

## Group Executive Committee Ballots

Members of the Rio Grande Chapter can vote for both the Chapter ExCom (see reverse side) and their Group ExCom (one group only, as indicated by the code on your mailing label). Candidate statements are in the Group sections. (Southern New Mexico's section includes statements and its own Ballot.)

Two boxes are provided so that each member of a joint membership may vote. Blank lines are for write-in candidates. Do not cut this page: it contains your mailing label for verification. It will be removed before your vote is tallied. Any member who did not receive this issue in the mail may submit a ballot with your membership information written on it for verification.

### Albuquerque Group (1701) Vote for no more than 3 candidates:

Susan Gorman.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irving Karp.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Lowrey.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gary Q'Dea.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jay B. Sorenson.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### El Paso Group (1702) Vote for no more than 3 candidates:

Sondra Denney.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Juan Enriquez.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adela Escudero.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ted Mertig.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mike Seidensticker.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Santa Fe Group (1704) Vote for no more than 4 candidates:

Jerry Bober.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martha Anne Freeman.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barbara Johnson.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gwen Wardwell.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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# RIO GRANDE SIERRAN

News of the Rio Grande Chapter  
Sierra Club • November/December 1994

## Ten Reasons to Vote for Governor Bruce King

1. *The New Mexico Mining Act [supported and made possible by Gov. King in 1993].*

2. *The New Mexico Tire Recycling Act [supported and signed by Gov. King in 1994].*

3. *The Department of Game and Fish, Conservation Services Division [Statutorily created and funded under Gov. King's administration and with his support in 1994].*

4. *Gary Johnson's strong support of Takings Legislation [Gov. King says the subject of constitutional takings is "best left to the judicial branch." Source: Johnson and King campaign literature].*

5. *Reform of the 1872 Mining Law [Strongly supported by Gov. King, opposed by Johnson].*

6. *Gov. King's commitments to work closely with the Sierra Club for water, wildlife, and other environmental protection and restoration for the next four years.*

7. *Seeing the Mexican Wolf back in New Mexico [Gov. King supports reintroduction plans, Johnson asks, "Why?" Source: Johnson and King responses to Sierra Club questionnaire].*

8. *The possibility of an MRS [high level nuclear waste storage] facility located at Fort Wingate, NM or on Mescalero Apache lands [Johnson says "leave the door open"; King is "adamantly opposed to an MRS facility anywhere in New Mexico"].*

9. *Keeping nine-year-olds out of the penitentiary.*

10. *Saving the expense (and trees) of printing new gubernatorial letterhead.*

## Chapter Endorses Senator Jeff Bingaman for Reelection

The Political and Executive Committees voted to endorse Senator Bingaman because he has voted more consistently for environmental legislation than any other Western Senator.

The Political Committee commended his support for the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts, his consistent opposition to takings amendments and his work to build support among Western Senators for mining and grazing reform legislation.

Senator Bingaman has worked to bring more portions of the Rio Grande, Jemez and Pecos Rivers under the protection of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act and he sponsored the bill to win designation of the Jemez National Recreation Area.

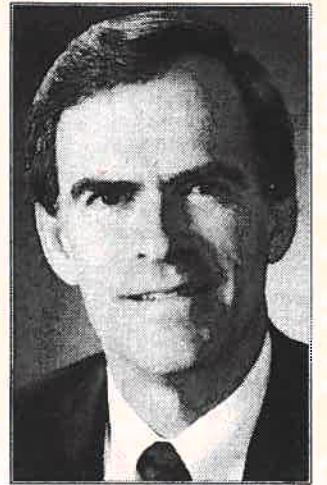
He led the Senate effort to stop funding for the Monitored Retrievable Nuclear Storage site on the Mescalero Apache Reservation.

He introduced the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Pollution Control Act to authorize funding for environmental protection along the border and worked with Congressman Bill Richardson to secure appointment of a New Mexican, Lynda Taylor, to the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission.

Nationally, Senator Bingaman has supported the California Desert Protection Act and opposed opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling.

There is a clear choice in the Senate race and we urge members to send Jeff Bingaman back to Washington to protect New Mexico's natural resources and beautiful places.

Senator Bingaman welcomes volunteers who can spend a few hours delivering literature, making phone calls and doing other campaign support work. If you can't volunteer time, a contribution also helps a lot! Call Bingaman Campaign Headquarters, your local Democratic Party Office or George Grossman, 505-982-1024.



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## Politics and the Art of Protest

by George Grossman, Vice Chair, Chapter Executive Committee

Often, politics frustrates us. Occasionally, government makes us angry. Once in a while, we get so ticked off that we decide that we cannot stand and let the system remain at status quo. Those who reach such a point often express the feeling with some form of protest. Right now, people are out there proposing to protest the reelection of Governor King and of Senator Bingaman by voting for other candidates or by not voting at all.

Protests are delicate business. Sometimes they are empty. Sometimes they backfire and things get worse. When dealing with a charge as fragile and complex as the entire community of life on this planet, we had better be very careful of undertaking an empty protest that could backfire.

An empty protest that backfires might well look something like this:

*It is 1996. Governor Johnson has just signed the legislation clearing the way for a new MRS (high-level nuclear waste) facility to be built at Fort Wingate. Although the Environment Department wants to adopt tough regulations, their work is seriously limited by new Takings Legislation sent down by Governor Johnson, passed by the Legislature, and cheerfully signed by Johnson. Even if the Environment Department could address the obstacles created by the Takings Legislation, their funding and staff have been seriously depleted, and Department management is working under the Johnson administration's directive that industrial growth is primary, environmental protection secondary. Governor Johnson considers demoting the Environment Department from cabinet level status back to a sub-cabinet level body.*

O.K., so now we have a new MRS facility and some other problems. But why was it an empty protest? It was empty because Bruce King has retired from politics, the Democratic Party spitefully blames Enviros for contributing to their downfall, and Gary Johnson neither needs nor wants the support of the environmental community. He doesn't care who we vote for. Bad guys - 1. Protest - Zero.

The consequences are long lasting. You don't get rid of an MRS facility once it is approved and built. Once the mine is

in the ground, you will not restore the land and water to the way it once was.

We are activists. Not only are we bound by the subject of the environment to a responsibility which limits the luxury of protest, we have a further responsibility to act, affirmatively, now. We have a responsibility, not to blow off steam, but to pass protective legislation, promulgate and implement strong regulations and use government as a tool to protect and restore the natural systems upon which we and all life depend. It is a responsibility not to trade an opportunity that exists for four (or eight) years of risk to progress already made. There

*We have a responsibility, not to blow off steam, but to pass protective legislation, promulgate and implement strong regulations and use government as a tool to protect and restore the natural systems upon which we and all life depend.*

is no time for that. This is the real world we are trying to save and we must get on with saving it.

Getting ticked off is good. Yet the most productive way to do something about it is to do something about it. Doing something means something different than staying home on election day or casting an empty vote. It means working. As we all know, it means "endless pressure, endlessly applied." We have a 1995 legislative session coming up in New Mexico. We have commitments from the King Administration to work cooperatively with us to pass good, protective environmental legislation. There will also be a new Congress, and Senator Bingaman has committed to work with us on BLM wilderness designation. So let's get it together and do something about it.

Dear Editor:

In the September issue, Sue L. McIntosh likens environmentalists' approach to "cowboys" to Andrew Jackson's war of extermination against the American Indian. I want to explain why the analogy is false.

The Indians with whom Jackson dealt were not the environmental disaster many "cowboys" are; nor did they then receive government subsidies, as public lands ranchers do. On the contrary, government subsidies to Indians resulted from the policies of Jackson and others like him. And if there is any "war" today, it runs the other way. People for the West! advocates, and even practices, violence against environmentalists. They have offered rewards for all who kill environmentalists. An advocate of reintroducing the Mexican Wolf in the wild has received death threats, as reported in the *Sierran*. The *Sierran* also reported last spring that someone wrote a letter to a Silver City newspaper, suggesting that environmentalists be weighted with concrete and thrown in a river. A California environmentalist was severely injured by a bomb in her car, then framed on a charge of trying to use the bomb against someone else, as reported in *Sierra*, the Club's national magazine.

I do not want war with the "cowboys." I merely wish they would take the advice so often given to government beneficiaries in big cities: "Get real jobs!" And unlike Jackson's attitude toward the Indians, I believe the "cowboys" can do that—if they will. I'm even willing, through government, to support their retraining and job search.

Thomas Lee Boles  
 1004 14th Street  
 Alamogordo, NM 88310

Dear Editor:

As a new 92 year old member, I am glad to do my bit in any environmental improvement. I was a public health environmentalist for 10 years, came to Albuquerque in 1904, grew up in Southwest Central Texas on ranch and farm, came back to New Mexico in 1923, worked on a U.S. Public Survey crew for 3 years here, so I know the Southwest fairly well. As Chief of the Albuquerque Environmental Health Department during World War II, I knew Bruce King and have followed his political career since then.

Bruce, as with other politicians, is careful not to go too far out on any controversial issue, so I was interested in how he handled relations with the *Sierran*. As usual, he must have been cautious, for the long article on his

"approval" certainly was not very specific.

I have been active in getting some measures through the New Mexico State Legislature since retiring. One got the 4th of July Scenic Loop road in Torrance County named a State Scenic Road. I did so because this scenic drive will likely be subdivided and its beauty damaged if not protected. But to actually get any action from the Governor, or his son, on this has been discouraging. It simply does not have enough votes to demand attention. The village of Torreon did sign a petition (63 signed) for road improvement, but Rep. King chose to ignore it. So it is likely that this beautiful area will become another "disaster" area from haphazard building. The matter has had little attention from the USFS also.

I did write the Governor re the Battle for the Bosque. I have nothing against the natural bosque we have there, but any effort to create "wetlands" deserves caution. In public health back in the '30s I recall that the Rio Grande and some other streams in New Mexico had malaria, which had been brought from Mexico. We still have the mosquitoes that spread this disease. Wetlands will, of course, make matters worse. Also, remember we have with us yet some strains of malaria from Asia that are very difficult to curb. Also, remember that the high evaporation factor here means any wetlands will steal a lot of water from farmers, and we do need food worse than we need wetlands. Caution is advised.

Duncan Simmons  
 2636 Cardenas Dr. NE

Dear Editor:

*Rio Grande Sierran* readers would do well to take a critical look at the propaganda put out by candidates for public office, even those endorsed by the Sierra Club.

I refer to the "Open Letter to Environmental Organizations" in the September/October issue from State Land Commissioner Ray Powell, in which Mr. Powell touts his agency's "significant progress" in addressing the problem of birds and bats being killed by oil production equipment ("heater treaters") on state lands.

The Southwest Environmental Center received the same letter, as I'm sure most environmental groups in the state did, with a cover letter inviting us to reprint it in our newsletters. It is no secret that candidate

Powell is courting the environmental vote in the face of a strong challenge from activist Pat Wolff, a member of the Rio Grande Chapter's Executive Committee whose green credentials are beyond dispute.

As the former biologist at the Land Office and someone who has followed this issue closely, I can tell you that the Land Office under Powell has done little of substance to address this problem, despite repeated warnings from environmentalists, biologists, and animal rights activists that action was needed to prevent the senseless deaths of thousands of birds and bats.

Powell reports that oil and gas companies doing business on state lands in the San Juan Basin have covered 95 percent of their stacks due to his efforts to achieve voluntary cooperation from the industry. If this figure is accurate, it is certainly not a result of Powell's efforts.

Long before Powell decided the issue was important, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) began requiring oil and gas companies to cover stacks on federal lands in the region. Since federal and state lands are so intermingled, most companies find it easier to install covers on all of their equipment, regardless of land status.

Powell himself provides a more telling indicator of the Land Office's effectiveness in solving this problem when he admits that only 3 percent of stacks have been covered in the southeastern part of the state, where BLM regulations have only recently been put into effect.

Although Powell says he favors voluntary action on the part of industry, the Land Office has not attempted to communicate directly with the scores of oil and gas lessees on state lands about this matter, relying instead on the 'verbal commitment' of a handful of industry representatives to cajole their competitors into compliance. Nor has the Land Office set a timetable for achieving voluntary compliance. Will the Land Office wait one, two, three years, or longer before deciding further action is needed?

The reality is the Land Office has exercised an appalling lack of leadership on this and other environmental problems, letting other agencies make the hard decisions while it takes the credit. Meanwhile, we can expect many more birds and bats will die before the problem is solved.

Kevin Bixby, Director  
 Southwest Environmental Center  
 Las Cruces

## Sixth National Wilderness Conference to be held in Santa Fe, November 14-18

For one week in November, the Society of American Foresters, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Biological Survey, the National Parks Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service will host a conference to examine the original intent of the Wilderness Act, first passed 30 years ago, to note and celebrate what has been achieved, and to create a plan to carry the Act's vision forward into the next century.

This, the Sixth National Wilderness Conference, will be unique because, for the first time, it will bring together not only those who work for these agencies, but also interested citizens from all over the country, including educators, tribal and community leaders, and members of private conservation organizations as diverse as the Sierra Club, Audobon Society, Earth Island Institute, and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance—in short, anyone who cares about directing the course of our future wilderness policy.

This conference will offer participants the unprecedented opportunity to bypass the bureaucracy and speak directly to those in charge of our public lands. Two full days will be devoted to discussions that will culminate in a list of prioritized recommendations of the most important issues in wilderness management for the next decade. Attendees will have the opportunity to present their views, listen to others, and reach a consensus through a series of workgroups. Then, in a town-meeting-like forum, participants will present their recommendations directly to the leaders responsible for wilderness stewardship.

All the key players have been invited, including Vice President Al Gore and Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, as well as directors of private organizations such as The Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club. The

current list of confirmed speakers includes David Brower, Chairman, Earth Island Institute; Dr. Ed Grumbine, Director, Sierra Institute at the University of California at Santa Cruz; Stephen P. Martin, Superintendent, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve; Michael McCloskey, Chairman, The Sierra Club; Gaylord Nelson, Counselor, the Wilderness Society; Mark Pearson, Vice President, the Wilderness Land Trust; R. Max Peterson, retired Chief of the Forest Service; David Secunda, President, Outdoor Retailers Coalition of America; Paul Shepard, University of Wyoming; Susan Strauss, storyteller; Stewart Udall, former Secretary of the Interior; Andy Weissner, Environmental Lobbyist; Terry Tempest Williams; author; and John Wymore, Director, Gestalt Center of New Mexico.

Also attending will be Gov. Bruce King; Land Commissioner Ray Powell; H. Ronald Pulliam, Director, National Biological Survey; Jack Ward Thomas, Chief, U.S. Forest Service; Jim Lyons, Assistant Director of Agriculture; Roger Kennedy, Director, National Parks Service; George Frampton, Assistant Secretary of Interior; and Bob Armstrong, Assistant Secretary of Interior.

In addition to the workgroups and seminars on subjects as diverse as wilderness education, grazing management, historic preservation, and "leave no trace" training, there will be a variety of events throughout the week designed to focus on various aspects of wilderness, such as a film festival, an environmental fair and trade show, a benefit concert for the Wilderness Education Association, and activities for children.

If you are interested in attending the conference, contact Dave Mensing, BLM, Local Conference Chair, at (505) 438-7418.

### The Sierra Club endorses:

For Governor/Lt. Gov.:  
Bruce King/Patricia Madrid

For Attorney General:  
Tom Udall

For Commissioner of Public Land:  
Ray Powell

For U.S. Senate:  
Jeff Bingaman

For U.S. House, District 3 (NM):  
Bill Richardson

For U.S. House, District 16 (Texas):  
Ron Coleman

For State Legislature:

District	Name	Party/City
3	Daria Whitney-Wells	D-Aztec
4	Thomas Aicity	D-Shiprock
5	Robert David Pederson	D-Gallup
11	Rick Miera	D-Albuquerque
15	Raymond G. Sanchez	D-Bernalillo Co.
18	Cisco McSorley	D-Albuquerque
25	Darice Picraux	D-Albuquerque
26	Ramon Huerta	D-Albuquerque
40	Nick Salazar	D-San Juan Pueblo
41	Debbie Rodella	D-San Juan Pueblo
44	Robert A. Perts	D-Corralles
46	Ben Lujan	D-Santa Fe
47	Max Coll	D-Santa Fe
48	Luciano 'Lucky' Varela	D-Santa Fe
50	Gary King	D-Moriarty
65	James Roger Madalena	D-Jemez Pueblo
68	Jose Abeyta	D-Wagon Mound
69	Lynda Morgan	D-Crownpoint

**Remember to Vote  
on November 8!**

## Ute Mountain -- "Property" and Place

by Elizabeth Winter

Ute Mountain is a volcanic cone in northernmost New Mexico, rising 2500' from the surrounding plain. Similar volcanic cones dot the plain between the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and the Cruces Basin Wilderness some 50 miles to the west. What's unique about Ute Mountain is that it sits on the east side of the Rio Grande. And that makes all the difference.

Historically, most human settlement in the area has been on the east side of the Rio Grande, where runoff from the high mountains keeps dozens of rivers flowing year-round and water tables high. Ute Mountain, sitting on the edge of the Gorge, slows the subterranean flow of water to the river. To its east is an especially shallow aquifer, and some wetlands. If you find your way to the right spot during migration, you can find hundreds of ducks, and maybe some snow geese. Marsh wrens issue their staccato calls, swallows swoop about. Every so often, you catch a bit of the mountain in the background of the binocular field, and you realize just how big it is.

Water from the shallow aquifer cascades through basalt faults to a deep aquifer which feeds the Rio Grande via springs from the Colorado state line to La Junta, where the Red River and the Rio Grande merge near Questa. In the summer months, irrigation to the north often draws the main stem flow at State Line below 30 cfs. Then, most of the water in the Wild and Scenic stretch of the Rio Grande enters via the Ute Mountain aquifer. And, unlike various surface tributaries, the springs are essentially free from agricultural chemicals, runoff from mine tailings and sewage treatment effluent.

### Water Use and National Security

New Mexico has no legal provision for instream flows; the only uses of water which require permits are those which divert it from its natural course. Of course, even if water were designated to remain instream, it could be removed (indirectly) by downstream groundwater pumping anyway. Many of us act as if there were no relationship between ground and surface waters. But of course there is. This became clear when I visited the International Boundary Water Commission's library in El Paso earlier this year. I was

interested in a report on groundwater consumption in New Mexico, but was denied my request for photocopies of charts and tables appearing therein. The explanation? This was classified information, a matter of national security. It would require State Department approval. Apparently, there was concern that Mexico might find a way to use information on dewatering via groundwater pumping to demand more water deliveries according to treaty formula.

### Essentially Unpopulated Now

The Rio Grande north of the Red River is young, geologically speaking, and the canyon is different than that along New Mexico Highway 68 or below the high bridge near Taos. It's less than 200' deep, and river

*Ute Mountain has been in the headlines lately. . . And, it seems, most of the talk. . . is about developers, lawyers, realtors, big money and the like; less about the power and beauty of the place.*

access is relatively easy for wildlife. Aside from a handful of grazing permittees, a scattering of small mines, a modest cadre of boaters and fishermen, and the occasional hunter (or poacher), the region is rarely visited and essentially unpopulated. Roads on the river side of the mountain are tire-shredding, basalt-strewn traces; USGS maps are less than accurate for locating them.

### Raptors, Waterfowl and Fish

The gorge itself is home to an abundant assemblage of nesting raptors. Golden eagles are present, but will abandon their nests with

but little disturbance. They have, apparently, been negatively impacted by levels of human activity in recent years. The Ute Mountain stretch of the river is now closed during nesting season, providing some protection for falcons, hawks and eagles. Wintering bald eagles have been catastrophically impacted by poaching. In fact, while bald eagles have been reclassified from endangered to threatened in much of the country, they continue to be classified as endangered in New Mexico. Canyon-based raptors also use a wide corridor of hunting territory on either side of the river.

Various waterfowl nest along the river, but not in areas that are grazed by cattle or sheep. One can find a wide variety of birds in the upper canyon stretch of the Rio Grande flyway during migration. Top predators are still present, although scarce. It is an important wintering area for deer and elk. Development would restrict movement from their summer range in the high Sangre de Cristos to winter grounds on the plain.

And then there's the fish. Trout do best in clear, cold waters. Their eggs hatch in the protected spaces in gravelly bottoms. Such habitat is abundant in the Ute Mountain area when adequate water runs. But low flows lead to warming water temperatures and siltation of gravelly bottoms - both devastating to trout. Any development that would impact water quality or quantity would spell trouble for an aquatic fauna already stressed by seasonal dewatering.

### Condos, Hotels and Golf Courses

Ute Mountain has been in the headlines lately, as far south as Albuquerque. The guys in the black hats rode in, threw some money around, and threatened to rape and pillage. And, it seems, most of the talk in the paper (and around town) is about developers, lawyers, realtors, big money and the like; less about the power and beauty of the place. Presumably, such talk will abound in the developer's promotional materials. The litany goes like this: 500 houses, 470 condos, 100 40-acre "ranches," couple hundred hotel rooms, not one but two golf courses, commercial development. Or something like that. I may have the numbers slightly scram-

(continued on page 9)

### PEOPLE WHO OPPOSE REFORM OF THE 1872 MINING LAW



PHELPS DODGE MINING CO. BOSS



PEGASUS MINING CO. BOSS



MOLYCORP MINING CO BOSS AND



GARY JOHNSON

# Welcome, New Members

Please welcome the following new members who have joined us from May 21 to July 1 of this year:

Noreen Rossi, El Paso  
 Nan Napier, El Paso  
 Ronald Glover, El Paso  
 Annette Huff, El Paso  
 Michelle Weaver, El Paso  
 Bob And Connie Clark, El Paso  
 Mr. H. Uranga, El Paso  
 Juan and Patricia Enriquez, El Paso  
 Rita Fuentes, El Paso  
 Dolores Duenes, El Paso  
 Sondra Denney, El Paso  
 John And Susan Feeny, El Paso  
 Richard Whipple, Algodones  
 William Larson, Cedar Crest  
 James Fahl, Corrales  
 William Teel, Corrales  
 Juanita R. Wilson, Albuquerque  
 Ronald Gaudreau, Albuquerque  
 J. Boyd, Albuquerque  
 Suzette Sparks, Albuquerque  
 Teri Bennett, Albuquerque  
 Sallie McCarthy, Albuquerque  
 Rich Brion, Albuquerque  
 Diane Marshall, Albuquerque  
 Tina Bamert, Albuquerque  
 Steve Davenport, Albuquerque  
 Christy Ortega, Albuquerque  
 Nancy Appleby, Albuquerque  
 Ronald Trujillo, Albuquerque  
 Nancy Searles, Albuquerque  
 Stephen Jett, Albuquerque  
 Michael Kushner, Albuquerque  
 Louise Hensley, Albuquerque  
 Martha Lucas, Albuquerque  
 Karen and Kenneth Summers, Albuquerque  
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 Catherine Smith, Albuquerque  
 Katherine Kelly, Albuquerque  
 David Williams, Albuquerque  
 Cheryl Foote, Albuquerque  
 Marta Nesday, Albuquerque  
 Laurie Aragon, Albuquerque  
 Tye Harmon, Albuquerque  
 Rachel Cubra, Albuquerque  
 Kathleen Duddy, Albuquerque  
 Keith Rasmussen, Albuquerque  
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### CARPOOL

Live in Albuquerque, but work in Santa Fe? LET'S CARPOOL !!

Give me a call. Blair Brown at 982-6366 (days in SF) or 265-3231 (evenings & weekends in ABQ).

## Sierra Club Annual Meeting Makes History

by Susan Gorman

The Board of Directors, Council, Regional Vice Presidents, Chapter Chairs and several National Committees met in San Francisco from September 22 through 25. This was a truly history-making gathering and Blair Brown and I both feel privileged to have been there. My mission was to participate as a Council Delegate to represent the Rio Grande Chapter. Blair attended to participate in the meetings of the Information Technology Committee

The Council met with Carl Pope, Executive Director; Robbie Cox, President; and Denny Shaffer, Treasurer. Denny presented a summary of the Club's financial crisis in very straightforward terms. We have been spending more than our income since 1991 and borrowing against the endowment fund. Now the time has come to cut our expenses and begin paying the endowment back.

Realizing that this would require some tough choices, Carl wanted specific guidance from the Board about their priorities to prepare this budget. He summarized their answers as follows:

-Conservation remains the top priority.

-Retain the broad range of conservation work but Protection of Wild Places and Pollution Prevention are the highest conservation priorities. Population and International were also very important.

-Focus Club resources on programs with high volunteer content.

-The split of resources between National and Chapter/Group programs should remain about the same.

-Books and Outdoor Activities must break even.

-Members who are activists and those who contribute money are equally essential to the health of the Club.

These guiding principles were used to create a draft 1995 budget. It is clear that less money will be available to all parts of the Club. Staff cuts will occur, travel will be limited, and Chapters and Groups may receive less (the dues subvention formula is being changed but it was not clear how much less we will actually receive).

The Club is hoping that the use of electronic communications will enable us to work together effectively with fewer face to face meetings. Blair has joined the InfoTech Committee because he believes he can contribute to the development of an effective system.

The Council met to discuss the restructuring and budget proposals and passed a series of resolutions to provide input to the Board of Directors.

The primary areas of concern are the regional structure, the return to use of direct mail to seek 75,000 new members, changes to the "reduced dues" memberships, the need for greater fiscal responsibility, and the status of the Sierra Student Coalition.

The Rio Grande Chapter will potentially be most impacted by the changes in the Club's regional structure. All members have an opportunity to provide ideas, proposals and plans directly to the National Restructuring Task Force or to me to relay to them. Please participate in this process because your ideas will help create a stronger, more vital and effective Sierra Club.

## Ute Mountain

(continued from page 5)

bled - there might be 500 condos and 470 houses, for example - but the song remains the same.

Golf courses use water, fertilizers and pesticides intensively. Undoubtedly, residential units will be landscaped, with timer-driven drip systems sucking up water even when no one is there. That way, everything will be nice and green when the owners make their occasional visits. And no matter what it says on paper in some agency file, water consumption on the scale proposed can't help but have a negative impact on what little water remains in the Rio Grande.

### 4WD Vehicles

And who, exactly, is going to keep this horde of occasional visitors from loading up their shiny new 4WD vehicles and heading down to the river for some scenery, a picnic, maybe a little fishing? They'll never have a clue to the raptor nest abandonments they catalyze, never realize that what they are (recently) so fond of has been degraded by their very presence. No inkling that the aircraft that carry them in and out induce terror in wild creatures, scaring some of them off permanently, intimidating them from reproducing. When contemplating such matters, I feel enormous compassion for what Taos Pueblo has endured over the last four centuries.

It's not entirely clear to me exactly where the proposed development is planned; it may even be on a parcel adjacent to the 22-section Ute Mountain tract. Presumably, it will be on the east side of the mountain where water is most available and access for roads and utilities is easiest (and cheapest). Infringement on wildlife and habitat, and water problems, would be similar regardless of the exact location.

### Jobs?

Swirling around more generally is the buzz about conservation vs. jobs. Me, I'm not qualified to talk about such matters in any but the most general terms. This sort of development sires mostly low-end service jobs: dishwashing, chamber maids polishing golf shoes, yard work, retail clerk, waiting table. Typically, low paying jobs with no benefits - tough to support a family on.

It would seem the intended market for the various units is fairly high-end second homes. Were the development to succeed as its boost-

ers hope, surrounding real estate values and property taxes would certainly increase dramatically. Even if more modest, no-frills subdivision proceeds, the negative impact natural systems is potentially severe.

It's not easy to make a living in Taos County, especially in the northern part. But if the issue is jobs, let it be framed in terms of economic development that will protect the region's environmental health and ensure a future for children raised here, rather than the simplistic formulation of "yay" or "nay" on this development.

From where I sit, jobs that depend on the destruction of our few remaining wild places seem a bit like burning the furniture to keep warm. Many people are attracted to Taos County because of its astounding array of natural beauty. (People once felt the same way about Southern California, and look what's happened there.) In fact, natural resources are probably our most valuable "asset", though I am loath to think of wild places in accounting terms. It would be a shame to squander the future in the service of some limited, short-sighted goal; tragic for a beautiful patch still functioning largely on natural cycles to be overrun with golf carts and condos.

There will be a Ute Mountain Issue Hike on Sunday, November 13. For details, see the Santa Fe section of this newsletter.

[E. Winter has a Master's degree in Biology from City College of New York/American Museum of Natural History (Ichthyology), and was a National Science Foundation fellow at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. She has studied fish in a variety of field conditions. She now lives, works, writes and gardens in Taos County.]

What do Tom Brasfield, Blair Brown, Doug Fraser, Vicki Gabin, Susan Gorman, George Grossman, Barbara Johnson, Sue McIntosh, Jana Oyler, Ford Robbins, Mike Seidensticker, Gwen Wardwell and Ben Zerbey have in common? Find out in the next issue of the *Sierran*!

## Chapter News

### September ExCom Meeting

The Rio Grande Chapter Executive Committee met on September 10 and 11 at the Black Range Lodge in Kingston. The Committee had previously met on June 4 and 5 in Santa Fe, July 10 in Albuquerque and August 13 in Bosque del Apache.

Two members of the Executive Committee, Pat Wolff and Susan Schock, have missed these four meetings so the Executive Committee has notified these members that they have been automatically dropped from the Executive Committee in accordance with the Chapter's bylaws.

The Rio Grande Chapter bylaws state: "Any Executive Committee member absent from more than three meetings per year shall automatically be dropped from the Committee unless reinstated by the unanimous vote of the remaining members present at the regular Executive Committee meeting."

### Water, Wilderness and Wildlife are Chapter Priority Campaigns

Members of the Rio Grande Chapter met at the Black Range Lodge for the Annual Retreat in early September. At that meeting, it was affirmed that three Campaigns will have Priority this year: Water, Wilderness and Wildlife. The Issue Chairs led the discussion and major objectives and specific actions for Water and Wilderness were decided. Wildlife will be discussed at the next ExCom meeting, December 3 and 4.

Each Campaign will include major opportunities for activists to be involved so anyone with an interest in any of these areas and even a few hours of time to contribute is urged to contact Vickie Gabin, Water Chair, Tom Brasfield and George Grossman, Wilderness Co-Chairs, Sue McIntosh, Wildlife Chair, or your Group Conservation Chair.

Each of us CAN make a real difference if we work together!

### "January" ExCom Meeting

The "January" Executive Committee meeting will be held at the Black Range Lodge in Kingston on December 3 and 4. The Secretary will report the results of the election for new Executive Committee members and the Committee will elect officers for 1995.

In addition to regular ExCom business, actions for our Wildlife Campaign will be discussed.

On the lighter side, Ben Zerbey will lead a hike to and into a cave between Kingston and Hillsboro. Remember to bring your boots and warm clothes!

### Chapter Outings Committee

At the ExCom meeting, Norma McCallan plans to meet with the Outings Chairs of the four groups, members of any special interest groups like John Turnbull's Ski Committee, and other members interested in establishing a Chapter Outings Committee. If you would like to attend her meeting, or if you have any concerns or suggestions, please contact Norma in Santa Fe at 471-0005. Norma wishes to encourage members to contact their local group outings chairs to convey any ideas they have which they would like discussed at this first organizational meeting.

PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT TAKINGS LEGISLATION

DUKE CITY LUMBER BOSS

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DESTRUCTION CONSTRUCTION CO.

GARY JOHNSON

AUD

**The Takings Issue - A Public Forum**

by Ralph Wrons

Years after his departure from anti-environment leadership, Ronald Reagan is responsible for yet another assault on environmental protection and public health and safety. Under the guise of "property rights," Reagan signed an Executive Order, still standing, that directed Federal agencies to conduct a takings impact analysis of all proposed regulations; if a measure of the regulation (for public benefit) might result in the taking (not realizing full economic benefit) of private property, then that measure or even regulation could be shelved. It has not evolved into national law, but there are attempts modeled after the E.O. language underway. There are increasing attempts to pass such laws at the state government level and New Mexico is no exception. An attempt in the 1993 60-day session was derailed, it didn't make the Governor's call this past session, but a "takings" bill could surface in the upcoming 60-day session.

The "takings" issue is simple, yet obscure and complicated. That's why it is so important for the public to be fully informed as to the expensive and damaging ramifications of a "takings" law. One "takings" bill could turn back years of improvements due to laws protecting the environment and public health and safety, and do so at significant taxpayer cost. The word "takings" comes from a clause in the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which states, in part, "nor shall government take private property for public use without just compensation." However, the "wise use" movement, backed by some of the nation's largest corporate polluters, is trying to stretch the intent of the Constitution to cover their agenda, private gain at public cost. The "wise use" movement is behind the barrage of state-level "takings" bills.

This month's meeting features a panel discussion on the "takings" issue. The panel will be composed of four individuals: a moderator, an opposing viewpoint, a favoring viewpoint and a legal viewpoint. The forum will follow the usual format accorded to this type of discussion: opening remarks, questions by the moderator with answers provided by each panelist and then ample opportunity for questions from the audience. For those who know about the "takings" issue, the discussion promises to be lively. This forum could also be viewed as a workshop, an opportunity to be informed firsthand on the issue before the State legislative session convenes.

This special meeting will be held on Monday, November 21st, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in room 2401 of the UNM Law School at the NW corner of Mountain and Stanford NE. Please note the 7 p.m. starting time, different from the usual 7:30 p.m. starting time. Please also be aware that during the school year, even after normal hours, there may be a \$1 fee for parking in the lot. Please check at the library desk, or you can park on the street.

Hope to see you there!

**Holiday Party Coming December 11th!!**

The Albuquerque Group Holiday Party will be on Sunday December 11th from 5 to 9 p.m.

Stan Kauchak will be our host this year. His address is 2119 Calle Azulejo, which is over on the Westside. To get there, take I-40 West to the Unser Blvd exit. Take a right, going North about 1 1/2 miles to 98th Street. Turn left, going West for a few blocks until you see Calle Azulejo on the left. Turn, and Stan's house is number 2119, on the right. (Look for the luminarias.)

Please bring a favorite dish to share - enough to serve 6 to 8 hungry folks and remember to bring your plates and flatware. We'll provide sodas, beer and wine, ice and condiments. We also need folks to help with the party arrangements, so if you love a good party and want to help call Susan at 265-3231 or Richard at 247-8079.

Call the the Group HOTLINE at 265-5506 and listen for the Party Mailbox number to R.S.V.P.

Mark your calendars. We'll see you on the December 11!

**Calendar**

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

- Nov 9: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov 14: Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 21: General Meeting. Room 2401, UNM Law School, 7 p.m. See article above.
- Nov 28: Conservation Working Session, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec 7: Mexican Wolf Coalition, 7:30 p.m.
- Dec 11: **Holiday Party.** See article above for further information.
- Dec 12: Executive Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec 15: 12 noon. Deadline for articles for Jan-Feb group newsletter. Macintosh preferred. Call Dorothy if supplying hard copy only.

**Parking Lot Fundraiser Again a Success**

by Richard Barish

As many of you know, the Albuquerque Group's office is on San Pedro, opposite the fairgrounds. In the past, our landlord has allowed us to sell parking spaces in the parking lot of our building during the State Fair, and our new landlord, Joe Abbin, kindly allowed us to continue that tradition this year. The parking lot fundraiser provides about three-fourths of the Albuquerque Group's yearly income and allows us to maintain our office, as well as providing funds to support our conservation efforts and programs. The parking lot fundraiser was a success again this year, slightly exceeding our previous best year.

Some acknowledgements and thanks are in order. First, to DAVID MORRISON. David did the lion's share of the organizational work this year, including scheduling volunteers to work selling the parking spaces.

DON MEADERS repaired our aging signs and barricades and installed a light sensitive switch on the outdoor lighting (which he also installed a couple of years ago), and he donated the materials to boot.

JEANNE "Don't-go-calling-a-dozen-people,-I'll-be-around" HALVERSON personified the cheerful willingness of all of our members to help, and she bailed us out a couple of times by taking shifts after late cancellations. Jeanne also opened in the mornings, as did MARY LOU SORENSON and JACK PINNEY.

SUSAN GORMAN and BLAIR BROWN closed and took the day's receipts to the bank. LESLIE LAZAGA and DAVID BOUQUIN called the volunteers to remind them of their shifts. JAY and MARY LOU SORENSON volunteered their home for the traditional parking lot party.

The biggest thanks, however, goes to our many members who donated some of their valuable time to help with this year's parking lot. About 110 members participated this year! It's encouraging that so many members of the Club are willing to go out of their way to help with fundraising to support the work of the Albuquerque Group. Some members come back year after year to help and deserve our special thanks. These members include (but are not limited to) ELLEN and RON LOEHMAN, VALLEE WEINGARTEN, LOIS and GORDON KENNEDY, MARGE DEARDEN, ANN PAFF, STEVE and JOANNE LARSEN, RUTH and BILL STAMM, PHIL THATCHER, NANCY HEMRY and HANK BOTTS, TY KATTENHORN, FRED MUELHAUSSER, MARVEL WALTER, SANDRA KOENIG, GLEN and CAROL KEPLER, MARGE LARSON, LAURA JENKINS, DOROTHY BRETHAUSER, LAURA CONNOLLY, JEAN PAYNE, JOHN WRIGHT, and all the great folks at the Mexican Wolf Coalition, including SUSAN LARSEN, BUD LENSIG, and JULIE KUTZ.

If any members who did not help this year think that they might be able to help next year by working a three-hour shift or two selling parking spaces, please give me a call at 247-8079.

**SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS**

*America's Best-loved Nature Calendars  
Are Now On Recycled Paper!*



**To place your order, call**  
Larry Compton at 899-0679 or Susan Gorman at 265-3231

**Group Directory**

1994 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Office Telephone: 265-5506

Group Chair	Jay Sorenson	884-4314
Vice Chair	Ron Grotbeck	296-0944
Secretary	Blair Brown	265-3231
Treasurer	Richard Barish	247-8079
	Stefan Verchinski	888-1370
	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
	Gary O'Dea	292-5324
	Susan Gorman	265-3231

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

**ADMINISTRATION**

Books/Calendars	Larry Compton	899-0679
Education	Ann Beyke	265-3087
	Teresa Adams	880-0737
Membership	vacant	
Newsletter	Dorothy Brethauer	275-6113
Outings	David Morrison	344-8693
	Stan Kauchak	292-9138
Programs	Ralph Wrons	275-0856

**CONSERVATION**

Conservation Chair	Susan Gorman	265-3231
Air Quality	Heidi Fleischmann	260-1217
Bosque	Richard Barish	247-8079
Energy	Ralph Wrons	275-0856
Las Huertas	Marion Davidson	867-5178
Mining Reform	Blair Brown	265-3231
Petroglyphs/Westside	Ike Eastvold	255-7679
Population	Nick Persampieri	281-7845
Public Lands	Michelle Meaders	266-8823
Waste/Recycling	Barbara Stone	265-5304
Water	David Bouquin	265-7853
Wildlife/Endangered Species	Jack Pinney	293-3405
Wildlife/Mexican Wolf	vacant	
	Susan Larsen	897-2527

**Teachers Workshop a Success**

On September 13th, Sierra Club members Joan and Hy Rosner, Teresa Adams and Ann Beyke provided training for over 20 Albuquerque Public School teachers. The two-hour workshop included some hands-on experiments from the Teachers Environmental Action Manual (T.E.A.M.) notebook written by Joan Rosner. Discussion with participants indicated that there is considerable interest among students about environmental issues. One teacher proudly displayed her classroom's trash, which contains mostly "appropriate" trash. Thanks to all participants for a successful afternoon.

## OUTINGS

Abbreviations: WSA-Wilderness Study Area, SW-Sandia Wilderness, NM-National Monument, SC-Sierra Club, ACEC- Area of Critical Environmental Concern

**Outings may be cancelled or changed due to weather or other reasons. Please call leader before outing.**

**Exploratory Hikes** have broadened significantly in their scope of activities. These hikes explore in detail New Mexico's back-country. The area, roads and routes may change due to conditions (road wash-out), rumors (the BLM said there was a Indian ruin on the adjacent mesa), and interest (hey, that canyon looks interesting). The rating given an exploratory hike should represent the baseline difficulty--you can finish a moderate hike at a moderate level. Exploratory hikes may have challenging options that include exposure, bouldering, or caving. These options, if taken by the individual, can make the hike strenuous. The leader will judge route acceptability and provide help to individuals. You may have started a moderate hike, but end up exhausted and sore because you selected strenuous options. All exploratory hikes are off-trail; they are expected to last all day--time of return is an approximation; the leader has not previously hiked the entire route or has not been in the area ever before. Someone familiar with the area may be acting as a guide.

**Sat Nov 5 Moderate**  
Miles: 3-4 Car: 160  
**El Malpais National Monument, Westside Ice Caves Hike**

The management plan for the El Malpais was successfully appealed by environmentalists. This appeal will allow reconsideration of the Chain of Craters as Wilderness, bison management, and other factors. We will hike into Braided, Skylight, and Four Windows ice caves. 4WD vehicles helpful. Bring lunch. Call for meeting location and time.  
Leader: Tom Leck 256-7217

**Sun Nov 6 Leisure**  
Miles: 3-4 Car: 80  
**Santa Fe River- La Bajada Hill Exploratory Hike**

Near Cochiti Lake, we will cross the Santa Fe River and hike up to some petroglyphs and the old highway to Santa Fe. Bring lunch.

Meet at 9:00 am behind the Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy.  
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

**Sat Nov 12 Moderate**  
Miles: 8 Car: 150 Elevation: +400  
**Tapia Canyon ACEC- Guadalupe Mesa Exploratory Hike**  
Several people have asked that this trip be repeated. Behind Cabezon, we start with the Guadalupe Mesa top Anazasi ruins, then we hike to the petroglyphs, natural bridge, and slot canyon of the Tapia Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). We hope to take the canyon route, but may switch to the overland route if we are short on time. Last time we walked barefoot through a foot of mud to get to the carved sandstone section. Meet at 7:30 am behind Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy.  
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

**Sat Nov 12 Leisure**  
Miles: 3 Car: 3  
**Rinconada Canyon with Volcanoes Option Hike, Petroglyph NM**  
We will hike up Rinconada Canyon to view thousands of petroglyphs. Hikers can return to their cars, or take the option of continuing to the volcanoes. Bring sack lunch for the volcano option. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.  
Leader: Ike Easvold 255-7679

**Sun Nov 13 Moderate**  
Miles: 4-6 Car: 45 Elevation: +500  
**"Little Grand Canyon" of the Rio Puerco Exploratory Hike**  
Back behind Rio Rancho, we drop over the edge into the ridge fins, sand dunes, and petrified wood of the Rio Puerco valley. This area should be preserved as an open space area, with areas segregated for ORV and hiking use. Bring lunch. Meet at Sierra Club office at 207 San Pedro NE.  
Leader: Bob Cornish 255-6037

**Sat Nov 19 Leisure**  
Miles: 3 Car: 0  
**Oxbow Hike, Rio Grande Bosque**  
Various waterfowl, some hawks, and other wildlife can be seen in this wetland within Albuquerque. Three hours long. Meet at 9:00 am at the corner of St. Josephs and Coors.  
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

**Sun Nov 20 Leisure**  
Miles: 3 Car: 3

**Geological Windows Hike, Petroglyph National Monument**  
Thousands of petroglyphs. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.  
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

**Sun Nov 20 Leisure-Moderate**  
Miles: ? Car: 0  
**Discovering the Bosque- Mountain Bike Ride**  
The mountain biking group has steadily been increasing. This trip is on a series of winding trails in the bosque, not frequented by pedestrians.  
Leader: Stefan Verchinski 888-1370

**Sun Nov 20 Moderate-Strenuous**  
Miles: 6-8 Car: 120 - 200  
**Culle Canyon, Penasco Area; Badlands, Abiqui Area; or Someplace Else (?) Exploratory Hike**  
Richard's guiding this one, so we will probably have some challenging sections. We will fall back on going to Culle Canyon, which has some narrows and a ghost town. Meet at 8:00 am behind the Winchell's at San Mateo and Academy.  
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

**Thurs-Sun Nov 24-27 Car: 360**  
**Thanksgiving Downhill & X/C High Country Ski**  
If you are new to the area, have no family in town, or just want to get outside and have some fun, plan on joining the Sierra Club for our four-day Thanksgiving ski weekend. This trip features X/C skiing at Bull-O-The-Woods, Long Canyon, or Williams Lake, downhill skiing at Taos, Thanksgiving dinner, hot tub, and an energetic group of adventurous people. Accommodations are limited so please call for information as soon as possible, Stan 839-4301, Val 265-5945, and John 466-9329.  
Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301,

**Sat Dec 3 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3**  
**Piedras Marcadas Hike, Petroglyph National Monument**  
Thousands of petroglyphs. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.  
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

**Sat Dec 3 Advanced-Beginners**  
Miles: 4-6 Car: 200  
**"Get Your Ski Legs" X/C Ski**  
Get off your couch and out of the house.

Early season trip to stretch the legs and lungs. Location to be determined by snow, possibly Amole Canyon near Penasco. For details, contact John Turnbull 466-9329 or Stan.  
Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

**Sat Dec 3 Leisure Miles: 0 Car: 190**  
**Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge Car Tour**  
We meet at 10:00 am, head to San Antonio for a lunch of green chile cheeseburgers at the Owl Cafe. We will then drive the tour loops and get set up to watch the sunset fly-in of waterfowl. Last year we saw a black-shouldered kite, bald eagles, and a couple of whooping cranes. If you fell in love with the hamburgers, we might stop on the way back for another round.  
Leader: David Thume 271-1839

**Sun Oct 4 Leisure-Moderate**  
Miles: 1 Car: 0 Elevation: +100  
**Oxbow Trash Cleanup**  
On the rim overlooking the Oxbow, kids have been throwing evening parties and plenty of trash. Construction garbage has been thrown in one area. Plastic bags will be provided. Three hours. Meet at 10:00 am at the corner of St. Josephs and Coors.  
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

**Sat Dec 10 Leisure-Moderate**  
Miles: 6-8 Car: 150 Elevation: +200  
**Sandstone Bluffs, El Malpais NM East Exploratory Hike**  
We will look for several small natural bridges and look at some Indian ruins in the area. This area of sculpted sandstone outcrops overlooks the knarly shapes of trees and rocks of the lava flow. Bring lunch. Meet at 8:30 am at the Sierra Club office at 207 San Pedro NE.  
Leader: Tom Pentencin 255-1497

**Sun Dec 11 Leisure Miles: 3 Car: 3**  
**Boca Negra Arroyo Hike, Petroglyph National Monument**  
Thousands of petroglyphs. Bring camera, binoculars and sturdy shoes. RSVP.  
Leader: Ike Eastvold 255-7679

**Sun Dec 11 Leisure-Moderate**  
Miles: 4-6 Car: 30  
**Tres Pistoles Canyon, SW**  
On the south side of the Sandias we will hike up Three Gun Canyon to the spring or the ridge. We may do a car shuttle into Embudo Canyon for a one way trip. Bring lunch. Meet at 9:00 am at the SC office.  
Leader: Bob Cornish 255-6037

**Thurs Dec 15 & Sat Dec 17**  
**Beginner Miles: 1-2 Car: ?**  
**Beginner's Cross Country Ski Lecture and Lessons**  
Certified ski instructor John Turnbull of the Santa Fe Group will offer a beginners lecture Thursday night on X/C history, clothing, and skis. On Saturday, the class will be taken to the field to practice their kick and glide, turns, and stops. Take advantage of these no cost lessons to experience the beauty of New Mexico's winter landscapes. Contact John Turnbull at 466-9329 or Stan.  
Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

**Sat Dec 17 Moderate**  
Miles: 6-10 Car: 70  
**Cross Country Ski in the Sandia Mountains**  
If the snow permits, we will probably do the 10K trail to the overlook and return by the Survey trail. If the snow is limited we will head towards a canyon, or further north to the Jemez or Pecos. Bring lunch.  
Leader: Nick Persampieri 281-7845

**Sun Dec 18 Moderate**  
Miles: 3-5 Car: TBD  
**Cross Country Ski Beginners Tour**  
Now that you have practiced your kick and glide, turns, and stops, here is your chance to perfect your technique on the trail before you return those rental skis. The tour is especially designed for beginner class participants. Location to be determined (TBD). Contact John Turnbull 466-9329 or Stan.  
Leader: Stan Kauchak 839-4301

**Sun Dec 25 Moderate**  
Miles: 4-6 Car: TBD  
**Christmas Day X/C Ski and Pot Luck Supper**  
Prepare your best dish and hit the trail to work up your appetite. The ski trip will be tailored for beginners up to intermediate skill levels. Location to be determined (TBD). The pot luck supper will follow the ski trip. Contact Georgia for details 881-9365.  
Leader: John Turnbull 466-9329

**Sun Dec 25 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM**  
**Christmas Day Pot Luck Supper**  
Sierra Club members and prospective members, prepare your best dish and join the returning X/C skiers for Christmas supper. There's no formality, just a chance to meet Club members in a casual and friendly atmosphere. Contact Georgia for further information 881-9365.

**Sun Jan 1 Leisure Miles: 4-6 Car: 20**  
**Foothills Trail, Sandias Hangover Hike**  
This is probably one of the quietest days of the year to be in the Sandia foothills. We will start at Embudito and head north. Bring lunch. Meet at 10:00 am.  
Leader: David Morrison 344-8693

**Thurs Jan 5 & Sat Jan 7**  
**X/C Ski Lecture and Lessons**  
Certified ski instructor John Turnbull of the Santa Fe Group will offer a beginners lecture Thursday night on X/C history, clothing, and skis. On Saturday the class will be taken to the field to practice their kick and glide, turns, and stops. Take advantage of these no cost lessons to experience the beauty of New Mexico's winter landscapes. These will be the last lessons offered by the Club this season. Contact John Turnbull at 466-9329 or Georgia.  
Leader: Georgia 881-9329

**Sun Jan 8 Moderate**  
Miles: 3-5 Car: TBD  
**Cross Country Ski Beginners Tour**  
Now that you have practiced your kick and glide, turns and stops, here is your chance to perfect your technique on the trail before you return those rental skis. The tour is especially designed for beginner class participants. Location to be determined (TBD). Contact John Turnbull at 466-9329 or Stan.  
Leader: Stan 839-4301

**Sat-Mon Jan 14-16 Moderate-Strenuous**  
Miles: 4-8/day Car: 450  
**Cloudcroft Area X/C Ski Weekend**  
Here is our chance to meet and ski with Rio Grande Chapter members from the southern part of the State. Telemark and tour in Lincoln National Forest among Ponderosa Pine. The first day will be dedicated to a back country tour, the next day to groomed trails. You don't have to be a Sierra Club member to participate. Contact John Turnbull (466-9329) or Stan for more information, also see "Santa Fe outings list."  
Leader: Stan 839-4301

**Jan Full Moon Weekend, San Antonio Hot Springs Winter Camping Trip**  
We are waiting for our 1995 Sierra Club Engagement Calendars to come in, so we can tell when the full moon is, approximately the third weekend. We do know we are going to do a winter camping trip at San Antonio hot springs on that weekend.  
Leader: Craig Dill 224-9795

## Candidates for Albuquerque Group Executive Committee

## Susan Gorman

The Albuquerque Group extends across the middle of New Mexico from Santa Rosa to Grants. Since so many of the members of the Group live in the Middle Rio Grande Area, it is too easy to forget those other places.

If I am elected to serve on the Albuquerque Group Excom, I will work to increase the number and effectiveness of our activists throughout the area. I will help members find each other and organize activist groups. I will help issue chairs to develop action plans that involve lots of people.

I am committed to bringing the restructuring and renewal of the Club which has already begun at the National level down to the Group level and I will listen to everyone's ideas and welcome your input. I support strengthening the Ecoregion Task Forces and increasing the opportunities for more people to work on Ecoregion related projects

Because I live in Albuquerque, I realize that we're on the edge of losing control of our destiny. Development pressures are increasing and growth is happening. The Sierra Club must motivate its members to action and urge an ecosystem approach to development of the Middle Rio Grande Area.

## Irving Karp

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for more than 13 years. My children grew up in family camping. I conducted camping programs for children and adolescents. After "retiring" two years ago from being a Professor of social work and a psychotherapist, my wife and I chose Albuquerque in large part because of its available outdoor activities, including skiing, tennis, and hiking. I have been active in the Sierra Club, have served on the Special Activities Committee, have regularly attended Sierra Club meetings, and, in recent months, Albuquerque ExCom meetings, a Chapter ExCom weekend, and the Chapter weekend Retreat. I am currently joining the Conservation Committee.

I have participated in several outings, including white water rafting, repairing the Ebudito Trail, office clean-up, parking lot fundraiser, picnics, mailings, and I have worked for political campaigns endorsed by the Sierra Club (Dave Cargo, Ray Powell). My wife, Rhoda, has also participated in

many of these activities. She covered the Sierra Club office for two years, and we hosted one of the pot luck events.

Members of the Executive Committee invited me to be a candidate for the Ex Com.

I believe that the function of the Ex Com is to help the various components of the Club, such as the Conservation Committee, do their job effectively. Many new members have been recruited, but as yet they have not been actively engaged. The Club needs their talents and viewpoints.

I am committed to the purposes of the Sierra Club and welcome the opportunity to make a fuller contribution as a member of the Executive Committee.

## Susan Lowrey

Since I was a little girl spending summers at my grandparents' cabin in the Jemez Mountains, I have loved the outdoors. Now protecting it is my life's work. I have worked with troubled youth in wilderness settings, done environmental education at a bird observatory, and am now practicing environmental law. I currently represent my neighborhood association against a developer of 2400 acres of formerly National Forest land. I am also involved in cases regarding the National Environmental Policy Act, nuisance, and wildlife law.

I would be honored to be a member of the Albuquerque Group Executive Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

## Jay B. Sorenson

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for over twenty years.

My activist credentials speak to an attempt to follow Muir's advice: "do something for the environment."

I am a member of the Group Executive Committee and at various times have been a member of the Chapter ExCom. I have just finished a term as Group Chair. I am a member of Mayor Chavez's task force on the reorganization of the Planning Department. I have been a principal architect of the Chama Wild & Scenic River protection efforts. I helped lead a ten-year effort to protect the Elena Gallegos and the Sandia Mountains. I am currently a member of the Sierra Club's national committee on Military Impacts on the Environment and represent the Sierra Club on the Department of Energy's Envi-

ronmental Management Advisory Board, the Western Governors' Working Group on Mixed Waste, and a National Laboratories' Directors Steering Group on Environmental and Occupational/Public Health Standards. I served on the state's Water Quality Control Commission for a four year term. I served on the state's Wilderness Commission in the 1970s and New Mexico's Sub-Cabinet in Natural Resources. I helped lead the Elk Mountain Road fight in the 1970s. I was chairman of the EPA's advisory committee on the Irradiated Treatment of Sludge. I was a founding member of CVA and served on Sierra Club political action committees in 1984 and 1988.

I am committed to building the Sierra Club's strength locally and nationally

## Gary O'Dea

Besides attending to the internal management of Club business, serving on the Executive Committee of the Albuquerque Sierra Club offers an excellent opportunity to positively influence local environmental policy. Importantly, serving on the Executive Committee also affords the opportunity to promote the Club as a recognized leader on the critical issues that affect our local community.

I am a relative newcomer to the Albuquerque area and have practiced environmental law here for one and a half years. I believe it is important for the Sierra Club to establish itself as a credible and respected leader on local environmental and conservation issues which are gaining increasing attention in our local community. Therefore, my primary focus as a member of the Albuquerque Sierra Club Executive Committee would be to work to develop and advance concise positions on important local issues such as water conservation and land use planning. In addition, I would work to promote local membership and participation in the Club, and to redefine the local Club's relationship with the national level Club to provide greater support to the local units of the Club.

## Group Ballot is on the last page

## the LORAX

**EXCOM ELECTION THIS MONTH:** This issue of the *Sierran* contains Candidate Statements and a Ballot (on page 32) to select among five excellent local Sierrans. These candidates for the El Paso local group EXCOM are Sondra Denney, Juan Enriquez, Adela Escudero, Ted Mertig, and Mike Seidensticker. Mike is also running for the Rio Grande Chapter EXCOM. Please be sure to read over our candidates' statements. Make your choice, mark your ballot, and mail it in, according to the instructions. Last year out of 500+ local members, only 38 voted in the EXCOM elections. *Your vote does matter.*

**OCTOBER MEETING:** Larry Weston, the founding father of the *Carlsbat Cavers*, and our own caving expert Sondra Denney will show slides and speak on cave restoration and conservation. Join us please.

The program will start at 7:30 p.m. on Wed 26 Oct at St. Paul's Methodist Church at 7000 Edgemere, east of Airway. For more information, call Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

**Wow, Buy a Calendar!** Here's another great reason to attend the monthly General Meetings: buy yourself a 1995 *Sierra Club Calendar*. We've got six types for sale: a desk-top Engagement Cal, a Pocket Cal, and Wall Cals on the themes of Travel, Wildlife, Wilderness, and Wolf. Splendid photography gives great aesthetic pleasure for the viewer and cachet for the gift giver. Be the first one on your block to have a Sierra Club Cal. Collect all six. Trade them. Give 'em for Xmas or birthdays. A substantial cut of the sales price goes to our own local group coffers. Call Ted for details, 852-3011.

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER MEETING:** Because of the holidays, in Nov & Dec we will hold only one meeting. That'll be on Wed 7 Dec, and the program has yet to be selected. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Methodist Church. For more information, call Ted Mertig, 852-3011.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed 26 Oct	Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemere
Wed 2 Nov	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 2 Nov	EXCOM mtg 7 p.m. Env Ctr
Tue 8-9 Nov	First Aid evening workshops 532-0120
Thu 10 Nov	C.P.R. training free 545-5285
Fri 11 Nov	I.C.O. workshop 544-5659
Thu 10 Nov	LORAX flier deadline 532-2652
Wed 12 Nov	Conservation Mtg 7 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 7 Dec	Gen Mtg 7:30 p.m. 7000 Edgemere
Sat 10 Dec	LORAX <i>Sierran</i> deadline 532-2652
Wed 14 Dec	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 14 Dec	EXCOM mtg 7 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 4 Jan	I.C.O. mtg 6 p.m. Env Ctr
Wed 4 Jan	EXCOM mtg 7 p.m. Env Ctr

**Hug a Tree:** A telephone tree, that is. To encourage us to turn out at General & EXCOM Meetings, and to establish a quick-news network for reaching our 500 local members, we'll be dividing our phone list among the thirty or forty most active members. Thereafter, we'd like to subdivide the list further to establish a network in which each caller phones no more than five callees in order for the whole group to be reached in a couple three generations, with nobody spending more than ten or fifteen minutes in the endeavor. Please listen for our call and be ready to make a few of your own. Thanks!

**Putman Saves the Day:** The week before our last LORAX went to print was a bear. Too many last-minute changes, three outings the previous weekend, and an I.C.O. service trip to prepare for. When it came down to the wire that Friday afternoon, the camera-ready copy of the LORAX flier arrived at the westside shop of our sponsor, Gardenswartz Sportz. The flier had to reach the post office on the following Monday to get out in time before the general meeting. But no local Sierran had volunteered to do the labeling. So, did it all get done? Yes. By whom? Chris Putman, the manager of Gardenswartz Sportz, copied off and labeled all five hundred fliers himself. Thank you, Chris, for saving the day!

**Volunteers Are Needed!** At the El Paso Environmental Center, this goes without saying. But we have to say it anyway because we need you. Please come and pitch in. Or at least phone in to put your name on a call list: 532-9645 or 532-4876. We need you, we need you, we need you.

**First Aid Training Offered:** Sierrans have another chance to attend brief classes in First Aid and C.P.R. on Tue 8 - Thu 10 Nov to earn certification in these valuable skills. Please sign up for three-hour evening sessions. At the Basic Life Support School 532-0120, Barbara Zuzierla will teach First Aid in two sessions. Classes there (700 E. Yandell @ Ochoa, opposite H&H Carwash) begin at 6 p.m. At the El Paso E.M.S. HQ 545-5285 (100 N. Ochoa, just north of San Antonio), you can learn C.P.R. Both mini-courses offer a card or certificate upon completion. C.P.R. classes are free, while First Aid training costs \$12.50 for the two evenings. Phone ahead to reserve your space.

**Inner City Outings Leadership** training will take place on Fri 11 Nov, 6 p.m. at the Env Ctr. A dayhike on Sat 12 Nov will ensue. Anyone completing First Aid, C.P.R., and the leadership workshop & hike should be prepped to help lead I.C.O. outings. Please call Richard Rheder 544-5659 for details.

**Dump yer ole Daypack** on the I.C.O. If you have a repairable used daypack you'd like to donate, the I.C.O. needs it. We can repair rips and even replace a worn zipper, if it means we get a tough, usable daypack. Call Michael Bromka at 532-2652 or drop it at the Env Ctr.

## GROUP DIRECTORY

Chairman/ Public Lands	Ted Mertig	852-3011
Vice Chair	OPEN	
Secretary	Joe Rodriguez	833-9655
Treasurer	Kathy Sunday	584-9301
Outings	Debbie Tomacelli	584-3929
Inner City Outings	Richard Rheder	544-5659
Member	Betsy Julian	544-5741
Env. Quality	Tom Brasfield	584-8739
Franklin Mtns	John Sproul	545-5157
Political Action	Jim Bell	581-8864
Population	OPEN	
Env Center	OPEN	
Mail	Bill Phillips	772-6503
Hospitality	Barbara Mertig	852-3011
Membership	Patricia Wood	542-0553
Office Rep.	Neil O'Hara	565-4735
Publicity	OPEN	
LORAX Editor	Michael Bromka	532-2652

Sierra Club Environmental Center  
800 S. Piedras @ Paisano  
532-9645, 532-4876

Membership:  
SIERRA CLUB  
409 Robinson Rd  
El Paso, TX 79902

LORAX information:  
Michael Bromka  
300 W. Schuster #5  
El Paso, TX 79902

## UPCOMING OUTINGS

Sun 30 Oct: **Franklins Geology Dayhike**, moderately strenuous, call Betsy Julian 544-5741 for details.

Fri 4-6 Nov: **Johnson Cabin Trail Backpack**, Gila, moderate 6 miles, call Joe Rodriguez 833-9655. Fri night we'll carcamp, and Sat we'll hike along trails 181 & 226. We'll see mining relics and pioneer fruit trees, then camp near the confluence of Big Dry & the north fork of Dry Creek.

Thu 10-13 Nov: **Holt Gulch Service Trip**, moderate carcamp, call Rollin Wickenden 598-8042. Thu night we'll camp at Sheridan Corral, then Sat be ferried to the trailhead to set up base camp. The Forest Service will provide tools and water. We'll work trimming branches along the Holt Gulch Trail, renowned as "the trail no El Paso Sierran has ever hiked." You may arrive later than Thu if your employment schedule so dictates.

Sat 3-4 Dec **Allie Canyon Backpack**, Gila National Forest, moderate 5 miles, *Winter Weather & Temperatures* expected, call Rollin Wickenden 598-8042. We'll leave El Paso early Sat a.m., drive to the trailhead, and backpack 2.5 miles to our campsite. We'll sleep in tents, but a cabin is available as a cooking and social center. Dress for winter weather, and come join the fun.

Sat 10-11 Dec **Cochise Head Backpack**, Chiricahua N.M., moderate 6 miles, call Claus Christiansen 594-2505. We'll leave early Sat and drive 5 hrs to the trailhead. A 2-3 mile hike will bring us to our camp at the foot of Cochise Head. Sun a.m. we'll dayhike up to the highest point (the nose, some 1500+ elevation gain). We'll pack up, hike out, and drive home that evening.

## OUTINGS REPORTS

**Desert Moonlight Walk, Sat 20 Aug:** With the red sun setting, we walked south on the power line road in the desert flats east of Mesquite. Soon over the south arm of Bishop's Cap the full moon rose, first bright and clear, then later misty through thin high clouds. We admired the constellation Scorpio and planets Venus and Jupiter. Lightning flashes in thickening clouds on the horizon urged us back to our vehicles. Bathing in moonlight were Barbara & Ted Mertig, Mary & Bob Drake, Paul Bronson, Scott Malcomson, Peter Skaates, Rex Heck, Connie Gamboa, Dorothy Ward, Kelly Fisher, Glenn Kennedy, Maria Fuentes, Carmen Zamora, Martha Gonzalez, and leader Alice Anderson.

**Sierra Blanca Dayhike, Sun 21 Aug:** Fourteen Sierrans set out to scale our nearest high peak. A piney trail through woods and wildflowers led us past the ski tow upper terminus to a masonry observation deck. Some chose to drink in the view while others trekked ever onward and upward toward the rocky summit. Reaching top were Carol Morrison, Jim Bell, Kirk Isaacson, Mark Shouse, Gus Peña, Michael Bromka, and leader Mike Episcopo. One of the gents amazed us by pulling a cellular phone out of his pack. We passed it around and made chatty calls from our windswept promontory. Back down at the saddle, we rejoined Maria Episcopo, Carolina Greenfield, Jeff, Sue, & Daniel Brannon and Burton Webb. We walked back down along a steep gravel service road. Terrific workout with a view!

**Labor Day Gila Loop Backpack, Sat 3-5 Sept:** From Little Dry Creek trailhead, we hiked five miles through cold rain to Windy Gap where we shared a chilly but cheery lunch. We'd already gained half the day's altitude, but we carried on upward for 1800' more to the south side of Triangle Mtn, then on to our Simmons Saddle campsite at 10,000' elevation. There, we pitched a tight little ghetto of 8 tents. Sharing dinner in drizzle were Dennis & Patrick Hammett, Rob Belk, Alice Anderson, Joe Rodriguez, Kathy Sunday, Rollin Wickenden, Rafaela Schuller, Michael Bromka, Carolina Greenfield, and leader Laurence Gibson. A spring offered pure water, and steady rain lulled us to sleep. The next day was sunny but tough, ten miles of steep up & down switchbacks, reaching a high point over the top of Black Mtn, 10,643. Apache Cabin was in good repair, and well stocked. Our trail almost dissolved at the burnt out California Park. Carolina and Michael meekly poked a few yards into a meandering horizontal mine tunnel, cold & dripping. Golden Link Cabin was run down but offered a yard strewn with rusty mining gear. We camped on Big Dry, upstream from its jct with Spruce Creek. Here we could pump drinking water and bracingly bathe. It was dusk when Rafaela the energizer bunny reached camp. Our last morning brought us the pleasant ascent back to Windy Gap. While taking a steep hillside break, discussing the proliferation of wildflowers & mushrooms, we

saw the LORAX editor lean against a girthy dead tree. The tree tore out from its rotten roots, toppled downhill, and knocked over a second dead tree which then blocked the trail behind us. So that's how blowdowns occur!

**Baylor Pass Traverse Dayhike, Sat 17 Sept:** Wildflowers adorned Baylor Peak as Paul Bronson, Rudy Provencio, Michael Bromka, and leader Alice Anderson trudged up its north ridge. We walked over or around four false summits and stopped for lunch at the fifth, from which we could see Sierra Blanca, the dunes at White Sands, and last summer's burn on the Organ Mtns near the missile range. We continued south along the main ridge, past the infamous vast gap, and up to the summit. Just below the peak were two ancient gnarled Junipers, Siegfried & Brünhilde. (*She* looks to be having a bad hair century.) We lingered on the summit, soaking up scenery, before descending on the Baylor Canyon trail, reaching our car just at sunset.

**Bear-Tejas Loop Dayhike, Sun 18 Sept:** Nine Sierrans hiked twelve miles up and around a classic route in the Guads. We set out along the Frijole Trail early enough to see grazing deer and enjoy a cool clamber up steeply switchbacking Bear Canyon. A tidbit of conversation revealed the remarkable fitness level of one hiker, Linda Groetken: *I had to cut back on push-ups when my pinkie fingers went numb! So you cut back to how many push-ups? Fifty! From a high of? Seventy.* Well, the rest of us were proud just to make it up Bear Canyon. Alee of the rusted water tank, we lounged and snacked. If you lie on top of the sheet metal there on a sunny day, it warms you up, despite a cold airtemp. We continued counterclockwise around the Bowl Trail, past the 1990 burn and through tall grass. Hunter Peak afforded a view of the high Guads: Nappy Peak, Lost Peak, Bush Mtn, Bartlet, Shumard, & Guadalupe Peaks, and El Capitan. Speedy hikers Linda Groetken, Norene Rossi, Lee Ward, and Carolina Greenfield charged along down Tejas Trail, leaving five lizards lounging atop Pine Top's rocks: Ann Falknor, Barbara Elizalde, Ian Hanna, Sondra Denny, and leader Michael Bromka. We strolled down the Tejas Trail, enjoying the last splash of sunlight on the escarpment. A fuzzy tarantula and sundry grazing mule deer waved us on our way.

**Wind Mtn Dayhike, Sat 8 Oct:** Several carloads of Sierrans bumpity-bumped over dirt roads to reach the Cornudas Mtns. We prudently dropped by to pay our respects to Mr Coody, a local rancher, to identify our mission in his neck of the desert. On reaching Wind Mtn, we circled around Tim Murphy and Russell Jensen of the BLM to hear a discourse on the feldspar mine. Its access road is there to be seen, zig-zagging up the base of the mountain. One could sense a tender interplay of diplomatic public servant vs. prickly environmentalist when Russell Jensen was questioned by John Green: *When they built that road, what did they do with the plants? The plants were...removed! They were what? Removed! They killed them, didn't they? Isn't that what you're saying?* Also in attendance were Bill Phillips, Joe Leach, Chuck Crowley, Jeannie French, and others whose names I missed. After the discourse, the aforementioned Sierrans searched for petroglyphs, in vain at Chattfield Mtn, then with success at Alamo Mtn. Attempting to scale Wind Mtn were Barbara and leader Ted Mertig, Dolores Dueñez, Daniel Haddock, Ben & Gene Collins, Phil Dolan, Rafael Porres, and Michael Bromka. Phil and Gene made it 3/4 of the way up, while Michael and

Rafael reached the top separately. From there, one has a bird's eye view of Alamo, San Antonio, Chattfield, Flattop, Deer, and Cornudas Mtns. Just a few hundred yards NE of Wind's summit is a fascinating low-tech cistern topped by a broad shallow funnel. This "guzzler" was funded by NM Fish & Game user fees. They choppered the tank in, bolted it together, and left it there to collect, retain, and dole out rainwater to local wildlife. An underground pipe leads from the tank to a box with a bobber valve (like in a toilet tank) which keeps up a drinkable level of water in a small trough. Here's evidence of worthy government stewardship.

**San Mateo Peak Backpack, Sat 8-9 Oct:** At Springtime Campground we were greeted by seventy NMSU revelers throwing a frat party. They were soon behind us as we sought the serenity of wilderness. The San Mateo Mtns feted us with autumn. Slopes were ablaze with fall colors, and the air was cool and crisp. In the early afternoon, we made camp at Twenty-Five Yard Spring. Some of us relaxed while others took a dayhike. Sunday we climbed San Mateo Peak to relish spectacular views in all directions. In the distance we glimpsed a burned-out area from the recent Coffee Pot fire. Rejoicing in Autumn were Laurence Gibson, Carolina Greenfield, Carl Horkowitz, Peter Skaates, Joe Rodriguez, and leader Kathy Sunday.

**Rim Trail Dayhike, Sat 8 Oct:** Sierra Club members took the Rim Trail for an easy dayhike in Cloudcroft. We set out in beautiful cool weather and enjoyed the colors, the views, and the company. The members of our hiking group were Maria Silva, Irma Botelo, Monica Zabolotney, Tip Bambook, Elizabeth & Jonathan Chase, Sam Garcia, Nancy Opperman, Maria Rodriguez, Stuart Koenig, Linda Groetken, Gracie Luna, Larry Larson, Laura & Dennis Hammond, and leader Patricia Wood. Most of us did stop later in the village to window-shop and extend the lovely day just a bit more.

**Recent I.C.O. Outings:** With Project Vida, the I.C.O. offered the *Comanche Peak Evening Hike*, led by Michael Bromka, assisted by Betty Fisbeck and Jennifer Riggan. Ann Falknor, Barbara Elizalde, Ian Hanna, and Sondra Denney also accompanied five girls and two boys up Comanche Peak at sunset for a look at El Paso spreading a carpet of light. One week later, Jennifer Riggan led the *McKittrick Canyon Carcamp/Service Trip*, assisted by Sondra Denney, Ian Hanna, Cheryl Frey, and Michael Bromka. The adults, five boys, and two girls pitched tents at the Ship-on-the-Desert site. Our evening and morning hikes offered encounters with deer, javelina, and one shy rattlesnake. At night we were serenaded by coyotes. On two consecutive days, a splendidly affable Park Ranger named Roger Murillo supervised as we worked with pickaxe, shovel, Polaski, McLoed, and bare hands to groom the trail: tossing away rocks, beefing up water ridges, and dropping in new water bars. The young people relished their time in the wilderness.

**Group Ballot is on the last page.  
Remember to Vote!**

**EARTH LETTER**

You can make a difference *now*: write a letter, save the earth.

A **Civil War-era Ghost** haunts public lands in a one-sentence portion of the Lode Mining Act of 1866: "The right-of-way for construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public purposes, is hereby granted." This sentence — known as *Revised Statute 2477*, or *RS 2477* — offers anti-environmentalists a loophole to carve thousands of roads through pristine wilderness across the western U.S. and Alaska. Counties, States, and off-road-vehicle groups are filing claims now for rights-of-way to lay dirt roads, tracks, and trails across public lands.

**Claims skyrocketed** in 1988 when Reagan's then-Interior Secretary Donald Hodel loosened the interpretation of an *RS 2477* right-of-way to include any former dirt road, track, footpath, or dogsled route. With no federal oversight, these could be widened, realigned, paved, and turned into major highways. Of noted concern are proposed highways through Alaska's Denali National Park and claims over 5000 different routes in Utah's red-rock canyon country.

**Current Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt** is now trying to limit the sprawl of roads from new claims by writing updated regulations.

**Write a Letter, Save the Earth:** Write to Interior Secretary Babbitt and urge him to:

\*Use tough regulations to protect federal lands from *RS 2477* rights-of-way.

\*Limit what qualifies as a valid *RS 2477* right-of-way.

\*Shorten the deadline for filing *RS 2477* claims to one year after the updated regulations are final.

**Write Bruce Babbitt Now:**

Secretary Bruce Babbitt  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 5555  
Washington, DC 20240

**EXCOM CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS**

**Sondra Denney:** Born and raised on an Oklahoma farm, Sondra earned a B.S. in Chemistry from U. of Houston. She's worked as a forensic chemist for the last twelve years. For four and a half years in Houston, she supervised the largest field crime lab in the Texas D.P.S.

An avid caver, Sondra moved to El Paso to be closer to Carlsbad Caverns N.P., where she's frequently volunteered leading interpretive tours and restoring caves. "Cave restoration is environmentalism at its hands-on closest." Sondra has been active in recent local I.C.O. trips to the Franklins, Guadalupe Mtns, and Carlsbad Caverns. Two of these were service outings for which she was assistant leader.

"I would like to see the local Sierra Club group become more active in educating the public, especially young people, on environmental issues and principles of conservation. I hope to raise awareness of caves as unique wilderness milieux of beauty and fragility."

**Juan Enriquez:** Born and raised in Socorro where he still lives, Juan earned a B.A. from UTEP and has worked for sixteen years with handicapped persons. He's currently a Case Management Supervisor, overseeing social workers serving children and adolescents who

are severely emotionally disturbed.

Although his first exposure to camping came over five years in Boy Scouts, Juan prefers his current volunteer work with Inner City Outings. "I.C.O. is better organized, more inclusive, and actively promotes environmentalism to communities who've historically been ignored." A first-generation Mexican American, Juan is fluently bilingual. "I believe I have an approach and a cultural awareness which can bring environmental values to the Hispanic community in a convincing yet easy-going way. It's not necessary to ruffle feathers or alienate people when you convey a love of nature. Some Anglos seem to feel that a love of the earth and a sense of stewardship are alien concepts to Hispanics. But I know those values are there to be encouraged."

**Adela Escudero:** Raised in El Paso, Adela earned a Psychology B.A. at UTEP and a B.S. in Addiction Counseling from UNM Albuquerque. She's completed further training at the American Academy of Addictive Disorders, a division of Harvard Medical School, and now works as an Outreach Counselor, covering El Paso and West Texas.

For her current volunteer work with I.C.O., she calls on her experience as a program coordinator in the Socorro School District.

"I found that clean-up service projects, nature walks, hikes, and outings were a great way to reach people. The human individual is its own ecosystem. For many people, an encounter with Nature is the most vivid way to recognize a balance born in us all. The Earth is a metaphor for each of us individually and for us collectively. In order for us to survive and thrive, we must cherish and preserve this planet, as we learn to preserve ourselves."

**Ted Mertig's** credentials with the Sierra Club are extensive. A member since 1981, Ted transferred here from the John Muir chapter of Madison, WI. He's served on the local EXCOM for six years and chaired the group since 1992. He's been on the Rio Grande Chapter EXCOM for four years, covering the Diamond Bar Ranch issues. He's put up with the headaches of hawking Sierra Club calendars, and vice-chaired "Earth Day on the Border" for two years. Ted's led outings for adults and I.C.O.: hikes, backpacks, and fishing trips. He's been active and outspoken on behalf of public lands, and is a local representative of the National Trails Coalition.

"The Sierra Club is *the* major group in the U.S. working to preserve the environment and protect our wild places. We must pursue this mission relentlessly. I look forward to sharing this mission."

**Mike Seidensticker:** Geologist. Sierra Club member since 1980. Currently Chapter Membership Chair and El Paso Group representative to Chapter EXCOM. Member of: Big Bend Natural History Association, Environmental Defense Fund, Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition, Friends of Hueco Tanks, Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Federation. Volunteer lab technician for River Watch Network; have helped lead Inner City Outings.

"My interest in environmental issues is driven by my enthusiasm for exploring wild, pristine places. As a consultant in the environmental-cleanup field, a curious enterprise blending science, engineering/technology, law, politics, public relations, and capitalism, I have developed insights applicable toward formulating sensible environmental policy for our region. I want to make a personal contribution toward that effort."

**SANTA FE GROUP NEWS**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1994**

**SANTA FE MAYOR DEBBIE JARAMILLO TO ADDRESS GROUP !!**

The first woman Mayor of Santa Fe, Debbie Jaramillo, will be our guest at the November meeting. Her Honor will speak to us on environmental issues that she feels of primary importance to the City, and an opportunity for questions from the membership will be afforded. We are looking forward to an interesting and lively evening. Please bring your friends and come to meet our dynamic new mayor *and* bring plenty of questions about your favorite environmental concerns facing the City Different.

The November meeting is free to all and will be held at the Unitarian Church (on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo) *Tuesday, November 15, 1994, at 7:30 PM.*

**SUNDAY PARTY !!**



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1994**

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**

**SUNDAY PARTY !!**

A great kickoff to the holidays is our annual party, which will be held this year on **Sunday, December 18, 1993, at 6:00 PM at the Unitarian Church** (on Barcelona between Don Gaspar and Galisteo). We'll sing carols and enjoy the fun of seeing who wins the loot in our silent auction which will be conducted by auctioneer Web Kitchell. So, if you have a white elephant or some useful or totally frivolous item you'd like to pass on to someone else, please bring it along to be put up for bidding. Last year we had downhill skis and boots, original art, pottery, weaving, swim flippers and mask, and many other wonderful things. Let's make this year even more fun.

We ask each person coming to please bring a food dish to feed at least eight people. A small financial contribution at the door will be requested to help defray the cost of the party. If you have clothes to spare, a collection box for St. Elizabeth's shelter will be there to fill. If you can help set up before or clean up after the party, or if you need ideas about what food to bring, please call Norma McCallan at 471-0005. Hope to see you there!

**VOTE NOVEMBER 8 !!**

**VOTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT !!**

**VOTE OFTEN !!**

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

**Executive Committee:** (Norma 471-0005)

November 1 and December 6

**Conservation Committee:** (George 982-1024)

November 22 and December 27 at 7 PM

**TO CURRENT AND WANNABE OUTINGS LEADERS: Workshop on Saturday, March 18, 1995 — Look for further details in next newsletter.**

**>> SANTA FE GROUP OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS <<**

Co-Chairs — Mark Mortier*	983-5870	Newsletter Editor — Kay Carlson	982-3926
— Norma McCallan*	471-0005	Phone Tree — Martha Anne Freeman*	438-0697
Secretary/Treasurer — Lionel Soracco*	983-6715	Kids' Sierra Club — Justine Freeman	988-9126
Conservation — George Grossman*	982-1024	Recycling/Office — Carolyn Keskulla	982-9570
Chapter Representatives — Sue McIntosh*	466-2001	Outings — Norbert Sperlich	983-1962
— Norma McCallan*	471-0005	— Norma McCallan*	471-0005
Publicity — Cass Evans	474-0406/hm - 982-6250/wk	Welcomer — Susan Banks	757-2284
Political Committee — Ken Hughes*	474-0550	Membership — Fundraising — Education — open	

\* Member of the SF Group Executive Committee

Terms expire 12/94: Hughes/McIntosh/Freeman/Perkins

12/95: McCallan/Mortier/Soracco/Goldman/Grossman

>>>>>>>>> SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS <<<<<<<<<<<

Sat Sun November

- 5 Arnold and Carolyn Keskulla (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Hike in the Tesuque Hills. Leave 9 AM.
- 5 Caroline Glick (984-3184) Strenuous Hike somewhere in Bandelier. Call for reservations and details.
- 6 John Jasper (466-8572) Easy/Moderate Loop Hike (with car shuttle) Aspen Vista — Tesuque — Ski Basin. Slow Pace. Leave 8 AM.

Friday-Saturday-Sun, November 4-5-6

Norma McCallan (471-0005) Exploratory Backpack along the slickrock hogback of Comb Ridge, between Highway 95 and Highway 163 in SE Utah. 20 plus miles. Great panoramas and eroded sandstone the whole way. If weather bad, we will camp and do moderate day hikes in the area. Leave early Thursday afternoon, 11-3. Call for details. Dogs allowed, only if camping.

★ TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 — ELECTION DAY — BE SURE TO VOTE !! ★

- 12 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike in Ojo Caliente area. Leave 8 AM.
- 13 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate/Strenuous Hike to Lake Peak via Winsor Trail, weather permitting. Otherwise, moderate hike at a lower elevation. Call for reservations.

★ ISSUE HIKE FOR NOVEMBER ★

13 Elizabeth Winter (1-505-751-7428) Remote and little known Ute Mountain (near Costillo) has been receiving a lot of recent publicity due to threats of a major resort development being built on its flanks. Meet with local activists and tour the area. Short and leisurely 3 mile roundtrip walk. A hydrologist and a wildlife expert will be on hand to explain some of the dangers of development. Carpool from PERA 8 AM to Los Rios River Runners in Taos, where transportation will be available for the remainder of the trip. Find Los Rios River Runners just after you turn on to the Ski Valley Road (the 1st blinking light north of Taos) on the right hand side of the road. Bring warm clothes — expect any kind of weather — it may be windy — and bring a picnic lunch.

- 19 Bob McKee (672-3426) Moderate Loop Hike to Ancho Rapids via Ancho Canyon. Approximately 7 miles RT, some off-trail and bushwhacking. Call for time and meeting place.
- 20 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) Moderate Cross-Country Ski Tour (snow conditions permitting). If no snow, Moderate Hike to Shaggy Peak (considerable off-trail walking). Leave 8 AM. Call to find out which option.

November 24, 25, 26, 27 (Thursday through Sunday)



John Turnbull (466-9329) Early-season, Thanksgiving Week Taos Downhill (and Telemark) ski bash. This is a repeat of the Albuquerque Group's event last year. Inexpensive accommodations; discounted lift tickets at a national-class resort; and a backcountry tour in the high country (really high), at either Long Peak or Williams Lake, near Taos Ski Valley. Intermittent opportunities to check out the Taos gallery scene or simply vegetate with a good book. Phone John Turnbull or, in Albuquerque, Stan Kauchak (839-4301) for details and carpooling info.

- 26 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Hike Red Dot/Blue Dot Trail near White Rock. Leave 8 AM.
- 27 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) Strenuous Hike to San Miguel Ruins in Bandelier National Monument. Call for reservations.
- 27 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy Hike in Cañada de Los Alamos. Leave 9 AM.

SKI TOURING

Interested in ski touring, but nothing is scheduled? There may be a last-minute trip happening, or if there is sufficient interest one may be arranged. Phone either John Turnbull (466-9329) in Santa Fe or Stan Kauchak (839-4301) in Albuquerque. The non-scheduled trips often are the best of all, taking advantage of new snow, etc.

GROUP MEETINGS

The October 18 meeting featured Governor Bruce King, Congressman Richardson, Attorney General Udall, Land Commissioner Powell and candidate for Lieutenant Governor Madrid. It was great! *Where were you?* November 15 features Santa Fe Mayor Debbie Jaramillo — come and bring a friend!! Ed.

Sat Sun December

- 3 Joe Whelan (984-0746) Moderate Hike to Alamo Canyon (Bandelier). Leave 8:30 AM.
- 3 John Turnbull (466-9329) Ski tour for advanced beginners An early season ski tour, held jointly between ABQ and Santa Fe Groups, probably in the northern part of the state where snow is earlier. All-day trip. Phone leader or Stan Kauchak, Albuquerque (839-4301) for details and carpooling info.
- 4 Jeff Jones (466-2389) Easy Hike from Tesuque. Kids welcome. Leave 9:30 AM.
- 10 Carolyn and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) Easy/Moderate Hike to Tent Rocks. Some off-trail scrambling. Leave 9 AM.
- 11 Julie Montoya King (438-7197) Moderate Hike Call leader for information.

Thursday, December 15

John Turnbull (466-9329) Indoor Ski Class Introduction to Cross-country skiing. Discussion of Nordic skiing, its history, various applications, relationship to Alpine (*downhill*) skiing; Nordic equipment, especially for backcountry skiing; what to wear. Unitarian Church. 7:00 PM to approximately 9:30 PM.

- 17 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) Moderate Hike to Buckman Mesa and Otowi Peak. About 6 miles roundtrip, 1100' climb. Mostly off-trail. Leave 8 AM.

17 John Turnbull (466-9329) Outdoor Ski Class Beginning Cross-country Skiing - Basic techniques. Introduction to fundamentals of Nordic skiing, classical style, emphasizing backcountry needs. Probably at Amole Canyon, near Peñasco, depending on snow. Bring snacks or a small lunch, and water. Equipment can be rented at most shops. Leave 9:00 AM from Wild Mountain Outfitters (previously known as Wilderness Exchange) next to Osco Drugs. Return early afternoon.

18 John Turnbull (466-9329) Beginners' Cross-country Ski Tour Vicinity to be determined by snow. Thoughtful pace with time to look at the trees. About six miles. Instruction in assessing and skiing various terrain. Bring snacks, at least one quart of water, and generous lunch. This is a follow-up of the ski classes. Leave 9 AM from Wild Mountain Outfitters (previously known as Wilderness Exchange) next to Osco Drugs. Return about 4 PM.

- 18 Norma McCallan (471-0005) Easy Loop Hike Near Nun's Corner area. Dogs allowed. Leave 9:30.
- 18 David Brown (662-2185) Strenuous Ski Tour on Jicarita Peak. 16 miles roundtrip, 3000' climb. Call leader for time and meeting place.



18 Annual Christmas Party, 6 PM, Unitarian Church — see write-up elsewhere in this newsletter.

24 Christmas Eve — no hike or ski trip scheduled. Last chance to do your Christmas shopping! 

25 John Turnbull (466-9329) Christmas Day Beginner/Intermediate Ski Tour Don't spend the holiday alone! Celebrate with us. Probably in the Sandias or Manzanos, snow permitting. Ski trip will be followed by an informal evening potluck dinner in Albuquerque. Sponsored jointly by Albuquerque and Santa Fe Groups. Phone John Turnbull, or in Albuquerque Georgia Jannuzzi (881-9365), for details. It should be a lot of fun. Potluck dinner is open to everyone.

- 31 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) Easy/Moderate Ski Trip Weather permitting. Call leader for information.

FROM THE CHAIR'S CORNER . . .

Martha Ann Freeman is resigning after having been the Phone Tree Chair for the last four years. Martha Ann brought her good organizational skills and careful attention to detail to nurturing and guiding the Phone Tree for this extended period of time, and we have been most grateful to her. We thank her deeply and wish her well in whatever new endeavor she chooses.

Martha Ann's departure leaves this position vacant, but she has agreed to train and assist her successor. Please call us if you are interested in taking over this very significant volunteer job. The Phone Tree is our only means of getting out environmental and legislative alerts on short term. With the newsletter only coming out every other month, the direct communication of the Phone Tree is even more important. Incidentally, we always need new people on the various branches of the tree. Please call Martha Ann (438-0697) if interested. Being on the tree only requires six or so calls a year to four or five other activities and, of course, to the legislative or governmental body we want to reach with our conservation message. It's a relatively easy and painless way to get involved.

We do want to thank Susan Banks who has graciously agreed to be our Welcomer at the General Meetings.  
 Norma McCallan \* \* \* Co-Chairs \* \* \* Mark Mortier



# Happy New Year !!



## SAT SUN JANUARY SANTA FE GROUP OUTINGS (continued)

1 Norbert Sperlich (983-1962) **Moderate Hike** in La Bajada area. Call for details and reservations.

### Thursday, January 5

John Turnbull (466-9329) **Indoor Ski Class Introduction to Cross-country skiing**. Discussion of Nordic skiing, its history, various applications, relationship to Alpine (downhill) skiing; Nordic equipment, especially for backcountry skiing; what to wear. Unitarian Church. 7:00 PM to approximately 9:30 PM.

7 Norma McCallan (471-0005) **Easy/Moderate Hike** South of town, starting on the RR tracks. Dogs allowed. Leave 9:30 AM.

7 John Turnbull (466-9329) **Outdoor Ski Class Beginning Cross-country Skiing - Basic techniques**. Introduction to fundamentals of Nordic skiing, classical style, emphasizing backcountry needs. Probably at Los Alamos Golf Course, depending on snow. Bring snacks or a small lunch, and water. Equipment can be rented at most shops. Leave 9:00 AM from Wild Mountain Outfitters (previously known as Wilderness Exchange) next to Osco Drug on Cordova. Return early afternoon.

8 Jeff Jones (466-2389) **Easy Hike** 5-6 miles R.T. in Diablo Canyon. Children encouraged. Leave 9 AM.

8 John Turnbull (466-9329) **Beginners' Cross-country Ski Tour** Snow permitting, probably in the Jemez Mountains, or Amole Canyon, near Peñasco. Thoughtful pace with time to look at the trees. About six miles. Instruction in assessing and skiing various terrain. Bring snacks, at least one quart of water, and generous lunch. This is a follow-up of the ski classes. Leave 9:00 AM from Wild Mountain Outfitters (previously known as Wilderness Exchange) next to Osco Drug. Return about 4:00 PM.

14 Steven Janus (988-4137) **Moderate/Strenuous Snowshoe/Cross Country Ski Tour** Southwest Ridge-Lake Peak-Ravens Ridge Loop. 6-7 miles roundtrip. Your choice of which equipment. Call for time of departure and details.

15 Bob McKee (672-3426) **Moderate Hike** from Otowi Bridge along the north bank of the Rio Grande. Carpool from PERA at 8 AM, or meet Bob at the Otowi Bridge at 8:45 AM.

### January 14, 15, 16 (Saturday, Sunday and Monday)

John Turnbull (466-9329) **Chapter-wide ski weekend in the Cloudcroft area**, Lincoln National Forest. An opportunity to meet Sierra Clubbers from the southern reaches and have some fun. A day at the resort for some Telemark (or downhill) skiing; track skiing at a groomed area; a day of backcountry touring in the ponderosas; cozy evenings in front of a fireplace. Bring your favorite friend. Phone John Turnbull, or in Albuquerque Stan Kauchak (839-4301) for details and carpooling.

21 Caroline and Arnold Keskulla (982-9570) **Easy Hike** along the Rio Grande. Leave 9 AM.

21 Lionel Soracco (983-6715) **Moderate Cross-Country Ski Trip** Call for destination. Leave 8 AM.

22 Norrine Sanders (984-0386) **Moderate Hike** to Ancho Rapids, near White Rock. Leave 8:30 AM.

28 Joe Whelan (984-0746) **Moderate Cross-Country Ski Tour** in the Jemez. Leave 8:30 AM.

29 Elizabeth Altman (471-8490) **Easy Hike** "A river runs through it" — 6 miles along the Santa Fe River. Leave 9 AM.

### Saturday and Sunday, January 28 and 29

Margo Wilson (1-505-744-5860) Journey down to the warmer climes of Truth or Consequences for a weekend of new scenery and camaraderie. Camp in at Margo's house, **Moderate Day Hike** Saturday to Turtle Back Mountain, followed by a bath at a hot springs in TorC, pot-luck supper Saturday night, **Moderate day hike** Sunday in Hillsboro area. Leave after work on Friday, Call Norma McCallan (471-0005) for carpooling.

**Outings Notes** — Unless otherwise noted, all outings leave from the PERA parking lot at the corner of Paseo de Peralta and Old Santa Fe Trail (across the street from the State Capitol and Corbae). Carpooling will be arranged at the parking lot, and each hiker should come prepared to pay 5¢ a mile to the driver of the car in which hiker rides. Hikers should bring a lunch, water, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and clothing suitable for the weather — leader reserves the right to turn away anyone whose equipment or experience appears unsuitable. Leader has right to alter destination of hike or cancel the trip due to weather, unfavorable conditions, or insufficient numbers of participants. Unaccompanied minors must have written permission from parents or guardians to participate; permission forms are available at the Sierra Club office. Dogs not permitted on hikes unless noted otherwise. Telephone leader for details of the individual hike.

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

## TEXACO BOYCOTTED BY SIERRA CLUB

The Sierra Club's national board of directors, joining American labor and Ecuadoran human rights groups, approved in May a resolution to support boycott of Texaco. (In Santa Fe, this covers most Allsup stations, since they sell Texaco gasoline.)

Texaco's Wilmington CA refinery annually spews 248,000 pounds of toxins and carcinogens into the surrounding area, whose residents are largely people of color. An explosion and four-day fire at the Wilmington refinery in October 1992 caused hundreds of workers to experience such health problems as nausea, severe headaches, vomiting, loss of hearing and skin rashes.

Texaco has dumped over 17 million gallons of crude oil and 20 billion gallons of toxic waste water in Ecuadoran rain forests and rivers. The company has ignored requests by the Sierra Club and other groups to stop doing business in Burma due to that country's record of human rights abuses.

The boycott also addresses Texaco's work to undermine air pollution regulations. What you can do:

- don't buy Texaco products
- don't buy Havoline motor oil
- don't use Star Lube oil change stations
- cut up your Texaco credit card and mail it with a letter of explanation to: Alfred De Crane, CEO of Texaco Inc., 2000 Westchester Ave., White Plains, NY 10650

[from "The Planet" July 1994]

## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR THE SANTA FE GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**JERRY BOBER** — I have worked 25 years designing solar energy systems and am now an environmental engineer for the state environment department. My main interest is promoting energy alternatives as a solution to a variety of environmental problems. I would like to be on the Excom to try to put those interests and commitments to the benefit of New Mexicans.

**MARTHA ANNE FREEMAN** — I have been active in environmental issues for the 18 years I have lived in Santa Fe. For several years I was the director of Santa Fe Forest Watch and am currently active in the Santa Fe Forestry Council and continue to monitor the activities of the Forest Service. I plan to attend the ninth annual Wilderness Conference to be held in Santa Fe in November. To be an effective environmentalist, I believe it is mandatory to first become educated on all issues of a problem. My other community activities include serving on the executive committees of the Council on International Relations and the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club, for which I have been chair of the Phone Tree for the past four years.

**BARBARA JOHNSON** — I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1989 and was active in the Angeles Chapter before moving to New Mexico three years ago. I was newsletter editor for the Clean Coastal Waters Task Force, a conservation issue group in the Angeles Chapter, and later became chair of the group. I used my knowledge of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act to try to prevent a large planned development on Los Angeles County's last area of wetlands. I have been an editor and writer for more than 15 years, over 10 as a legal editor, working with nationally known attorneys in the area of "takings" litigation and am currently Production Manager of the *Rio Grande Sierran*. After living in Los Angeles for many years and seeing its gradual environmental degradation, I am committed to working to see that the same does not happen in Santa Fe or the rest of New Mexico. I believe that the Sierra Club's strength is that it is a grassroots organization, harnessing the energy of thousands of committed volunteers. I believe that the Rio Grande Chapter has contributed significantly to improving New Mexico's environment, and I would like to help it continue that effort by working with the Santa Fe Executive Committee.

**GWEN WARDWELL** — As Chapter Chair for the last four years, I supported the 1991 planning retreat and have continued the process to set major conservation goals with specific plans for their achievement. Focusing our efforts enabled us to achieve our 1992-93 goal of passage of a hard rock mining bill and 1993-94 goals of funding for water planning, funding and statutory authority for wildlife and habitat protection, and passage of a tire recycling bill.

I am running for the Group ExCom to encourage more integration between Group and Chapter activities and more Group conservation activity. The Santa Fe Group has more money in 1994 to spend on conservation than the Chapter and any other group, but there have been few conservation initiatives. If elected, I will propose that the Group identify and work toward specific conservation goals. I will also propose ways for the ExCom to hold more effective and better attended events.

THE LOG

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

All Hikes and Trips leave from North Pan Am Parking Lot

Saturday, Nov. 5 - Day Hike, Moderate. Lv. 8:30 AM Contact Melba at 382-5293 evenings

Saturday, Nov. 19 - Half Day Field Trip, Easy, Lucero Arroyo Petroglyphs. Lv. 9 AM. Contact Jack Smith at 525-8326

Circle Your Calendar for the Holiday Party

Saturday, December 10  
Annual Holiday Party - Pot Luck (Students- free food)  
Honoring Ben Zerbey  
At the home of Marianne Thaeler 2015 Huntington Dr.  
Starts 6:30 PM  
Contact Marianne at 522-3421 for directions

JOINT MEMBERSHIP MEETING:  
SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP SIERRA CLUB & MESILLA VALLEY AUDUBON & NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF DONA ANA COUNTY

Date: Thursday, January 19, 1995  
Time: 7:30 PM  
Where: 107 Science Hall, NMSU campus

SPEAKER: Southwestern Regional Forester Charles "Chip" Cartwright  
Topic: What changes can we expect in the Forests with Ecosystem Management?

THANKS FOR THE HELP!

To all those who helped with Sin Fronteras, which the Southern New Mexico Group co-sponsored with others, our sincerest thanks and special thanks to David Pengelley who organized our efforts. The reading by the River was a huge success.

FILLING IN THE BLANKS ON NEW MEXICO MAPS

by Marianne Thaeler, Military Issues Co-Chair

Take out your New Mexico road map, and you will probably NOT find marked or labeled some major federal military facilities. The only all over land missile test facility in the United States, the US Army White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) is located east of Socorro and fills in the entire Tularosa Basin south (see map). Adjoining WSMR to the south extending to the Texas border and including 600,000 acres west of Highway 54 are the US Army Fort Bliss Exercise Ranges. Holloman Air Force Base is located between White Sands National Monument

Group Directory

Chair, Marianne Thaeler	522-3421
Vice Chair, Myra Price	524-0261
Secretary, David Pengelley	646-3901
Treasurer, Ben Zerbey	526-6207
Student Adviser, David Pengelley	646-3901
Outings Chair, Jim Basler	521-4822
Publicity, Cheryll Blevins	524-4861
Education, Jim Winder	267-4227
Education, Andrew Hands	523-9059
Water, Erika Kocsis	527-0523
Tony Chiaviello	525-9559
Kris Paulsen	523-9059
Marian Nygard	522-4689
Student Group, Lori Schmierer	527-1120
Chapter Delegate	Vacant

STUDENT DIRECTORY

Coordinator	Laurie Schmierer	527-1120
Asst. Coordinator	Andrew Hands	523-9059
Outdoors Coordinator	Bruce Gafner	524-3241
Sec. and Publicity.	David Mondragon	dmondrag@nmsu.edu
Internet Coordinator	Tony Garcia	915-778-1263 cagarcia@cs.nmsu.edu

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Contact Bruce Gafner 524-3241

- Saturday, October 22 - Backpack to McKittrick Canyon
- Wednesday, Nov. 2 - Meeting 7 PM, 107 Science Hall
- Saturday, Nov. 5 - Backpack Chiricahua Mtns.
- Saturday, Nov. 19 - Joint field trip to Lucero Arroyo Petroglyphs
- Wednesday, Nov. 23, over Thanksgiving - Canoe trip Big Bend
- Saturday Dec. 3 - Hike Baylor Pass and Full Moon Party
- Saturday Dec.10 - Annual Holiday Party. Students: free food
- Contact Marianne at 522-3421 for directions.

and the City of Alamogordo.

This huge part of New Mexico has long been considered "Secret." Now is the time for these areas to be put on our maps.

White Sands National Monument you will note is surrounded by the military. With the issuance of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, and the WSMR Land Use Plan, the public can now get a snap shot view of what has been going on "out there."

Managed by the U.S. Army, WSMR is, and has been, host to many military programs, exercises, and experiments conducted by the United States and foreign governments. The most famous experiments were the detonation of the first US nuclear devices at the Trinity Site, now a National Historic Landmark at Stallion, NM. A year ago the Large Blast Thermal Simulator went operational near Stallion to test helicopters, tanks, etc. for contract compliance. This facility determines: Will these vehicles really be able to withstand a direct nuclear attack as contracts stated they must? Recently a new program was announced, the Theater Missile Defense Extended Test Range. This program proposes to shoot missiles from Green River, Utah, Fort Wingate, NM, and Ft. Bliss, NM, toward WSMR. This program has a number of component parts. One is testing Patriot missiles, which are now called Extended Range Interceptors (ERINT). Another is Theater High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system, which proposes to shoot missiles from Ft. Bliss, McGregor Range, NM, and the North Extension Area to WSMR. Leases are being negotiated, or may have already been negotiated, with private land owners in the North Extension Area to place permanent missile launch pads and temporary buildings on private lands.

Holloman AFB has asked to place more than 12 and as many as 24 helicopter landing sites for troop deployment in the Lincoln National Forest. As a Public Affairs Officer at Holloman stated to me, "The 48th Air Rescue Squadron is moving into the Lincoln." We have also learned that the German Air Force tornado aircraft, which cannot fly less than 1,000 feet over Germany, are moving to Holloman and will need new and additional air space routes to practice at low levels. It has been rumored that the Belgians are also moving to Holloman for the same reasons.

Why should we care? Under the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC), many bases all over the country are being closed and decontaminated, and re-

alignments are taking place. Realignment mean major expansions of military control of lands and air space in and over New Mexico.

Now add to your map, the site for the proposed 325,000 acre private McDonnell Douglas Space Port to be located between the I-10 Upham Exit and the south boundary of the Pedro Armendariz land grant and east of the Caballo Mountains.

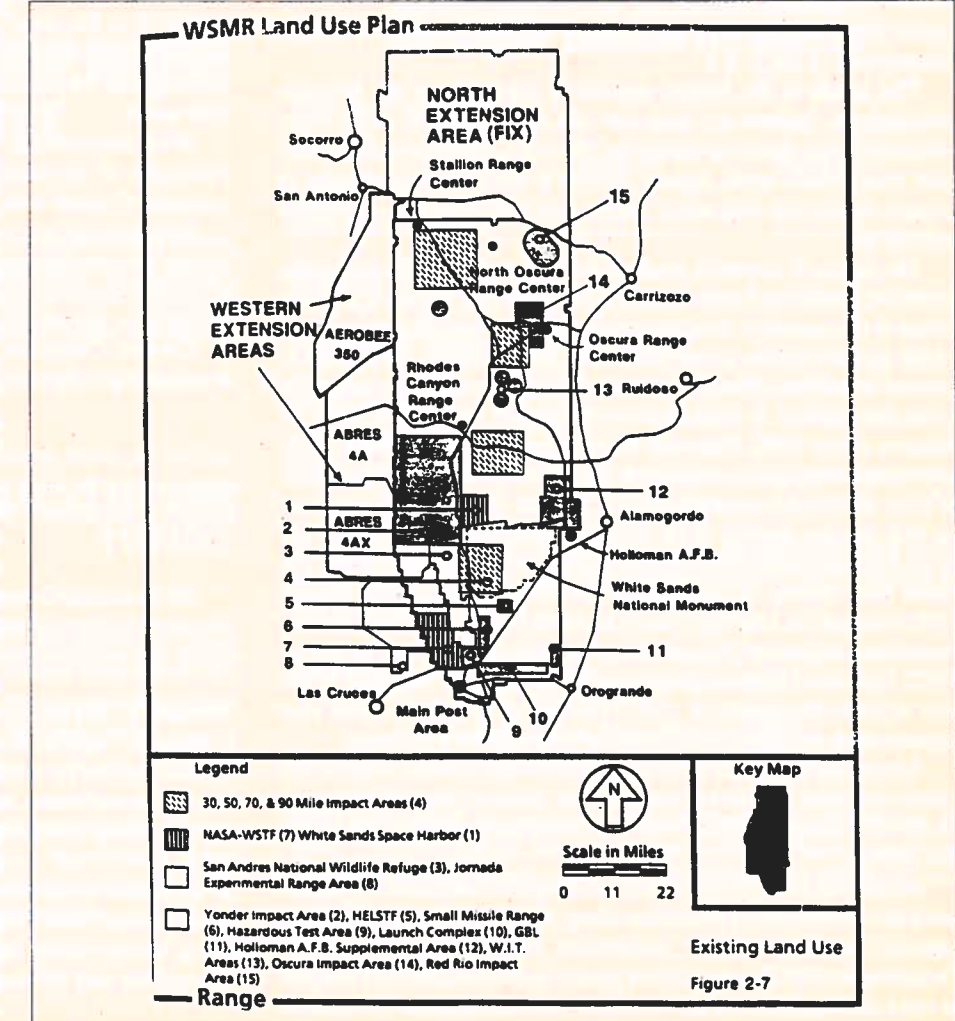
We estimate that the proposed additions to New Mexico will take approximately 2 million new acres out of public access. This means major changes to the character of the State we call home, New Mexico.

Military facilities have been also applying for Hazardous Waste Permits for hazardous conditions and areas that have existed for years in some cases. One example is an application now pending for an Open Burn/Open Detonation unit on McGregor Range. These open pits and trenches have been in existence since 1965 it seems and, although records have only been kept for the last two years, it is estimated that 207,232 lbs of propellants, explosives, and pyrotechnics have been de-

stroyed here in the past. Now they are applying for a Permit to destroy 15,250 lbs of out of date munitions here per year until 2090.

Many of us believe, in preparation for the 21st Century, we should be looking at environmental clean-up and the newest technology, not the potential for more contamination of New Mexico.

Citizens of Otero County are upset. They recently passed an "Equal Footing Ordinance" claiming New Mexico did not come into the Union on an equal footing with other states. They want the federal government to prove it has title to lands it manages or turn the lands over to the State to be managed by their County Land Use Ordinances. Why this Ordinance now? One reason is military expansion in New Mexico, even though the City of Alamogordo is happy with the economic development Holloman AFB brings to the city. As one who has been studying land use issues in southern New Mexico, I believe we must look forward for solutions, not to the past. But I understand the frustrations.



**ORGAN MOUNTAINS - Hikers beware!**

Soledad Canyon behind Dripping Springs in the Organ Mountains was and is contaminated with unexploded ordinance (UXO), unexploded artillery shells. The area is managed by Fort Bliss, Texas/New Mexico. Although there are some postings in the mountains of Ft. Bliss boundaries placed by BLM, there are no military fences marking the boundaries. All hikers who use Achenbach Canyon Trail should be aware the trail leads toward Soledad Canyon, and should NOT enter the Canyon.

Fort Bliss intends to fence the boundary. Our discussions with Ft. Bliss indicate they are not using topographic maps for the purpose of siting the proposed fence line. Blasting fence post holes in this rugged terrain is not our idea of respecting the resource. The BLM Wilderness Coalition proposes, and the Sierra Club agrees, that this area and the Organ Mountains should be declared a Wilderness Area (roadless). Wilderness designation allows for the easiest type of decontamination.

So, join those who care for the Organ Mountains, write a letter to our Congressional delegation asking that the Organ Mountains be decontaminated and declared a Wilderness Area (roadless area undisturbed for the enjoyment of all)!

**JAGUAR (also called PANTHER) in New Mexico**

[taken from the Federal Register, July 13, 1994, proposed status as Endangered in the U.S.]

The jaguar is the largest species of cat native to the Western Hemisphere. Jaguars are muscular cats with relatively short, massive limbs and a deep-chested body. They are cinnamon-buff in color with many black spots. Jaguars prefers a warm tropical climate, is usually associated with water, and is only rarely found in extensive arid areas.

The jaguar is currently listed as endangered from Mexico southward to Central and South America. In the United States the primary threat to the species is from shooting. While no breeding population of the jaguar is know to survive in the United States, the species is present in northern Mexico and wandering individuals occasionally cross the border. A minimum of 64 jaguars have been killed in Arizona since 1900. The most recent was in 1986. Barber (1902) speculated that jaguars made their way into the Mogollon Mountains of New Mexico by ascending the Gila River. Bailey (1931) suggested that jaguars seemed to be native in southern New Mexico, but were regarded as wanderers from across the US/Mexico border. He listed nine reports of jaguars in NM from 1855 to 1905. Brown (1983) stated that the last record from NM was from 1905. Novak mentioned reports of jaguars along the Rio Grande from as late as 1922. Halloran (1946) reported that dogs "jumped" a jaguar in the San Andres Mountains in 1937. Findley et al (1975) stated that jaguars once occurred as far north as northern New Mexico.

According to Swank and Teer (1989), the historical range of the jaguar included portions of the states of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Breeding populations probably disappeared from the US in the 1960s.

According to Johnson (1993), although the demand for jaguar pelts has diminished, it still exists along with the business of hunting jaguars. In March 1993, undercover Arizona Game and Fish Department officials seized three jaguar specimens, one was alleged to have been taken from the Dos Cabezas Mountains in Arizona in

1986. Investigations found hounds bred and trained in the US were sold to Mexican nationals for the purpose of hunting jaguars. Although Mexican nationals were prosecuted in 1986 for illegally importing jaguar pelts into the US, they were continuing the practice of providing hunts in Mexico.

*News from Sierra Club Books*

**DEEPER SHADE OF GREEN**

*The Rise of Blue-Collar and Minority Environmentalism in America*

by Jim Schwab [Forward by Lois Giggs, Director of Citizens' Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste]

More than a documentary of popular opposition to environmentally unsound government and industry policies, DEEPER SHADE OF GREEN is about the modern environmental movement, since the era of environmental protection began over two decades ago. It is 8 stories of people from the Four Corners area (Ariz., NM, Colo., and Utah), Chicago, south central L.A., Cleveland, Louisiana, and Liverpool. It is the story of people who overcame social, ethnic and economic differences to create community-based organization to fight against the continued degradation of the land, air and water in their areas.

Well documented, this book has three Appendixes, including Principles of Environmental Justice, and many End Notes. For example, Chapter 8 on Indian Country has 156 End Notes.

Jim Schwab is an environmentalist and urban planner with a master's degree in journalism. He is perhaps best known as the author of RAISING LESS CORN AND MORE HELL, an oral history of the midwestern farm crisis of the 1980s.

Contact: Cheryl at 526-6220, or 524-4861 if you are interested in acquiring a copy of this book. \$30.00, 480 pages.

**NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE - DONA ANA COUNTY**

All Dona Ana County candidates for the New Mexico Legislature were sent a letter and asked, "If elected, or reelected, what would you do for the environment?" We received one response.

William E. Porter, responded as follows:

1. Riparian legislation. Basically we hope to encourage repair of riparian habitat by working with ranchers, farmers, environmentalists, conservationists, and public landholders. My House Memorial passed during the last session is the first step in this program.

2. Spaceport Legislation. At the present, France, China, Russia, Japan and the United States are orbiting hundreds of satellites—that dump booster parts into the oceans, belch toxic waste into the atmosphere and pollute the universe with functional and nonfunc-

tional debris—including atomic generators. The only logical remedy to this problem is to develop single stage reusable vehicles, powered by non-pollutant propellants, leaving recoverable satellites (and requiring the recovery of all non-functional equipment).

**HIKERS BE AWARE**

We recently received a call from BLM telling us to expect to be "buzzed" by helicopters, stopped by Border Patrol agents and asked for identification when hiking in the roadless areas of New Mexico south of Interstate 10.

These helicopters are part of the joint military operations (JTF-6, joint task force 6, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, in coordination with EPA and INS) to thwart illegal immigration and drug smuggling.

We heard from the Los Angeles area Chapter Sierra Club that hikers got to the top of San Gregonio Peak in the Wilderness and were "buzzed" by helicopters while at the summit.

So be aware and take your identification with you when hiking.



**CANDIDATES FOR THE SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BALLOT**

Vote for 4 candidates.

	Voter #1	Voter #2
Subhankar Banerjee	_____	_____
Elizabeth Hernandez	_____	_____
Marianne H. Thaeler	_____	_____
Jim Winder	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

Place your Sierra Club number from your membership card on the outside of an envelope, enclose your ballot (don't sign it ballots are secret). Then:

MAIL TO: Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 3705  
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003  
Attn: Ballot

RETURN: NOW so you don't forget. **Deadline: December 25, 1994.** This is important, show those that run the organization for you that you appreciate their effort. **VOTE! VOTE NOW! Thank you!**

**SUBHANKAR BANERJEE**

Have lived in southern New Mexico for 5 years and have backpacked through out New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado. Photography is my hobby. An Instructor in the Computer Science Dept. of NMSU. Look forward to continuing to work with the ExCom leading backpacks, and giving slide presentations.

**ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ**

Born and raised in the southwest and Mexico. Have served the ExCom as Population Issues Chair. Major areas of conservation interests include Population, Wilderness, and Forests. Enjoy hiking and camping with my family.

**MARIANNE H. THAELER**

A 30 year resident of southern New Mexico. Have served as Group Secretary, Membership Chair, hike leader, Acting Newsletter Editor, and Chair of the Executive Committee. My conservation interests include BLM Wilderness, Forests, and Military Issues.

**JIM WINDER**

A life long resident of southern New Mexico and holistic rancher. Have served on the Executive Committee as Agriculture Issues Chair, and Education Chair. Major conservation interests are riparian restoration and sustainable resource management.

# Ski Report

by John Turnbull

The cold snap the week of 12 Oct 94 has been a reminder that winter is on the way, and with winter comes snow and skiing! The Rio Grande Chapter has, within its boundaries some wonderful skiing country, for both cross-country and downhill, rarely more than a couple hours' drive away, and the envy of Sierra Clubbers in other parts of the country. It's always a mystery why more members don't take advantage of it.

**Ski Committee.** This year a Ski Committee has been instituted, with members representing each of the Groups. The Committee's purpose is to encourage cross-country skiing, to plan Chapter-wide ski trips, to provide a source of ski information to members, and to study conservation-related issues where skiing (of any sort) is a consideration, and to advise the ExComs accordingly. The idea for such a committee grew out of the unusually successful series of joint Albuquerque/Santa Fe Group ski trips during the past couple winters, and the thought that the fun might be extended to all the Groups.

**Learning to Ski.** For several years, beginning classes in cross-country skiing have been offered, without charge, to Sierra Clubbers, mostly in Santa Fe. For the past couple of seasons, classes were also conducted in Albuquerque. This winter, due mainly to sparse snow farther south, the classes will be held in Santa Fe only—but members from all Groups are welcome. These consist of an indoor class on a weekday evening, coupled with an on-snow class the following weekend. They will be offered twice: during the week of 12 Dec 94, and again during the week of 2 Jan 95. Check the Santa Fe and Albuquerque Group Outings schedules for specifics, or phone me for details at (505) 466-9329.

ics, or phone me for details at (505) 466-9329.

**Instructors' Certification.** Tentatively scheduled for Presidents' Day weekend in February, there will be a southwestern region ski-teaching clinic and certification for instructors in cross-country, under the sponsorship of the National Amateur Ski Instructors Association. Instructors or prospective instructors, phys-ed instructors, scout leaders, etc., with an interest in furthering their teaching and skiing skills are encouraged to participate [info available from me: (505) 466-9329]. Although not a Sierra Club function, the ASIA program in the western states has a strong Sierra Club presence, mainly from the California chapters.

**Ski Trips.** We've found over the years that snow tends to be more predictable in the northern reaches of New Mexico and, as a result, that has been the destination of many of the ski tours. The day trips from locations like Albuquerque and Socorro have required a lot of driving. To keep driving time in reasonable proportion, there has been a trend toward multi-day trips with an overnight stay, and these have proven very cost-effective and popular. This year we have a number of such weekend trips, often coinciding with three-day weekends, many of which combine both cross-country and downhill—depending upon the interests of the participants. Look for these in the Groups' Outings schedules. The first is an Albuquerque Group Thanksgiving Holiday trip to Taos. Later, in January, there will be a ski weekend at Cloudcroft, and hopefully we can attract lots of participation from the down-south folks.

**Yurt Trip.** Tentatively planned for January is an overnight ski trip to one of the yurts on Cumbres Pass, above Chama. Everybody who enjoys camping enjoys a stay in a yurt. With a cozy wood-stove, bunks, and utensils, all one needs to bring is a sleeping bag and food. Watch the Albuquerque Group Outings schedule.

ary is an overnight ski trip to one of the yurts on Cumbres Pass, above Chama. Everybody who enjoys camping enjoys a stay in a yurt. With a cozy wood-stove, bunks, and utensils, all one needs to bring is a sleeping bag and food. Watch the Albuquerque Group Outings schedule.

**Host Ski Week.** Late in the season, in middle March, the Rio Grande Chapter will be hosting the Orange County, California Sierra Club for a week of combined Telemark, downhill, cross-country track, and backcountry skiing. Lessons will be available in almost anything from certified instructors (including yours truly). Accommodations will be inexpensive and pleasant, both at Ski Rio (at Costilla) and at Taos. It should be lots of fun and an opportunity to meet other Sierra Clubbers. There will be time to scope the galleries in Taos, relax in front of a fireplace, or simply read a book. People may participate for the entire week, or simply for a day or two. This is a "first" and we're hoping for an enthusiastic turn-out from the Rio Grande Chapter.

**Pray for snow.** We'll look forward to seeing everyone out on it. If you've never done it before, the Sierra Club offers a marvelous opportunity to learn.

*[The author is a former chair of the Santa Fe Group, a long-time Nordic instructor, a member of both the Professional Ski Instructors of America and the U.S. Amateur Ski Instructors' Association, and a Regional Staff Editor of NordicWest Magazine, of Bend, Oregon.]*

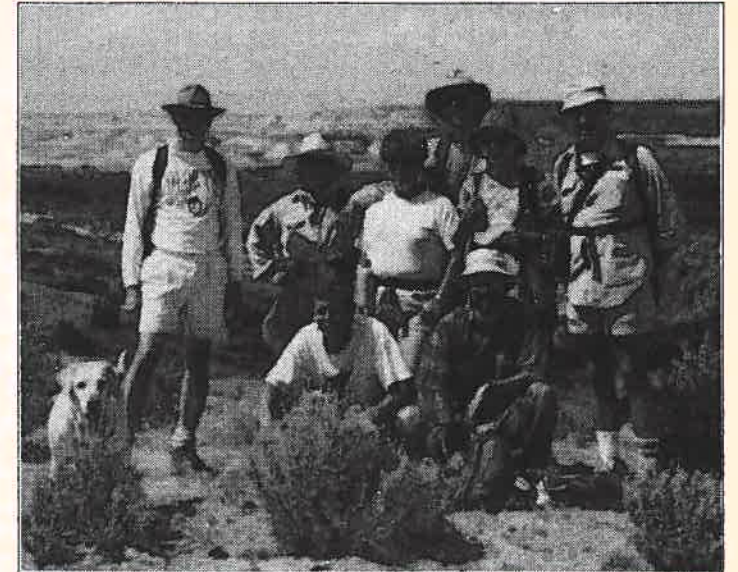
## Multi-Group Outing Report

### De-na-zin Wilderness, 10th & 11th of September

by Georgia Jannuzzi

There were nine of us "explorers" representing Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Gallup. This trip was to an area very much like the petrified forest, as indeed there were many beautiful specimens of petrified logs, the painted desert (displaying many colors to us), and Canyonlands, since there were sandstone mesas and pillars with cap rocks. Such diversity in one area. A little bit of something for everyone. We started exploring Saturday afternoon and found the petrified log jam. Then came the question - were these brought here by water or did they grow here? In time we were to find the answer by finding fallen trees with petrified root systems exposed still in the sides of the mesa. There was a lot of area with a conglomerate cap on top of the mounds which, with time and weather, is releasing many varieties of stones smoothed off by water--mother nature's way of protecting these mounds. Quite an interesting phenomenon.

Our evening campfire was built in a wok, size such as you have never seen. Dinner was gourmet. We were serenaded a short while by a few coyotes (and dogs). The clouds spit on us a bit but that didn't dampen any spirits. I believe the last of the crew crawled in for a bit of shut eye about 4:00 a.m. Another unhurried gourmet breakfast and we were off exploring again. This time the destination was a stand of live ponderosa somewhere in the valley. Half of us chose to go on the mesa top to wander along finding everything from petrified tree roots in the side of the mesa cliff, to a small oasis which included willows and cat-o-nine tails. Three sandstone formations were discovered which had tiny pock marks which looked like thousands of buckshot holes. Upon closer investigation, we could hear it sounded like a jungle. After standing and contemplating what this was that was flying in and out of these holes, we came to the



conclusion that they were a species of small bees. All three sites were on the south side. Smart bees. We finally caught up with the rest of our "explorers" and although we climbed hill and dale, and used binoculars, the ponderosa were to elude us.

On the way back in the late afternoon, we were delighted to run across a small area where it was perceived that a hunting party had stopped to refurbish their supply of hunting arrows. Some dish shards were found in this area also.

We would all like to thank John Turnbull for sharing his vast knowledge with us. The trip was definitely very enlightening and the camaraderie marvelous.

### Powell Looks into "Equal Footing" Movement

State Land Commissioner Ray Powell has initiated an in-house review of the so-called "equal footing" movement that has emerged in New Mexico.

Powell said that proposals being advanced by adherents of the movement could have a significant effect on New Mexico state trust lands and the beneficiaries of the trust.

The "equal footing" proposals suggest that New Mexico was denied the same rights as the original states, which have no federal lands. The proposals call on the federal Departments of Interior and Agriculture to prove they possess title to lands presently managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. If no title can be proven, the proponents would have all those federal lands, about 22 million acres, transferred to the state.

Powell has asked for in-house legal guidance and for recommendations from various groups on the issue. The State Land Office

staff has tentatively identified five major issues to be studied:

- \* The applicability of Article XXI, Section 2 of the New Mexico Constitution, which states: "The people inhabiting this state do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated and ungranted public lands lying within the boundaries thereof. . ."

- \* Whether the ownership of any lands that were sold and patented by the federal government since statehood, possibly including some of the trust's 13.4 million mineral and surface acres, could be questioned. That could also include any land privately owned as a result of various homestead acts, the 1872 Mining Act or other conveyances from the federal government.

- \* Whether litigation challenging the ownership of federal land would destabilize the business environment in which the State Land Office operates. Specifically, whether litigation

would cloud existing activities occurring on state and federal land, such as oil and gas leasing and production, grazing and the construction of improvements; and whether any litigation could interfere with individuals' ability to assign leases, obtain bank loans, or otherwise operate freely on federal land.

- \* How revenues from federal public lands would be affected. Presently, the state, county, and municipal governments get a portion of timber sale proceeds, payments in lieu of taxes, education impact aid from military bases, and \$144 million a year from federal mineral leases. It is possible that all federal revenue would be diverted to the state permanent fund and away from cities and counties.

- \* Evaluate whether there are any potential benefits to the trust. The transfer of federal lands to the state would obviously be to the trust's financial benefit on the one hand, but, on the other, would require additional resources to properly manage the land.

## PEOPLE WHO WANT TO PUT OUT OF STATE NUCLEAR WASTE IN NM



GOVERNOR OF WISCONSIN



GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA



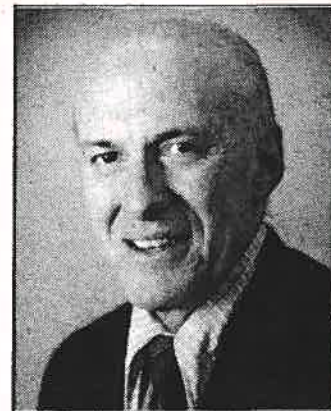
GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY



GARY JOHNSON

Activist Profile

**Ben Zerbey**



Ben began his career with the National Park Service with two summers in Carlsbad Caverns. His first full-time assignment was to the Saquaro National Monument near Tucson, Arizona. He stayed with the National Park Service until he retired in 1981 from the position of Assistant Regional Director of National Parks in Utah.

During the Bicentennial, he was Deputy Regional Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region, with headquarters in Philadelphia. Somewhere along the way, he was in charge of Isle Royal, a 150,000 acre island in Lake Superior which had a moose population of about 5,000 to 6,000. During one of the winters when Ben was in charge, he invited wolves from Canada to come across an ice bridge and make themselves at home. That native wolf population is still there today, keeping the moose population in bounds.

When Ben retired from the National Park Service, he and his wife, Jane, moved to Las Cruces and joined the Sierra Club. He has been on the Chapter Executive Committee since 1984. For three of those years, he was the Chapter's Council representative. He says that this opened his eyes to the extent of the activities and concerns of the Club and made him aware that he, and some of the rest of us, get too wrapped up in our own concerns and are too quick to criticize the Club when it doesn't respond to them.

Ben is retiring, or retreating, from the Chapter Executive Committee but will continue participating on the national level as a member of the Campaign Steering Committee on Wilderness and Parks and as Chair of the National Parks Subcommittee of the Public Lands Committee.

Gwen Wardwell, Chapter Chair, says, "I can't imagine the Executive Committee without Ben. Everytime we met in Las Cruces, he and Jane provided sleeping space and after-the-meeting talking space for the conversations that are often our most fruitful. He usually took us for a morning run along the irrigation ditch banks not far from his house. He has been our hiking and cross-country skiing leader for the Kingston meetings and, as a grand finale, will lead a hike to and into a cave between Kingston and Hillsboro at the meeting we're holding December 3 and 4."

**Statements of Candidates for Chapter Executive Committee**

**Ron Grotbeck**

Member Since 1972  
Occupation: Physicist

Throughout the West, environmental values are being threatened in sweeping and fundamental ways. Not since the days of James Watt and the Sagebrush Rebellion have the ethics of shared responsibility for planetary caretaking been so openly challenged. The 'People for the West' movement purports to be a grassroots effort to reduce the influence of governmental regulation on individual decision making, but is really just a special-interest move to justify increasingly irresponsible use of public resources for private profit.

At this time, the Sierra Club nationally is experiencing a major restructuring. The result will be a leaner, more efficient organization with changed procedures, changed lines of communications, and changed priorities. During this time of change, the Club needs leaders with clear perspectives of how the new structure will affect our abilities to meet the continuing challenges to our Rio Grande environment. We also need leaders who can take advantage of the opportunities provided by the new structure, extend the environmental influence of the Chapter to longer-term issues.

My involvement in Chapter and local issues over the past two decades has given me a perspective on what works over time. I know that the way to build strength and influence is to win small skirmishes, month-by-month and year-after-year, on a broad range of environmental battlefronts. We can prevail in the larger conflicts — preservation of a habitable environment versus individual misuse of shared resources — only if we avoid becoming sidetracked by a single issue.

**Sue L. McIntosh**

I believe in telling the truth, keeping your word and not being a weeny. I prefer villages to towns and towns to cities. I like country folk and places where roads are dirt and scarce. I am uncompromisingly committed to speaking up for wild places and wild things in forums where you have to be human to get on the agenda. I am not an idealist -- more like a weasel in a hen house. On "environmental" matters, I will grab what I can, when I can and always come back looking for more. I believe people lie to themselves and to others too often and gossip too much. I like the Grateful Dead and I have a tatoo.

If none of this offends you, I could use your vote. Thanks.

**Mike Seidensticker**

Mike is also running for the El Paso Group Executive Committee. You will find his statement for both on page 18.

(continued on page 31)

**Statements**

(continued from page 30)

**Jim Winder**

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for five years and on the Executive Committee of the Southern New Mexico Group for two years. My chief area of interest is sustainable food production. Towards that end, I am a cooperater with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Jornada Experimental Range in the Ecosystem Stewardship Project. This program brings a wide range of scientific interests together to find ways to sustain biodiversity on lands currently producing food for human consumption. Although my professional work is limited to bringing some sanity to developed lands, I enjoy wilderness and wish to see wilderness designation for a wide spectrum of New Mexico lands.

**John Wright**

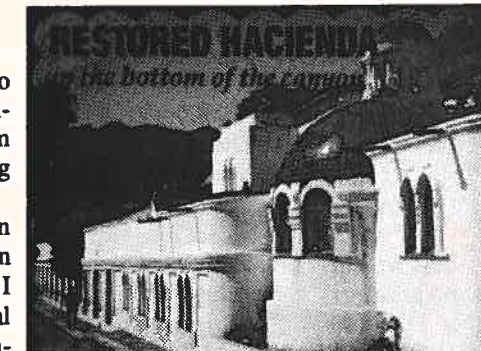
I first became involved in New Mexico Environmental issues around 15 years ago when I worked with several other citizens of northern New Mexico in trying to prevent the

Forest Service from spraying pesticides to kill spruce budworm infestations. We occupied the forest in an attempt to keep them from spraying, but we ended up getting sprayed.

Since then I have been an activist on National Forest issues, primarily focusing on Wilderness issues. During the past 6 years, I have been working primarily on National Forest Wilderness issues as a statewide organizer for the New Mexico Wilderness Study Committee. I have also been involved in supporting efforts to get good BLM Wilderness legislation.

I feel that Wilderness designation is one of the most important objectives to be undertaken, not only for the BLM WSA's (Wilderness Study Areas), but also for Forest Service areas. Whatever happens will frame the environmental, cultural and economic future of New Mexico.

I also believe that there needs to be an increased emphasis on grassroots organizing strategies and I will work to make that happen. I feel that better organizing will make the Sierra Club a more effective voice.



Hidden in the misty reaches of the Sierra Madres, a little known, only partially explored canyon, deeper and 5 times larger than our Grand Canyon. Called Copper Canyon, inhabited by secretive Tarahumaras, solitary cowboys, and lean prospectors who plunk down solid silver to buy goods, and leave at first light with heavily laden mules. Hidden on the tropical bottom, below the rapids that cascade over huge boulders in the forgotten village of BATOPILAS, is the fabulously restored Hacienda, the dream of American businessman Skip McWilliams. Maintained for a few select guests, who appreciate authenticity, privacy and isolation. At the end of an 8 hour rugged cliff-hanging dirt road, the Hacienda's shady courtyard fountains invite relaxation in another era. The life of the village goes on at it's own pace, just outside the massive adobe walls.  
**YOU are invited. Call Judy at our U.S. Office. 1-800-776-3942**

**Chapter Executive Committee Ballot**

Instructions:

Vote for no more than 3 candidates for Chapter Executive Committee. Two boxes are provided so that each member of a joint membership may vote. Blank lines are for write-ins.

You may vote in both the Chapter election and the election for your Group. Do not cut this page: the reverse side contains your mailing label for verification (which will be removed before your vote is tallied) along with the Group ballots. (Any member who did not get this issue in the mail may submit a ballot with the membership information written on it for verification.)

Return this page to:

Susan Gorman  
2226B Wyoming NE, #272  
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Ballot must be postmarked by November 25, 1994.

- Ron Grotbeck.....
- Sue L. McIntosh.....
- Mike Seidensticker.....
- Jim Winder.....
- John Wright.....
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