

# TRACKS



January/February 2011

Volume 24, No. 1

On the web: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/gls/>



## Thanksgiving in the Panamint Valley

By Wendy T.

A sumptuous Thanksgiving dinner in the desert... GLS showed once again that we know how to make it all come together for a great celebration of food and friends.

OK, we cheated a little. We didn't actually cook the bird and all the goodies over a campfire. We gathered at the Panamint Valley Resort, near Death Valley, and let the restaurant cook up and serve a traditional Thanksgiving feast. But we came up with the secret ingredient --

lots of stories, jokes and laughter.

The holiday dinner kicked off four days of non-stop fun and first-rate hikes, all organized by Susan Campo and Alan Schimpff. Twenty-three GLS members made the drive to the "resort" in the middle of nowhere, which began its life as a mining-era waystation and has since acquired a couple of dusty gas pumps. About half of us camped in tents. The other half opted for the ancient motel rooms. But hey, they had heaters!

Some of the motel contingent generously told the campers to bang on their doors in the middle of the night if it got too cold... and then, um, mistakenly gave them the room numbers of some biker-gang motel guests.

Luckily, no mayhem broke out. That's only because the campground bunch stubbornly decided to use old-fashioned

*On the Panamint Dunes. The Lake Buttes and Argus Range in the distance. Photo Nancy Beverly.*

*(Continued on page 4)*

<b>GLS Info.....</b>	<b>2, 3</b>
<b>Trip Reports .....</b>	<b>4, 5</b>
<b>Conservation Notes .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Outings &amp; Events.....</b>	<b>7-9</b>
<b>Calendar .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>GLS Leader Contact Info.</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Important Outing Info .....</b>	<b>11</b>



*Thanksgiving dinner, Panamint Buttes in the background. Photo Jeff Cuevas.*

## GLS Chair Message

A big thank you to my fellow board members for cooking up the crazy idea of giving me the Sierran of the Year Award. I was not expecting it and what a delightful surprise it was. A special thanks to S.K. Chiou for conceptualizing and Jeff Johnson for crafting the "Rock Awards" – for me

and for the other award winners at our holiday party – what an appropriate memento for outdoor lovers!

Much gratitude to Grace Hengst and Mary Adair for their usual gracious hosting of the holiday party – it's not as fancy as the Oscars but dang it, it's a ton of fun.

Farewell and Godspeed to outgoing board members Barb Edwards and Christy

Varni – thank you for your hard work and inventive ideas.

Welcome to Sharon Hartley and Amanda Smith, our newest board members, and with your assistance we'll continue to guide GLS soundly and keep it the organization we've come to know and love.

*Nancy Beverly*

## GLS Mgmt. Committee Meeting, November 16, 2010

Nancy, Barb, SK, and Jeff met by conference call.

Barb described the surge in subscriptions noted after Long Beach Pride, with lapsing subscriptions a year later. Discussed doing an online survey to ask people who don't renew why not. Jeff will start with an email to the most recent last-issue-subscribers on the last mailing list to ask why they did or did not renew.

The possibility of using the new enduring liability waiver for Griffith Park Wednesday night hikes was mentioned. Nancy will follow up.

Some treasury issues were discussed. Right now our balance is higher than normal because of the payments deposited for Susan's Panamint Valley outing, but Susan's expenses have not yet been reimbursed.

Though SK has gotten some bank fees reduced, it turns out that one of our two accounts was set up to require a \$5000 minimum to avoid fees. If we want to keep less cash tied up in the bank, we may want to change our banking arrangements.

So far this year we have given about \$2000

to the Angeles Chapter. We agreed by consensus that we would like to give about \$3000 total this year to the chapter, and continue at about that level while it makes sense with our available resources.

Our Meetup.com trial looks successful, listing GLS and a few GLS outings on Meetup.com, piggybacking on Christy's Meetup account. Over 100 people have signed up, and a few people have come on hikes. The consensus was that we should continue this, so we need to look into a new account or making arrangements with Christy, who may or may not continue the account that we have been using. Thank you Christy.

Sharon and Amanda have both agreed to be nominated for the management committee. Jeff will send out the ballots.

There was some discussion of specific arrangements for the holiday party and awards to be awarded at the party. Debbie Dragon may be able to come to the party, which would be fun, since few GLS people have actually met her.

*Jeff Johnson*

## 2010 Photo Contest

Again this year at the holiday party we looked at GLS hikers' photos taken during GLS outings in the past year and voted for our favorites.

Here are the winners!

- **Favorite overall** and favorite **scenery** photo was Karen's photo from a day hike near Rock Creek on the July 4th Bishop Creek trip.
- Favorite **humorous** photo was Karen's photo of the matching profiles of Laura and a large rock above Panamint Valley on the Thanksgiving outing.
- Favorite **flora or fauna** photo was Kiwi's photo of a nuthatch on a tree, taken on the Memorial Day campout at Big Bear.

*(Continued on page 6)*

### Information about GLS

**General questions about GLS**, call Grace at 323-227-6444 or Mike at 818-763-5799

**Questions about a specific event**, please call the leaders listed in the schedule. Contact info is inside the back page.

**Sign up for the FREE GLS email list**, with a weekly email digest of GLS events, go to: <<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/news/MailingLists.asp>>. Your email address remains confidential and is not displayed to others.

### Next GLS Management Comm. Meeting

The next GLS management committee meeting is scheduled for January, date to be determined after the holidays.

GLS management committee meetings are (usually) held about every two months, on weeknight evenings, by conference call. All GLS subscribers are welcome.

You may call one of the committee members to confirm meeting time, how to call in, or ask about the agenda, or for other information.

### GLS Mission

The Gay & Lesbian Sierrans Section of the Angeles Chapter fosters the purposes of the Sierra Club by making available a wide range of events for gays, lesbians, and their friends. These activities include conservation, education, hikes, bike rides, beach walks, car camps, boat trips, social gatherings and fundraising.

### GLS Newsletter

The GLS newsletter, TRACKS, is published six times a year. Annual subscriptions are \$15 for issues sent by US mail, \$10 for issues sent in PDF format by email, \$25 for both. Three year subscriptions are, respectively, \$35, \$20, and \$55. Send subscription requests and related membership correspondence to: GLS, P.O. Box 1300, South Pasadena CA, 91031-1300.

### Mgmt. Committee

**Nancy Beverly**,  
Chair  
**Barbara Edwards**,  
Co-Chair  
**S.K. Chiou**,  
Treasurer  
**Jeff Johnson**,  
Secretary  
**Christy Varni**,  
Member at Large

### Other GLS Volunteers

**Membership**,  
Jeff Cuevas  
**Conservation**,  
Tom Molloy  
**Webmaster**,  
Alan Schimpff  
**TRACKS Editor**,  
Jeff Johnson

.....  
**Our outing volunteers are listed on page 11.**

# 2010 Holiday Party

Our holiday party was on December 11, again at Grace and Mary's on a Fort Washington hillside with a view across the neighborhood and up to the mountains.

Our special guest this year at the holiday party was Debbie Collins, of Ms. Dragon Print and Copy in Altadena, who has printed and mailed Tracks for 20 years. This was the first time that most of the GLS people at the party had met her.

**Nav Noodle** awards were given to **Marie** and **Anne** for their persistent interest in training us how to find our way in the wild.

**Worthy Woman of Weekly Words** award was awarded to Laura for putting out the weekly reminder email for years now.



the moment she first sat down as the Chair and saw them through with productive persistence and willingness.

Judy Demarah managed the silent auction, which again brought in some cash and helped some people clean out their closets.

The photo contest ran again this year,

this time with the pictures running on the big screen TV.

Some of us look forward to the holiday party because of the great food that people bring. If you were not there, I can tell you that the highlights included Kiwi's tasty vegetarian dish and, from unknown sources, a light, nutty, buttery chocolate cake that I would like to have another piece of right now.



Several awards were given at the party:

**KB Milestone awards**, for leading over 100 outings, were given to **Amanda, Mike, Nancy,** and **Grace**, who has led over 300 outings, and **Susan**, who has led so many outings over so many years that our official outing counter Marie could not tell how many. This award was named for Kathy Brizzard who printed pads of 100 sign-in sheets that some leaders are still using. Jeff C. made buttons to be given out with the awards, based on Ginger's logo and design.

**Back in Action** award was given to Susan for her success in overcoming recent back problems and her return to leading us down the most interesting trails.

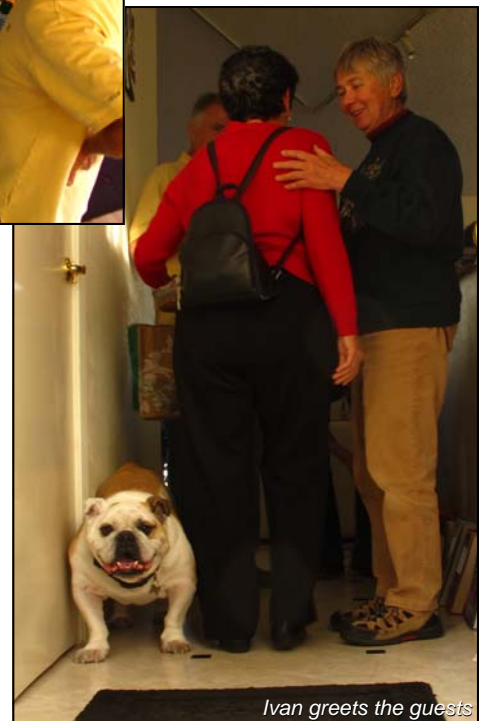
**Fill 'Er Up** was awarded to Tom and Alan for their regular willingness to fill in blank weekends in the outing schedule at the last minute.

**Best Dressed** was awarded to Sharon Hartley, our new management committee member, who wore a dress to the Angeles Chapter award banquet and thereby raised the tone noticeably at the GLS table.

**Sierran of the Year** was awarded to Nancy, our hardworking management committee Chair for 2010. To the relief of many this year, Nancy took responsibility for some unavoidable challenges starting

*Late News Flash! Add to that list Eric Sas and Rick Mitchell, whose totals were missed in the runup to the party.*

**Wednesday Wounded Loyal Leader awards** were given to **Amanda, Dora, Grace, Marie,** and **Nancy**, who between them led and co-led most of the Griffith Park Wednesday night hikes this year, though each of them had some kind of injury during the year.



Ivan greets the guests

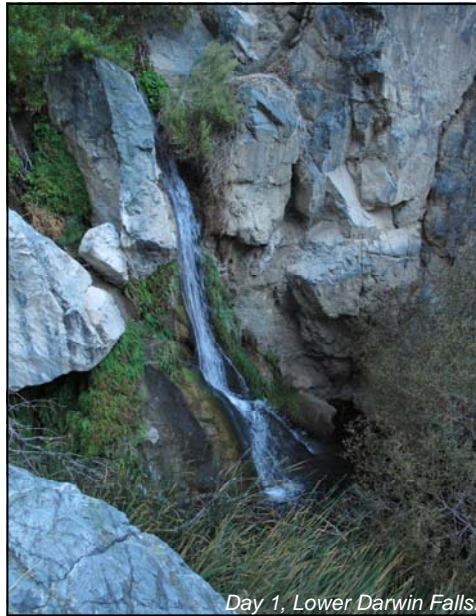
# Panamint Vly Thanksgiving

*(Continued from page 1)*

grit and ingenuity to fend off temperatures that dived into the 20s. Marie and Nancy put hot-water bottles in their sleeping bags. Others used extra-thick ground pads and blankets. Personally, I think I had the best solution – a palm-size catalytic heater that kept me toasty warm all night on a teaspoon of fuel.

The next day, as the sun set and the temperature plummeted, I good-naturedly passed around this clever little gizmo (looks like an oversize cigarette lighter) and immediately became the envy of all my shivering companions. Soon I noticed people whispering behind my back and hovering near my camp site in small groups, clutching big fat “walking sticks” they’d borrowed from the wood-pile. But by that time happy-hour was well under way, and my companions figured out that rhubarb wine and a roaring campfire were better ways to stay warm.

By far, the biggest and best toy at our camp-out was Terry’s restored 1950s-vintage trailer. Decked out in shiny aluminum siding, it looked uncannily like, well, a canned ham, with wheels. Everyone clamored for tours of this cute little home-away-from-home. Who said anything about roughing it? Terry graciously put his well-appointed kitchen to use by whipping up a huge outdoor breakfast for everyone... pancakes slathered in syrup... sausage, eggs, fruit... we all hurried over



Day 1, Lower Darwin Falls.



Day 3, Breakfast at Terry’s “canned ham”



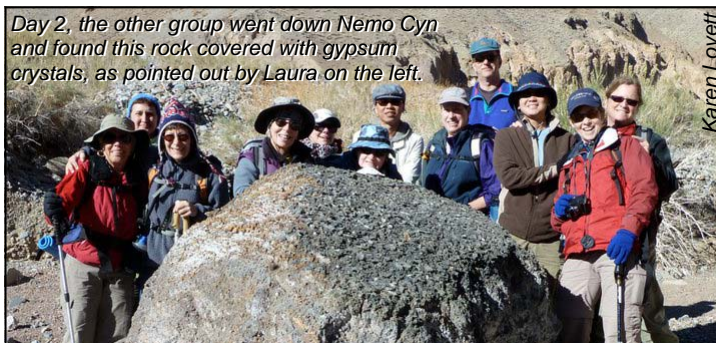
Day 1, Upper Darwin Falls.



Day 2, looking for Nemo. One group climbed up from Nemo Canyon to this high point. Wildrose Peak in the distance.



Karen Lovett



Day 2, the other group went down Nemo Cyn and found this rock covered with gypsum crystals, as pointed out by Laura on the left.

Karen Lovett

with our plates and rationalized that the extra calories would be good preparation for all the hiking we planned to do.

Our good intentions weren’t just pie or pancakes in the sky. We hiked morning, noon and practically into the night for three days. Despite the cold temperatures at night, our days had bright sunshine and deep blue skies, with the thermometer nudging up to nearly 70... perfect for hitting the trail.

As veteran members know, you never know what marvels of nature you’re going to see on a GLS hike. Susan had done a lot of scouting work to prepare for the trip, and was able to offer us some diverse hikes, including suggestions for the tiger hikers.

On our first day out, we came upon an oasis wedged between steep canyon walls in the desert mountains, with two

*Continued on next page*

# Mount La Tuna Adventure

By Marie Ammerman

It was a gorgeous day when 17 hikers gathered at the Stough Canyon Nature Center to make their assault on Mt. La Tuna in the Verdugo Hills. Not too hot, not too cold — just right. We made our way up the fire road in good time, turning off to pass by the ruins of an old youth camp, where Nature Center volunteers were hosting the “Hike Lite” portion of the annual Community Hike that was also happening that day. Fortunately, the folks on that hike were heading up to the top of the Verdugos, while we were marching into a less-frequented area at the Sunland end of the Hills.

Mt. La Tuna (elev. approx. 1,725 ft.) sits on a spur that juts into the SF Valley, and commands a wonderful 360-degree view of the Valley, the San Gabriels, Griffith Park, downtown L.A., and the ocean on clear days. Just before the turn-

off to reach the peak, we gathered to learn about Ralph and Sylvia Krausen. A plaque there honors their gift of 145 acres of land in the Verdugos to the City of Los Angeles, which helped to make Verdugo Park, as the area is known, the fourth-largest park, at 500 acres, in the City of L.A.

At the top, we had a leisurely lunch, chatting and watching the planes take off from the airport in Burbank, before winding our way back along the sun-soaked, wind-swept fire road. On our way back to the Nature Center we ran into some of the

Center’s volunteers, including one of its professional photographers, Marcella Atallah, who insisted on getting a picture of our happy group, and providing it for Tracks. Thanks, Marcella! It was a great day getting to know a part of the Verdugos most folks don’t take the time to explore.



Marcella Atallah



Day 3, on the Panamint Dunes. Climbing the spine of the dunes. Center, Alan casts a long shadow down the dune.

Nancy Beberly



Alan Schimpff



Leader Susan on top of the dunes.

## Panamint Vly Thanksgiving

(Continued from previous page)

spectacular ice-cold waterfalls plunging down the rocks. One of the cascades looked to be a couple hundred feet tall. We couldn’t figure out where the heck all the water came from.

Another day, we trekked cross-country several miles to a group of sand dunes. They shimmered in the sunshine like porcelain mountains rising from the scrub-

covered desert floor. And we had them all to ourselves. The scene was like something out of “Lawrence of Arabia.” So we imitated a camel train and plodded step-by-step to the crest, where an eerie thing happened.

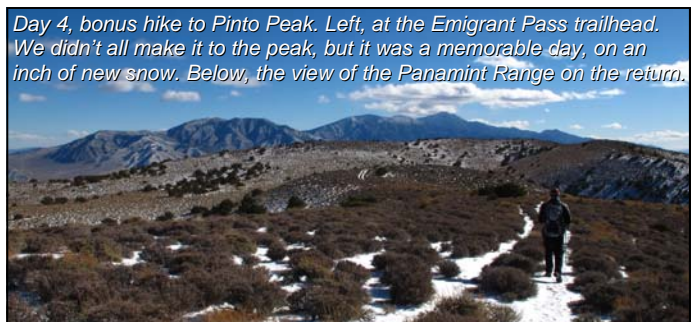
The angle of the midday sun was just right for casting our shadows straight down the flank of the biggest dune. It made us all look like 150-foot-tall monsters on an alien landscape. That got our imaginations

going. Suddenly we all noticed that our hiking boots had carved a sinuous “spine” along the crest of the soft, pristine sand, and we started playing guessing games. Some said it looked like the bleached vertebrae of a gigantic dinosaur. Others thought it more like a railroad track to nowhere, or a big zipper.

All that hiking and thinking was a lot of work. We needed an extra-long happy hour to wind down.



Alan Schimpff



Day 4, bonus hike to Pinto Peak. Left, at the Emigrant Pass trailhead. We didn’t all make it to the peak, but it was a memorable day, on an inch of new snow. Below, the view of the Panamint Range on the return.



## 2010 Photo Contest

(Continued from page 2)

- Favorite **GLS-in-action** photo was Jeff J's photo of Heather and her birthday well-wishers on Bishop Creek.

### Time to start taking pictures for next year's contest!

Next year, we are planning to have more categories and ask for a larger number of pictures from each participant.

*What good new categories can you think of that would give people a new way to think about taking pictures on outings and a new way to look at the pictures that other people have taken on outings?*



## Conservation Notes

By Tom Molloy

### Wake up call on the coming water crisis

Please take a moment to look at <<http://flowthefilm.com/>>, or at the Youtube trailer <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LGd9D4J0lag>> to open your eyes to a little talked about global water crisis. The horrible convergence of dwindling global water supplies, and the privatization of drinkable water going on in the third

world, and likely coming here too, where to profit on the pollution and scarcity, companies are setting up water spigots dependent on access to a debit card. Those without the debit card can become part of the up to 12 million people that die annually from drinking dirty water. It immediately led Alan and I to commit to never buying bottled water again, and to sign the petition to the U.N. to add Article 31 (right to clean water) to the U.N. charter <<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=123787596392>>.

Please sign the petition and if you can, see the film. It's on Sundance Channel and

otherwise available through regular channels.

### Now for some good news about our water

For those of you that remember when sand dollars and other sea shells adorned Southern California beaches, with abalone and lobster readily available, you'll be happy to know that the California Fish and Game Commission has banned or restricted fishing in dozens of protected marine areas designed to replenish depleted fish populations and protect marine life.



The Panamint Dunes, and the mountains to the east, visited on Susan's long Thanksgiving weekend outing. Spot the tiny hikers on top of the dune?

# Outings & Events

## January

**January 2, Sunday**

**O: Laguna Coast Wilderness Park**  
**Jeff Johnson, Grace Hengst**

Trail closures, muddy unstable trails.

**January 8, Saturday**

**O: Trail Maintenance**  
**Anne Mullins, Mike Brostoff**

Here's a chance to give back to the environment, have fun with the rest of the GLS, and find something good to eat, too! All members are encouraged to come out and help. There will be a range of activities available, from picking up trash to hard digging; there's something for everyone. A potluck lunch follows, with a special treat from Porto's Bakery to be provided (please don't bring a dessert!) We hope to add an even deeper sense of purpose to the GLS section, so please take this opportunity to come out and make a difference. What to bring: work gloves (if you have them), water, lug soles, potluck item. We may be working on the trails near Stough Canyon or in the Angeles Forest. Clean up starts at 9:00 and continues for 2 -3 hours, followed by the potluck, and then a leaders meeting. RSVP to Anne Mullins at <hike2thepeak@gmail.com>, so she can tell the ranger how many are attending and give you directions to the meeting spot.

**January 16, Sunday**

**O: Santa Monicas Seven Peaks Plus**  
**Susan Lucille Campo, Mary Conte**

This loop hike is part of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area near Malibu. This is "not the same old" because we will be hiking Sandstone, Boney,

Inspiration, Exchange, Tri-peaks, Pop Top, and Big Dome. We will make a loop using the Backbone Trail and the Mishe Mokwa Trail after also visiting the Balanced Rock on Echo Cliffs. This STRENUOUS hike is 9 miles RT, 2700' elev. gain. Participants must wear long pants and a long sleeve shirt for some scrambling. Wear lug sole boots and carry plenty of lunch and water. All participants must email the leader prior to the trip with your phone number and sign-up. (Have courtesy to cancel sign-up if need be). Rain cancels. Hike starts at 9:00 am sharp. Trail head is 16 miles West of Malibu Cyn on PCH.; continue 7 miles North on Yerba Buena Rd.; parking area is on RIGHT 2miles past Circle X Ranger Station. Questions? Contact Susan at 626-584-6848.

**January 23, Sunday**

**O: Mugu Peak -- La Jolla Valley**  
**Tom Molloy, Alan Schimpff**

A comprehensive trek through the western quadrant of Pt. Mugu State Park. The hike begins in La Jolla Canyon, then crosses a field to ascend Mugu Peak. The trail then descends into La Jolla Valley, a large grassy meadow, and then joins up with a well-graded and scenic trek along the ridge dividing La Jolla Cyn and Big Sycamore Cyn. Curving down the rounded slopes east of La Jolla Canyon, the trail takes in sweeping views of the Pt. Mugu coastline and the distant Channel Islands. Round-trip: 10 miles, 1950' elevation gain. Bring at least 2 quarts of water, lunch, and the 10 essentials. Meet at 9:30 AM at the parking area for the Ray Miller Trailhead. Drive north on PCH about 35 miles past Santa Monica. Take the first turn off to the right after passing the Big Sycamore Campground and "the great sand dune."

Parking fee \$4 per car. Usually free parking can be found on PCH. Call leaders to RSVP, 310-589-9125. Rain Cancels

**January 29, Saturday**

**O: Topanga Canyon: Los Liones-Trippet Ranch**

**Anna Baum, Nancy Beverly**

13 miles round-trip, strenuous in parts, 1,300 feet elevation gain. After a short, steep, 1.5-mile climb up lovely shaded switchbacks through chaparral (including ceanothus), we'll follow a steep winding fire road that affords stunning coastline vistas and beautiful views of Santa Ynez and Topanga Canyons on either side. We'll pass the turnoff to the Parker Mesa Overlook (hikers may walk out to the Overlook, another half-mile), then continue on East Topanga Fire Road another 2.6 miles, mostly level, to Trippet Ranch Visitor Center. We'll eat lunch there and return the way we came. Directions: - From Highway 1/PCH in Pacific Palisades: turn north on Sunset Boulevard. Drive 0.3 mile and turn left on Los Liones Drive. Follow Los Liones Drive to its end in about a half-mile and park in the lot across from a church or on the street. -From the 405 and Sunset: Travel west out Sunset Blvd., past Temescal Canyon, and a block past Palisades Drive, turn right up Los Liones. Hike begins at 9 a.m. sharp. Wear sturdy shoes, bring at least two quarts water, 10 essentials, lunch, snacks, sunscreen. Heavy rain cancels. Questions? Contact Anna at 310-990-0610.

## February

**February 6, Sunday**

**O: Little Tokyo Walk**

**Barbara Edwards, S.K. Chiou**

*(Continued next page)*

## Weekly Griffith Park Conditioning Hikes

**What:** Every Wednesday night, join us for a moderate (strenuous if you are out of shape) hike to Mt. Hollywood, 5 miles, 1145' gain/loss. This is a great mid-week workout. Lugsoled boots are best for traction, but some hikers wear sneakers. Bring a quart of water, snacks if you like, and a flashlight if not used to hiking in the dark. We have a few tiny breaks on the way up, stop at the top, gawk at the city lights until we get a chill, and then return to our

cars by approx. 9:30 PM  
Dogs are welcome; bring a leash and extra water. Rain cancels.

**When:** Every Wednesday, (except holidays) 7 PM sharp, end by 9:30 PM

**Where:** By the flagpole near the vending machines at the Crystal Springs Griffith Park HQ/Visitors Center, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, LA. (Note: Mapquest, Google Maps, etc. may be misleading.)

**Directions:** (1) From I-5 north, exit at Griffith Park exit, 0.25 mi. beyond Los Feliz Bl. Make a right turn at the 3-way stop sign. Proceed 0.6 mi. and turn in the driveway just before the Ranger Station. If you miss the driveway, proceed 0.1 mi, turn right at the stop sign, drive 0.15 mi. to the parking lot. (2) From Los Feliz Bl., turn north on Crystal Springs Dr. Proceed 0.5 mi. to the 3-way stop sign, go straight, and then follow (1) above directions to the Ranger Station. (3) From Fwy. 134 East, exit Victory Bl. Turn right

at the stop sign, then immediately left onto Zoo Dr. Wind around about 2 miles and turn onto Crystal Springs Dr. south. There may be detours. Proceed approx 1 mi. Turn left at the 4-way stop sign at the Ranger Sta./Crystal Springs area. Drive 0.15 mi and park. (4) From Fwy. 134 West, keep to your right coming out of Glendale. Exit at Zoo Dr, just past San Fernando Rd. Wind around past the Western Heritage Museum to Crystal Springs Dr. Turn left, and proceed as in (3) above.

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## Outings and Events

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Meet at 10 am at the Little Tokyo Galleria Shopping Center (333 S. Alameda) at the corner of Alameda and 3rd St. All day free street parking available in the neighborhood. We will eat our way through Little Tokyo sampling traditional desserts, such as a wide variety of mochi (both the ice cream and non-ice cream versions), and admiring historical sites. Then we will break for an optional authentic Japanese lunch (around 11:30am), or you can bring your own. After lunch, we will stroll through Olvera Street and historic Union Station before returning to our cars. Entire walk is 4.5 miles, 200 ft gain, approximately 4-5 hours including lunch. Bring cash for food. Rain cancels. Please RSVP to <greyhound@sbcglobal.net> if possible, in case of last minute changes.

### February 12, Saturday

#### **O: Ventura To Ojai Bike Ride Amanda Smith, Mary Conte**

Following the Ventura River Trail, this casual paced bike ride is 32 miles round-trip with a very gradual uphill climb from downtown Ventura to downtown Ojai. The paved path is about 3-5% grade, with approximately 750' gain/loss. Along the way, we'll enjoy the natural scenic beauty of the Ventura River watershed as well as some well-placed public art. Once we get to Ojai, we'll stop at the Ojai Café Emporium for a yummy lunch. The trail starts in Ventura at the west end of Rex Street, a couple of blocks north of Main St and just east of the 33 freeway. There is parking on Main Street nearby, or in the paved lot 100 yards west of the 33 underpass on the south side. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Ventura entrance to the bike path, the end of Rex Street at Dubbers Street. From Los Angeles, take the 101 North and exit in Ventura at California Street (exit 70A). Turn Right on California, then Left on Main Street. Right on N. Olive and Left on Rex, where you'll see the entrance to the bike path. From Santa Barbara, take 101 South, and exit in Ventura at Ventura Avenue (exit 70A), go straight on Ventura Avenue, Left on Main St., right on N. Olive and Left on Rex. This bike ride, with lunch, is expected to take approximately 5+ hours. Along with a multi-speed bike (mountain bikes, hybrids and road bikes are all good), helmets are mandatory. Please also bring a bike lock, water, spare inner tube, money for dining, and layered clothing. It may be cooler in

Ventura than up in Ojai, so be prepared for both. Heavy rain (but not sprinkles) cancels. RSVP required!!! RSVP to Amanda (323) 646 0771 or <queenpin@earthlink.net>.

### Feb 18 - Feb 21, Fri - Mon

#### **O: Afton Canyon Jeff Johnson, Laura Rainey**

Long weekend based at the BLM campground in Afton Canyon in the Mojave Desert. Eroded desert topography, river running in the desert, minerals and geology with commentary and arm waving by friendly geologist, spots of archeological interest. Also railroad running by the campground. One day, a ridge walk south from the river toward the great geological jumble, return down a large wash, conditions permitting. Another day, walk downstream along the Mojave River, partly on gravel road, passing caves, mine camp ruin, slot canyons, return the same way. Third day, visit local areas of interest by car. \$20/person, any profit to the Angeles Chapter. Send phone, email address, and check made out to GLS to Jeff Johnson, PO Box 13073, Long Beach CA 90803. Questions? Contact Jeff at <jgj@cheerful.com>.

### February 20, Sunday

#### **O: Snowshoe Hike, Mt. San Jacinto Kirk Olsen, Dora Olea**

Join us for a leisurely snowshoe hike on groomed trails near the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Mountain Station (elevation 8,516 ft.). Meet at the Valley Station at 10:30 am with snowshoes in hand - they can be rented at any good sports shop if you do not own them. Please allow time to park and ride the bus. We will purchase our tickets and ride up together. Once situated we will hike for approximately 3 hours and then eat a warm meal at the Mountain Station cafeteria. Distance and elevation gain will depend on our speed - approx. 3 miles and 500 ft. Ticket, weather and cafeteria information available at [www.pstramway.com](http://www.pstramway.com). Note: We have learned though experience that renting snowshoes at the top is not a viable option. Dress appropriately and bring water, snacks, snowshoes and money for the tram & cafeteria. RSVP to Dora (213) 200-0239 or <doraolea@yahoo.com> so we know to expect you.

### February 26, Saturday

#### **O: Point Dume, Whale Watch, Tidepool, Giant Coreopsis Extravaganza, Brunch Tom Molloy, Alan Schimpff**

This year, I'm doing this popular event as a conservation fundraiser which includes Brunch at the Paradise Cove Beach Café, please join us in this 4 mile hike to help our club to wage the many battles to preserve our wildlands. This years event coincides with the probable new designation of our entire route as a state marine preserve. We will meet in front of the sunset restaurant on Westward beach road in Malibu at 9:00am. We'll hike at low tide along the beach, then ascend Point Dume to take in the annual giant Coreopsis display (this time during its peak bloom season). From the viewing platform, we'll hopefully also take in the California gray whale migration back to Alaska. From there, we'll descend down the other side by staircase to the Point Dume State Beach tidepools, to experience the kalidescope of marine life. We'll then walk several more coves until we get to the paradise cove beach cafe where we'll have brunch from the breakfast menu. On our way back from the restaurant, we'll return the way we came, but this time, we'll linger at the tidepools and whale viewing platform, and fully take in the Coreopsis bloom. I hope you can join us for this fundraiser. Reserve your spot by sending a \$45.00 (brunch included in the contribution) check payable to GLS to Tom Molloy at P.O. Box 2210, Port Hueneme CA 93044. RSVP by phone or email up to day of hike, <tomsmolloy@yahoo.com>, a check can be sent in advance, or brought on the day of the hike. Rain does not cancel as we'll be walking on sand.

## Future Outings

### March 6, Sunday

#### **O: Placerita Canyon Dora Olea, Judith Demarah**

Come and help us celebrate the March Birthdays at Placerita Canyon in Santa Clarita Valley. Explore the broad, expansive oak woodlands and chaparral covered hillsides making the canyon a popular hiking destination. The canyon trail follows the creek to Walker Ranch and then to Placerita Falls. Watch out for wildlife! Approx. 5.20 miles round trip. 400 ft elev. gain/loss. Bathrooms and water on trail. K-9 welcome. Bring water, lug soles, sunscreen, and a potluck-lunch item to share upon return to picnic area at trailhead. Meet 9 am. From Freeway (5) North to Antelope Freeway (14) towards Palmdale, exit onto the Placerita Canyon Rd. and turn right. About two miles the Placerita County Park is on your right hand side. Plenty free parking. Meet at the Nature Center. Call the leader Dora for RSVP or cancellations at 213-200-0239 or <doraolea@yahoo.com>.

*(Continued next page)*

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## Outings and Events

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**March 12, Saturday**

**O: Whale Watch Fundraiser for Inner City Outings (ICO)**

**Guest Leaders**

Join the folks at Inner City Outings for a whale watch trip led by an American Cetacean Society Specialist. Besides seeing whales, we're likely to spot dolphins, sea lions, and a variety of sea birds. This is a great way for adults and children to have fun while helping ICO raise money to provide transportation for underserved urban youth to visit wilderness areas. The boat will depart from the Port of Long Beach, Berth 55, Long Beach Sport Fishing, at 555 Pico Ave at 10:00 am and return at 1:00 pm. "Early Bird" Tickets will cost \$25, then after Feb 15, the cost will be \$30. Please mail a check to Catherine Ronan, 3439 Wade St, Los Angeles, CA 90066-1533. Tickets will NOT be sold at the pier. Ldrs. Elizabeth Neat, Erlinda Cortez. E-mail Elizabeth for more information <ean5455@lausd.net>.

**March 13, Sunday**

**O: Descanso Gardens**

**Barbara Edwards, S.K. Chiou**

Descanso Gardens is a 160 acre preserve of woodlands, chaparral and fabulous gardens, located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge, 91011, near the intersection of the 210 and 2 freeways. Entrance fees are: adults \$8, seniors/students \$6. Parking is free. Meet at the entrance at 9 am. We will enter as a group, stroll gingerly through the lilac garden, rosarium and Japanese gardens. Then, break for lunch around 11 am at the picnic area near the parking lot. Bring your own or purchase a gourmet sandwich at the café. For dessert, there will be cake and a brief birthday party for the leader. After lunch we will visit the Boddy Mansion, California gardens and camellia forests. Blooming in March will be camellias, irises, fragrant lilacs, cherry trees and daffodils. Our entire stroll will be approx 3 miles, 200 ft gain. If a gingerly stroll is not for you, there are miniature choo-choo train rides and guided tramcar tours available for a nominal fee. RSVP to leader if possible, in case of any last minute changes. Major rain cancels.

<<http://www.descansogardens.org>>. Questions? Contact Barbara at <greyhound@sbcglobal.net>.

**March 19, Saturday**

**O: Docent-led Tour of Bailey Cyn, San Gabriel Mountains + Jones Peak hike Nancy Beverly, Marie Ammerman**

Learn some of the rich natural history of the San Gabriel range, hear about the Gabrieleno Indians who lived in the canyon, and straddle an earthquake fault that stretches for miles. The 1-hour tour will be led by Bailey Canyon trail docent and GLS member Wendy Thermos. For those who are interested, it will be followed by a moderate hike to the top of Jones Peak, elev. 3375', 6.6 miles round trip, 2100-foot elevation

gain, with panoramic views in 3 directions. Poles recommended for final 100 feet. Dress in layers, bring lunch and 2 qts of water. Dogs welcome but must be on leash. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Bailey Canyon parking lot, just north of 500 Grove St. in Sierra Madre. From the 210 Fwy, exit at Baldwin, go north 1.2 miles on Baldwin to Grand View and turn left, go a half-mile to Grove, turn right, go to the end of the street. Rain cancels. Questions? Contact Nancy at 818-379-9940.

**March 26, Saturday**

**O: Sandstone Peak**

**Robin Ridinger, and guest leader**

Highest peak in the Santa Monica Mtns with stunning ocean and canyon views. 6 mi, 1400' gain, moderate to strenuous via the Mishe Mokwa Trail. Meet 9 am at Mishe Mokwa Trailhead (from PCH, turn inland at Yerba Buena Rd 5 mi to pass Circle X Park headquarters on R, continue 1 mi to signed Mishe Mokwa Trailhead on left-lots of parking; or from Valley, take 101, exit Westlake Blvd to Mulholland Hwy to Little Sycamore Cyn Rd, which turns into Yerba Buena Rd). Bring 10 essentials, 2-3 qts water, lunch, snacks, hiking poles. Rain cancels. Ldr: Jeff Hamilton. Co-Ldr: Robin Ridinger. Questions? Contact Robin 310-293-2446.

**April 3, Sunday**

**O: Vasquez Rocks**

**Dora Olea, Grace Hengst**

Amazing what "25 million years of earthquake activity" can do! A beautiful outcropping landscape of rocks' history that began in prehistoric times when the sandstone rocks were uplifted at a picturesque angle, showing their jagged red features. In 1874 Tiburcio Vasquez, one of California's most notorious bandits, used these rocks to elude capture by law enforcement. It has been a popular filming location for movies, television shows and commercials. Less than four miles with an elevation gain/loss to 50ft to 1000ft. Great opportunities for taking pictures as well as identify many species of flora and perhaps fauna. K-9 welcome. Bring lug soles, lunch, sunscreen, hat and sunglasses as well as plenty of water. We will probably split into 2 groups, accommodating to the conditioning of the participants, but we will all meet up to have lunch together at about 11:30. Meet 9 am. From the Antelope Freeway (14) near Canyon Country, exit on Agua Dulce Road. Head north 1.5 miles. Agua Dulce swings west, and you join Escondido Canyon Road, proceeding 0.25 miles to the signed Vasquez Rocks County Park entrance on your right. Rain cancels. Call leader, Grace Hengst, on her cell: 323-697-6886, or Dora 213-200-0239 with any questions about the hike.

**April 16, Saturday**

**O: Poppy Preserve**

**Barbara Edwards, S.K. Chiou**

Each spring, the Antelope Valley California

Poppy Reserve comes alive with the seasonal surprises of the Mojave Desert Grassland habitat. This Reserve is located on California's most consistent poppy-bearing land. Other wildflowers: owl's clover, lupine, goldfield, cream cups, and coreopsis, to name a few, share the grassland to produce a mosaic of color and fragrance. The duration and intensity of colors and scents vary from year to year. This year, we can expect the abundant rainfall to paint the 1,760-acre reserve profusely with wildflowers. Our hike will be about 5.7 miles total and in two parts, with lunch break in between (at our cars or nearby picnic tables if available). The first part will take us through 3.7 miles of endless poppy fields, rolling hills, and vista points with 360 degree views of the poppy covered valley (approx. 400ft gentle elevation gain and loss). After lunch we will hike 2 additional miles of the reserve (approx. 150 ft gain and loss). Lug soles are recommended. Meet at 8:30 am in front of the visitor's center. Bring lunch, water, snacks, sunblock and a hat. There is no shade at the reserve. The Reserve is located 15 miles west of Lancaster at 15101 Lancaster Road. From Highway 14: Take the Avenue I exit and head west 15 miles. Avenue I becomes Lancaster Road. Free parking is available in small legal parking areas on Lancaster Road. Parking in the reserve's lot is also free if you have a "State Parks Pass", otherwise, cost of parking is \$8. No dogs permitted. Rain or excessive heat cancels hike. Questions? Contact Barbara at <greyhound@sbcglobal.net>.

**May 7, Saturday**

**O: Channel Island Day Hike**

**Mike Brostoff, Tom Molloy**

For five years running, this outing has attracted dozens of participants each May, so we are offering it again this year. We will be taking a ferry to Santa Cruz Island where we will be offering a variety of hikes for different levels. There is no drinking water or food on the island, so pack your pack like for a normal outing. After returning to the mainland, we will head over to a nearby restaurant (optional.) We will meet at Island Packers 1691 Spinnaker Drive Ventura Harbor 93001 at 7:15 AM (805) 642-1393. The boat leaves at 8:00 AM. The ride is an hour and we should return to Ventura Harbor by 6:30 PM. The cost for the trip is \$60.00. Most of the fee pays for the ferry, the extra will be contributed to Sierra Club conservation. We need to purchase our tickets in advance, so please send a check by April 1 made payable to GLS to: Mike Brostoff, 11220 Moorpark #110, Studio City CA 91602. Please include a note indicating whether you are interested in dinner afterwards, your e-mail address and the best phone number to reach you at. If you do not have e-mail then please include a SASE. Bring minimum 2 quart water, lugsole hiking boots, snacks, & 10 Essentials. Note: in the rare case that weather may be poor, call 805-642-1393 after 5:30AM on the day of the trip. A recording will indicate if the boat is canceled. Question? Contact Mike at 818-763-5799.

# January and February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>JAN 2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Griffith Park Dora, Grace	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>JAN 1</b> <hr/> <b>8</b> Trail Maintenance Anne, Mike
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Griffith Park Nancy, Dora	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Santa Monica Seven Peaks Plus Susan, Mary	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> full moon  Griffith Park Amanda, Marie	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Mugu Peak, La Jolla Valley Tom, Alan	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Griffith Park Marie, Eva	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Topanga, Los Liones - Trippet Ranch Anna, Nancy
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>FEB 1</b>	<b>2</b> Griffith Park Amanda, Dora	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Little Tokyo Walk Barb, SK	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Griffith Park Marie, Eva	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Ventura to Ojai Bike Ride Amanda, Mary
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Griffith Park Dora, Amanda	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> full moon  Afton Canyon Jeff J., Laura <i>through Monday</i>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Mt. San Jacinto Snowshoe Hike Kirk, Dora	<b>21</b> <i>end Afton Canyon</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Griffith Park Nancy, Marie	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Point Dume Whale Watch, Tidepool, Coreopsis Extravaganza Tom, Alan
<b>27</b> <hr/> <b>6</b> Placerita Cyn. Dora, Judy	<b>28</b>	<b>MAR 1</b>	<b>2</b> Griffith Park	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

# GLS Leader Contact Information

Please call after 9 AM and before 9 PM

Alan Schimpff	310-589-9125	alanschimpff@netscape.net
Amanda Smith	323-646-0771	queenpin@earthlink.net
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Tom Molloy	310-589-9125	tomsmolloy@yahoo.com
Will McWhinney	323-221-0202	willmcw@gmail.com

## GLS Outings Volunteers

### Mike Brostoff, Outings Schedule

Contact Mike about scheduling outings, to check for available dates, and to submit writeups

### Dawn Wilson, Outings Liaison to Angeles Chapter

Contact Dawn about questions of leadership requirements and Sierra Club Outings Policy. Dawn is the primary person to read the communications from the Angeles Chapter regarding outings and inform the rest of the leaders.

### Laura Rainey, Weekly Reminder

Laura sends out the weekly email announcing upcoming events. If an event needs to be altered or canceled after publication, e-mail Laura and cc Mike.

### Dave Benson, Outings

**Submission to Angeles Chapter**  
Outings to be published in the Angeles Chapter Schedule must adhere to Chapter formatting guidelines. Mike B. forwards outings for the chapter schedule to Dave, who ensures that they meet these guidelines before sending them to the Chapter.

### Anne Mullins, Trail Maintenance/Leader Meetings

Three times a year, we volunteer for trail maintenance for one of the local parks. Afterward, we hold a potluck followed by a leaders meeting. Anne coordinates the trail maintenance work and the potluck. Mike facilitates the leaders meeting.

## Important Outing Information

### Waiver

To participate in a Sierra Club outing, you must sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before the outing, go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or call 415-977-5630.

### Rating Codes

*These codes indicate the technical difficulty, not the strenuousness.*

**O** Applies to uncomplicated outings such as hikes on trails or the equivalent (with minimal navigation skills).

**I** Includes outings that involve cross-country travel where navigation is necessary. Rougher ground than "O" outings may be traversed, and use of hands for balance may be necessary. Climbing level: 2nd class terrain.

**C** Events under external control of a non-Sierra Club entity, (i.e. ranger, guide, concessionaire).

### Outing Reservations

Reservation fees of from \$5-\$15 are refunded only when you show up and if they aren't needed to offset costs.

Cancellation policy on more expensive trips is as follows: Cancellation within 30 days, no refund without replacement. If your spot is filled, 90% will be refunded. This policy is in effect unless the leader states otherwise in writing. Always send two SASEs, contact and drive/ carpool information. Make checks payable to "GLS".

### Dogs

For most people, the presence of a well-behaved dog can be entertaining, or at worst a mild annoyance. However, this is not true for everyone. Some people

suffer from various levels of fear of dogs. Because of this, and the potential intrusion on wildlife, the Sierra Club policy is that dogs are not allowed on Club outings unless the write-up states DOGS OK. Make sure you bring adequate food, water, a bowl, and a long leash.

### Seller of Travel Notice

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

### Adventure Pass

National Forests in Southern California (Los Padres, San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and Cleveland) require parked cars to display an Adventure Pass. The pass is available from ranger stations, sporting goods stores, and other local merchants and costs \$5 per day or \$30 per year. Plan on getting it before your outing, as most outlets do not open early. Many

Sierra Club members dispute this user fee and protest it by not buying a pass, possibly incurring a ticket. The choice is yours.

### Carpooling

To facilitate the travel logistics for outings, participants often make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride-sharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

### Rideshare Points

Directions to all rideshare/ carpool points in the Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities or at: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/pvsb/pages/rideshare.html>

### La Canada Rideshare Point

Exit 210 at Rte 2 / Angeles Crest Hwy. Go N 1/4 mi on Rte 2, park at curb on right, on long uphill.

# TRACKS

SIERRA CLUB/GLS

P.O. BOX 1300

SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91031-1300

# TRACKS

Subscribe to TRACKS, the GLS newsletter, and find out about all the GLS outings and events every month. You do not need to be a Sierra Club member to subscribe.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Fill in this form and send it with a check made out to GLS to:

GLS

P.O. Box 1300

South Pasadena, CA 91031-1300



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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Category:	Individual	Joint	Mail to:
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Senior	\$24	\$32	
Student	\$24	\$32	
Limited Income	\$24	\$32	

When you join the Sierra Club, please use this form. The FRIP no. on the form brings part of your membership dues to GLS

FRIP#  
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