Activists Make Major Contribution to Chapter Finances
by Ford Robbins

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

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

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

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

Greetings from New Lobbyist
by Doug Fraser

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

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

1994 Chapter Budget

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME $36,540

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TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES $36,540

Chapter Adopts 1994 Budget
by Susan Gorman

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

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

Normally, the EnCor elects officers at this meeting but two of the new members, Pat and Susan, were not able to attend the portion of the meeting where this was scheduled. We decided to proceed with elections and to require an absolute majority of votes. George Grossman and Joan Wardwell were nominated for Chair, but neither candidate received an absolute majority so we will wait until the next meeting in March, 1994 to proceed with the elections. In the meantime, the current officers will continue.

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

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

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

The good news for the groups is that they will again receive a portion of the sales of our products. Please help us as much as you can.

From the Chair...

News of the Rio Grande Sierra Club
January 1994

The N.M. Mining Act — an Update
by Sue McCoard

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

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

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

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

by John Turnbull

The selection of proper clothing for skiing is just as important as the selection of equipment because of the cold weather. Several types of clothing will depend on the ventilation, or the amount of breath moisture which is lost while you are skiing. Cold weather may be a couple such layers, including polaines, or insulating insulation, or Polar wear. You have a lot of selection here. The newer polaines garments, Polar and Polartec, have both polar insulation. They are designed to be worn over your base layer. While they are not as warm as a ski parka, they are more versatile skiers for cold weather. Before you can escape fully outside, however, you have the reliability of the system to continue insulating even if wet. For your next ski trip, be sure to use the right clothing, which will be your upper body, woolly, or synthetic layers such as base layers, or undergarments. The weather, or the weather forecast, may affect your choice of layer. Avoid cotton, which will lose its insulating value. Be careful when selecting your clothing for winter weather. Check the weather forecast before you leave for the ski area, and be prepared for the conditions you will encounter. Dry, cold weather will not affect the warmth of your clothing, but cold, damp weather will. Choose clothing that will keep you warm and dry, and protect you from the elements. Be sure to select the right clothing for your ski trip, and enjoy the experience. Happy skiing!
The 1994 New Mexico Legislative Session begins January 18 and promises to be filled with battles for the environment. Representative Cisco McSorley and Sierra Club lobbyist Doug Frister will present a summary of the legislation to watch and guidelines about how to be involved in the process.

We will meet on Monday, January 17th, 7:30 PM, in room 2401 of the UNM Law School at the NW corner of Mountain and Stanford NE. Please be aware that during the school year, even after normal hours, there is a $1 fee for parking in the lot. The permit can be obtained inside at library desk, or you can park on the street. Please bring a cap if you care to have the refreshments provided by the Club. Preceding the main program, we mention upcoming events and outings, recaps of outings and alerts on issues with opportunities to write letters and to get involved. If you have questions or would like additional information about the meeting, please call Evelyne Buie at 265-5267. (See page 4 to see where you are.)

January Potluck -- Sunday, January 9

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

All members are invited to come by and stay for as long as you can. There’s no formality, just a chance to meet some of your fellow members in a more casual atmosphere than the general meeting. We’ll plan to cut around 5PM, so bring a dish to share and your own plate and utensils and join us. Keep your eye on the Sierra for the date and time of the next one. See you there.

Conservation Defined

Did you ever stop to think that all Sierra Club work which is not Administration is Conservation? The Excom is responsible for overseeing all the Club’s administrative tasks and must approve all statements and positions expressed by Club members. The real substantive work on issues is designated Conservation. In an interconnected world, issues are not separate, and trying to divide them often results in that well-known phenomenon of not being able to see the forest for the trees. Issue Activities need to come together to share ideas and work connections. Everyone in the Club with an interest in environmental issues is a member of the Conservation Committee! As the new Group Conservation Chair, I will focus my efforts on building more grass-roots support for all of the issues facing us. I pledge to bring new energy to this task and have set a goal to find at least one actual committee member to work with each issue committee.

The Conservation Committee meetings will be changed to Conservation Working Sessions, and everyone is invited, cajoled, and begged to come and get involved (or at least see what others are doing). The Working Sessions will be held at the Sierra Club office, the 4th Monday of each month, 7:00 PM (NEW TIME). To help make these sessions productive, anyone who wants to initiate an issue discussion should call me at 265-5231 by the Wednesday before the session.

Save Yale Park!

The Campus Community Coalition (a UNM student-organized environment) is working to save Yale Park from being spoiled by a proposed new UNM bookstore. The southern block of the park will be cut down and the block-wide park north of Central between Yale and Cornell will be de- leased. The Campus Community Coalition (GCC) proposes instead that the park be restored as a demonstration garden for native plant, low-water use landscaping, retaining all the trees. If you can help or have comments on Yale Park, please call David Stewart 260-0295 or Jim Lewis 881-7423.

Conservation Focus - Water

The Chapter Water Initiative is building momentum and opportunities to help are multiplying. Does the sight of water flowing onto pavement from unnaturally green lawns make you angry? When you turn on the tap to get a glass of water, do you wonder about its purity? Does the news about industrial water users who plan to pump groundwater and return it to the Rio Grande make you question the judgement of our elected officials? Don’t just get angry, get involved! If you live in the Albuquerque area and drink water, these issues hit you where you live! Volunteer today! Call Susan Goman at 265-5231 for more information.

Conservation Program for 1994

Evelyne Buie has agreed to arrange programs for the General Meetings. She has already started work on the 1994 Schedule and asks for input on future programs. Call her at 265-5267 to discuss your ideas for great programs this year.

1994 Albuquerque Group Executive Committee

The election results were: Nick Persampieri, Richard Barbini, and Blair Brown have won. The 1994 Executive Committee will elect officers at the January meeting, Janu- ary 11 (new date). David Bosqian and Bob Cornish have resigned (thanks to both for their fine service). The Excom will make appointments to fill several vacancies at the January meeting. Please call Jay Sorenson, 384-4214, if you want to be considered for appointment.

Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at the Club office at 267 San Pedro NE.

Jan 6: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM

Jan 11: Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM (different time this month?)

Jan 12: 2nd room. Deadline for articles for February group newsletter. Macintosh preferred. Call Larry if supplying hardcopy only

Jan 17: Sierra Club General Meeting, UNM Law School, Room 2402, 7:30 PM

Jan 18: NM Legislative Session begins.

Jan 24: Conservation Working Session, 7:00 PM.

Feb 3: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 PM

Feb 8: Activities and Special Planning Meeting, 7:00 PM, Sierra Club Office.
OUTINGS

Miler's 1.2 Car 70
Beginner's X/C Ski Instruction in the Sandias

Sat Jan 18-17 Moderate
Miler's 700 X/C Ski Join us for a three day/night ski trip at the D.J. Lawrence Ranch. Autumn colors, group prepped trails, and an all around good time. Full participation is limited so please call to reserve your spot. Leader: Stan 292-9158.

Mon Jan 17 PreMeeting Dinner Meet at 5:00 PM at Los Cudos Mexican food. 4901 Lomas NE. David 344-6905

Sat Jan 14 Moderate
Miler's 4 Car 100
Best Rocks A.C.E. Hike In this area of Critical Environmental Concern we will either those about main canyon, into the area where shooting are not allowed, at the Tom Rocks. Meet at Sierra Club office at 9:00 AM. Bring lunch. New trip was cancelled due to conditions. Leader: Bob Cornell 355-6037

Sat Jan 17 Leasure Miler's 3 Car 3 Boca Negro Arroyo, Petroglyph NM Hike Ancient archeological sites and 1000's of petroglyphs. RSVP. Leader: Lee Eastwood 255-5797

Sun Jan 20 Leasure Miler's 3 Car 90 Balsa Eagle Watch, Cochiti Dam We will watch fishing activities of several bald eagles. Dress extremley warm, bring binoculars. Welcome a new leader and lots of animal. David. Meet at 6:00 am, behind the Vista shop. Meet at Miler's office. Leader: David Thame 271-1859

Tues Jan 25 Winter Camping Course (see Jan 11)
Fri Jan 28 Moderate-Steens
Miler's 10 Car 130
San Antonio Hot Springs X/C Ski Easy magical slopes (all to the winds of the San Antonio Hot Springs, snow can be icy. Full snow gear and safety permitting. Call for details. Leader: Stan Kawak 292-9158

Sat Jan 24 Moderate
Miler's 3 Car 100 El Malpais NM- Arch and Craber El Calderon is a crater on the west side of the monument that we will hike up. We will move over to the east side and hike up the natural arch. Bring lunch and drinks, meet at the Sierra Club office. Call for details. Leader: Tom 256-7217

Sun Jan 30 Moderate
Miler's 3 Car 20 Tres Pistoles Spring Canyon Basic information by John Turnbull. Check out a cave (7) and head up to the spring. Wear warm clothes. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Sierra Club office. 207 San Pedro NE. Walter with a famous for natural beauty. Leader: Richard Rivas 266-5627

Sat Jan 30 Moderate-Miler's 3 Car 130 Misty Canyon X/C Ski One of the more popular marked X/C ski trails in the James Mountains. Misty Canyon is close enough to Albuquerque to be able to enjoy the beauty of the trail and still be home before dark. Contact Stan 292-9158 for details. Leader: Barbara Stone

Sat Feb 5 Moderate Miler's 7 Car 160 El Vizcaya Canyon A.C.E. Great hike, that few people know, in this riparian canyon surrounded by pinyon, juniper. Welcome a new leader Craig, Craig has led hundreds of outings for the Dallas Waldorf School. Meet at the Sierra Club office 9:00 AM. Bring lunch and dress warm. Leader: Craig Dill 222-0974

Sun Feb 6 Stereo Miler's 3 Car 10 South Peak Snowshoe, Sandias We will have a great time at this trip. We will hike, snow, strap on snowshoes and continue on up to south peak. Bring warm clothes for this weekly activity. Meet at the Sierra Club office. Leader: Stefan Venckishis 888-1370

Sat Feb 6 Moderate-Steens
Miler's 4 Car 130 Las Cumbres Barn Trail To East Fork Parking Lot X/C Ski A beautiful hike in spring, summer, and fall, it should be just as beautiful covered in snow. To the East Fork trail. Expect rough and stony conditions as we climb to the canyon from the trail up to the East Fork Ridge Trail. Leader: Stan Kawak 292-9138

Sat Feb 6 Leasure Miler's 3 Car 3 Piedra Blanca, Marikas Hike, Petroglyph National Monument 100% of petroglyphs. Bring cameras, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP. Leader: Lee Eastwood 255-7679

Tues Feb 8 Winter Camping Course (see Jan 11)

JANUARY MEETING

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

The program will start at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, January 26, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 7000 Edgemere (two blocks east of Airway). For more information, call Ted Merit, 822-3011.

The Environmental Center

Thanks - Recent improvements at The Environmental Center include shelves for the camping gear of our Inner City Outings program (COOP) as a new sidewalk along the stream. Thanks go to our talented contractor, Mike Episco & Associates, for excellent work on both projects. We also due Joe Concrete Products for donating cement for the sidewalk.

Reserve Saturday, January 29, on your calendar! Annual Sierra Club Wine and Cheese Party 7 pm The Environmental Center 800 So. Piedras Bring a bottle of wine, either crackers or a chunk of cheese, and 10-15 friends to show the beautiful and exciting places you've tackled. See you there!

CALENDAR

January 5 ECOM (7pm at 800 So. Piedras)

January 12 Deadline for El Paso newsletter information to 83 Vista del Rey, 70912

January 26 General Meeting (7000 Edgemere)

January 29 Annual Wine & Cheese Party (7pm at 800 So. Piedras)

February 2 ECOM (7pm at 800 So. Piedras)
MT. RILEY-EAST POTRILLOS CAMPAC

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

ORGAN PIPE CACTUS CARCAMP
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, AZ

DATE: January 15-17, 1994
CLASS: Easy
LIMIT: 15, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Mike Episcopo, 833-3700

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

WINTER BACKCOUNTRY OUTING

DATE: January 22-3, 1994
CLASS: Moderate, backcountry skills or snowshoes necessary
LIMIT: 6, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: The Dobble Team, 554-5020, or
Wyonna Turner, 558-0521

Winter backcountry experience required. Snow is a perquisite
for this outing, so location will depend on snowfall. A day
trip is planned with a possible overnight camp. Call Dobble or
Wyonna for details.

BIKE RIDE

Route: Mt. Riley, east of El Paso

DATE: January 27, 1994
CLASS: Easy +
LIMIT: None, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Richard Rhude, 544-5569

Come ride to Mt. Riley with the El Paso Bicycle Club. This
30 mile east-west bike ride through the desert will begin at the
Santa Teresa Airport and end at the bedrock monument with a picnic
lunch. There will be an ad-lug service to take your and your bike
back to the starting point. Call Richard for more information and
reservations.

RAIN CREEK TRAIL MAINTENANCE CARCAMP

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

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

BUFF MOUNTAIN BACKPACK
Guadalupe Mountains National Park

DATE: February 5-6, 1994
CLASS: Moderate +
LIMIT: 10, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Kathy Sunday, 778-8010

It’s time to go back Mountain Again! At 8,601', Buff Mountain is the second highest peak in Texas. Beginning in the Pan-Slagay Campground we will take the Tejas Trail to the ridge, then descend northwest on the Buff Mountain Trail to our campsite located in a wooded area below the peak. Views from this trail are outstanding. Total round-trip mileage is 14, with a 2,000’ elevation gain. All water must be carried in. Call Kathy early for details and reservations.

CHIRRACHOA NATIONAL MONUMENT CARCAMP
Southern Arizona

DATE: February 12-13, 1994
CLASS: Moderate
LIMIT: 20, leader approval and reservations required
LEADER: Rollick Wickenden, 594-8042

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

BEGINNER’S BACKPACKING TRAVELING
Starting with our February general meeting we will
have one-hour workshop for people interested in
learning about the fundamentals of backpacking.
We will have four sessions, each beginning at 6:15 pm,
just prior to our next four general meetings.
Each session will demonstrate step by step instruc-
tions concerning every aspect of the backpacking experience.

Mike Episcopo, Outings Chair

RINCON MOUNTAINS BACKPACK

DATE: 11/25-11/29

Rain Creek Trail Maintenance Carcamp, 105-1193

The Club hadn’t worked on Trail 189 since 1985, so it really needed some work. All three breaks we had chopped and grown back across the trail meant some work for the waterbars constructed by George Mester, Jim Owen, Bill Phillips, and Don Schwartzkopf. It took many hours of hard work to get the trail back into shape. We dug little culverts into the Sacocon trailhead Friday night, set up camp in a pretty spot along Rain Creek, and started work on Trail 189. The newest section of the trail was clearing Trail 189. Under the expert direction of John Soucy, Trailblazers of the Glenwood Ranger District, we were able to make a major impact on all sections of Trail 189. After working hard on Rain Mountain again on Saturday and Sunday, Mike figured we deserved some more Monday morning to explore up Rain Creek. Led by Mike and John we found a surprisingly clear trail, considering the Rain Creek Trail was taken off maps some 15 years ago. Many thanks to all the participants: Mike Episcopo, Reform Schintzer, Carolina Greenfield, Lawrence Gibson, Gus Pina, Sandy Anderson, Jaiie, John Soucy and leader Rollick Wickenden.

McKerricher Canyon Dayhike, 102459

The annual pilgrimage to view the splendid fall foliage in McKerricher Canyon is one of the most anticipated Club hikes. Thirty Strauss and guests were not disappointed in the virile colors displayed by oaks, aspen and mountain maples. The trail was crowded, as expected. The Park Service had an unusual number of personnel stationed at stream crossings and trail forks along this popular trail. The foliage was great and the weather was warm and sunny and everyone enjoyed the easy seven mile trek. The traditional stop at the Crown Point Cafe to gorge on green chili brought to an end the day’s trip led by Dale Harris.

Backpack in the Gads, 1029-3159

A dose of backpackers hiked icy roads to reach Pine Springs trailhead on Saturday morning. Since El Cap was closed due to the rains, Alice Andrews and I decided to break open the escarpment near Bear Canyon. A blanket of new snow off orange-leaded maples. Up top, a chilling breeze urged us down the Bowl Trail to grey clouds. Sunlight sifted through the trees. As the light left us, we crossed the Bear Canyon dam. At the camping area, we pitched one-person tents in small clearings. The next weekend another rain is forecasted. We might hike again. The next weekend another rain is forecasted. We might hike again.

Plan Ahead for these holiday & summer treks!

Feb. 19-21
Presidents’ Day Snow Fun Weekend in Alpine, AZ. This is a new chapter outing and promises to be a lot of fun. (Jeanne French, 592-1600)

March 19-24
Spring Break Grand Canyon Backpack (Mike Episcopo, 833-3777)

Gila Backpack (Laurence Gibson, 594-7342)

Colorado Backpack (Laurence Gibson)

August
Wyoming Backpack (Laurence Gibson)

Dear Friends,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Toni Beatle

January 1994
SANTA FE GROUP NEWS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1994

RACING TOWARD THE ECOLOGICAL SHORE

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

There will also be a discussion about the 1994 New Mexico Legislative session and the bills that the Sierra Club plans to support. If you are concerned about THE ENVIRONMENT and the problems caused by OVER-POLLUTION, be at the Unitarian Church (Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo) Tuesday, January 18, 1994, at 7:30 PM. The meeting is free and open to all!

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

ELECTION RESULTS

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

S.F. CITY COUNCIL AND MAYORAL RACES

The S.F. Group plans to endorse candidates for the upcoming City Council and Mayoral elections in March. The Group’s political committee will make endorsements, based on answers to a questionnaire, as well as personal assessments of candidates’ commitment to the environment.

Water, land use, transportation and growth top the list of issues. To participate in the Group’s political committee, call Ken Hughes (471-0450).

>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<

Chair — Jana Oyler* 984-2020  
Vice-Chair — Cobey Muckelroy* 984-3543  
Secretary/Treasurer — Lionel Sorocco 983-6715  
Conservation — Van Perkins 984-8801  
Chapter Representative — Sue McIntosh 982-4146  
Publicity & Programs — Helen Mose* 436-3365  
Fundraising —  
Political Committee — Ken Hughes* 988-9297

* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

Terms expire 12/93: McCallan/Mortier/Muckelroy/Oyler/Sorocco 12/94: Hughes/McIntosh/Mose/Perkins

THE RIO GRANDE SERIAN  JANUARY 1994
SANTA FE

Sat Sun February
5 Lionel Sorace (983-6715) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Trip in the Jemez. Leave 9 AM.
6 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Easy to Moderate Hike from Galisteo Dam to Waldo. Minimal elevation change. Dogs allowed. Leave 8:30 AM.
12 Joe Whelan (984-0766) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Trip Call leader for destination. Leave 8:30 AM.
13 Victor Atayas (471-7545) Easy Hike. Destination depends on weather and road conditions. Leave 9 AM.
13 Steven Janus (988-4137) Strenuous Snowshoe / Tote / Cross-Country Trip to Santa Fe Baldy. Call leader for time and meeting place.
19-20 21 Saturday-Sunday-Monday John Turnball (982-9329) Chapter wide Cross-Country Ski Weekend in Alpine, Arizona. See chapter story for details elsewhere in the newsletter. Don't miss this one!
19 Julie Montoya Kling (438-7197) Easy Hike from Diablo Canyon to Rio Grande and back, weather permitting. Leave 9 AM.
20 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Hike from Otowi Bridge along Rio Grande. Call leader for time and meeting place.
26 Norma Sanders (984-0288) Moderate Hike on Forest Road 79; 600' elevation gain. Leave 8 AM.

A NIGHT TO SAVE THE BIG TESQUE

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

Help save the Big Tesque and have a ball doing it! To keep your feet dancing, the popular Lumbe del Sol, the Big Tesque Ramblers, and a jazz band will provide continuous music. John Nichols, author of Milagro Beanfield War, will be there for inspiration. Door prizes and entertainers provide further stimulus. Proceeds will be used by the Santa Fe Ski Area Preservation Coalition for legal and operating expenses necessary to save the Big Tesque and half of the expansion at the Santa Fe Ski Basin. Tickets will be available at the door. For advance tickets and further information, call 989-7289 or 471-1509.

THE TELEPHONE TREE

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

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

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

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

OUTINGS

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

Southern New Mexico

THE LOG SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP Meetings

General Membership Meetings

DIRECTIONS:
General Membership and Student Sierra Club Meetings are held, unless otherwise specified, at 107 Science Hall at NMSU. For persons coming from town, the directions are: Enter NMSU on I-25 from the north. Go under the overpass and take the first exit to the right. Drive straight ahead through the stoplights and go down Westlake Street. At the next stop sign, Sweet St., turn right and go for at least 5 blocks. The meeting will be held in the lower level of the Science Hall. For persons coming from the south, take the Westlake exit off I-25 and drive up Westlake Street. After the stop light at the corner of Westlake and Science Hall Road, drive straight ahead and enter Science Hall. Room 107 is down a hall which is through doors at east side of the lobby. There are usually little signs posted.

Thursday, January 26, 1994 7:30 PM. Speaker Patricia Crist, Manager of GAP, satellite vegetative mapping project. You have read about national biodiversity mapping programs? Some of the work. Maps and slide presentation.

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

Student Sierra Club General Meetings

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

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

Executive Committee Meetings. All members are welcome to attend. Tuesday, January 25, 1994, first meeting of the new ExCom. Election of Officers, designation of new Committee Chairs, set calendar, approve outings, and plan General Meetings. Pot luck at 6:30 PM at Marianne Thaler's home. Call for directions 522-3421.

OUTINGS

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

Saturday, January 6, 1994. Cross-country skiing, in Cloudcroft.—if there is snow! Call Ben Zerbe for more information 526-6207.
Otero Mesa - Field Trip Report

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

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

We were fortunate enough to have as our tour guides two BLM managers who added immensely to the quality of the trip with their knowledge of plants and grazing strategies as well as their general enthusiasm. The essence of Otero Mesa is the grand quality of the grasslands, including black grama communities which are nearly unparalleled in the southwest. The Mesa is south of the Sacramento Mountains and is nearly 20 miles long. The view of the Sacramento Mountains to the north, the Guadalupe and Brokoff Mountains to the east, the Organ Mountains to the west, and Wind Mountain to the south is spectacular, particularly at dusk. The grasslands appear immense, vast, and in excellent condition.

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

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

Otero Mesa, field trip report, by Ben Zerbe

BLM WILDERNESS ISSUE

FOR 15 YEARS THE SIERRA CLUB AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS THROUGHOUT NEW MEXICO AND WEST TEXAS, HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY CONCERNED FOR THE LAST REMAINING AREAS OF PUBLICLY OWNED LANDS OUTSIDE OF NATIONAL PARKS AND NATIONAL FORESTS WHICH ARE 5,000 ACRES OR GREATER IN SIZE AND ARE ROADLESS. THESE AREAS ARE MANAGED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM).

OVER THE YEARS MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS WHO ARE INTERESTED PARTICULARLY IN WILDERNESS. IF YOU HAVE NEVER EXPLORED THESE AREAS, OR ARE INTERESTED IN MAPS AND COMPASS FIELD TRIPS, OR ARE INTERESTED IN COMPLAINING ABOUT THE CAUSE OF WILDERNESS IN OTHER WAYS, A "NEW" BLM WILDERNESS ISSUE STUDY COMMITTEE IS FORMING. IF WILDERNESS IS YOUR SPECIAL INTEREST, CALL MARINNEAE AT 927-4321.

DIAMOND BAR

THE LONG AWAITED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS) FOR THE DIAMOND BAR GRASSING ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLANNING TEAM HAS BEEN RELEASED BY THE MINERS RANGER DISTRICT OF THE GILA NATIONAL FOREST. THE COMMENT PERIOD ENDS FEBRUARY 28, 1994. THIS EXCEPTIONALLY LONG PERIOD, ACCORDING TO THE COVER LETTER, IS BECAUSE EXTENSIONS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED. A "PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE" IS INCLUDED.


THE DEIS INCLUDES THE "IMPROVEMENTS" PLANNED, THAT IS STOCK TANKS, FENCES, ETC. SINCE COWS MIGRATE TOWARD WATER, THE BOXING AND DYNAMATING OF STOCK TANKS IS THE MOST RECENT POSTCOWBOY, METHOD OF MOVING CATTLE AND IS SUPPOSED TO KEEP COWS OUT OF THE RIFANAIN AREAS...