Activist Profile
Ted Mertig

In 1981, Ted joined the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club in Madison, Wisconsin. He wasn’t very active in Wisconsin because he had to drive 80 miles to go to a meeting. He became more active when he moved to the El Paso area in 1984, where he has only 20 miles to drive to meetings. He was elected to the Executive Committee of the El Paso group in 1988 and has served as the group’s chairperson since 1992. He was appointed to the Chapter Executive Committee in 1991 and elected to a three-year term in 1993.

Ted is active in the Inner City Outings (ICO) program, leading bike trips, backpacking trips, and fishing trips. As manager of the Injection-Inducing Department of the Mercury Marine plant in Green Bay, he has to speak Spanish, and this skill has been a help in the ICO program. He has forged a cooperative relationship with Las Chulas del Barrio in which Las Chulas organize clean-up activities in the parking lot where the ICO group meets. The El Paso Group members participate with Las Chulas members, and the El Paso Group acts as a financial conduit for the committee, a multi-ethnic, mostly Hispanic group.

Under Ted’s leadership, the El Paso Group organized their first Earth Day on the Border” in 1993. The event features an environmental fair held at Chisami National Memorial which is right on the border, with sections in the United States and Mexico. 1994 co-sponsors were other environmental groups, including the Audubon Society, and the Texas Natural Resources and Conservation Department. Ted is trying to get some business co-sponsors for the 1995 event. A poster contest involves children and provides material for an Earth Day Calendar.

Ted became active in Diamond Bar Ranch issues in 1990 and brought Susan Schook to a Chapter Executive Committee meeting in 1992. He has been the Chapter’s representative on that issue ever since and has insisted that the Chapter fund it. Ted has organized or participated in many of the Diamond Bar Field trips and provided many of the photographs of damaged range and riparian areas. According to Chair-Chair Owen Wardwell, “Ted seems like an easy-going kind of guy. If you call him on the phone in the summer, the gurgling noises mean that he is fishing in his swimming pool. He never gets upset with an inept partner in the pool game at the Black Range Lodge. And he listens a lot during Executive Committee meetings, making occasional, helpful suggestions or motions. But I saw one other side to him when the Executive Committee didn’t provide extra funding for Diamond Bar work. After a few pointed words from Ted, everyone suddenly changed their minds and the Diamond Bar got all of the discretionary conservation money.” What a guy!

Where Were You?
In the September issue of the Rio Grande Sierran, we asked for candidates for the Chapter Executive Committee. None were forthcoming.

We encouraged members to vote in the Chapter Executive Committee and Group Executive Committee elections. A little over 100 out of 5,786 members voted. Where were you?

Legislative session begins January 17
by Doug Fraser

The first session of the 42nd New Mexico State Legislature begins on Tuesday, January 17. We hope to see some positive action in funding for wildlife habitat protection, a bottle bill (see article below), wildlife riparian restoration, subdivision restrictions to eliminate the three unit per year loophole, funding for long-range strategic land and water planning, modification to the state’s water code, and expanded funding for the office of Natural Resources Trustee.

With some foreboding, however, we expect an “all-out” attack on the Hard Rock Mining Reclamation Act, either on a re-pair or a “gutting” bill. Also, and particularly since the new administration has indicated its support, we expect a “takings” bill (see article above). Both these matters are grave concern to the Club.

Baca Pushing Bottle Bill This Session
by Doug Fraser

Representative Shirley Baca of Las Cruces, along with Senator Liz Stephani of Santa Fe, has been working very hard during the past summer on developing the momentum for a more “roll” of the bottle bill through the New Mexico State Legislature. Let us make sure that this is not to become an earthy version of Skywhit’s eternal political mess. Anyone willing to assist during the session, please give me, Kevin Bean (P.J.R.G.) or Rep. Baca a call. Rep. Baca has already obtained the support of a number of municipalities. She feels that Governor Johnson has indicated his support.

Unlike many “bottle bills” in other states, New Mexico grocers would not need to re-deposit the deposits. Beverage containers could either be redeemed for five cents at state-authorized redemption centers or collected through local curbside or drop-off recycling programs. Rep. Baca urges environmentally concerned citizens and community organizations to contact their State Representatives and Senators to ask for their active support for the 1995 Beverages Container Recycling Act.

For more information on the Bottle Bill, see the story on page 15 of the Albuquerque Group News.
Chapter Executive and Conservation Committees Meet
by Gwen Wardwell

The executive Committee of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club met at the Black Range Lodge in Kingston, New Mexico, on December 3rd and 4th to make plans for 1995 and to elect officers. The chapter conservation campaign will be Water, Wilderness, and Wildlife. Water: The chapter will look at ways to improve existing water law. Chapter members will be encouraged to participate in the regional water planning process and be involved with Water Issues. Wilderness: As participants in the BLM Wilderness Coalition, chapter members will be pushing for inclusion of an expanded BLM Wilderness Bill. George Grossman and John Wright, Chapter Wilderness Chairs, will be working on legislation to get wilderness designation removed for the Carson National Forest and will support legislation to return the Bootstrap area to Taos Pueblo. Wildlife: Sue McIntosh, Chapter Wildlife Chair, will begin a long-term project to expand the Statutory Authority of the Department of Game and Fish to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat. McKee and Taos area members are seeking ecological protection for the Ute Mountain Ranch. The Chapter is working with interest groups to enact riparian restoration and inventory legislation.

New Members and Officers. New members of the Chapter Executive Committee are Mike Seidensilcker of El Paso, Jim Winder of Deming, and Ron Grabbeek and John Wright of Albuquerque. Sue McIntosh will continue to be a member of the Executive Committee and has taken on the added responsibility of Conservation Chair of the Chapter. Gwen Grossman and John Wright were re-elected to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. John Wright was elected Secretary and Blair Brown was elected Treasurer. All elections and appointments were approved unanimously by the 1995 Executive Committee.

1995 Projected Budget

Incomes
National dues grosses 22,100
March letter fund appeal gross 8,000
Lobbying incentive grant 1,500
Chapter meeting reimbursement from attendees 2,500
Foundation newsletter subscriptions from members 400
Balance forward from 1994 4,000
Rico Grande Landowners' pledge 41,400
Water issues donations 540

Expenses
National Club Insurance/other charges 2,800
Dues subscription to groups 5,000
Fundraising expenses 4,500
Lobbyist sales/subscriptions 6,000
Newsletter expenses 10,740
Chapter meeting expenses 2,400
Chapter administrative expenses 2,400
Condisery reserve 3,840

Conservation/issue chair expenses:
Conservation chair (Jim McIntosh) 300
Diamond Bar (Ted Merling) 300
Energy/Transportation (Ken Hughes) 300
Federal Facilities/CO (Marianne Thaler) 300
Federal Facilities/WR-NSP (Ruth Mcgonn) 300
Fundraising (Fred Robbins) 300
Mining (Bill Bailey) 300
National Parks 300
Oil and Gas 300
Outings (Jim McNeice) 300
Political (Ron Grabbeek) 300
Publications (Bill Bailey) 300
Rico Grande Landowners 300
Wilderness (George Grossman/John Wright) 41,180
Wildlife (Sue McIntosh) 300
Grazing lawsuit 300
Santa Fe Mountain Ordinance in the Balance

by Bill Donahue

The next few weeks will be a critical time for the Santa Fe Mountain Ordinance (the Mountain Ordinance) because the new testing period for landowners, developers, and members of the community. Opponents of the Mountain Ordinance have been working on a number of loopholes that present an opportunity to prevent logging on a portion of the land which may be disturbed, and to other environmentally based regulations. Public hearings are being held by the Extraterritorial Zoning Commission (EIZC) at the Swentney Convention Center on January 9, 18, 23, and 30 to decide what recommendation they will pass on to the Extraterritorial Zoning Authority (EZA), which will have the final say on the Ordinance.

What would the Mountain Ordinance do?

The Mountain Ordinance would create a Mountain Special Review District within the two-mile Extraterritorial Zone (EZ). This ordi- nance is intended to provide more control over the movement of people and materials within the mountain area, to establish a more orderly and efficient use of the area, and to provide a more uniform and consistent approach to the regulation of land development. The ordinance would also include provisions for the protection of water quality, air quality, and wildlife habitat.

Mountain Ordinance

Encroachment Ordinance as their model. This is ironic, as city staff have found the strictly visual basis unsatisfactory, and are working on a revision of the city’s ordnance that will be more like the draft Mountain Ordinance.

The result of the opponents’ opposition would be to push the most damaging development into places that are less visible from the city, but more visible from the National Forest, and often environmentally more sensitive. It would not control the amount of scarring that could occur, but would require the development that leads to it. It would value private real estate interests above the beauty and fragility of our hills and mountains.

What can you do?

Above all, we need to attend the hearings. You may feel that one person won’t make a difference. But I know, from speaking at many of these hearings, that hearing these very few faces and support of SOS badges makes a tremendous difference. It shows the EJC the depth of support for new controls, it deters the opposition, and it encourages those who are speaking in support of the new regulations. Even if you can only come for a little while, it is a huge help.

If you are willing to speak, that’s even better. You may be a little shy, and may have some ideas of what your concern is, but may feel too well informed to express it well. If so, please talk to me (983-9759) or Quida MacGregor, or Kent Williamson, or any of other the people who have been involved in the process and familiar with draft ordinance. We may be able to give you the information you need to enable you to speak effectively. Many unformed people, confused by the complexity of the draft, are beginning to believe that this is the time. Opponents are attempting, with considerable success, to assure uneducated facts that this ordnance would make huge number of less on the ground and information, an ordinance that is largely visually based. It aims to place design restrictions and development requirements upon development visible from the city, while leaving owners free to disturb as much land as they wish. It proscribes point to the city’s will fall apart, and the buildings will once more be grooving into the lush of forested hills.

Second, there’s a lot more to the mountains than just Atlaya. There’s the Tesuque Canyon, where the development pressure is enormous; the Little Tesuque, the Santa Fe Water River, and the Gallinas area; the foothills around Rancho La Barbarica; Cerro Juanaico and the Monro Luna ridge; and the Cerro Negro area of Arroyo Hondo. Are we willing to accept destruction of all these as long as Atlaya itself is partially protected? What you can do:

Remember with a Memorial Gift

Consider saving a window instead of sending flowers. You can hence preserve the memory of a special person by providing important Santa Fe funds towards accomplishing the Sierra Club’s long term goals. For more information visit Teresa Sweeney at 415-776-2211.

Santa Fe Ordinance (cont’d from page 4)

Mountain Ordinance (cont’d from page 4)

Companion Animals and the Environment

by Art Montana, PAWS

Our companion animals are an important and pleasurable part of our environment. Love of animals is not quix- otic; their welfare is our welfare and reflects our abilities as stewards of this planet. To paraphrase from The Art of Raising a Puppy by the Monks of New Skoon, for many of us, our love for crea- ture deepens through the relationships we form with our pets. By their very nature, they reveal much about ourselves; they root us in nature, unlocking a deeper part of ourselves, a part more compassionate and less arrogant, more willing to share life with another creature.

This time of year, it is especially impor- tant to think about our animal friends—domestic and wild. Winter is the south- west is very easy, especially for aban- doned and mistreated animals. The cold, dry winds are chilling and desiccating, and when snow and ice are present, it is easier for them to find. Long winter nights are miserable to endure and too commonly impossible to sur- vive. Our pet dogs and cats are depending on our help, and our help is needed more than ever before.

In northern New Mexico, the follow- ing organizations are working for the benefit of our pets and can use your help. They are manned by volunteers and many of your pets, and such organizations as the New Mexico Animal Protection Society (Espaňola, 455-2600); Sante De Cruces Animal Protection (Al-buquerque and Santa Fe, 983-4309); and our group, PAWS, the Pecos Animal Welfare Society (412-9757 or 71-3708). Without your help, these organizations fall short of your goal of the Ne- glected or forgotten pets, and they can only continue to serve you, your family, your loved ones, or your loved ones. It is a great way to express love for each other.

In addition to money, PAWS needs dog houses or material to build them and a Pet Mobile—a van, station wagon, or pick-up truck—to transport and to foster homes and veterinarians. We also need short-term foster homes for homeless animals.

Bill Donahue has attended many of the meetings of the task force that drafted the Mountain Ordin- ance, and has been on the board of the New Mexico Animal Protection Society National Organizations.
The Trouble with "Takings"
by Barbara Johnson

What is a "taking"? The word comes from the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which says in part—"nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." As what is included in the other amendments, the Fifth Amendment is a restriction on governmental power. It restricts the government from taking private property, to condemn private property for a use which will benefit the public at large, such as a road or the expansion of an airport. The government can take your property, but only if it pays you for it.

The Courts have defined "just compensation" to mean the "fair market value" of your property. The Courts have allowed citizens to use the government’s right of eminent domain (in other words, the government must prove that it wants to take your property for a legitimate public use which will benefit the public at large and for which your property is essential) and to challenge the amount of compensation the government offers you, to make sure that it really is "just."

"Inverse" Condemnation In addition to the government’s right to physically take your property, citizens may sue the government in "inverse condemnation." Sometimes, a governmental action, such as the construction of a road, has such a detrimental effect on your property, that it is destroyed—it can no longer be used. For example, the grading for the road may destabilize your property and cause it to slide onto the road. In this case, you may sue the government (instead of the other way around, as in direct condemnation) and ask it to pay you the fair market value of your property if it destroys your property. The current controversy surrounding "takings" legislation started over 70 years ago, when Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes suggested in Pennsylvania Coal Co. v. Mahon (1922) that, "The general rule is that while property may be regulated to a certain extent, if regulation goes too far it will be recognized as a taking."

Until 1922, both direct and inverse condemnation appeared on physical actions which took or damaged property. Justice Holmes took the Fifth Amendment one step further, and suggested that a government, exercising its legitimate power to regulate for the health and safety of its citizens, could so regulate land that its value was as totally destroyed as was the value of the land which slid onto the government road. For example, the government could change the zoning of land from high density residential to open space, making the area a picturesque place to live, virtually worthless. Under the Holmes doctrine, the government could constitute a "regulatory taking" of your land.

Regulatory Takings Over the years, the U.S. Supreme Court has construed the doctrine of regulatory takings to include the following points: The regulations must have the force of law; and laws and regulations that are designed to protect and enhance the quality of life of their citizens; —the owner must be denied all reasonable use of his property by a legitimate government regulation or a taking has not occurred; —the entire property must be affected, not just a portion of it.

Recently, in Congress and in state legislatures such as our own, well-funded corporate coalitions have been introducing what has been termed "takings" legislation, supposedly based on the law of regulatory takings. In fact, takings legislation came in two basic flavors: —Takings "assessment" provisions, which would subject virtually every governmental action to a costly and largely unnecessary review of possible "takings" implications; —Takings "compensation" provisions, which would require payment when government action results in a loss of property owner’s use of his property. These bills usually require compensation if an action is "likely" to be determined by a state or federal court to be a taking, if a regulation reduces the fair market value of property to less than 50% of its fair market value before the regulation is enacted, or if a regulation denies or modifies a previously allowed use of the property

Takings Law v. Takings Legislation There are several points of difference between takings legislation and takings law, the most notable of which is that takings bills require compensation for partial diminution in the value of property, but settled takings law requires compensation only if all viable use of the property is denied, thereby frustrating the owner’s "reasonable investment backed expectation." What does that mean? It means that the owner will not be compensated for a potential profit expectation, but only for the fair market value of the property at the time of the regulation went into effect. Because of the differences between current bills and the law as determined by the Supreme Court, the following question as to the constitutionality of any takings bill. In addition, takings legislation would impose serious restrictions on the government’s ability to protect the health and safety of its citizens under the guise of protecting private property rights. Before a takings bill v. Coto, in which when down to defeat, the Denver Post warned that the measure "may appear innocuous, but it’s actually an attempt to negate the whole concept of health, safety and environmental regulation by saddling the enforcement agencies with untold costs."

Chilling Effect Takings bills could have a chilling effect on: —Zoning laws, including those that prevent landowners from opening industrial facilities or liquor stores in residential neighborhoods or adjacent to schools. —Building safety laws, including those that require employers to protect employees from exposure to toxic substances. —Civil rights laws, including those that are used to halt unfair housing practices or job discriminations. —Environmental laws, including those that protect the public from polluted air, unsafe drinking water, and cancer-causing toxic substances. (Takings amendments were proposed to be added on to several environmental laws in the last Congress.)

Republican Contraction Takings laws would set up a large and unwieldy bureaucracy to oversee the supposed "takings" implications of any proposed regulation. This is an interesting contradiction from the Republican proponents of takings legislation. On the one hand, they bemoan the costly, bloated federal bureaucracy caused by what they see as the over-regulation of all aspects of American life. On the other hand, they want to set up a large and cumbersome bureaucracy to make sure everything is just right ("con't on page 8")

Welcome, New Members
Please welcome the following new members who have joined us from May 23 to July 1 of 1994:

Alex Peterson, Albuquerque
Sara L. Pau, Albuquerque
Tom Rice, Albuquerque
Helen Rice, Albuquerque
Estelle Fenn, Albuquerque
Bruce F. Gerber, Albuquerque
Harry McLean, Albuquerque
Mark Miller, Albuquerque
Ted Nash, Albuquerque
Howard Bloom, Albuquerque
Fred Gold, Albuquerque
Levi Van, Albuquerque
Bob Dylan, Albuquerque
Brian F. Dougherty, Albuquerque
Terry Atwood, Albuquerque
Karla Kalby-William, Albuquerque
Katherine Olanda, Albuquerque
Leslie Grant, Albuquerque
Kara W. Kao, Albuquerque
Linda Dilley, Albuquerque
Bob and Delores Santos, Albuquerque
Judith Galaburda, Albuquerque
Phyllis Reis, Albuquerque
James Becker, Albuquerque
Cristina Saiz-Oliva, Albuquerque
Frederic Green, Albuquerque
Martha Haplin, Albuquerque
Alexandra Harrison, Albuquerque
Stephen and snacks, Albuquerque
Robert and Dolores Santos, Albuquerque
Lawrence Wells, Albuquerque
Lisa Aiello, Albuquerque
Jean Mordfarnberg, Albuquerque
Vicky Miller, Albuquerque
Linda Cook, Albuquerque
Theresa Ralston, Albuquerque
Leila Stilman, Albuquerque
Hannah Gaken, Albuquerque
Daryn Miller, Albuquerque
Jean Mcclarn, Albuquerque
John Thomas, Albuquerque
Michael Green, Albuquerque
Elena Cox, Albuquerque
Sarah Dinh, Albuquerque
James Dunn, Albuquerque
Bobbi Geller, Albuquerque
Joseph Schett, Albuquerque
Pamela Harold, Albuquerque
Staci Daines, Albuquerque
Rachel Hal, Albuquerque
Catherine Borhani, Albuquerque
Lisa Dilley, Albuquerque
Roy Johnson, Albuquerque
Judith Galaburda, Albuquerque
Phyllis Reis, Albuquerque
James Becker, Albuquerque
Cristina Saiz-Oliva, Albuquerque
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Jean Mcclarn, Albuquerque
John Thomas, Albuquerque
Michael Green, Albuquerque
Elena Cox, Albuquerque
Sarah Dinh, Albuquerque
James Dunn, Albuquerque
Bobbi Geller, Albuquerque
Joseph Schett, Albuquerque
CONTINUING THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Recent Donations to our 1994 General Fund Appeal:

- Margo Chavez-Charles - Santa Fe
- M. Claire Cumble-Drake - Albuquerque
- Dr. David E. Drake - Albuquerque
- Philip E. Green, Albuquerque
- Sandra F. Penn, MD - Albuquerque
- Barbara C. Picone - Corrales
- John Reed - Santa Fe
- William E. Stepp - Las Cruces
- En-Dias Minor Weiss - Santa Fe

Donations to fund our Chapter Office expenses:

- Doug and Kathy Fraser - Los Alamos
- Vickie Gabin - Santa Fe
- Barbara Johnson - Santa Fe
- Sue Mcnichol - Santa Fe
- Jana Oyler - Santa Fe
- Ford and Margaret Robbins - Santa Fe
- Mike Seldinster - El Paso
- Owens Wardlaw - Santa Fe
Transportation

Epidemiological Models: Early and Possible

COMMENTARY

The potential for significant environmental and public health impacts associated with the proposed development project in the area.

Arthur Cranzy

This Controversy

Epidemiological Inquiry to Support Public Health

Episcopal Canons to Guide Decision

Modeling and analysis of the potential impacts of the proposed project on the local community.

The importance of considering the environmental and public health implications of development projects.
Notes from National

“We must remember that from 1984-1990 New Gingrich was a Sierra Club member, and that we endorsed him several times.

“He believes that most of the environmental movement is out of touch with what he likes to call ‘normal Americans.’ He thinks the environmental movement is too tied to the inside politics of Washington, too dominated by think-tanks, too short of grassroots energy, and he believes that other parts of the movement, like the Sierra Club, which he knows from his own political roots and history is just as deeply embedded in American neighborhoods as his own coalition, are too fractured, too splintered, too unidisciplined to give him much trouble.

“He believes that because we are democratic, and grassroots, we can never master the concentration necessary to do what his forces which are disciplined and hierarchical.

“He believes that we will spend our energy fighting amongst ourselves over tactics, rather than focusing on the strategies we agree on.

“It is our duty to prove him wrong.”

Carl Pope on December 16, 1994

The Electronic Sierra Club
by Blair Brown and Bruce Eaton

TheO@aa.com bbeaton@nolink.com

One of the greatest challenges faced by Sierra Club members is communicating to each other about issues, alerts and policies. Traditional methods like newsletters are increasingly inadequate, so we’re working on ways to use all forms of electronic communication to get the word out to members and the public.

Recognizing this need some years ago, the Club initiated the ccMail system, through which the National Club can send information to every Chapter and activists can write to each other. This system is now being extremely used by close to 1,000 activists all over the country. With ccMail’s success has come a problem – it’s expensive to operate and therefore it is not being expanded so that only 6 or 7 people in the Rio Grande Chapter have access to it.

The Club is looking into other ways to expand electronic communication between activists. The most likely answer will be a Bulletin Board (or BBS). With a BBS, activists will have the ability to send E-Mail messages to each other. Discussion Forums can be established for specific issues, through which activists can exchange ideas and develop action plans. Club policies can be made available for access by activists. There will be “reference” areas where Sierra Club policies, facts sheets and position papers can be made available for open access.

While this will happen in the future (hopefully in 1995), in the meantime, those of us who have access to Internet E-Mail can send messages to each other. If you are interested in being involved, send us a message with your address and any specific interests you want to discuss. We can develop an address book of Sierrans and distribution lists so we can initiate the Electronic Sierra Club now.

A Note from the Chapter Chair

“As we all know, we are facing a War on the Environment. The assault is not new, but it will reach unprecedented ferocity in the first few months of the next Congress.

“The Sierra Club, in our view, is the critical organization that must blunt this assault.

“The following guidelines on our message are offered in an urgent plea to maximize our impact by focusing our effort.

“1. We can and will win.

“2. No partisanship. We will win with Republican votes.

“3. Focus on what is at stake, not the legislation or the regulation, particularly in communications with the press and the general public.

“4. Use all of our (local or state) efforts to strengthen our central effort.

“5. We are fighting for the environment, not fighting individuals.

Robby Cox and Carl Pope
On December 16, 1994

Don’t forget!

Don’t forget your gift to the local chapter of the Sierra Club this year? Send $10, $25, or more to the local office and your full donation will benefit local conservation efforts. Please write your check to the “Sierra Club.”

Group Executive Committee Elections

Newly elected to the Albuquerque Group Executive Committee is Sue Lowrey. Current members elected to full terms are Susan Gorman and Jay Stevenson.

At the Exxon meeting on December 12, elections for Group officers were held. Susan Gorman was selected Chair; Nick Persampieri, Vice Chair; Blair Brown, Treasurer; Richard Barish, Conservation Chair; and Ron Greenbeck, Political Chair. The office of Secretary is open.

The Exxon is planning a retreat in January to discuss ways to make the Albuquerque Group’s organization more responsive to members’ needs and to involve more people. Look for a report in the next Sierra.

The Wolf: Real or Imagined?

Learn about and meet North America’s most fascinating predator, the Wolf! Watch an engaging slide presentation by Patricia Tucker, wildlife biologist and educator, that depicts the remarkable natural history of wolves. Hear stories of myth and folklore as Bruce Webley, documentary filmmaker and writer, examines the wolf that stalks through the human imagination. Then meet the real stars of this show—Knoxi, a hundred-pound Grey Wolf from Montana, and Indy, her dog companion. Following this evening of stories, facts, fun, and wolves, don’t be surprised if you can't miss the inevitable yearning to howl at the moon.

Pat and Bruce are part of Wild Spirit which provides environmental education that blends science and the humanities. Primarily, they present their programs in the rural schools and communities of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming where wolf recovery is occurring. Emphasized throughout the program is the wolf as a symbol of wilderness. Also stressed is the inappropriateness of wolves as "pets." The program challenges stereotypes and corrects misconceptions. If pictures are worth a thousand words, then the presence of a living, breathing wolf is worth a thousand pictures.

This enriching, spiritual and educational event will be held at Woodward Hall on the UNM campus on Wednesday, May 25, 1995, at 7:30 p.m. The cost is $4 for adults and $2 for children and students.

All proceeds will be donated to further wolf education in rural areas. The presentation is sponsored by the UNM Biology Club and the Mexican Wolf Coalition. For more information, call Brad Lengstof at (505) 893-2218.

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/ Special Planning
Bookstore/ Calendars
Information Technology
Bruce Bason
828-2570
bbeaton@nolink.com
Blair Brown
265-3231
bbbairc@aol.com
open
Outings
David Morrison
344-6093
Run Kauchak
292-9138
Political Chair/ Programs
Ron Greenbeck
296-9044
Ralph Worel
275-8556
CONSERVATION
Conservation
Richard Barish
247-8079
Air Quality
Heldi Fleischmann
269-1217
Bobaque
Richard Barish
247-8079
Energy
Ralph Worel
275-8556
Las Huertas
Marvin Davidson
867-5178
Mining Reform
open
Petrology/ Wastewater
Thea Bestfield
255-7679
Nick Persampieri
281-7845
Population
Michelle Mouders
266-8233
Public Lands
Barbara Stone
255-5304
Water/ Recycling
David Bequig
255-9583
Wildlife/ Endangered Species
Jack Plesey
293-3405
Vacant
Susan Laren
897-2522
Sun Jan 7 Leisure-Moderate Miles: 6-8; Car: 100+ Elev: +500ft
Little San Pasqual Wilderness, Anslope WSA Exploratory Hike
These areas are east of Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge. We may start by crossing a railroad bridge, then hike on the trail, the site of the ghost town of Valverde and some Indian ruins along the Rio Grande. The last stop is Little San Pasqual Peak, a proposed wilderness area of grassland. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at the UNM Astronomy and Physics parking lot, Yale and Lomas.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Jan 8 Leisure-Moderate Miles: 3-5; Car: TBD
XCU Beginners Tour
Now that you have practiced your kick and glide, turn and stop, here is your chance to put to practice the technique on the trail before you return those rental skis. The tour is especially designed for beginners. Location to be determined (TBD). Contact John Turnbull at 406-9520 or Stan. Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

Sun Jan 8 Moderate-Skier Miles: 6-8; Car: 200+ Elev: +2000ft
Abiquiu Bedalas Exploratory Hike Richard Capua’s guiding this one, so we will probably have some challenging sections. North of Abiquiu is an area of white badlands, a small ski canyon, and cliffs. We will be at lower elevations. We will go farther south if the weather is bad. Meet at 7:30 a.m. behind the Winchells at San Mateo and Academy.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Jan 8 Intermediate Miles: 4 Car: 60
Las Huertas Canyon X/C Ski Weather permitting, we will ski Las Huertas Canyon with a chance of seeing winter birds and other wildlife. The lawsuit regarding the closing of the Las Huertas Canyon road is still in litigation. Attorney Grove Bennett represents the Sierra Club, Sandia Public, and other groups and they will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Four Hills Shopping Center in the front of the United Artist Theater (Central and Tramway). Call for more information.
Leader: Marvin 676-5178

Sat-Mon Jan 14-16 Moderate
Strenuous Mile: 4-8 Day: Car: 450
Cloudcroft Area X/C Ski Weekend
Here is your chance to meet those involved with the Rio Grande chapter members from the southern part of the State. Telemark and giant slalom with the In the Lincoln National Forest on Ponderosa Pine. The first day will be dedicated to a back country tour; the next day to groomed trails. You do not have to be a ski club member to participate. Contact John or Georgia (881-6805) for more information. See also “Santa Fe outings.” Call at John Turnbull 406-9209

Sat-Sun Jan 14-15 Strenuous Miles:20
Full Moon Weekend, San Antonio Hot Spring Winter X/C Ski or Snowshoe BackPack
We will meet at 10:00 a.m. We travel by car to San Antonio Hot Springs, take a short drive on the Hot Springs road, later in the evening we will head back out. This trip is for experienced winter hikers but, if you think you want the challenge, give Craig a call. For details.
Leader: Craig Dill 224-9706

Sat Jan 14 Strenuous Miles: 120
San Antonio Hot Spring X/C Ski
Enjoy a magical moonlit ski to the warmth of the San Antonio Hot Springs. There will be the chance of joining Craig’s “snow campers” or returning with Stan’s “hot cues quite up to the full experience” group.

Snow can be icy. Full moon and weather permitting. Call for details.
Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

Sat Jan 14 Leisure-Moderate Miles: 4 Car: 90
Ball Ranch AECCE and Toronos Meadow Exploratory Hike
We will head to this area of pretty wood and other fossils, along with Indian artifacts and petroglyphs. These are the only ones outside of the main area. We are going to try some new ones, but if we are not successful, I will throw in some old ones. Meet at 9:00 a.m. behind the Winchells at San Mateo and Academy.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Jan 15 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 100
Rinconada Creek Hike
Petroglyph National Monument
This is the largest, most pristine area in the Monument with over 2000 petroglyphs. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ile Eastwood 255-7679

Sat Jan 21 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, wear binoculars. Meet at 5:30 a.m. behind Winchells, San Mateo and Academy.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sat Jan 21 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Piedras Mercedes Hike, Petroglyph National Monument
Tremendous variety and unique petroglyphs not found elsewhere in the Monument. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.
Leader: Ile Eastwood 255-7679

Sat Feb 4 Strenuous Miles: 6-7; Elev: +400 ft.2000ft
Aspen Valley X/C Ski
We will ski up to 2500 vertical feet on the service road in the Pecos Tesqua Basin and telemark back down the Santa Fe Ski Area. Metal edge recommended. Bring lunches, food, drink and dress in layers. Contact Stan for details.
Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

Sat Feb 4 Strenuous Miles: 4 Car: 120
Loch And Red Rose Hike
This will be an exploratory hike in an area not too far from Santa Fe. There are some small canyons cutting through the Agu Saca sandstone. We walk a portion of the largest canyon, to a high point on Red Mesa, stop there for lunch and then return via a smaller distance. Meet behind Winchells at San Mateo and Academy at 8:30 a.m.
Leader: Tom Panteclis 255-1497

Sun Feb 5 Moderate-Strenuous Miles: 6-8; Car: 120-200 Elev: 5-10,000 ft.2000ft
Cattle Canyon to Pearson Canyon and West Mesa Exploratory Hike
Richard Capua’s guiding this one. We think it is NW of Cochiti. We will try to be with some of the predators, especially coyotes. Bruce King suggested that some control be initiated to remove these animals.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Feb 19 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Boce Negra Arroyo Hike, Petroglyph National Monument
Exciting flour and parry foliage together with some of the oldest petroglyphs in the Monument. RSVP.
Leader: Ile Eastwood 255-7679

Sun Feb 25 Leisure-Moderate Miles: 4-6 Car: 100 Elev: +200ft
Amorall X/C Ski
Conditions permitting, we will take the more difficult lower loop following the logging roads. Expect dramatic views and a 20% grade, quarter mile downhill. Metal edge recommended. Bring lunches, food, drink and dress in layers.
Leader: Nick Persampieri 281-7845

Sun Feb 12 Leisure Miles: 6 Car: 160
Riley Ghost Town and Cave We will drive to the ghost town of Riley, climb the cave, and head to the Box River. Riley Cave is 4000 ft long and optional. Bring flashlights and a hard hat and/or chicken wire to reserve one. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the UNM Astronomy and Physics parking lot, NE corner Yale and Lomas.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Fri Feb 17 Strenuous Miles: 10 Car: 130
San Antonio Hot Spring X/C Ski Enjoy a magical moonlit ski to the warmth of the San Antonio Hot Spring. Snow can be icy. Full moon and weather permitting. Call Stan for details.
Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

Sat Feb 18 Leisure-Moderate Miles: 5-6 Car: 120
Mission WSA Hike
East of Socorro, we look for wild mustangs and hike some of the unexplored mesa to the north. Meet at the UNM Astronomy and Physics parking lot at 7:30 a.m.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Feb 19 Leisure-Moderate Miles: 5 Car: 30 or 7
Rio Pueblo Valley Hike
We will schedule a cancelling trip due to weather or head NW of Rio Ranco. This area lies adjacent to Bruce King’s land. The former governor at Congressmen Hines in 1680 wrote that millions of francos were lost from the public land. The Santa Fe had been occupied with predators, especially coyotes. Bruce King suggested that some control be initiated to remove these animals.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Feb 19 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3
Boce Negra Arroyo Hike, Petroglyph National Monument
Exciting flour and parry foliage together with some of the oldest petroglyphs in the Monument. RSVP.
Leader: Ile Eastwood 255-7679

Sun Feb 25 Moderate Miles: 1 Car: 80
Alastaker Cave To the northwest of San Ysidro, we will climb through this cave. One area is tight and is called the “Birth Canal.” Good for the action seeking flashlights and hard hat or to reserve one. Meet behind Winchells at San Mateo and Academy at 9:00 a.m. Richard’s guiding.
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

Sun Mar 5 Leisure-Moderate Miles: 1 Car: 0
Cibola Trash Cleanup Last time, I had the wrong data down, so I will check twice now. Equipment and construction material have been dumped. Plastic bags will be provided. Three hours. Meet 10:00 a.m. at the corner of St. Josephs and Coors. Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

X/C Ski Touring Interested in ski touring, but interested is scheduled? There may be a last-minute trip scheduled, or if sufficient interest one may be arranged. Phone either John Turnbull (522-9229) in Santa Fe or Stan Kauchak (839-4301). The non-scheduled trips often are the best advantage of new snow etc.
Beyond Curbside Recycling - What's Needed and What's Next
February Meeting
by Ralph Wrons

Believe it or not, Albuquerque's curbside recycling program has already been in effect for three years. By all accounts, it has been very successful. A letter received from the City's Solid Waste Management Department a year ago stated that "residential solid waste diversion rates are increasing at more than 10 percent annually." The City credits public education as the driving force behind the success of the program. The Sierra Club and many other groups have lobbied hard for the curbside recycling program, which was strongly opposed at that time by the City's SWMD. The SWMD was in turn very surprised by the early success at the outset. But what is actually happening now? How does the program measure against the 1995 goal of 25% diversion? What about commercial businesses and multi-family dwellings? Has there really been an "intensive" education program? What about composting of food and yard waste, which make up a full one-fourth of Albuquerque's residential waste? The same letter mentioned above stated that volume-based or variable rates were being assessed and analyzed; what were the findings? What about markets for the recyclables? Recycling falls if the cycle is not completed. Is it possible the program has already stagnated?

Recycling is more that just sorting out and setting your recyclables by the curb. More importantly, it's about resource conservation, rethinking how we consume our resources. There should be a hierarchical approach, best summed up by the catchy phrase, "reduce, reuse, recycle." Right now we live in a throwaway society, agreed? In the book, Saving the Planet by Lester Brown et al., it states, "Our economics are engaged in a diabolical form of deficit financing, depleting natural capital to finance current output at the expense of long-term productivity" and goes on to quote economist Herman Daly, who says "there is something fundamentally wrong in treating the earth as if it were a business in liquidation." Ahh, but back to the manner at hand.

The month's meeting will discuss the particulars of Albuquerque's recycling effort, as well as provide a legislative update of the progress of the Beverage Container Recycling Act (see the accompanying article). Kevin Bean, long-time advocate for recycling and the "Bottle Bill" and currently serving as Chair of the volunteer Solid Waste Recycling Advisory Committee and on the Beverage Container Recycling Coalition (bcrw), will address the membership. He will be joined by Bill Martinez of the City of Albuquerque Solid Waste Management Department. Bill and Kevin will be able to answer questions like these posed above and many others from the audience. Please attend.

The meeting will be on Monday, February 20, beginning at 7:30PM in the UNM Law School, Room 2401. The Law School is near the corner of Constitution and Stanford NE.

Beverage Container Recycling Coming to New Mexico
(compiled from press release of the Beverage Container Recycling Coalition, interview with Kevin Bean and fact sheet from Michigan Congressman Paul Hults)

Representative R. Shirley Baca (D, Las Cruces) and Senator Lix Stefaniacs (D, Santa Fe) are now leading a broad-based community grassroots for passage of the Beverage Container Recycling Act (BCRA) by the 1995 New Mexico State Legislature. "This is the year for this important bill to finally pass," says Rep. Baca. A July 1992 poll of New Mexicans from across the State revealed more than 80% were in favor of a system of deposits and returns on beverage containers.

More than 22 New Mexico municipalities are now on record in favor of the BCRA. It has the active support of the New Mexico Municipal League, which represents the 95 municipalities in the State. It will be a State Sierra Club priority. The Act creates much-needed funds to operate curbside and other recycling programs while diverting recyclable materials away from landfills. Beverage containers represent between 5% and 11% of the total solid waste stream, but even more telling: they make up 60% of total litter by volume.

The BCRA establishes a simple system for recycling all beverage containers including beer, alcohol coolers, mineral water, juices, soft water, and other carbonated beverages. Grocers will not redeem the deposits. Containers are to be redeemed for five cents at state authorized redemption centers or collected through local curbside or drop-off recycling programs.

Representative Baca urges concerned citizens and community organizations to contact their State Representative and Senator to support the BCRA. Overwhelming grassroots support is key to its passage. For more information, contact the BCRA Coalition at 254-1344.
the LORAX:

WINE & CHEESE PARTY: Our annual Wine & Cheese Party and Silent Auction will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 20, at the EVA Center. Please bring your favorite wine & cheese to share and a dozen slices to show. Guests are welcome. A donation of $3 per person will be appreciated.

January Meeting: We hope to offer a presentation on winter sports and camping for the January meeting.

The program will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wed. 25 Jan 1995 at St. Paul’s Methodist Church at 7000 Edgemere, east of Airway. For info, call Ted 832-3011.

February Meeting: We hope to offer a presentation on local border environmental issues as well as a Sierra Club activitiy from Austin to speak on upcoming Texas legislative environmental battles. The program will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wed. 22 Feb at St Paul’s Church. Conservation Meetings will be gathering at a new time and place.

Each meeting will convene over supper at Jackson’s at 7:15 Airway at Viscount, starting at 6 p.m. on the last Wednesday of each month, just before the Gen Mtg.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed 4 Jan I.C.O., mg 6 p.m., Env Ctr
Wed 4 Jan EXCOM mg 7:30 p.m. Env Ctr
Tues 10 Jan LORAX flir deadline 532-2652
Fri 20 Jan Clean-Up at Env Ctr 532-9645
Wed 24 Jan Conservation mg 6 p.m. Jan’s
Fri 26 Jan Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemere
Sat 1 Feb I.C.O., mg 6 p.m., Env Ctr
Wed 1 Feb EXCOM mg 7:30 p.m. Env Ctr
Fri 10 Feb LORAX Sierra deadline 532-2652
Sat 11 Feb I.C.O., Leaders’ Carpool 544-9059
Wed 22 Feb Conservation mg 6 p.m. Jan’s
Wed 22 Feb Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemere

El Paso Sierra Sponsors an Earth Day:

Sierra Club Environmental Center needs your help to clean up the Rio Grande near the El Paso riverbank. Please call Michael Bronka at 532-2652 or 532-9645.

VOLUNTEERS FOR CLEANUP DAYS: The El Paso Environmental Center needs your help to clean up the Rio Grande near the El Paso riverbank. Please call Michael Bronka at 532-2652 or 532-9645.

UPCOMING OUTINGS

Winter Carving Camp: Fri 6-8 Jan, moderate, call Sandra Dennis 532-2652. We’ll drive out Friday night to carving on BLM land, campfires permitted. Caves to be explored and possible service work will be all day Saturday. Each carver must provide at least 5 AAA batteries for headlamp and bring a small flashlight as well. Comfort clothes and snowsuits are highly recommended. You will get dirty. Not for folks with claustrophobia.

Creek-Country Ski Trip: Date to be chosen on short notice, weather permitting, moderate plus. Call Jeanine French 592-1660. Either in Cloudcroft, NM, or Aztec, Az, we will bring our own X-GC skis or snowshoes to enjoy the winter wilderness. Bring your sleeping bag & mattress, since even in rented lodgings, frugal campers may choose in quadruple, sleep on the floor, and thereby keep it cozier. Expect to spend a minimum of $50 on a scenic weekend. Call to make the list, and we’ll select time & place as the snow permits.

South Franklin Peak Dayhike: Sun 6 Jan, moderate 5 miles, 1500’ gain, call Carol Morrison 545-7101. Easy to reach trailhead and moderate hikes should allow a pleasant walk plus a brush with a view.

Guadalupe Ridge Backpaddle: Sat 14-16 Jan, strenuous 30 miles, carrying water, call Michael Bronka 532-2652. A choice of routes still to be checked out may allow for a first day hike without heavy packs. We also hope to arrange a water point to limit our load max to 12 lbs at 6 pm. Both nights out should allow us a campsite.

Franklin Mountains Dayhike: Sun 15 Jan, moderate 6 miles, 1000’ gain, call Claire Christianson 545-2255. The route, yet to be selected, will remain a tentative peak. Rather, a gentler, less visited locale will provide a rare pleasure for the dayhiker of modest ambitions.

Lone Wolf Trail Dayhike: Sun 22 Jan, moderate 4 miles, 1500’ gain with some rock scrambling at a seemingly precarious precipice in the Franklin’s, call Carolene Greenfeld 545-7342.

We’ll leave cars at Transit-Mountain Rd, and shuttle to the trailhead in McKeen Canyon. Our trail will lead up and over South Franklin Peak.

Capitol Creek Backpaddle: Sat 29 Jan, Aldo Leopold Wildlife, moderate 5 miles with several river crossings and cold-weather camping, call Alice Anderson (505)523-5179. Be prepared for cold and possibly wet weather. Snow could go over the boottop, so bring extra pairs of warm socks. Enjoy a pleasant moderate trek.

Volcano Dayhike: Sun 29 Jan, near El Paso, easy hiking, call Betty Hutton 544-5741. Vehicles with high clearance are preferable as we visit Hurd’s Hole, Ader Caves, and Black Mountain. Who needs Hawaii? Check out our own local volcanos. Enjoy on-site geological Show & Tell.

Cook’s Peak Camp: Fri-Sat 3-4 Feb, moderate strenuous 8 miles 2500’ gain, call Joe Rodriquez 533-6555. We’ll leave Fri evening to reach campsite and make camp. On Sat, we’ll climb the peak. Saturday should short dayhikes before the return trip.

Airgle Spring Dayhike: Sun 5 Feb, Organ Mtns, easy 4-mile loop, call Patricia Wood 542-6553. This classic local dayhike is quick to reach yet lovely to behold. There may be a modest fee levied by park officials.

L.C.O. Leadership Carcamp, Sat 11-12 Feb, Portallos Mtns. Mtns. & fun, call Richard Rider 544-5659. This campfire is for L.C.O. leaders, hopefuls, and even stray school teachers who’d like to bring young folks out to the wilderness. This will be an Adult-Only workshop & outing. Strongest I.C.O. miles of contact will be relaxed. All relevant topics are open for discussion.

Anthony’s Nose Dayhike: Sun 19 Feb, Franklin, strenuous 9 miles with 1800’ gain, call Michael Bronka 532-2652. We’ll start bright and early at Tom Mays park up the Mike Episcope trail, then along the lichen-covered ridges leading to Tony’s Shrine. Hikers must wear long pants and leather gloves, to prevent scratches. This outing is best suited to experienced hikers with good balance and little fear of heights. There will be rock scrambling.

Alamo Mtn Backpaddle: Fri 25-26 Feb, Cornudas Mtns., mod strenuous 7 miles, call Rellin Wickenden 596-8002. We’ll ride a half hour on paved roads, then an hour on gravel to reach the petroglyph site for a dayhike. After lunch, we’ll drive to the trailhead and backpack a steady and challenging climb to the flat-topped peak. Each camper must carry a gallon of water, plus camping gear. On a clear night, this campsite offers a classic western view.

Gray Canyon Backpaddle: Fri 11-12 March, Grand Canyon N.P. Rim, Hermits-Tattoo Bright Angel trails, strenuous 26 miles over 4 days in the canyon. Instep-trippers required for safety, call Rellin Wickenden 855-6836. We’ll depart El Paso Feb 8. Spend that night in Tucson before arriving at G.C.N. on Feb 3. Expect winter weather conditions in the South Rim and summer weather in the Canyon. This strenuous, difficult trip with major elevation gain & loss mostly on unmaintained trails is only for experienced backpackers willing to comply with the strict regulations enforced in the Grand Canyon.
hiking through the snow to find just the right ones. None of the Schaeffer House youths had ever been in Colorado and few had ever experienced snow, so snowball fights were the first order of the day. It was a delightfully warm, sunny day, and we lingered over a picnic lunch before getting into serious tree "hunting." On the way back to the van, we somehow got turned around and wandered into an adjacent canopy by following a logging road down to where we thought we had parked. Fortunately, the rangers had been keeping an eye on the motley "mob with the backpacks" and rescued us by taking our driver back up to the van. After dinner at Burger King in Alamosa, the tree hunting crew homogenized and rapped their way back to El Paso as a full moon rose over the Sacramento Mountains.

North Franklin Peak Dayhike, Sat 18 Dec: Warm weather and bright sunshine graced Cynthia Farah, Laurie Lamar, Perry Buck, Monte Hall, Wesley Leonard, Joe Rodrigues, and leader Kathy Sunday up to the rooftops of El Paso, North Franklin Peak. We relished a leisure lunch with an expansive view in windswept sunny warmth. Our return trip got us back to our cars by 3 p.m.

"There are few things more enjoyable than a day hike in the snow."

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**OUTINGS REPORTS**

**WINBERG:** Backpack to the Lower glassy basin, Sat 22 Dec: On the Friday night preceding Christmas vacation, some of us opted to carpool, Alice Ann Fulkerson, John & Anilkumar (Anil) Walton, Laura Olson Johnson, Sodara Demeny, and leader Michael Bro- rondon at the Parks Ranch. It was a quick ride the next day to the Pine Springs trailhead to meet Dave Koff, the Bono, Lupe Alvarez, Larry Hughes, and Rafael Perret. We walked up McKinnick Canyon's earliest would soon be packed with hikers, park rangers only let us shuttle over two of our vehicles to leave at our next day's term. Carrying 6 or 8 water each, we set out on our long day's journey: up Tejas to the escarpment gaining 2000 ft, along Tejas through dense colorful woods, then hiking right along an open McKinnick Ridge trail for our last three miles. Bright sun made this a photo-op day, and once upon the escarpment, we saw few other hikers. We shared McKinnick Ridge campsite with two other parties, and enjoyed a quiet supper. The air was warm enough to allow sleeping under the stars. Pre-dawn nuzzle cold climbed bodily up to us as we stuffed just a good or two away. The next day's descent into McKinnick went smoothly. Thank you to higher-gear hikers who shuttled and led cars for slowpokes at day's end.

**L.C.O. Service Day, Sat 5 Nov, at the Env. Ctr. John Sproul and Richard Roderer worked with Marco Ruiz of the Texas Youth Commission and four volunteers from Schaeffer House. Angel Garcia, Ramon Martinez, Aquarius Trevino, and Joseph Valdez. The kids cleaned up, painted over, and otherwise eradicated graffiti which had marred the Environmental Center. Schaeffer Halfway House is run by the T.Y.C. and four City Outings program has set up an ambitious schedule with them over the coming year. Richard Roderer urges all interested volunteers to come along on the L.C.O. Leadership Carcamp on Sat 12-11 Feb, phone 544-5659, Johnson Cabin Backpack, New 54. Beautiful autumn weather blessed the El Paso Sierras' first official backpack to Johnson Cabin. A passing storm on the trip we left slack lines of fresh snow on the trail. Our hike stretched two miles further than expected. We deemed this a modest footpath to reach so lovely a campsite at the confluence of North Big and Big Dry Creek. Despite a cold night, we slept snugly. Sunday morning's hike brought a nearly 1000 ft elevation gain leaving the canyon, warming us thoroughly. On our weekend of wilderness delights, our big tent trial came on Sunday afternoon. We met a family of counts, a mother and three young sons. The coast—a South American critter with long slender snout and ringed tail—was rare 'round these parts, according to our expert, Roy McCaul. Other campers were Shirley Phillips, JoAnna Blackburn, Alice Anderson, Kathy Sunday, and leader Joe Rodrigues.

**L.C.O. Daytrip to Zinker Christmas Tree Area near Chunk- cloud, Sat 17 Dec:** We had a successful trip to get the Schaeffer House Christmas tree. One of the nice things about working our outings through Schaeffer House is that they provide their own 13-passenger van. Our crew consisted of 6 youths, one staff member, one agency member (a UTEP psychology student), 3 Sierras, one 17-year-old exchange student from Laval, and Richard Roderer’s 9-year-old nephew. We got three tree permits and had a great time

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**SANTA FE**

**SANTA FE GROUP NEWS**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1995**

**SEE BELUGA WHALES IN THEIR SUMMER ARCTIC PLAYGROUND**

Hundreds of Beluga whales (the only true "white" whale) travel thousands of miles to the Canadian High Arctic to molt and play. Belugas (sorry, no cavet from these babies) are known as "sea canaries" because of their impressive range of vocalizations. They squeal and chirp and are considered among the most vocal of all whales. Ellen Kemper spent a week this summer in her mum lakes at the edge of the Artic Circle photographing and watching these beautiful creatures and has a great slide show to entertain us.

The 1995 Legislative Session will start this week and so Doug Fraser, the Sierra Club lobbyist, will give a short preview of proposed environmental legislation.

The meeting is free to all and will be held at the Unitarian Church (on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo) Tuesday, January 17, 1995, at 7:30 PM.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1995**

**YOUR LEGISLATORS AT WORK FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

At press time, it’s much too early to know what bills that affect the environment will be introduced during the upcoming Legislative Session. We plan to invite State Representatives and Senators who are advocates for environmental protection to discuss bills on wildlife, taking, water planning, waste management and, for sure, the return of the bottle bill.

As a result of the elections this past November it is critically important that we all join forces to empower ourselves and help our representatives in the government to protect our natural resources, air, water and land!

Come to the meeting to find out what you can do. The meeting is free to all and will be held at the Unitarian Church (on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo) Tuesday, February 21, 1995, at 7:30 PM.

**EMPTY STORAGE SHED WANTED**

Very shortly we will be reprinting our very popular "Day Hikes" guide book. It is the Santa Fe Group’s major fundraiser, and the money from the book’s sale is used to support conservation issues. Do you have space in your garage or perhaps a spare room or storage shed for us to keep these books in? This could be your contribution toward the Sierra Club and the environment. Please call Lionel Soracco (983-0715).

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**MEETINGS: [call for location and time]**

Executive Committee: (Norma 471-0005)
February 7 and March 7 at 7 PM
Conservation Committee: (George 983-1024)
January 24 and February 28 at 7 PM

**OFFICE SPACE WANTED**

Get us out of the basement! We’re looking for a new office, doesn’t have to be big, are willing to share with another organization, need handicap access and would likely love a window. Any ideas, call Norma (471-0005) or Mark (983-5870).

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**SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Chair—Kathy Sunday**
**Secretary—Joe Rodrigues**
**Publicity—John Fulkerson**
**Political Committee—Ken Hughes**
**Newsletter Editor—Kaye Carlson**
**Phone Tree—**
**Kile’s Sierra Club—Jadine Freeman**
**Recycling—Carollynn Skafta**
**Outings—Norman Silverthorn**
**Campus—Norma McCullar**
**Welcome—Susan Banks**
**Membership—Funding—Education—open**
**Happy New Year!!**

**SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS**

### January

**Saturday, January 5**
- **John Turnbull** (466-9329) *Indoor Ski Clinic* Introduction to Cross-country skiing. Discussion of Nordic skiing, its history, various applications, relationship to Alpine downhill skiing; Nordic equipment, especially for backcountry skiing; what to wear. Unitarian Church. 7:00 PM to approximately 9:30 PM.
- **Norma McCallan** (471-0085) *Easy/Moderate Hike* South of town, starting on the RR tracks. Dogs allowed. Leave 9:30 AM.

**Thursday, January 10**
- **John Turnbull** (466-9329) *Outdoor Ski Clinic* Beginning Cross-country Skiing - Basic techniques. Introduction to fundamentals of Nordic skiing, classical style, emphasizing backcountry needs. Probably at Los Alamos Golf Course, depending on snow. Bring snacks or a small lunch, and equipment. Can rent equipment at most shops. Leave 9:00 AM from Wild Mountain Outfitters (previously known as Wilderness Exchange) next to Oso Drug on Cordova. Return early afternoon.
- **Jeff Jones** (466-2389) *Easy Hike* 5-6 miles R.T. in Diablo Canyon. Children encouraged. Leave 9 AM.
- **John Turnbull** (466-9329) *Beginners' Cross-Country Ski Tour* Snow permitting, probably in the Jemez Mountains, or Ansel Canyon, near Penasco. 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. This is a follow-up of the ski classes. Leave 9:00 AM from Wild Mountain Outfitters (previously known as Wilderness Exchange) next to Oso Drug. Return about 4:00 PM.

**Sunday, January 14**
- **Bob McKee** (672-3426) *Easy/Moderate Hike* from Otowi Bridge along the north bank of the Rio Grande. Cancelled from PERA at 9 AM or meet Bob at Otowi Bridge at 8:45 AM.

**Saturday, January 20, 15, 16** (Saturday, Sunday and Monday)
- **John Turnbull** (466-9329) *Chapter-wide ski weekend in the Cloudcroft area*. Lincoln National Forest. An opportunity to meet Ski Clubbers from the southern reaches and have some fun. A day at the resort for some Telemark (or downhill) skiing; track skiing at a groomed area; a day of backcountry touring in the ponderosas; cozy evenings in front of a fireplace. Bring your favorite friend. Phone John Turnbull, or at Albuquerque Stan Kachau (359-4301) for details and carpooling.
- **Carolyn and Armando Kesukullia (982-9570) *Easy Hike* along the Rio Grande. Leave 9 AM.
- **Lionel Sorocco** (983-6715) *Moderate Cross-Country Ski Trip* Call for destination. Leave 8 AM.
- **Norma McCallan** (984-0386) *Easy/Moderate Hike* to Ancho Rapids, near White Rock. Leave 8:30 AM.
- **Phone Tree Party at Jo Kinney's house — see elsewhere for details.
- **Joe Whalen** (984-0746) *Easy/Moderate Cross-Country Ski Tour* in the Jemez. Leave 8:30 AM.
- **Elizabeth Allman** (471-8490) *Easy Hike* "A river runs through it" — 6 miles along the Santa Fe River. Leave 9 AM.

**Saturday and Sunday, January 28 and 29**
- **Marg Wilson** (1-505-744-5800) Journey down to the warmer climes of Truth or Consequences for a weekend of new scenery and camaraderie. Camp in a Mango house, **Moderate Day Hike** Saturday to Turtle Buck Mountain, followed by a battle at a hot springs in T or C, hot-luck supper Saturday night, **Moderate day hike** Sunday in Hillboro area. Leave after work on Friday, Call Norma McCallan (471-0005) for carpooling.

**Outing Notes** — Unless otherwise noted, all outings leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paso de Ferial and Old Santa Fe Trail (across the street from the State Capitol and Court). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay a fare to the driver of the car in which they ride. Meals should be brought with lunch, wine, 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. Leaders do not care to alter destination of hike or cancel the trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient turn-up of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.

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**February**

**Saturday, February 4**
- **Araold and Carolyn Kesukullia (982-9570) *Easy Hike* Call leaders for destination. Leave 9 AM.
- **John Turnbull (466-9329) *Moderate/Strainous Cross-country Ski Tour* Up Aspen Vista Road, down on Ski Area side. Great views! Steel-edged skin required. Leave 9 AM from Wild Mountain Outfitters (previously known as Wilderness Exchange) next to Oso Drug. Call leader for details.
- **Norma McCallan** (471-0005) *Easy Hike* on La Bajada Loop. Dogs Allowed. Leave 9:30 AM.
- **Joe Whalen** (984-0746) *Moderate Cross-Country Ski Tour* Leave 8:30 AM. Call leader for details.
- **Easy Hike** from Jemez Cabo to Jemez Cabo (330-4301) in Albuquerque. The non-scheduled trips often are the best of all, taking advantage of new snow, etc.
- **Norrine Sanders** (984-0386) *Easy Hike* from Emboth Station along Rio Grande. Leave 8:30 AM.
- **Lionel Sorocco** (983-6715) *Moderate Cross-Country Ski Tour* Leave 8 AM. Call leader for details.
- **Bob McKee** (672-3426) *Easy/Moderate Exploratory Bushwalk* in Bandelier. Call for time and meeting place.

**March**

**Saturday, March 4**
- **Lionel Sorocco** (983-6715) *Moderate Cross-Country Ski Tour* to wherever snow is good. Leave 8 AM.
- **Norma McCallan** (471-0005) *Easy Hike* Arroyo Chamisa Loop. Dogs Allowed. Leave 9:30 AM.
- **Bob McKee** (672-3426) *Easy/Moderate Exploratory Hike* "Bandelier Bushwalk II" Mostly off-trail. Call leader.
- **Joe Whalen** (984-0746) *Strainous/Strainous Cross-Country Ski Tour* Leave 8:30 AM. Call leader for location of trip.
- **Easy/Moderate Hike from Galisteo Dam to Waldo. Leave at 9 AM. Call 471-7575 for details.
- **Norrine Sanders** (984-0386) *Easy/Moderate Hike* from Ojo Caliente area. Leave 8:30 AM.
- **Carolyn Kesukullia (984-3194) *Strainous Hike* in Bandelier. Call for information.
- **Julie Montoya King (438-7197) *Moderate Hike* Call leader for destination and time of departure.
- **Carolyn Kesukullia (982-9570) *Easy/Moderate Hike* in Tent Rocks. Call leader for meeting place.

**Note:** On Saturday, March 25, there will be a leader training workshop, from 9 AM - 3 PM, for all active and potential outings leaders and any other interested parties. Please call Norma McCallan (471-0005) or Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) for further information.

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**SKI TOURING**

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 (466-9329) in Santa Fe or Stan Kachau (330-4301) in Albuquerque. The non-scheduled trips often are the best of all, taking advantage of new snow, etc.

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**PHONE TREE PARTY**

January 22, 3-5 PM

All phone tree members and anyone interested in climbing onto the tree are invited to Jo Kinney’s house (954 Santa Niño Place, off Old Taos Highway). The phone tree is most important during the Legislative Session especially and WE WANT YOU!!! Sierra Club lobbyist Doug Fraser will be there to update us on upcoming bills. You don’t have to belong or even join, just come and socialize with us. For more information, call: Martha Ann Freeman (438-0697) or Dorothy Grossman (982-1024)
**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

All members of the Santa Fe Group will soon be receiving a questionnaire concerning their interest in and ability to become involved in conservation activities. There seems to be a nearly unlimited number of environmental issues with which the Santa Fe Group could be involved, and we try to be active in the issues that have support of our members. Some that we are currently concerned with are forest management, grazing management, wilderness designation, water quality and quantity, wildlife management, endangered species, county open space, and hilltop development. The extent of our involvement in an issue depends entirely on how much member interest there is. The Group leadership is very aware of the significant differences in levels of support which our members can offer. However, all of our members are appreciated for whatever they can provide. We would like to hear from each of our members, even if all they can contribute is their dues. We want to involve as many members as possible in the issues in which they are interested and at the level at which they are comfortable. Please return your questionnaire as early as possible.

All members are invited to the monthly Conservation Committee meetings which are held the fourth Tuesday of each month. Please call me for meeting places.

George Grossman (982-1024)

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**EMPOWER YOURSELF...**

... And in as little as 30 minutes a year... you can turn your vague, flabby environmental sensibilities into rock-solid effectiveness, without working up a sweat.

Volunteering for the Sierra Club phone tree is the most painless and effective way to effect policy at the state and federal level. It merely consists of calling your legislator’s office about a dozen times a year, as soon as possible after getting an alert from the Sierra Club caller above you on the tree. Or, if you have another half-hour to spare over the course of the year, you can volunteer to call live other people with an alert.

Don’t Delay. Get in practice and start now by calling: Martha Ann Freeman (438-6667) or Dorothy Grossman (982-1024).

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**CONSERVATION MEETINGS**

A Chapter Conservation Meeting is tentatively set for January 22nd or 29th. If you plan to attend, call 522-3421 for exact date, time, and place.

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**OUTINGS**

- **January 14-16:** Chapter organized ski trip. See the Santa Fe and Albuquerque Group News Outings for further details.
- **January 20:** Organ Mountain Bivouac Hike. Easy/Moderate, 6-7 miles; easy at first and moderate at end. A very interesting and pleasant hike. We will meet at the Pan Am parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Call Subhanpour at 521-7023 for further details.
- **February 11:** Hike to the spectacular Organ Needles. Moderate/Strenuous. This is the highest point in the Organ Mountains. This may be your first opportunity to touch a real summit, a truly breathtaking experience, so order’s miss it. Call Ben Romberg at 526-6207 for further details.
- **February 25:** A spectacular 8-mile hike on a brand new trail all across White Sands National Monument. Easy/Moderate. Imagine hiking through one of the world’s most gorgeous sand dunes on a cool February day. We will meet at the Pan Am north parking lot at 9 a.m. Call Marianne Thaler at 522-3421 for further details.

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**SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO STUDENT SIERRA CLUB MEETING**

January 18: First meeting of the new semester! We will discuss outings and programs for the spring semester. Where? 107 Science Hall. Time? 7 p.m. Call Lori Schmierer at 527-1120 for further information.

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**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

All meetings are held in 107 Science Hall on the NMSU campus. Directions: Enter the NMSU campus on Espana driving south. At the second stop sign, Stewart St., turn left. At the first stop sign, Sweet St., turn left again. Immediately after turning, enter parking lot on the right and park. Take the walk at the northeast corner of the parking lot and walk straight ahead into Science Hall.

**January 19, 1995, Thursday 7:30 pm**

"What changes can we expect to see in our National Forests with the new Ecosystem Management?"

**SPEAKER:** Charles "Chip" Cartwright, Southwest Regional Forester.

This is a JOINT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WITH MESILLA VALLEY AUDUBON and NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF DONA ANA COUNTY.

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**February 23, 1995, Thursday 7:30 pm**

**SPEAKER:** Kris Havsted, Jornada Experimental Range, USDA

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**March 23, 1995, Thursday 7:30 pm**

**SPEAKER:** Louis T. Steineck, University of Arizona

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**SLIDE PRESENTATION:** Subhanpour Bannorot, Sierra Club member, hike leader, and backpacker. Hiking, Backpacking and Driving through the Southwest: New Mexico’s Organ Mountains and Gila National Forest, Colorado’s San Juan and Uncompaghre National Forests, and Rocky Mountain National Park, and parts of Arizona and Southern Utah.

We will discuss possible hiking/backpacking trips to some of these places, and would like to hear where people would like to go.
WHY SHOULD MILITARY TAKE OVER OF NEW LANDS CONCERN NEW MEXICANS (And all citizens of the United States)?

by Marianne Thaeler, Chapter Military Issues Chair

New Mexico and its citizens have always supported the military of the United States and will continue to do so. The military has provided jobs and economic development to New Mexico. Before the explosive population growth in southern New Mexico, as a result of other border activities and the climate, the US military was the major employer in New Mexico.

Why should we be concerned now?
1. Because the geographic expansions have been so enormous, and more are planned.
2. Because the WSRRM, Holloman AFB, Ft. Bliss complex has so many different activities involving all branches of the military.
3. Because the military presence is so considerable.
4. Because the number of existing hazardous waste sites on these facilities needing clean up is so large (at least 54 on WSRRM alone).
5. Because water quality and quantity is a major problem for New Mexico.
6. Because the military has not fully complied with the Federal Facilities Compliance Act, which requires them to comply with existing environmental laws.

The decision of who ultimately pays the clean up costs should affect New Mexico citizens and begins executing them before telling Congress and the public.

8. Because hazardous waste clean up monies may be cut by Congress, and those most affected by these proposed cuts will be New Mexico.

9. Because foreign governments use our lands for military purposes (Japan, Germany, Taiwan, etc.). (This listing is not in any specific order.)

Sierra Club Takes the Army for a Hike

By Barbara Coon

After recent discoveries that areas in the Organ Mountains most frequently used by hikers may be contaminated by unexploded ordinance and are part of the Ft. Bliss, Dona Ana Area range, the Southern New Mexico Group invited the Range Manager, Lt. Col. Lund, to go hiking in the Organ to see another perspective.

The hike was led by Jim Basler, Group Outdoor Chair. Those going along on the hike included Lt. Col. Lund, Captain Konny, Bruce Gaffner (NMSU Student Sierra Club, Outdoor Coordinator), Barbara Coon (Sierra Club member and member of the NM Mountain Club) and her husband and daughter, Paul Brown, Rudy Provencher, and John Bryant.

The hike went up Achenbach Canyon and explored the archeological site in the Indian cave. Ranch horses were seen in the valley above the falls.

A good time was had by all.

WSMR INFORMATION FAIR or How WSMR expanded its boundaries before the public knew about it

by Marianne Thaeler, Chapter Military Issues Chair

Under the Federal Facilities Compliance Act the United States military is supposed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Each facility must have a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) from which Environmental Assessments (EAs) for minor activities restated; or, Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) are prepared for major activities. WSMR has not had a Final PEIS accepted. Holloman AFB and Ft. Bliss have not yet begun to prepare a PEIS, in the best of our knowledge.

After a EA or EIS is prepared which explores and evaluates Alternatives for executing the activity, an Alternative is chosen, a Finding of No Significant Impact can be made, a Decision is rendered, funding is acquired, and the activity is executed. But... so and behold, the US Army is not working in that way. They do the NEPA process and then the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is completed and the Environmental Directors say they are trying to change. First the Decision is made, then the activity is executed or "tested," then Congress is asked for funds (based on the fact that they have been doing the activity all along), then the NEPA process is begun, and finally, they complain bitterly of unnecessary government paperwork.

The answer to the question of the NEPA process.

The NEPA process is the only way that some members of Congress and the public learn what is planned.

ARMY FIRES CLUSTER BOMBS INTO WSMR NORTHERN EXTENSION AREA

by Marianne Thaeler, Chapter Military Issues Chair

According to Across the Fence, Issue 2 (December 1994), a publication of White Sands Missile Range, the Army has fired 3 prototypes in June, demonstrating a new development of the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS). These prototype ATACMS missiles were ordered from the White Sands Missile Range buffer zone, also known as the Northern Extension Area. Two groups have been active in the buffer zone for many years, the Buffalo Band of the Bureau of Land Management, Las Cruces District. The fielded ATACMS is 13 feet long and carries 9500 subdivisions or small "bombs," which are designed to explode in an impact. The number of bombs was reduced to 275 in the prototype which was used in the Northern Extension Area. The bombs were loaded with Hercules, non explosive. Residents of the Northern Extension Area have been routinely collecting the "bombs."
HERA, What is it?
by Marianne Thacker, Military Issues Chair

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO) manages the Theater Missile Defense (TMD) Initiative. The U.S. Army Space and Strategic Defense Command, headquartered in Huntsville, Alabama, is a tenant on White Sands Missile Range, and it manages the TMD and HERA programs (and many others) for the BMDO. The TMD HERA Target System provides realistic targets for the TMD interceptors missions, which include Theater High Altitude Area Defeat (THAAD) missiles, Phased Array Tracking to Intercept of Target (PATRIO) missiles, Extended Range Interceptor missiles (ERINT) and other interceptors. Confused? This is shooting missiles to shoot down other missiles. HERAs are missiles used as targets. They are realistic simulations of vehicles used to test the TMD missiles, and the missile's systems. They are "real-like" missiles. HERA is a target system, to use the Army jargon.

The HERA site for the launch of target missiles, which will be shot down by the interceptors aimed at it, is located 15 miles south of US Hwy 60, and 25 miles north of US Hwy 380. (See map below, which shows the boundary of the Northern Extension Area and the site where the HERA launch facility is presently under construction.)

Rio Grande Sierrans Invigorate, Activate and Mobilize!
by Susan Gorman

We live in a special place of fragile beauty which must be protected and defended. Yet, many people who live in New Mexico and West Texas know very little about activities that result from a desire to call into reality the dream of our Native American forefathers. We need to educate ourselves and others. We need to communicate effectively and persuasively. We must be militant!

Some of the key issues are:

- ABQ: Albuquerque, NM 87112, Space Age Museum, Albuquerque, NM 87112. This museum is a great place to see the history of space exploration and the contributions of Hispanic Americans to that field.
- Rio Grande Underwriters Assure Our Continued Activity in New Mexico and West Texas
- What do Tom Bradford, Blair Brown, Doug Frazer, Vicki Oshin, Susan Gorman, George Grossman, Barbara Johnson, Sue Milcic, Janet Oyle, Fred Robbins, Mike Seidensticker, Gwen Wardwell and Ben Zerbe have in common?
- They have joined the Rio Grande Underwriters, by pledging monetary financial support to the Chapter, and have agreed to encourage at least two of their friends to do the same.
- Through their generous monthly contributions, in addition to the many other contributions they make to the Chapter, these Underwriters are assuring that the Chapter can continue its presence in New Mexico and West Texas with a dependable funding source.

Interested in joining this elite group? Call Fred Robbins (505/460-7685) for details on how you, too, can become a Rio Grande Underwriter.

Call 1-800-742-2662 and get your very own copy of the Republicans’ “Contract of America” and find out what we need to fight.
Wildlife and Development in New Mexico
by Robert Harrison, Biology Department, University of New Mexico

New Mexico is currently experiencing a tidal wave of development. One need not have lived here long to notice the rapid increase in the numbers of subdivisions, especially in the vicinity of Albuquerque and Santa Fe. To those of us, including myself, who have studied the land forms and the beauty and serenity of wilderness, housing development is a disgusting, sickening, and disillusioning sight. Clearly the aesthetics of an undisturbed landscape are severely reduced as soon as houses appear. It would seem that developed areas have no value for wildlife either, but that is not always true. Properly done, housing development does not have to mean loss of native species or total destruction of natural communities. Whether or not and under what circumstances development and wildlife can coexist is a gray, cloudy, and largely unexplored subject.

From two years of studying gray foxes in a rural residential area, I can offer some insights.

99% Want Wildlife

From a survey of over 1400 homeowners in my study area of Tijeras and Cedar Crest (known as the East Area, or EMA), I learned that over 99% want wildlife in their neighborhoods. In general, both homeowners and developers were quite interested in learning what they could do to keep wildlife in their neighborhoods. People who move into the EMA often do so in order to be closer to nature. This attitude offers genuine encouragement that rural housing development may be moderated to some extent by regulations that allow permanent coexistence with wildlife. This is known as sustainable development and is a very popular subject among conservation biologists. Below I offer some specific suggestions for ways that this can be achieved, but first we must be clear about the limitations of sustainable development.

Wildlife and Development (cont'd from page 28)

- Utilize natural water drainage patterns to preserve or create wetlands. If properly constructed, these areas can harbor a surprising number of plants and animal species and provide greatly improved aesthetics. They are especially good for endangered plants.

- Make roads windy in order to slow traffic and reduce road kills. Roads often provide走廊 for animals to cross under the roads.
- Provide corridors linking undeveloped areas to the road systems.
- Strict control dogs and cats. Both can wreak havoc in the immediate area of their homes.

(continues on next page)
Ski Report
By John Turnball
Snow. Two months ago, I commented that winter was on its way, and that snow tends to be more predictable in the northern reaches of New Mexico. Both have proven correct, but with a difference: all of the snow at Ski Santa Fe, Sandia Peak and Taos is good. Each has 95% of runs usable, and the best snow for November in recent memory. Similarly for the Nordic (cross-country) trails, the hills above 9,000’ at both Cumbres Pass, above Chama, and west of Tres Piedras, were already well-covered in November. As of mid-December there is about three to four feet of loose powder at both locations, and the skiing is excellent.

Elsewhere, there hasn’t been more than a sprinkling of snow since the beginning of December, Snow-wise, the Jemez Mountains as of mid-December are marginal. Lots of grass showing through. Above Los Alamos, north facing slopes have about eight inches of loose, dry snow: enough to carefully navigate around on. The area in the Sangre de Cristo and the Jemez Mountains, usually a high-snowfall area, is surprisingly thin, dust partly to a freak rainfall. In the Sandia Mountains snow is also sparse, and frequently icy, though at the top there is enough to ski on. Down south, according to reports, it’s looking better. It’s too early at this time of year to turn around on the season.

Skiing. The first round of Sierra Club ski classes finished in Santa Fe on Dec. 18. I didn’t have time to check them out, but I hear they were a success.

Ski Resorts. The second round of the Sierra Club ski classes finished in Santa Fe on Dec. 18. I didn’t have time to check them out, but I hear they were a success.

Skiing is good. The first round of Sierra Club ski classes finished in Santa Fe on Dec. 18. I didn’t have time to check them out, but I hear they were a success.