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ExCom Election Time!
Chapter Elections: Why Should I Vote?
by John Bücker, Chapter Chair

You, our members, determine the general direction our Club takes, through your vote for our elected volunteers. Each year, you have at least three voting opportunities, and in my opinion, is where the real strength of the Club lies, in the heart of your local neighborhood. You can vote for representation in the Chapter—a Chapter office is a harder job: the diversity of issues increases, the difficulty of meeting and of developing relationships with fellow Executive Committee members increases. And in a few months you will be asked to vote for members of the National Board of Directors—

Now there are seven nominated and three petition candidates running for the Chapter vote. See page 5.

The Peloncillos Mountains:
Where the West is Still Wild
by Marthe Heinrich, Wilderness Chair

The following article is the first in a series about the many unique places proposed as wilderness in New Mexico. The protection of these areas will depend on national legislation. The Sierra Club, the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance and numerous other conservation groups in the Southwest support a proposal that would designate 2.5 million acres of New Mexico as wilderness areas. With your help, this proposal can become law and each of these places will be preserved for future generations.

Many folks, even many New Mexicans, have never heard of the Peloncillos Mountains. For those of us who know this range, it is the most unexplored. This is an area characterized by rolling Mexican savanna, steep volcanic peaks and spectacular canyons. It has a charm and a spirit unlike any place on earth. Of all the wildlife I have explored in Australia, Alaska, Europe, Central America and the South Pacific, this is the one place I care for most.

This rugged range has been most noted, until recently, for its rich history. The Clanton Gang, a notorious band of outlaws, lived in the foothills of the Peloncillos. They were among the lowest vertebrate life forms to occupy this habitat in recent millennia. That said, they did be stow one of the most colorful markers of any location in this part of the country. In the days when no one was quite sure if this land would remain under United States, Apache or Mexican control, there was an unnamed canyon that provided the only easy east-west traverse through the Peloncillos. A party of Mexican nationals carrying gold bullion was utilizing this short cut when the Clanton Gang ambushed them. In minutes, all the Mexicans lay dead on the canyon floor. The buzzards stripped their bones clean, and their skeletons lay there for years as a reminder of their unfortunate fate. Nowadays this canyon has a name—it is called Skeleton Canyon.

During the Apache wars, Geronimo used the same steep-walled chasm as his hide-away. After years of eluding the American Cavalry, Geronimo finally surrendered in Skeleton Canyon. In my many trips there, I have always been plagued by the odd feeling that I was not alone. Waking up under the Mexican oaks as the morning sun peaks over the canyon rim, I often expect to see a defiant Apache looking down at me from high above. Not being predisposed to anthropocentric or "spiritual" experiences, this was a very unsettling experience.

See Peloncillos, page 3
Printed on 100% post-consumer waste newsprint by Printworld in El Paso.

Wanted: Lobbyist
The Chapter seeks a full-time lobbyist for the upcoming New Mexico legislative session from January 4 to March 25, 1999. Position requires knowledge of environmental issues, along with strong organizational and interpersonal skills. Resumes and references must be submitted by December 1 to: Lobbyist Committee, P.O. Box 31042, Santa Fe, NM 87594.
Inquiries: 986-0218.

Help the planet AND complete your holiday shopping list!
Visit the Sierra Club Store at Earthwares in Promenade Center
5200 Enbank NE, Albuquerque (505) 323-7207
A unique collection of natural, recycled and earth friendly products, including
Sierra Club calendars
Books and cards
T-shirts
Natural fiber hats and clothing from Blue Fish, EcoSport and Maggie’s Clean Clothes.
Bed and bath accessories
Aromatherapy
Recycled papers
Baby and toddler wares
Half of the earnings from the Sierra Club Store support the efforts of Sierra Club members in Central New Mexico to protect our wilderness and wildlife and our children’s health and future.

Santa Fe Group
Holiday Potluck Supper
Saturday, December 19, 6pm
Unitarian Church, Santa Fe

Special Guest: Robert Jylin, author of New Mexico Place Names
Bring: Dish for at least 8 people, or beer, wine, juice, softdrinks. Dishes and silverware are provided.
Warm clothes and blankets will be collected for St. Elizabeth’s Shelter.
Questions? Call Norma at 471-0005.

Rio Grande Chapter
Executive Committee Meeting
January 9 and 10, 1999
The Chapter Executive Committee will meet January 9 and 10 at Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge.
The meeting will start at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and will run all day. The meeting will recommence on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and will run until 12 noon or sometime in the early afternoon. It is possible to stay Friday night, too.
If you are interested in attending, contact Chair Chair John Buchser at (505) 820-0201 to provide information on what day/night(s) you plan on attending and if you will be bringing guests.
Conservation, cont. from cover

gals for 1999 funding. Martin Heinrich submitted a proposal to the BLM to develop a professional traveling slide show on BLM Wilderness designations proposal, in coordination with the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, of which the Chapter is a member. John Buchser presented a second funding proposal, which would provide assistance for water issues and would focus on the Rio Grande, particularly the Middle Rio Grande. The Conservation Committee determined that these proposals should be brought before the Southwest Regional Conservation Commission (SWRCC) for funding assistance. SWRCC is composed of representatives from Sierra Club chapters in Arizona, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and West Texas. The Rio Grande Chapter representatives to SWRCC are Ted Mertig and John Buchser.

Conservation and Wilderness Area Designations
Marianne Thaeler asked and received an endorsement from the Chapter to support the designation of Otero Mesa and the mountain foothills of McGregor Range (Otero County, NM) as a national conservation area and the Cup Canyon Wilderness Study Area as a wilderness area. Presently, the 300,000-acre area is jointly managed by the BLM and the U.S. Army’s Fort Bliss under a temporary withdrawal that expires in 2001. Otero Mesa and the mountain foothills are presently managed for hunting, grazing, camping, hiking and wildlife-watching. Fort Bliss has issued, for public comment, a draft legislative EIS on alternative uses for the area for the next 50 years. As a sponsor of the German Air Force, the U.S. Air Force has decided it wants to construct a tactical target complex—i.e., a training range—in the middle of the area, and the Army wants to use the test range for missile training. Rancher, hunter and environmental organizations have suggested that faculty space exists for these activities elsewhere and that the area should be recognized and designated as a national conservation area to preserve the presently recognized national historic landmark with the national historic sites that are awaiting official listing on the National Register. To accomplish this, your assistance will be needed in the months and year ahead.

Transportation
Ken Hughes spoke to the issues and ramifications of the National Transportation Efficiency Act and its effect on State Highway Department decision-making processes. The Committee agreed that Ken should attend a workshop in San Francisco to better understand possible remedies to ill-served highway projects and plans.

Forests
Charlotte Talberth reported on forest issues and encouraged Committee members to attend and present comments on the National Forest Service Strategic Plan hearings, which will occur on December 1 in Albuquerque.

Brian Bird raised the issue of the marked increase in the cutting of commercial firewood in lieu of timber sales, in northern New Mexico forests particularly and in New Mexico generally. Commercial firewood sales are being approved as Categorical Exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Categorical Exclusion designation is supposed to be used by agencies in cases where minor actions are proposed that will have no environmental impact. Brian noted that sanitation sales of fallen trees, important as wildlife habitat, are also being done as Categorical Exclusions. Marianne Thaeler added that actions taken by the military are routinely classified as Categorical Exclusions from full NEPA process provisions. Questions were raised on this new trend in NEPA and perhaps avoid full public scrutiny.

Mining
Abe Jacobson reported on the status of mine clean-ups and restorations, proposed mine expansions and specific lawsuits being prepared. Abe introduced a guest, Elizabeth Winter, who described the threats of a proposed mica mine to Picuris Pueblo traditional pottery-making. Copies of a resolution passed by the Tribal Council opposing this mining operation were circulated to the Committee. The Committee voted to recommend that the Chapter support the pueblo of Picuris in their efforts to oppose this mine.

Margaret Wilson gave a status report on the proposed re-opening of Copper Fiats copper mine near Hillsboro.

The Chapter Conservation Committee is made up of members who are working on conservation issues for the Chapter. The Conservation Committee meets quarterly at Bosque Del Apache, NWL, from 10 am to 3 pm. If you would like to participate, call Marianne Thaeler at (505) 232-7151 for more information.

Be a Wildlands Advocate—Attend a Meeting
One of the most effective ways to advocate for wilderness is to speak up at government hearings and meetings. If you don’t, the guy with the Honda four-wheeler will be the only perspective heard. Don’t let that happen. Attend one of the following meetings. YOU CAN make the difference.

Forest Service Planning 2000 Meeting
Topic: Planning for the Future
This is an opportunity to advocate for the protection of all wilderness areas 1000 acres or larger as the Forest Service determines its future direction. Contact Martin Heinrich at (505) 232-7151 for more information.

BLM Open House
Call (435) 865-5100 to request the document or go to www.ut.blm.gov/om on the Web. The open house is December 1, 1998, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at the Winnrock Inn, 16 Winnrock Center NE in Albuquerque. This is not a public hearing and official comments will not be received orally at this meeting. People may submit written comments before or at this meeting, or until February 12, 1999, either by letter or at the Web site.

Pelocinillos, cont. from cover

Today, the Pelocinillos are best known among biologists, hunters and bird watchers. The extreme diversity of life that can be found here is "off the chart" when compared with many famous national parks and wildlife refuges. While the southwestern grizzlies that greeted the Mormon Battalion here are now extinct, there are still more vertebrate species here than in any national park in the United States! Exposed cliff faces house ancient aeries used by countless generations of golden eagles, prairie falcons and other raptors. Rare desert bighorn sheep share habitat with tropical species like lizards and near-arctic species such as black bear. Bird watchers come here to see trogon, tropical species of warbler and one of the rarest birds in the nation—the buff collared nightjar. Hunters, meanwhile, included, walk the hills looking for Coues deer, a western subspecies of the white-tailed deer. Botanical enthusiasts quickly realize that many of the species of trees seen here do not exist anywhere else in the United States. Stately Chihuahuan pines line the canyons and various Mexican oaks dot the hills.

Even the elusive lobo is still rumored to hunt these hills. While the last confirmed wolf in New Mexico was killed nearby in the early 1970s, stories still emerge of recent visitations by this rarest of North American mammals. The most compelling of these stories involves a researcher who was using baited camera stations to photograph coyotes when he photographed a large wolf-like canid instead.

Another ghost of the Southwest appeared in these mountains only a couple of years ago. While hunting what he believed to be a trophy cougar, Warner Glenn stumbled upon a large healthy jaguar. Mr. Glenn was kind enough to shoot this magnificent cat—with a camera. For anyone who doubts just how majestic a place the Pelocinillos are, I recommend Warner Glenn’s book, Eyes of Fire. It has numerous color plates illustrating a magnificent predator in a magnificent landscape. If this largest of North America’s felines is to re-establish itself in the upper Gila watershed, the Pelocinillos will provide the critical link or corridor of habitat between the Sierra Madre in northern Mexico and the greater Gila ecosystem on the Arizona/New Mexico border.

This illustrates the strongest argument for a Pelocinillos Mountains Wilderness Area: the metapopulation theory. A metapopulation is a network of populations. Any one of these populations could not survive in perpetuity because of factors like inbreeding and genetic drift. However, when connected by corridors, these pockets of breeding animals can act as one large genetically stable population. The proposed Pelocinillos Mountains Wilderness Area is the largest, most intact link between the northern Sierra Madre and the Gila headwaters ecosystem. It is vital to protect this corridor in order to assure the long-term viability of apex predators like wolves and jaguars. Theoretically, even a "ugly griz" could be restored if society is willing to live with her.

With a unique western history, large roadless habitats and a biological treasure trove unmatched in the United States, the Pelocinillos is a must for wilderness designation. Please lend a hand to protect these invaluable public lands from off-road vehicles, additional roads and unnecessary development. Write your member of congress and request the inclusion of the Pelocinillos Mountains in any future New Mexico Wilderness legislation. It is time we put this "blank spot on the map" on Washington DC’s radar screen.

Rio Grande Sierran—Page 3
**Group Candidates**, cont. from page 3

must be convinced that it is to protect
ture

and against her, for a sustainable economy and future

**Steven Best**

With a Ph.D. in philosophy, I teach humanities and philosophy at the University of Texas, El Paso. I have an extensive background in political activism and community work.

My interest in politics began in 1980, when I became involved with a taxi driver from opposing governments in Central America and in developing funds for medical aid. In the 1990s, I became increasingly interested in environmental issues. I have served as a faculty advisor to the student environmental organization (ECO) at UTEP, and I have given numerous talks to the community on environmental issues. I am very interested in environmental issues such as diminishing water reserves in El Paso and the West, the plans to dump nuclear waste in Sierra Blanca and other species extinction and the harmful policies of agencies such as the Animal Damage Control. With my experience as an activist, teacher, and writer, I can be of good service to the Sierra Club, of which I have been a member for the last few years. I hope that I can work with the Sierra Club in a more official fashion.

**Laurence Gibson**

I am a musician and an educator. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1969 and have been active in the Sierra Club since 1969. I have served as most recently as Outings Chair. I see the club as an important force in this country for conserving what is left of our environmental quality and helping people enjoy it. I feel one way of getting people involved is in getting people out into the wild. I have enjoyed helping with the Outings Committee. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1969.

**Ted Mertz**

I am a musician and an educator. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1969. I have served as most recently as Outings Chair. I see the club as an important force in this country for conserving what is left of our environmental quality and helping people enjoy it. I feel one way of getting people involved is in getting people out into the wild. I have enjoyed helping with the Outings Committee. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1969.

**Election Information**

Due to a number of technical complications, we are re-sending the candidates statements for the elections this month. We made three errors on the last issue of the Sierra:

1. The Chapter Secretary’s address was omitted.
2. Our bylaws require that the “date of election” be 21 days or more after the ballots are mailed, we only allowed 19 days. As a result, we are extending the date of election.
3. Two nominated candidates for the Chapter EC, David Farrell and Karen Smith, decided not to run for EC just prior to the publication date of the last issue. We wanted to make sure our members were aware that their omission from the ballot was intentional.

We sincerely apologize for the extra expense we are incurring for this special issue, but we want to ensure that our members are given a proper opportunity to vote. If you have already voted, we will direct all the ballots to the Secretary, so please don’t vote again. If you have not voted, please take the time to review the statements of the candidates and vote!
event in the history of forest protection. As a direct result of that vote, the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act has been introduced in Congress. I am working with Club volunteers nationwide to build a campaign to support that legislation, which will allow us to redirect the $1 billion of subsidies that currently underwrite logging, and establish a national Natural Heritage Restoration Corp.

I would like to serve on the Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee to help create new opportunities for volunteers to become involved with conservation issues, locally and nationally. I would work to make sure that Club members have access to complete and accurate economic and ecological information. I am especially interested in supporting programs that will attract students and younger people to join.

No other group is as influential as the Sierra Club when it comes to decisions affecting our public lands. Over the next several years, the Club will be taking positions on such important issues as land transfers, sales and acquisitions, as well as on how much, if any, extractive use of public land should be permitted. I am committed to helping the Sierra Club’s governing bodies, such as the Chapter Executive Committee, take strong stands that reflect the will of the membership to protect our irreplaceable environmental heritage.

Gwen Wardwell (Petition candidate)

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1985 and was a member of the Chapter Executive Committee from 1989 through 1995.

As Chapter Chair from 1991 through 1995, I encouraged and supported the 1991 planning retreat and continued the process by devoting the fall Chapter retreat meetings to setting major conservation goals and developing specific plans for their achievement. Focusing our efforts enabled us to achieve our 1992-3 goal of passing a strong rock-hauling mining bill and subsequent goals of funding for water planning, funding and statutory authority for wildlife and habitat protection and passage of a tire recycling bill.

I am running for the Chapter Executive Committee because the Chapter has become so involved in determining who has the correct “party line” that the process of setting and achieving conservation goals has been neglected. I believe that we should be willing to talk to persons with differing views, fight our opponents but not demonize them and speak the truth as we see it but listen seriously to those with whom we disagree. This approach provides for strong convictions but demonstrates a willingness to give and receive on the road to truth.

Group Candidate Statements

Petra Hegger

I am Petra Hegger, a nine-year resident of Albuquerque and a volunteer with the Sierra Club for about the past year. During that time I’ve had a lot of opportunity to learn about the concerns of people here regarding development issues, wilderness, water use and conservation, and the need to act together to protect these values. I would like to see the Central New Mexico Group become a more effective vehicle for members to connect with others who share their interests, and to be a strong voice for the preservation of the land, rivers and cultures of New Mexico.

Jeremy Kruger

Growing up in the East, I spent summers hiking and fishing in the mountains of northern Pennsylvania. A love of the natural world led me to earn a B.S. in resource economics from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont. I was a volunteer ranger with Alaska State Parks and a wilderness ranger for the Forest Service working in the Pecos Wilderness in New Mexico. My wilderness work involved trail work, firefighting, educating visitors on low-impact camping and chasing cows out of the streams.

More recently, I worked from last summer until this April as an outreach coordinator for the Southwest Forest Alliance. A coalition of environmental groups in New Mexico and Arizona, the Southwest Forest Alliance promotes protection of old-growth forests and restoration of degraded ecosystems. Beginning last May, I began work as a program assistant for the National Parks and Conservation Association. My primary responsibility has been grassroots organizing on the highly successful campaign to save the Baca Ranch. Combining outreach, media and research skills, I have worked to build support for public acquisition of the Baca Ranch. I am also a member of St. John’s College Search and Rescue, and in my spare time, I enjoy flyfishing in the Jarroz Mountains.

Jon Maaske

I’ve lived in Albuquerque for more than 20 years and have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1978. I admit to not being able to find my membership card, but I’m a descendent of John Muir, for what it’s worth, though I don’t know the exact genealogy. More importantly, Muir’s passion and particular ethic—that of the conservation of nature over the “wise-use” ethic—true to me and seems vitally important.

Professionally, I am a Psychologist/Junegian Analyst and see our current global and local environmental crisis in terms of the evolution of human consciousness. Humanity faces the challenge of modulating the agentic, aggressive impulse with a sense of the interconnectedness of all things. We are seeing the disastrous effects of our collective failure to do so everywhere in our environment and society.

Our chapter of the Sierra Club works directly to impact local decision-making on a variety of issues such as transportation, regional planning and the like. I would advocate that our chapter augment this with an increase in our efforts in public education, perhaps through occasional public programs of a general nature designed to educate and attract new support for the values of the Sierra Club. My most passionate local concern on a personal level is a result of my love of backpacking and outrage at the practice of allowing cattle grazing in DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREAS!

Mike Norte

Although my second term as President of New Mexico Trout is ending, I still serve as President of the Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited. I worry about trout and clean water. Yet, trout need more than clean water. To become a trout stream, rain and snow must traverse healthy watersheds or percolate through undisturbed geology, before finally being filtered by intact riparian systems. So, conserving trout is actually about conserving everything upstream of those trout, from the timber and grasslands to the soils and insects and all of the aquatic plant and animal interrelationships that keep an ecosystem in balance. Trout are indicators of total ecosystem health, which is why I worry so much about the fact that, of New Mexico’s three native trout species, the first has been eliminated from the state, the second is listed as endangered and the third is the subject of pending litigation to get it listed. I’ve learned a lot about the challenges facing these species. I want to share what I’ve learned, and I want to learn what you’ve learned. I want to get more involved with the Sierra Club because I think it might make all of us smarter... and stronger.

El Paso Group

Bill Addington

Our border country and water and all life entrusted to us are in trouble and threatened. Because of the poverty of far West Texas and our remote location, we are being targeted for every kind of agency and alfalfa region land and nowhere is it more undesirable. Our skies are becoming more fouled everyday. Our state regulatory agency, TNRRCC, has allowed and permitted the largest municipal industrial sludge dump to operate on 91,000 acres, 37 miles from the El Paso County line. Formerly dumped into the Atlantic Ocean, this hazardous material is not permitted by New York law to be spread or landfilled in their state. And now they want to bring us the most toxic kind of waste there is, atomic power radioactive waste and place it over the West Texas Boslon Aquifer—the future water supply of El Paso. This waste will continue to poison our descendants and all life long after we are gone. If this planned National Nuclear Dump is not stopped, it is guaranteed that other toxic projects will follow.

El Paso and West Texas representatives see Group Candidates.
Group Candidates, cont. from page 5
must be convinced that their duty is to protect
human health and safety and our environment. Our
water and other natural resources demand protec-
tion. Let's all work together with nature, not
against her, for a sustainable economy and future
for far West Texas.

Steven Best
With a Ph.D. in philosophy, I teach hu-
manities and philosophy at the University of
Texas, El Paso. I have an extensive background
in political activism and community work.
My activist interests began in 1980, when
I became involved with aiding refugees from op-
pressive governments in Central America and in
developing funds for medical aid. In the 1990s, I
became intensely interested in environmental is-
sues. I have served as faculty advisor to the stu-
dent environmental group (ECO) at UTEP, and I
have given numerous talks to the community on
environmental issues. I am very interested in en-
vironmental issues such as diminishing water re-
serves in El Paso and the West, the plans to dump
nuclear waste in Sierra Blanca and also species
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such as the Environmental Protection Agency. With
my experience as an activist, teacher and writer, I
can be of good service to the Sierra Club, of which
I have been a member for the last few years. I hope
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El Paso, serving most recently as Chair. I see
the club as an important force in this country for
conserving what is left of our environmental
quality and helping people enjoy it. I feel one way
of getting people involved is in getting people out
into the wild. I have enjoyed helping with our
Outings Program. I look upon Executive Com-
mittee membership as a way of giving back some
of what has been given to me.

Ted Mertig
I ask that you re-elect me as a member of the
El Paso Regional Group’s Executive Commit-
tee (ExecCom). I have an extensive experience with
the Sierra Club, having been a member since 1981.
My current activities include leading outings for
the Club and the Inner City Outings (ICO). The
El Paso Group of the ICO just elected me as its
Chairperson. I also serve as a member of the Rio
Grande Chapter ExCom. My other experience in-
cludes the following:
• Chapter Delegate to Southwestern Regional
  Conservation Committee
• Chapter Council Delegate to National
  Council of Delegates
• Chapter Vice Chair
• Delegate to Seattle Wilderness Conference,
  sponsored by numerous environmental
  organizations
• Delegate to Park City, Utah Grazing Con-
  ference, sponsored by National Wildlife
  Federation
IT IS TIME FOR STRONG POSITIONS.
Weak positions = Weak victories.
Strong positions = Strong victories.

Jamie Newlin
The Sierra Club is the world’s largest polit-
ically active, nonprofit environmental group.
Understandably, the Club positions are of impor-
tance to many—including the enemies of the en-
vironment. Influencing the Sierra Club has been
quite a campaign—politicians, corporations, the
White House and business coalitions want to
make sure that the Sierra Club doesn’t cramp their
style. From top to bottom, we are besieged by huge
telephone calls to our offices and to our members.

I don’t agree. The truth is we need stron-
ger advocacy, enough to guarantee this preserv-
tion of all creation for future generations. A re-
cent study from University of British Columbia
shows it would take three more planet Earths to
provide the world’s population with an average
American life style. I think that says it all. Envi-
nmental groups haven’t begun to address the
magnitude of this challenge, but we can if we stop
trying to please everyone—and put environmen-
tal protection first.
If elected to the Executive Committee, I
promise to put the environment first. I’ll put
the environment before short term convenience,
before the wishes of any politician or political party
and before personal popularity.

Shirley Phillips
I’ve been a member of the Sierra Club
since 1980. I served with my husband Bill as co-
editor of the LORAX from 1982 to 1988. I’ve been
on numerous committees over the years. I work
as an administrative assistant for the City of El
Paso.
I plan to retire soon and want to become
more active in the Club’s activities, as well as
encourage others to do so. We should continue
to work for wilderness preservation and maintain
strong Outings Program to give members an op-
portunity to experience the lands that the Club is
fighting to protect.
As the city experiences explosive growth,
new leaders and activists must be identified to
speak out for conserving our dwindling natural
resources. Bill was committed to the Club. I’d like
to continue his legacy by helping in any way I
can to ensure the continued success of our Chap-
per.

Frank Voris
I am part of the solution. I see first hand the
excesses of our cul-
ture. Yes, at times, I’ll jump at the chance to bathe
within the insanity.
I’ve spent the last 25 years in civil engi-
neering and heavy construction. I’ve laid oil pipe
on Alaska’s North Slope and have paved across
the coastal plain of El Salvador. I’ve attacked loca-
tions between the two, locations too numerous to
count. My background includes a stretch of in-
terstate highway, a coal mine, a channeled river, a
pharmaceutical research center and an addition to
a nuclear power facility. My hands are not just dirty, they
are calloused.
Now I am here, in your community, and
I’m a very busy person. I think in tons—tons of
cement, tons of asphalt, tons of steel. I am
busy putting it all the above over a big chunk of
your landscape. If you want to discover a fresh
path to old conflicts and problems, you need to
hear me. I am your enemy. I am your friend.

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Central NM

Holiday Party!
Saturday, December 19, 1998
5:00 to 8:00 PM
Location: home of Becky and Jamie
Grebaskey
131 Big Horn Ridge Court, Albuquerque
Bring: Favorite dish to share, for at
least 6-8 people; plates and utensils
See you there!

Directions: Take Tramway north to Live Oak,
which is just North of Tramway. Turn right
and proceed to Juniper Hill (stop sign). Turn
left and proceed to A, where you take the
right fork on White Tail. Proceed to Big Horn
Ridge Drive, where you turn right. Proceed
to Big Horn Ridge Court, where you turn
right and look for 131.

Southern NM

Outings
Saturday, December 5—Baylor Pass in the Organs.
Moderate day hike. Please call ahead; Ron Gordon at 522-4527. Non-members welcome.
Saturday, December 12—Organ Needle.
Beautiful but strenuous day hike. Leader approval required. Call Barbara Coon at 522-1578.
Saturday and Sunday, December 19 & 20—Beginning Cross Country Ski Weekend at
Cloudcroft.
Leave early Saturday morning, rent skis in Cloudcroft and spend the day skiing. Beginning techniques
will be introduced and practiced. If desired, lodging available at Tall Timber Cabins (1-888-662-2301);
make your own reservations. Skiing on Sunday as well. Those without gear can call Buski Ski Haus in
Cloudcroft (505-682-2144) to reserve skis, boots and poles. More information and questions, call
Barbara Coon at 522-1578.
Saturday, January 16—Hike to Tornuo (San Diego Mountain) petroglyph
site 15 miles north of Las Cruces.
Short, easy to moderate off-trail hike; we should return by noon. Participants should meet at 8 a.m.
at the north Pen Am parking lot. For more information, call Ben Zerbe at 526-7811.
Saturday, January 23—Rabbit Ear Plateau in the Organs.
Strenuous day hne. Please call ahead, leader approval required; Ron Gordon at 522-4527.

Page 6—Rio Grande Sierras