



Volume 26 Issue 4 Published Bimonthly by the Sierra Sage of South Orange County Group of the Sierra Club
July 1, through August 31, 2018

You are invited to join us for an exciting and informative evening as our guests represent the Laguna Canyon Foundation, one of the premier environmental organizations of South County. After 25 years of active stewardship for wild and open spaces in our ever more crowded region, these very spaces are under renewed assault. The Army Corps of Engineers wants to dig up Aliso Creek throughout its course in the Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Parks, and CalTrans wants to widen SR133 (Laguna Canyon Road), in the process destroying valuable habitat in Laguna Canyon. The Laguna Canyon Foundation is fighting both projects and needs our help.

We will also learn about some truly positive developments: the anticipated completion of the visitor center at the main entrance of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Parks, the opening of the Foundation's new headquarters, and its efforts to maintain native habitats and wildlife, including the wonderful Pacific Pocket Mouse, removal of invasive plants, and myriads of volunteer opportunities.

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

WHEN: 7:00 PM, Tuesday, July 24, 2018

ROOM: Juniper

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.

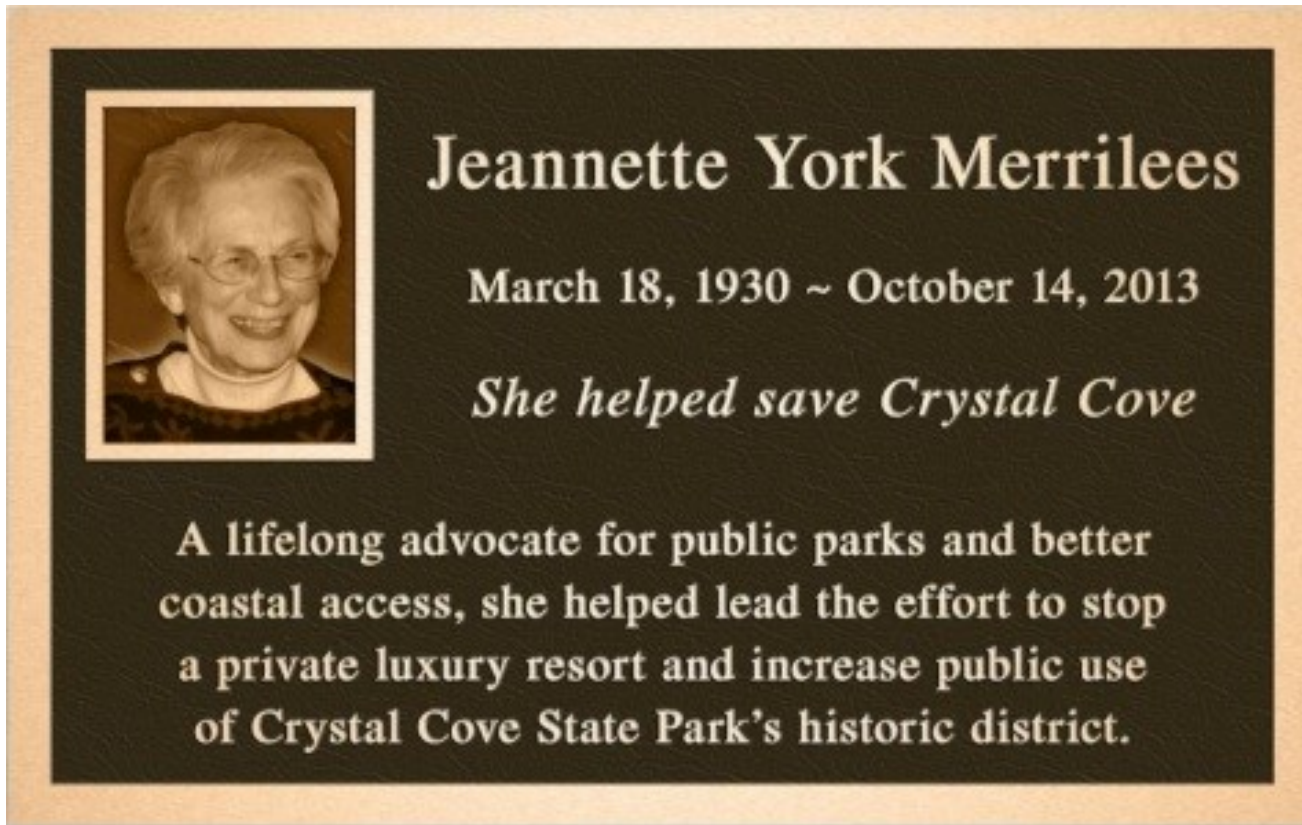
Southbound on I-5, exit at La Paz, turn left onto La Paz, cross Marguerite Parkway and Oso Creek. Turn left onto Veterans Way and drive to the Murray Center Parking Lot



The Sierra Club activist who forever changed a beloved coastal park -- and how she did it

Author:

By Mike Sappingfield



Sometimes we all need to be reminded of the profound difference one person can make -- and to be inspired to chart our own course. Jeannette Merrilees loved Crystal Cove State Park and for years led a Sierra Club task force to protect it from a proposal for a luxury resort that would restrict access to beachgoers.

Merrilees died in 2013, but her impact on the community lives on. On June 9, community leaders and activists gathered to honor her life and work, and to dedicate the above memorial plaque on the beach she preserved for all of us to enjoy.

The back story

In 1982, the state park plan called for the historic cottages as well as camping and day use areas to be opened to the public. But in 1997, the state signed a 60-year concession contract with private developers to convert the cottages into a luxury resort.

With the guidance of the Angeles Chapter's conservation staff and the members of the Chapter's Sierra Sage Group, Merrilees took action. She was able to build an active task force, which included weekly hikes in the park and discussions of the issues and risks that were mounting.

From those weekly hikes, she created a large mailing list of interested people and put articles in newsletters and newspapers to make the public aware of what was happening at Crystal Cove. The effort was brought to a head when Merrilees and the task force realized that no public hearing had been conducted, even though it was required by law.

She engineered a letter-writing campaign to key officials in Sacramento and the management of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

To continue, see "Jeannette Merrilees" on p3

JEANNETTE MERILLEES .. Cont....

The forced hearing

Ultimately, the state agreed to hold a hearing in an elementary school adjacent to the park. Merrilees and her task force notified every person on their contact list and asked them to come and speak up. More than 1,000 people attended, and the meeting ran well into the wee hours. Almost all the speakers opposed the resort.

In 2001, the California Department of Parks and Recreation canceled the contract with the resort developer, paying \$2 million to be released from the proposal. Shortly thereafter state parks officials announced they were beginning a complete review of the park's master plan, including the future of the many residents who rented property and built cottages in the park.

As a result of these efforts, the park is being transformed into a gem of a public beach with a long-range master plan supported by Sierra Club. None of this would have happened without Merrilees and the task force. Visitors can rent the beach cottages or pitch a tent at a campsite.

The legacy

At the June gathering, a new picnic table with the plaque bearing Merrilees' photo was dedicated in front of the Beachcomber Cafe. More than 50 people from the task force, the Sierra Club, and Jeannette's family attended. Speakers included members of the Merrilees family, a former director of what is now OC Parks, and Mike Sappingfield, representing the Sierra Club.

The picnic table that bears the plaque was made by young people at the state parks facility for at risk youth in Sonoma. Today, it is the only new one in the row of benches at the beach.

This all goes to remind us that great things can happen by people when they work together to change people's minds. Sierra Club thanks Merrilees and the many other activists out there who consistently ignore the naysayers and convince public officials to do the right thing for the environment.



Help Wanted

1. Each month, a number of new members join the Sierra Club in South Orange County. The Executive Committee has decided that we can do a better job of welcoming them to the Sierra Club and assisting the new members to learn how to get the most out of their Sierra Club Experience.

Therefore, we are looking for members who would like to **volunteer to join the membership committee** to help contact the new members, and provide them with information and assistance getting started.

For more information and to volunteer, contact Membership Chair, Linda Ledger.

Linda 949-444-1285 linda.ledger@me.com

2. Every hike conducted by the Sierra Club requires at least two leaders. **Have you every thought about becoming a leader?** Contact Todd Clark, Co-Outings Chair or Sylvie Cote, Co-Outings Chair.

Todd: (714) 803-0195 clarkta@hotmail.com

Sylvie: (949) 547-2998 mlsylvie@hotmail.com

3. 6 times a year, we host events, such as the bi-monthly meeting in which we provide refreshments. **Is making or bringing snacks to the meeting and helping set it up something that interests you?** If so, contact Hospitality Chair, Patty Sappingfield.

Patty 949-768-3610 solanese@cox.net

4. Each year, we establish a Nominating Committee to nominate members to serve on the Sierra Sage Group's Executive Committees. The Elections are held in the fall along with the Chapter Elections. Thus the Nomination Committee is looking for candidates from now until the end of August. **If you would be interested in serving on the Nominating Committee or would like to be considered by the Nominating Committee**, contact Nominating Committee Chair, Duana Miller.

Duana: 949-831-0890 duana103@hotmail.com

5. We publish our newsletter 6 times a year. Would you like designing and publishing our newsletter? We are looking for people who would like to work on two or three pages in each issue. **If you would be interested in improving our newsletter by working on it**, contact Newsletter Editor, Mike Sappingfield

Mike: 949-633-6993 mikesapp@cox.net

Outings



Sunday, July 08, 2018 7:00 AM

0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing

O: San Jacinto Loop Hike

Enjoy the cool 75 degree temperatures in mid-summer, walking through the pine forests on the upper slopes of Mt. San Jacinto. Two hikes from the top of the Palm Spring Tramway (8420') to Round Valley (9060') will be offered concurrently. Both hikes include the Round Valley loop. Longer route (8 miles round trip, 1750' gain) will include a hike to Wellmans Divide (9720') and back. Shorter route will be a more casual pace (6 miles round trip, 950' gain). Meet 7:00 AM at the south entrance of parking garage of the Irvine Transportation Center (Irvine Train Station, Ada & Barranca) in order to carpool to the tramway, or 9:00 AM at the tramway entrance. Bring money for tramway fee, lunch, water, hat, light jacket, sunglasses, sunscreen, lug-sole boots. Rain cancels.

Michael Sappingfield (949) 633-6993 mikesapp@cox.net

Linda Ledger 949-444-1285 linda.ledger@me.com

Todd Clark (714) 803-0195 clarkta@hotmail.com

Sylvie Cote (949) 547-2998 mlsylvie@hotmail.com

John Kaiser (714) 968-4677 jkai39@gmail.com

Saturday, July 14, 2018 10:00 AM

0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing

O: San Clemente state beach to Trestles beach hike

Beach walk - San Clemente state beach to San Mateo point. 3 miles, 100ft gain.

Meet at San Luis Rey Park at 10:00 am. Walk through the state park to Calafia state beach. From there we will be on the beach to San Mateo point and Trestles beach. We will take time to sit on the beach or swim in the surf. We will return same way. Bring: sun screen, beach shoes, water, lunch, hat.

Russ Brown (949) 481-5295 russbrown3@cox.net



Saturday, July 21, 2018 8:00 AM

0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing

O: Water Tank hike

Moderate 6 miles, 1000/1200 gain/loss. From Willow staging area, ascend Laurel Canyon Trail to Bommer Ridge, then take Water Tank and continue into downtown Laguna Beach. Optional lunch before returning by bus to starting point. Meet 8:00 am at Willow Staging Area in Laguna Canyon (from El Toro Road turn Left on Laguna Canyon Road; parking lot is immediately on Right.) Bring water, snack, optional lunch money, \$3 parking fee or OC Park card, bus fare (\$.75 seniors, \$2.00 regular). Leaders: Ed & Helen Maurer.

Ed Maurer (949) 768-0417 balois@cox.net

Sunday, July 29, 2018 8:00 AM

0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing

O: Dana Point to San Clemente Beach Walk

Join us for a cool walk on the beach, where you will enjoy scenery, fresh air, and sea breezes, from Dana Point to Trestles beach in San Clemente, for a total of 8 miles, minimal gain. We will stop over at the San Clemente pier for lunch for about an hour. We will return from Trestles beach by bus. The path will be on various uneven terrain from beach sand, gravel, to pavement, and everything in-between (some difficult hiking surfaces). Not a beginners' hike. Meet 8:00 AM at Doheny State Park road and Dana Harbor Drive, one block west of PCH in Dana Point. Park one block uphill from meeting location, in public parking lot or along the street. Bring hat, water, sunscreen, sunglasses, sturdy walking shoes (may get wet; no flip-flops or sandals), lunch or \$ to buy lunch at pier, \$ for bus. Contact leaders for more information.

Sylvie Cote (949) 547-2998 mlsylvie@hotmail.com

Sunday, August 12, 2018 9:00 AM

0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing

O: 2 Ts with a Lift - Mt. Baldy Area

Come join us on this moderately difficult fun hike from Baldy Notch to two of the three T's. We will start and end the day riding the scenic Mt. Baldy Ski Lift to Baldy Notch (7840'), where we will hike to Thunder Mountain (8587') then on to Telegraph Peak (8985') and return same way. Bring money for round trip chair lift and snack/refreshments at the restaurant at the Baldy Notch before we begin our journey back home. Rain/thunder cancel. Must bring hat with brim, snacks, 2 quarts water, hiking boots, light jacket, sunscreen. Suggest also 10 essentials. Meet at the OC north rideshare at 7:30 AM or at the Mt. Baldy Ski lift parking lot at 9:00 AM. Chair lift is \$25 per person round trip (seniors 65+ is \$20 round trip). There is a \$5 fee for the parking lot at Baldy. Contact leaders for more information.

Todd Clark (714) 803-0195 clarkta@hotmail.com



Saturday, August 25, 2018

0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing

O: Crystal Cove Pot Luck Brunch Hike

A "Mike's Hike". Four (4) miles round trip. Enjoy the cool morning air in a walk along Crystal Cove Beach, break for a potluck brunch, then return to parking location. Meet at 8:30 am at Cameo Shores just north of Crystal Cove State Park. You can park on the streets of Cameo Shores or Hampden Road. Bring brunch items to carry on the hike to the end of the beach to share with others. Wear comfortable shoes, hat, sunscreen.

Michael Sappingfield 949-633-6993 mikesapp@cox.net

Sylvie Cote (949) 547-2998 mlsylvie@hotmail.com

Wednesday, September 05, 2018 9:00 AM

0407-Orange County Group Outing

O: Whiting Ranch

Roughly 5 mi, 800 gain hike in Whiting Ranch. We will meet in the secondary Ranch parking lot on Glenn Ranch Rd. From I-5, go E on El Toro to Portola, turn L, then R on Glenn Ranch Rd. Parking lot is on the L. The hike will take us by some lovely oak trees and up to the Four Corners area, where we will have an opportunity to break and enjoy the view. Meet 9:00 AM. Bring water, snack, hiking boots. \$3.00 for parking and \$ for an optional lunch afterwards.

Audrey Tomovich (949) 830-8936 ourmean-dog@yahoo.com

Michael Sappingfield 949-633-6993 mikesapp@cox.net

Saturday, September 08, 2018 11:00 AM

0407-Orange County Group Outing

O: Leader Training Day and Hike

Leadership Training candidates come and join experienced leaders on this easy pace 4-5 mile, 500' gain hike in the hills of Irvine. Prior to the hike, we will have an introduction about Angeles Chapter Leadership Training. When the hike begins, we'll discuss trailhead talk, group management issues, Leave No Trace, safety, ten essentials, etc. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions. After the hike, more Q and A. how to pick your provisional hike, assistant leader, participants. If you have already attended Leadership Training and just don't know how to complete the requirements, come join us, we can help. You can also sign up for the October 6, Leadership Training Seminar at this event. Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar registration is September 22. Meet 11am at Turtle Rock Community Park picnic tables, Not at the Tennis Courts. Directions: 405 Fwy, exit S at University/Jeffrey, L on Ridgeline, L on Turtle Rock, pass Sunnyhill, L into parking lot of Turtle Rock Community Park. Bring snacks or lunch, hiking boots, water, hat for the hike. Leaders: Todd Clark, Sylvie Cote, Dennis Loya, Donna Specht, Sherri Sisson

Donna Specht (714) 963-6345 donnaspecht@juno.com

Todd Clark (714) 803-0195 clarkta@hotmail.com

Sylvie Cote (949) 547-2998 mlsylvie@hotmail.com

Wednesday, September 12, 2018 9:00 AM

0407-Orange County Group Outing

O: Crystal Cove Beach Walk

An easy walk along the beach & bluff top in this beautiful State Park. Seven miles, 200' gain. Optional stop at Ruby's Date Shack for lunch. Meet 9:00 am at the SW corner of PCH & Cameo Shores, in Corona del Mar. Park along frontage road just inside entrance to Cameo Shores, or park on Cameo Highlands. Bring water, snack, walking shoes. Bathroom in park, not at trailhead. Ldr: Pete Height

Asst: Kathy Fisher.

Peter Height (949) 713-4569 prheight1@cox.net

Wednesday, September 19, 2018 9:30 AM

0407-Orange County Group Outing

O: Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve Hike

Easy paced, reasonably flat 5 mi hike, approx. 3 hrs. New-comers welcome. Enjoy the natural beauty of Bolsa Chica, one of the last remaining wetland ecosystems in Southern California. Meet 9:30 am. From Warner Avenue in Huntington Beach, turn S on Bolsa Chica Street to the end of the street and trailhead (Brightwater). Park on the street. Bring camera, water, sun protection, hat, light hiking boots; rain

does not cancel. No Bathrooms at the trailhead. Ldr: Donna Specht, Asst: Kathy Fisher.

Donna Specht (714) 963-6345 donnaspecht@juno.com

Wednesday, September 26, 2018 9:00 AM

0407-Orange County Group Outing

O: Dana Point Harbor to Strands Beach

Moderately-paced 6.7 mi partial loop walk with 600' gain/loss. Walk begins up stairs to the Bluff Trail where we have views of beautiful Dana Point Harbor and beyond. Proceed onto dirt path around the headlands and down stairs to the Strands beach where we walk along the water's edge. Next we walk up alongside the Monarch Beach Golf Course. We later head back down to the sand and return via more stairs to head back to the harbor. Meet 9:00 am at the parking lot at the NW corner of Golden Lantern and Dana Point Harbor Drive. Bring 1 qt water, snacks, good walking shoes. Water refills and bathrooms available along the way. Lunch in harbor following walk for those interested.

Linda Ledger (949) 444-1285 linda.ledger@me.com

Saturday, Oct 13, 2018 8:30 AM

0417-Sierra Sage of SOC Group Outing

O: Ancestor's Trail Hike

5.5 mile, 450' gain/loss hike in the backcountry of San Onofre State Beach. The Ancesters Trail is a single track hiking/biking trail from the ridge winding its way down to a creekbed and then down stream for a couple of miles before working up to the ridge line and following high tension line access roads back to the start. Meet at 8:30 am at the south end of La Pata in San Clemente at the dog park. Lots of parking available on the side of the road. Bring at least a quart (liter) of water and munchies. Hat is desirable as trail is open to the sun.

Michael Sappingfield 949-633-6993 mikesapp@cox.net

Linda Ledger (949) 444-1285 linda.ledger@me.com

John Kaiser (714) 968-4677 jkai39@gmail.com

RIDESHARE MEETING POINTS

S Orange Co...Ortega Plaza parking lot SE corner, Ortega Hwy/Rancho Viejo, San Juan Capistrano

Tustin Rideshare (one block South of I-5 on Redhill in the parking lot at the Stater Bros strip mall that extends to the right (north) of the stores.



ADVANCE NOTICE BLACK HILLS 2019

Estimated Dates: The last portion of June, 2019

Trip Leaders: Linda Ledger, Russ Brown, Audrey Tomovich.

Ever want to go "where the buffalo roam, and the deer and antelope play"? South Dakota's Black Hills is the place to go. **Custer State Park is world renowned for its large buffalo herd and at this time of the year, we can expect to see a lot of buffalo calves.** Bring your camera and binoculars as pronghorn antelope, prairie dogs, elk, deer, wild burros, mountain goats, and bighorn sheep inhabit the park and are often visible. **A jeep safari to the buffalo herds followed by a Chuckwagon BBQ** will round out the experience.



Other highlights include **Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Jewel Cave and/or Wind Cave, hiking around Devils Tower as well as a hike to Harney Peak, and an optional trip to the Badlands.**

We are providing an Advance Notice so our members can plan accordingly

and not miss out. Our package includes eight nights lodging in South Dakota; transportation from Rapid City to the Black Hills and return and all transportation in the Black Hills; admission fees to all group activities; and happy hours. We are still working on the final details. If this trip interests you, tell **Linda Ledger at 949-444-1285, or**

linda.ledger@me.com so when we have the details worked out, including the dates and the prices, etc. we can share them with you and send you application papers.



Angeles Chapter & Sierra Sage Group
Present

Arches and Canyonlands National Parks April 6-14, 2019

Trip Leaders: Mike Sappingfield, Linda Ledger

THIS TRIP IS FULL. HOWEVER WE ARE ESTABLISHING A WAIT LIST IN CASE OF CANCELLATIONS. LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING ON THE WAIT LIST.

Come with us on our 9 day, 8 night fly-drive excursion to eastern Utah to explore and enjoy two of the most unusual and interesting National Parks: **Arches National Park** with over 2000 arches ranging from a few feet in size to several hundred feet and **Canyonlands National Park** with the deep canyons of the Green River and the Colorado River as they join to form the majestic Colorado we all know and love. This is your chance to explore and enjoy **Balanced Rock, Delicate Arch, The Windows, Double Arch, Landscape Arch** and many more fabulous rock formations. We also will experience the wonder of the massive carved canyons with visits to **Mesa Arch, Dead Horse Point, Green River Overlook, Colorado River Overlook, the massive Upheaval Dome, Horseshoe Canyon, the Needles,** and lots more.

We will fly into Salt Lake City, UT and then drive in vans to Moab, Utah. We will use the Moab Valley Inn in Moab for our base for the entire trip with day trips into one or the other National Parks each day.

Trip cost is \$1395 with SC#, \$1495 non-member and includes lodging (double occupancy) and transportation to and from Salt Lake City and each day while in Utah. All park admissions and special fees are also included. Breakfasts and three lunches will be provided. All other meals and airfare to and from Salt Lake City are not included. For copies of the itinerary and application forms, please contact Mike Sappingfield (mikesapp@cox.net) or send 2 SASEs to **Sierra Sage Group, at P. O. Box 524, Lake Forest, CA 92609. \$500 deposit will hold a reservation with the remainder due by February 1, 2019**

DIRECTORY OF SIERRA SAGE OFFICERS

Title	Name	Phone	Email
Chair	Mike Sappingfield*	949-768-3610	mikesapp@cox.net
Vice Chair	Duana Miller*	949-831-0890	duana103@hotmail.com
Secretary	John Kaiser*	714-968-4677	jkai39@gmail.com
Treasurer	Patty Sappingfield*	949-768-3610	solanese@cox.net
Outings Co-Chair	Todd Clark	714-803-0195	clarkta@hotmail.com
Outings Co-Chair	Sylvie Coté	949-547-2998	mlsylvie@hotmail.com
Membership Ch	Linda Ledger*	949-444-1285	linda.ledger@me.com
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Political Chair	Sharon Koch*	949-717-7745	slkoch@ix.netcom.com
Chapter Rep	Vanessa Glotzbach*	949-585-3646	vglotzbach@gmail.com
Alt Chap Rep	Mike Sappingfield*	949-768-3610	mikesapp@cox.net
Program Chair	Ed Maurer*	949-768-0417	balois@cox.net
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ExComm Mbr	Helen Maurer*	949-768-0417	7gables@cox.net
Aliso Hobo Ridge TF	Penny Elia		greenpl@cox.net
Santa Ana Mtns TF	John Kaiser*	714-968-4677	jkai39@gmail.com
San Onofre TF	Marni Magda		marnimagda@gmail.com

Note: * Denotes voting member of the Executive Committee

SIERRA SAGE MEETINGS.

- Executive Committee meetings are open to all members of the Sierra Club who reside in South Orange County. Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Contact Mike Sappingfield at mikesapp@cox.net for date, time and directions.
- Preserve the Coastal areas of Orange County? Contact Penny Elia at greenpl@cox.net
- Interested in electing environmentally supportive politicians into local offices? Contact Ray Heimstra at raymondheimstra@gmail.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



Subscription Information Sierra Sage Newsletter

Subscription Rates;	1 Year	\$ 9.00
	2 Years	\$15.00

Please mail your check to:

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P. O. Box 524
Lake Forest, CA 92609

Note: This is a new
Address

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.

Electronic copies are sent via email and are free. Just send an email to mikesapp@cox.net and tell us you want the emailed Newsletter

INTERNET ADDRESSES:

Angeles Chapter: www.angeles.sierraclub.org

Sierra Sage: www.sierrasage.org



Sierra Sage of South Orange County
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Lake Forest CA 92609

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HIKE OF THE MONTH

Saturday, July 21, 2018 8:00 AM
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O: Water Tank hike

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Ed Maurer (949) 768-0417 balois@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

Send Check to Sierra Club, P. O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 Membership not tax deductible