

TRACKS



May/June 2012

Volume 25, No. 3

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

Beginnings: *Happy Birthday GLS!*

by Susan Campo

While we are living it, time seems to creep along, but it has a way of passing so quickly in retrospect. That is why it seems like only yesterday when I saw a letter to the editor in the *Southern Sierran*. It was 1986 and Murray Aronson was calling for all Sierra Club members who were interested in forming a Gay and Lesbian committee. Murray had heard about the gay San Francisco section of Sierra Club and wanted to look into the feasibility of such a group for the LA Chapter.

First he gathered a core of three people; himself, Don Thompson and Cathy Andeway stepped forward. Beth Epstein, myself and other regular members of the

LA Chapter stepped in next. I was definitely the most paranoid of the first group and mostly talked with Murray by phone. When he gathered a small group to go before the Chapter Council in 1986, I stayed home, but sent Murray a check in the mail for "beer after the meeting!" I thought he was very brave and my hero!

The first attempt to get an LA Council vote to make us a committee failed. That was followed by a meeting in Plummer Park at the community center to see if there was still interest. Twenty-five people showed up and said "YES, let's continue." We decided to just go ahead and "act as if we were a legitimate Sierra Club chapter committee wanting to become a Section."

We planned to do what committees do, hoping that acceptance would follow. I was enthusiastic to go on the outings that were planned because for once I REALLY felt like I belonged. but I was still too paranoid to put my name on the sign-in sheet!

Our first event in 1986 was going to see an exhibit at the LA Natural History Museum: "High Chaparral and High Tea" with a party after in a private home. It was there that I first met Steve Green. Steve Green would go on to begin the famous weekly Griffith Park hikes. He also started the Grand Canyon New Years outing as a way to make money for our new treasury. I co-led several times until I took over the organization of that outing in later years. He also assisted me on some of my outings

(Continued on page 3)

This year we celebrate 25 years...

...since the 1987 hike in Ventura County that has been considered the first organized Los Angeles GLS

outing. In the next few issues of Tracks, we would love to publish your memories and stories of GLS that tell what

GLS has meant to you, recently and in earlier years — your first GLS outings, people you met, places you went, things you did with GLS that you might not have

done otherwise. Please send your stories (or your questions) to Tracks editor Jeff Johnson at jjg@cheerful.com. Pictures would be great too.

What GLS Means to Me

By Nancy Beverly

GLS means family. This spring we've had three different milestone birthdays (Barb, Mike & Marie A. and I'm sure as heck not gonna tell you how old they are) and literally dozens of GLSers have turned out to celebrate them. By the same token, at Kathy B.'s memorial service in 2009, the church was packed — due in no small part to the attendance of her GLS family.

GLS Info	2
GLS History	1 - 4
Trip Reports	3 - 6
Outings & Events	7 - 9
Calendar	10
GLS Leader Contact Info	11
Important Outing Info	11

My GLS Story

By Marie Baca

I came to GLS late in life — at the advanced age of 45. I was staring at my incoming mail pile wondering what in the world to do with my "second 1/2" and spotted the bulky schedule of activities from the Sierra Club, which I'd joined a few months earlier. Pretty exhausting just to look at — but I noticed it had a gay and lesbian section (whoopee !!) so — I sent in for the newsletter — briefer, but still a little daunting. I think the cover story was on a gay environmentalist of long ago — very scholarly. There was also a poem. I was impressed.

Maybe someday I will show up for one of these things, I thought. I even drove by Griffith Park one evening to get a feel for what the hikers are like. Not GLS, just hikers in general. I saw them. I

(Continued on page 4)

Why I Love GLS

By Laura Rainey

If you ask me what I love most about GLS, I really stumble to come up with any single answer. When this question came up at a recent birthday party for a fellow GLS "old timer", an entire collage of memories came to mind. One of my most favorite memories is of a GLS trip from the early 1990s. We had to travel up a rugged dirt road to an old mining camp in the hills above eastern Owens Valley. There was some rumor that the road was a 4-wheel drive only road, but of course we knew better. Our fabulous leader Beth went up this rugged road and tackled it well.

There was a very tricky (and actually very scary) section up a steep slope on a hillside that involved driving over an outcropping section of rocks in the road.

(Continued on page 3)

GLS Mgmt. Comm. Meeting, April 17

Grace, SK & Amanda were present. Treasury report positive, no change. Board discussed preparations for Long Beach Pride, most especially the need for volunteers to work the GLS booth. We are encouraging all GLS leaders to announce this volunteer opportunity at their hikes. GLS volunteers at the LB Pride booth will be

reimbursed for their entry and parking fees.

Harwood Anniversary Event: board determined that we need to have additional planning meetings specifically to prepare for this special event and keep everyone on the same page.

Sincerely, Amanda Smith

Long Beach Pride

We will again be at Long Beach Pride, May 19 and 20. Our booth will again be staffed by...you, the people who are active in GLS and eager to tell others about it. To volunteer, call Jeff Johnson, 562-434-8473. GLS pays entrance and parking fees for volunteers.

Barb's Pictures

Recently Barbara Edwards dug out some photos of GLS outings years ago, and sent them to share in Tracks. *More later!*

These pictures are from the Havasupai Canyon trip led by Susan Campo and Steve Green in 1992. Barb says "We stayed in the Indian town at the bottom, Supai, no cars, just a path there. We stayed in a little lodge

there run by the tribe." The picture on the left was while

hiking down from the rim. *Left to right: Del Whan, Lauren Weinberg, Laura Rainey, Barb, Thais Rothman, John McKeen, Susan, Lee Broussard (now in Oregon), Steve Green (now in Wisconsin), unknown guy.* The photo below was on a day trip to Havasu Falls. *Left to right: Lauren Weinberg (now in Missouri), Laura Rainey, Barb, Del Whan, Thais Rothman.*



Information about GLS

General questions about GLS, call Grace at 323-697-6886 or Mike at 818 399-4035.

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 tentatively scheduled for June 16.

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

Grace Hengst,
Chair
Sharon Hartley,
Co-Chair
SK Chiou,
Treasurer
Amanda Smith,
Secretary
Brad Keistler,
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.

Why I Love GLS - Laura

(Continued from the front page)

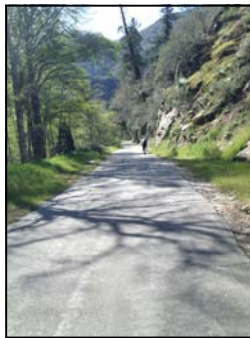
With some good coaching from Beth, I made a mad dash in my little Toyota truck and got through. We pulled over to allow others to get by this tough spot. I was feeling so cocky, I offered to drive Barbara's truck. No problem, right? Well, I managed to get her truck stuck on the rock, and to make it worse, her truck was slowly slipping sideways toward the edge of the road towards the steep slope below. I kindly offered Barbara her truck back, and she gracefully declined and reminded me of my obligation (did I mention she refused to be in her truck with me while I tried to out-manuever this section of road?). With some more positive coaxing from Beth, I finally managed to get up and over the rocky

section to the road. Wow, what a relief! Barbara was a real trooper through it all.

This memory represents so much that GLS has meant to me through the years. First, getting a group of city people into nature is amazingly important. There is something special about being out of our element and realizing there is something far bigger than our focused urban lives. Through these trips we bond, and know we can take on challenges that otherwise never dreamed we would have been capable of. We can marvel at our achievements, and know that more are on the way. The challenges are not just getting over bumps in the road - they involve getting through life and all of its challenges that time has to offer. To me, enjoyment of nature with good friends in GLS has been an important

part of the fabric of my life. The absolute value of nature and wild places is immense. As we continue to see the threat of loss of open spaces, we realize the loss for future generations. This is where the beauty of the Sierra Club comes in. Not only do we as old GLS friends see the importance of these wild places and the role they play in helping us as we move through life, the Sierra Club itself serves as a very important organization that embraces the values of conservation and protection of the environment so future generations can enjoy the amazing wild places we can visit today.

We are gays and lesbians, and we are Sierrans too. The importance of this should never be forgotten.



On Bikes!

GLS cyclists rode along the scenic trail by the West Fork of the San Gabriel River on April 8th (left). And on April 22, some GLSers (right) participated in the City of Angels ride.



Happy Birthday, GLS! - Susan

(Continued from the front page)

to Canyonlands, Utah. But that was already in the 90's, long way after the beginnings.

I remember meeting Pete Geissler and Beth Epstein for the first time in Jan 1987 on the La Jolla Cyn hike. I was still very paranoid as a teacher and may not have even signed in!?? When I did finally sign the participants lists, for years I went under the name of Susan Lucille (rather than use my real last name). In 1986, Pete Geissler was the one who encouraged me to get leadership training which I did. After that I poured my energy into our group 100%.

Steve Green, Pete Geissler and myself decided to begin a writing campaign to National Sierra Club to ask them to encourage our local LA chapter council to accept us as a committee. We complained how gays and lesbians were being treated when one board member had said, "If we approve your group we will have to approve a group for prostitutes".

Someone also said "We do not want people using Sierra Club as a meat market". But we knew full well that we wanted nothing more or any different than recognition given to other social groups, like the social Orange County Singles

Section etc. So we encouraged others to write numerous letters to National to help us. Pete, Steve and myself promised to become Life Members if they listened to us.

I remember our first holiday party at the home of Brad Keistler. He hosted the party for many years. Our growing group developed a history of monthly meetings, regular hikes and conservation work. Murray Aronson collected many names for the California Desert Protection Act while working at a book store. I remember working very hard to get more women in the club. I remember Janice Bowbeer (early treasurer), Louise McDonald and Sally Lewis...and how Jane Roosevelt and Jonie Cady led the first Mule Pack trip for GLS.

One day on a hike I asked Murray if he thought we would EVER be approved. I hid my doubts, but as usual he was very enthusiastic. "Oh yes, probably in 6 mo. or so after the new election of ex-com members, the LA Chapter will vote us committee status." Murray told us which people were running and who would be more favorable to our status. So we voted for better attitudes toward gay hikers!

Sure enough, when the new Chapter council came along and saw all the good work we were doing, they voted positively

without hesitation to accept us as a legitimate part of the Angeles Chapter. One of the old negative persons still in the ex-com abstained; everyone else said YES! So then we became official in October of 1988.

I have lead numerous adventure outings, hikes and even offered my hand as Outing Chair for 2 years, service on the GLS board for 2 years. That doesn't sound like much now, but at the time it kept us going. I was leading or participating in GLS outings just about every week.

While my leadership on outings is not half as frequent as it was in the past. All those early "old timers" have moved on. I still get a thrill out of sharing nature with members. The people I have met filled in my need for "family" over the years. I have always said that doing service is its own reward. I try to encourage new leaders by sharing my experiences. The club's membership has changed in waves over the years, but continues to be better than ever!

Actually we have a whole new set of "old timers" now, like those who joined in the early 90s!

Thank you to everyone who is now keeping GLS such a wonderful organization.

Rainy O'Melveny Park

By Warren Kawakami

Our small group of Sierrans was determined to do the March 25th O'Melveny Park hike near Granada Hills. "Rain Cancels" was not an option for us. A couple of us even declared that we loved the rain and cold. So, bring it on!

Led by Dora and Jeff J., our hike started off gently on the paved and gravel roads going into O'Melveny, the second largest park in L.A. County. Perhaps the sweet perfume of orange blossoms on trees lining our path lulled us into a false sense of security. The drizzle that began to moisten our faces was refreshing, but, like the dark clouds looming over the hills, it foreshadowed what was to come.

As we ascended Mission Point Trail, the hike's most challenging incline, the precipitation increased. Soon, the shifting clouds overhead brought waves of torrential rain. Sounds of our rain gear whipping in the wind and the raindrops pelting our bodies drowned out the ambient rumble of suburbia and the 118. The San Fernando Valley seemed distant.

This challenge only increased our

determination to go on. Hiker Ginger embraced the weather, saying it reminded her of her native Midwest. Even our newest hiker Zenie, this being her first hike with GLS, always had a smile on her face as she scaled Mission Point. If any of us were unhappy, you could not see it on our faces.

Although the trail was never too muddy or hazardous, Dora and Jeff prudently made a course change, shortening our hike. We followed a trail through knee-high wild grass and mustard flowers until it joined an equestrian trail leading down to Granada Hills.

While we often think of hikes in terms of terrain, flora, and fauna, our rainy morning outing reminds us of how weather

adds to the experience. Wind and rain can add challenge, clouds resting on the mountaintops can become part of the landscape, and fog can cover urban sprawl, offering our senses relief.



High on the hillside, where it was wet, windy, and muddy!



At the trail-head in the sheltered canyon. Far right, milk crate on a pole, cleverly repurposed as a used shopping bag dispenser for the convenience of the local dog-walkers.



My GLS Story—Marie B.

(Continued from the front page)

went home. It's close by....

Maybe another time — later on. Next year maybe. A few weeks later, in my search for some other sort of diversion, I was introduced by a mutual friend to a long-time GLS member — a character by the name of Bonita Lockwood — who became pivotal in inspiring me onward — or to at least attempt the Wednesday evening hike — soon — while I was still somewhat "young". (I later learned she has never done one of these herself.) But she talks a good talk — told me to "just do it — just show up." So — as I like to keep things simple, I reported the following Wednesday — November 1, 2000.

It was a dark and cold night — 7pm starting time for the hike. No one there at the ranger station except one semi-distinguished gentleman sitting on the bench. Too bad, I thought gleefully — must be cancelled due to the darkness — I'll just go on home. But (remembering Bonita) I thought it my duty — just in case — to question the man there.....

My next pivotal character — Eric Sas — whom I later learned was the current Tracks editor, and author of that scholarly article. The hike was indeed set to continue, starting times are never sharp. So I remained.

Soon a few others showed up. Among them Grace Hengst — the leader — whom I had little dealings with, since she was at the front. However, she did first ask me if I had ever hiked before. I knew there was only one answer to this if I was to continue. Then she and Eric went off to the side for a brief private conversation. (Now I know not everything is all about me — still..... I knew about this.) But by now I was even more determined. Their concern was really just grist for the mill. I must go on.

Now of course I claimed to have hiked before — many times. but, (unclaimed, of course) those were mainly nature walks — bird walks or paths to ruins in the southwest — with a purpose — an adobe, a petroglyph, a small creature or two. and then only at the end of a slow walk of at best a few miles. I never thought I'd be embarking on a speedy five mile night trip with nothing at the end but "the top". Admittedly, I knew the statistics of the hike — I'd read the description; yet somehow, those mere words did not do it justice. The word "conditioning" had no real meaning for me. (I later discovered that conditioning is often the only "purpose" of some hikes. I have never learned to care for those.)

So — after the first brisk 15 minutes — shortly after we had left the enormous lawn leading to the trail — just after the first

bend, I was ready to turn back down while I still knew the way. I was serious — but so was Eric. He told me — "just go at your own speed; this is your first time, after all." he was with me all along — to the top — and back. At the end I was so jazzed I shook everyone's hand — including Rick Mitchell and Will McWhinney — neither of whom I've seen for years now. (How are you guys?) I remember Grace told me to do something aerobic over the weekend and come back again. I smiled.

I am a creature of routine — so I did come back. Nancy Silberman was the leader — we left on time. A few others joined later. (I was happily surprised to see Nancy fairly recently.)

Grace and Eric remained huge parts of my hiking experience — along with Mike Brostoff (who encouraged me toward WTC — and other things), as well as many others so numerous I'm afraid I would omit someone if I attempted to list them all. I truly fell in with a fast crowd, along the way finding myself at places that were once only words on a page. With their encouragement, I've somehow managed to see "the top" (I mean summit) of biggies like Mt. San Jacinto, Mt. San Gorgonio, and even Mt. Whitney — several times. it's been a wild ride — and I think it's still going on.

Past, Present, and Potluck at Placerita Canyon

by Kyla Hjertstedt

March 3rd proved to be a perfect day for hiking in Santa Clarita's Placerita Canyon state park. As members gathered in the ample sized parking lot just below the Nature Center, the crisp, clear, fifty-degree weather promised to gift us with a cool but sunny Southern Californian day.

Just after 9am, twenty hikers began the five and a quarter mile, up and back, hike. Many familiar faces, as well as a couple first timers, followed the creek side trail which took us into the chaparral-covered interior of the park.

The minimal elevation change allowed for plenty of friendly conversation and thanks to a few well informed hikers, we learned some interesting facts about the park's human history, landscape, geology, and botany. While most of the park's wildlife and terrain are part and parcel for hiking in California, the remains of the Walker's fireplace and the naturally occurring "white oil" were undoubtedly unique additions to our hiking experience.

According to one GLS member, who happens to be one of the park's docents, the "white oil" we came upon about half way into our ascent, was sold by the Walker family when they owned and resided on the land during the first half of the 20th century. If you didn't know what you were looking for, the slowly bubbling pool of oil could easily be missed as the oil is intermixed with a fair amount of water. Once pointed out, the oil was obvious and after standing at the site for a few moments, the tell-tale scent of petroleum,

reminiscent of diesel fuel, made some of us happily move along, while others opted for the tactile experience of putting their fingertips in the mixture. Docent tip of the day: hand sanitizer gets rid of the oil feel and smell!

Just before switching onto the Placerita Falls trail we encountered an enormous stone fireplace which had been the start of the Walker dream home. The unexpected and untimely death of Mrs. Walker halted the project, but thankfully the fireplace remains. The size of the hearth is enough to catch the attention of any passerby, but it is the exquisite and unique patterns within the stone which makes this landmark worth a few, well focused, photos. The rockery used for this, one of a kind, fireplace was gathered from the surrounding hills and was actually a second source of income for the Walker family, who sold it under the label of "fancy rock."

The last quarter mile, of our otherwise mild ascent, was somewhat steeper and became a bit rocky at points. Although there was no water to animate the Placerita Falls, our turnaround point proved entertaining as a few of the more adventurous GLS-ers climbed up to explore, what in wetter years, would be a 15 foot waterfall, for which the trail is named. A large downed tree and a dare-devil dog, who traversed the tree as though it were an over sized tightrope, added to the experience.

By the time we started back to the trail head, the afternoon temps had risen to seventy degrees, making for a wonderfully



The famous white oil seeping out of the ground



The fancy stonework fireplace



Crossing the stream in a shady side canyon as we head for the waterfall

comfortable winter day. Once back at our cars, the hike was over, but the March/April birthdays celebration was just getting started. Those of us staying for the potluck grabbed goodies from our cars and joined the folks who had headed back early from the hike to set up the picnic site. Those with recent or upcoming birthdays donned lovely butterfly birthday hats as we all shared good food and good company! Our day's outing ended with carrot cake, the tune of "Happy Birthday", and smiles all around.



The birthday girls, in their birthday tiaras



One of the 24 stream crossings

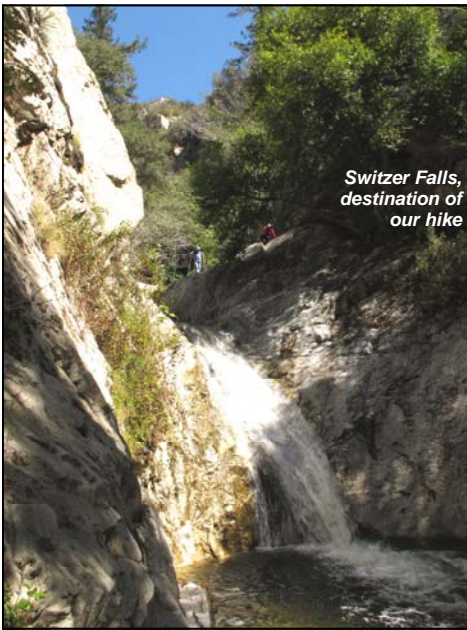


Pausing before the ascent from the canyon

Switzer Falls Hike

By Nancy Beverly

Our hike to Switzer Falls was the very definition of a gorgeous spring day. The torrential rains from a couple of days before had left the skies clear blue shiny clean... and the creek in the canyon



Switzer Falls, destination of our hike

overflowing with rushing water. Fourteen hikers and three dogs did the four-mile round trip trek, and while four miles seems like such a short distance... when you factor in crossing the stream on tricky rocks and unstable logs 24 times, it turned out to be quite an adventure. No one seemed to mind getting their feet a little or a lot wet (Kyla and Warren simply waded through the water and skipped the rocks and logs). Co-leader Dora's doggies didn't mind the water — they were hand-ferried across every crossing (the water would've been over their heads and this wasn't billed as a swimming outing). After a lunch break at the crashing falls, we got our aerobic workout for the day by climbing out of Arroyo Seco Canyon and fording the creek again.

What would it have been like to stay at the camp in its bygone glory days? For those of you who don't know the history of this lovely sylvan spot, a few facts to take you back in time: This was the honeymoon campsite of Bob and Liz Waterman in 1883 (yes, the same Waterman as one of our beloved peaks in the San Gabriels). They provided the financial backing for Commodore Perry Switzer to build a cabin

resort the following year. He created a 15-mile trail up the Arroyo Seco (remember, this is before the Angeles Crest Highway was constructed) that was trod by a twice-weekly burro train or by hikers on foot; exhausted hikers were instructed to ring a cowbell a half-mile below the resort to signal how many hungry visitors the camp should expect. A forest fire in 1896 destroyed several of the buildings. In 1911 the business changed hands and thrived for the next two decades under Lloyd and Bertha Austin. The Austins added luxury amenities such as tennis courts, an open-air dance floor and an impressive chapel, perched on a rocky outcropping. The renown weekend retreat even hosted big stars like Shirley Temple and Clark Gable. Then came the great flood of March 1938, which was even more damaging than the fire had been. The camp struggled on into the 1950s under the name Switzer-Land but was forced to close in 1959, despite its location alongside the highway. The stone chapel right above the waterfall (the remnants of which we saw on our hike) was the last structure standing until it was demolished as a safety hazard by the U.S. Forest Service.

Los Angeles Arboretum

Barb and SK led April 22, to see the flora and fauna.

Photos Heather McNaught.



Outings & Events

May

May 5, Saturday

O: Channel Island Day Hike
Mike Brostoff, Tom Molloy

The Channel Island day hike has now become an annual GLS tradition, attracting over two dozen participants each time. 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). Though the deadline has passed for signing up, please contact Mike to check for availability: <mbros4162@yahoo.com>, 818-399-4035. 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 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. Bring minimum 2 quart water, lugsole hiking boots, snacks, and 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.

May 12, Saturday

O: Bronson Caves
Dora Olea, Nancy Beverly`

An easy moderate paced 6 mile hike - round trip. We visit the famous Bronson

Caves, a milestone in the movies since 1919 to the present. We then leave for the Dante's View to have our potluck in a shady fresh place. About 700' ft. elev. gain/loss. K-9 welcome. Wear layers, bring water, lug soles, sunscreen, and a potluck-lunch item to share. Meet at 8:30 am. Directions: Turn north onto Canyon Dr. off Franklin Av. (between N. Van Ness Av. and N. Bronson Av.) in the southwest section of Griffith Park or Google the address: 3200 Canyon Drive, LA, CA. After driving on Canyon Dr. for about 1 mile you will enter the park. Two FREE but small parking lots, or park along the curve. Heavy rain cancels. Questions, Dora at <doraolea@yahoo.com>.

May 19 - May 20, Sat - Sun

Long Beach Pride
Jeff Johnson, S.K. Chiou

We will be at Long Beach Pride again this year, with our booth again staffed by GLS volunteers to greet people and tell them about what we do. If you would like to volunteer, contact Jeff Johnson, <jgj@cheerful.com>. GLS will reimburse for volunteers' admission to the festival.

May 27, Sunday

O: Topanga Canyon: Los Liones-Trippet Ranch
Anna Baum, Jeff Johnson

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 will eat lunch there and return the way we came. Directions: From Highway 1/Pacific Coast Highway 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. 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, call Anna, 310-990-0610.

May 30, Wednesday

O: Signal Hill Walk
Jeff Johnson, Beth Epstein

3-4 miles, 500-750 feet gain/loss. Meet on Industry at Redondo, in Signal Hill, 7pm, we aim to be back at the cars by 8:30. Walking uphill and down, on pavement and gravel. Sensible walking shoes, water, layers for cool evening breezes. Rain cancels, drizzle goes. Questions? Jeff at 562-434-8473.

June

June 2, Saturday

O: Mt. Zion and Sturtevant Falls Loop
Dora Olea, Jeff Johnson

This is a perfect hike for early summer. The trail is well shaded and cool most of the way. It is an easy 12 miles rt. with 2100 ft. gain/lost that is barely noticeable, especially since we will return via Upper Winter Creek Trail. At 1.4 miles the

(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) 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 Victory, turn right at bottom of ramp. Make immediate left onto Zoo Drive. Drive through the park, passing the zoo on your right and the Gene Autry Museum on your left. Curve around and pass the golf course. You'll come to a stop sign at Griffith Park Drive & Crystal Springs Road (which is the road you're on now, it changes names). Proceed one more block 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

Sturtevant Falls will be our first encounter with beauty. Our trip goes through a veritable fairyland of miniature cascades and crystalline pools bedecked with giant chain ferns before we could claim Mt. Zion pinnacle. Bring lug soles, extra pair of socks, a potluck item to share, sunscreen, hat and sunglasses as well as plenty of water. Dogs must bring their own water. Bathrooms at the trailhead and along the way. Meet 7:45am Azusa rideshare pt or 7:15 am at Long Beach rideshare pt. or at the Chantry Flat parking lot at 8:30 am. From the highway 134, drive east on I-210 for 6.4 miles. Exit on Santa Anita Ave. and turn left onto Santa Anita Ave. Drive north for about 5 miles to the parking area for Chantry Flat. Rain cancels. Questions? Contact Dora at 213-200-0239 or <doraolea@yahoo.com>.

Jun 7 - Jun 10, Thu - Sun

O: Pismo Beach State Park Carcamp at Oceano

Barbara Edwards, Judith Demarah, Grace Hengst

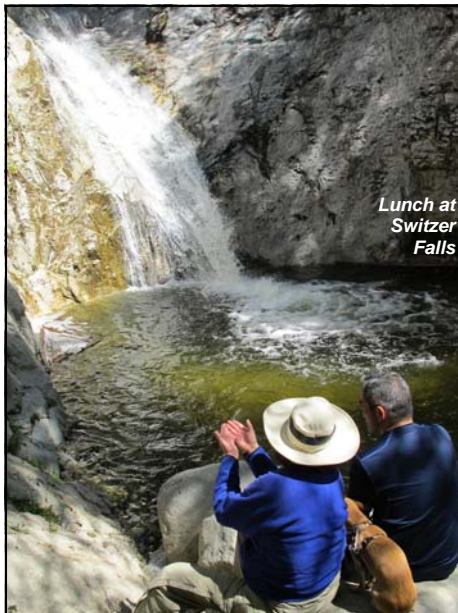
Join us for a weekend of fun, just 3 hours, 175 miles, northwest of L.A. on the central coast. This area is home to the endangered Pismo clam and our campground lies adjacent to a freshwater lagoon that attracts both indigenous and non-native migratory birds. A wooded nature trail will take you around the lagoon and a short hike will lead you through the dunes to the beach. The Oceano sand dune area is recognized by scientists and conservationists as the finest, most extensive coastal dunes remaining in California. Activities could include hiking, bird watching, beach and dune walks. The charming town of Pismo Beach is a mile away and the Monarch Butterfly Grove, home to a large colony of monarchs every winter, is also nearby. Cost is \$55 per person for 3 nights camping. Or \$45 per person for 2 nights camping (Fri. and Sat.). This price includes all parking fees. Hot showers available. LEASHED dogs permitted in campground but not on State Park trails. Send check made out to GLS to: Barbara Edwards, 1739 S. Sherbourne Dr., L.A. 90035. Questions? Email Barb at <greyhound@sbcglobal.net>.

June 16, Saturday

**O: Inspiration Point
Dora Olea, Kirk Olsen**

A trail that honors its name! Come and be inspired by the fabulous views whenever

the marine inversion layer lies low across the LA basin, or on clear, dry days the ocean horizon can be seen behind the gap at Two Harbors on Santa Catalina Island. Inspiration Point is the never-finished last part of the rail extension to Mt. Lowe. We will hike to the open-air Ramada/Panorama Point with its 15 sighting tubes that are still in place pointing to various iconic



landmarks in the LA basin. Moderate-pace hike, 9 mi RT via the Castle Canyon Trail, approx. 2000 ft. gain/loss. Bring at least 2 liters of water, lug soles, a potluck lunch item to share, sunscreen, hat and sunglasses. Dogs must bring their own water. Meet at 8:15 a.m. at the north end of Lake Ave. in Pasadena. From the 210 in Pasadena, Exit 26 on N. Lake Ave. going north drive about 2 miles, park on the street close to the gate where we will meet. Rain cancels. Questions? Contact Dora at 213-200-0239 or <doraolea@yahoo.com>.

June 23, Saturday

**O: Mt. Baden-Powell from Dawson Saddle
Marie Ammerman, Jeff Cuevas**

Hike among the pines in the Angeles National Forest high country to the top of Mt. Baden-Powell without all those switchbacks on that crowded, popular trail. We'll meet at the La Canada rideshare point at 7 a.m. to make the approx. 1.5hr drive to the trailhead to get a good start before the day heats up. Bring lunch, snacks, at least 2 liters of water, lugsoles, trekking poles if you use them. Summit is very exposed; be ready for sun, wind. Moderate pace, 9.5 miles RT, approx. 2800' gain. Rain cancels. Well-behaved dogs welcome if kept on 6-foot leash at all

times as required by forest regulations. Adventure Pass required to park at trailhead. We may stop after for a snack at Newcomb's Ranch Inn. Questions: Marie at <ammermanm@yahoo.com>, 818-842-6401 or Jeff C. at 626-644-9879, <cuevas777999@yahoo.com>.

June 27, Wednesday

**O: Signal Hill Walk
Jeff Johnson, Laura Rainey**

3-4 miles, 500-750 feet gain/loss. Meet on Industry at Redondo, in Signal Hill, 7pm, we aim to be back at the cars by 8:30. Walking uphill and down, on pavement and gravel. Sensible walking shoes, water, layers for cool evening breezes. Rain cancels, drizzle goes. Questions? Jeff at 562-434-8473.

June 30, Saturday

**O: Mystic Canyon hike
Susan Lucille Campo, Dora Olea**

This hike is in Glendora, north of the 210 Freeway. It all begins with a long, steep hill, but do not let that scare you! We will go a steady, moderate pace and focus on having a very scenic lunch. Dogs welcomed with leashes. The hike is 8.6 miles RT with 2,217' elev. gain. Bring at least 2 liters of water, lug sole boots, lunch, appropriate clothing. Starting time is 8:45 am. Email the leader at <susanlucillecampo@yahoo.com> that you plan to attend by noon on the Friday prior to the hike. Directions will be sent to those responding. Indicate whether you would like to carpool from California St. and Morengo in Pasadena or drive on your own to Glendora.

Future Outings

Jul 29 - Aug 3, Sun - Fri

**O: McGee Creek, Sierra Mule Pack Trip
Susan Lucille Campo, Diane Zaepfel**

If you want to be kind to your back, but would like to have a "backpacking type" experience in the Sierra Wilderness, this trip is perfect. It begins Sunday afternoon July 29 at 4:30 pm when we drop off our camping gear at the Pack Station for McGee Creek about 5 hours north of LA. We then proceed to McGee Creek Lodge to get our comfortable overnight accommodations at 7000 feet elevation. We enjoy each others company at a local eatery and have a restful night adjusting to altitude. Monday (not too early) we hike in to a site chosen for our group. You carry

Outings and Events

only your day pack. The mules take in the rest. We go about 5 miles, 1425 feet gain (easy pace). Our gear will be waiting so that we can make a cozy camp. During the week our camp stays put and you have the next few days to explore marvelous sights, short, easy or long, hard hikes are available. Also enjoy the mountain wildflowers, possible fishing or just relax by one of several near-by lakes. On Friday by noon we pack up our gear which will be carried out by the packer while we stroll back to the cars. Total cost of \$285 includes the first night in a hotel and mule drop both in and back. What a deal! Limited number of participants preserves the wilderness experience. Therefore, E-mail leader SOON with questions and then send your check immediately to reserve. Questions? Email <susanlucillecampo@yahoo.com>.

Aug 9 - Aug 15, Thu - Wed

O: Piute Pass, Sierra Mule Pack trip Susan Lucille Campo, Diane Zaepfel

Experience the alpine mountain wilderness while not needing a "backpack". We will have our camping gear dropped by mules over Piute Pass, in the Sierra Nevada near Bishop, CA (about 5 hours from LA). You hike in and out with only your day pack. The hike on trail to our base camp is 6 miles, 2078 ft. gain, "moderately hard" since the elevation at Piute Pass is 11423 ft. We will do a slow, steady pace to enjoy our first full day of hiking and arrive ready to make camp. From our base camp, the



opportunity for other interesting hikes is almost unlimited. You can explore Humphrey Basin, Desolation Lake, Golden Trout Lakes and others. Take in the "world class" scenery while you hike, fish, identify alpine flowers or just relax. The Pack Station will allow us to sleep in our cars or camp on their grounds on August 9, Thursday night. This will help you acclimatize a bit, but also they require that

our packed gear be ready on their docks by 7 AM on Aug 10. Since each packer outfitter has his own method and prices, the total cost for this trip is \$325. The number of participants is limited so you need to contact the leader immediately with any questions. Your check paid in full is your reservation for the trip of a lifetime! Questions? Email <susanlucillecampo@yahoo.com>.

Aug 18 - Aug 19, Sat - Sun

O: Ice House Cyn. Loop and Mt. Baldy hikes (with optional Harwood Lodge) Dora Olea, Susan Lucille Campo

Stop thinking that it is too hard! Yes, you can hike up Mt. Baldy!! On Sunday we will hike Baldy at a moderate pace. 8.5 mi. rt., 3900' gain/lost. You can attend either hike or both that weekend and stay in the area at Sierra Club's economical Harwood Lodge on Saturday night for standard overnight fee (\$12/\$15), payable at the lodge. Hot shower, kitchen, and bunk beds are available. You MUST bring your own food to cook and a sleeping bag for the dorm. Weekend Hikes:

1. Sat. at 10 am meet at Ice House Canyon Trail Head, just off the Mt. Baldy Road. USFS Adventure Pass required. We will do a moderate hike, only 6.5 miles loop on the Icehouse/Chapman trails, 2500 ft. gain. Then depart or follow us to the Lodge.
2. Sun. meet 8 am at Manker Flats to hike Mt. Baldy. USFS Adventure Pass required. Bathrooms are at the trailhead. We will go from Manker Flat trailhead to summit via the Sierra Club Ski Hut and return via the Backbone Trail to Baldy Notch and the road under the ski lift. Optional descent from Baldy Notch uses the ski lift (\$10). Bring 10 essentials, 3 qts water (more if it's hot out), lunch, snacks, lugsoles, sunscreen, hiking poles. Directions: 210 E. exit on Baseline Rd. Turn left, Next light turn right on Padua Av., right onto Mt. Baldy Rd. Go past Mt. Baldy Village 2mi. turning left at Icehouse Cyn. (or right if you are meeting us on Sat.) If you are meeting us at Harwood Lodge, it shares a driveway with Zen Center across from Snow Crest. Or for Sunday's Baldy hike, keep driving 2mi. to Manker Flat trailhead on your left-hand-side. Questions Dora <doraolea@yahoo.com>.

Aug 25 - Aug 26, Sat - Sun

O: Tyee Lakes Backpacking Trip Dora Olea, Kirk Olsen

Tyee Lakes is a beautiful four-lake chain –

an experience that you cannot miss! Friday night we will car camp near the trailhead on Bishop Creek Road. Saturday morning we will pack in about 3 miles and set up camp alongside the lakes. That afternoon we will sightsee, swim and dine. If time permits on Sunday we will do a short hike before we pack out to Sabrina Lake trailhead. 7 miles total with 2,300 ft. gain/loss. Space is limited and nominal fees apply for the campground and wilderness permit. Contact Dora at <doraolea@yahoo.com> for more info and RSVP.

Aug 30 - Sep 3, Thu - Mon

O: Rock Creek Barbara Edwards, Judith Demarah, Grace Hengst

Palisades Group Campground lies along Rock Creek in Inyo National Forest, 15 miles south of Mammoth Lakes. The campground sits at an elevation of 8,800 feet, at the bottom of a steep canyon adjacent to Rock Creek and amidst the shaded aspen and lodgepole pine trees. The area is home to abundant wildlife, including black bear, mountain lions, mule deer, pine martin, pika and many species of fish and birds. Hiking, scenic driving, photography, wildlife viewing and fishing opportunities abound, with local lakes and streams within walking and driving distance. Catches from the creek may include brook, brown, rainbow and stocked Alpers trout. There are numerous hiking trails in and around Rock Creek Canyon, some of which meander around high-elevation alpine lakes. Flush toilets and potable water at site. Showers nearby. THIS IS BEAR COUNTRY. All food and toiletries must be stored in bear lockers. \$28 per person for 4 nights of camping. Space is limited. Send check made out to GLS to: Barbara Edwards, 1739 S. Sherbourne Dr., L.A. 90035. Questions? Email <greyhound@sbcglobal.net>.

Oct 5 - Oct 7, Fri - Sun

O: SAVE THE DATE! Marie Ammerman, TBA

In 2012, GLS will celebrate its 25th anniversary in many ways, one of which will be a fabulous weekend party at the Sierra Club's Harwood Lodge, near Mt. Baldy, on the weekend of October 5-7. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details. To volunteer to help with this event, please contact Marie Ammerman at ammermanm@yahoo.com or 818-842-6401.

May and June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
APR 29	30	MAY 1	2 Griffith Park Nancy, Amanda	3	4	5 <small>full moon</small>  Channel Islands Day Hike Mike, Tom
6	7	8	9 Griffith Park Anne, Nancy	10	11	12 Bronson Caves Dora, Nancy
13	14	15	16 Griffith Park Eva, Anne	17	18	19 Long Beach Pride GLS volunteers
20 Long Beach Pride GLS volunteers	21	22	23 Griffith Park Anne, Amanda	24	25	26
27 Topanga Los Liones Trippet Ranch Anna, Jeff.J.	28	29	30 Griffith Park Dora, Anne Signal Hill Jeff, J. Beth	31	JUNE 1	2 Mt. Zion and Sturtevant Falls Loop Dora, Jeff J.
3	4 <small>full moon</small> 	5	6 Griffith Park Amanda, Dora	7 Pismo Beach Carcamp Barb, Jude <i>through Sunday</i>	8	9
10 <i>end Pismo Beach</i>	11	12	13 Griffith Park Marie, Eva	14	15	16 Inspiration Point Dora, Kirk
17	18	19	20 Griffith Park Dora, Grace	21	22	23 Mt. Baden-Powell from Dawson Saddle Marie, Jeff C.
24	25	26	27 Griffith Park Nancy, Marie Signal Hill Jeff J., Laura	28	29	30 Mystic Canyon Hike Susan, Dora

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	dawnxwilson@gmail.com
Diane Ru	626-688-8642	zappydz@excite.com
Dora Olea	818-765-7297	doraolea@yahoo.com
Eva Eilenberg	323-803-0457	eesierraclub@gmail.com
Grace Hengst	323-697-6886	gracehikes@roadrunner.com
Jeff Bates	310-452-4929	jbatesla@aol.com
Jeff Cuevas	626-644-9879	cuevas777999@yahoo.com
Jeff Johnson	562-434-8473	jgj@cheerful.com
Judith Demarah	818-451-8403	
Karen Lovett	562-438-3418	klovett2000@hotmail.com
Kirk Olsen	562-434-8675	kso@kirkolsen.com
Laura Rainey	562-438-3418	geowmn@verizon.net
Marie Ammerman	818-842-6401	ammermanm@yahoo.com

Mary Conte	213-810-3939	maconte@hotmail.com
Mike Brostoff	818 399-4035	mbros4162@yahoo.com
Nancy Beverly	818-379-9940	nancybeverly@sbcglobal.net
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

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 leaders' meetings.

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/pvsvb/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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

New Renewal Gift Change of Address

Send print TRACKS by US mail \$15 - 1 yr; \$35 - 3 yr

Send email TRACKS (pdf file) \$10 - 1 yr; \$20 - 3 yr

Send print and email TRACKS \$25 - 1 yr; \$55 - 3 yr

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:
Introductory	\$25		Sierra Club
Regular	\$39	\$47	Membership Dept.
Supporting	\$75	\$100	P.O. Box 52968
Contributing	\$150	\$175	Boulder, CO 80322
Life	\$1000	\$1250	
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#
F94QW04721