

The Roadrunner

A bimonthly publication of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club — Nov - Dec 2008

FALL BANQUET: Join friends for event on Nov. 15, featuring Jim Dodson of Tejon Ranch Conservancy

Mark your Sierra Club calendars for our annual CHAPTER FALL DINNER! Great food, stimulating conversation, and an interesting program await! This year we will once again enjoy a six-course Chinese dinner (with a tasty vegetarian entree) at Bill Lee's Bamboo Chopsticks Restaurant, 1203 18th St. in Bakersfield (661.324.9441). Our lively social hour (with a no-host bar) begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Special announcements and our program begin around 7:45 p.m. A mere \$15.25 per person reserves your dinner, including tax and tip.

During dinner, our hardworking chapter activists will give special updates. This is a great opportunity to learn first hand about both local and national issues. Our program this year will be "The Natural Resources of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy," presented by Jim Dodson. Jim, a Tejon Ranch Conservancy member and treasurer, will be using a Power Point program with photos of the special natural resources protected within the 240,00-acre Tejon Ranch Conservancy.

Reservations are a must, to be received no later than Wednesday, Nov. 12. Please send checks only, and no walk-ins will be accepted. Questions? Call Georgette Theotig (661.822.4371). Please send a check (no cash, please) written out to SIERRA CLUB, KERN-KAWEAH CHAPTER, and mail it to Georgette Theotig, P.O. Box 38, Tehachapi, CA 93581.

Please note our reservation policy: we cannot return checks if you do not attend the dinner.

As always, new 2009 calendars are available, as well as other items for purchase. We hope to see you for a fall evening of good conversation and visiting, a delicious dinner, and an informative program. See you on Nov. 15! (See page 8 for the mail-in coupon.)

NOVEMBER: Sierra Club Endorses Barack Obama for President

Cleveland, Ohio: This June the Sierra Club and United Steelworkers jointly endorsed Barack Obama as the change America needs. "We believe Senator Obama is the change our nation needs -- he is the change we need, the leader who will put America on the path to a clean energy economy that will create and keep millions of jobs, spur innovation and opportunity, make us a more secure nation, and help us solve global warming," said Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club.

"The Sierra Club and the United Steelworkers are standing together in support of Barack Obama because we all share the common goal of putting America back to work by building a clean energy economy," said Leo Gerard, president of the United Steelworkers.

"Our endorsement today marks the beginning of a massive mobilization of thousands of members around the country for the campaign--on the phone, on the ground, on the airwaves and online, spreading the message that as President, Barack Obama will lead America into the

clean energy future and that we support his plan to solve both our economic challenges and the challenge of global warming at the same time," said Allison Chin, president of the Sierra Club. Obama's policy principles feature:

- * a bold and comprehensive plan for addressing climate change that relies on what the world's scientists have told us needs to be done. His plan includes a "cap and auction" system that would cut our carbon dioxide emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

- * polluters paying for the global warming pollution they emit, investing the money generated from the credits polluters would have to buy into clean energy, green jobs and aid for the lowest-income Americans affected by higher energy costs.

- * a plan for 25 percent of U.S. electricity coming from renewable sources by 2025, and for improving energy efficiency in the U.S. 50 percent by 2030 would create tens of thousands of jobs in growing industries while at the same time saving the amount Americans would have to spend on energy bills.

—Adapted from an article at clubhouse.sierraclub.org/politics

<<http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/politics>>

California Ballot Propositions

Sierra Club urges support of only two initiatives

The Sierra Club often takes positions on ballot propositions that will affect the quality of life in the state. The two propositions that Sierra Club supports concern high speed rail and the treatment of farm--raised animals.

PROPOSITION 1A—High-Speed Rail. SUPPORT. This is a \$9.95 billion dollar project to catalyze the development of the 800 mile High-Speed Rail (HSR) system and to make improvements to existing rail networks. By 2030, when the whole system is in place, HSR travel is anticipated to reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions by up to 12 billion pounds of CO₂ per year.

PROPOSITION 2 —Confining Animals. SUPPORT. This Humane Society-backed initiative would set minimum standards for the way California treats its farm-raised animals. This will most benefit California's 19 million egg-laying chickens, which are packed into tiny 'battery cages' and are unable to extend their wings. Prop 2 would reduce the density of the animals, and therefore the intensity of the air and water pollution.

REJECTED PROPOSITIONS—Sierra Club urges members to reject Prop 4 (Family Planning), Prop 7 (Renewable Energy) and Prop 10 (Alternative Fuels). Prop 4 would require women under 18 to wait 48 hours before obtaining an abortion. It is likely that young women caught in abusive family situations will be put in an impossible situation, and will end up pursuing black-market amateur abortions. Prop 7 doesn't do enough to save our state and our planet from fossil fuel dependence. In fact, by cementing loopholes that would hold back the growth of the renewable energy industry, it actually could worsen our current energy situation. Prop 10 would put California on the wrong road to cleaner vehicles. The measure sets a low bar for "clean alternative vehicles" and the state already provides significant incentives for natural gas and alternative-fuel vehicles, including a \$200 million clean fuels program paid for by fees.

—for more information see: sierraclub.org <<http://sierraclub.org>>

ENERGY: Sierra Club supports T. Boone Pickens energy plan

Recently we voiced our support of T. Boone Pickens's plan to replace imported oil with wind and solar power, freeing up natural gas to be used in trucks and other large vehicles. Pickens believes the Bush administration is wildly exaggerating how much oil there is to be found offshore and in Alaska and that the current debate over drilling "misses the point." He says, "We need to use what we have lots of wind and sun—not what we are short of—oil." We concur. The current political emphasis on whether or not to open up more of the coastline to drilling is a deliberate distraction by Big Oil to take our focus away from renewables, the real future.

Sierra Club is throwing everything we can against the "Drill Baby Drill" drumbeat sounding from Big Oil and Congressional Republican leaders, including a potentially game-changing strategic alliance with Pickens. This doesn't mean we have adopted all of Pickens's proposals as our own, but we're excited that he has committed \$10 billion of his own money to wind.

While the Sierra Club doesn't agree with Pickens on everything, we do agree with those elements of his plan that include a huge increase in the investment and production of wind and solar power and give consumers the choice to replace foreign oil with American natural gas for cars and trucks in the transition period while we develop all-electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles.

The Club has disagreed with Pickens more often than we have agreed -- but we've also partnered with him at the chapter level in Texas on clean-air issues. Our primary focus is different -- we're concerned about the environment and global warming; Pickens is concerned about national security and oil imports -- but whatever our motivation, we both agree that our addiction to oil is killing us. To quote Boone, "This is one crisis we can't drill our way out of."

To learn more about the Pickens Plan and our position, below we have provided answers to some frequently asked questions.

—Carl Pope/Executive Director, Sierra Club
Robin Mann/Vice President, Sierra Club Board of Directors
Ken Kramer/Director, Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club

Frequently Asked Questions About Our Support of the Pickens Plan

1. Doesn't T. Boone Pickens support drilling? And wasn't he a financial supporter of the Swift Boat Veterans in the 2004 presidential election?

The issue isn't Pickens; it's his plan. The Sierra Club does not agree with him on water policy or drilling or 2004 election issues. But he has a good energy plan that he is serious about -- he's invested \$10 billion into wind. We should support it, not him. He is the most effective missionary we have to date to convince conservatives to prioritize renewables. We aren't going to stop global warming with half of the public sitting on the side lines -- and half of the public are Republicans.

2. Isn't Pickens just in this for the money?

Boone says he's not motivated by money, and we have no way of knowing, but we want him to make lots of money on wind, even if he doesn't care. Phil Anschutz, another new conservative oilman who has just committed \$ 4 billion to wind in Wyoming, is clearly doing it

for money and is actually much more right-wing than Boone. We want Anschutz to make lots of money on wind. We don't want liberal environmentalists in the coal business (if there are any) to make any money at all

3. The Pickens Plan has no mention of global warming and seems to focus only on oil-import spending. Shouldn't the right solution address both with a comprehensive plan including conservation, efficiency, and renewable sources of energy?

Pickens wants the same solution we do for different reasons. The Sierra Club will take support wherever we can find it. We can't just take support from folks who agree entirely with our complete agenda.

But the Pickens plan, which like Al Gore's, calls for repowering America, isn't enough. We also need to refuel America and rebuild America -- we need to embrace a wide variety of solutions.

4. Why should we support the Pickens Plan if the natural gas component in it costs billions and does not go far enough in reducing greenhouse gases?

The cost of setting up a network of compressed natural gas (CNG) service stations appears to be around \$10 billion. CNG will not solve the problem, nor will hybrid cars or solar power alone. But CNG vehicles emit 20 percent fewer greenhouse gases than gasoline models -- that's nothing to sneeze at. If we replace natural gas for electricity with zero carbon wind, and higher carbon oil with lower carbon CNG, we reduce greenhouse gas effects. And we think it is important to break the monopoly that gasoline enjoys at the pump -- to allow Americans to drive vehicles that use cleaner fuel than gasoline.

5. The Pickens Plan aims to replace all electricity generated by natural gas with wind power and to increase natural gas use in cars. Won't this increase the demand for natural gas, increasing prices and imports? And shouldn't we instead be focusing on replacing coal-fired power plants with wind?

The question of how much natural gas supply we have is a complex one and still emerging. Pickens's investment in wind, will not, by itself, displace all the gas. As a practical matter, much of his wind power will displace coal. And the Sierra Club also wants to free up natural gas by eliminating the huge waste of gas in leaky and inefficient homes and offices.

But the gas supply picture in the U.S. is getting steadily better. Instead of having to import natural gas, the U.S. might even start exporting liquefied natural gas soon. Most of the data suggests that, overall, the Pickens Plan is headed in the right direction, even if some of the details will need revision.

6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of compressed natural gas (CNG) as a fuel?

Advantages: CNG costs about half of what gasoline costs. It emits dramatically fewer conventional pollutants than most gasoline power engines. Its emissions of carbon dioxide are about 15 to 20 percent lower than those from gasoline. It's mostly domestic, while most oil is imported. And on average, the production of natural gas is less environmentally destructive than the production of oil.

Disadvantages: It's still a fossil fuel. If mishandled so it leaks to the atmosphere, natural gas (methane) is itself a powerful greenhouse gas. Much natural gas, particularly in the West, is produced in very environmentally destructive methods. The Bush administration has refused to regulate it properly, and Congress has exempted it, for example, from the Safe Drinking Water Act.

7. Isn't the Pickens Plan focused on increasing the number of CNG-fueled cars on the road? Shouldn't we be focusing on cars that run on sustainably generated electricity?

Pickens is actually not aiming for personal cars, although that is how his ads read. He is focused on 18-wheelers, for which electricity is not a plausible medium-term solution. Moving goods consumes about 30 percent of the fossil fuel used in the transportation sector. We are not going to replace long-distance trucks with plug-in hybrids for a very long time, and in this transition period, domestic CNG looks like a better option than imported oil.

8. Does the Pickens plan require producing much more natural gas or importing more LNG?

Since Pickens is proposing to replace natural gas currently used in power plants with wind and solar power, and then use the same gas in vehicles, it really doesn't require increased gas production.

Much U.S. gas production is from coal-bed methane and other environmentally damaging technologies -- that production needs to be and can be shifted off of environmentally sensitive public lands, and onto private lands that have already been developed as oil or coal fields, and kept away from areas where it might contaminate or deplete aquifers and drinking-water supplies.

9. The Pickens Plan is not ambitious enough or as comprehensive as an energy plan should be.

That's true. Our plan must be the Pickens plan ("Refuel America") plus the Gore plan ("Repower America") plus the Sierra Club plan ("Rebuild America").

T. Boone Pickens is creating support for renewable power among people that the Sierra Club cannot reach -- nor can Al Gore. We need every argument we can make, every messenger we can find, every demographic we can reach -- even if they disagree with us on many other things.

And since we agree with Pickens that the U.S. can be destroyed either by global warming or dependence on imported oil, don't we need to be part of the solution to both?

(To see the full text of questions and answers, see: <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org>)

UN's IPCC chair calls for people to stop eating meat

The chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Rajendra Pachauri recently called for citizens of the world to cut their meat consumption to combat climate change. "In terms of immediacy of action and the feasibility of bringing about reductions in a short period of time, it clearly is the most attractive opportunity," said Pachauri. "Give up meat for one day (per week) initially, and decrease it from there." Dr. Pachauri, who is a vegetarian, claimed that the diet change would result in a small-scale decrease of greenhouse gas emissions. "I'm not in favor of mandating things like this, but if there were a (global) price on carbon, perhaps the price of meat would go up and people would eat less," he said.

Ambassador for Compassion in World Farming Joyce D'Silva said that thinking about climate change could spur people to change their habits. "Surveys show people are anxious about their personal carbon footprints and cutting back on car journeys and so on; but they may not realize that changing what's on their plate could have an even bigger effect."

For additional information see:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7600005.stm>  

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5hdCN-kDIKxCtylh9Bs8auAOno09A>  

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/sep/07/food.meat>  

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1839995,00.html?imw=Y>

—Contributed by Harold Wood

KERN KAWEAH ROUNDUP

READ CAREFULLY IF YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN SIERRA CLUB HIKES:

Everyone is welcome, Sierra Club members and non-members, to join in any of the outdoor activities. Requirements: You must be in condition for the type of hike, equipped appropriately for the activity and prepared to sign a Sierra Club release for liability. You must be willing to follow the leader's directions. Be sure to bring any personal medicines you might need. Customary appropriate equipment includes good hiking shoes, plenty of water, snack, sunglasses, suntan lotion, and layered clothing. The following might be helpful but definitely is not required: compass, whistle, matches or lighter, and a good first aid kit. Long pants are recommended. Unprepared for the prospective hike? It will be a non-go for you.

Participation must be leader approved. Please let the leader know ahead of time that you are intending to participate. Check individual group listings for the desired means of communication.

Since unexpected change of plans may be necessary, it is recommended that YOU contact the hike leader the night before to be assured that the hike is still going to happen.

New California legislation designed to protect the consumer requires us to publish this notice: CST 2087755-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. This legislation is designed to protect the user of outdoor activities that require cash payments of more than \$50 for participation.

BUENA VISTA GROUP

More info? Call Donnel Lester at 661.831.6784 or e-mail donnelc3bvg@earthlink.net or Isabel at 661.246.6195.

Our new location for first Saturday-of-the-month breakfast and programs is Camino Real Restaurant, 3500 Truxtun Ave., just west of Oak Street in Bakersfield. A delicious breakfast is available for \$7.50 (includes tax & tip). For Tuesday conditioning hikes of four or five miles, meet at the corner of Highways 178 and 184 at 7 p.m. Contact Gordon (gnipp@bak.rr.com) or Larry (661.873.8107) for more information. Trails hiked vary from week to week.

Oct. 18 & Nov. 15—Third Saturdays are Adopt-A-Highway Clean-up. Get some exercise and pick up debris on Taft Hwy. Yes, you wear an orange vest – and it is fun! Work 9 – 10:30 a.m. For location info and to sign up, call Donnel at 831.6784.

Nov. 1 (Saturday)—Gordon Nipp, vice president of Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Sierra Club, speaks on sprawl, reversing farmland loss, and pollution mitigation at 8:30 a.m., Camino Real Restaurant, 3500 Truxtun Ave., just west of Oak Street.

Dec. 6 (Saturday)—Breakfast program 8:30 a.m. with speaker, Danny Ordiz, A.I.A. of Ordiz–Melby Architects. Ordiz is a member of the new Bakersfield branch of the U.S. Green Building Council. "Introduction to L.E.E.D. – Leaders in Energy and Environmental Design: a Certification Process for Building Green." Learn what components in building "green" can earn third-party LEED certification. Meet at Camino Real Restaurant, 3500 Truxtun Ave., just west of Oak Street.

BVG Recycles—Bring your household batteries and unbroken CFL's to our meetings, and we'll recycle them for you. Meeting Notices—If you would like to receive Buena Vista Group meeting and activity notices by email, please contact Donnel Lester, at donnelc3bvg@earthlink.net, with Add me to the email list. You can opt out of the email notices at any time. We try to limit this to once-a-month emails.

CONDOR GROUP

More info? Mary Ann Lockhart (661.242.0432). Hikes? Dale Chitwood (661.242.1076).
Oct. 25 (Saturday)—Condor viewing at Bittercreek National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the PMC parking lot. Return time: about noon. You MUST make a reservation. Numbers limited. Little walking. Call 661.242.0432.

(No more hikes till spring. Hunting season keeps us out of the woods; weather conditions are too uncertain.)

KAWEAH GROUP

More info? Call Pam Clark (559.784.4643) or Diane Jetter (559.781.8897)
Dec. 13 (Saturday)—Potluck holiday party and potluck at home of Boyd and Mary Levett. Call 559.784.2783 for information.

OWENS PEAK GROUP

More info? Chair Dennis Burge (760.375.7967) or e-mail dennis93555@yahoo.com. Jim Nichols, hikes (760.375.8161) or e-mail jnichols@ridgecrest.ca.us. Meetings at Maturango Museum, Ridgecrest. Please use e-mail for hike questions.
Oct. 27 (Monday)—7:30 p.m. at Maturango Museum. Join Janet Westbrook for a fascinating 1150-mile journey around Lake Michigan. You will visit Milwaukee, Chicago, sand dunes, a blueberry farm and cross the Mighty Mac Bridge, Door County, which includes Green Bay with Lambeau Field.

Dec. 13 (Saturday)— Chukar Peak (located 2.25 miles WSW of Little Lake, 6628 ft elevation, 3100 ft gain; 6.8 mi RT). This fine mid-winter workout was named by E. Anderson in the late '60s or '70s. Deer Peak, across a small saddle, is notorious for being the site of the Nov '67 crash of Tom Sweet, TV's "White Knight," and one of the early rescue operations of the China Lake Mountain Rescue Group. We will see what can be found of the site. We will climb the S ridge from the mouth of Five Mile Canyon for a terrific view up into Owens Valley and down into Indian Wells Valley. Meet Saturday, Dec 13, at 7:30 a.m. at the Ridgecrest Cinema parking lot. Call Dennis Burge at 760.375.7967 or Jim Nichols at 760.375.8161 for more info.

MINERAL KING GROUP

More info? Call 559.761.0592. Please also visit mineralking.sierraclub.org
<<http://mineralking.sierraclub.org>> for more info on group events and activities.

Oct. 14 (Tuesday)—Dinner social at Akamaru's (120 West Main, Visalia) at 6 p.m. Confirm at 559.732.3785.

Nov. 5 (Wednesday)—Joint Mineral King Group/Tehipite Chapter dinner social at 6:30 p.m. in Selma; location to be announced. Call Beverly Garcia for further information at 559.732.3785.

Nov. 11 (Tuesday)—Dinner social at Olive Garden Restaurant, 4110 S. Mooney Blvd, Visalia at 6 p.m. Call Beverly Garcia to confirm at 559.732.3785.

Desert Committee Outings—California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee

The CNRCC Desert Committee's purpose is to work for the protection, preservation, and conservation of the California/Nevada desert; support the same objectives in all desert areas of the Southwest; monitor and work with governments and agencies to promote preservation of our arid lands; sponsor educational and work trips; encourage and support others to work for the same objectives; maintain, share and publish information about the desert.

For questions about, or to sign up for a particular outing, please contact the leader listed in the write-up. For questions about Desert Committee outings in general, or to receive the outings list by e-mail, please contact Kate Allen at kjallen@qnet.com or 661.944.4056.

Nov. 8–9 (Saturday–Sunday)—Mecca Hills Carcamp & Hiking: Join us as we explore the Mecca Hills Wilderness Area east of Indio, Calif. We will hike through quiet gravel washes and over beautiful rocky hills to several well-known and spectacular sites. On Saturday, we will visit Hidden Springs and the Grottos, and on Sunday, we will explore Painted Canyon. Car camping will include the civilized amenities, potluck supper and campfire Saturday night. Limit 12 participants. Leader: Craig Deutsche deutsche@earthlink.net (310.477.6670).

Dec. 6–7 (Saturday–Sunday) —Carrizo Plain National Monument Antelope Protection Work Party/Car camp: Fences built for ranches in what is now the Carrizo Plain National Monument are deadly to the beautiful pronghorn antelope that live there. We will remove fencing to assist the pronghorn in obtaining free access across more of the plain. Camp at Selby campground; bring food, water, heavy leather work gloves, and camping gear for the weekend. Potluck Saturday night. Rain cancels. Resource specialist: Alice Koch. For more information, contact leaders Cal or Letty French: lettyfrench@gmail.com or cal.french@gmail.com, or 14140 Chimney Rock Road, Paso Robles 93446 (805.239.7338).

Santa Lucia Chap/CNRCC Desert Com

Dec. 5 –7 (Friday–Sunday)—Wilderness Restoration in Death Valley National Park: Work project in Middle Park/South Park area of the Panamint Mountains. Main objective is to help obscure old vehicle routes by installing wilderness restoration signs and using rock or vertical mulch. If there are enough participants, we might also help clearing up trash and debris from the vicinity of a couple of the old cabins in the area. Park will supply some of the required 4x4 transportation. Meet late Friday afternoon and drive to campsite. Work Saturday and Sunday. Happy hour/potluck on Saturday night. Contact leader for more information: Kate Allen, kj.allen@wildblue.net, 661.944.4056.

Dec, 29 – Jan, 3 (Monday–Saturday) —Holiday service in Carrizo Plain National Monument: Celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of the next in one of our new national monuments. The Carrizo Plain, west of Bakersfield, is a vast grassland, home to pronghorn antelope, tule elk, kit fox, and a wide variety of birds. A welcome hike Dec. 29, three and a half days of service modifying barbed wire fencing, and a full day for hiking and exploring are planned. Use of accommodations at Goodwin Ranch included. Limited to 12 participants, \$30 covers five dinners. For more information, contact leader: Craig Deutsche,

deutsche@earthlink.net (310.477.6670), or co-leader Melinda Goodwater, mgoodwater@sbcglobal.net (408.774.1257). CNRCC Desert Committee

From the Chair

Arthur Unger thanks past editors of "Roadrunner," welcomes new

We are experiencing another change in the Roadrunner (RR) management. I started seeing the chapter's activities through the capable eyes of Andy and Sasha Honig. Next there was a short stint by Kevin Royal as RR editor. Then in early 2001 Mary Ann Lockhart assumed editorship of the newsletter along with her work on "The Condor Flyer." We will dearly miss Mary Ann. Her activism in the Sierra Club brought color to the publication. Now the tradition passes to Margie Bell, whom we welcome as our new Kern-Kaweah Roadrunner editor.

Margie, we will look forward to your contributions to future issues of the newsletter.

—Art Unger

Editor's Note:

Kern-Kaweah Chapter chair Arthur Unger is recovering from open heart surgery performed at San Joaquin Hospital the last week of September. Everyone wishes Arthur a speedy recovery.

Arthur's wife, Lorraine serves as Kern-Kaweah Chapter treasurer. Send items and suggestions to Margie Bell at: sierraroadrunner@gmail.com.

FOCUS ON LEADERS: ExCom candidates needed for election

Our chapter's Executive Committee is seeking candidates for our annual election, which is held in January. We meet once a month, usually in Bakersfield. During our meetings, we cover chapter business, including the multitude of environmental issues both locally and nationally. Are you ready to commit to a meeting once a month, as well as to donate some hours in between? We promise that you won't be bored! The issues we discuss affect us all, and we know how important it is to be involved these days.

If you are interested in running as an ExCom member (a two-year term), please give a call to any of our ExCom members listed in the Roadrunner. They will be happy to discuss what's involved further. Think about it—our chapter needs you!

Sierra Club calendars make great gifts for the holidays

Once again the chapter is offering beautiful 2009 Sierra Club calendars for sale. We have both the large Wilderness calendar and the smaller Engagement calendar at the bargain basement price of just @10 each. By purchasing a calendar, you are helping fund chapter environmental efforts. Plus, you can enjoy professional photographs of some of our most majestic natural areas in the United States.

Contact persons for calendars are Donnel Lester (661.831.6784) in Bakersfield), Pam Clark (559.784.4643) in Porterville, Dennis Burge (760.375.7967) in Ridgecrest, and Georgette Theotig (661.822.4371) in Tehachapi. These calendars make great gifts for birthdays or Christmas. Better get one while they last—they're hot!

Midgebuzzings

Just beside me as I write is a large and beautiful picture on the front page of "Science Times," a weekly supplement of *The New York Times*, to which I subscribe. It is of a newborn primate in the arms of its mother, a white-headed langur, at the Chongzuo Ecology Park in China. The preserve is a result of sustained effort by one of China's top biologists, Pan Wenshi, and his associates. By 1996 they had observed that the langur population had dropped with alarming swiftness to an endangered status, as is the case now with primates and other species in tropical areas all over the earth. Typically, hunting and logging were the main reasons for the decline, mostly because of extreme poverty among the villagers of Chongzuo and their dependence upon the forest for food and fuel. Dr. Pan hired wardens to protect the animals. Then, through ingenious measures to improve the lives of villagers, including a pipeline for clean water and the procurement of biogas digesters, pits that capture methane gas from animal waste and serve as generators of fuel, he gained their cooperation and so succeeded in stopping the destruction of the forest. At the same time, he provided people with income from tourists who visit the preserve. He is no less than a modern Noah.

Another Noah is Dr. Jatna Supriatna, a professor of biological anthropology at the University of Indonesia, whose work is celebrated by Tom Friedman in his latest book, *Hot, Flat and Crowded, Why We Need a Green Revolution...*. In this case the focus is on the extreme danger to the orangutan population, 90 percent of which has been wiped out in the last 15 years by the same threats: overpopulation of human beings dependent upon the forest for their livelihood. In Batang Toru, through a million dollar grant to Conservation International from the United States Agency for International Development, Dr. Supriatna worked with local people to demonstrate ways by which they could profit from a healthy jungle, and save the orangutan, by low-impact harvesting of forest products. He also showed them how they could sell the geothermal energy that is abundant on local hillsides from nearby volcano formations.

According to David O'Reilly, a CEO for Chevron Corporation, earth's current human population numbers go this way: one billion now enjoying a high standard of living; two billion moving up to it; three billion still in poverty; and three billion due to be born by 2050. By this reckoning, made at least a couple of years ago, earth's current six and a half billion human population will have increased to nine billion in fewer than 40 years! Thinking exponentially, it is a challenge to imagine fulfilling lives for our grandchildren and great grandchildren, especially if human beings continue to value the earth mainly for what can be extracted from it.

I think Friedman is right when he says, "We need a million Noahs and a million arks." But I would go further to suggest that, as important as individual arks may be, it will be equally necessary to develop a broader concept into what I believe must become an "ark principle." And this leads me to an idea that is all but unthinkable for those of us in the Sierra Club whose hearts and actions have historically been dedicated to the preservation of wilderness. But I'll wait until next time to expand upon that. By then dust from the current presidential election will be settling and, one hopes, we can focus our attention on the earth again.

—Ann Williams

Executive Committee of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter

Chair: Arthur Unger (Bksf), 661.323.5569. Vice-chair: Gordon Nipp (Bksf), 661.872,2432.
Secretary: Georgette Theotig (Tehachapi), 661.822.4371. Treasurer: Lorraine Unger (Bksf),
661.323.5569. Donnel Lester (Bksf), 661.831.6784. Richard Garcia (Min King),
559.624.0199. Mary Ann Lockhart (PMC), 661.242.0432. Ara Marderosian (Kernville),
760.378.4574.

Chapter ExCom Meetings: All Sierra Club members are always welcome to attend these meetings. The next meeting is Oct. 25 at 10 a.m.

Call 661.323.5569 or e-mail artunger@att.net <<http://att.net>> to confirm all meeting dates as well as location and time.

Join our

KERN-NEWS & KERN FORUM

E-Mail Lists at: <http://kernkaweah.sierraclub.org> <<http://sierraclub.org>>

The Roadrunner

Chapter Ex-com Meetings: All Sierra Club members are always welcome to attend.
The next Ex-com meeting: Saturday, Oct. 25 at 10 a.m.

SIERRA CLUB SOCK-A-THON:

Buy earth-friendly socks at www.sierraclubsocks.com <<http://www.sierraclubsocks.com>> to benefit Sierra Club and the National Coalition for the Homeless.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR:

Do holiday shopping starting at 9 a.m.
Nov. 29 (Saturday) at Pine Mountain Clubhouse.

Reservations for the Fall Chapter Dinner

I/we will attend the Fall Chapter Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008, at Bill Lee's Bamboo Chopsticks Restaurant in Bakersfield.

Please make check out to: SIERRA CLUB, KERN-KAWEAH CHAPTER

Enclosed is my check for _____ reservations x \$15.25 per person for a total of

_____. Names of those attending: _____

Please mail by Nov. 12 to Georgette Theotig, P.O. Box 38, Tehachapi, CA 93581.
(Remember—no sales at the door!) ***Executive Committee***