



The Roadrunner

A bimonthly publication of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter of the Sierra Club — Sept./Oct. 2007

Heartfelt Congratulations to Carla Cloer:

named National Legal Hero by National Sierra Club, an honor richly deserved.

CARLA CLOER'S family has lived near California's Sequoia forests for four generations. Carla grew up hiking and riding her horse along the forest trails; to this day she returns every summer to stay in the cabin that her grandfather built. These trips are a source of renewal, a reminder of the beauty and majesty that she has spent much of her life fighting to protect. In 1962, years before the National Environmental Policy Act became law, Carla inadvertently stumbled upon the first clearcuts she had ever seen. She immediately called her district ranger in protest; thus began a journey that would take her through the halls of Congress, to federal courtrooms, and across the country as a widely renowned Sequoia activist. Most recently, Carla was an integral part of a Sierra Club legal challenge which put a stop to the Bush administration's illegal logging of the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

An art major at UCLA, Carla was a teacher for over 33 years. For the duration of her career, Carla spent much of her free time working to protect the Sequoia forests. In 2000, Carla won the John Muir award, the Sierra Club's highest honor, for her tireless efforts. A self-professed "unlikely environmentalist" with conservative roots, Carla's rise to becoming the Club's expert on Sequoia issues is an empowering example of what one person can accomplish: "No one could have been less prepared to fight this battle than I was. You just learn and do the best you can, you can't be afraid to make mistakes." Carla explained how her early efforts began with the manual to her word processor in one hand and the National Environmental Policy Act in the other; from these beginnings she went on to write dozens of timber sale appeals, give presentations across California and beyond, and organize trips to the forests for Congressmen and other decision-makers.

In April of 2000 President Clinton created the Giant Sequoia National Monument, providing federal protection to 328,000 acres of trees. Along with a coalition of other conservation organizations and activists, Carla worked on recommendations for the proclamation months ahead of time. One major disappointment that went along with this victory was that the protection of these Sequoias would remain in the hands of the U.S. Forest Service—the agency that had logged the sequoia groves—instead of the National Park Service, which has done an exemplary job managing Sequoia National Park without reliance on logging. True to form, the Forest Service's first management plan for the new Monument ignored the Proclamation's stricture against logging and allowed more logging than had the Monument not been created. The Bush administration's plan called for enough logging to fill 1,500 trucks each year, and would have allowed logging of trees as big as 30 inches in diameter or more; trees this size can be more than 300 years old.

The Sierra Club filed a legal challenge to the Bush administration's plan, calling on them to halt their illegal logging. Carla worked closely with the Sierra Club Environmental Law Program on this case, providing valuable evidence and declarations. Each day, after the loggers left the Monument, Carla went out with her tape measure and camera to collect essential evidence which she then sent to Sierra Club lawyers. Sierra Club Environmental Law Program Director Pat Gallagher worked extensively with Carla on this case, stating how "Carla is one of the most dedicated Sierra Club volunteers I have ever encountered. Her tireless devotion to the Giant Sequoia has helped preserve huge tracts of the forest." With Carla's help, on August 22, 2006 the Sierra Club won two court orders which halted all logging ongoing within the Monument. Judge Charles Breyer vindicated the hard work of Carla and the Sierra Club Environmental Law Program, stating that "the Forest Service's interest in harvesting timber has trampled the applicable environmental laws" and that the "Monument Plan is decidedly incomprehensible."

However, despite the recent legal victories, the battle for the Sequoias will not truly be over until the protection of these trees rests in the capable hands of the National Park Service. Asked if and for how long she will continue this fight, Carla responds, "As long as I can. I have developed a sense of responsibility to this forest that has meant so much to me and family. It would be a betrayal if I walked away now; protecting this one place is my way of fighting the environmental destruction I see happening all over the world." Living the motto, "Think globally, act locally," Carla is an inspiration to us all.

**CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, POLITICS, AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL TOP THE
AGENDA AT FALL MEETING OF CNRCC, SAN LUIS OBISPO SEPT. 8-9**

Representatives of 13 California and Nevada Sierra Club chapters and committees will meet in San Luis Obispo, Calif., on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 8-9. Two delegates from each chapter, plus 24 at-large delegates, and the 8-member steering committee of the Club's California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee (CNRCC) will plan how the Sierra Club can energize the implementation of such landmark legislation as California's AB 32 (Global Warming Solutions Act) as well as Calif. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's repeated assertions that California will lead the way in renewable energy for the US. Other Club members and staff will join in this effort. The CNRCC leadership requests that each chapter and committee make a brief report on what it is doing and what needs to be done to promote energy conservation, renewable generation, and improvement in transportation, water use, sprawl and growth management, and agriculture. "What Has Worked and What We Are Planning Next" could be the working title of these reports.

Cathy Duvall, the Sierra Club's national political director, will lead a workshop on Saturday at 10 AM, focusing on how the Sierra Club can help elect environmental candidates. She will also make a 30-minute presentation to the assembled delegates. Sierra Club California Director Bill Allayaud or members of the State staff will bring delegates up to date on state politics and issues, focusing in on climate change and energy issues. Carl Zichella, national field director for Nevada, California, and Hawaii, will discuss how delegates can influence Congress and the Administration to deal more decisively with climate change. The delegates will also consider endorsements of Calif. resolutions on nuclear energy and term limits as well as resolutions put forward by chapters, committees, and delegates.

Names and contact information for chapter delegates, delegates at large, committee chairs and members, and steering committee members are all available in the California-Nevada Regional Directory. The by-laws, duties of delegates and officers, and contact information are also in this directory. To obtain on-line access to the directory, contact Lori Ives, communications secretary for Sierra Club California. Mail to: ivesico@earthlink.net. The steering committee requests that chapter leaders check the information for delegates, alternate delegates, and delegates at large to see what changes they would like to make or recommend.

The CNRCC steering committee urges all chapters and their delegates, delegates at large, committee chairs, and other Club members in Calif. and Nevada to consider their representation on the CNRCC. Alternates for chapter delegates at large can be arranged.

All 8 offices of the CNRCC are up for election: chair, northern Calif. chair, southern Calif. chair, Nevada chair, treasurer, secretaries for the north and south, and liaison to the executive committee of Sierra Club California will be elected. Club members who wish to run for these positions need to get in touch with Vicki Lee, nominating committee chair for the CNRCC, mail to: vickilee10@gmail.com.

Registration for the meeting is managed by Lori Ives (see just above for email address). The meeting is held at Rancho el Chorro, a San Luis Obispo County Schools environmental education facility located near the coast about half way between San Francisco and Los Angeles. The registration fee is \$40, which covers lodging (cabins and bunks—bring your bedding), dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. No pets, no smoking, no alcohol.

Proposed resolutions, reports, speakers, any questions, any other matters pertaining to this meeting need to be sent to Cal French, CNRCC chair and Lori Ives, communications secretary. Any resolutions or other motions that could affect the 13 chapters were supposed to be sent to Cal and Lori already by August 10, 2007. However, late resolutions will be considered as long as the proposers will guarantee several things: that they have checked with all chapters and all chapter and at large delegates so that there will be no controversy or objection about the resolution from chapters or delegates who say they have not been informed long enough in advance to make an informed judgment. Please email the chair if you have questions, suggestions for additions to the meeting such as workshops on Saturday morning, programs on Saturday evening, possible outings, or anything else for the good of the cause. Please note that the chair wants to limit the number of agenda items and the length of oral reports in order to give more time to planning and decision making.

This is a great opportunity to get involved!

Call Art if you can attend: 661.323.5569

WHERE WILL ALL THE FLOWERS GO?

A Discussion of the effects of proposed housing developments in the Tejon Pass area and their impact on local communities from Gorman and Lebec as far as Pine Mountain Club.

Will it be conservation or commercialization—or maybe a little of both?

The Condor Group of the Sierra Club will be presenting to the local community and all other interested parties from the Kern-Kaweah and Angeles Chapters a program full of information and views that have not yet been fully explored and should be thoroughly examined and considered by everyone, locally, county-wide and state-wide. The program will be held in Cuddy Hall on Tuesday, September 18th at 7PM.

Specific topics to be addressed include water, traffic, seismic ramifications, taxpayer costs, sensitive biological impacts and more. Questions will be encouraged.

Simple refreshments will be served for all to enjoy. This event is open to all who are interested in the future of this area—will it become an area of choice to visit and enjoy by all Californians or an area chosen by developers because of cheap land, with little consideration of the extensive negative effects that will result? Come, listen, and speak. All voices need to be heard and heeded.

A+ For Air Pollution Reduction in the Valley? Perhaps a Grade Change Is In Order

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has given itself an A+ for air pollution reduction since 1990. It is not clear from the Report Card precisely how the A+ grade was obtained, but a closer investigation suggests that perhaps a grade change is in order.

If we look at ozone, for example, the District claims an 82% improvement from 1990 to 2005. This is because there were 45 days above standard in 1990 and 8 days above standard in 2005. In later communications (not in the Report Card), the district uses three-year running averages and finds an 80% improvement.

Looking at only two years (or even two three-year running averages) gives an estimate that is unreliable statistically. Picking two other years, or two other windows, even if they are close to 1990 and 2005, will give quite different measures of improvement.

If 2007 turns out to be a particularly bad year for whatever climatological reason, then will the District say that there has been a 50% deterioration since 1990, and give themselves an F? Probably not. Using only two years gives, at the very least, the impression of what is generally known as “data snooping.” It’s not exactly fraud, but it’s not exactly honest data analysis either.

Next, Days above standard is a rough measurement, it would be much better to look at actual concentrations or peak concentrations. People in the Valley breath actual air, not federal or state regulations. Also rounding data to the yes-no violation format throws away useful information and introduces unnecessary sampling errors into the estimates.

Our Center is looking at many more analyses of these data, at the monthly level, using concentrations instead of violations, including other pollutants such as PM-10 and NOx, using space-time models, and correcting for seasonality, autocorrelation, and meteorology. The outcome will hopefully be better and more reliable estimates of how air quality in the Valley is developing locally. We feel that such outcomes will be more useful than the self-serving grading practices of the APCD.

Further analyses, graphs appear in full length version of this article in the electronic roadrunner.

Jan de Leeuw, Head of Statistics Dept., UCLA

Wanted! Leaders: *Have you ever thought about becoming a Sierra Club Outings Leader? Do you have some special places you would like to share with like-minded people? The Sierra Club is now actively recruiting Outings Leaders, in all Chapters and Groups. If you are interested, call Jim at 760.375.8161, or write to jnichols@ridgecrest.ca.us*

Also wanted: Members who would like to go paperless: Get the Roadrunner Online: <http://kernkaweah.sierraclub.org/roadrunner/> or go to Google, insert Kern Kaweah Chapter + Roadrunner. Either way you will find directions for signing up for the electronic version of the Roadrunner.

KERN KAWEAH ROUND-UP

PLEASE 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 type of hike, equipped appropriately for the activity, and prepared to sign a Sierra Club release from liability. You must be willing to follow 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, layered clothing. The following might be helpful but definitely not required: compass, whistle, matches or lighter, and a good first aid kit. Long pants recommended. Unprepared for the prospective hike? It will be a no-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 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 CA 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 was designed to protect the user of outdoor activities that require cash payments of more than \$50 for participation.

Hike Summary (Check groups for further information)

Every Tuesday Conditioning Hikes.(Bksf) Buena Vista Gp

Sept 15 (Sat) “Adopt-A-Highway” cleanup (Buena Vista Gp)

Sept 15 (Sat) Heather Lake Hike (Mineral King)

Sept 15 (Sat) Owens Point Loop (Owens Peak Gp)

Sept 22 (Sat) Exploratory trip to Lockwood Creek (Condor Gp)

October 5–7th Fri-Sun) Sequoia National Monument Weekend (see below) (Sequoia Task Force)

Oct 20 (Sat) Yosemite Car Trip (See Mineral King)

Oct 20 “Adopt-A-Highway” cleanup (Buena Vista Gp)

Oct 20 (Sat) Symmes Creek/Shepherd Creek Saddle (Owens Peak Gp)

Oct 27 (Sat) The Fishbowls of Piru Creek (Condor Gp)

One of the Year's Very Special Outings

October 5–7th 2007 (Fri–Sun) Sierra Club's Sequoia Task Force invites you to this Fall Outing in the magnificent Giant Sequoia National Monument. You can arrive any time after 2 PM, Friday. Wonderful hikes. Opportunity to talk with the activists who worked to protect these forests and groves for a quarter of a century. Hug a Sequoia that may well have been a seedling when Cleopatra was crossing the Nile. If enough of us make the trip, we just might be able to stretch all our arms around one single tree. Complete details about this popular annual outing are available by emailing Carla at cac@ocsnet.net or call 559.781.8445. Be sure to leave your name and contact information. *Reservations Are Required By September 25th.*

Buena Vista Group

More info? Call Donnel Lester, 661.831.6784 or Isabel at 661.246.6195

Buena Vista Group's monthly program meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month at 8:30 AM. We are in the process of determining a new permanent meeting place.

Every Tuesday Conditioning Hikes. 7 PM, 4–5 miles. Corner of Highways 178 & 184. Gordon 661.872.2432 or Larry 661.873.8107.

Sept 1 (Sat), 8:30 AM. Program: Viewing of “Unnatural Selection” from *The Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) Trilogy*. This visits the issue of GMOs and how they threaten health and environment. This will be hosted at a Sierra Club member's home. Please RSVP. For information and address contact Donnel at 661.831.6784.

Sept 15 (Sat), Buena Vista Group members and friends resume “Adopt-A-Highway” cleanup the third Saturday of each month at 9 AM. We meet at the Monte Carlo Club parking lot at the intersection of Hwy 119 and Old River Road. Bring water, gloves, and a hat. We will work for about an hour and a half. For information, phone Donnel at 661.831.6784.

Oct 6 (Sat) 8:30 AM. Program: Dr. Randal Beeman, Bakersfield College Professor, proposes that the college be a sustainable campus, which would bring it more up-to-date on environmental issues. Contact Isabel at 661.246.6195 for more information and location.

Oct 20 (Sat), “Adopt-A-Highway” cleanup, at 9 AM. See Sept. 15 listing above for details. For information, phone Donnel at 661.831.6784.

Meeting Notices: If you would like to receive BV Group meeting and activity information by email, please contact Membership Chair, Ann Gallon, at amgallon@atg1.com, with *Add me to the email list*. You can opt out of the email notices at any time. We try to keep this to once-a-month emailings.

Battery Recycling at BVG Meetings – *bring us your old batteries, lithium ion, nickel metal hydride, NiCad, small sealed lead-acid batteries and from cordless & cell phones, power tools, laptops, etc.*

Condor Group Hikes? Dale Chitwood, 661.242.1076. More info? Lockhart, 661.242.0432 jmal@frazmtn.com Meets Pine Mountain Club

Sept 22 (Sat) Exploratory trip to Lockwood Creek. Moderate. Meet at 8AM, Pine Mountain Clubhouse. We will begin the hike at the base of Frazier Mountain and follow the creek to its juncture with Piru Creek. Usually by this time of year the Piru is dry above this point. In the past, fresh bear tracks and rattlesnakes have been seen in this area, as well as a reminder of the nearness of civilization, an abandoned refrigerator. This an easy hike with a couple hundred feet elevation change, approximately 8 miles in length. For the first mile there are multiple crossings of the creek, so be prepared for wet feet.

Oct 6 (Sat) Archeology on Fire. Presented by Pat Likens, USFS. 6 PM Potluck. 7 PM program.

Oct 27 (Sat) The Fishbowls of Piru Creek are among the most picturesque spots in the area. They are a deep series of pools dredged out of sandstone by the Piru Creek. This area was burned over in the Day fire, and the hike will give us a chance to see the damage to this scenic area. The forestry service has just completed a new trailhead and partial new trail to the Fishbowls. There is virtually no elevation gain on the trail; however, it is a somewhat long hike, approximately 13 miles round trip.

Be sure to call to check if hikes will proceed. Fire closures may occur.

Need information about Tejon Ranch Corporation's development plans? Look at <http://www.cuddyvalley.org>

Kaweah Group *More info? call Pam, 559.784.4643 or Diane, 559.781.8897.*

Sept 20 (Thur) Big Planning Meeting. 7:30 PM, Pam's home (call for directions if necessary). Everyone is invited and urged to bring ideas for meetings, hikes and other possible occasions for the coming nine months.

Mineral King Group. *More info? Call Chair Kim Loeb, 559.798.1764. Please visit mineralking.sierraclub.org for more info on group events and activities.*

Sept 12 (Wed) 6 PM Dinner Social at Dicicco's of Visalia Restaurant, 2005 S. Mooney Blvd. Please RSVP to Bev at 559.732.3785 or garciamachine@comcast.net by noon the day of the social.

Sept 15 (Sat) Heather Lake Hike. A moderate hike along the Lakes trail to scenic Heather Lake, 8.2 miles round trip. We will climb steadily along the trail, passing the Watchtower, where we can look down on Tokopah Falls 1500' below. We continue to climb until we reach a saddle and drop down to Heather Lake. We will meet at the Taco Bell at Mary's Vineyard (roughly Ben Maddox and Noble) at 8:30 AM. Given drive time to and from Sequoia National Park, it will be early evening when we return to Visalia. Call Allen at 559.739.8087 for more info.

Sept 25 (Tue) 5:30 PM ExCom Meeting at Something Fresh Restaurant, 505 S Chinowth St, Visalia. All members are welcome. Please RSVP to Bev at 559.732.3785 or garciamachine@comcast.net.

Sept 28 (Fri) 7 PM The Great Warming Narrated by Alanis Morissette and Keanu Reeves, *The Great Warming* is a dramatic film about climate change that sweeps around the world to reveal how a changing climate is affecting the lives of people everywhere. *The Great Warming* includes hard-hitting comments from scientists and opinion-makers about America's lack of leadership in what is certainly the most critical environmental issue of the 21st century, as well as new scenes documenting the emerging voice of the American Evangelical community urging action on climate change. See www.thegreatwarming.com for more info. The film will be at Tazzaria Coffee & Tea, 208 West Main St., Visalia.

Oct 10 (Wed) 6:00 PM Dinner Social at Panera Bread Café, 4103 S. Mooney Blvd. Please RSVP to Bev at 559.732.3785 or garciamachine@comcast.net.

Oct 20 (Sat) Yosemite Car Trip Our annual car trip to Yosemite to see the fall colors. We will go to Glacier Point overlooking the valley. If the weather is bad or an early snow closes Glacier Point, we will go to Yosemite Valley. We will take some short hikes to be determined later. This trip is rated easy. We will meet at 7:30 AM at the Taco Bell at Mary's Vineyard (roughly Ben Maddox and Noble) and return to Visalia sometime in the evening, probably after dark, but before it gets too late. Call Allen at 559.739.8087 for more info.

Oct 23 (Tue) 5:30 PM ExCom Meeting at Something Fresh Restaurant, 505 S Chinowth St, Visalia. All members are welcome. Please RSVP to Bev at 559.732.3785 or garciamachine@comcast.net.

Owens Peak Group *More info?* Dennis Burge, Chair 760.375.7967 **email:** dennis93555@yahoo.com **Jim Nichols**, Hikes 760.375.8161 jnichols@ridgecrest.ca.us Mtgs: Maturango Museum, Ridgecrest. Please use email for hike questions.

Sept 15 (Sat) Owens Point Loop (Peak overlooking Lone Pine from the SW, 11375 ft, 1950 ft elevation gain, 8 mi RT) Owens Point gives us one of the most superb vistas of the central part of Owens Valley around Lone Pine and points N. Learn about such localisms as "Burning Tree Meadow," "Milk Bottle Trail," and "Little Cottonwood Pass." Looking down the Carroll Creek defile, we will see what a vertical mile looks like. Returning via the back side of Golden Trout Camp will make this a nice loop hike. Moderate hike due to distance and elevation gain. Meet Sat, Sept 15 at 7:30 AM at the Ridgecrest Cinema parking lot. Call Dennis Burge at 760.375.7967 or Jim Nichols at 760.375.8161 for more info.

Sept. 24 (Mon), 7:30 PM. Jean Bennett will show pictures of backpack trips to the Weminuche Wilderness (Colorado). At Maturango Museum.

Oct 20 (Sat) Symmes Creek/Shepherd Creek Saddle and maybe Anvil Camp (Saddle between Symmes Creek and Shepherd Creek, 9075 ft, 2650 ft elevation gain [more to Anvil Camp], 6 mi RT) This is the trailhead for Shepherd Pass. A steep, invigorating climb leads to a stunning view, the N face of Mt. Williamson, decorated with early season snow (hopefully). Aggressive hikers may reach Anvil Camp. Fall colors may show in Symmes Creek. Moderate hike due to altitude gained and distance. Meet 7:30 AM at the Ridgecrest Cinema parking lot.

Oct. 22 (Mon) 7:30 PM. Frank and Debbie Buffum will present a program on their recent trip to Sweden and Finland. At Maturango Museum.

Midgebuzzings

AT THIS YEAR'S chapter banquet I met Joe Traynor, a local scientist, who introduced himself and handed me a packet of articles and books about honeybees.

Joe's knowledge of apiculture comes from long experience, both as a beekeeper and as the founder of a consulting service in agricultural matters, especially pollination. Among the books he has written is his "Almond Pollination Handbook." I also have a copy of "Honey, the Gourmet Medicine," which contains intriguing lore regarding the beneficial effects of honey upon everything from hangovers to dental health and stroke. Included in the materials

he gave me were many articles on current problems with honeybees, not only in this country but throughout much of the world.

Sometimes all the bees in a hive leave and do not return. Sometimes whole colonies die, in and around the hives, a phenomenon called Colony Collapse Disorder. In February, 2005, one beekeeper who placed his 13,000 hives in orchards in the Central Valley lost almost half of them, about 300 million bees. Since then such disasters have occurred across the country so often that they have become common. Many of the crops that make up our food supply require honeybee pollination, and without those crops our diet would be sadly restricted.

The economic effects of even more massive bee die-offs are unpleasant to contemplate, beginning with losses to beekeepers, most of whose profits are now derived from pollination fees, and extending to other agricultural interests both large and small. Certainly the economic well-being of the nation would be compromised.

An enemy deadly to bees, the varroa mite, has been around a long time. Other possible culprits now include weather, genetically modified crops, corn acreage replacing bee forage such as alfalfa and clover, and pesticides. This is not to mention the effect of giant single-interest corporate farms with vast cultivation of crops unattractive to bees. Add the accelerating rate of farmland consumed by development, and we have a condition which is nearing disaster.

Beekeepers are finding less and less acreage for stationing their hives. Locally they are in serious disagreement with influential citrus growers who are planting more and more Clementine mandarin oranges, valued for being seedless. Pollen from some other citrus varieties will produce seeds in Clementines, so the industry is seeking a law that would prevent landowners from pasturing bees within two miles of their mandarin groves. This would reduce essential acreage for hives. Further, since bees will fly much farther than two miles for blossoms, it is unlikely that a two-mile ban will prevent the pollen transfer that sets seeds. Beekeepers contend that Clementine farmers, knowing the seeding effect of pollination, should have planted their crops in areas safely isolated from other pollen sources. As it is, they can cover their trees to prevent pollen transfer, as others have safely done. Apiarists say that if this law goes into effect, more scarce bee pasture will be lost, and there will be less pollination for the general good.

Some home gardeners' temporary good luck with bees last spring and summer should not change our perception of the immensity of the problem. Scientists are working to find solutions, but they are seriously under-funded. The Farm Bill which is set for debate in Congress this September provides funding for bee research. Please write to your representatives in the House and Senate and impress upon them the urgency of this issue. Ask them to make sure that this funding proposal remains in the bill when it comes up for a vote, and urge them to approve the measure. Remind them that they have to eat, too.

Ann Williams

KERN KAWEAH CHAPTER OFFICERS for 2007:

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 Lister (Bksf), 661.831.6784. Jan de Leeuw (PMC), 661.245.1725. Richard Garcia (Min King), 559. 592.9865. Mary Ann Lockhart (PMC), 661.242.0432. Ara Marderosian (Kernville), 760.378.4574,

Meetings: All Sierra Club members welcome to attend. For future meeting dates, as well as location and time of day, call 661.323.5569 or e-mail alunger@juno.com.

Sorry about the error in the last issue: Gordon Nipp was the recipient of the Chair's Award of the Kern-Kaweah Chapter; Janet Wood prepared and read the statement given on the occasion.

Want to contact Roadrunner editor?

Mary Ann Lockhart,

jmal@frazmtn.com or 661.242.0432

FROM THE CHAIR

Many thanks to those who made their names known to the chapter so we could e-mail them that the Forest Service is considering building Off Highway Vehicle trails in roadless areas of the Sequoia National Forest. Mary Ann rushed a briefer notice of that into the Roadrunner, just as it was on its way to the printer. Here's to the Wilderness Society, who focuses on such issues, for informing us of this opportunity. Of course, wilderness is much more fun to enjoy if your lungs are not so damaged by smog that you cannot visit wild places. That is why we are grateful to the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition that includes some Club members, state staff and national staff.

The Sierra Club believes John Muir's statement that "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." Some of us are more effective because we focus on limited fields, but the Club is concerned with urban recreational lands along the Kern and Kaweah Rivers as well as with third world poverty that may lead people to live in areas set aside as wild National Parks. That means we need more members and that we need more activity from each. If you are not asking the state or our local chapter to send you requests to contact decision makers as well as spreading the word among those you talk with, who will? To be listed, contact alunger@juno.com 661.323.5569.

Thanks, Art

Germany Upholds Groundbreaking Renewable Energy Law Substantially Increases Tariffs for Some Technologies Further Increases Renewable Targets

By Paul Gipe

Germany's Ministry for the Environment has issued revised rules for the country's groundbreaking Renewable Energy Sources Act. The new rules significantly increase the tariffs for offshore wind energy, hydroelectricity, and geothermal energy beginning in 2009.

Most significantly, Germany, with the most aggressive renewable energy targets in the world, has increased those targets yet again. The Ministry of Environment announced that the targets for 2020 had increased to 27% from the previous 20% and had added a target of 45% by 2030. Previously, Germany had set a renewable target of 50% of total energy consumption by 2050.

The Ministry's report announced that tariffs for hydroelectricity will be raised to Euro 0.1267/kWh (\$0.17/kWh) for <500 kW, to Euro 0.0865/kWh (\$0.12/kWh) for >500 kW<2,000 kW, to Euro 0.0765/kWh (\$0.10/kWh) for >2,000 kW<5,000 kW.

For geothermal, the new rules reduce the number of size classes from four to two and increases the tariff from Euro 0.15/kWh (0.20/kWh) to Euro 0.17/kWh (\$0.23/kWh). The new rules also add a bonus of Euro 0.03/kWh (\$0.04/kWh) for geothermal used in heating.

For wind on land, which has been hard hit by rising turbine prices, the new rules reduce the annual tariff degression from 2% to 1% per year. Germany will now also pay a bonus of Euro 0.007/kWh (\$0.01/kWh) for wind turbines that are more compatible with the needs of the grid.

For wind off shore, the program raises tariffs from Euro 0.0874/kWh (\$0.12/kWh) in 2009 to Euro 0.11-0.14/kWh (\$0.15-0.19/kWh).

For rooftop solar PV, the Ministry of Environment said it would raise the annual degression from the current 5% to 7% per year beginning in (2009) and to 8% beginning in 2011. The revised program will add a new tariff class for systems >1,000 kW of Euro 0.3548/kWh (\$0.47/kWh). The current tariff is Euro 0.463 (\$0.62/kWh) for systems >100 kW.

For solar PV systems <30 kW the current tariff is Euro 0.49/kWh (\$0.66/kWh).

For solar PV cladding <30 kW the current tariff is Euro 0.54/kWh (\$0.72/kWh)

For ground-mounted solar PV, the annual degression will be raised from 6.5% to 8.5% beginning in 2009 and to 9.5% beginning in 2011.

Germany is governed by a grand coalition of the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats. Perpetuation of Germany's renewable energy law was an integral part of the coalition contract between the two political parties.

Germany's Renewable Energy Sources Act is reviewed every three years.

The rules and findings of parliamentary discussions are currently available only in German and can be found at http://www.bmu.de/erneuerbare_energien/downloads/doc/39631.php.

-End-

Note: The above is based on the author's limited knowledge of German.

New items posted at <http://www.wind-works.org/>.

[Feed-in Tariff News Group Forms](#)

[The Irony of U.S. and UK Renewable Policies](#) by Craig Morris

[Italy Launches New Solar PV Tariffs— Among the Highest in Europe](#)

[Reaching Community Wind's Potential](#) by Windustry

[German Renewable Employment Reaches 214,000 in 2006](#)

[Europe Has Found a Way to Make Solar Pay](#) by Jeffrey Michel

[Ontario: The new frontier for alternative energy](#)

[Michigan Representative First to Endorse Renewable Energy Feed Laws in the United States](#)

[Canada's Renewable Future: Going Beyond Kyoto](#)— a presentation by Paul Gipe to the Canadian Auto Workers

[California Energy Commission Weighs Feed-in Tariffs](#)

Paul Gipe

Ontario Sustainable Energy Association/Toronto Renewable Energy Cooperative

401 Richmond Street West, Suite 401

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION REPORT CARD QUESTIONED!

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District has given itself an A+ for 1990. It is not clear from the Report Card how precisely the A+ grade was obtained, but a closer investigation suggests that perhaps a grade change is in order.

If we look at ozone, for example, the District claims an 82% improvement from 1990 to 2005. This is because there were 45 days above standard in 1990 and 8 days above standard in 2005. In later communications (not in the Report Card), the district uses three-year running averages and finds an 80% improvement. Several comments are in order.

Looking at only two years (or even two three year running averages) gives an estimate that is unreliable statistically. Picking two other years, or two other windows, even if they are close to 1990 and 2005, will give quite different measures of improvement. If 2007 comes out to be a particularly bad year for whatever climatological reason, then will the District say that there has been a 50% deterioration since 1990, and give themselves an F? Probably not. Using only two years gives, at the very least, the impression of what is generally known as "data snooping". It's not exactly fraud, but it's not exactly honest data analysis either.

Second, days above standard is a rough measurement, it would be much better to look at actual concentrations or peak concentrations. People in the Valley breath actual air, not federal or state

regulations. Also rounding data to the yes-no violation format throws away useful information, and introduces unnecessary sampling errors into the estimates.

Third, the data are aggregated to such an extent that they become almost meaningless (except to a regulating agency). We are interested in ozone levels at certain fixed measurement stations, such as Bakersfield or Arvin. Again, nobody in the district breathes average air. Also, we should not aggregate over months or days, unless we correct for seasonal variation. And we cannot directly compare ozone levels unless we take meteorological variation over years into account. Some years are hotter than others, some are wetter, some have more wind, and so on. All this is known to influence ozone levels. It is unclear if a three-year running average corrects for this, because obviously droughts and global warming produce cycles which are much longer than three years.

The attached graphs show violation days in Bakersfield, Arvin, Oildale, and Shafter since 1989. We have plotted violations of both one-hour and eight-hour federal and state standards (data from CARB monitoring stations). We have also drawn the regression lines to estimate trend. They show a modest long term improvement (around 20%) in violations of one-hour state standards, but generally an increase in violations of eight hour state standards.

Our Center is looking at many more analyses of these data, at the monthly level, using concentrations instead of violations, including other pollutants such as PM-10 and NO_x, using space-time models, and correcting for seasonality, autocorrelation, and meteorology. The outcome will hopefully be better and more reliable estimates of how air quality in the Valley is developing locally. We feel that such outcomes will be more useful than the self-serving grading practices of the APCD.

Professor Jan de Leeuw, UCLA Statistics

Dept.