alternative work schedules) could be more favorable than for parking. Employees could be offered tax free commuter transit allowances and/or passes, or tax credits for transit incentives programs or alternative work schedule programs. Conversely, the state could impose non favorable tax treatment for SOV parking and it could eliminate tax free parking benefits for both employer and employee. An employer could give all employees \$40 monthly cash for commuting and charge those who drive \$40. Thus those who find other means of getting to work get in effect a cash bonus.

*Action to date:* Portland OR is abolishing employer-provided free parking in favor of a cash allowance to employees equivalent to current parking subsidy. West Hollywood Cal. adopted a \$45 monthly travel allowance plan, and 15% of its employees stopped driving to work alone. The State of Washington's energy office is asking employers of 100 or more employees to devise a trip reduction plan, to cut SOV trips by 15% by 1995, 25% in 1997 and 35% by the turn of the century. Optional measures include preferential parking, van services, flexible work schedules, compressed work schedules, on-site day care, loading areas for vans, parking incentives, transit passes, and telecommuting.

## Quid pro quo zoning ordinance exchanges

Zoning ordinances such as those which regulate subdivisions and land use planning would be relaxed in exchange for strategies that address air quality and energy conservation. Minimum parking requirements could be reduced in exchange for alternative transportation requirements such as:

- High security bike racks, preferably with guarded parking. Such bike

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Cumbres Pass General Store, buried in winter snow. Estimated depth: nine feet.



## Transportation Efficiency Strategies *continued from previous page*

facilities hold 12 bikes in the space of one car, and they are 13 and 310 times more cost-effective at reducing hydrocarbon emissions than either carpooling or Park&Ride service, respectively. The average motorist driving to a Park&Ride facility could, by switching to a bike, save 150 gallons of gasoline annually, reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 3,000 pounds, and reduce emissions of CO, HC, and NO<sub>x</sub> by two to five times (due to "cold-start" conditions). Such facilities should not be overlooked: a recent Louis Harris poll showed that SOV trips could drop by 25% if adequate facilities for walking and biking were in place;

- Walk & Ride pedestrian facilities e.g. safe, pleasant sidewalks and bus stops. These facilities work best when coupled with Traffic Calming devices, which may not decrease automobile traffic but help to accommodate walking and cycling without shunting pedestrians and cyclists aside onto inferior sidewalks and paths. Carefully placed trees, mini circles and undulating lanes not only slow down speeds, it gives public space priority to walking, cycling and children's play;

- Shuttle services to complement existing public transit services. For example, State of New Mexico employees could be offered shuttle buses to the various clusters of office buildings, coupled with incentives to use them and disincentives to drive/park, in conjunction with the new Santa Fe city bus service and contemplated rapid rail to Albuquerque;

- Jitney services, to allow for unlimited entry of tax and private transit service while maintaining regulations for driver training, fleet insurance and safety measures);

- Creation of a balanced jobs/housing developments, to eliminate need for commuting.

*Action to date:* Sacramento, Cal. has revised its zoning laws to reduce parking requirements by 5% when bicycle facilities are provided, 15% for marked rideshare spaces, and 60% for transit

pass subsidization. Berkeley, Cal. has begun "Slow Street" traffic calming initiative on streets feeding into its downtown/campus area. Seattle has long had mini circles placed on hilly street intersections to reduce speed and allow easier pedestrian crossing. Santa Fe is joining Davis, Cal. with the nation's first Cohousing projects, which combine homes and individual businesses in a streetless, no-commute subdivision.

### **Feebate: Set a fuel efficiency tax or rebate on new vehicles and eliminate tax on alternative transport vehicles**

To discourage production and sales of more efficient vehicles and discourages those that waste fuel, a one-time tax or rebate would be assessed on the sale of new vehicles based on fuel efficiency. Fees and rebates would be set on a predetermined target, set higher than the current corporate average fuel efficiency (CAFE) standards. The fees would reflect the social costs of congestion, energy consumption, and/or environmental damage from fuel combustion and consumption. At the same time, taxes on bicycles and buses should

be eliminated or sharply reduced to enhance their affordability and desirability as well as reflect their social contributions.

*Action to date:* California legislature passed DRIVE-Plus (Demand-based Reduction in Vehicle Emissions Plus improved fuel economy), but governor vetoed. The Natural Resources Defense Council has come with a DRIVE+2, which sets aside a portion of revenues to buy back inefficient, highly polluting old cars. Maryland's governor signed feebate legislation into law; a challenge to it is now in court on its way to Supreme Court. Arizona, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, Wisconsin have or are considering it. Iowa, New York, Oregon and Massachusetts are considering a variation on feebate, which would formulate a variable sales tax based on auto fuel efficiency. The Province of Ontario has a working feebate in place, as has the Netherlands. Finally, feebate legislation was introduced by New Mexico Representatives King and Eisenstadt in 1991, but it was rejected in the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

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Cumbres Station buildings in winter.

## Transportation Efficiency *cont.*

### **Rapid Rail**

High speed rail can serve to carry passengers where distances between cities are not great. And it can help to greatly reduce pollution and energy costs associated with the auto and airplane. Integration into the transport mix of high speed rail could reduce energy consumption by 14%, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by one fifth and carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide emissions by 30%.

In the works is a proposal for a joint public-private partnership to build and operate a high speed rail service between Albuquerque and Santa Fe. This would give commuters and tourists alike who are travelling between the state capital and New Mexico's largest city the first true option to the automobile. Consideration should be given to linking up Las Cruces and El Paso to the Rio Rail. Passenger railroad travel, now mainly found in only the largest cities of the U.S., has been projected to be financially feasible between Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Fares, which have been suggested at \$20 for round trip, compares favorably with \$35 (based on the Hertz Corporation calculation of 35¢/mile average costs of a car trip). Environmental and social costs of rail service are significantly less than auto travel, employment impacts per BTU expended significantly greater, and rail stops in both cities can serve as hubs for other modes of travel.

*Action to date:* Plans to adopt high speed rail service are afoot for many parts of the United States, including Boston to Washington, Philadelphia to Harrisburg, Pittsburgh to Cleveland, Miami to Jacksonville, Tampa to Orlando, San Francisco to San Diego, Las Vegas to Los Angeles, and a Dallas-Houston-San Antonio triangle.

## NM Legislature *continued from first page*

and health of people on both sides of the border. Already border problems are apparent, yet government/corporate greed and corruption literally bury it over. Sunland Park has a dump 500 feet from a residential area and a school, and it sits atop an aquifer 40 feet underground. State only has 7 inspectors for 140 dumps. Politicians often taking sides of the company running the dumps. Sen. Martinez has been a lobbyist for the waste company, and legal arguments were made on its behalf by Sen. Macias.

Gary King's bill would allow citizens to bring suit for violations of certain environmental statutes.

Southwest Organizing Project is opposing the Governor's reappointment of oil/gas person on the **Environment Improvement Board** in lieu of Hispanic woman from the Southern part of the state. Senate must approve any nomination after a hearing.

The NM Organic Growers Association want to expand organic agriculture regulations by reconciling New Mexico's act with federal regulations, and get state accreditation as a result. The fast-growing dairy industry wants to switch milk inspection and groundwater discharge plans from the Environment Department (ED) to the rancher-dominated NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA). NMDA now regulates pesticides, while promoting its use at the same time. At the same time, dairies do not pay ED any fees for inspections and other regulations, as do most other industries.

Several recycling bills are expected this session. Rep. Shirley Baca will sponsor a **bottle bill** modeled on the 1991 bill. There are 25,000 jobs in 9 states attributable to bottle deposit legislation, and 1250 jobs, mostly in the private sector, in NM due to local pilot recycling plants. The bill would not force local stores to take bottles, though there's money in it for them, and refillables are exempt from the deposit. Sen. Maes and Rep. Porter to call for registration fees on each tire, to fund ED program to recycle tires and

kept out of landfill and into asphalt. A similar effort is expected for **batteries**. Rep. Picraux to sponsor a bill promoting purchasing by government agencies supplies with recycled content. Second bill requires state and local agencies to go through state purchasing dept. to make purchases. Third bill addresses recyclable/recycling claims made by manufacturers.

Rep. Gary King wants repeal the requirement for three-mile **buffer zones around incinerators** and other solid waste facilities, saying there is no scientific evidence that more than 100 feet is needed. Scientists are prepared to rebut him. The real threat is that this requirement has helped kick out incinerators proposed or operated in Sunland Park, Moriarty, etc. Los Lunas next, for out-of-state medical waste.

A state equivalent to the National **Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** would require that before action is taken, a state agency would have to stop and consider what environmental consequences they might have. It also allows citizen participation. Supported by the Environment Department and endorsed in 1990 by the New Mexico Town Hall.

For the first time in 15 years, the **Water Quality Act** will be amended significantly, including criminal felony provisions, disclosure statements, sludge and liquid waste requirements. Currently carcinogenic dumping into Rio Grande is a misdemeanor, while certain acts of graffiti are felonies. The Environment Department needs \$2 million for waste water treatment, \$5 million revolving loans for infrastructure, and \$2 million for localities. As with air quality, the budget is threatened by loss of federal matching funds.

A "**whistleblower**" act to protect state employees who point out environmental crimes is part of an effort to give more enforcement authority to the Environment Department and Environment Improvement Board.

*This article was compiled from information provided by Ken Hughes.*

# ALBUQUERQUE GROUP

## FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING: SKI TOURING IN NEW MEXICO

By Susan Gorman

Ski touring is the passport to the spectacular winter world of great peace and serenity and awesome beauty. Put those skinny skis on your feet and glide into this world, away from slick streets and city slush!

The New Mexico cross country ski season is well underway and John Turnbull, Santa Fe Sierra Club member, leader of cross country ski outings and professional ski outings, has been hard at work to achieve his modest goal: To make every Sierra Clubber a ski tourist.

John will talk about the history of Nordic and Telemark skiing, provide pointers on selecting equipment and clothes and recommend ways to learn or get better. Then Don Meaders will join him to exchange recommendations about great places to go and show slides that will really make you want to get out into the snow.

If you have slides of favorite places or people having fun on skis, we welcome your contributions to this program!

Preceding the main program, we will have the news from the '93 Legislature, talk about upcoming events and outings, recaps of recent outings, and alerts on issues. The February meeting will be on Monday, February 15th, at 7:30PM, UNM Law School, Room 2401, on the NW corner of Mountain and Stanford NE. Please bring a cup if you care to have refreshments provided by the Albuquerque Group. Please come!

## CHRISTMAS DINNER A SUCCESS

A big "thank you" is in order for the Membership Committee folks and especially to Terri Moyers for the work they did on the holiday pot luck/meeting. Thank you!

## HELP!!

The Albuquerque Group office badly needs a few new chairs. If you or your employer have one or more that you don't need, please give the office a call at 265-5506.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

"After the Flood", the 5th Annual Bosque Symposium, will be presented Saturday February 27th, at The Rio Grande Nature Center from 9AM-12:30PM. (Cost: \$5.00).

Advance registration is required for the above program. Call the Rio Grande Nature Center at (505) 344-7240.

**Home Landscapes for the Southwest**, a five week series of classes on appropriate home landscaping for our area, begins on Saturday, February 13 at 9 am. Enrollment is limited and advance registration is \$50 for the series. For more information call the Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs at (505) 296-6020.

## CALENDAR

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

Feb 4: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM.

Feb 8: Executive Committee Meeting, 7PM.

Feb 9: Membership Committee, Old Tyners, Central & Louisiana, 7PM. Terri 265-8274.

Feb 13: 12 noon. **Deadline** for articles for March group newsletter/Sierran. Macintosh disk preferred.

Feb 15: **Sierra Club General Meeting**, UNM Law School, Rm 2401, 7:30 PM.

Feb 22: Conservation Committee meeting, 7:30 PM.

## 1993 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

Group Chair	Jay Sorensen	884-4314
Treasurer	Richard Barish	247-8079
	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370
	Bob Cornish	255-6037
	Blair Brown	265-3231
	David Bouquin	265-7853
	Nick Nicolaus	884-5433

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

Activities/ Special Planning	Terri Moyers	265-8274
Air Quality	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Books/ Calendars	Rich Adam	266-4657
Bosque	Richard Barish	247-8079
City Planning	David Bouquin	265-7853
City Trails	Dan Feller	266-1922
Conservation	open	
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Las Huertas	Marion Davidson	867-5178
Mailings	Doreen Kahl	345-7919
Mexican Wolf	Susan Larsen	897-2527
Mining Issues	Blair Brown	265-3231
Newsletter	Dorothy Brethauer	275-6113
	Larry Compton	899-0679
Outings	David Morrison	344-8693
	Stan Kauchak	292-9138
Petroglyphs/ Westside	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Population	Michelle Meaders	266-8823
Programs	Susan Gorman	265-3231
Public Lands	Hubert Davis	299-6904
Solid Waste	David Bouquin	265-7853
Water Quality	Chris Strobe	836-6304
Wildlife	Marc Bedner	299-2004

**Why Waste a Good Planet?**, an exhibit with practical information that every household can use to lessen the impact of our consumptive life-style, opens at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science on February 13. Adult admission is \$4.20, seniors and students, \$3.15 and children, \$1.05. (505) 841-8837.

## Outing Advance Notice

May 28-30 Moab, Utah

Stay at Pack Creek Ranch for mountain biking, spring skiing, hiking, and horseback riding. Fee for lodging and meals. Reservations by March 22. Stefan 888-1370.

# ALBUQUERQUE OUTINGS

Abbreviations: NM = National Monument; SC = Sierra Club; SW = Sandia Wilderness

Outings may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons, please call leader before outing

**Sat Feb 6** Moderate 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. Full moon and weather permitting/ may shift to days.  
Leader: Stan Kauchak 292-9138

**Sun Feb 7** Leisure Miles:1 Car:180  
*Bosque del Apache NWR*  
Await the orchestra of bird calls and colors as the sun begins to set during a full moon. We will eat lunch in Socorro before we begin our tour. Meet at the parking lot north of the Physics and Astronomy bldg at Yale and Lomas at 10AM.  
Leader: Laura Jenkins 293-7527.

**Sun Feb 7** Leisure Miles:2-3 Car:2  
*Geological Windows Hike, Petroglyph NM*  
Look for petroglyphs of the mountain lion-shaman elder guardian of the north direction, kachina masks- representing spirits of the dead that see into both worlds, and the footprints of the Masau- owners and caretakers of the world. [Please do not forget to come to the hearing on Paseo del Norte, Feb. 4, call for details.]RSVP.  
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

**Sun Feb 14** Leisure- Moderate Miles:4 Car:120  
*Manzano Mtn. Wilderness Snowshoe*  
Close to 4th of July Canyon we will take a meandering amble through a variety of terrain. Just stepping into snowshoes for the first time is fun. We can help find rental snowshoes. A wilderness addition has been proposed for the Manzano Wilderness. Along with many other proposed Forest Service wilderness additions, these areas will be reviewed by Congress after the BLM Wilderness Study Areas have been considered. Bring lunch. Call for meeting time and place.  
Leader: John Wright 344-4386

**Mon Feb 15** PreMeeting Dinner  
Meet at Nirvana, India cuisine, at 6:00 PM, corner of Carlisle and Central. David 344-8693.

**Feb 19-21** Advanced- Strenuous Miles:? Car:500  
*Mt. Evans and Bierstadt, CO, X-C Ski and Ski Mountaineering*  
Mt. Evans and Bierstadt are some of the less technical fourteens and are ascend-

able by ski during the winter. [Editor's Note: Never, ever trust the Mountain Goat when he has ski poles in his hands, this trip is probably one notch below extreme.]  
Leader: Stefan Verchinski 888-1370

**Sat Feb 20** Leisure Miles:2-3 Car:20  
*Rio Grande BioRegion Series*  
*I. Introduction to the Rio Grande BioRegion*  
The humorous natural resource and cultural historian, Dan Scurlock, will kick off this series. If you are new to New Mexico this will be an excellent opportunity to "grow some roots" into the local environment. Dan will weave a rich texture of interconnections of the many aspects of this region. Bring lunch. 3 hours. Meet 10AM at the Rio Grande Nature Center, end of Candelaria Rd. David 344-8693

**Sat Feb 20** Leisure Miles:2-3 Car:3-4  
*Rinconada Canyon Hike, Petroglyph NM*  
Ike will discuss the religious significance of some the thousands of petroglyphs in the area. Ike Eastvold 255-7679

**Sun Feb 21** Leisure Miles:3 Car:60  
*Upper Las Huertas X-C Ski, Sandias*  
Back by popular demand, snow permitting. This area is a very popular winter recreation area, but not for long. The NM Highway Dept. has decided to support paving Las Huertas road, while ignoring public comment and possibly the Open Meetings Act. Bring lunch.  
Marion Davidson 867-5178

**Sun Feb 21** Strenuous Miles:10-12 Car:190  
*Mt. Taylor X/C Ski*  
We will kick and glide up 2500 vertical feet to the summit and get in some telemark turns on the way down. Metal edge skies required. Call Nick for details.  
Leader: Nick Persampieri 281-7845

**Sat Feb 27** Leisure- Moderate Miles:4-5 Car:160  
*El Malpais National Monument- East Hike*  
We will do a variety of hikes that include the natural arch, an island in the lava flow, and Indian ruins. Bring lunch. Pete Domenici's double management plan (NPS and BLM) has meant double the trouble at double the expense. Two visitor centers will exist in this small monument.  
Leader: Tom Leck 857-0765

**Sun Feb 28** Advanced-Intermediate Miles: 5-6 Car: 70  
*Survey Trail, Sandia X/C Ski*  
We will ski up the Survey Trail and return via the North Crest Trail. A limited number of dogs will be welcome, but please reserve them a spot. Bring lunch and plenty. Meet at the Sierra Club Office, 207 San Pedro NE at 9:00 AM. Call David for details 344-8693. Leader: Susan Larson

**Sat Mar 6** Leisure Miles:2-3 Car:3  
*Piedras Marcadas Arroyo, Petroglyph NM*  
Watch for a variety of raptors soaring as thermals form above the petroglyphs on the black lava basalt rock. RSVP.  
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

**Sun Mar 7** Intermediate Miles: Est. 8 Car: ?  
*X/C Ski- Location to be determined*  
The Albuquerque Group is fortunate to have John and Linda agree to lead a X/C ski trip this month. John and Linda are seasoned leaders, having led many outings for the Sierra Club, both local and national. Expect the location to have optimum snow conditions, a variety of terrain, and fun for all. Dress in layers, bring food and water.  
Leader: John and Linda Buchser 281-2815

**Mon Mar 8** Leisure- Moderate Miles: 3 Car:50  
*Full Moon X-C Ski, Sandia Crest*  
Enjoy a magical moonlight ski along Sandia Crest to High Finance Restaurant for refreshments and return. Full moon and weather permitting.  
Leader: Stephan Verchinski 888-1370

**Sat Mar 13**  
*Outings Leader Workshop*  
Anyone with a yen to lead outings is encouraged to attend. Carpool to Santa Fe, from 9 AM. to 4 PM. Contact Stan at 292-9138

**Sat Mar 14** Leisure Miles:? Car: 90  
*Bernardo Waterfowl Area Tour*  
South of Belen lies this area managed by the NM Game and Fish Dept.. We can expect some lingering waterfowl, hunting raptors, and a variety of other wildlife. This seldom visited area should hold some surprises. Bring lunch. Meet at SC office, 207 San Pedro NE.  
Leader: Terri Moyers 265-8274

# EL PASO

## the LORAX

Sierra Club  
El Paso Regional Group

### FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

The tentative speaker for our February program will be Susan Schock Grinold. She will talk about the destructive grazing practices allowed by the US Forest Service on public lands. Susan has studied the grazing issue for many years, and is currently the head of Gila Watch, based in Silver City, NM.

The program will start at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, February 24th, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

### CALENDAR

February 3	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)
February 10	Wilderness First Aid and CPR Training (800 So. Piedras)
February 12	Deadline for El Paso newsletter information (send to 331 Vista del Rey, 79912)
February 24	General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)
March 3	EXCOM (800 So. Piedras)

### EXCOM NEWS!

Carolina Greenfield has resigned from the excom. Many thanks to Carolina for her contributions and service to the Sierra Club. Richard Rheder has been appointed to fill the remaining year of her term.

### THE OUTINGS PROGRAM

The Outings Program, I feel, is the backbone of the Sierra Club. It is the one thing that gives people the chance to experience wilderness; to see firsthand what roles we and all living things play in the natural world. Wilderness is the one thing that will attract and show people just what the Sierra Club is all about-protecting the Earth. It's what enticed me into joining the club.

I encourage you to go on one of our many outings. We offer a great variety of outings from easy dayhikes to 10-day backpacks. Our outing leaders are volunteering their time to show you the outdoors. They are there to help you experience the pleasures of nature.

I also urge you to tell people about the Sierra Club, what we stand for, and what we offer. I am committed to safe, fun, and educational outings where one can renew relationships with nature. If you have any ideas or suggestions, or if you wish to lead an outing, please let me know.

Finally, I want to thank Carol Morrison whose hardwork with the outings program and Lorax have been invaluable to the club's many endeavors.

See you outdoors.

Mike Episcopo

### GROUP DIRECTORY

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman/Public Lands	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Vice Chairman/Franklin Mtns	John Sproul	545-5157
Secretary	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Member/Outings	Mike Episcopo	833-3770
Member	Richard Rheder	544-5659
Member/Programs	Betsy Julian	544-5741

#### CONSERVATION

Environmental Quality	Tom Brasfield	584-8739
Political Action	Jim Bell	581-8864
Population	open	

#### ADMINISTRATION

Environmental Center	Phyllis Caves	
Group/LORAX Mail	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
ICO	Jeanne French	592-1660
Membership	Carolina Greenfield	593-2838
Office Rep.	Neil O'Hara	565-4735
Publicity	Todd Daugherty	584-2730
SIERRAN Editor	Wyona Turner	585-0251

#### Sierra Club Environmental Center

800 S. Piedras  
532-9645, 532-4876

Please send any changes or corrections in membership to  
Carolina Greenfield, Membership Roll  
1510 Dale Douglas, 79936

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



## The Environmental Center

The Environmental Center now has a new logo. From now on, when you see this logo in the newsletter, you'll know that there is some important news to follow about the Center. Watch for it!

The Environmental Center is now open on a regular basis thanks to two new volunteers. Christine Wilson is an AARP volunteer, and Angelina Newman is volunteering for Habitat. The Center will be open from 9 AM to 2 PM Tuesday through Saturday. When Phyllis isn't out of the office hustling for the club, she'll be there, too.

Stop in to introduce yourself and say "Hello."

### FRANKLINS ALERT!

Texas Parks and Wildlife is scheduled to release the Franklin Mountain State Park Management Plan next month. If you are interested in receiving a copy, contact the Park office to put your name on the mailing list. Their number is 877-1528.



## OUTINGS

## COOKE'S PEAK CARCAMP

DATE: February 6-7, 1993  
 CLASS: Moderate  
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Joe Rodriguez, 833-9655

We will once again depart El Paso on Saturday morning for our trek to Cooke's Peak. Last year we explored Indian petroglyphs, Cooke's Spring, and the old Ft. Cummings ruins before arriving at our camp-site. We'll probably follow tradition on Sunday this year, with some hikers exploring the old townsite and surrounding areas, while others hiking the peak.

## CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT CARCAMP (AZ)

DATE: February 13-14, 1993  
 CLASS: Easy, but drive is lengthy  
 LIMIT: 20, reservations required  
 LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042

We will leave El Paso early Saturday morning and drive west to Bowie, AZ, where we will turn south off of I-10 for the National Monument. We have reserved the group campsite for Saturday night. There is a limit of twenty campers and a cost for the group of \$10 to be split among participants. In addition, there is a \$3.00 per vehicle charge for admittance to the Monument. There are moderate day hikes planned for both Saturday afternoon and Sunday to Echo Canyon, Rhyolite Canyon, and Heart of Rocks. The hikes are optional. Be prepared for cold, wet weather. Bring your own fire wood. This is an outing for young and old alike. Call Rollin for details and reservations.

BAYLOR PASS, PINE TREE TRAIL DAYHIKE  
ORGAN MOUNTAINS

DATE: Saturday, February 20, 1993  
 CLASS: Easy to moderate  
 LIMIT: 15 each hike, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADERS: Mike Episcopo, 915-833-3770  
 Steve Kalavity, 505-382-8419

This is a joint dayhike between the El Paso and Las Cruces groups. Mike's group will hike the Baylor Pass route west to east; a moderate hike with an 1800' elevation gain. Steve's group will hike the Pine Tree Loop Trail; an easy hike with an 1100' elevation gain. Both trails have excellent views of the surrounding Organ Mountains. Choose your hike and give Mike or Steve a call for more details.

BACK COUNTRY WINTER SKI CAMP  
CLOUDCROFT, NM

DATE: February 20-21, 1993  
 CLASS: Moderate  
 LIMIT: 15, leader approval and reservations required

LEADER: Chuck Turner, 585-0251

Test your winter camping skills. Overnight crosscountry ski/snowshoe camp in Lincoln National Forest. Previous experience camping in snow desirable. Call Chuck for details.



## BIKE THE VOLCANOES

DATE: Sunday February 21, 1993  
 CLASS: Easy  
 LIMIT: None, leader approval and reservations required, mountain bike needed

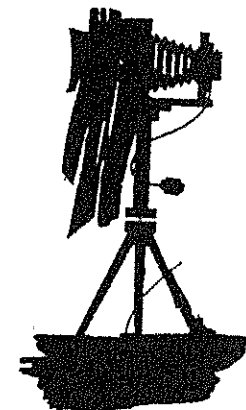
LEADER: Richard Rheder, 544-5659

This joint outing between the El Paso Bicycle Club and the Sierra Club will feature a bike trip to the volcanoes west of El Paso. The ride will be 15 miles roundtrip. The weather should be cool, so the ride will be a lot of fun. Call to arrange car-pool/caravan to desert starting point for this ride to Aden Crater and back. Bring lunch and plan to spend about an hour exploring the crater on foot. Eruption not guaranteed.

BUSH MOUNTAIN BACKPACK  
GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

DATE: February 27-28, 1993  
 CLASS: Moderate +  
 LIMIT: 10, leader approval and reservations required

LEADER: Kathy Sunday, 778-8030  
 Join Kathy for our first backpack of 1993. Our destination is the second highest peak in Texas. Beginning at the Pine Springs Campground, we hike the Tejas Trail to the ridge; then head northwest on the Bush Mountain Trail to our campsite situated in a wooded area below the peak. This trail is unique in the variety of outstanding viewpoints, but all water must be carried in.



Total roundtrip mileage is 14 with a 2900' elevation gain. Call Kathy for details and reservations.

DOG CANYON CARCAMP  
GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

DATE: February 27-28, 1993  
 CLASS: Easy to moderate  
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Carl Horkowitz, 755-3968 home, 755-9344 work

We will leave El Paso early Saturday morning for the 200-mile drive to the remote, but well-appointed Dog Canyon campground nestled cozily on the far side of the Guads and just inside the Texas state line. After setting up camp, some may elect to explore side canyons nearby, hike established trails, or simply loll about enjoying the excellent scenery. The campground features potable water, flush toilets, and graded tent sites. This traditional carcamp has always been great fun. Call Carl for details.

## ADVANCE WARNING!

*Bill Phillips is leading the Big Bend Outer Mountain Loop this year on March 19-21, 1993, so get your hiking legs and driving gloves in shape!*

## OUTINGS, continued

BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK BACKPACK  
BOFECILLOS MOUNTAINS

DATE: MARCH 6-7, 1993  
 CLASS: Moderate +, with a long drive  
 LIMIT: 10, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Mike Episcopo, 833-3770

Having dayhiked the recently opened 19-mile Rancherías Loop, I consider this seven mile stretch through Acebuches and Panther Canyon to be the most visually appealing. The rugged trail follows arroyos and mountain washes as it winds through numerous steep canyons whose escarpments are equal to those found in the Guadalupe Mountains. Our campsite is at a desert oasis at the bottom of Panther Canyon where a spring and the historic Reza homestead is located. Total roundtrip hike is 14 miles with a 1500' elevation gain. If you enjoy the stark beauty of the Chihuahuan Desert, this challenging backpack is for you.

HOSPITAL CANYON DAY HIKE AND  
PICTOGRAPH HUNT  
WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, NM

DATE: Saturday, March 13, 1993  
 CLASS: Moderate +  
 LIMIT: 15, by reservation, with leader approval and proof of citizenship required  
 LEADER: Rollin Wickenden, 598-8042

We have been asked by Jim Eckles, Public Affairs Officer at WSMR, to help search for an Indian pictograph of a horse somewhere in Hospital Canyon on the West side of the San Andreas Mountains. This is more of a bushwhack.

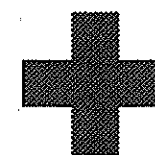
As this is an outing on WSMR, it is open to U.S. citizens only, and names and social security numbers must be provided two weeks in advance.

High clearance vehicles may be required. Details regarding the length and difficulty of the trip will be available later. As always at WSMR, the outing is subject to cancellation. Call Rollin for reservations and details.

DOG CANYON WINTER BACKPACK  
OLIVER LEE STATE PARK

DATE: March 13-14, 1993  
 CLASS: Moderate  
 LIMIT: 12, leader approval and reservations required  
 LEADER: Mark Post, 581-2696

We will leave El Paso early Saturday morning and drive to Oliver Lee State Park south of Alamogordo. Our route follows the Dog Canyon Trail to our campsite in a meadow before the trail drops to the line cabin. Roundtrip mileage is about eight miles. Weather permitting, there will be the opportunity for dayhikes to the eyebrow trail and/or the waterfall on Saturday afternoon. A juicy steak and a fine wine or hot beverage add to one's enjoyment of the beauty and solitude of Dog Canyon in winter. Phone Mark early for more information and reservations.

SPECIAL WILDERNESS TRAINING  
SESSION PLANNED

Bill Brown, Chief of the El Paso Department of Emergency Medical Services, will conduct a **Wilderness First Aid and CPR training** class for Sierra Club members on **Wednesday, Feb. 10, 1993, at 7 PM** in the **Environmental Center**. All outing leaders, potential leaders, and interested parties are strongly encouraged to attend this vital training session.

Call Mike Episcopo, 833-3770, to reserve your spot.

## OUTINGS REPORTS

## Alamo Mountain Dayhike, 12/12/92

Our group of ten thoroughly enjoyed this truly unique place. Located on BLM land in southern New Mexico, Alamo Mountain has long attracted people to its spring (now practically dry), shade, and great vistas. Evidence of its attraction abounds in the form of beautiful rock art and, more recently, the ruins of an old Butterfield overland stage stop.

This site is a good example of the rich heritage to be protected on our public lands. Participants included Barbara Nehring, Martha Paganini, John Dick, Steve Englander, Mary Gowan, Annie and Ray Zimmerman, Helen Stoughton, Harold Naylor, and Leader Gary Williams.

## South Franklin Peak Hangover Hike, 1/1/93

I cancelled the dayhike January 1 due to weather, and instead did it Saturday, January 2. Although the city was shrouded in fog, seven die-hard hikers out of the original 16 decided to give it a try, and did we ever luck out. We began our ascent of South Franklin through soup-thick fog, and about halfway up, broke out of it into sunshine. What a spectacular visual effect to see South Franklin, North Franklin, and Anthony's nose jetting up above the ocean of clouds. On top we were met by a brisk wind, so we took shelter, ate lunch, looked around, and descended back into the depths of this sea of white. The seven cloud dancers included Michael Maillet, Roberto Strongman, Rick Kartt, Chris and Jeanine Traag, assistant leader Dennis Stemstrud and leader Mike Episcopo.

## Mt. Riley East Potrillos Carcamp, 1/9-10/93

The trip to Mt. Riley had something for everyone this year—climbing the peak with Mike Episcopo, mountain biking with Weldon Fisbeck and Richard Rheder, rocket launching with the Episcopos, star and moon gazing with Roger Spurka and his new 10" telescope, relaxed roaming with Roy McCloud, and mudpie making with all the kids. Other participants were Maria, Dionne, and Brian Episcopo, Lauren Wyatt, Pat Wood, Mary Lou, Anne, and Jimmy Parker, Barbara, Sydney, and Danielle Coon, Harold Naylor and Betty Fisbeck.

# SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

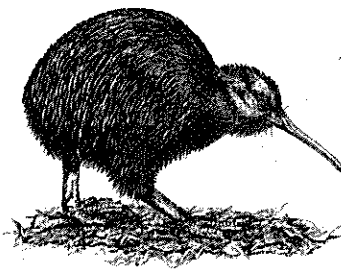
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1993

### FIGHT THE FEBRUARY BLAHS !

Tour the country of New Zealand with Native Kiwi Bill Drake and his wife Jan Peacock. They will present a colorful slide show and discuss environmental issues concerning the faraway islands.

Also, our Sierra Club lobbyist, Ken Hughes, will bring us an update on Legislative issues.

The general membership meeting is **FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** (bring a friend!) and will be held at **The Unitarian Church on Barcelona** (between Don Gaspar and Galisteo), on Tuesday, February 16, at 7:30 PM. **SEE YOU THERE!**



NEW ZEALAND

### MEETING SCHEDULE

The **Executive Committee** of the Santa Fe Group will begin meeting at noon on the first Tuesday of each month at the group office, 440 Cerrillos Road. Beginning with Tuesday, February 2, 1993. All members are welcome to attend; please bring your lunch.

The **Conservation Committee** of the Santa Fe Group will begin meeting again 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 at the Conservation Committee meetings for discussion and recommendation first. Next meeting is Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00 PM.

### >> 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
Outings — Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Fundraising —	
Political Committee — Ken Hughes*	988-9297	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 <<<<<<<<<<

### Sat Sun February

- 7 Louise Leopold (988-4592) Easy Hike on La Bajada Hill. Leave at 9:30 AM. Dogs welcome.
- 13 John McClure (473-1916) Strenuous Hike to Tetilla Peak from La Bajada. Leave 8 AM.
- 14 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Walk in Cerro Gordo area. Leave 9 AM.
- 14 Douglas Altshuler (471-1183) Strenuous Hike in Bandelier up the Mesa to Upper Crossing and down Frijoles Canyon - 13 miles. Leave 8 AM. \* **Please contact leader beforehand.**
- 20 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Easy/Moderate Hike along the railroad toward Lamy. Dogs welcome. Leave 9 AM.
- 21 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike from Diablo Canyon. Call leader for reservations.
- 21 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike in the Cerrillos Hills. Leave 9 AM.
- 27 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike on Ancho Rapids Trail. Leave 8 AM.
- 28 \***Canceled**\* Jeff Jones (984-2389) Strenuous Hike in Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.
- 28 Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy Hike in Galisteo Dam area. Leave 9 AM.

### Sat Sun March

- 6 Doug Altshuler (471-1183) Strenuous Hike to St. Peter's Dome. 12 miles roundtrip. Leave 8 AM. Please contact leader beforehand.
- 7 Brian Johnson (983-5672) Moderate Hike to Cerro Pedernal. Leave 8 AM.
- Charlie Crooks (1-632-1209 in Bloomfield) Easy Hike in the Farmington area. Dogs allowed. Call for detail of where and when.
- 13 **OUTING LEADERS WORKSHOP !** 9 AM to 4 PM, Unitarian Church.  
\*\* While Arnold participates in the workshop, Carolyn will lead a hike:  
Carolyn Keskulla (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Hike up Atalaya Peak. Leave 9 AM. Be prepared for snow !
- 14 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Moderate/Strenuous Hike in the Caja. Call for details time/place.
- 20 Paul Miller (473-3107) Moderate Hike to Mesa del Yeso near Abiquiu. 7 miles roundtrip, 6300'-8100', off-trail, but easy walking. Be prepared for mud.
- 21 Victor Atyas (471-7545) Easy Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.
- 21 See Ski Tour Section for Issue Hike for February
- 27 John McClure (473-1916) Strenuous Hike to Bandelier. Leave 8 AM.
- 28 Jeff Jones (984-2389) Easy Family Hike to Tent Rocks. Leave 9 AM.

### Coming Attraction for April

- 2 - 3 - 4 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Celebrate spring with a Car Camp in Southeast Utah, probably near Moab. Moderate Hiking Dogs allowed. Call for details.

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



### ATTENTION HIKERS

An outreach group of the Santa Fe Sierra Club is forming. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer leader who provides wilderness adventures for people who would not otherwise have them — i.e. youth at risk, hearing or visually impaired, and the physically disabled, please contact Doug Altshuler (471-1183). Training will be provided.

**OUTING LEADERS WORKSHOP**  
Saturday, March 13, 9 AM - 4 PM  
Unitarian Church

## SANTA FE

### CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

#### Sat Sun February

- 2 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Cross Country Ski Trip. Leave at 8:30 AM.
- 14 John Turnbull (982-9329) Beginner's Cross Country Ski Trip to Hopewell Lake. A "wine and cheese tour." Leave from Wilderness Exchange (next to Osco Drug) 8:30 AM. Call leader.
- 20 Stephen Janus (988-4137) an exciting Snowshoe/Telemark Ski Trip. Call leader for details.

#### ★ ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE / ISSUE HIKE FOR FEBRUARY ★

- 21 Mark Mortier (983-5870-hm, 983-5497-wk) Moderate Cross Country Ski Tour with optional telemarking opportunities of Ravens Ridge area, site of the proposed SANTA FE SKI BASIN EXPANSION. As in all ski tours, call leader beforehand.

#### Sat Sun March

Any weekend Interested in Ski Touring? Call John Turnbull (982-9329) He will arrange trips if there is enough interest. This is the best skiing of the year with longer hours of sun, good weather (we hope), and the hibernating animals are starting to sniff around.

- 6 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Cross Country Ski Tour Leave 8:30 AM. Call for info.
- 7 Linda & John Buchser (1-281-2015) Cross Country Ski Tour Call for details of where & when.
- 14 Stephen Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Telemark/Cross Country Ski Tour - Adventuresome - to Penitente Peak. Leave 8 AM.

#### Sunday, March 21 through Saturday, March 27

Bill Donahue & Dana Densmore (983-3675) Backcountry Skiing & Winter Leadership Skills Retreat San Juan Mountains, Colorado. (see separate write-up) Call leader for flyer & reservations.

**SKI TOUR NOTES:** If you don't have your own cross country ski equipment, you can rent skis from a shop for about \$9.00.



Call leader for details and reservations before all tours - most important!  
For all-day tours, bring big lunch, and always bring snacks and water.  
Proper clothing is essential — the weather can turn suddenly.

**Outings Notes** -- All outings, unless otherwise specified, leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old SF Trail (across street from 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.

### BACKCOUNTRY SKIING AND WINTER LEADERSHIP SKILLS

San Juan Mountains, Colorado

March 21-27, 1993

A cozy winter retreat in the wild and high places, with skiing that starts at the door and goes on for miles, ridge upon ridge of rocky mountain splendor, a warm stove, excellent food prepared by a "real" English chef (veggies/non-veggies/special dietary needs are superlatively served) — sounds like a dream, *que no?*

Bill Donahue co-leader (Training Officer of the

St. John's College Search & Rescue team and an alumnus of Silverton Avalanche School) and Dana Densmore co-leader (an international mountaineer with over 30 years experience) will play and train with you during this exciting week.

Cost to Sierra Club members is \$595.00

Reservations and further information, 983-3675.

The Deadline for Submission to the March Newsletter is Friday, February 12

## SOUTHERN NM

# THE LOG

*Southern New Mexico Group*

### Outings

**Saturday, February 6:** Ben Zerbey will lead a cross-country ski trip to the Sacramento Mountains. It will be an all day excursion, if the weather permits. If you do not have equipment, you may rent it there, but you should call Ben three days in advance to reserve it. If you would like more information, please call 526-6207.

**Saturday, February 20:** A Joint hike with the El Paso group will split up and ascend the Pine Tree Trail and Baylor Pass. Both groups will meet at Aguirre Springs. Please call Mike Episcopo at (915) 833-3770 for more information.

### Have you forgotten about the Southwest Environmental Center?

We're still here. Our collection of environmental information is building and its all here waiting for you. Our hours are Monday through Thursday from 2-6 pm and Saturday from 10-4 pm. We have a great collection of gifts for sale, a calendar of events, and a great selection of books to view in our library. **We still need volunteers** to help run the center during hours of operation. If you would like to help, come in and see us at 1494A South Solano, across from the Golden Bull Restaurant, or call us at 522-5552.

### Meetings

**Thursday, January 28:** There will be a general meeting at Science Hall room 102 on the NMSU campus. Barry Loucks will narrate a slide show on Lechuguilla Cave, a recent world-class cave discovery of spectacular beauty. Lechuguilla is still under active exploration and Barry's slides from professional photographic expeditions will showcase the cave's most beautiful features.

**Thursday, February 11:** The Executive Committee will meet at 7:00 pm at the S.E.C. on South Solano. All Sierra Club members are invited. (This is a tentative meeting schedule. Stay tuned for any changes.)

### The LOG needs more articles!

The Southern New Mexico Log has been allotted three pages of space in the Sierran magazine. We need people to write small articles on topics of interest such as local environmental problems, events, issues and general fact finding information. If you would like to submit an article, please mail it to Kris Paulsen at P.O. Box 4278, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003. All entries should be received by the 11th of each month in order to meet Sierran deadlines.



## What's Up With Bats?

by Kris Paulsen

You may be asking yourself right now, "Why should I care about bats?" The welfare of bats has traditionally been thwarted by the spread of common myths which have given them a bad name. For example, most people believe that bats are blind, and that all bats carry rabies. This simply is not true. Some bats have excellent vision which they use for locating food, while others rely more on echolocation accompanied by fair vision. And according to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, less than half of 1% of bats carry rabies.

In truth, bats are very beneficial to society. In centuries past and present, bat droppings (called guano) have been collected and used for fertilizer in many countries. In addition, researchers are now finding that some bacteria found in bat guano may serve as a key ingredient in cleaning up toxic waste.

Most bats eat insects which can damage valuable crops and plants, and may also carry harmful diseases that can create problems for society. Some species can eat 1/2 of their weight in bugs each night. Other species act as pollinators for many plants such as agave and the state protected Saguaro cactus, as well as some fruits.

The diversity of bats in New Mexico surpasses that of many other states. We have 25 species of bats in New Mexico, some of which are rare or endangered species. Some species of bats migrate to Mexico to escape the winter months, and will not return until spring. Others have settled into caves around the state to hibernate, and now is the time when they are most vulnerable to human activities and disturbances. When disturbed during their winter slumber, their metabolism increases, causing them to lose much of their valuable fat reserves and die before winter is over.

We must all become more aware of these friendly creatures of the night, and impose strict

management and protection for all species, before they are gone.

Do bats a favor, build a bat house in your yard, and don't enter bat caves.

### New Ex-Com Members!

The Southern New Mexico Sierra Club welcomes it's new Ex-Com members Marianne Thaeler, Tony Chiaviello, David McClurg, Jim Winder, Andrew Hands, Juliet Gladden and Libby Hernandez. We look forward to working with you for the betterment of the environment.

### Group Directory

David Pengelly, Vice-chair	525-8286
Kris Paulsen, Secretary	526-2282
Robin Filipezak, Treasurer	523-6987
Steve Kalavity, Outings Chair	382-8419
Cheryl Blevins, Publicity	524-4861
Libby Hernandez, Ex-Com	527-1440
Ben Zerbey, Ex-Com	526-6207
Karen Fuller, Ex-Com	824-4602
Andrew Hands, Ex-Com	526-2282
Tony Chiaviello, Ex-Com	525-1802
Juliet Gladden, Ex-Com	645-2081
Marianne Thaeler, Ex-Com	522-3421
Susan Worley, Ex-Com	645-5522
Jim Winder, Ex-Com	
David McClurg, Ex-Com	

## Local Update

The December 6th book signing of Susan Tweit's, *The Great Southwest Nature Fact Book* was a success! The Southern New Mexico Sierra Club has been sponsoring Susan's radio program *Wild Lives* which deliberates over many of the unique and natural features of the southwest. Her show airs weekly at 4 pm on KRWG. Proceeds from Susan's booksigning were shared with our group as well as the Las Cruces Natural History Museum at the Mesilla Valley Mall. We received \$300.00 dollars in thanks for our support.

### NMSU Student Sierra Club

The NMSU Student Sierra Club will resume its meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. We hope to see you there!

### Student Directory

Andrew Hands, President	526-2282
Susan Worley, Vice-president	645-5522
Jessica Birnbaum, Secretary	522-8869
Joy Espirit, Treasurer	
Juliet Gladden, Outings chair	645-2081
Greg Paglia, Programs chair	645-5508
Erin Oliver, Student involvement	526-3001
David Pengelly, Student Advisor	525-8286

## Ecology Based Multiple Use Management

A new buzz word?? Another initiative?? Will I be affected??

Everybody has heard the term but can't quite define what it means and how it will affect our way of doing business. Starting February 3, 1993, in conjunction with Western New Mexico University, the Gila National Forest will present a series of six seminars to explore, learn and discuss ECOLOGY BASED MANAGEMENT with the Forest Service, in Region 3.

The seminars will be conducted in a variety of formats: panels, individual speakers, small group workshop, field trips, etc. nationally known and respected individuals from the Forest Service and outside the Forest Service, as well as some of our local managers on the Gila and neighboring Forests, will serve as panel members and participants.

*Who is this for?* This is for you, the forest manager, the forest user, the Forest permittee, the forest worker, the Forest environmentalist, the forest conservationist. This is for anyone that is interested in the National Forests and how they are managed. For Forest Service employees, this seminar will address many questions that are being raised about this topic and can help formulate how this will be implemented on the Gila. For non-Forest Service personnel, this will expose you to the changes in management that the Forest Service is going through and will better prepare you to influence this management for whatever reason.

*Who is putting the seminars on, and where can one obtain more information?* Those involved with this are: Alex Thai, Western New Mexico University; Jon Bumstead, Forest Service (ASU Flagstaff); Delbert Griego, Gila National Forest; Mike Boyle, Gila National Forest; Scott Steinberg, Gila National Forest; Mike Gardner, Gila National Forest; Gary McCaleb, Gila National Forest; and Chuck Tonn, Gila National Forest. Call any of them, and they can either answer your questions or refer you to a source.

For registration information call

Dr. Alex Thai, Western NM University (505) 538-6312

Jon Bumstead, US Forest Service 602-556-7315

Gila NF personnel (505) 388-8201

*The above information was received from the Gila National Forest. They have indicated that there are no fees; dorm lodging is available for \$10-\$15 per night. The symposium can be taken as a course for credit. — Marianne Thaeler*