

TRACKS



March/April 2011

Volume 24, No. 2

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



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By Susan Campo, photos from Susan

The concept of this amazing hike began at the GLS Holiday party. I had had a severe back injury in 2010 that left me using a walker. After intensive therapy and needing to give up most of my other outdoor hobbies, I returned like "a soldier after the war" to my outings for GLS. I was presented with a "Back in Action" award. I thought to myself, "I better really come up with a good outing now."

I began scouting for a new route in the local mountains.... I spent lots of time crawling the wrong way through the

bushes and looking for paths to un-signed peaks. My excellent Assistant Leader, Mary Conte, helped me begin scouting. Even when we reached dead ends, it gave me the knowledge to find the route another day. I picked the brain of Ranger Rick and took up hints from the internet.

Finally we linked all the parts together for 13 enthusiastic hikers on Jan. 16. We climbed up Sandstone Peak, the highest but not the hardest in the Santa Monica Mountains. Carol from England, living in

On Sandstone Peak in the Santa Monica Mountains, Jan. 16, Susan in the center.

(Continued on page 4)

Message from the GLS Chair

For most of you every week is Gay Pride Week. You're out, you're proud, you're loud at the office, on the trails and at your fundamentalist brother's wedding. (Okay, we all do our best at any given moment.) Next May and June there are two events GLS hopes to participate in, and we would love to have your out loud proud energy helping promote our wonderful organization.

The first is the booth at Long Beach Gay Pride May 21 and 22. We've had a presence there for many years and it's a lot of fun. You do a four-hour shift (free admission!), chat up folks who walk by,

answer questions, and sign them up for a free TRACKS.

The second is the Gay Pride March in West Hollywood, June 12. We haven't participated in WeHo's Pride festival for several years because it's a huge time commitment and a large financial investment to have a booth there. However, in light of the fact that we created fabulous new photo banners last year for our Long Beach Pride's booth, and the fact that it's cheaper and less time-consuming to march, parading could be a cool thang. We could even march in the Long Beach Pride Parade May 22 instead of having a booth if we had enough people who wanted to do it.

The key to making a commitment to these events is YOU. Yes, you there. We would need a half dozen folks to run the

Long Beach booth and couple dozen to march in one or both of the parades. We get that many on a summer night Griffith Park hike or the holiday party easily.

In case you're wondering why I'm appealing to you NOW it's because the deadlines to apply for these events are in April and May.

I've marched a couple of times in the parade before, and it's an awesome boost for your self-esteem and your own personal gay pride. Thousands will be cheering YOU. Yes, you there. Please contact me at <nancybeverly@sbcglobal.net> and let me know which event you want to be part of. Let's show the world how out loud proud we are of GLS.

Nancy Beverly

GLS Management Committee Meeting, Jan. 27, 2011

On the call were continuing committee members Nancy Beverly, SK Chiou, and Jeff Johnson, new committee members Amanda Smith and Sharon Hartley, and Barb Edwards.

We discussed the recent holiday party. The auction made about \$75. The photo contest might be better next time with more categories.

Nancy went over matters discussed at the January 8th Angeles Chapter retreat at Eaton Canyon. One of the main subjects was the Chapter's diminished financial resources, and relations to the finances of the "entities" such as GLS that make up the Chapter. Nancy's report on the retreat is on page 3. Barb had the financial records at hand and told us that GLS had given \$3000 to the Chapter in 2010.

We reviewed current GLS finances. We discussed the expectation that we should keep reserves of twice our annual spending. That amount can vary a lot, depending on the amount GLS needs in any particular year to advance leaders' out-of-pocket expenses for outing expenses. Our biggest expenses in 2010 were printing and postage for the newsletter, the subsidized first aid class for leaders, and Long Beach Pride, for which we bought new banners.

The issue of our bank fees was revisited. SK has figured out how to avoid keeping too much cash tied up, but it looks like some fees are inevitable, especially since bank fees are generally increasing.

Meetup has been a success, with 140

people signed up. We have now taken over the Meetup account that Christy had allowed us to share with her.

Sharon suggested sending reminders to lapsed subscribers. Amanda volunteered to do the mailing for that.

Sharon asked about advertising to attract participants. Since we were unsure about Sierra Club policies on advertising in commercial publications, Nancy will inquire.

We discussed 2011 pride possibilities, mainly Long Beach and West Hollywood. Generally positive feelings about doing Long Beach again, but no definite decisions.

We discussed the possibility of using the new simplified sign-in sheet at Griffith Park, but made no decisions.

Next meeting time to be decided.

Jeff Johnson

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 **Friday, March 4, at 7pm**. Committee members will meet by conference call.

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
Amanda Smith
Jeff Johnson
Sharon Hartley
SK Chiou

Other GLS Volunteers

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

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

Angeles Chapter – Preparing for the Next 100 Years

By Nancy Beverly

Did you know there are 41,000 members in the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter? Now imagine this: if every one of those members gave a buck, the Chapter's 2010 deficit could be retired.

The Angeles Chapter, GLS's parent organization, is reaching the remarkable milestone of 100 years in 2011 and over the years has built quite a reputation for itself. It's the home of *the* premiere outings program in all of the Sierra Club as well as a leader in big conservation victories here in Southern California, like saving the Tejon Ranch from a housing development and the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve from a

racetrack proposal.

And yet, like many other fine entities in these tough economic times, the remarkable Angeles Chapter is experiencing a financial shortfall.

Jeff Johnson and I attended the all-day Angeles Chapter Retreat January 8 and listened to several Chapter head honchos deliver the sobering news – and then we all brainstormed for possible solutions.

The Chapter's net deficit for 2010 was \$41,000 (\$610,000 income, \$651,000 expenses). The projected deficit for 2011 is \$220,000.

How did the Chapter get in this tight situation? In the 1990's, the Chapter was fortunate enough to receive \$3 million in bequests. The mandate, though: the money had to be spent, the Chapter couldn't hold on to it. So by 2010, it was gone. Some bright spots: 60% of the Chapter's money comes in from outings. In fact, the Angeles Chapter is in the 100th percentile of Sierra Club chapters in the U.S. when it comes to the percentage of money raised by their chapter. The amount of volunteer sweat labor and gas money doesn't even get counted. Angeles Chapter office/admin expenses? Only 14% of the

budget – the Chapter is run by a small staff of five (down from eight).

Possible solutions put forth: reduce the number of issues of the *Southern Sierran* and/or allow people to opt out of a hard copy, increase the number of Chapter trips to raise money, combine various bank accounts, consider renting office space elsewhere when the Wilshire Blvd. lease is up, develop new revenue streams, encourage more hikers to officially join... the list was long and varied.

GLS donated \$3000 to the Angeles Chapter last year and later this year we plan to donate again. *Our* donations are made possible by *your* donations – thank you. When a leader charges a little more for a trip to create a surplus in our bank account, it enables us to actually have an account, help leaders hold reservations for expensive trips... and to support our parent organization, the Angeles Chapter.

If 41,000 people gave \$10 each... imagine. There wouldn't be a debt for 2011.

If you can give a little or a lot, donate on-line at <<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/doingive/Donate.asp>>

Or mail a check to the Angeles Chapter (made out to same), 3435 Wilshire Blvd., #320, Los Angeles, CA 90010. The Chapter needs our help to explore, enjoy and protect our outdoor neighborhood for the next 100 years.



At the Angeles Chapter retreat in Eaton Cyn.

Little Tokyo Walk

By SK Chiou

Twenty five participants showed up for a festive afternoon in the Little Tokyo neighborhood of downtown LA. Everyone met at the Little Tokyo Galleria, a shopping mall at the corner of 2nd and Alameda. Armed with a megaphone and a brisk pace, our leader swiftly led the group through traffic intersections, past Buddhist temples and condominiums toward the cafes and eateries. We stopped briefly to admire the various public art and Japanese gardens that were scattered throughout the neighborhood. Every statue and mural has a history and significance for the Japanese Americans that settled here, and our leader divulged them with flare (frequently out of the megaphone).

But even the megaphone could not stop the group from racing into the historic St. Vibiana's cathedral (home of the Catholic archdiocese until 1995) for a view of the majestic interior, when they found the front door wide open. Amidst

the OOHs and AAHs, we were informed that the cathedral is now privately owned, and closed to the public, and so were escorted back out the front door by the filming crew that was renting the facility.

Undaunted, we continued on to explore the rest of the neighborhood, including the old Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist temple, a WWII memorial, and the Koyasan Buddhist temple. This temple lost its tax exempt status as a religious gathering place during WWII, when everyone in town, including the reverend, were interned in concentration camps. Stripped of all their properties, the townsfolk used the temple basement as storage for what is left of their belongings. They returned after the war to find that the temple owed back taxes to the county. But justice prevailed 12 years later, when the county had to return the taxes paid under the War Reconciliation Act in 1957.

We stopped to lunch at a small café serving traditional Japanese dishes. Afterwards, we had cool and tasty desserts at the Mikawayaya bakery, home of the

mochi ice cream. Our final stop on this tour was back at an Asian supermarket in the Galleria, where the participants quickly dispersed into the shopping crowd for their grocery needs.



St. Vibiana and towers of downtown L.A. Photo Heather McNaught.

Susan's Seven Peaks Plus

(Continued from page 1)

Long Beach said, "This peak is higher than anywhere in England!" Next we topped Boney Peak with its class 3 finish, and easy Inspiration Point. Then we signed in on top of Exchange Peak and viewed the formations of "Mickey Mouse Hat", "Chinaman's Hat", and Diane's favorite, "Soft Serve". We "floated" over to Tri-Peaks for lunch where "the REAL fun began".

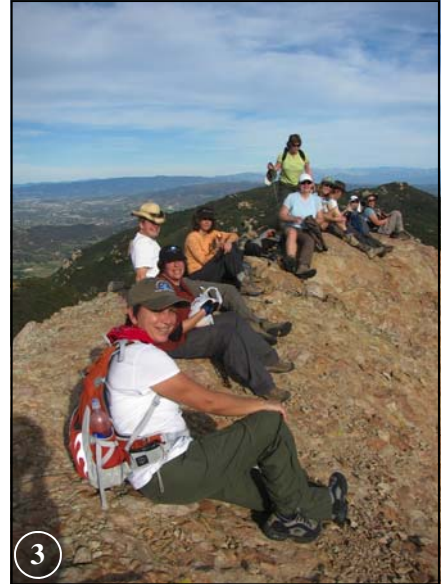
We took the route to the pictograph tunnels. Flashlights ready, most wandered

into its mysterious crannies and corners. Then we all squeezed through the rock maze and down into the "jungle gym" which eventually headed to "The Top of Boney Ridge" (...NOT to be confused with Boney Peak).

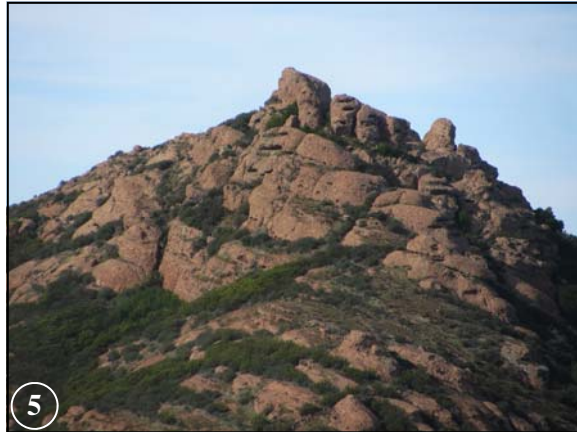
Alan, Allison and Susan, during a rest break, added "Pop Top" to their agenda. The group descend, in order to climb back up a rarely done official peak, Big Dome. Everyone was counting "7 plus...now where do we go?" Even the Ranger hadn't done this one yet, but we descended on a remote use-trail so as not to have to go

back the way we came and joined the Mishe Mokwa trail waiting below. Everyone was still in attendance (no turn-backs or drop outs in this group)! They all "ate the big cupcake cooked by Susan", but I was willing to offer one more "gumdrop" for the day. Diane and Tom helped lead the group back to the parking lot while leaders Susan and Mary took Jeanine (the only volunteer) to one last site, the famous Balanced Rock. Everyone has seen it from that trail, but we needed to get up close. Moral of the story:

BACK IN ACTION, pass it on !



1. Inspired on Inspiration Point. 2. Well-deserved rest on top of Boney Ridge. 3. On top of Big Dome—are we done yet? 4. Balanced Rock. 5. Tri-Tip Peak, one of the seven peaks, and delicious for lunch. 6. Diane and Anna counting how many peaks from the top of Boney Ridge. 7. Alison is squeezed while still on the trail. 8. At the entrance to the cave tunnels. 9. Guess where I've just been...headlight still on? 10. Jeannine coming out of the exit.



Afton Canyon

By Jeff Johnson

The big question before the long Presidents' Day weekend campout at Afton Canyon in the Mojave Desert was whether it would rain on us. As the date approached, it looked like rain on Friday and Saturday too. All but three campers cancelled because of weather concerns or illness. But with three expected campers and a good probability of some dry hiking time, we decided to go.



1



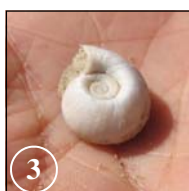
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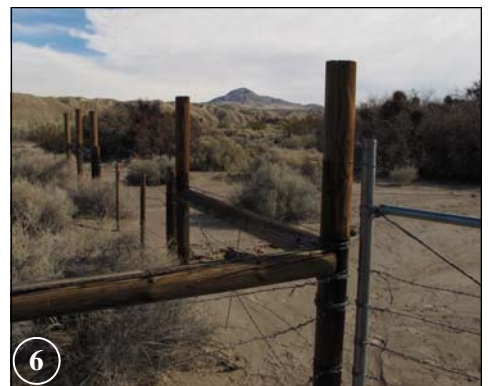
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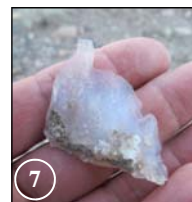
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7

The vanguard arrived at the campground midday Thursday to set up and take our first hike in this geologically interesting area. We went cross-country from camp to a remarkable mile-long ridge, straight and level, and perpendicular to the Mojave River in the canyon. The ridge was formed as a shoreline beach on a lake that once filled a vast area of what is now the Mojave Desert. And the weather? Ideal for hiking, and we made it back to camp in time to see the full moon rise.

Friday morning, we went east to the bed of another prehistoric lake, which we crossed to get to a sand dune formation known as the Cronese Cat. This dune fills a steep canyon down the side of the Cronese Mountains, and is vaguely cat-shaped when

seen from a distance. In the lake bed itself we saw sand dunes covered with wildflowers and with the footprints and diggings of desert fauna. We also found mud flats with shells from the ancient lake washing out at the surface. Again, ideal hiking weather during the day. That evening though there was a terrific wind and dust storm, followed by rain overnight.

Saturday morning, with strong breezes and clear skies, we crossed the river early to climb a ridge to the southeast, toward the Cady Mountains. Right away we started seeing what looked like stone chips worked by the prehistoric inhabitants. Those people came to the canyon area because of the perennial water in the Mojave River and because of the adjacent sources of these workable minerals in the Cady Mountains. Up on the ridges, where we had perfect cell phone reception, we started getting phone calls from the campers at home, checking in about the weather and some deciding to drive down after all. Again on Saturday, no rain until after dark.

1. The Cronese Cat seen from across the dry Cronese Lake bed. 2. Blooms in and around the lake bed. 3. Shells found in mud deposits in the old lake bottom. 4. View over the desert above the Mojave River at Afton Canyon, Cave Mtn in the distance. 5. Bright moon on a frosty night. 6. Fences erected by BLM to protect riparian areas adjacent to the Mojave River. 7. Stone flakes found on the ground above Afton Canyon.

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Afton Canyon

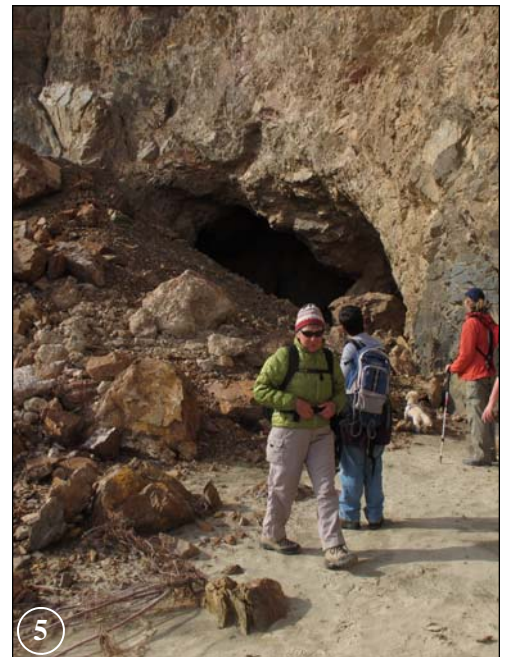
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Sunday morning, with some new arrivals, we took the long-anticipated hike up a ridge above Pyramid Canyon. High up on the ridge, geologist Laura pointed out the squishy grey mud layer that was once deposited at the bottom of a lake. She pointed out an area of fossil stromatolites – ancient primitive marine life forms – eroding out at the surface. She found lots of evidently human-chipped rock fragments as we made our way across the desert pavement scattered with rocks that included jasper, agate, chalcedony, lava, metamorphosed volcanic ash, and various other weird rocks and stuff. With so much to look at, it was hard to complete just our planned route of only 4.5 miles and still get back to camp in time for the potluck. Pleasant weather all day, sunny with scattered clouds.

Monday morning, we went downstream along the Mojave River to visit some caves along the historic route of the Mojave Trail, as we did on our 2008 Afton Canyon trip. We found that the entrance of one of the caves had been mostly blocked by a rockfall from the cliff above. Yes, this is a geologically active area. On our way back to camp, we met some men who were out surveying bighorn sheep. They told us that there is a herd in the nearby mountains and that it is imperiled by ever-lower water levels in the Mojave River.

All in all, it turned out to be a great trip. No doubt, we will return.

1. On top of the ridge above Pyramid Canyon, with Cave Mountain in the background. 2. Laura and SK looking at stromatolites. 3. Closeup of fossil stromatolites. 4. Interesting forms and formations in the walls of Pyramid Canyon. 5. At one of the Mojave River-side caves now partially blocked by a rockfall. 6. Sherry preparing her ham for the potluck. 7. Keeping warm under Jude's heater at the potluck table.



Outings & Events

March

March 6, Sunday

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

Come and help us celebrate the March's 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 Pamdale, 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>.

March 12, Saturday

**O: Whale Watch Fundraiser for Inner City Outings
Leaders from ICO**

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. Tickets will cost \$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. <http://www.descansogardens.org/>. Major rain cancels. RSVP to leader if possible, in case of any last minute changes, <greyhound@sbcglobal.net>.

March 19, Saturday

**O: Docent-led Tour of Bailey Canyon, San Gabriel Mtns + Jones Peak Hike
Nancy Beverly, Marie Ammerman**

This outing has been postponed until a later date. Please check back in the next issue of Tracks for rescheduled date.

March 26, Saturday

**O: Sandstone Peak
Robin Ridinger (GLS colead)**

Highest peak in the Santa Monica Mountains with stunning ocean and canyon views. 7 mi, 1500' 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 Circle X Park headquarters on R; signed Mishe Mokwa Trailhead is 1 mi beyond with lots of parking on L. From SF Valley, take 101 Fwy, exit Westlake Blvd and go S. Pass the first junction with Mulholland Hwy and about 7 miles from the freeway, make a R onto Mulholland Hwy. Continue for 0.4 mile to Little Sycamore Cyn Rd and go R. Little Sycamore Cyn Rd turns into Yerba Buena Rd. Continue on Yerba Buena Rd 4.9 miles from the intersection of Mulholland and Little Sycamore (go past the first small parking lot) to the large parking lot on the R. Bring 10 essentials, 3 qts water, lunch, snacks, hiking poles. Rain cancels. Ldr:

(Continued next page)

Weekly Griffith Park Conditioning Hikes

Please note changes in directions due to the closure of part of Crystal Springs Dr. between the LA Zoo and the Ranger Station, Mar-Nov 2011

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) If driving north on I-5, 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 Riverside Drive, which becomes 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) Driving on Fwy 134 going west, exit at I-5 south toward Los Angeles. Exit I-5 at Los Feliz Blvd West toward Hollywood. Proceed to Signal light and turn right at Riverside Drive. Proceed as in (2) and (1) above to Ranger Station

parking lot.

(4) From Fwy 134 East, exit Forest Lawn, turn right at bottom of ramp. Proceed one block and turn left. Proceed one block and turn right on Griffith Park Drive (you'll be in front of Travel Town). Stay on Griffith Park Dr. and come all the way through the park – it's very dark and not lit with street-lights. Pass the golf driving range on your left, pass the playground/picnic area on your right. You'll finally come to a T-stop (Griffith Park Drive & Crystal Springs Road). Turn right. Proceed to the next stop sign at the Ranger Station and turn left. Drive all the way around behind the Ranger Station to park.

Outings and Events

Jeff Hamilton (Wilderness Adventures section). GLS Co-Ldr: Robin Ridinger, 310-293-2446.

April 2011

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 1000 ft. 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 Rd. Head north 1.5 miles. Agua Dulce swings west and you join Escondido Canyon Rd, 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 questions about the hike.



Flowers seen on Susan's Seven Peaks Plus hike.

April 9, Saturday

**O: Laguna Coast Ridge Walk
Jeff Johnson, Grace Hengst**

Ridgetop walk in Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, 6-7 miles, 1100' gain/loss, mostly on fire roads, some steep sections. Single track climb the first mile or so toward the ridge. Ocean and mountain views from exposed ridges, bring layers for weather possibilities, trail footwear, lunch, water. Meet 10 a.m. at the Big Bend Staging Area, approx. 6.2 miles south of 405 on 133, in Laguna Beach. Parking fee. Substantial rains may lead to closed trails — call Jeff the day before for possible

changes in plan, 562-434-8473.

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 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? Barb at <greyhound@sbcglobal.net>.

April 23, Saturday

**O: O'Melveny Park
Dora Olea, Jeff Johnson**

The second-largest park in L.A. County yielding only to the expanses of Griffith Park on the opposite site of the Valley offers the best view of the San Fernando Valley. We will take a stroll along citrus groves, grassy fields, and a riparian canyon in this tranquil park situated in Granada

Hills. The first 0.9 mile explores the initial section of the well-maintained lawns shaded by oaks and eucalyptus trees extended over a quarter-mile into Bee Canyon Trail. For a better view of the Valley and a good workout we will hike up the challenging Mission Point Trail that climbs over 1,000 ft in 1.5 miles. A moderate pace hike with approx. 4 miles round trip. 1,300 ft. elev. gain/loss. Car shuttle. Bathrooms and water at the trailhead. K-9 welcome. Bring water, lug soles, sunscreen, and a potluck-lunch item to share. Meet 9 am. From CA 118, exit at Balboa Blvd. and head north 2.3 miles to

Sesnon Blvd. Make a left on Sesnon, following it for just over 0.5 miles to the entrance of O'Melveny Park on the right. Free parking, carpooling is recommended. Questions? Dora at 213-200-0239.

Apr 29 - May 1, Fri - Sun

**O: Red Rock Canyon Campout
Nancy Beverly, Marie Ammerman**

Join us for an exploration of geological wonders amid the white, pink, red and brown cliffs of Red Rock Canyon State Park, 120 miles north of Los Angeles. The trip is Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon and will feature a couple of easy hikes and one challenging one. Cost is \$20 per person. Sign up between March 5 and April 5 by sending your check made out to GLS to Nancy Beverly at 13449 Riverside Dr. Apt. C, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423. Contact Nancy with any questions as well, nancybeverly@sbcglobal.net. Space is limited. Modest amenities at the campgrounds: pit toilets, running water, picnic tables, fire rings – but no showers and no shade. Re: dogs, from the Red Rock website: Dogs must remain on a 6-foot maximum leash and be accompanied by a person at all times. They are not allowed on established trails (which we will be hiking on). They cannot be left unattended. Questions? Contact Nancy at 818-379-9940.

Future Outings

May 7, Saturday

**O: Channel Island Day Hike
Mike Brostoff, Tom Molloy**

For five years running, this popular trip has attracted over two dozen participants each time. So we are offering it again this year.

(Continued next page)

Outings and Events

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 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 sent 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. Questions? Contact Mike at 818-763-5799. Note: in the rare case of poor weather, call 805-642-1393 after 5:30AM on the day of the trip. A recording will indicate whether the boat is canceled.

May 14, Saturday

O: All GLS Trail Maintenance Day
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,

<hike2thepeak@gmail.com>, so she can tell the ranger how many are attending and give you directions to the meeting spot.

May 21 - May 22, Sat - Sun
O: Long Beach Pride

We will be participating again this year. Details in the next issue of Tracks.

May 28, Saturday

O: Betty B. Dearing Loop
Nancy Beverly, Marie Ammerman

Here's a trail smack in the middle of Studio City – and we've never done it as a GLS event, so let's rectify that, shall we? The Betty B. Dearing loop is a moderate 4-mile hike that features a lot of shade and pretty Valley vistas as well as one short VERY steep uphill climb, a couple of miles of moderate climbing, and a tricky rocky stream crossing. Directions to trailhead: Turn onto Fryman Cyn off Laurel Cyn (the Fryman with the light at the intersection, southwest side of Laurel Cyn), which is .6 of a mile south of Ventura Blvd. Travel straight up Fryman .6 of a mile til Valley Crest. Look for parking and meet at the yellow gate at the end of Fryman, a few feet up from Valley Crest. Meet at 8:30 a.m.

Bring one to two liters of water (depending on the heat), a snack, hiking boots or sturdy trail runners, hiking poles if you like, and sunscreen. Dogs welcome but MUST be on leash – this is a busy residential neighborhood with a lot of dogs. Question? Contact Nancy at 818-379-9940.

June 4, Saturday

O: Museum Day – Getty Center
Dora Olea, Jeff Johnson

A new installation of medieval and Renaissance European sculpture and decorative arts in four galleries displays two- and three-dimensional objects, arranged by periods and themes, and features innovative technologies.

"Renaissance Art in Italy and Northern Europe, 1450–1600" evokes the atmosphere of a studiolo, a room in which a Renaissance collector would have reveled in the study of classical antiquity. "Collecting in Northern Europe, 1450–1600" reflects an art patron's refined taste and love of beautiful objects, which were often displayed in magnificent cabinets. Interactive screens enable viewers to virtually explore its many facets. "Sacred Art, 1150–1600" evokes a late-medieval cathedral treasury at a time when religious devotion inspired the making of sacred



Plants seen near Afton Canyon.

objects to be placed on altars for use in holy mass. Stained glass panels, on view for the first time, take advantage of the height of the gallery. "European Glass and Ceramics, 1400–1700" showcases glass and maiolica. Meet at 10 am at the top of the hill. Lunch available at few places at the Getty Center. Museum is free but parking cost \$15 per car. Carpooling is encouraged. Parking reservations not required or accepted. Questions? Contact Dora 213-200-0239

Sep 2 - Sep 5, Fri - Mon

O: Labor Day Outing
Barbara Edwards, TBA

Details on Barb's big Labor Day car camp at the beach in the next issue of Tracks.

Other Events

The following trip is not sponsored by the Angeles Chapter. The Sierra Club Angeles Chapter takes no responsibility and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of these trips. This is published as a reader service because it may be of interest to recipients of this publication.

March 4 - 7, 2011

Anza Borrego Desert State Pk. Campout

Join the SF Bay Chapter GLS for our spring camping trip to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Located about 2 hours east of San Diego, Anza-Borrego is the largest state park in California, which provides an unparalleled opportunity to experience the wonders of the

California Desert. The park is named after Spanish explorer Juan Bautista de Anza and the Spanish name Borrego, or bighorn sheep. The park features washes, wildflowers, palm groves, cacti and sweeping vistas. You may also have the chance to see roadrunners, golden eagles, kit foxes, mule deer, bighorn sheep and other wildlife. We have reserved a group campsite at Borrego Palm Canyon campground at Borrego

Springs and can accommodate up to 25 happy campers. Our campground features flush toilets and showers. We plan to offer hikes during our stay there. The cost for three nights of camping is \$40 for members of any GLS and \$50 for non-members (including a discounted annual membership to SF Bay GLS). Carpooling is strongly encouraged. To sign up for this trip, contact Erica Tucker, co-chair of SF Bay GLS,

<etucker72@yahoo.com>.

March and April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FEB 1	2	MARCH 1	2 Griffith Park Marie, Dora	3	4	5
6 Placerita Canyon Dora, Judy	7	8	9 Griffith Park Nancy, Marie	10	11	12 ICO Whale Watch Fundraiser Inner City Outings
13 Descanso Gardens Barba, SK	14	15	16 Griffith Park Amanda, Dora	17	18	19 <small>full moon</small>  POSTPONED Bailey Canyon
20	21	22	23 Griffith Park Dora, Grace	24	25	26 Sandstone Peak Jeff Hamilton (Wilderness Adventures), Robin (GLS)
27	28	29	30 Griffith Park Dora, Amanda	31	APRIL 1	2
3 Vasquez Rocks Dora, Grace	4	5	6 Griffith Park Amanda, Grace	7	8	9 Laguna Coast Ridge Walk Jeff J., Grace
10	11	12	13 Griffith Park Dora, Nancy	14	15	16 Poppy Preserve Barb, SK
17 <small>full moon</small> 	18	18	20 Griffith Park Nancy, Marie	21	22	23 O'Melveny Park Dora, Jeff J.
24	25	26	27 Griffith Park Nancy, Dora	28	29 Red Rock Canyon Nancy, Marie <i>through Sunday</i>	30

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
Anna Baum	310-990-0610	ambaum@dslextreme.com
Anne Mullins	323-522-6640	hike2thepeak@gmail.com
Asher Waxman	323-876-2889	amuirman@yahoo.com
Barbara Edwards	310-839-0593	greyhound@sbcglobal.net
Beth Epstein	562-439-0646	b.epstein@verizon.net
Christy Varni	562-489-4599	cvarni2001@yahoo.com
Dawn Wilson	612-384-0180	wilson-dawn@comcast.net
Diane Ru	626-688-8642	zappydz@excite.com
Dora Olea	818-765-7297	doraolea@yahoo.com
Eric Sas	213-924-9538	sas_ea@yahoo.com
Eva Eilenberg	323-803-0457	eesierraclub@gmail.com
Grace Hengst	323-227-6444	gracehikes@roadrunner.com
Heather Sargeant	909-336-2836	heathercsoo@aol.com
Jeff Bates	310-452-4929	jbatesla@aol.com
Jeff Cuevas	626-644-9879	cuevasj@wellsfargo.com
Jeff Johnson	562-434-8473	jgi@cheerful.com
Judith Demarah	818-451-8403	
Judy Holloway	818-996-4891	judith.holloway@att.net
Karen Lovett	562-438-3418	klovett2000@hotmail.com
Kirk Olsen	562-434-8675	kso@kirkolsen.com
Laura Rainey	562-438-3418	geowmn@verizon.net
Lisa Ludovici	310-864-4679	l.ludovici@yahoo.com
Marie Ammerman	818-842-6401	ammermanm@yahoo.com
Mike Brostoff	818-763-5799	mbros4162@yahoo.com
Murray Aronson	323-656-8134	operafan101@hotmail.com

Nancy Beverly	818-379-9940	nancybeverly@sbcglobal.net
Patty Kline	310-455-1956	patriciakline@aol.com
Pete Geissler	626-824-6778	dtmquest@yahoo.com
Rick Mitchell	626-797-6707	rbmitchell2001@yahoo.com
Robin Ridinger	310-293-2446	rridinger@gmail.com
S. K. Chiou	714-554-9513	skchiou@yahoo.com
Susan Campo	626-688-8642	susanlucillecampo@yahoo.com
Teresa Nick	612-384-0421	nickx002@tc.umn.edu
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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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



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