



Volume 22, Issue 1 Published Bimonthly by the Sierra Sage of South Orange County Group of the Sierra Club
January 1, 2014 through February 28, 2014

SIERRA CLUB OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to join us at our annual South Orange County Open House. Thinking about joining the Sierra Club? Already a member but are not sure how to help? Just an interested resident? — The Open House is for everyone!

How do I start hiking? Where? How can I save the environment? How can I get involved in protecting the planet? When and where do you meet? What is happening in South Orange County? How can I find out what events are coming up in the near future? —These questions and many more will be answered by our many experienced members at the Open House. So come and find out how to have fun and help the planet! You can even join!

CHILI COOKOFF! In addition, we will have a Chili Cookoff Contest. If you make great Chili, you can bring it and enter (to enter the contest, contact Patty Sappingfield at 949-768-3610 for information and to sign up). For everyone else, you can sample all the various chili's and vote on the one you like best. Prizes to the highest vote getters.

WHERE: Norman Murray Community and Senior Center
24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA

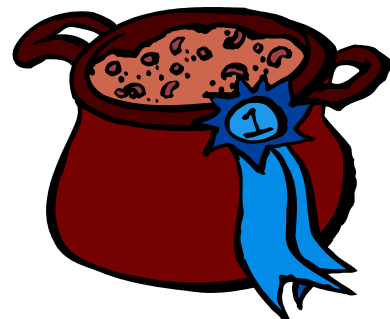
WHEN: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, January 28, 2014

ROOM: Palo Verde

DIRECTIONS:

Northbound on I-5, exit at La Paz, turn right onto La Paz, cross Marguerite Parkway and proceed over Oso Creek. Turn left onto Veterans Way and drive to the Murray Center Parking lot.

Southbound on I-5, exit at La Paz, turn left onto La Paz, cross Marguerite Parkway and Oso Creek. Turn left onto Veterans Way and drive to the Murray Center Parking Lot



ADVANCE NOTICE

15TH ANNUAL STARR RANCH BBQ

This is to alert all of our members that we will be having our 15th annual STARR RANCH BBQ at the Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary again this spring.

WHEN: Sunday, May 18, 2014
1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

WHERE: STARR RANCH in South Orange County. (Map provided with ticket receipt.)

TICKETS: \$30 per adult,
\$15 per child under 12

TO ORDER TICKETS: Send check or money order, made payable to Sierra Sage along with a self addressed stamped envelope to:

STARR RANCH BBQ
c/o Patty Sappingfield
26352 Via Juanita
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

For more information, you can phone Mike & Patty Sappingfield at 949-768-3610 or email Mike at mikesapp@cox.net or Patty at solanese@cox.net

WHAT: food will be grilled hamburgers or veggie burgers, beans, salads, fruit, chips, and all the fixings.

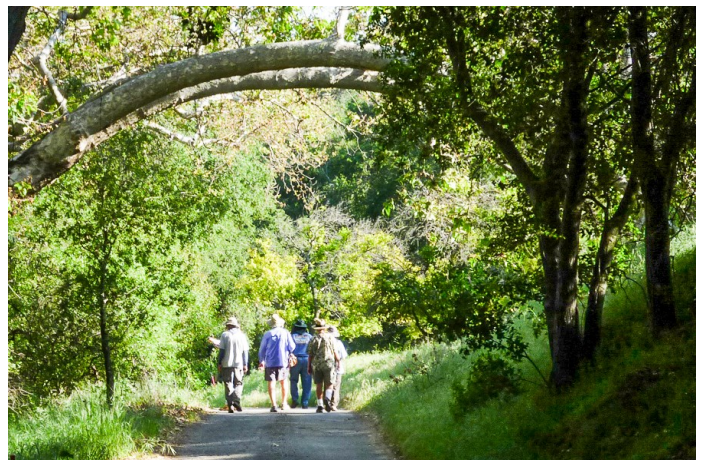
Hikes and Birdwalks will be conducted during the afternoon by various leaders. Some will be short and easy, others will involve a bit more energy.

Starr Ranch is world renowned for its live videos of owls, hummingbirds, hawks, and many other types. They promise to provide a viewing room for folks to check out the live bird cams .

A live bluegrass band will play for much of the afternoon for your listening pleasure.

A beverage stand will provide free water and lemonade and some other beverages with a donation.

STARR RANCH PICTURES



Sierra Club letter on NRC's proposed Waste Confidence Policy

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has asked for public comment on NRC NUREG-2157, also known as the Waste Confidence Generic Impact Statement (GEIS). The following is a summary of the letter sent on behalf of the Sierra Club with our comments.

The apparent intent of this Statement is to justify storing nuclear fuel waste on-site at closed nuclear power plants for decades or even longer, with no requirement to move the waste at any point to a less hazardous location.

The NRC Statement rates the risks of on-site storage as almost insignificant. This is not credible at any site. And because environmental impacts are shown as "generic," no distinction is made of added risks at sites such as San Onofre that are in earthquake and tsunami zones on small and valuable pieces of land near major population centers and transportation corridors.

At best, permanent on-site storage would take these sites out of use for any purpose other than housing waste storage in above ground concrete "mausoleums."

At worst, this dubious policy would put area residents in peril of accidents in spent fuel pools or from long-term decay of dry-cask storage. These perils have been greatly increased by the use of "high burn-up" fuel that is hotter both thermally and radioactively, making it more dangerous to handle and more difficult to store. Currently, high burn-up has no approved means of storage beyond 20 years.

Overall, the proposed NRC Statement underrates risks at all sites, blurs or eliminates the fact of higher risk at some sites, and seeks to walk away from the search for less hazardous sites.

The Sierra Club's bottom line conclusion: There remains no alternative but to continue the hard and necessary work of "creating a safe, long-term solution for managing and disposing of the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high level radioactive waste," in the words of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Blue Ribbon Commission, which reported in January 2012.

The NRC should recognize that the attempt to use a GEIS to wish away this problem is fundamentally flawed, and should return to the sound policy proposed by its own Commission.



Glenn Pascall, Chair
San Onofre Task Force
Sierra Club Angeles Chapter
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gpascall@att.net

George Watland
Conservation Coordinator
Sierra Club Angeles Chapter
(213) 387-4287 extension 210
george.watland@sierraclub.org

Outings



Wednesday, January 08, 2014 9:00 AM
0407-Orange County Group/Sierra Sage
O: Aliso Wood Grand Tour

11.5 mi, 900' gain. Start the New Year right with great views and 3 parks. We'll start at Canyon View and go up to Alta Laguna (Top of the World), then thru the houses and on to Moulton Meadows. From there we'll leave the ridgeline and drop into Wood Cyn for our return. Meet 9:00 am at Canyon View Park in Aliso Viejo (from El Toro Rd go S on Moulton Pkwy, R on Glenwood, uphill & over the toll rd where it becomes Pacific Park Dr, R on Canyon Vistas Dr to bottom of hill) with water, lunch, lugsoles. Rain cancels. Ldrs: Helen & Ed Maurer. (for a shorter hike, hikers can sign out at Top of the World and go back, or take another trail, say Mathis, back)

Helen Maurer 949-768-0417 7gables@cox.net
Ed Maurer 949-768-0417 balois@cox.net

Saturday, January 11, 2014 8:00 AM
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: Morgan Trail

10 mi round trip, 1000' gain, moderate paced hike in the San Mateo Wilderness. Hike to Morrell Canyon for lunch in scenic grove of oaks and sycamores. Continue to South Main Divide where a clear day provides great views. Return same way. Meet 8:00 am at South Orange County rideshare (see map) or 8:30 am at FS San Juan Loop parking area across from Candy Store. Contact leader if you plan to meet at the trailhead. Bring 2 quarts water, lunch, lugsoles. Adventure Pass required at trailhead. Rain cancels.

John Kaiser 714-968-4677 jkai39@gmail.com
Michael Metcalf 949-492-6277
msmetcalf04@yahoo.com

Sunday, January 12, 2014 3:30 PM
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: San Clemente K9 ridge line hike

Enjoy this ridgeline walk with panoramic views of the San Clemente back county and Dana Point. The trail is hilly and mostly paved. From I-5 go east 1 mile on Pico and turn right on Calle Amanecer. Go .3 mile and turn right on Calle Cordillera to the end. Bring your friendly dog, water, hat. Rain cancels

Russ Brown 949-481-5295 russbrown3@cox.net
Sylvia Stevenson 949-487-2660 sylvia_stevenson@yahoo.com

Wednesday, January 15, 2014 8:30 AM
0407-Orange County Group Outing
Sierra Sage O: Cerro Rebal Loop

6 mi, 800' gain/loss loop. Please join us for our 4th annual Cerro Rebal hike in the hills between San Juan and San Clemente. Our route begins at the trailhead on Via Cerro Rebal in San Juan and meanders through the hills above San Juan and San Clemente. We will have a fair amount of elevation gain which is steep in a few places. We also have great views in all directions, both mountains and sea in places. Meet 8:30 am at the South Orange County rideshare point. Bring 2 qts water, lunch, lugsoles. Rain cancels. *Bob Hansen 949-586-4928 awildtrout@cox.net*
Judith E Mulry 949-588-1347 judymulry@aol.com

Wednesday, January 22, 2014 9:00 AM
0407-Orange County Group Outing
Sierra Sage O: Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park
 5 mi loop, 500' gain, moderate hike. A series of hill and canyon trails in the eastern area, to and from Four Corners. Enjoy shady oak and sycamore areas, vistas and possibly, deer. Meet 9:00 am at the Park entrance parking lot on Glenn Ranch Rd, between Portola Pkwy and El Toro in Lake Forest. Bring water, lugsoles, hat, snack. Rain cancels. Parking \$3. Ldr: Chet Stipe. Asst: Garry McCoppin
Garry McCoppin 949-858-7292 mccoppin@cox.net
Chester Stipe 949-697-1985 chetbar@cox.net

Friday, Jan 24, 2014 to Sunday, Jan 26, 2014
0456-Angeles Chp OCSS Outing/Sierra Sage
I: Mammoth Winter Sports Bus Trip

Join us for an awesome weekend adventure. This trip has it all: Learn to cross-country ski in the backcountry with experienced instructors; enjoy backcountry ski touring and snowshoe touring with leaders; XC ski on your own at Tamarack Nordic Ski Center; Downhill ski or snowboard on Mammoth Mtn. Stay at Quality Inn (2 per rm, 2 beds, priv.bath) close to shopping, night life, free shuttles. Leave O.C. 2 PM with pickup in San Fernando Valley. Return O.C. Sun. 10PM. Incl. bus, lodging, breakfasts, happy hour, Sun. dinner & bus refreshments. Send email address (or 2 SASE), phone#, \$305 w/SC# / \$320 non-mem (OCSS). To Reserv: Donna Specht, 22221 Wood Island Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92646.

Mark Fleming 626-712-3671 mflemi@earthlink.net

Donna Specht 714-963-6345 donnaspecht@juno.com
 Todd Clark 714-803-0195 clarkta@hotmail.com
 Sylvie Cote 949-547-2998 msylvie@hotmail.com

Saturday, January 25, 2014 8:30 AM
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: Cristianitos South

4.5 miles, 300' gain/650' loss. Car shuttle. Starting from NE San Clemente area, the Cristianitos South, Prima Descha, and San Onofre State Beach trails run South to the Dog Park at end of Avenue La Pata. Moderate terrain, beautiful views into open space rolling hills. Meet 8:30 am at South OC Rideshare, or at East end of La Pata in San Clemente (from I-5, North on Pico, Right on La Pata to end). Bring water, lug-soles, hat. Rain cancels

Chester Stipe 949-363-1142 chetbar@cox.net
 Delores Denton 949-581-8396 deaden-ton@hotmail.com

Tuesday, January 28, 2014 7:00 PM
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Support Event
Open House

Join us at our annual open house and Chili Cookoff for the Sierra Sage Group of the Sierra Club. This is your opportunity to learn more about the Sierra Sage Group and the Sierra Club's various activities, hikes, camping trips, environmental and conservation efforts and many more. Enjoy the exhibits and demonstrations and get all your questions answered. There is even a Chili Cookoff Contest to indulge everyone's appetite. Members, new members, non-members -- you are all invited. Everyone is invited to join in the Chili Cookoff Contest and win prizes, or just enjoy the chili and vote on the best. While at the meeting, if you are not already a Sierra Club member, you will have the opportunity to join and get a free gift. Meeting will begin at 7:00 Pm at the Norman Murray Community Center, 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA. For information on the Open House, the Chili Cookoff, or just directions, contact Patty Sappingfield Patty Sappingfield 949-768-3610 solanese@cox.net

Wednesday, January 29, 2014 9:00 AM
0407-Orange County Group Outing/S Sage
O: Crystal Cove Beach Walk

7 mi, 100' gain. Join us for a stroll along the beach & bluff top in this beautiful State Park in Newport Beach. Optional stop at Ruby's Date Shack. Meet 9:00 am at the SW corner of PCH & Cameo Shores. Park on Cameo Shores or Cameo Highlands. Bring water, walking shoes. Rain cancels. *Peter R Height 949-713-4569* prheight1@cox.net

Gail Roy 949-854-3820 groy@uci.edu

Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:30 AM
0407-Orange County Group Outing/Sierra Sage
O: Caspers/East Ridge

7 mi, 700' gain. Our route starts at the corral trailhead and meanders through oak groves to meet Bell Cyn Trail, which will take us N to our junction with the Oso Trail. We head E to climb East Ridge where we find excellent views of the Cleveland Nat'l Forest. We follow the E Ridge to Quail Run Trail and descend back to our lunch spot under spreading oaks. Meet 8:30 AM at South Orange County rideshare point with 2 qts water, lunch/snack, lugsoles. Rain within 3 days cancels

Bob Hansen 949-586-4928 awildtrout@cox.net
Audrey Tomovich 949-830-8936

Saturday, February 08, 2014 9:00 AM
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: O'Neill Park, Vista Point Early Wildflower Hike

A "Mike's Hike" 4 miles, 400' gain. Enjoy the early spring flowers on a relaxed pace hike up Oak Canyon with a climb to Vista Point to enjoy the view and return back down the ridge line to the parking lot. Meet 9:00 am at parking lot just inside main entrance on Live Oak Road. Bring water, snack, hat, sunscreen, sturdy shoes and \$ for park entrance fee. Rain cancels.

Garry McCoppin 949-858-7292 mccoppin@cox.net
Chester Stipe 949-363-1142 chetbar@cox.net

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 8:30 AM
0407-Orange County Group Outing
O: Bear Springs via Holy Jim Trail

9 mi, 2245' gain/loss. We'll hope for winter greenery and perhaps some wildflowers as we make a steady but moderate ascent to the shady trees at Bear Spring. It's another 3 mi to the top of Santiago Peak, but we won't go that far today! Meet 8:30 am in the dirt parking area at the beginning of Trabuco Cyn (dirt) Rd (take Live Oak Cyn Rd to Trabuco Cyn Rd, L onto dirt road right after crossing Trabuco Creek). We will carpool up the bumpy dirt road to the trailhead. Please notify leaders if you wish to join this hike, if you can drive, and how much room you have for additional passengers. Bring at least 2 qts water, lunch, lugsoles. Rain cancels. Ldrs: Ed & Helen Maurer. (a shorter concurrent alternate to this hike would be a leisurely visit to Holy Jim Falls, *Helen Maurer 949-768-0417* 7gables@cox.net *Ed Maurer 949-768-0417* balois@cox.net)



Saturday, February 15, 2014 8:30 AM
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: Laurel Canyon Loop

6 mi, 1000' gain. Hike up Laurel Cyn to Serrano Ridge, down on Camarillo Cyn, and return on Stagecoach Laurel Trail. Meet 8:30 am, Laguna Coast Wilderness Visitors Center parking (\$3) on Laguna Cyn Rd 133, just South of El Toro Rd junction. Bring water, lugsoles, hat. Rain cancels. *Chester Stipe* 949-363-1142 chetbar@cox.net; *Sylvia Stevenson* 949-487-2660 sylvia_stevenson@yahoo.com

Wednesday, February 19, 2014 9:00 AM
0407-Orange County Group Outing/OCSS
O: O Neill Ramakrishn

6 mi, 800' gain. We will hike thru O'Neill Park with a visit to Ramakrishna Monastery. Meet 9:00 am at Altisima Park with water, lugsoles. Go E on El Toro Rd to Margarita Pkwy, turn R, then 1 block to Los Alisos, turn L. Follow Los Alisos E past the 241 toll Rd to the first light at the top of the hill. Go thru the light and immediately look for the left turn lane into the entrance to Altisima Park. Rain cancels. *Judith E Mulry* 949-588-1347 judymulry@aol.com
Peter R Height 949-713-4569 prheight1@cox.net

Saturday, February 22, 2014 7:00 AM
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
I: Agua Tibia Wilderness Wild Horse Peak (3277')
 We'll begin this hike at DPS TH (1600' elev.) and use the Wild Horse trail 4.4 miles to a drainage (2800' elev.) and begin cross-country navigation hiking to LPS -Wild Horse Peak (3277' elev.), eat lunch and return cross-country down the ridge to exit by Arroyo Seco Creek for a total 9 miles, 2900' gain. Meet 7:00 am at South Orange County Ride Share, San Juan Capistrano, to car pool for 2 hour drive to Dripping Springs Campground or meet at DSCG parking lot by 9:15 am (\$5 day parking fee or Forest Adventure Pass). Bring 10 essentials, 2-3 liters water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, wear long pants and shirt, lug sole boots. Rain cancels. *Garry McCoppin* 714-269-5078 mccoppin@cox.net *Todd Clark* 714-803-0195 clarkta@hotmail.com *Sylvie Cote* 949-547-2998

Wednesday, February 26, 2014 9:00 AM (0407-Orange County Group Outing
O:Top of the World:
 6 mi, 600' gain . A fun trek up the West Ridge of Laguna Beach to the lovely Alta Laguna Park at the top. Great views and a pleasant resting spot. Newcomers welcome. Meet 9 am at Canyon View Park Aliso Viejo. From El Toro Rd. s on Moulton to Glenview, rt and uphill over the toll road to Canyon Vistas Dr. rt to the end. Park on street. Bring water snack and lugsoles. Rain 3 days before cancels. Leader

Audrey Tomovich Assistant leader Pita Landesman
Pita Landesman 949-425-8966 pitanbob@cox.net

Sunday, March 02, 2014 9:45 AM
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Social Event
O: Bowers Museum - Santa Ana, CA
 The Bowers Museum is one of California's finest and Orange County's largest museums, offering ever-changing national and international treasures and permanent collections. Free admission on First Sundays of the month to first 1500 people-be there early. Weekends may also feature multicultural entertainment, art projects and dancing in the magnificent Spanish-style courtyard! After a self-guided tour (audio headset included w/admission), dine in the on-site restaurant, Tangata (tapas, salads, soups and sandwiches – make own reservations prior to outing). Afterwards, return to the galleries or visit the museum store for unique gifts. Meet 9:45 am - 2002 N Main St, Santa Ana, just off the 5 Freeway (Main St exit). Park at museum or a lot directly across on Main St. Wear comfortable shoes and bring money for lunch. Rain doesn't cancel. This outing is co-sponsored by Sierra Sage and LA Sierra Singles.
Mary L Morales 949-636-2981 10ter@cox.net
Sylvia Stevenson 949-487-2660 SJStevenson2828@yahoo.com

Saturday, March 08, 2014 9:00 AM
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: Arroyo Trabuco Wilderness Walk
 A "Mike's Hike", 4.5 miles round trip, leisurely paced walk in O'Neill Park, through one of the biggest groves of sycamore groves in California. Meet 9:00am at O'Neill Park access on Arroyo Vista in Rancho Santa Margarita. (From Santa Margarita Pkwy, turn south on Empresa, right on Banderas, and right on Arroyo Vista.) Bring water, snack, hat, sunscreen and sturdy shoes – some stream crossings. Rain cancels.
Garry McCoppin 714-269-5078 mccoppin@cox.net
Chester Stipe 949-363-1142 chetbar@cox.net

Sunday, March 16, 2014 8:45 AM
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: Wood Canyon North Loop
 4 miles, 400' gain, moderate. Ridge road, canyon and steep single-track connecting trails in Aliso & Wood Canyons Park. Meet 8:45 am at top of Holyleaf Street in Aliso Viejo. From Pacific Park, take Canyon Vistas Drive, Left on Silkwood, Right on Bottlebush, Left on Hollyleaf to trailhead. Bring water, hat, lugsoles. Rain cancels. *Chester Stipe* 949-697-1985 chetbar@cox.net; *Michael Metcalf* 949-492-6277 msmetcalf04@yahoo.com

DIRECTORY OF SIERRA SAGE OFFICERS

Title	Name	Phone	Email
Chair	Duana Miller*	949-831-0890	duana103@hotmail.com
Vice Chair	Todd Clark*	714-803-0195	clarkta@hotmail.com
Secretary	John Kaiser*	714-968-4677	jkai39@gmail.com
Treasurer	Patty Sappingfield*	949-768-3610	solanese@cox.net
Outings Chair	Mike Sappingfield*	949-768-3610	mikesapp@cox.net
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Asst Outings Chair	Sylvie Coté*	949-547-2998	mlsylvie@hotmail.com
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Santa Ana Mtns TF	John Kaiser*	714-968-4677	jkai39@gmail.com
San Onofre TF	Glenn Pascall		gpascall@att.net

* Denotes voting member of the Executive Committee

SIERRA SAGE MEETINGS.

- Global Warming Committee. Meets monthly in the community room at the REI Store in Tustin (I-5 and Jamboree on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 3 to 5 pm. Contact Laura Jackson at laurajackson@cox.net
- Preserve the Coastal areas of Orange County? Contact Penny Elia at greenpl1@cox.net
- Interested in electing environmentally supportive politicians into office locally? Contact **Sharon Koch** at slkoch@ix.netcom.com
- Want to keep the Santa Ana Mountains wild? Or even want to help maintain the trails in the San Mateo Wilderness Area? Contact John Kaiser at jkai39@gmail.com
- Still think the toll road through the Richard and Donna O'Neill Nature Conservancy, San Mateo Campground, and Trestle Beach is a bad idea? Contact Bill Holmes at bill.holmes@att.net



Subscription Information Sierra Sage Newsletter

1 Year: \$9.00
2 Years: \$15.00

Please mail your check to:

Sierra Sage
P. O. Box 6204
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607

Sierra Sage is scheduled for delivery on Jan 1, March, 1, May 1, July 1, Sept 1, and November 1 of each year. Please note that submission deadline is one month prior to publication.

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INTERNET ADDRESSES:

Angeles Chapter: www.angeles2.sierraclub.org

Sierra Sage: www.angeles.sierraclub.org/sage



Sierra Sage of South Orange County
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HIKE OF THE MONTH

Saturday, February 08, 2014 9:00 AM
0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing
O: O'Neill Park, Vista Point Early Wildflower
Hike

A "Mike's Hike" 4 miles, 400' gain. Enjoy the early spring flowers on a relaxed pace hike up Oak Canyon with a climb to Vista Point to enjoy the view and return back down the ridge line to the parking lot, Meet 9:00 am at parking lot just inside main entrance on Live Oak Road. Bring water, snack, hat, sunscreen, sturdy shoes and \$ for park entrance fee. Rain cancels.

Garry McCoppin 949-858-7292 mccop-
pin@cox.net

Chester Stipe 949-363-1142 chetbar@cox.net

Join the Sierra Club

Yes, I want to join! I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

F94Q -0417

Membership Categories (circle one)

	Individual	Joint
Introductory	\$15	
Standard	\$39	\$49
Supporting	\$75	\$100
Contributing	\$150	\$175
Life	\$1000	\$1250
Senior	\$25	\$35
Student	\$25	\$35
Limited Income	\$25	\$35

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