In This Issue . . . .

- Annual McLean Pot Luck Dinner Coming up on June 25
- Our GCG Chair Kay McLean applauds members support
- Wayne Hoskisson briefs us on Sec Zinke’s visit to Bears Ears
- A report on the White Mesa community walk by Sarah Fields
- Movie goers enjoy and learn from “To the ends of the Earth”
- Bobbi Cronk reports on community service projects Highway Clean-up and Staple Club
- Another fund raiser completed under leadership of Tammy Berrie
- Bill Rau updates us on PR Springs, Utah’s tar sands operation
- Kay McLean reports on the March for Science activities
- Tammy Berrie describes another Jamboree opportunity
- A report on the GREAN activities by Bobbi Cronk
- Bobbi Cronk updates us on the Lionsback Resort Development
- A Town Hall Meeting? Dave McLean says Yes!
- Jean Binyon reports on our financial status
- And Tom Messenger presents our third quarter outings.
From the Chair – Kay McLean

It has been a busy spring for GCG activists, and you’ll remember from the February newsletter that this is becoming a trend: a trend for which we can all be proud. Besides, or perhaps due to our tremendous camaraderie resulting from our excellent outings program, our members, you, have responded so well when asked for your time and action. Thank you and remember that Sierra Club and the other environmental groups working in our area are here for the long haul, we do not adhere to the “we won, we’re done” philosophy.

In January, some of our members became involved with the new activists group Moab Indivisible. This lead to our participation in the March 8th networking luncheon at Swanny Park to celebrate “A Day Without Women”. This event was followed by a very successful March for Science on April 22nd. GCG members helped a bit with organizing the event, we had a table at the park to publicize Bears Ears and other issues and encourage post cards be written to support Public Lands and Bears Ears, and of course we turned out with a couple hundred others to march. A few of our members joined the SLC March for Climate Justice on April 29.

On April 24th, the GCG ExCom met with the primary purpose of welcoming Carly Ferro, our new state level Chapter Organizer, a position that has been vacant since the departure of Tim Wagner. Carly has a master’s degree in Environmental Science. She will be leading up Our Wild America campaign. National provides one fourth of her salary while the rest is funded by our Chapter. Her duties will include fund raising to help cover her salary in the future. In addition, she has offered to help us work on a reasonable crypto soil policy for our official hikes.

Tammy Berrie reported that thanks to the overwhelming support of our members working at the Half Marathon on March 18, we received a check for $1250 from the sponsoring organization. Thank you Tammy and all the volunteers.

GCG leaders continue to attend and support GREAN (Grand County Environmental Activists Network) to strengthen our conservation efforts. A Native American woman in a film supporting Bears Ears said her grandmother showed her how one hair on the head could easily be broken, but gathered together and braided would be unbreakable. That is the idea of GREAN (see Bobbi’s article below).

It is not too early to be thinking of new leadership for 2018, when the terms of three of our ExCom members will be over. Our group, as you will see from this newsletter, is thriving with the help of some of our “new” leaders. Please give some serious consideration to becoming more involved with the leadership of our group. Some fresh thoughts and ideas would be important. It would be a real boost to our ExCom to see some new faces running for election in 2018.
On 8 May 2017 Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke visited San Juan County in the company of a tight entourage of local and state politicians. It was supposed to be a quiet little trip among friends. At least he was not telling anyone else about his plans. After a chaotic start and being turned away from the Blanding Municipal Airport Bears Ears supporters divined his plans and awaited him at the Butler Wash Ruins. After an hour or so heat and biting flies the real problem showed up. A small caravan of vehicles pulled into the parking lot. A few people claimed out of trucks and SUVs but there was one large, black SUV that no one exited for five minutes, six minutes, but finally after ten or twelve minutes a door opened and out came Rep. Rob Bishop and shortly afterwards Mr. Secretary himself. We spoiled his day. We could see his anger rise as a young Navajo woman repeatedly asked him why did not talk to the Tribes. Finally he wagged his finger and said, “Be nice.” We can only hope he takes his own advice.

On June 10 Sec. Zinke will deliver his report and recommendations on the Bears Ears National Monument to Pres. Trump. He has already heard from about 800,000 people and about 96% support keeping our National Monuments. We do not know what he will tell the President. But one thing is for sure, a man who took ten minutes to face a small crowd is not a brave man. We cannot hope for much.
White Mesa Walk – Sarah Fields

The march at White Mesa on 13 May was very successful with over 100 people attending, from Salt Lake City, Heber, Bluff, Moab, and Australia. June 8 and June 15 are important dates for licensing and renewals. Contact Sarah Fields for more info.

Glen Canyon Group members joined Native Americans in the White Mesa Mill Protest

Movie “To the Ends of the Earth” – Kay McLean

Our Glen Canyon Group co-sponsored a free screening of the movie “To the Ends of the Earth”, an amazing new documentary featuring John Weisheit, our lovable local expert. It highlighted the connection of Moab to some of the world’s most extreme energy production, tar sands.

"To the Ends of the Earth" follows concerned citizens living at the frontiers of extreme oil and gas extraction, bearing witness to a global crossroads. They call for human ingenuity to rebuild society at the end of the fossil fuel era.

At the showing on May 11, 2017, we provided post cards and encouraged attendees to send them to Sec. Zinke in support of the Bears Ears and other National Monuments.
Staple Club – Bobbi Cronk

Arches National Park needs help stapling a road/park closure notice to every Visitor guide...an enormous project. They have an ongoing Monday 12-3 "Staple club" that many Sierra members participate in, and are always looking for more volunteers. On 17 May, 11 volunteers worked at Bobbi Cronk’s for 2 1/2 hours stapling 3500 visitor guides. It was much appreciated by Arches Volunteer Coordinator, Karen Garthwait. Call 435 719 2142 for info about volunteering if you are interested in helping.
**Highway Cleanup - Bobbi Cronk**

Our "Adopt a Highway" clean-up project was completed by 20 hard working volunteers on May 12th. We cleaned 2 miles of US Highway 191 between mile-marker 118 and 120 for 3 hours, followed by a well deserved lunch at the Cronk’s. A job well done. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Twenty members collected numerous bags of trash and separated out three large bags of recyclables.

**Thelma & Louise Half Marathon Fund Raiser – Tammy Berrie**

The Glen Canyon Group was invited to staff an aid station for the 2017 Thelma and Louise Half Marathon and Relay. We happily accepted the challenge, as not only were we able to raise funds for the Glen Canyon Group of the Sierra Club, we were proud to support an event that provides funds to two outstanding local beneficiaries:

**Girls on the Run** - Girls on the Run is about running, and it also teaches girls in grades 3 through 8 about health, friendship, body image, self-esteem, and community service.

**Seekhaven** - Seekhaven’s mission is to build safe and healthy communities by providing shelter and resources to families in crisis and victims of violence, and offering preventative education for youth and community members.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!
Club volunteers enjoy staffing an aide station

Very special thank you to teammates Dave Alexander, Marti Bauer, and Cindy Pickett. We couldn’t have participated without their hard work, enthusiasm and electric energy! If you haven’t seen the movie, take the time to watch it and learn about Thelma Dickinson and Louise Sawyer! Then our outfits will make sense!

Utah’s Tar Sands: PR Springs – Bill Rau

As of mid-Spring 2017, US Oil Sands (Utah)—a subsidiary of a Canadian company—is set to begin processing tar sands at its site at PR Springs on the Tavaputs Plateau in Grand County. The company is deeply in debt and its financial backers have demanded the company produce an average of 2000 barrels of oil per month for the remainder of the year from the tar sands. If that level of production is not achieved, the debt could be called in.

Public subsidies make tar sands mining at PR Springs feasible. The road west from the processing plant was paved with $85 million of Utah’s public funds. The state has indicated it would provide a major part of the funds if a road was paved through the Book Cliffs to I-70. At the same time, public activism has resisted the mining for over four years, stopping equipment for a time, experience arrests, electing local officials who oppose a Book Cliffs road, and raising awareness to the multiple risks for tar sands mining.

As of May, the company experienced mechanical failures that temporarily shut down their proof of process operation.
March for Science – Kay McLean

On Saturday, April 22 (Earth Day!), Moab and your Glen Canyon Group participated in the nationwide ‘March for Science’ activities in support for science.

It was an opportunity to endorse science, scientists, and evidence-based policy making that is the backbone of the government agencies which protect our health, food, air, water, climate, and jobs.

Members manned a table at the March for Science event to recruit members and solicit County and City Council support for public land.

Our Group then joined in on the March for Science
2017 Utah Chapter Jamboree – Tammy Berrie

The Jamboree planning committee is hard at work developing exciting programs, service projects and outings for the SECOND Annual Utah Sierra Club Jamboree!

Once again, you can expect a weekend of celebration and learning at the beautiful and secluded YMCA Camp Roger, located in Soapstone Basin off of Mirror Lake Highway, high in the Unita Mountains.

This highly anticipated Utah Sierra Club tradition is suitable for Sierra Club members and non-members, activists, friends and families. This year’s festivities will be held Friday, August 18 to Sunday, August 20, 2017.

The weekend will be an opportunity to enjoy the serenity of the Utah wilderness, explore ways to engage with fellow Sierrans, and learn how to protect our shared home from dangerous pollution, fossil fuel development, and state-sponsored land-grabs. Programs will include a mix of recreational outings, service projects, educational workshops, and social events.

Food and accommodations will be provided, and families are welcome. Camp Roger cabins will be available, but if you prefer to camp out under the stars with resident moose and beavers, please feel free to bring your tent!

Be on the lookout for further information. You won’t want to miss this dynamic and empowering weekend of fellowship and learning in the Utah wilderness!

If you want further details on how you can help or attend, contact your local Jamboree Planning Committee representative Tammy Berrie, by email at southeasternutahtammyb@yahoo.com or phone/text at(435) 260-0462.

Recapture Canyon news – Wayne Hoskisson

San Juan County filed an appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) on the Monticello BLM office decision to deny an ATV trail in the bottom of Recapture Canyon. The Sierra Club along with SUWA, Grand Canyon Trust and Great Old Broads for Wilderness will be filing for intervenor status in the case before the IBLA. This allows us to file briefs and arguments as though we are a party to the case. We can ask for this status since we commented on the BLM during their development of their Resource Management Plan and Marc Thomas filed comments during the NEPA process to determine whether or not to permit the ATV trail.
Annual Early Summer Potluck

Join us on Sunday, 25 June, at 6 PM for our annual Pot Luck Dinner at the McLean’s, 777 Mountain View Dr. Renew friendships, find new ones, indulge in great eats and drinks, probably no issues or politics being promoted this year……. Probably!

Grand Environmental Activists Network (GREAN) – Bobbi Cronk

The MEAN (Moab Environmental Activists Network) name has changed to be less negative. It has been renamed GREAN (Grand Environmental Activists Network). We now meet on the 4th Monday of each month at 6pm in the lower level meeting room at Zion Bank. Most of our area environmental groups participate by sharing their activities, networking, and discussing community issues as a group.

Lionsback Resort Status – Bobbi Cronk

John Weisheit and Living Rivers, along with others, filed a lawsuit against Moab City Council for approving a zoning status of Lionsback Development by classifying as "minor changes" those which are actually "major changes". This will go to a city appeals process when the City sets up an Appeals Council.

Treasurers Report – Jean Binyon

BALANCE January 31, 2017 $1,232.72

DEPOSITS

Feb 2 $150.00
Apr 4 1,350.00

EXPENDITURES

Feb 2 Dave McLean Postage ($82.25)
Mar 2 Tom Messenger PO Box (76.00)
Mar 30 Film Sponsorship (250.00)
Apr 6 Back of Beyond Book (32.36)

BALANCE April 25, 2017 $2,292.11

Town Hall Meeting – Dave McLean

A Town Hall meeting is being planned for Friday, 25 August 2017, at Star Hall. Invitees are our Federal Senators and Representatives, State Senator and Representatives for our
districts, the Governor and Lt. Governor, and our local city, town, and county council members. There has not been a town hall meeting in Moab in over 20 years. Bill Topper is heading this up for the Moab Indivisible group. Mark this on your calendar now!

**Upcoming Glen Canyon Group Outings – Tom Messenger**

**GCG Sat 6/24 Descent of Burkholder Draw.** Drop a car on the Sand Flats road at the Yellow Machine road. Continue up Sand Flats road into Rill Creek past the paved stretch. Park a little after the little spur over the ridge to the Porcupine Rim road. Skirt the head of the big pouroff of Rill Creek and walk under the cliff along the north and west sides of Balanced Rock Mesa. At the detached southwest tip of the mesa, work down to the lower right bank bench of Burkholder Draw and go down canyon. Cross to the left bank bench at the top of a big pouroff and continue down to the junction with Rill. Scramble down into Rill. At the potholes, go up past the Yellow Machine to the Sand Flats road. About 7.5 miles generally downhill 1500’ except for a 200’ climb at the end. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 messengertj@citlink.net.

**GCG Sat 7/8 Brumley Pleiades.** Explore the slot of Brumley Creek. More information after this hike is scouted in June. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Tammy Berrie 435-260-0462 southeasternutahtammyb@yahoo.com.

**GCG Sat 7/22 Gold Basin.** Beat the heat in the La Sals. About five miles with moderate elevation gain. Explore a wooded valley with a running stream. Ruined dwellings at old mining claims. Above two little ponds in the woods is a tarn amid rock glaciers at the head of the basin with views of Mt Tukuhnikivatz and the ridge between Mellenthin and Tukuhnikivatz. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Jock Hovey 435-260-0239 jockhovey@gmail.com.

**GCG Sat 8/5 Muleshoe and Kane Springs Canyons.** Beginning 15 miles south of Moab, we hike to the confluence of Muleshoe and Upper Kane Creek canyons, via a new route descending Triple Bypass Canyon. Then we hike downstream on a rough jeep road high above Kane Creek, and back upstream in and along Kane Creek. Bring river sandals, and swim or other clothes for recommended full immersion. Approx 5-6 miles, 4-5 hours. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 9:00 AM. Leader: A M Reiner & A Landman-Reiner 435-260-8708.

**GCG Sat 8/26 Mary Jane and Professor Canyon Creek.** Follow the stream four miles up a deepening and narrowing red rock canyon to a spectacular waterfall over a big chockstone. Easy walking with little elevation gain, simpler with waders, though it is possible with effort to stay dry to just below the waterfall. Those equipped and qualified will have an opportunity to rappel over the waterfall. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.
**GCG Sat 9/2 Onion Creek.** Park at the bottom of the Onion Creek narrows and walk along the stream in the shade. Follow the side canyon at the top of the narrows as far as we want and return. We may or may not get up a pouroff in the side canyon. Better to wear shoes you don’t mind getting wet. Perhaps 5 fairly flat miles. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Thomas J Messenger 435-259-1756 messengert35@gmail.com.

**GCG Sat 9/16 Pilot and Green Mountains from Beaver Basin.** Beaver basin is located just north of Manns Peak at about 10,500 ft. After a drive among the pines and aspens, it’s about 1600’ first to a saddle and then to the top of Pilot Peak at 12200’, about a mile and a half from the end of the road. From there it’s less than a mile with a dip down to 12000’ to summit Green Mountain. Great views. 4x4 necessary to reach the trailhead. May make this a camping trip leaving the afternoon before. Good weather necessary. Update closer to the event. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

**GCG Sat 9/30 Pyramid Canyon, Oil Well and Tunnel Bottoms.** Pyramid Canyon is a mile and a half west of the north end of Pyramid Butte. An old, faded road goes down the canyon to the Colorado River at Oil Well Bottom where John H. Shafter drilled an unproductive oil well in 1926-7. From there a stock trail constructed in 50s or 60s leads up the river to Tunnel Bottom. We might be able to look into the nameless side canyon just upstream from Tunnel Bottom. It looks unlikely that we’ll be able to continue even farther up the river to Alfalfa Bottom where Wash Johnson farmed in the early years. Tunnel bottom and return looks like about 6 fairly flat miles. Meet at: Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, at 8:00 AM. Leader: Michael Stringham 435-259-8579 mikechrista@earthlink.net.

Latest information on outings is available on the chapter website: http://utah.sierraclub.org/content/calendar

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**Glen Canyon Group ExCom Officers**

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<th>Name</th>
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