Fifty years ago our federal legislators and our president, writers and photographers, advocates and outdoorsmen, indeed, the nation came together and agreed on the intrinsic value of wilderness. With bold and eloquent language, wild lands were declared essential:

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

With President Lyndon Johnson’s signature in 1964, over nine million acres of wild lands were preserved and the Wilderness Act became the law of the land. It was a visionary victory for those that prize unpaved and unpopulated open lands. It was a ‘wake-up call’ that heralded a different, decidedly not-business-as-usual approach to the management of wild lands and the wildlife on them. It was a legislative signal that loudly declared that Man is not always—nor should be—at the center of everything. Instead, the wild animals and the wild lands where they live that are so much a part of America’s landscape and natural heritage, can take precedence.

Over the last half-century, many congressional sessions have set aside wilderness with the result that today more than 100 million acres are protected by the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS).
Sierra Club Calls a Timeout on Burgeoning Gas Development Outside Canyonlands

by Mark Clemens

In 2013 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved a gas transmission pipeline called the Dead Horse Lateral to link the expanding gas field adjacent to the Island in the Sky District of Canyonlands National Park and Dead Horse Point State Park to a new natural gas processing plant nearby. Readers of the Utah Sierra will probably remember some of the potential public safety problems posed by construction of the main Dead Horse Lateral from the article we ran in the Spring 2014 issue.

In August of this year, BLM issued a separate environmental analysis of a plan to build a gathering network of pipelines extending from existing and future wells in this field to the Dead Horse Lateral, a new county road, and some adjustments to rights of way. This piecemeal industrialization has to be understood in the context of a natural gas field with 19 wells producing currently and the potential for 77 new wells.

The Sierra Club submitted extensive comments to BLM on August 27, 2014, calling for a timeout and a closer look at the cumulative impacts of the entire project. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), sometimes called the basic charter for environmental protection in the United States, requires all major federal actions to be analyzed for their potential impact on the environment and lays out a process for consultation with the public. One of the provisions of NEPA forbids segmentation of a big, interconnected project into multiple pieces that all seem innocuous when considered separately.

Sierra Club maintains the project must be considered as a whole in order to analyze fully its effects. “In this case, the entire Dead Horse Lateral gathering pipeline and associated Blue Hills gas processing plant, the 19 feeder gathering lines, which are the subject of this EA, and 19 existing and up to a total of 77 wells in the future that are connected to the gathering lines for transport to the DHL pipeline and processing plant, are one connected action.”

The Club’s comments, written by staff attorneys Deborah Ansell and Greg Wanner, go on to describe some of the potential impacts to air quality, carbon and methane emissions, historic and cultural resources, recreation and wildlife that will likely be caused by the Dead Horse Lateral, a new county road, and some adjustments to rights of way. This piecemeal industrialization has to be understood in the context of a natural gas field with 19 wells producing currently and the potential for 77 new wells.

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Glen Canyon Group volunteers submitted extensive separate comments focusing on public safety, air and water quality issues raised by gathering line construction. These outstanding volunteers will stay on this issue—organizing, writing comments of their own and turning out the public to events and hearings.
The Wilderness Act Turns 50

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The NWPS was established as much for the protection of wild lands and animal habitats as for the use and enjoyment of the American people and the generations to come. Wilderness provides many direct and indirect benefits, relating to ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, spiritual, economic, recreational, historical, and cultural uses and activities. There are currently 757 wilderness areas within the NWPS. They are managed by all four federal land managing agencies: the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and National Park Service.

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act, a coalition of nearly 50 non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies has been formed. Wilderness 50 is currently planning and helping to implement local, regional, and national events, projects, and celebrations around the country. This coalition is charged with raising public awareness of wilderness and engaging youth during 2014, the 50th anniversary year. For more information visit Wilderness50.

Although Utah includes millions of acres of spectacular red rock canyons and mountains suitable for wilderness, only a little over one million acres have been protected by congress. In fact, Utah has the smallest acreage protected as Wilderness among the mountain west states. However, over three million acres currently enjoy limited protection as Wilderness Study Areas and the proposed legislation of America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act identifies over nine million wilderness-worthy acres. Add National Forest lands, National Park units, other BLM lands and wilderness deserving of protection could add up to 17 million acres!

UTAH CELEBRATES WILDERNESS

To recognize and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, as well as our own wild lands in Utah, the Utah Chapter Sierra Club has partnered with the Natural History Museum of Utah to create “Utah Wilderness 50: A Photographic Celebration of Wild Utah.” Internationally recognized photographers James Kay, Tom Till, Rosalie Winard, and Stephen Troubridge reviewed over 1,400 images before finally selecting 50 winning images that reveal the beauty, diversity and fragility of Utah’s wild lands and wildlife habitats. The exhibit is now open in the 2,000-square-foot Sky Gallery at the Natural History Museum of Utah and is slated to run through mid-December 2014.

On the evening of 2 September, the museum hosted a special VIP reception for the Utah Wilderness 50 exhibit. Over 200 people attended. From the judges to the photographers, museum staff, BLM representatives, and Sierra Club members, everyone was visually impressed and inspired by the gorgeous depictions of Utah’s wild land and wildlife. Museum Executive Director Sarah George introduced the exhibit and spoke of the rich bio-diversity and the treasure-trove of research and scientific opportunities of Utah’s public lands. Associate Utah BLM State Director, Jenna Whitlock, referenced Wallace Stegner and the legacy of the Wilderness Act.

As Utah Wilderness 50 Project Coordinator I spoke of the spirit of the Wilderness Act as both protective and celebratory. “Ventrue on those wild lands and celebrate … the abundance and diversity of un molested wildlife and plant life… the pleasure of exploration and the joy of discovery … the beauty of glorious sunrises over vast canyons, the joy of airy sunsets along quietly flowing rivers. Celebrate that vision that includes us, as partner and participant, but not master and overlord.” To wrap up the speakers’ segment, judge and fellow Utah Wilderness 50 team member Stephen Troubridge discussed goals, details and impressions of the exhibit process. “This exhibit celebrates citizen photography… We hoped for submissions from everyone, from multi-generational local ranchers, kids, federal land managers, birders, hunters, canyoneers, Native people, international visitors, backpackers, scientists, pilots, prospectors… everybody. And we didn’t limit ourselves to designated wilderness. We wanted to communicate the spirit of Utah wildlands wherever photographers find and capture that spirit.”

I must admit, that we, in partnership with the Natural History Museum of Utah and fifty winning photographers, have admirably met that goal. See for yourself.

In addition to his work on Wilderness 50 celebrations & observations, Jeff is the chapter’s Communications Chair.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

As part of our commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act, the chapter co-sponsored the Wilderness 50 Photo Contest & Exhibit now open at the Natural History Museum of Utah, http://www.nhmu.ut.edu/wilderness50. We distributed a limited number of posters via the US Mail in August. Sincerely thanks to Naomi Franklin, Leslie Hugo and Barbara Wise for volunteering for the poster party.

In Memoriam: Gale Dick

F or everyone who knew him well, the death of Gale Dick on July 19th, meant a separation from his playful urbanity, generosity and unfailing good humor that requires us now to rely on memory and shared stories instead of ever being able to go back to the source. Gale’s death is not simply a private matter but rather the close of an important chapter in the history of environmental protection in Utah.

Gale co-founded Save Our Canyons with Alexis Kehrer in 1972 and was involved with every major struggle to protect the Wasatch Mountains from that date to his death. Fighting ski resort expansion, championing planning and zoning safeguards, keeping inappropriate uses such as theme parks and Olympic events out of the canyons were among the causes he advocated.

For Gale wilderness designation and wilderness advocacy were among his paramount concerns because wilderness was an important psychic refuge. He confided to Carl Fisher, executive director of Save Our Canyons, “The most amazing place I’ve ever been, the most awe-inspiring place in the world is the Lone Peak Cirque, without a doubt.” And true to form Gale had been one of the strongest advocates for protecting Lone Peak for which congress provided official wilderness designation in 1978.

One of the qualities I will remember best about Gale was his welcome and gentle leadership. One didn’t feel one had to fight one’s way into the club of environmental defenders. Sit down and make yourself at home was the attitude Gale radiated. His courtesy didn’t weaken his resolve, however. In 2006, Save Our Canyons and Sierra Club jointly opposed a bill proposed by former State Senator Al Mossell that would essentially have ended planning and zoning in Utah. The bill contained a long list of giveaways to realtors, developers and speculators and included an extraordinary clause stipulating that courts should rule a land use or zoning decision arbitrary and capricious if it was based on “public clamor.” This elicited the zinger from Gale, “Some things are so bad they deserve to be clamored about.”

Gale’s accomplishments piled up and included an important role in the Wasatch Canyons Master Plan in 1989 and in the creation of the Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone which provided important zoning protection for the Wasatch. It seems incredible that it took us in the environmental community so long to recognize Gale’s contributions, but we somehow thought of Gale as a permanent force of nature. It wasn’t until 2006 that he received the Pfeifferhorn Award given annually to the environmental champion who has contributed the most to conservation of the Wasatch Range. With typical generosity, Gale’s comment on receiving the award was, “The best thing about working with enviros is the wonderful group of people that are your colleagues. To be honored by them is really something, and I’m delighted and moved to get the award.”

His long career in environmental protection embraced the first major wilderness bill protecting US Forest Service lands across Utah including Mount Olympus and Twin Peaks Wildernesses in 1984 and extended to the beginning of the effort to protect the remaining roadless lands in the Central Wasatch with the introduction by Representative Jim Matheson of the Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act in 2013.

In 2011 Gale confirmed his concerns publicly about an onslaught of trams, ski resort expansion and interconnects, and cabin developments, among other things, that he described as Wasatch Armageddon in the Save Our Canyons newsletter. At least one of these threats—SkiLink—has receded, but the challenges of endless assaults on the Wasatch remain.

I didn’t know until recently about Gale’s particular fondness for the Lone Peak Cirque, but that knowledge will henceforth make each hike to the cirque a pilgrimage and a journey of re-dedication.

-Mark Clemens
As my term on the Executive Committee of the Utah Chapter Sierra Club approaches the four-year mark, I can reflect on a number of things. First, despite the love of the land that most people express, the challenges and threats to the environment continue. For this reason, the role the Sierra Club plays remains critical. Fortunately the breadth and depth of conservation and political knowledge that the Executive Committee possesses is phenomenal. This expertise has helped my work on the committee, as I bring to the ExCom primarily organizational and marketing skills coupled with a willingness and conviction to get things done in the hopes of making changes.

The bulk of my time on the ExCom has been done in the hopes of making changes. With the outstanding support provided by our chapter membership, we have made significant progress on a number of issues and have no doubt we will continue this success in the future. My work within the chapter during this time included:

- Serving as Executive Committee Chair during the past two years
- Working to develop our Clean Air and Keep Dirty Energy in the Ground campaigns.
- Working with the chapter’s Glen Canyon Group and 5C environmental law program to halt further expansion of oil and gas development within and near the proposed Greater Canyonslands National Monument.
- Working to halt further development of fossil fuels and the infrastructure to support them such as the Uinta Express oil pipeline and the Book Cliffs highway.
- Steering Committee member of the newly formed Colorado River Connected water protection and preservation coalition.
- Other conservation priorities include: Designation of a Greater Canyonslands National Monument, Sage Grouse preservation, the Ahum Coal strip mine, Utah public lands takeover and RS 2477 roads issues.
- Working with our Communications Committee to support creation of the outstanding Wilderness 50 anniversary photography exhibit now on display at the Utah Museum of Natural History.
- As this list of our work illustrates, the threats and challenges facing public lands and environment in Utah have never been greater. The fossil fuel extraction industry and Utah legislators are dedicated to claiming our lands, all roads issues.
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It is difficult to boil down this summer’s two-month internship experience at the Sierra Club into a few paragraphs because I was involved with a variety of projects. No day at the office was the same. That is what I have loved about working with an environmental organization like the Sierra Club. The nature of the work is dynamic and far from monotonous.

I worked as the Summer Conservation Intern. However, the scope of my work is difficult to categorize into one umbrella title. My activities ranged from communicating with elected officials and club members to event planning. One of my major projects was to help coordinate a press event where we worked to gain the support of local businesses, elected officials, and faith communities, who would join us in opposing Rocky Mountain Power’s proposed monthly tax on homeowners with rooftop solar. In this project, I worked on editing and sending sign-on letters to state legislators and other community leaders from businesses and churches. Aside from this project, other activities included sending out e-mails to members about voter registration and e-mails to elected officials and their approved endorsement, as well as attending press events and public hearings in support of energy choice in Utah.

By the second week of my internship, I found myself making personal calls to state representatives and senators. This was something that was out of my comfort zone, because I had never done anything like it before. To me, it felt like a task that was too official for someone who was just an intern to be working on. I was to call and follow up with the legislators I had e-mailed sign-on letters to the week prior, requesting their signature in support of the Sierra Club’s opposition to Rocky Mountain Power’s proposed solar tax. However, I soon realized that it does not matter who you are because whether you’re a student, director of an organization, or a state senator, everyone wants to listen to you because you are behind the same cause.

This is a key point of understanding I gained from my internship: the value of forming communities when working for a cause-based organization. It is empowering to feel connections being made with local and state officials and feel the mutual support you can have for a cause. I found it impressive how the Sierra Club has cultivated genuine relationships with other organizations and elected officials that also advocate conservation and wilderness protection.

Working at the Sierra Club is not like any other internship I have had before when I worked with for-profit companies. Here, the goal at the end of the day is not about making money, a significant amount of stress is eliminated. However, that is not to say the work cannot be stressful. In the non-profit world one is constantly working to stay afloat, and is concerned with financial worries like making sure the organization adequately fundraises. However, I found it inspiring to witness people working so hard to fundraise in order to simply enable their team to keep pursuing their cause. The key difference in working for a non-profit rather than a private company, is that stress originates from trying to make a difference, which serves as healthy motivation.

During my summer at the Sierra Club, I have witnessed the relentless dedication environmental groups maintain in order to address one of the toughest challenges our world faces today. I have learned the value of cultivating meaningful relationships and supportive communities in order to achieve success with your cause. Most importantly, although it can sometimes feel like you take two steps backwards for every one step forward, the occasional leaps are what make it all worth it.

It was a joy working with someone like Brittany who came to work every day willing, resourceful and inquisitive—and speaking and writing complete, grammatical sentences as a bonus. Once I had outlined our tactics for any project, I knew I could let Brittany run with it. It was only with reluctance that I let the University of San Diego have her back at the end of the summer. —Mark Clemens
Utah Sierra Club Ogden Group work day on the Ogden River, 19 July 2014. Having helped organize the first Ogden River clean-up, the Ogden Group has now been cleaning a stretch of the Ogden River for seven years. In addition, the group officially adopted a section of river that it has committed to clean up once a month. This stretch, on the north bank, extends from Lincoln to Wall Avenue.

Front row: bags of trash and pile of pulled weeds (mostly thistles and burdock).

Back row from left: Destin Willis, Alma Avila, Dan Spark, Deb Badger, Bob Becker, Lee Badger. Photo by Dan Schroeder. Hooray for our team!

Barry Goldwater Jr describes the economic and environmental benefits of solar power to the 200 plus people who attended the 29 July rally opposing Rocky Mountain Power’s proposed solar tax.

Utilities Attack Rooftop Solar; the People Fight Back

by Heather Moyer and Tom Valtin

As many utilities nationwide see people taking clean energy into their own hands by adding solar to their rooftops, some are fighting it tooth and nail. Arizona passed a solar tax last year, but a major victory against these attacks came out of Utah late last month.

Thanks to powerful grassroots activism from thousands of Utahns, Rocky Mountain Power’s plan to charge rooftop solar owners a monthly fee of $4.65 was rejected by the state Public Service Commission. After months of widespread opposition to the proposed fee from business, faith, and political leaders, and over 10,000 citizen comments submitted to the PSC against the solar penalty, groups cheered the decision.

“The strength and resiliency of our coalition came from its diversity and inclusiveness,” said Mark Clemens, Utah Sierra Club manager. “We’re pleased to have played a role in enabling volunteers and community leaders to organize and get their voices heard.”

That unified voice was overwhelmingly heard July 29th, when hundreds of Utahns packed a PSC hearing about the solar tax. The coalition included Utah Clean Energy, the Alliance for Solar Choice, and Utah Citizens Advocating Renewable Energy (UCARE).

“The fossil fuel lobby thought it could count on a relatively conservative and business-friendly state like Utah to be an easy win in the fight to kill renewables,” said Clemens. “But Utah’s ultimately fair-minded majority rejected the damaging fossil fuel monopoly and indicated their determination to protect clean energy and consumer choice.”

The Utah PSC will now open a public docket to consider the costs and benefits of residential rooftop solar. According to Casey Roberts, an attorney with the Sierra Club’s Environmental Law Program:

“Rocky Mountain Power’s proposed fee (was) not based on any evidence that rooftop solar customers impose additional costs on the utility's system. Rather, the company (argued) that because customers with rooftop solar purchase less electricity, they aren’t contributing sufficiently to the fixed costs of maintaining the distribution grid.

“What the company’s sparse analysis fails to take into account, however, are the many benefits that rooftop solar customers offer the grid. The absence of any accounting for these benefits is inexcusable because state law (recently amended by SB 208) requires the Public Service Commission to weigh the costs and benefits of net metering prior to imposing any fee.”

Clemens specifically points to the tireless work of two volunteers for this solar tax defeat – Elise Lazar and Stan Holmes. Elise volunteers with multiple groups, and Stan with the Sierra Club and UCARE (http://ucare.us.org).

“Elise Lazar brought the group together and provided a consistent, far-sighted vision of what we needed to do,” said Clemens. “Her original perspectives allowed us to surmount obstacles and see alternate solutions. Stan Holmes showed incredible dedication to marshaling the opposition to the solar tax. Among other contributions, he made presentations to community councils across Salt Lake County.” Ultimately thirteen community councils passed resolutions opposing the solar tax that were presented to the PSC.

“I was struck by how clearly the neighborhood councils understand the connection between Utah’s filthy air and the utility’s fossil fuel operations,” said Holmes. “Their statements to the PSC reflect this. Utah leaders at the local level are not afraid to speak truth to power. Our Public Service Commissioners heard the grassroots message. The Sierra Club and other pro-solar advocacy groups need to facilitate and amplify these community voices. We’ll need their support for the next round of this fight.”

Some think Rocky Mountain Power will try to push a solar tax again in the future, but activists like Clemens, Holmes, Lazar, and thousands of others will be there. Utahns know that clean energy like solar power means good jobs and less pollution.
A new study shows that a carbon tax, with revenue returned to households, will add millions of jobs.

As recent reports underscore the dramatic impact of climate change around the world and in the U.S., it becomes abundantly clear that steps must be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to minimize future catastrophe. Continuing with business as usual will lead to food shortages from increased heat and drought, coastal cities being inundated by rising seas, more lives and property lost to intensified storms, and conflicts and the destabilization of nations arising from dwindling resources.

In the United States, the urgency for action runs up against the notion that any cure for climate change will have painful side effects – higher energy costs for consumers and loss of jobs.

A new study from Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI), however, shatters that notion. The REMI study looked at the economic impact of a steadily-rising national tax on carbon that returns revenue in equal shares to all households. The tax, assessed on the amount of carbon dioxide a fuel will emit when burned, would start at $10 per ton of CO2 and increase by $10 per ton each year. Border tariffs, to keep the global playing field level for U.S. corporations, were factored in. Revenue from the tax was divided in equal shares, with one share going to each adult and one half share going to each child, up to two children per household.

As expected, the impact on carbon dioxide emissions was substantial – 33 percent reductions by 2025, 52 percent reductions by 2055. What about the economic impact and the oft-repeated charge that a carbon tax is a "job killer"? The REMI study found that this particular carbon tax would ADD jobs – 2.2 million in the first 10 years.

The REMI study is a game-changer in the debate about climate change, where skepticism of the science is perhaps driven by an aversion to the solutions put forward to address the problem. Don't like the solutions? Simply deny there's a problem to solve. Such denial, however, does not serve the interests of our nation or either political party.

Rightly or wrongly, many Republicans and some skeptical Democrats are also quick to say that cutting carbon emissions will lead to job loss. That talking point is now neutralized. Deniers do not even have the interests of our nation or either political party.

Some extreme weather and climate events have increased in recent decades, and new and stronger evidence confirms that some of these increases are related to human activities. Human-induced climate change is projected to continue, and it will accelerate significantly if global emissions of heat-trapping gases continue to increase.

Impacts related to climate change are already evident in many sectors and are expected to become increasingly disruptive across the nation throughout this century and beyond.

Climate change threatens human health and well-being in many ways, including through more extreme weather events and wildfire, decreased air quality, and diseases transmitted by insects, food, and water.

Infrastructure is being damaged by sea level rise, heavy downpours, and extreme heat; damages are projected to increase with continued climate change.

Water quality and water supply reliability are jeopardized by climate change in a variety of ways that affect ecosystems and livelihoods.

Climate disruptions to agriculture have been increasing and are projected to become more severe over this century.

CALL TO ACTION

With so many organizations working various approaches to climate change it is easier for our congressional representatives to keep studying the problem and delay taking action. If the conservation community were united around a single, simple solution to climate change: a revenue-neutral carbon fee with dividends going to every household, we could make more progress than proposing diverse solutions.
October
GGC, Sat, 10/4, Jeep Arch Dayhike. Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, 9:00 AM. We will hike across a clear area where growth has been cleared. We will hike 2½ miles back and forth along the jeep track heading west toward hatch Wash. Meet at the trailhead. Approximately 6 miles of medium to moderate hiking. Bring a box of doughnuts and coffee. Bring plenty of water. Into the Moab Reservoir Campground. Other activities listed. Radios, firearms and dogs are not welcome on Sierra Club outings. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.  If you choose to participate, you agree to indemnify and hold the participants harmless for them.  Carpooling, ridesharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair for fees charged by the US Forest Service to be shared by all participants.  Contact the leader in advance and inquire as to updates, degree of difficulty, and other outing details. Participants should be prepared for various seasonal weather conditions, temperature changes that occur due to rapid increases/decreases in altitude, and bring enough food, water, and appropriate clothing for the given outing. Outhouse leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone who appears unprepared for scheduled outings.

SGG, Sat 10/4, Wolverine Ridge Hike. Traverses will start at Silver Lake near Big in Cottonwood Canyon, then hike up the Twin Lakes trail to the pass. A spectacular, exposed scramble along the ridge above Wolverine Cirque takes us over the tops of Mountains Wolverine and Tuscarora, then down to Catherines’ Pass and past Lakes Catherine, Martha and Mary, returning to Brighton for a complete loop. It is an amazing hike with views that will be long remembered, especially with the fall colors on display! This hike takes about five to six hours, involves about 2500 feet elevation gain and is best suited to seasoned hikers who are used to high mountain traverses. Be sure to bring 3 to 3 ½ liters of water, lunch and snacks, extra layers and shell, hat/sunglasses, trekking poles and sturdy boots. If the weather is threatening we will have a lower altitude alternative to be decided on that day. Meet at 9:30 AM at the 6200 South Park and Ride lot, 6450 S. Wasatch Blvd. in SLC (note that this is 1 mile north of the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon). For info contact Rebecca Sears, resears@hotmail.com, 801-631-6335.

GGG, Sat, 10/18, Hatch Wash Double-Cross Hike. Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, 9:00 AM. Hike starts about 25 minutes south of Moab near Looking Glass Rock. Access is via a short jeep track heading west toward Hatch Wash. We will hike on both the west and east rims of the wash in a loop, made possible by crossing it twice in remote areas. Approx 4 1/2 miles, 3 hours, with jeeps/pick up trucks for access. (Access with less able vehicles would add an additional mile walking each way.) Abby M Rainier, 435-260-8708.

SGG Sat 10/18, Butler Fork to Circle All Peaks via Desolation Trail. Enjoy a loop hike with views of Aspen-covered Gobbler’s Knob and Reynolds Peak. We will follow Butler Fork toward Dog Lake, then head west on the Desolation Trail to Circle All Peaks and down to the Butler Fork trail. This 7 mile loop hike is rated moderate and the expected duration is 4 to 5 hours. Meet at the Park and Ride lot at 6200 S Wasatch Blvd at 9 AM (note: this is north of the mouth at Big Cottonwood Canyon). The loop goes through the Mount Olympus Wilderness area so the group will be limited to 9 hikers. Email to register at modrowsky@gmail.com.

OG, Sat, 10/18, Hike to the Rock on Corral on Antelope Island. It’s 10 miles round trip, approximately 600 feet elevation gain, 4-5 hours, and moderate. We will stop at the corral for a break while viewing one of the most beautiful spots in northern Utah. The Rock Corral was built to hold livestock in the early history of the island. 10:00 AM Moderate. Call Larry Woolsey at 801-690-4335, landrunr@hotmail.com

GGG, Fri-Sun, 10/31-11/2, Needles Campout. Split Top Group Campground, Cape Spring Road, Needles. Join the group Friday afternoon at the Split Top Group Campground, a little east of Cape Spring on the Cape Spring Road for social hour and supper (bring your own appetizers and food). Mike Stringham plans to hike to Chesler Park on Saturday from the Elephant Hill trailhead, poke around there (perhaps doing the Joint Trail) and return by taking the connecting trail to Elephant Canyon and the Druid Arch trail back to the trailhead. About a dozen relatively flat miles with the Joint Trail, perhaps 10 without. Or do your own thing if you’d rather. Another evening in camp. Return to Moab at your leisure on Sunday. Michael Stringham 435-259-8579, mikechrista@earthlink.net.

November
GGG, Thurs 11/6 Avenues Twin Peaks by moonlight. Avenues Twin Peaks (aka Little Twin Peaks) offers great views of the Salt Lake valley to the south and the City Creek drainage to the north. The trailhead is located at the upper end of Terrace Hills Drive (890 East), accessed from 11th Avenue near the northwest corner of the Salt Lake cemetery. Meet at 6:30 PM at the cul-de-sac at the upper end of Terrace Hills Drive. Bring flashlights, but hopefully we will not need to use them very much. Leader: Bruce A. Hamilton, 801-819-9435, bhamjin@jopbox.com.

OG, Saturday, 11/8, 2014, Hike on the Mueller Park trail in Davis County. The hike on the Mueller Park trail in Davis County. It’s 6 miles round trip and approximately 3-4 hours. We will hike across a clear area where the Kern Creek pipeline crosses the canyon causing a scar on the landscape, and then to a rock called ‘Elephant Head’ where we will turn around. 10:00 AM. Moderate Call Larry Woolsey at 801-690-4335, landrunr@hotmail.com

GGG, Sat, 11/15, Jedi Slickrock. Parking lot, former Red Rock Elementary School, 9:00 AM. From the mouth of Bartlett canyon explore the right wall (looking down canyon) Entada Slick Rock below the Moab Member cap towards the Bartlett-Tusher divide. Some interesting undercut in the cliffs on the west side of the wash. A 1 mile round trip. Thomas J Messengers, 435-259-1756, messengerjc@jcilt.net.

OG, Sat, 11/29, TURKEY BURN on the Pioneer Trail. Much of this trail follows the utility service road below the power lines and parallel to the North Ogden Pass Road. It climbs eastward from the valley and peaks at 11,000 feet. Go north on Mountain Road to 2750 North and park at the gate. 10:00 AM Moderate Call Janie at 801-399-0034 for info, aponte_83@hotmail.com.

December
GGG, Fri 12/5, Millcreek Moonlight Hike / snowshoe. The moon rises at 4:50 pm tonight, so we are assured a big beautiful full moon! Join Rebecca and Pete for a snowshoe tour. Ski or snowshoe this 4 mile round trip. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. Bring a thermos of your favorite bread. bring a thermos of your favorite bread. Join Rebecca and Pete for a snowshoe tour. Ski or snowshoe this 4 mile round trip. Bring a lunch and plenty of water. Bring a thermos of your favorite bread. Join Rebecca and Pete for a snowshoe tour. Ski or snowshoe this 4 mile round trip. Bring a lunch and plenty of water.

Outings and events are subject to change. Please verify the times, places and dates of events prior to attending.

The Sierra Club does not have insurance for canceling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Canceling, ride-sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel. If you choose to carpool to the trailhead, it is only fair for fees charged by the US Forest Service to be shared by all participants.  Contact the leader in advance and inquire as to updates, degree of difficulty, and other outing details. Participants should be prepared for various seasonal weather conditions, temperature changes that occur due to rapid increases/decreases in altitude, and bring enough food, water, and appropriate clothing for the given outing. Outhouse leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone who appears unprepared for scheduled outings.

EXPLORE WITH US! OCTOBER 2014–JANUARY 2015

A abbreviations in capital letters signify the group planning the outing.


All members and nonmembers are welcome on any of the chapter or group activities listed. Radios, firearms and dogs are not welcome on Sierra Club outings. Interested participants are strongly encouraged to contact the outing leader in advance and inquire as to updates, degree of difficulty, and other outing details. Participants should be prepared for various seasonal weather conditions, temperature changes that occur due to rapid increases/decreases in altitude, and bring enough food, water, and appropriate clothing for the given outing. Outhouse leaders reserve the right to turn away anyone who appears unprepared for scheduled outings.

ONLINE OUTINGS TOOL!

All the outings, book club meetings and socials for the chapter and all three groups are now found in one place, www.utah.sierraclub.org/activities.asp.

You can sort by event type or use a built-in mapping function.

www.utah.sierraclub.org/email_list.asp

UtahSierran Fall 2014

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