

Volume 28, Issue 6 ■ July and August 2020

Sierra Sage

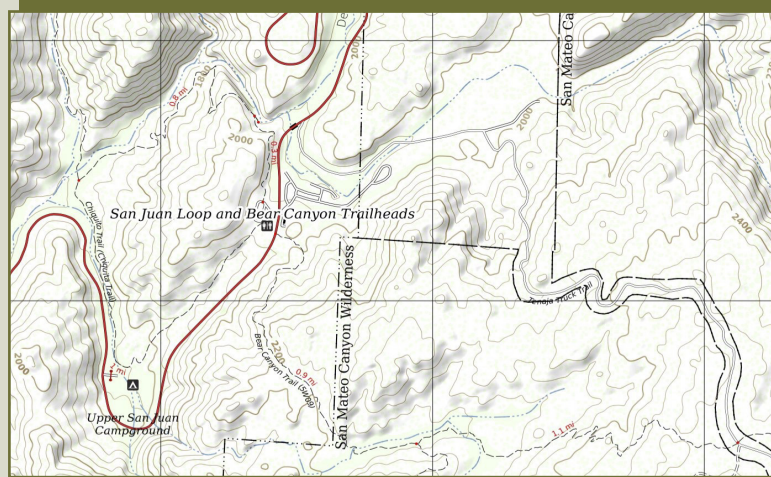
Sierra Sage of South Orange County, a Group of the Sierra Club ■ Bimonthly Events & Outings

COME TO THE SIERRA SAGE VIRTUAL MEETING—VIA ZOOM

*Angeles Chapter Sierra Club invites you
to our scheduled Zoom meeting.*

DO YOU VIEW A TOPOGRAPHIC MAP as an interesting piece of abstract artwork with indecipherable squiggles and blotches of colors? We might be able to change that so you see the map as a productive tool to help you plan and find your way in the back country.

Loosely based on the look and feel of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle maps, we will start from scratch and build a map up piece by piece. On each step we discuss what each element means and a little about the design choices that lead to the end product.



No map is perfect and as we go we can discuss how a map may be inaccurate or misleading despite our best efforts. At the end of the session see where the data used by our favorite hiking apps comes from and we will see how we as individuals can help make maps of our favorite areas better. V

— **SIERRA SAGE GROUP MEETING** —
July 28, 2020 at 7:00 PM

To Join Zoom Meeting, connect to:
<https://sierraclub.zoom.us/j/94585506050>

MEETING ID: 945 8550 6050

HOST: Mike Sappingfield

FEATURED PRESENTER: Tod Fitch



What Have You Been Doing?

Mike's Hikes

Both my wife and I were placed under quarantine back in March by her physician due to some mild concerns. The quarantine lasted several weeks but was lifted as the issues disappeared. Since then, Patty and I have taken short walks twice a week, wearing face masks at all times and keeping a distance from other people.

Aliso Creek Bike Trail has been a frequent one and we were able to watch many Mallard Ducks and their new baby ducks along the way.



Mike Sappingfield

Another one has been the Oso Creek Trail near the Norman Murray Center. We can park and the trails allow us to keep some distance from the other walkers and, of course, we always wear our masks.

I also take two hikes a week with a friend. These are typically 2–3-hour hikes, and length of 5 to 6 miles. We drive in separate vehicles to the trail point, and wear masks during the hikes. Most of the trails have other people in small groups or individuals so we work to give them plenty of space.

Most of the County Parks are open for use, as long as you are careful to follow the protocols. One of my favorite hiking trails is the Arroyo Trabuco. It is great in the summer as there is lots of shade and running water in the creek. You can access the Arroyo Trabuco in several ways, the most common is the Rancho Santa Margarita trail head on the Arroyo Fiesta just after you get past the last houses on your right. Another option is in Mission Viejo, on Olympiad Parkway at the Beebe Ball Park Parking lot, just south of Jeronimo. Park just inside the parking lot, then walk down the dirt road to the high-tension towers, then hike south along the creek trails as long as you want. We recommend hiking poles as there is running water in the creek and they help a lot to cross the creek. We typically cross the creek at least 4 times but it is always cool! 🌿

— Mike Sappingfield

I've rediscovered the beauty in my own back yard. I some mornings have my cup of coffee on the patio and listen to the birds. I have a nest of Western Blue birds in my hedge and heard the feeble sounds of the baby birds turn into grown sounds. They will leave the nest any day now.

Walking in the sand at the beach is another relaxing and refreshing way to enjoy the outdoors. Nature abounds all around us, we just have to take time to notice the wonders within our reach.

— Additional items from Vicki Hazley

Crystal Cove

It is hard to beat a Southern California sunset and my favorite spot is the beach at Crystal Cove State Park. It has 3.2 miles of some of the most beautiful beaches in the area and 2,400 acres of undeveloped woodland to explore. Many movies have been filmed on the beach, including *Treasure Island* in 1918 and *Beaches* in 1988.

There are numerous tide pools that stretch across Crystal Cove containing a variety of sea life. The tide pools are teeming with starfish, barnacles, and you might see a by-the-wind sailor. I like to take a walk on the beach to see them and to view the cottages. A final group of cottages are under restoration by the Crystal Cove Conservancy. The Coastal-Commission granted an education endowment to Crystal Cove Conservancy to build a coastal engineering program focused on sea level rise, coastal erosion, and water quality.



Vicki Hazley

If you enjoy hiking, there are four hiking trails at Morro Canyon that offer varying degrees of difficulty and 3 to 9 miles in length. Spectacular ocean panoramas and contorted rocky cliffs are yours to enjoy on a self-guided tour. There is also a geological points of interest self-guided tour which takes you past a site that contains 120,000 year-old shells embedded in sandstone.



The waterfalls look refreshing but the water supplying the falls is run off from gardens, golf courses, and streets. Many tide pool organisms do not do well with too much fresh water, fertilizer, detergent, pesticides, and automobile related waste products such as oil, asbestos, and pavement-breakdown products.

Hope you can get away to Crystal Cove State Park and enjoy one of the many activities.

For the latest information regarding open hours and COVID 19 restrictions visit the website:

<http://www.crystalcovestatepark.org> 🌿

— Vicki Hazley

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Note: * Denotes voting member of the Executive Committee



Emerald Canyon

Bulletin!

THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION has voted unanimously to approve the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Sites plan to dispose of the Nuclear Waste as proposed. This approval includes the use of the Holtec Canisters that has the NRC approval and will facilitate the transfer of the spent fuel to a long term safe site as soon and the U.S. Government can create a safe site and open for SONGS. This is a major step forward.

What Have You Been Doing?

Emerald Canyon Hike

On July 1, a day noteworthy for its morning fog and drizzle, Ed and I hiked into Emerald Canyon. Starting at Willow in Laguna Canyon, we went up to the top, then a short way out on Moro Ridge to Old Emerald Falls Trail and down into the canyon. Along the way we saw many strange and wonderful things, all bejeweled with water droplets. Old Emerald Falls has had some recent work done to its lower stretches, making it easier to negotiate while keeping it a lovely single-track. The large meadow just above its juncture with the main Emerald Canyon Trail has been cleared of grass and mustard, and ponds are being created for the Western Spadefoot Toad. At present, the meadow's vegetation consists of Doveweed and Jimsonweed, the latter growing in lush abandon. May we be seeing some trippy toads down there? We left the canyon via the main trail (dreadful on a warm day, but pleasant in the fog) and returned via Willow. About 6 mi; moderate in mild temperatures. 🌿

— Helen Maurer



Helen Maurer

Report on the Virus Front

by Helen Mauer


Much has been happening on the COVID-19 front, and we need to be attentive. As the lures of summer continue to beckon and the virus situation becomes more fraught with each passing day, we need to look out for each other—which is how we look out for ourselves—as never before, and we need to keep doing this for as long as it takes until the pandemic is well and truly over.

Sure, we were getting tired of sheltering in place. We'd had enough of COVID. Like addicts, we needed something else. After what? 3 months? (And for how long did our parents or grandparents—our Greatest Generation—have to deal with the Great Depression and then with World War II?) And, yes, many of us were hurt by the economic shutdown—and some of us are still hurting—providing a real reason to complain. People in this situation should not be brushed aside; they must have help to make it through the storm. But the shutdown was put in place to buy us time, to pull our britches up and get our act together to confront the novel corona virus more effectively and keep it from overwhelming us while we found out more about it. The strategy was working. When we began to “open up” and restart the economy, too many of us either forgot about the virus or willfully decided to ignore it because, you know, I never had it and what hasn't happened to me personally doesn't really matter. We behaved as if the virus didn't exist, and in doing so we threw the results of the shutdown effort right over the fence.

It should be easy to figure out what we should be doing. All it takes is some common sense. We know that the coronavirus is out there and that it's doing what a highly infectious virus does, which is to spread itself around aggressively, unless we can put barriers in its way. So, we should listen to those who study such things—epidemiologists and public health officials—and who know more about this virus than the rest of us do. They've come up with some pretty good and simple barriers that make it harder for COVID to do its thing: social distancing, mask wearing in public situations (including outdoors when we cannot reliably maintain distance), and frequent hand washing. How difficult is this? We're able to put on shoes—or a hat for sun protection. When we see a sign that says “No shirt, no shoes, no service,” a few of us may groan, but we don't become hysterical. We understand why shouting “Fire!” in a crowded theater is not a protected form of self-expression: because it puts

others in harm's way. Because the helpful things we can do against COVID are barriers only and don't get rid of the virus, we must keep doing them until we come up with something (like a vaccine) that can get rid of it. But in the meantime, while we're maintaining these barriers, we can be doing a lot of other good things. Like getting the economy going while looking after those whose part in it must wait the longest time to resume—and, if we do it right, without having to shut it down again and again and again. Multi-tasking! The economy will not—and it should not—look or function exactly like the old economy; if we're creative and enterprising, brave and thoughtful, it can be something something that works better for all of us.

Because the helpful things we can do against COVID are barriers only and don't get rid of the virus, we must keep doing them until we come up with something (like a vaccine) that can get rid of it.

The coronavirus may turn out to be a blessing. It has revealed to us things about our society, our world, and ourselves as nothing else has in quite some time. Not all of them are comfortable or comforting. Racial injustice is one of them, and it is long overdue for a serious fix. We must end the social and economic inequities as well as the habits of thinking that leave certain groups of people, specifically people of color, more vulnerable to a novel virus or to old-style brutality. Another is the Big One looming over all of us: climate change. And if we can't focus for more than 3 months on holding the coronavirus at bay, how on Earth can we deal with that? But we must because it's the only Earth we have. And we can because we can do more than one thing at once. We can, all of us, walk and chew gum at the same time, while paying attention to the various things that ail us and require our action: the virus, the economy, racial injustice and climate change. When we don't like where we are, we can think about where we want to go, figure out how we're going to get there, and start taking the steps to accomplish the task. Think of the virus as both a cautionary tale and a practice exercise. We've dug ourselves into a hole, and it will take the concerted effort of all of us to get ourselves out. When we make that effort, we prove to ourselves that we can do it and that we can stick with it for as long as it takes, until we are where we want to be. 

Sierra Club vs. COVID-19 Pandemic

As you all know, we are all under a lot of controls and restrictions regarding our behaviors and activities in order to keep the COVID-19 Pandemic from increasing and affecting all of us. The Sierra Club has established a number of restriction to keep us all safe. They include no open meeting, no scheduled group activities, no group hikes, etc. The alternatives include Virtual Meetings, electronic communications, and other actions that we are experiencing. As a result, the weekend hikes and the Wednesday no-cap hikes have all been cancelled through the spring and summer. Our Travel Adventures for the year have all been canceled and rescheduled for 2021. These include the Redwood National & State Parks trips in the summer and the New Mexico Balloon Fiesta in the fall.

Our efforts to fill the gap include conducting our meetings with Zoom with each person participating from their own home and using computers, microphones, and cameras to communicate with everyone who can connect in and participate as desired.

On the plus side, we can continue to hike, ride bikes, and similar activities. We are expected to use face masks and gloves at all public activities including going to stores, hikes, bike rides, and walks. These requirements, while somewhat uncomfortable, make a big difference in our chances to survive this pandemic. 🌿

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 greenp1@cox.net
- Interested in electing environmentally supportive politicians into local offices? Contact **Sharon Koch**, 949-717-7745, slkoch99@att.net
- Want to keep the Santa Ana Mountains wild? Or want to help maintain trails in the San Mateo Wilderness Area? Contact **John Kaiser** at jkai39@gmail.com

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ANGELES CHAPTER: www.angeles.sierraclub.org

SIERRA SAGE: www.sierrasage.org

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

- ☐ 1 year \$9.00
- ☐ 2 years \$15.00

Note: Please mail your check to:

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Lake Forest, CA 92609

PUBLICATION NOTES

— Sierra Sage is scheduled for delivery on Jan 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, Sept 1, & 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

— Newsletter Design & Layout: Risa Koppel | Graphic Design
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What Have You Been Doing?

San Diego Trainride Adventure

Two weeks ago, my bike group rode from Oceanside to Old town in San Diego. This is a great ride along the ocean through the towns of Oceanside, Carlsbad, Encinitas, Solana Beach, and Del Mar. It's about 37 miles to Old town. We got there fine and had a nice lunch. Then went to the train station to catch the 2:00 train. It was canceled. The next train wasn't due until 4:30. Rather than waiting over 2 hours for the train we decided to get back on the bikes and ride to Solana Beach and catch the train when it comes through there at 5:00. We got to the station at 4:30 only to find out that train was also canceled, We had no other choice but to get back on the bikes and ride to Oceanside. Maybe we should have checked the train schedule before we left. That's how a 37- mile ride turned into a 73-mile ride. I got home at 7:00 that night. 🌿

— Russ Brown



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Yes, I want to join! I want to help safeguard our
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