

# Rio Grande Sierran

NEWS OF THE RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2002

## Congressional Candidate Richard Romero Outlines Environmental Priorities

**R**ichard Romero, candidate for Congress in New Mexico's First District, unveiled his environmental priorities recently with local activists and Sierra Club members along the Rio Grande River. Romero has been endorsed by the Sierra Club in his bid to unseat incumbent Heather Wilson.

"I'm privileged to have lived my entire life in a state with unmatched natural beauty, and I care deeply about protecting the environment for our children and grandchildren," Romero said. "A healthy environment is a sacred trust—a gift—that must be passed on intact from generation to generation."

Romero pointed to his work in the New Mexico State Senate to kill an amendment that would have weakened the Hardrock Mining Reform Act and his work to preserve open space and approve the purchase of the Baca Ranch.

"I have a record in Santa Fe as an independent leader who will stand up to the special interest to do what is right for our environment," Romero continued. "And now I want to take that same fight to Washington."

Romero outlined his priorities to protect the quality of our air and water, preserve our public lands and promote the use of renewable energy.

**Protecting Air Quality**—Clean air is a vital resource to New Mexicans and our quality of life in both our cities and rural areas. Romero work to keep the clear air act strong and will fight attempts to let the polluters off the hook. He supports the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill with more money going toward public transportation.

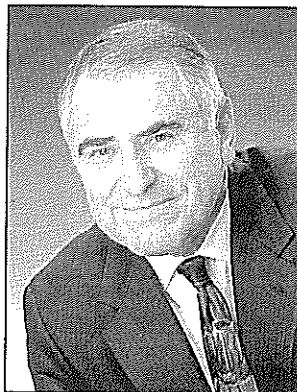
**Preserving Water Quality and Quantity**—*Agua es vida.* In Congress, Romero will stand up to protect the quality of drinking water for all Americans. He supports strong, health-based

standards for water quality that rely on sound research and empirical data. He believes the federal government should help bear the financial burden to ensure all communities meet essential health-based standards.

He opposes *in-situ* leach uranium mining in Crown Point, which would destroy the pristine quality of the ground water that the east agency Navajo rely on for drinking water.

Romero will work with state leaders to resolve water rights issues in our region and find new ways to conserve our most precious natural resource. He'll work to save water and protect our agricultural heritage by supporting Federal incentives and investments in low-water irrigation methods and infrastructure, which can help maintain agriculture in the Middle Rio Grande Valley while making more water available for conservative municipal use and in-stream flow.

**Safeguarding America's Public Lands**—New Mexico and the West are blessed with wide-open spaces. Our public lands—national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, and other lands—express the essence of our democracy. In Congress, Romero will fight to keep public lands public, to maintain their plants and animals, to protect these places as sources of inspiration, recreation and balanced uses. Our national parks should be fully funded so that America's treasures endure forever. He'll work to protect our national forests in ways that restore their ecological health and reduce risks from fire. He supports efforts to protect more Bureau of Land Management areas in New Mexico as wilderness, but also seek to increase dialogue and bridge misunderstandings among affected parties. He opposes opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to oil drilling.



Richard Romero for Congress (District 1) • P.O. Box 25006 • Albuquerque, NM 87125-5006 • 244-9392

**Promoting Renewable Energy**—New Mexico should be a national and global leader in promoting and utilizing renewable energy. Recent events demonstrate once again that over-dependence on fossil fuels is a serious national security, economic, and environmental issue. New Mexico is ranked third among the 50 states for our solar power potential, and ninth in wind power potential. With our abundant renewables and our world-class intellectual resources at the national laboratories, renewable energy can lead the way to a sustainable energy future and new economic development. Romero believes that the federal government should invest more in alternative energy development. Research also shows that conservation and more efficient energy use makes the best economic and environmental sense. He supports increasing vehicle fuel-economy standards.



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### Voting Early?

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### SIERRA CLUB STRUCTURE

The Club has three structural levels. The National Board of Directors determines the overall direction of the Club. The National Organization is subdivided into Chapters, and each Chapter is further divided into Groups. One representative from each Chapter reports to the National Board through the Council of Club Leaders.

The largest part of the Chapter's budget goes to the salary and expenses for the Conservation Organizer and a part-time lobbyist, followed by the printing and mailing of this Newsletter.



[www.riogrande.sierrclub.org](http://www.riogrande.sierrclub.org)

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The Rio Grande Sierran is published six times a year by the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club as a benefit for Sierra Club members living in New Mexico and West Texas. The opinions expressed in signed articles in the Rio Grande Sierran are the opinions of the writers and not necessarily those of the Sierra Club. Articles may be freely reprinted for non-profit purposes, provided that credit is given to the author and the Rio Grande Sierran (Please let us know if you reprint.) Products and services advertised in the Rio Grande Sierran are not endorsed by the Sierra Club.

Contributions are welcome from members. E-mail contributions preferred. Contributors' names and e-mail address will be included in the article, as a source of more information, unless the contributor specifies otherwise. Send to jbuchser@earthlink.net • John Buchser • 223 N. Guadalupe #419 • Santa Fe, NM 87501. All submissions MUST be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication. (The Rio Grande Sierran is published in early January, March, May, July, September and November.) Photos, artwork and poems are also welcome. Letters and articles are subject to abridgement.

Editorial practices as developed by the Grand Canyon Chapter and adopted by the Rio Grande Chapter will be used in production of the Rio Grande Sierran. Letters to the editor over 500 words will be edited for length or returned to the author for editing. Submissions of Rio Grande Chapter members will take precedence over other submissions.

Contents of Group pages are the responsibility of the editor for that group and any policies that are in place from the applicable Group.

The Rio Grande Sierran runs paid advertisements.

Contact the editor for advertising policy and rates. Non-member subscriptions at \$10/year are available. Send checks to Blair Brown, Treasurer • 2226B Wyoming NE, PMB 272 • Albuquerque, NM 87112. Please allow 8 weeks for processing.

All phone numbers are area code 505 unless otherwise noted.

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### Change of Address?

Send address changes to:

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415/977-5649

[address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)

## Abq. Journal Concedes Misrepresentation of Sierra Club

by Jennifer de Garmo, Chapter Conservation Organizer

**O**n Thursday, 1 August 2002, the *Albuquerque Journal* ran an editorial ripping the Sierra Club. Chapter Conservation Organizer Jennifer de Garmo was so stunned that she sent the editorial to Club representatives and called to see if we had really been part of such terrible insider deals. She confirmed that Bill Hume had gotten a number of key facts wrong. When de Garmo called Hume to point this out, he insisted that he had gotten his information straight from the Sierra Club. When de Garmo insisted that he tell her whether it was a letter from Carl Pope, a press release from DC or what, Hume went to his source and found that it was actually from The Wilderness Society and, when he began to read it aloud, found that what de Garmo was telling him was also what The Wilderness Society had said. Hume then admitted that he must have gotten all his info from Daschle. He had made a number of very sloppy mistakes. He had no choice (by his sense of fair play, thank god he has one) but to let the Club run an op-ed piece in response. It was printed in the Saturday, 3 August 2002 *Journal*. Hume also added a note of clarification from the Club's associate press secretary. Below is de Garmo's response to Hume's editorial.

the fire resistant large trees and leave behind the logging slash and brush that increases fire risk.

The agreement reached by all the parties would have allowed fire-prevention measures to begin immediately. However, the Bush Administration walked away from the table and sent the issue to Congress.

This is a unique solution to a very unique situation on the Black Hills National Forest, which is strictly limited in size and magnitude.

Contrary to the *Journal's* 1 August 2002 editorial, Sierra Club does not support the exemptions from environmental laws and judicial review contained in the legislation. While exemptions weren't necessary to carry out the activities put forth in the revised settlement, they do only apply to the projects in the settlement, not across the entire national forest.

This negotiated solution is not perfect, but far better than Representative Thune's extreme plan to allow the Forest Service to ignore all laws, continue irresponsible policies and log at will. We appreciate the work of Senators Daschle and Johnson to bring all the parties together to ensure the safety of South Dakotans and

continued protections for America's national forests. This is how these matters should be addressed. It is unfortunate that a solid settlement agreement, worked out by local stakeholders, had to go to the Congress for resolution because the Bush Administration pulled out of the agreement. Sierra Club members in New Mexico believe that protecting lives and communities by implementing fuel-reduction projects around homes and communities should be the focus of Forest Service activities. The Forest Service must get serious about protecting lives and communities.

We urge more spending by the Forest Service to reduce brush, create firebreaks around homes and communities, and expand controlled burning. We oppose practices that remove large, healthy, fire-resistant stands of old growth and replace them with slash, brush and overly crowded small trees. We favor appropriate thinning practices with a priority being near or around homes and communities. The Forest Service must move in a new direction that serves the public.

### South Dakota Consensus Didn't Ignore Forest Rules

**SATURDAY, 3 AUGUST 2002**—The protection of communities threatened by forest fires is an issue important to all New Mexicans. But the *Journal's* recent editorial ("Daschle, Sierra Club Do Back-Room Deal") on a very unique situation in the Black Hills National Forest needs clarification on:

- the impacts of Senator Daschle's amendment on the Black Hills National Forest, and
- the role that the Sierra Club, and other local stakeholders, played in the negotiated settlement.

Years of poor management by the Forest Service left the Black Hills National Forest, and many other national forests across the country, a mess. Local communities and homes face serious fire danger as the result of excessive logging and suppression of natural fires. The same practices have severely damaged environmental quality and wildlife habitat.

Faced with this problem in the Black Hills, local South Dakota Sierra Club members and The Wilderness Society joined many other local stakeholders—including the governor of South Dakota, Senators Tim Johnson (D-SD) and Tom Daschle (D-SD), local community government officials and the Forest Service—to work out a way to both:

- alleviate the fire danger for the communities around Sturgis, SD, and
- improve environmental values by increasing protected wilderness areas in the Black Hills.

This approach was utterly different than the one proposed by Representative John Thune (R-SD) which would have simply allowed the Forest Service, which created the problem, to exacerbate fire danger by removing still more of

## Chapter Endorses Candidates

**T**he Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club has endorsed Bill Richardson for Governor, Gloria Tristani for United States Senate, and Richard Romero for United States Congress from District 1. Each of these candidates has been interviewed by some or all members of the Chapter Executive Committee. Any of their opponents who were willing were also interviewed.

Romero's positions on environmental issues are featured on page 1 of this issue. More information about the environmental records and positions of these candidates, and what each of us can do to help get them elected, will be included in the Special Elections issue of the *Rio Grande Sierran*.

None of these candidates is a "shoo in," each one "has a chance", and all of them need your help. Please give your time, and send your

### NM House of Representatives Endorsements

- District 11—Rick Miera (incumbent), endorsed in the Democratic Primary
- District 14—Miguel Garcia (incumbent), endorsed in the Democratic Primary
- District 15—Steve Archibeque, endorsed in the Democratic Primary
- District 19—Sheryl Williams Stapleton (incumbent), endorsed in the Democratic Primary
- District 21—Mimi Stewart (incumbent)
- District 33—J. Paul Taylor (incumbent)
- District 40—Nick L. Salazar (incumbent), endorsed in the Democratic Primary
- District 47—Max Coll (incumbent)
- District 69—W. Ken Martinez (incumbent), endorsed in the Democratic Primary



Bill Richardson for Governor • 2929 Coors Boulevard, NW, Suite 102 • Albuquerque, NM 87102 • 944-7400



Gloria Tristani for U.S. Senate • P.O. Box 35772 • Albuquerque, NM 87176 • 265-5638



## Sierra Club to Fund Mexican Grassroots Environmental Projects

Jenny Martinez and Javier Sierra

In early August 2002, the Sierra Club announced that it will fund environmental projects run by four Mexican grassroots organizations. The chosen projects chosen are designed to fight pollution and improve the working and living conditions of border communities.

"Environmental degradation, caused by the explosive growth of the maquiladora industry, has reached alarming levels throughout the border region," said Jenny Martinez, Sierra Club Program Officer. "Dangerous chemicals have poisoned the air, land and water that these communities rely on."

The grants, which range from \$10,000-\$25,000, are part of the Sierra Club's Beyond the Borders, Mexico project. A joint project of the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation, Beyond the Borders, Mexico is designed to sup-

port and strengthen grassroots environmental and community groups in Mexico. The groups will use the money for activities ranging from fighting illegal dumping and garbage burning, to monitoring the levels of ocean and drinking-water contamination, promoting recycling programs, or expanding outreach to the community through environmental education campaigns.

The following groups received funding:

- Centro de Estudios Fronterizos y de Promoción de los Derechos Humanos of Centro Reynosa, Tamaulipas;
- GAVIOTA of Centro Reynosa, Tamaulipas;
- Grupo Ecologista "Gaviotas" Playas de Tijuana of Tijuana, Baja California Norte; and
- Centro de Investigación y Solidaridad Obrera of Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua.

"We consider a healthy environment to be a human right," said Omeheira López, Director of the Centro de Estudios Fronterizos y de Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, A.C. in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. "With this grant, we'll be able to pursue legal and grassroots strategies to protect the environment and public health for the families and communities of the border region."

Mexican and Sierra Club border groups interested in applying for Beyond the Border, Mexico Project grants can find the application and grant guidelines on the Sierra Club's bilingual web page ([www.sierraclub.org/beyondtheborders/espanol/mexico/lineamientos.asp#application](http://www.sierraclub.org/beyondtheborders/espanol/mexico/lineamientos.asp#application)).

For more information, contact Jenny Martínez (202/548-4597) or Javier Sierra (703/927-4750).

### Annual Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee Election

The Nominating Committee—consisting of the chairs of all the groups in the Chapter (Richard Johnson, Doug Fraser, Don Dearholt, Lawrence Gibson and Ilse Bleck)—has nominated the following members to run for three-year terms on the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) beginning in January 2003:

- Marc Doppke,
- Barbara Johnson (incumbent),
- Susan Martin (incumbent),
- Norma McCallan (incumbent), and
- Ted Merig.

In the November/December issue of the *Rio Grande Sierran*, members will have the opportunity to vote for three members who volunteer their time and energies to the benefit of the environment.

If you are interested in running for the ExCom, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee. Please ask that they let you know if they feel you are a qualified candidate—if you are not nominated you can run for election by petition! If this is the case, please ask Gwen Wardwell, Chair of the Election Committee, for details on the petition process (438-3060; [g.wardwell@worldnet.att.net](mailto:g.wardwell@worldnet.att.net)).

Thank you for your interest, and particular thanks to all those who serve our members as elected members of the ExCom.

—John Buchser  
Chapter Vice-Chair

### Our Democracy, Our Airwaves

#### Public Issues Forum on Free Air Time Campaign

Saturday, 28 September 2002

1:00-3:00pm

co-sponsored by: Common Cause NM & the League of Women Voters-NM

Join us for this lively exchange of ideas, with an opportunity for questions from the audience. Panelists, representing a wide range of opinions, will be:

- Gary King, former candidate for governor;
- John Dendahl, Republican party state chair;
- Bob Schwartz, radio talk show host, former Bernalillo County district attorney;
- Tim Canova, UNM Law School professor;
- Paul Shipley, news director at KOAT-TV; and
- Paul Taylor, national director of Alliance for Better Campaigns.

Optional luncheon with panelists, 12:00-1:00pm. If you RSVP by September 20.

For more information on the Free Air Time Proposal, see [www.freeairtime.org/](http://www.freeairtime.org/).

For more information, please contact Charlotte Roybal, NM Coordinator for the Alliance for Better Campaigns (438-0563; [ABCNewMexico@aol.com](mailto:ABCNewMexico@aol.com)) or Sally Davis, Executive Director, Common Cause NM (323-6399; [comcausenm@aol.com](mailto:comcausenm@aol.com)).

### An Alternative Vision for American Energy

Senator John Kerry (D-MA) has made a strong appeal for 20% of national energy to be produced by renewables by 2020. In "An Alternative Vision for American Energy," Kerry talks about energy security/independence, economic and job development, ANWR, fuel economy and U.S. coal. It's a great overview and a thorough argument.

[www.truthout.com/01.24A.Kerry.Env.htm](http://www.truthout.com/01.24A.Kerry.Env.htm)

### Taking Charge of Our Water Destiny: A Water Management Policy Guide for New Mexico in the 21st Century

In recognition of changes that are urgently needed to manage our water use so that New Mexico in the future is the State we want it to be and need it to be, several local water activists have written an excellent 76-page publication outlining where we are and where we need to go. I highly recommend you request a copy of *Taking Charge of Our Water Destiny: A Water Management Policy Guide for New Mexico in the 21st Century* from 1000 Friends of New Mexico (848-8232). Alletta Belin, Consuelo Bokum and Frank Titus deserve many thanks for giving us an outline of what we need to do to fix a broken water system.

—John Buchser  
Chapter Water Issues Chair

## DOT Solicits Comments About Sprawl and Public Transit

by Ken Hughes

Congress and the Administration will discuss the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century in earnest this Fall. The reauthorization will result in a major bill that will determine transportation policy for the next six years beginning in 2003. Policies and funding levels that impact highway, highway safety, transit and other transportation programs will be decided.

The Department of Transportation web site ([www.dot.gov/](http://www.dot.gov/)) provides an opportunity for people across the country to make their voices heard about reauthorization and transportation policy. The portion of the site devoted to collecting public comments allows individuals to tell DOT their story about a road project that has destroyed local wetlands or a transit project that makes the morning commute easier.

Visit the site and click on "Surface Transportation Reauthorization." Written comments may be sent to the Docket Clerk, USDOT, Room PL-401, Docket Number OST-2002-12170, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590.

The Sierra Club is asking concerned Americans to visit the DOT site and add an account of how transportation choices affect life in their community.

You might find the message below helpful in preparing your own statement. Once a person has registered, the site allows the user to enter a comment or attach a file. The site includes topic headings to organize the comments, so if you have many stories to tell, try to keep each comment geared toward a specific topic.

Transportation policy affects a multitude of facets in the daily life of Americans. The reauthorization will either encourage transportation

options and smart growth or the continuing cycle of sprawl and road-building that has devastated many communities. Please take advantage of this opportunity to get the word out to DOT: Americans want alternatives to driving!

### National Sprawl Campaign Draft Comments

Sprawl and a lack of transportation choices forces people to own and drive cars in order to reach most destinations. The average American driver spends 443 hours/year—the equivalent of 55 eight-hour workdays—behind the wheel. Residents of sprawling communities drive three to four times more than those living in efficient, well planned areas, and can waste up to three times more energy from driving than better-planned, more efficient cities that offer more transportation choices.

In 2003, the federal transportation spending bill will be reauthorized. This large amount of money and how it is spent will be instrumental in determining whether our nation focuses on smart growth, or whether we will continue to sprawl.

In order to protect our communities and clean our air, water and environment, transportation policy should:

- Make significantly greater investments in clean, public transportation.
- Use resources to maintain existing roads before building new ones, and spend less tax dollars on new car-only projects.
- Maintain and strengthen clean air conformity provisions so that communities aren't left breathing unhealthy air.

- Promote and support regional and state-wide planning that combines transportation, land use and environmental planning.
- Build more affordable housing near transit and job centers.
- Improve neighborhood walking and bicycling conditions and access to shopping and parks, and implement traffic calming measures.
- Support public involvement in the transportation and land use planning process.
- Fund innovative incentive-based programs for encouraging alternative transportation use, such as tax credits for public transit, walking or biking, parking cash-out and parking fees.

By better balancing transportation spending between roads and less-polluting public transportation, like rail transit and clean buses, we can reduce the number of miles people have to drive, provide Americans more transportation choices, and better reflect America's priorities on a clean environment, good health and enhanced quality of life.

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Sierra Club's Environmental 911 Program provides you with a convenient, accessible, and personal resource for obtaining information on how you can take action to address local environmental issues.

By calling the Sierra Club's Environmental 911 Program at 415.977.5520 or e-mailing [environmental911@sierraclub.org](mailto:environmental911@sierraclub.org), you can gain access to the wealth of experience and depth of knowledge that over 100 years of grassroots activism can bring.

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## SOUTHERN GROUP NEWS

### News from the Chair

#### Don Dearholt

It's the political season now, and we've interviewed both candidates for the southern district for congress. Both candidates appear to be an improvement over the current congressman in terms of the environment, although neither candidate returned the questionnaire we provided--the one developed by our chapter committee, used as part of the decision-making process on endorsement. Also, neither candidate seems sufficiently sensitive to environmental issues to warrant the endorsement of the Sierra Club. However, both candidates seem interested in discussing any and all issues, so that is a plus. Furthermore, both seem interested in learning about the science associated with our concerns, so I intend to make some of that available to whomever is elected.

The following letter was submitted by Vicki Simons, a member of the Southern New Mexico Group, after hiking near Cloudcroft. Please be encouraged to make your concerns known to the Forest Service regarding the use of trails.

### Motor Vehicles ruin forest experience.

A small group of us were hiking on the Rim Trail in the Lincoln National Forest near Cloudcroft in early July soon after fire restrictions were lifted. We were unpleasantly surprised by several motorcycles that zoomed past us on the trail and upon looking at the map saw that motorized vehicles were allowed on the trail. On our way out, we were stopped by a convoy of five large 4-wheel ATVs. They were not moving as the trail was very narrow at the point. (If they had been moving rapidly we probably would have been run over). They admitted that the trail was too narrow for their vehicles but that the ranger had said it was OK for them to use it.

On the remainder of our hike, we noticed the damage to the trail caused by their vehicles, exacerbated because the trail was wet. Appalled by the use of a hiking trail by ATVs, we stopped at the ranger station in Cloudcroft to complain. They informed us that they realized that the Rim Trail was too narrow for ATVs but that they are going to widen it to accommodate the vehicles.

We then wrote letters to Frank Martinez, Sacramento District Ranger. He replied to our letters informing us that over 80% of trails in Lin-

coln National Forest, Sacramento District, are open to all types of traffic, vehicular and other. He reminded us that the public's input was invited in the 1990s and that one of the most vocal and involved groups was the ATV/motorcycle community and that the Forest Service lands are governed by accommodating a spectrum of outdoor recreational opportunities to serve a broad segment of citizens who visit the national forest. Their land use plan will be revised in the next couple of years.

Our feeling is that there are many miles of old log-hauling roads in that area that could be used by ATVs. In our opinion use of hiking trails by ATVs is not only destructive to the forest but ruins the forest experience for others. We argue that just because a group of persons is loud and probably well-funded, the Forest Service shouldn't turn over use of most of the public forest land to these destructive vehicles. Evidently this is a lesson to Sierra Club members that they must be eternally vigilant in attending public hearings regarding land use.

Vicki Simons, Helen Zagana  
Sierra Club members  
Las Cruces



### General Meetings

Executive Committee Meetings are typically the first Wednesday of the month--all members are welcome to attend. Call Cheryll at 524-4861 for time and place.

### Coming Events

#### PROGRAMS:

Friday, September 13, 2002: The Second Gathering of the Green. This is a potluck dinner for all environmentalists in the region. At least 17 organizations are being contacted to invite their members. This provides a fine opportunity to network and learn what projects each organization is working on. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. in Preciado Park, on the NMSU campus; the park is on Gregg Street between Williams and Sweet, just south of the Education building (O'Donnell Hall). Bring a dish to share, your own tableware, and friends and family. A variety of beverages will be supplied.

October Something: Watch local news media for announcements! We're in the process of organizing a panel discussion on the mid-east policies of the United States. The League of Women Voters is co-sponsoring, and there are likely to be more co-sponsors. This program will include at least the topics of (a) the costs of energy, (b) human rights, (c) environmental effects of our energy policy, (d) political aspects, and (e) media coverage.

November 14: The Albatrosses of Midway Atoll--Birds, Battles, and Tourists; Alex and Marjorie Burr. 7:00 p.m., new Southwest Environmental Center (SWEC) location at 275 North Downtown Mall (1/2 block south of Coa's My Bookstore) just south of Las Cruces Avenue on the mall.

#### Group Directory

Southern N.M. Group  
Executive Committee

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## EL PASO GROUP NEWS

### El Paso Area Has So Much Going For It!

by Leon Metz

Lots of things put El Paso on the map. The El Paso Times of a week ago quoted John Houser as saying his equestrian statue of Juan de Oñate would put El Paso on the map. And that's probably true.

But El Paso has a lot of other attractions that put us on the map.

We are on the map with a university campus complete with Bhutanese architecture, and El Paso can't get much more unique than that.

Being a border town puts us on the map. Border towns anywhere in the world are unique places. Not only are we a border town, but we also form a unique cross-border partnership with Juarez. This is one of the largest pairings-if not the largest pairing-of adjacent international cities anywhere in the world.

El Paso has an internationally famous river in the Rio Grande. El Paso is on the map with its tall, beautifully proportioned mountains that bang right into the heart of the city, the map showing us as being at the end of the Rocky Mountains in the United States and at the beginning of the Sierra Madres in Mexico.

The town is on the map by being easily conversant in two of the world's best-known languages: Spanish and English.

El Paso is on the map as the junction point of three states: New Mexico, Texas and Chihuahua.

El Paso is on the map because of the huge air-defense center at Fort Bliss, plus the nearby White Sands Missile Range.

El Paso is on the map because of its fine year-round weather.

El Paso is on the map because, for the most part, it's easy to drive to the different parts of the city. Virtually any street in the city (except Lee Trevino Drive during rush hour) can be easily reached within minutes. Many other cities would love to have such convenience of travel.

El Paso is on the map because we have good schools, great teachers, fine doctors and excellent medical facilities. These folks aren't nationally known, but they are more than competent.

El Paso is on the map because it lives forever in the annals of country music with Marty Robbins' 1959 classic "El Paso," which 43 years later continues to boast a global popularity.

El Paso is on the map because we have some of the best Mexican and American cuisine available in the civilized world.

El Paso is on the map because of its colorful 400-year-old local, state, national and international background. That background includes Indians, gunfighters, freighters, politicians, trains, padres, businesses, wars, armies, explorers, stagecoaches, businessmen, revolutionaries, soldiers of fortune, shady ladies, bartenders, preachers, and the ordinary, run-of-the-mill screwballs.

This is another area where we leap so far and so rapidly ahead of other cities. Four centuries of history is the envy of almost every other city in the nation.

El Paso is also on the map because it is one of the few historic places in the world that still doesn't realize what it is, where it is, where it has been, and where it is going.

So the Oñate horse may put us on the map "again," but until we finally start establishing an identity, and getting the word out, nobody around the world is going to care.

Leon Metz is an El Paso historian and writer

### Selected Outings

#### Sep 21-22: West Fork Mogollon Creek Backpack

Place: Gila Wilderness near Cliff

Class: Moderate

Length: 12 miles

Elevation gain: 1100 feet

Leader: Rollin Wickenden 855-6697 (H) [rwickgila@aol.com](mailto:rwickgila@aol.com)

After carcamping Friday night at the Sacaton trailhead, we will drop into Rain Creek, hiking the canyon wall to the South, traversing and eventually descending in steps to a fine campsite along the beautiful West Fork of Mogollon Creek.

Sunday we will retrace our steps to the vehicles.

#### Sep 28: Aden Crater Dayhike

Place: Potrillo Mountains, NM

Class: Easy

Length: 3 miles

Elevation gain: 200 feet

Leader: Mike Episcopo 584-9322 (H) [mepiscop@episd.org](mailto:mepiscop@episd.org)

Aden crater lies just northwest of El Paso within the West Potrillo Mountains Wilderness Study Area. We will spend a few hours exploring the splatter-coned crater with its fanciful molten rock deposit and surrounding lava flows.

#### Oct 5-6: Middle Fork Gila River Beginner Backpack

Place: Gila Wilderness

Class: Easy

Length: 8 miles

Elevation Gain: 700 feet

Leader: Mike Episcopo 584-9322 (H) [mepiscop@episd.org](mailto:mepiscop@episd.org)

This backpack is suitable for beginners and those with little experience, or accomplished backpackers looking for an easy outing. We will follow trail #729 from TJ Corral to our streamside campsite. On Sunday we retrace our steps to the cars. Time and interest permitting, we will visit the nearby Gila Cliff Dwellings. Call for help planning your equipment and food needs.

#### Oct 21-24: Grand Canyon Backpack

Place: Grand Canyon National Park

Class: Strenuous

Length: 16.3 miles

Elevation Gain: 4370', loss: 4740'

Limit: 5

Leader: Rollin Wickenden 855-6697 (H) [rwickgila@aol.com](mailto:rwickgila@aol.com)

4 days, descending S. Kaibab to Bright Angel with a layover day, ascending Bright Angel to Indian Gardens with a side trip to Plateau Point, and out to the S. Rim. Must be experienced and in good condition. More detail on website.

#### October 25-26: Chiricahua National Monument Carcamp

Place: Chiricahua National Monument, AZ

Class: Easy

Length: 2-12 miles

Elevation: 500 feet maximum

Leader: Claus Christiansen 532-4086 (H)

This outstanding National Monument, only three hours drive from El Paso, has several shorter hikes that we rarely do. This fall weekend we would hike to Echo Park Natural Bridge & Sugar Loaf. These hikes are especially ideal for newcomers, although everyone is welcomed.

### El Paso Regional Group Directory (Area Code 915)

<http://texas.sierraclub.org/elpaso>

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## Toxic Waste Dump May Have Radioactive Ants in Its Pants

By Sue Dayton of Citizen Action

Three independent reviews of a radioactive and hazardous waste dump known as the Mixed Waste Landfill located at Sandia National Laboratories have revealed that things are not always as they seem. The studies were commissioned as a result of a grant from the Citizens' Monitoring and Technical Assessment Fund awarded to Citizen Action, a 16-member coalition advocating for clean up of the landfill. The studies point out that Mother Nature is likely to be another thorn in the side of the U.S. Department of Energy, the agency responsible for the dump. For starters, consider ants.

Ants can easily burrow through landfill caps such as the 3 ft. dirt cap proposed for the Mixed Waste Landfill. According to Dr. Tom Hakonson, a former environmental scientist with Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia hasn't fully considered the potential effects of contaminants being transported to the ground surface by plants, animals, wind, water, and humans. Burrows made by ants can carry large volumes of water to shallow buried waste carrying contaminants to the ground water below. Mice, rats, and prairie dogs are also shakers and movers in mobilizing buried waste to the ground surface where it gets transported to areas far from the landfill by wind and rain. For example, in the process of digging into radioactive waste a Kangaroo rat becomes contaminated. A wild coyote eats the rat and becomes contaminated, leaving his contaminated leftovers in your backyard. The rest is left up to your imagination after your dog or cat rolls in it or eats it.

One study conducted by the Pacific Northwest Laboratory has shown that the risk of exposure to the plants and animals at a radioactive dump is similar to the risk from a human intruding into the dump itself. This means that living near a dump such as the MWL and being subjected to the ants and plants and droppings from organisms living at the dump may be just as dangerous as living on top of the radioactive waste. Sandia has already determined that tritium or radioactive hydrogen is concentrated in the tissues of plants and animals that live in the vicinity of the landfill. After about 120 years tritium will decay to background levels, but other radioactive contaminants are buried in the landfill that will remain essentially hazardous forever. This is a serious concern since the Mixed Waste

Landfill is located in a growing, metropolitan area.

Does the Mixed Waste Landfill pose any risks to the public? Before risk can be determined one has to know what's buried in the landfill. Dr. Marvin Resnikoff of Radioactive Waste Management Associates, a firm that specializes in the management of nuclear waste, thoroughly reviewed the inventory and concluded the Mixed Waste Landfill is far from being characterized. This means that Sandia does not have a good handle on what's buried in it. For example, Dr. Resnikoff compared the levels of radioactivity coming off the pits and trenches recorded by Sandia and found it did not match the inventory of waste Sandia says is buried in them. Dr. Resnikoff found the risk assessment conducted by Sandia was also incomplete in that it only calculated risk to adult males while neglecting to examine how more sensitive groups like women, children and unborn babies might be affected by contaminants.

The DOE could post a trust bond to make sure that money would be around for the continued care and maintenance of the site into the future if it wanted to, according to an independent review by Paul Robinson, Research Director for the Southwest Research and Information Center, in Albuquerque. By law, private industries such as mining companies are required to post a trust bond for clean up and monitoring activities. However, as a federal agency the DOE is exempt from this rule. But in 1999, the Governor of the State of Tennessee and the Secretary of Energy struck a deal that established a \$14 million trust bond to monitor a similar mixed waste landfill at the Oak Ridge Reservation, a DOE facility located in Tennessee. It's not like the old common sense, Boy Scout campsite adage: leaving a place as clean or cleaner than you found it. Today's adage: more nuclear weapons, more waste, no clean up.

Citizen Action is a 16-member coalition of non-governmental organizations and neighborhood associations advocating for clean up of the Mixed Waste Landfill. To review the complete independent reviews, visit the Citizen Action website at [www.radfreem.org](http://www.radfreem.org).

### Action Alert - REVOLTING REVOLTERS TRY TO SNUFF CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- If you want to conserve our state's most precious resource - WATER
- If you want our area's natural resources to continue to be managed professionally, efficiently and wisely
- If you are concerned about soil, water, plant and wildlife issues in your community

Mark September 17th on your calendar, and vote AGAINST dissolving your conservation district.

For over fifty years, a little-known entity, the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), has diligently, but quietly worked to preserve our natural resources in Bernalillo and southern Sandoval Counties.

The Ciudad SWCD receives and administers grants for urban expansion, erosion control and drainage, water quality and availability, and education regarding these matters. Ciudad has been the conduit for funding to restore our bosque, to create a demonstration project to show how wetlands can clean pollutants in run-off from pavement, and to take fire prevention measures in the East Mountain area. And it does all of this with only one paid staff person and a hoard of dedicated volunteers.

Earlier this year, a vote was held on whether to impose a mill levy so that Ciudad SWCD could expand its important work. Kneecrunch, anti-community tax revolters defeated that effort. Now, they are seeking revenge for the impertinence of seeking community funding for important community projects. By filing a petition that required only 25 signatures, they have forced a vote on whether Ciudad SWCD should be abolished or retained.

If the SWCD is abolished, our community's ability to get federal and state funding for innovative conservation and land protection projects will be seriously impaired or, in some cases, lost entirely. A Vote AGAINST the referendum will retain the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District and enable it to keep working on these projects.

### Please vote AGAINST the Referendum to Abolish the Ciudad SWCD on September 17th.

In order to vote in this referendum, you do not need to be a registered voter, but you must be a land owner of record. A husband and wife can both vote. The district covers all of Bernalillo County except a small slice of land in the far east part of the East Mountains and includes southern Sandoval County, including Rio Rancho and Corrales. For more information about Ciudad SWCD and its projects, visit the website at [ciudadswcd.org](http://ciudadswcd.org), or call 761-5446.

Voting hours on 9/17 are 7AM to 7PM. For information on voting locations, check the newspaper or call 841-9425.

### Peace Camp - Working for Our Survival

Sierra Club is co-hosting a meeting of regional people committed to working for a sustainable society, building a world free of nuclear and toxic waste, and creating peace and justice. It is an opportunity for people to meet, network and create a better future. Individuals, groups, families and friends are invited.

The other co-hosts included Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping (CARD), the Peace and Justice Center, the Water Information Network (WIN), Bi-National Coalición Contra Tirados Tóxicos y Radioactivos, and Alianza Ecologista Internacional.

Saturday's events include breakfast, herb walk, 11-1PM Workshop on Creating a Sustainable Society, potluck lunch, 3-5PM Two workshops Creating Peace in Violent Times and Building a Nuclear and Toxic Free Future, dinner, hiking, music, camping and a campfire if conditions allow. Sunday's events include Breakfast, Plenary (group meeting), open forum (sharing ideas), lunch, and hiking. The workshops will have presenters from each host group and half will be a strategy session.

The location is Turquoise Trail Campground in Cedar Crest. Please bring food for Saturday potluck, dishes, hat, sunscreen, and something to sit on such as pillows or (con't -->)

8 RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

### Outings

Wednesday, September 4 - Three Gun Springs Hike

Meet at Franklin Plaza (Juan Tabo & Central) at 5:45PM. Since the days are getting shorter, we'll stay close to home for an early start. We'll go for an hour or so and then turn around (3-4 miles RT, ~1000'). Bring boots, snack water, dress for weather. Leader: Rick Hurley (299-8401, [RickHurley@aol.com](mailto:RickHurley@aol.com))

Friday, September 6 - Night-time Mystery Hike at White Mesa

We'll find our way through a small alabaster canyon with a sculpted narrows on the North side of White Mesa, aided only by some primitive light sources for an eerie visual effect. We'll come to an open bad-lands area where we can view a very dark nighttime sky before heading back. Roundtrip distance will be about 4.5 miles with less than 200 feet of elevation gain. Bring food, water, and flashlights. Meet 6PM Bank of America, San Mateo and Academy. We should be back in ABQ around 11PM. Leaders: Tom Petencin 271-9928 [tompeten@juno.com](mailto:tompeten@juno.com) & Rick Hurley 299-8401, [rickhurley@aol.com](mailto:rickhurley@aol.com)

Wednesday, September 18 - Full Moon Hike

May do a moonlight hike to Canyon Estates on this date. Contact Leader (Rick Hurley, [RickHurley@aol.com](mailto:RickHurley@aol.com)) by Saturday, September 14 to see if it is on and for details.

Saturday, September 28 - Red Rock Cliffs/Aspen Hike

Meet at 8:30 AM at Bank of America (San Mateo & Academy). The north side of the San Pedro Parks Wilderness has a nice stand of aspens (which may be changing color) and a panoramic view from a jagged rock outcropping nestled high above in the forest floor. Bring lunch, hiking gear, water, and flashlights. Meet 6PM Bank of America, San Mateo and Academy. We should be back in ABQ around 11PM. Leaders: Rick Hurley (299-8401, [RickHurley@aol.com](mailto:RickHurley@aol.com)) and Tom Petencin (271-9928, [tompeten@juno.com](mailto:tompeten@juno.com)).

Saturday, October 5 - Bosque-Trail Canyon Loop

We will do a car shuttle hike on the southern end of Bosque Peak in the Manzanos, with a fair chance of viewing maples or aspen changing color. Good views as well as a good workout in the crisp autumn air. Bring boots, lunch, water and dress for the weather. Hike: about 8 miles, with elevation gain of about 1400 feet. Drive about 110 miles RT. Call for meeting time/place. Leader: Rick Hurley (299-8401, [RickHurley@aol.com](mailto:RickHurley@aol.com)).

Wednesday, October 9 - Stargazing Hike

We'll drive a short distance (~15 miles) off old Route 66 to forest service land in the Manzanitas and take a short (1/2 mile?) walk to an open field to watch the stars come out. A bit experimental since the leader has not attempted stargazing in this area before. Dress warm. Bring along star charts or portable telescopes (if you have them) along with water, snack and a good ghost story. Call for meeting time/place. Leader: Rick Hurley (299-8401, [RickHurley@aol.com](mailto:RickHurley@aol.com)).

Saturday, October 12th and Sunday, October 27th - Desert Exploratory Hike

Come and visit some of New Mexico's most incredible and beautiful landscapes hidden in its desert places. Strangely eroded and colorful rocks, badlands, precipitous cliffs, outstanding vistas, mysterious narrow and winding canyons, archeological sites, petrified forests and other fossils, historic inscriptions, stone tools, pottery, pictographs and petroglyphs are some of the discoveries we have made on these hikes in the past. These hikes are not physically difficult. Typical distance traveled is between 4 and 8 miles and we usually gain less than 1000 feet of elevation. Contact leader by previous Wednesday for information on specific hike location and meeting time. You may also request to be included on an E-mail list for advance info. on hike location and meeting time. Meeting time will vary from 8:30AM to 10AM. Meeting place will always be Smith's, Carlisle and Menaul, nearest to Carlisle. Joint outing with Outdoor Adventures For Singles. Leader: Tom Petencin 271-9928 [tompeten@juno.com](mailto:tompeten@juno.com)

blanket. If you're camping, also bring your camping gear, firewood and musical instruments. The campground has sinks, toilets and showers. Dogs are welcome on leash. Saturday, September 28 to Sunday, September 29, 2002

Please reserve by September 20 at 266-2663 Suggested donation \$5 To get there from Albuquerque, head east on I-40. Turn north at the Cedar Crest/Tijeras exit. Head north 4.5 miles. Turn west at the Archaeology Museum. Go about 0.3 miles. Parking at Archaeology Museum.

For more info, to reserve your place or to arrange carpooling, call 266-2663 or 266-7567

## CENTRAL GROUP NEWS

### Sierra Club Endorses Richard Romero for Congress

*This speech was given August 7th on the banks of the Rio Grande in Albuquerque. Senator Romero spoke afterward.*

Good Afternoon. My name is Dr. Richard Johnson. I am Chair of the Sierra Club's Central Group, which is based in Albuquerque. Today, we are announcing the Sierra Club's endorsement of Richard Romero for the US House of Representatives. Before we invite Senator Romero up here, I have a few opening comments.

We have decided to endorse Senator Romero for two reasons. First, he is fair. He may not be a green warrior. And, we do not expect him to vote the way we would want on all conservation issues. But we believe he will weigh conservation issues fairly and make decisions that are best for the people of New Mexico. We know that when legislators put the interests of the people first, they will vote the right way on conservation issues. They will vote for clean air, clean water, preservation of wilderness, and manageable growth.

The second reason we are endorsing Senator Romero is his independence. Time and again, he has shown his willingness to stand up to special interests and even his party to do the right thing. In Washington, there is a always pressure to do the wrong things, especially when it comes to conservation issues. We believe Richard Romero will have the courage to look at the facts and make decisions that put New Mexicans first. Again, when legislators put people first, then they tend to vote the right way on conservation issues.

Senator Romero's fairness and independence stands in stark contrast to his opponent's record. This morning, as I was preparing for this press conference, I looked over Heather Wilson's record in Congress. There is only one word to describe her performance on conservation issues - disgraceful. Whenever she is faced with a choice about our environment, she consistently votes for the polluters and against the interests of New Mexicans.

Here are just a few examples. She voted

- against protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from Oil Drilling (HR4)
- against protecting our National Monuments from mining and drilling for oil and gas (6/21/01)
- against reducing subsidies for logging on our public lands (7/14/99)
- against protecting water and communities from polluting mining activities (HR 5175)

Meanwhile, she voted to exempt businesses from liability for toxic waste cleanup (HR 2217)

Absolutely disgraceful. You kind of wonder who she thinks she is representing. Right now, the polluters have a great representative in congress. The people of New Mexico do not.

Heather Wilson is not fair and she is not independent. She does not consider conservation issues on their merits. Instead, she votes the way her campaign contributors or her party leaders want her to. That's not the kind of person we need representing a unique, independent state like New Mexico.

Richard Romero is the exact opposite. Again, we are not expecting him to be some green warrior. Our endorsement of him is for his fairness and independence on all issues. We know he will do the right thing when it comes to conservation issues.

That said, I would like to invite Richard Romero up here to speak with you.

### Vote on November 5th

We Urge You to Support the Club's Endorsed Candidates

Bill Richardson for Governor of New Mexico

Gloria Tristani for U.S. Senate

Richard Romero for U.S. House of Representatives, District 1

Tom Udall for U.S. House of Representatives, District 3

New Mexico House of Representatives

- Rick Meira in District 11 (Central Albuquerque)
- Miguel Garcia in District 14 (Southwest Albuquerque)
- Steve Archibque in District 15 (Albuquerque North Valley)
- Sheryl Williams Stapleton in District 19 (South Central ABQ)
- Mimi Stewart in District 21 (South East Albuquerque)
- J. Paul Taylor in District 33 (Dona Ana County)
- Nick L. Salazar in District 40 (Santa Fe, Taos, Mora Counties)
- Max Coll in District 47 (Santa Fe County)
- W. Ken Martinez in District 69 (Cibola & McKinley Counties)

Danny Hernandez for AMAFCA, District 1

Absentee voting starts September 26th.

Early Voting starts October 16th. Check with your County Clerk for locations and times.

Check elsewhere in this newspaper for more information on the candidates.

### General Public Meetings

Monday, September 16th at 7:30PM

Richard Fagerland, the famed "Bugman" and syndicated columnist, will discuss environmentally-conscious ways to control bugs and rodents. He writes a weekly column, which appears locally in the Albuquerque Tribune. He will mostly answer questions from the audience, so bring your questions about critters.

Where: 1st Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle NE at Commanche, Social Hall.

Monday, October 14th at 7:30PM \*\* NOTE SPECIAL DATE \*\*

Political Open House. This will be a good opportunity to meet the candidates, listen to what they have to say, and ask them questions.

Where: 1st Unitarian Church, 3701 Carlisle NE at Commanche, Social Hall.

### Volunteers Needed for Children's Water Festival 2002!

This year's Festival will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at the Albuquerque Convention Center. 1,000 4th Grade students will come to learn about water and its relationship to human and other natural resources in a fun and interactive atmosphere.

With so many students gathering, there are lots of things that folks can do, like be Guides for student groups, Assistants for activity presenters, Photographer, Snack servers, Traffic managers and all around helper.

It's easy (we'll show you what to) and a lot of fun. For more information, contact Carrie Chandler at 505-293-6969, or [waterfestival@hotmail.com](mailto:waterfestival@hotmail.com).

Editor's Note: The Sierra Club is a financial supporter of the Children's Water Festival.

### Update on the Planned Growth Strategy

By Blair Brown

Since the July/August issue, much continues to happen with the PGS.

At the August 5th City Council meeting, we learned that the original ordinance has been replaced by a substitute ordinance and two Council resolutions.

On Thursday, August 15th, the City Council 'Committee of the Whole' took public input on the PGS in its new form. The comments were a mixture. Some were squarely in support of the PGS, others (mostly business people) were concerned that it not impact ABQ's economy, while the rest were generally supportive but with reservations, usually relating to how high the Impact Fees are set. Those who have been in opposition in the past (mostly developers) seem to be softening their opposition and voicing support with reservations, as suggested above.

Changes to the Ordinance and Resolutions continue as you read this. The 'PGS Task Force', which includes City Councilors, City staff, and representatives from neighborhood groups, developers and others continues to meet at least weekly to improve the language in all three pieces of legislation so that they will accomplish the vision that the PGS promises.

At the August 15th meeting, we also learned that the City Council has put off immediate consideration of the PGS due to the continuing work on amendments. They have now scheduled a special Council meeting on September 23rd for consideration of the PGS alone. Many, including me, are urging the Council to have copies of the revised Ordinance and Resolutions available before the September 23rd meeting so we can make meaningful comments. We feel the concepts and benefits of the PGS are consistent with the Club's position on Smart Growth as an alternative to continued sprawl, and therefore will continue to push for a strong PGS that accomplishes those benefits.

Other public meetings on the PGS are continuing to happen. Check the newspapers, the City's website, and your neighborhood newsletters for locations and dates, and attend the September 23rd meeting. Watch for our next update in the next Sierran.

### Call for Nominations to the ExCom

The Nominating Committee of the Central New Mexico Group is seeking candidates for election to the Group Executive Committee (ExCom). If you would be interested in being considered for candidacy or know anyone who is, please contact Nominating Committee members Sherry Wolf, or Richard Johnson (contact info below).

### Central New Mexico Group

PO Box 25342

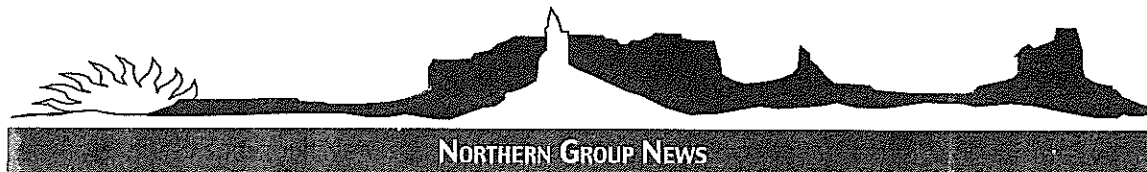
Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87125-5342

#### Executive Committee (area code 505)

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Mark Doppke	768-1160	<a href="mailto:marckdoppke@yahoo.com">marckdoppke@yahoo.com</a>
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Sherry Wolf	254-2190	<a href="mailto:wolf@law.unm.edu">wolf@law.unm.edu</a>

*The Central New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club depends on the efforts of volunteers.*

*To join us, give any of us a call.*



## NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

### NORTHERN NEW MEXICO (alias Santa Fe) GROUP 2002 MEETINGS

**Tuesday, September 17, 7 PM**

#### THE ENDANGERED RIO GRANDE

Everyone concerned with the fate of New Mexico's unique but beleaguered natural environment and ecosystems is invited to attend a conference with Bob Sulnick, Campaign Director, Alliance for the Rio Grande Heritage.

The Rio Grande sustains human settlement in much of New Mexico, Colorado, Texas and northeastern Mexico. As the endgame of western water allocation proceeds, the fate of this great river hangs in the balance, as does, by extension, the environmental character of the region it serves. The years immediately ahead will determine ...

- the extent to which the Rio Grande's remnant native systems will be preserved, and
  - the extent to which formerly damaged systems can be restored.
- The Alliance for Rio Grande Heritage is dedicated to providing strong, affirmative answers to both questions. The choice is between a living river and a dead ditch.

Mr. Sulnick, a seasoned environmental attorney who led fights to protect California coastal ecosystems and to grant justice to those injured by the Bhopal gas disaster, will describe the innovative program of the Alliance and how it is building bridges between the various and often conflicting communities in New Mexico, Colorado and Texas to save one of the great and historic rivers of North America.

**Tuesday, October 15, 7 PM**

#### COLLABORATIVE FOREST RESTORATION

Dr. Melissa Savage, of the Four Corners Institute, will present a slide show and discussion of her Collaborative Forest Restoration Project on the Valle Grande Grass Bank on Glorieta Mesa that proposes to thin small diameter trees and reintroduce light surface fire to a stand of piñon pine, juniper and ponderosa pine trees to reduce the threat of stand-destroying crown fire. The mature ponderosa pine trees in the overstory will then be protected and their health enhanced.

The restoration project will thin the stand with the help of fuelwooders, who have used the area for decades to collect firewood and other small diameter wood. Thinning the forest by collection of fuelwood will help return the stand to more historical conditions. In addition, this project will show that traditional fuelwood gathering can help restore the pine forest while sustaining local economies.

Partners in this groundbreaking project include The Four Corners Institute, the Valle Grande Grass Bank, The Conservation Fund, the U.S. Forest Service, The Forest Trust, and The Quivira Coalition.

*All meetings, outings, and activities  
are FREE and open to the public.*

*Membership meetings are held at the Unitarian Church  
107 W. Barcelona St (between Galisteo and Don Gaspar).*

**Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club**

621 Old Santa Fe Trail, Plaza 621, Suite 10, Santa Fe, NM 87505  
505 . 983.2703

#### NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

**Doug Fraser**

Agua! Agua! The monsoons were a vast disappointment, the Jemez Mountains are presently burning, our wells are going dry, our piñons are dying, and a slim majority of our county and city political leadership continues to authorize more and more new construction, both commercial and residential. We must begin to manage our precious water resources, but rather as Rome burns, we diddle!

There may be a glimmer of hope if we act and if our political leadership gets the message. Call County Commissioners Jack Sullivan and Paul Campos to say "thank you" for their attempts to slow development of the college area south of the City until water is "discovered," and ask how you can further their efforts. Club activists appeared at the last County Commission meeting and spoke in favor of stopping further development, or at least using caution.

City of Santa Fe residents can call Councilors Patti Bushee, David Coss, Miguel Chavez and Karen Heldmeyer to thank them for their efforts. And please call Mayor Delgado.

State Engineer Tom Turney proposed before the State's legislative interim judicial committee a discussion draft of a State water court to speed the adjudication of water rights along our state's water courses. This is long overdue, considering the length of time it now takes. Commensurate with the present water shortage, Tom has taken steps to answer many water issues never addressed before. An appointed state official with rare vision and fortitude. You see, there is hope. As he has demonstrated at some risk to himself, there must be positive action.

Visualize rain and leadership!

#### *Slate Announced for 2003 ExCom Election*

There are four seats open on the Executive Committee of the Northern New Mexico Group. Each term is two years. The Nominating Committee, Chair Paul Paryski, Lionel Soracco and Jan Kindel, has announced its slate for the election:

Gina Aranda *	Cliff Larsen *
Doug Fraser *	Edie Pierpont
Barbara Johnson *	Ruth Shanti Wagner
Cliff Larsen *	*incumbent

Any member of the Northern NM Group in good standing as of September 1 (i.e. dues paid) may run for election by a petition presented to the Nominating Committee no later than October 15 of this year. The petition must contain the signatures of at least 3% of the membership of the Group (approximately 63 members). Include a statement to be published in the Rio Grande Sierran detailing your conservation philosophy and goals for the Group.

#### CONSERVATION CHAIR

**Paul Paryski**

Water remains the priority issue for the Northern NM Group. As the drought progresses, water is becoming the most important political issue in NM. It is also a global issue, with supplies of potable drinking water decreasing and the acquisition of national and international water companies and water rights by multi-national corporations changing the nature of water from a public good to a marketable quantity.

The Group has concentrated its water efforts on getting the Santa Fe City Council to pass a strong water budget ordinance linking all further development in the city to the availability of water. Councilors Patti Bushee, David Coss, Karen Heldmeyer and Miguel Chavez have proposed a strong water budget ordinance that creates a mechanism for planning, managing and allocating water resources while allowing some minimal construction for the first year. Another ordinance, dubbed the "unbudget bill" allows builders to pay a toilet retrofit tax to have older buildings refitted with low flush toilets in return for a permit to build new structures. This proposition also does not set up a mechanism to budget water, although it pays lip service to the principle of a water budget.

The Group's continuing campaign is composed of: a full page ad in *The New Mexican* put together by water chair John Buchser, letters to the editor, letters and telephone calls to councilors, and testimony in front of the relevant City Council committees. Late on August 26<sup>th</sup>, the "unbudget bill" was passed 5-4 when Mayor Delgado cast a tie-breaking vote. Other options might include a citizens' ordinance, a relatively difficult undertaking. John Buchser and Doug Fraser have fought courageously with me on this issue.

Other issues that the Conservation Committee (ConCom) has acted on are:

1. **Forest Guardians' lower Santa Fe River riparian restoration project:** the ConCom voted to take no action at the present time although it expressed support for FG's actions. A possible testimony in favor of the project at the next appropriate City Council meeting was discussed.
2. The ConCom continues to oppose new roads and re-building old roads for logging of downed trees in the Vivash fire area.
3. The ConCom recommended that the ExCom approve a letter to Senator Bingaman to commend his stance against any exceptions to NEPA processes for the thinning of federal forests. The Bush administration is pushing to allow commercial lumber companies to thin/log national forests without satisfying NEPA regulations. Senator Daschle (D-Iowa) had also requested an exemption to allow thinning of national forests in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

# NORTHERN GROUP NEWS

## GROUP OUTINGS FOR 2002

### Sat Sun September 2002

- 1 **Strenuous Hike** to Wheeler Peak. 14 miles RT, 4300' gain. Marcia Skillman (474-7414)
- 7 **Easy Hike** Gail Bryant (505.757.6654)
- 8 **Strenuous Hike** to Santa Fe Baldy. 14 miles RT, 2760' gain. Dan Rusthoi (690-8967)
- 14 **Moderate Hike** in High Country. Dogs allowed. Lionel Soracco (983-6715)
- 14 **Strenuous Hike** to Gold Hill (near Taos). 10 miles RT, 3411' gain. Rich Capua (473-1948)
- 15 **Strenuous Hike** to Deception Peak, site of proposed ski lift. 7 miles RT, 2200' gain. Michael Goldey (820-7302)
- 21 **Easy Birdwatch Walk** bring binoculars. Ron Duffy (982-2890)
- 21 **Moderate Hike** in the Jemez. Bob McKee (672-3426)
- 22 **Strenuous Hike** in Sandias. Stephen Markowitz (505.797.5833 or stepdov@hotmail.com)
- 28 **Strenuous Hike** up Cabezon volcanic plug NW of Bernalillo, significant rock scrambling, not for the faint-hearted, limit 12 (call for reservation). Marcia Skillman (474-7414)
- 28 **Tour the new Ortiz Mountains Educational Preserve** with guest leader Mark Wood from the Santa Fe Botanical Garden. Leave from Sierra Club office at 1 PM or meet leader at lower gate of Gold Mine Road just south of town of Cerrillos on Highway 14 at 2 PM. Easy 5 mile walk. Norma McCallan (471-0005)
- 29 **Moderate Hike** in High Country. Art Judd (982-3212)

**PLEASE ALWAYS CALL THE OUTINGS LEADER PRIOR TO A HIKE FOR CONFIRMATION AND DETAILS.**

*For additional outings in Northern New Mexico, please check the Pajarito Group page(s) in this newsletter.*

### Sat Sun October

- 5 **Very Strenuous Hike** to Wheeler Peak, 4300' gain, 7-12 miles, early start. Phil Somervell (473-4797)
  - 5 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** up Raven's Ridge, possibly to Deception Point, site of proposed ski lift, 7 miles/2200' gain max, dogs okay. Lionel Soracco (983-6715)
  - 6 **Strenuous Hike** to Penitente Peak via un-named drainage past Nambe Crossing (off-trail and steep), return via Puerto Nambe, 9 miles/3000' gain, dogs okay. Rich Capua (473-1948)
  - 6 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Frey Trail to the Ceremonial Cave in Bandelier, 9 AM. Victor Atyas (438-9434)
- Tuesday October 8 to Monday October 14**  
**Moderate, Exploratory Day Hikes & Car Camping** Abajo Mtns La Sal Nat'l Forest. Fall colors should be at peak in Utah's red rock country. Dogs okay. Norma McCallan (471-0005)
- 12 **Strenuous Hike** to Manzano Peak, 11 miles/2800' gain, early start. Michael DiRosa (663-0648)
  - 12 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Jack's Creek CG to Pecos River. Gail Bryant (505-757-6654)
  - 13 **Moderate Hike** to high country, 8:30 AM. Art Judd (982-3212)
  - 19 **Easy Birdwatch Walk**, bring binoculars. Ron Duffy (982-2890)
  - 19 **Strenuous Hike** to Hermit's Peak near LV or Caballo near LA, 14 mi 2800-3300' gain, early start, dogs okay. Dan Rusthoi (690-8967)
  - 20 **Easy/Moderate Hike** on DOE lands south of White Rock. Meet in Santa Fe 8:30 AM to carpool, or meet leader 9:30 AM at Smith's Grocery in White Rock. Bob McKee (672-3426)
  - 20 **Strenuous Hike** to Puerto Nambe on Winsor Trail, dogs okay. Les Drapela (995-0871)
  - 26 **Strenuous Hike** Picacho Peak, Dome Wilderness from Cochiti/Dixon Apples; rough, brushy trail. Norbert Sperlich (474-4354)
  - 27 **DST ends - set clocks back**
  - 27 **Strenuous Hike** to Lake Peak, steep but spectacular, 7 miles/2200' gain. Heather Liston (982-9715)

### Sat Sun November

- 2 **Moderate/Strenuous Bike Ride**. Bland Canyon, down Cochiti Cyn, Bland ghost town, 15 miles/1500' gain. Michael DiRosa (663-0648)
- 2 **Easy/Moderate Hike** Penstemon Ridge, wear good hiking boots. 6+ miles R/T. Dogs okay. Norma McCallan (471-0005)
- 3 **Easy Hike** in the Cerrillos Hills, leaving from Walgreens parking lot in Villa Linda Mall, 9 AM. Victor Atyas (438-9434)
- 3 **Strenuous Hike** Horsethief Meadow from Panchuella CG, 11 miles, 2500' gain, dogs OK. Tobin Oruch (820-2844)
- 9 **Moderate Hike**, dogs okay, or Intermediate XC ski if snow. Lionel Soracco (983-6715)
- 10 **Moderate Hike** Seven Springs, unique travertine formations near San Ysidro, 9 mi, <1000' gain. Optional second stop at Alabaster Cave, will need a helmet and 3 sources of light. Rich Capua (473-1948)
- 16 **Easy Birdwatch Walk**, bring binoculars. Ron Duffy (982-2890)
- 16 **Strenuous Hike** to Santa Fe Baldy, 14 miles, 2800' gain, going even if snow, early start. Phil Somervell (473-4797)
- 17 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike** Caja del Rio to White Rock Canyon rim & volcanic plug, rough/off trail. Norbert Sperlich (474-4354)
- 23 **Strenuous Hike** Holy Ghost CG to Spirit Lake in Pecos, 14 miles/2800' gain, alt if snowpacked. Heather Liston (982-9715)
- 24 **Moderate/Strenuous Snowshoe** in Pecos Holy Ghost area or hike if no snow (call to see). Marcia Skillman (474-7414)
- 30 **Moderate/Strenuous Hike**, Queen Mary/Otowi Mesa or Shaggy Peak, 10-12 miles/2300', off-trail and rough with rock scrambling. Stephen Markowitz (505-797-5833 or stepdov@hotmail.com)

### ♦ ♦ NORTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS ♦ ♦

Chair - Doug Fraser \* 474-7615 / 662-4104 fax  
 Vice-Chair - Barbara Johnson \* lunch3@aol.com 466-4935  
 Secretary/Treas - Lionel Soracco 983-6715  
 Political Committee - Susan Martin \* smartin@lanl.gov 988-5206  
 Mtnbushp/Activist Outings - Norma McCallan \* nmccallan@mindspring.com 471-0005  
 Newsletter/Publicity - Kay Carlson kcarlsonwp@earthlink.net 982-3926  
 Web Master - Gina Aranda garanda@cnsf.com 424-1615  
 Phone Tree - Berta Hanna 424-1435  
 Chapter Rep - Doug Fraser \* 474-7615

\* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

### ANNUAL SIERRA YARD SALE

Saturday, October 5, 8 AM to 3 PM  
 1859 Camino de Pabil (see directions below)

Come check out all our goodies, and bring a friend or two! Seeking donations of all SALEABLE items (no computers, please). Appliances must work. Bring items to Carole's house any time AFTER Sunday September 22; call to confirm when she will be there: 1859 Camino de Pabil - second side street on the right going south on Galisteo Street between Zia Road and Rodeo Road - look for a large railroad trestle on the left.

The following tasks could use volunteers:

1. Someone with a truck.
2. Pricing items at Carole's house, Friday, October 4, 1 to 5 PM.
3. Setting up Saturday morning at 7 AM, putting up signs, manning tables from 8 AM to 3 PM. (two-hour shifts available)
4. Clean up afterwards and take what is left to Goodwill.

Call Carole (471-4769), Kathy Fraser (474-7615) or Norma McCallan (471-0005)

### MAPS NEEDED!

Outings leaders plan to maintain a collection of topo and other maps of the Santa Fe area at the office. Old topos can be useful, too, since they sometimes show details or old trails left off of more recent versions. To recycle your area maps or guidebooks (birds, wildflowers, geology), call Tobin Oruch (820-2844) or Norbert Sperlich (474-4354).

### GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Group Executive Committee: Group Conservation Committee:

Tuesday, October 1, 6:30 PM Tuesday, September 24, 7 PM

Wednesday, November 6, 6:30 PM Tuesday, October 22, 7 PM

Water Pot-Luck (for location call 820-0201):

Tuesdays, October 8 and November 12, 6:30 PM

Wednesday

Tuesdays

Outings - Norbert Sperlich 474-4354  
 - Tobin Oruch oruch@lanl.gov 820-2844  
 Conservation - Paul Paryski \* pparyski@aol.com 992-1984  
 Mining - Cliff Larsen \* clarsen1@ix.netcom.com 466-2128  
 Water-John Buchser \* jbuchser@earthlink.net 820-0201  
 National Parks-Courtney White \* wldwst@t66.com 982-5502  
 Rangelands-Roger Peterson roggpete@aol.com 983-7559  
 Carson Nat'l Forest-George Grossman 982-1024  
 Activist Outings-Norma McCallan \* nmccallan@mindspring.com 471-0005  
 Growth-Eleanor Eiscnenger 820-6401 - Jan Kindel \* jankindel@aol.com 474-7207



## Pajarito Group Members: Vote on Revised Bylaws

If your mailing label has a "1708," you are a member of the Pajarito Group. The bylaws have been revised to adhere to National Sierra Club guidelines to provide more consistency among groups around the country. We now need your vote as the final step of approval.

### 1. Organization

1.1 Name. The name of this Group is the Pajarito Group of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club.

1.2 Establishment. This Group is established by action of the Executive Committee of the Chapter (Chapter ExCom), and is governed by these Bylaws, consistent with the provisions of the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Club, the Bylaws of the Chapter, by applicable law, and by the policies and directives of the Board. This Group is an integral part of the Sierra Club and the Chapter and is not a separate legal entity.

1.3 Purpose. The purpose of this Group is to foster within its territorial limits the purposes of the Club. The group is authorized to undertake activities that are consistent with the purposes of the Club and are not prohibited by the Chapter or by the Board by a general rule applicable alike to all chapters. The Group shall act on questions of public policy only in pursuance of Chapter and Board policies or in a manner consistent with them.

1.4 Boundaries. The territorial boundaries of this Group shall be as specified from time to time by the Chapter ExCom, with due consideration of the wishes of Club members residing therein.

(continued on next page)

## OUTINGS

**Saturday, September 14 • Mountain Bike Tour on Carson National Forest Gravel/Dirt Roads**—Technical level: Beginner. Stamina level: Moderate. Length: 20 miles. Mean altitude: 9,500'. Altitude climb: 1,000'. We will meet for carpooling at the Los Alamos "Wye" (1/2 mile NE of Tsankawi) at 7:30am and will return there by 5:30pm. Contact Carole and Abe Jacobson (672-9579).

**Saturday, September 21 • Cerro Grande Dayhike**—Moderate/strenuous, 8-9 miles, 2,000' elevation gain, off-trail and exploratory, easy pace. Call Robert McKee for time and meeting place (672-3426).

**Friday evening-Sunday, October 4-6 • 3rd Annual South San Juans Car-camp Hiking Weekend**—We will camp at Lake Fork campground on the Conejos River and will hike Saturday in the headwaters of the Conejos, Sunday up Conejos Peak (summit 13,000'). Contact Carole and Abe Jacobson (672-9579).

### Pajarito Group of the Sierra Club Directory

Ilse Bleck, Chair & Chapter Representative	662-2368 ibleck@yahoo.com
Kim Manley, Vice Chair	662-6163 kmanmgeol@ix.netcom.com
Carole Jacobson, Secretary/Treasurer	672-9579 abe.jacobson@worldnet.att.net
Chuck Pergler, Conservation Chair	661-6169 pergler@att.net
Jody Benson	667-8465 bensonj@lanl.gov
Matt Heavner	829-3645 heavner@jemez.com
Abe Jacobson	672-9579 abe.jacobson@worldnet.att.net

### The Pajarito Group's Link to the Sierra Club Web Site

Pajarito can be accessed at:

<http://rlogrande.sierraclub.org/pajarito/>

Matt Heavner is the webmeister.

## MEETINGS

All meetings are held in the upstairs rooms in Mesa Public Library at 7:00pm and are open to the public. General meetings are on the first Wednesday, conservation and executive committee meetings the second Wednesday. September's general meeting is Wednesday, September 4. October's general meeting is Wednesday, October 2.

### OPEN MEETING

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS, A MORAL IMPERATIVE?

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 • 7:00PM  
MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY • UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOMS

Environmental responsibility embraces the ideals of social equity, economic prosperity, and ecological integrity when addressing such issues as global warming, land degradation, species extinction, deforestation, toxic waste generation and disposal, energy and resource use, rapid urbanization, and corporate and social responsibility.

Many people believe that organized religion deals solely with humans and their spiritual—and in extension, personal and social—well-being. However, most issues important in the environmental-responsibility movement are similar to those that are important to religion. Are there points at which these two ideals merge? A panel consisting of:

- Rabbi Gershon Winkler (the Walkingstick Foundation based on re-infusing the Mosaic tradition with Earth-honoring traditions),
- Reverend Talitha Arnold (minister of Santa Fe United Church), and
- Reverend Dale Arnink (minister of Los Alamos Unitarian Church)

will offer insights into how various religions view environmental responsibility. Each panel member will give a short presentation followed by questions and discussion.



### OPEN MEETING

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW MEXICO

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2 • 7:00PM  
MESA PUBLIC LIBRARY • UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOMS

This talk will consist of an overview of renewable energy technologies, their status, cost and advantages, followed by an overview of renewable energy policy issues in New Mexico. The latter will include discussion of the proposed Renewable Portfolio Standard, or RPS, which would require regulated utilities to start including certain percentages of renewable energy in their mix, ramping up to 10% by 2007.

# PAJARITO GROUP BYLAWS

Pajarito Group Bylaws (continued from page 12)

## 2. Membership

**2.1 Members.** Group members shall be those Club members of record who reside within the Group boundaries, except that upon written application to the principal office of the Club, a member may join any chapter and any group within that chapter. No member shall belong to more than one chapter and group. Only Group members may vote or hold Group office. Only Sierra Club members in good standing may act on behalf of the Group.

**2.2 Powers of Members.** By voting in annual or special elections, members shall elect and may recall members of the Group Executive Committee (ExCom) and may determine Group policy. Through petition, members may require the ExCom to call membership meetings.

**2.3 Membership Meetings.** Upon petition by 25 members, the ExCom shall call a membership meeting with at least 14 days written notice to the members stating time and place to consider subjects specified in the petition. No binding action may be taken at a membership meeting, but resolutions addressed to any Club entity may be adopted. The quorum for a membership meeting shall be 25 Group members.

**2.4 Election Petitions.** The members may petition for a special election by obtaining signatures from 25 members. Petitions shall state separately each issue to be decided. If the issue is the recall of ExCom members, candidates who shall take office if the recall is successful may be nominated in the same petition.

## 3. Executive Committee

**3.1 Number.** Subject to the powers of the members as provided by these Bylaws, the management of the affairs and activities of the Group shall be in the hands of an ExCom of seven (7) members elected by the Group membership for terms of two years.

In any election, up to four (4) members may be elected for full terms, as long as the size of the ExCom does not increase as a result and no fewer than three (3) terms will expire in any future year. When filling vacancies in unexpired terms by election, longer terms shall be awarded to candidates with more votes. The candidates who win the higher numbers of votes shall receive any available full terms and the others shall receive the unexpired remainders of the vacated terms.

Members elected shall take office at the first meeting of the year.

If not otherwise members of the ExCom, the Secretary and Treasurer shall serve as non-voting members.

**3.2 Powers.** Only the ExCom or those specifically authorized by it or its designees shall act in the name of the Group. The ExCom shall have the authority to make rules and regulations for carrying out the provisions of these Bylaws. If any appeal arises concerning any act or decision of the ExCom, the Chapter ExCom shall have the power to determine the procedures to be followed. Group actions must be consistent with Club purposes and the policies and directives of the Chapter ExCom and the Board or its designees.

The ExCom may call meetings of the Group membership at large with 14 days written notice to all Group members, stating time, place, and subjects to be considered. Notices shall be published in a Group or Chapter newsletter or

other publication provided to all members.

The ExCom may call and conduct special elections in accordance with these bylaws.

The ExCom may establish and dissolve sections and committees as provided in these Bylaws.

The ExCom may appoint and remove Group officers, representatives, and committee members at any time. The ExCom may fill vacancies in its elected membership.

**3.3 Responsibilities.** The ExCom shall assure that the activities and services provided for the benefit of the members by the Group and its sections and other entities comply and are consistent with these Bylaws and any Group Standing Rules, policies and directives of the Chapter or the Board or its designees, the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Club, and applicable law. Such activities may include but are not limited to financial management, membership services, production of publications, and conservation, outings and political programs. Authority may be delegated to carry out such activities, but the ExCom shall retain overall responsibility and control.

**3.4 Vacancies.** The ExCom shall have the power to fill a vacancy in any elected or appointed office. A vacancy in an elected position shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by vote of the remaining ExCom members.

**3.5 Officers.** The ExCom shall elect from its members the following officers, who shall also be Group officers: a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and at its option, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The ExCom may appoint from outside its membership any other Group officers it considers necessary, including the Secretary and Treasurer. All such officers shall be Group members.

At the discretion of the ExCom, offices may be combined, provided there are at least two distinct officers. Assistants to these officers may be designated from among Group members.

Notice of the officers and appointees of the Group shall be provided to Chapter headquarters annually upon selection, or as required by the Board or its designees.

**3.6 Representatives.** The ExCom shall elect from among its members a voting Group Representative and Alternate to the Chapter ExCom.

The ExCom may instruct representatives and alternates before each Chapter ExCom meeting. Representatives or alternates shall report to the ExCom after each such meeting.

**3.7 Committees.** The ExCom may establish and dissolve standing and special committees for such objectives as it may set. Subject to ExCom approval, the Group Chair shall appoint committee members from among Group members.

The Group Chair, or another ExCom member designated by the Chair, may be designated as a voting member of each committee, except the Nominating and Election committees.

Standing committees shall be appointed annually. Except for the Nominating and Election committees, the ExCom may add, remove, or replace members of any committee at any time. The ExCom may fill vacancies on the Nominating and Election Committees.

**3.8 Open Meetings.** All meetings of the ExCom and its committees shall be open to attendance by any Club member, but the ExCom or its

committees may convene in private session for the consideration of any sensitive matter, provided that any vote or final action is taken in open session.

**3.9 Quorum.** A quorum for ExCom meetings shall be a simple majority of its voting members. An ExCom member shall be considered present at a meeting if able to participate fully and simultaneously by means approved by the ExCom.

**3.10 ExCom Meetings.** The ExCom shall hold regularly scheduled meetings at least three (3) times per year at times and places communicated in advance to all Group members.

**3.11 Special Meetings.** ExCom business may, if necessary, be conducted at a Special Meeting. A Special Meeting may be called by the Chair or any three (3) ExCom members with at least 48 hours notice by personal contact or electronic means.

**3.12 Emergency Meetings.** A quorum of the ExCom may act in an emergency only when the Chair determines that quick action is necessary and there is insufficient time to arrange a Special Meeting, or if prior authorization to so deal with a specified issue has been given in a meeting, provided in either case that a determined and documented effort has been made to contact all ExCom members. Any such action must be reported promptly to all ExCom members and reported and placed in the minutes of its next meeting.

**3.13 Absences.** Any ExCom member who misses three regularly scheduled meetings over any continuous twelve-month period may be removed from the ExCom by a two-thirds vote of the other ExCom members. The ExCom shall decide whether to remove a member at any regularly scheduled meeting following the third missed meeting.

## 4. Nominations and Elections

**4.1 Annual Election.** An Annual Election shall be held in the fourth quarter of each year to choose ExCom members. This election and any special elections shall be conducted by secret written ballot mailed to all Group members of record at least four weeks before the closing date of the election, and shall be conducted in such a manner as to ensure facility of voting and tabulation, and secrecy of ballot. The ballot shall allow each voter to vote for as many candidates as there are positions to be filled. A voter may not cumulate votes for any candidate.

The ExCom shall specify the calendar dates and deadlines for appointing the Nominating Committee (NomCom), production of eligible voter lists, receipt of names for consideration by the NomCom, receipt of ballot issue petitions, the NomCom report of names of nominees, receipt of candidate petitions, appointment of the Election Committee, printing and mailing dates for ballots allowing at least four (4) weeks for return of the ballots, receipt of returned ballots, and the date, time and place for counting ballots.

The ExCom shall provide written notice of this schedule and of the opportunity to nominate candidates by petition to all Group members.

**4.2 Nominating Committee.** A Nominating Committee (NomCom) of at least three (3) Group members, at least one (1) not an ExCom member, none of whom may be a candidate, shall be

(continued on next page)



## PAJARITO GROUP BYLAWS

Pajarito Group Bylaws (continued from page 13)

appointed annually by the ExCom not later than four (4) months before the designated closing date of the election. Sufficient opportunity shall be given for Group members to submit names for consideration by the NomCom. The NomCom shall attempt to nominate at least two (2) more candidates than the number of ExCom members to be elected, and shall report the nominees' names to the ExCom at least two (2) weeks before the deadline for submission of nomination petitions and five (5) weeks before the scheduled mailing of the ballots. Nominees shall be Group members who give their consent. If the NomCom chooses not to nominate a willing candidate, the NomCom shall promptly inform that candidate of the opportunity to seek nomination by petition.

- 4.3 **Petition Candidates.** The name of any Group member proposed in writing by at least 15 Group members prior to the deadline for submission of petitions, and who gives consent, shall also be included on the ballot. The nomination petitions shall be retained until the ballots are destroyed.
- 4.4 **Election Committee.** An Election Committee of at least three (3) Group members, at least one (1) not an ExCom member, shall be appointed annually by the ExCom prior to the scheduled date of mailing of ballots. Alternatively, the Group ExCom may designate the Chapter Election Committee as Election Committee for the Group. No candidates may serve on the Election Committee. The Election Committee shall cause the ballots to be prepared and mailed, and shall count the returned ballots. Challenges of the conduct of candidates or their campaigns shall be referred to the Election Committee. Decisions of the Election Committee may be appealed to the ExCom.
- 4.5 **Mailing Ballots.** Ballots shall be mailed to all Group members of record according to the voter list obtained prior to the election.
- 4.6 **Return of Ballots.** Ballots shall be returned to the Election Committee as directed in the ballot instructions. Return of a minimum number of valid ballots shall not be required for the validity of an annual or special election.
- 4.7 **Counting Ballots.** The Election Committee shall count the ballots on the closing date of the election, or as soon as practical after the closing date of the election. The candidates or their authorized representatives shall be permitted to be present. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. Any tie shall be resolved immediately, first by a recount, then if necessary by lot at the ballot counting.

The Election Committee shall immediately notify the candidates, the ExCom members, and other interested parties, and shall report the results to the ExCom at its next meeting. The ballots and nomination petitions shall be retained until their destruction is directed by the ExCom.

### 5. Functions and Services

- 5.1 **Functions.** The Group shall provide functions and services required by the Board, its designees, the Chapter ExCom, or the Group members. The ExCom shall define from time to time the methods and procedures by which these functions and services shall be delivered.
- 5.2 **Publications.** The ExCom shall arrange for Group publications to be distributed regularly by print or electronic means to all Group

members, giving notice and reporting proceedings of the ExCom, Group meetings, elections and other news, including announcements of social events and outings. This requirement may be satisfied by use of a chapter publication.

- 5.3 **Conservation Program.** The Group Conservation Program shall further the conservation objectives and priorities of the Club within Group boundaries, assist in international, national and regional Club actions, and provide for the development and execution of specific conservation strategies and action programs authorized by the ExCom.

The ExCom shall appoint a Conservation Chair who shall provide a point of contact for the public and other Club leaders, and assist the ExCom in conservation planning, budget decisions, resolving conflicts, training, and implementation of the Conservation Program.

The program shall be coordinated with other Club entities. Group leaders shall not make a statement or take a position publicly that is contrary to a policy or position established by the Chapter ExCom, Board of Directors, the duly authorized chapter, group, committee or other Club entity, or the Club membership through referendum, nor shall Club leaders or staff members mention their Sierra Club affiliation if they, in their own names, make a statement or take a position contrary to established policy.

Conservation actions may not include civil disobedience. No chapter, group, nor other Club entity shall encourage, request or direct any person to violate the law.

The Conservation Program shall provide an opportunity for sections, other group entities, and individual members to become involved in conservation activities. The program shall also provide for recruiting and training activists to develop the necessary skills and judgment, for publication and discussion of conservation issues, and for networking and alert systems, such as phone trees and electronic mail.

- 5.4 **Membership Program.** The ExCom shall provide for a membership program that keeps a copy of the roster of current members, assists in efforts to recruit and retain members, and is responsible for recruiting and welcoming members and encouraging them to participate in Club and Group activities.
- 5.5 **Outings and Activities.** The Group ExCom shall manage any outings and activities programs in cooperation with any group subentities that conduct such outings and activities. Such management shall include but is not limited to the establishment of codes of conduct appropriate to each type of activity, provisions for approval and publication of notices, training and certification of leaders, screening of participants, compliance with insurance restrictions and other Club policies, handling of reservations and fees, restricting group size and environmental impact, and investigation of incidents and complaints. All outings and activities shall be sanctioned in advance.
- 5.6 **Political Action.** The Group's political program shall include evaluating political issues and positions, planning and conducting the endorsement and support of candidates for public office, and developing and leading the efforts necessary for those processes. This program may include federal, state, provincial,

territorial, and local government races as well as ballot initiatives, and shall be conducted in compliance with applicable law and the Club's electoral compliance guidelines.

### 6. Group Sections

- 6.1 **Sections.** With ExCom approval, Group members interested in special activities consistent with Club purposes, or other appropriate subsets of Group members, may form sections, subject to approval of section operating procedures. Because section membership is optional, sections may assess dues and also charge for activities, as permitted by the Group ExCom. Sections shall operate under bylaws approved by the Group ExCom.

- 6.3 **Suspension and Dissolution.** By majority vote the Group ExCom members present at a regular or special meeting may suspend or dissolve a section, if, in the judgment of the ExCom, such action is in the best interest of the Club. Such action shall not affect the standing of the individual members as members of the Club or Group. Suspension or dissolution shall only take place after written specification of the grounds for the proposed action are furnished to the members of the section affected and to the Chapter ExCom or its designees. At the same ExCom meeting, Group members shall have an opportunity to comment on the proposed action.

Upon dissolution, all remaining assets of the dissolved section shall revert to the Group.

As an alternative to dissolution, the Group ExCom may require new elections to be held for section office.

### 7. Finances

- 7.1 **Receiving and Expending Funds.** The Group may receive funds from Club entities and may receive contributions directly. The Group may not assess or collect dues from its members. Expenditures shall be consistent with all rules, policies and directives of the Board and its designees.
- 7.2 **Fundraising and Fees for Outings and Activities.** Consistent with rules, policies and directives of the Chapter ExCom and the Board or its designees, the Group may conduct fundraising and other activities, including outings that require members and others to pay a fee to participate. Such fees may include both direct and indirect costs and provide for operating reserves. Announcements of fundraising events shall indicate the intended use of the proceeds.
- 7.3 **Authority Over Deposited Funds.** The ExCom shall have authority over all funds deposited in accounts in the name of the Group and its entities. Every bank, savings, or investment account must have on the signature list for that account at least two (2) signatures, including the signature of a Group ExCom officer, generally the Treasurer or Chair.
- 7.4 **Requirement to Deposit.** Unless otherwise specified by the ExCom or the Board or its designees, all monies received by Group entities shall be deposited promptly in an account bearing the name of the entity, the Group, and of the Sierra Club.
- 7.5 **Delegation of Authority.** The ExCom may delegate financial authority to Group entities. The Group shall retain responsibility and control. Group entities must provide satisfactory

(continued on next page)

## PAJARITO GROUP BYLAWS

Pajarito Group Bylaws (continued from page 14)

accounting at least quarterly to the Group Treasurer, including all reports required to satisfy Club requirements and applicable laws.

**7.6 Prohibitions.** The Group and its entities may not borrow money, own real estate, or contribute from its general funds to political campaigns, candidates or their parties.

**7.7 Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the Group shall coincide with that of the Club.

**7.8 Books and Reports.** The Group Treasurer shall keep proper books of account, and shall report balances, revenues, and expenses of the Group and its entities to the ExCom at least quarterly, and to the Chapter Treasurer or designee at the end of the fiscal year. The Group Treasurer shall either file, or provide the Club Treasurer with timely information and funds required to file, all reports and returns required to satisfy Club requirements and applicable laws.

**7.9 Review.** As soon as practicable after the close of the fiscal year, the ExCom shall cause a review to be made of the books, including those of all Group entities. The results of the review shall be submitted to the ExCom for their approval.

### 8. Construction and Amendment

**8.1 Interpretation of Bylaws.** All questions as to the construction or meaning of these Bylaws are first to be referred to the Group ExCom for decision. Appeals from such decisions may be taken to the appropriate level, as established by rules of the Chapter ExCom and the Board or Directors. The decision of the highest of these entities that chooses to act shall be final. All procedures not prescribed by the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Club, these Bylaws, or the Standing Rules of the Group, shall be governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised.

**8.2 Amendment.** These Bylaws are fundamental and shall not be added to, amended or repealed except by a two-thirds vote of the Group ExCom and a two-thirds vote of all mail ballots cast in an Annual or Special Election. After proposed bylaw changes have been approved by the Group ExCom, and before they are submitted to a vote of Group members, they shall be submitted to the Chapter ExCom or its designees and the Board or its designees for review and approval.

If an amendment expands the size of the ExCom, but the annual election was held for fewer members, the ExCom may appoint members or hold a special election to fill the new positions. If the amendment reduces the size of the ExCom, the elected members receiving the most votes shall serve.

Approval by vote of the members is not required for amendments needed to keep these

Bylaws consistent with changes in the Club Bylaws, directives of the Board or its designees, or to correct inconsequential errors or omissions. Such amendments shall require only a majority vote of the ExCom.

A current copy of these Bylaws shall be filed with the Secretary of the Chapter and at the principal office of the Sierra Club.

**8.3 Signatures and Effective Date.** These bylaws and any amended versions shall be signed and dated by officers acting on behalf of the ExCom and by the national entity designated to approve bylaws. These bylaws as amended shall take effect on 1 January 2003, or when the signed copy is filed at the principal office of the Sierra Club, whichever is later. A copy of the signature page shall be returned to the Group, and shall be attached to all reproduced copies.

## Pajarito Group Bylaws Ballot

Vote by 30 September 2002

Your name (as it appears on mailing label) \_\_\_\_\_



For



Against

approval of the amended bylaws, as they appear in this issue of the *Rio Grande Sierran*.

Send your ballot to:

Pajarito Group • P.O. Box 945 • Los Alamos, NM 87544

## Join us!

Sign up on-line  
www.sierraclub.org/membership  
or return this form:

My Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check enclosed, made payable to:

Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 52968  
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Please charge my ☐ Mastercard ☐ VISA  
Cardholder's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

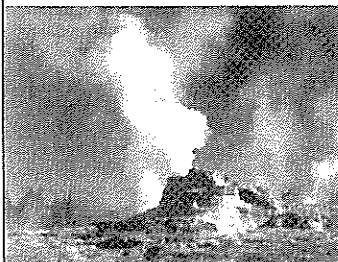
Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ 1700

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$14	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletter.

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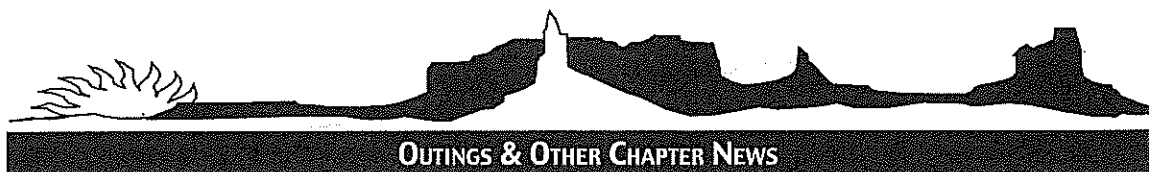
Photograph by Ansel Adams courtesy of the National Archives, photo no. 079-AAT-2

Ansel Adams chose a camera. You could use a computer, a telephone or your time to protect America's wild lands and wildlife. Since 1892, Sierra Club members like Ansel Adams and millions of others have helped to make a difference. We know you care about America. Now you can help care for America. Please, contact us to find out how.



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## OUTINGS & OTHER CHAPTER NEWS

# Let's Get Good People Elected In the First Place

by Norma McCallan

The sky is a brilliant blue, the sun still quite warm—in fact some what warmer than normal for late August when we usually experience a heavy buildup of clouds in the afternoon and sporadic thunderstorms. Quite different than the spectacular but chilly Arctic environment I recently was in on a national Sierra Club tour of Spitz-bergen Island, only 10° from the North Pole, and dominated by vistas of ice floes, ice bergs, glaciers and steep snowy peaks. I am glad to be back in our welcoming climate, but distressed that the drought is still with us. It is sapping the strength of our plants and wildlife. Large numbers of piñon and ponderosa are dying in northern New Mexico, weakened by too little moisture and susceptible to the ravages of the bark beetle. We need to treat our landscape gently. In addition to the normal precautions of the Club's Leave No Trace philosophy—like staying on the trail and carrying out all garbage—we need to make sure that land-use decisions are made thoughtfully, with an awareness of the larger picture, the entire ecosystem, the health and well-being of the land and the people who live upon it. One of the best ways to ensure that is to get good people elected to

public office in the first place, so that we are not always feeling dismayed by the exploitative decisions of our elected officials and the harmful actions of the administrators they appoint. Each election season, the Club goes through a lengthy endorsement process, looking at the records of candidates, and picking only those with an environmental vision and the viability to win. There are some in our outings programs who say they don't want to get involved in the political process. But to not get involved, at least for the basic step of voting, is to let others make all the decisions about our favorite places. I would urge our outing community to read the write-ups on some of our endorsed candidates in this issue, and carefully peruse a special edition of the newsletter which will come out in a month or so with all the Rio Grande Chapter's endorsed candidates. Then on Election Day, go vote—and take along a friend or two.

We have a great selection of outings this issue; below are listed a sampling from around the State. Be sure to call the leader to get details, and look at the Group pages for additional trips. All phone numbers are 505, except as noted.

## Sierra Club Outings in September–November 2002

**Saturday, September 14 • Carson National Forest Mountain Bike Tour**—20 miles on gravel/dirt roads. Carole and Abe Jacobson (672-9579–Los Alamos).

**Sunday, September 15 • Embudito Trail to South Peak, Sandia Mountain Wilderness**—An 8-mile round-trip trek to the highest point of the south Sandias. David Ther (260-1553–Alb).

**Sunday, September 22 • Sandia Mountains Dayhike**—Strenuous hike. Stephen Markowitz (797-5833–Alb).

**Friday-Sunday, September 27-29 • West Fork Mogollon Creek Backpack**—Moderate 12-mile trip in a remote corner of the Gila Wilderness. Rollin Wickenden (915/855-6697–El Paso; rwickgila@aol.com).

**Saturday, September 28 • Indian Hollow Dayhike**—Moderate to strenuous hike in the Organ Mountains. Paul (525-1935–Las Cruces).

**Saturday, September 28 • Aden Crater Dayhike, West Potrillo Mountains**—Easy hike to this WSA near El Paso, where over 150 cinder-cone volcanoes have been identified. Mike Episcopo (915/584-9322–El Paso).

**Saturday, September 28 • Ortiz Mountains Educational Preserve Tour**—Easy hike in this previously off limits gold mine property now acquired by the Santa Fe Botanical Garden. Norma McCallan (471-0005–SFe).

**Saturday, October 5 • Wheeler Peak Climb**—Strenuous hike up our highest peak, 13,161'. Phil Somervell (473-4797–SFe).

**Friday-Sunday, October 4-6 • South San Juans Car Camp**—Hike Saturday in the headwaters of the Conejos River, and Sunday up Conejos Peak, 13,000'. Abe and Carole Jacobson (672-9579–Los Alamos).

**Tuesday-Monday, October 8-14 • Abajo Mountains Car Camp**—Exploratory moderate day hikes and car camping in the La Sal National Forest, at the edge of southeastern Utah's magnificent red rock country. Norma McCallan (471-0005–SFe).

**Saturday, October 12 • Manzano Peak Dayhike**—Strenuous hike to the highest peak in the Manzano Mountains, 10,098'. Michael DiRosa (663-0648–SFe).

**Saturday, October 19 • Fillmore Canyon**—Moderate hike in the Organ Mountains. Paul (525-1935 Las Cruces).

**Saturday, October 19 • Hermit's Peak Dayhike**—Strenuous hike to this landmark near Las Vegas (or to Caballo Peak near Los Alamos). Dan Rusthoi (690-8967–SFe).

**Saturday-Friday, October 19-25(?) • Grand Canyon National Park Backpack**—4-day, 16-mile trip down the South Kaibab and up the Bright Angel trails. Rollin Wickenden (915/855-6697–El Paso; rwickgila@aol.com).

**Saturday, October 26 • Picacho Peak, Dome Wilderness**—Strenuous hike near Cochiti. Norbert Sperlich (474-4354–SFe).

**Saturday, November 2 • Cochiti Canyon Bike Ride**—Moderate ride in a beautiful canyon. Michael DiRosa (663-0648–SFe).

**Sunday, November 10 • Seven Springs, near San Ysidro**—Moderate hike to unique travertine formations. Rich Capua (473-1948–SFe).

## WANTED: Lobbyist

The Chapter is seeking a lobbyist for the upcoming NM legislative session—January 15-March 31. The position requires strong interpersonal and organizational skills. Send resume and references by 9/15 to: Lobbyist Committee, P.O. Box 31042, Santa Fe, NM 87594.

## WANTED: Conservation Organizer

The Chapter is seeking a part time, temporary organizer to help with conservation campaigns, political outreach and Chapter administrative work. The position requires strong people skills and the ability to communicate effectively. Send resume and references by 9/15 to: Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 31042, Santa Fe 87594.

## Rio Grande Chapter Meeting

The Rio Grande Chapter will meet on December 7-8 at UNM's research station at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge near Socorro.

On Saturday, December 7, Paula Carrell, the Club's National Lobbying Coordinator from Washington, DC, will lead a planning session for activists.

The Conservation Committee will meet on Sunday morning, December 8. The Executive Committee will meet during the late morning and early afternoon of the 8th.

The cost of lodging is \$20/person/night. All members are invited. If you are interested, please contact Chapter Chair Jim Hannan (jhannan505@aol.com; 988-5760).