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BACKPACK SECTION, LOMA PRIETA CHAPTER

**Inside** VOL. 51, NO. 8, OCTOBER 2006

PROGRAMS DIRECTOR, TREASURER, AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDER NEEDED ..... 2  
 Dave and Elizabeth Barry are stepping down

MEETING MINUTES ..... 3  
 September

THREE PROPOSITIONS EVERY CALIFORNIAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ..... 3  
 Shaping our state's environment and energy future

JOHN MUIR QUOTE ..... 4  
 Muir's first encounter with animals, age 3

MARIJUANA GROW-SITE CLEANUP ..... 4  
 Castle Rock State Park, October 19-21, 2006

ACTIVITIES AND TRIPS ..... 4

The public is invited to monthly meetings and programs. See page 2 for details and location.

## TREKKING IN NEW ZEALAND

### Presentation by Lowell Moulton

**Monday, October 9, 2006 at 7:30 PM**

Backpack Section member Lowell Moulton (and Ski Touring Section Chair) visited New Zealand for three weeks in September of this year. He trekked in the South Island backcountry, staying in huts managed by the Department of Conservation.

Lowell will tell us about his trip and present a slide show of his pictures of New Zealand's unique flora and fauna and beautiful landscapes. 🏔️

Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter, Backpack Section (BPS)  
 c/o Katherine Greene  
 PO Box 390578  
 Mountain View, CA 94039

## Backpack Section (BPS)

<http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/bps/>

Founded January 13, 1956, the BPS is an official activities section of the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter, serving San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Benito counties in California. The Section sponsors backpacking trips to wilderness and scenic areas, ranging from easy beginner weekend outings to more rigorous expeditions of up to two weeks, no matter what the season. Most trips are within California and Nevada, mainly in local, state, or national parks, national forests, wilderness areas, and national monuments. All trip leaders are volunteers, and fees for trips are limited to actual costs incurred for expenses, such as group meals and permits.

### Officers and Appointees

#### Chair

Steve Sergeant, (408) 937-8116  
backpack.chair@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org

#### Vice-Chair/Equipment Manager

Matt Hahne, (408) 749-9968

#### Secretary/Living It Up! Editor

Jean Higham-Sergeant, (408) 937-8116  
jean@effable.com

#### Treasurer/Refreshments

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elizabeth@lsil.com

#### Outings Chair

Steve Stearns, stearns@ieec.org

#### Conservation

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#### Membership

Katherine Greene, bloominkat@yahoo.com

#### Programs Director

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#### Webmaster

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### Loma Prieta Chapter

3921 E. Bayshore Rd, Ste 204  
Palo Alto, CA 94303  
(650) 390-8411

### Sierra Club

85 Second St., Second Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3441, USA  
Telephone: (415) 977-5500  
FAX: (415) 977-5799

## Meeting Details and Location

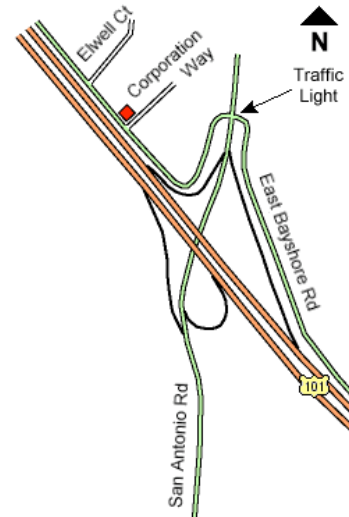
Members and nonmembers are invited to attend Section meetings. Meetings are held at Acterra in the Peninsula Conservation Center on the second Monday of every month except July and August. The evening's program is followed by a refreshment break, then Section business, conservation issues, trip reports, and discussions of upcoming trips.

### Address

Acterra Building  
Peregrine Room  
3921 E Bayshore Rd  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

### Directions

From Highway 101, exit San Antonio Rd (north). At the first traffic light, turn left onto E. Bayshore Rd, and continue 0.2 miles. Acterra is located at the corner of E. Bayshore Rd and Corporation Way.



## PROGRAMS DIRECTOR, TREASURER, AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDER NEEDED

### Dave and Elizabeth Barry are Stepping Down

A heartfelt thank you to Dave and Elizabeth Barry for their long service to the Backpack Section as programs director and treasurer! As programs director, Dave has scheduled informative and interesting evening programs for each of our monthly meetings, including guest speakers, movies, and several excellent slide shows. Elizabeth has kept our bank account and finances in order, and always made sure there were refreshments available.

We're going to sorely miss this pair, not only for all their energy and the hours they've volunteered, but also for their cheerful faces and enthusiasm. And let's not forget all the fun trips they lead, or the fabulous trip reports they write for this newsletter. Dave and Liz, how will we ever get along without you?

### Programs Director

We're looking for a volunteer to help plan evening programs for up to eight or nine Section meetings per year. There are lots of possibilities. Many of us are eager to share our trip pictures, the Sierra Club puts out occasional movies and other presentation materials we can use, and there are organizations and individuals in our community who are looking for ways to reach out to others with their environmental or backpacking-related news. Let your imagination run, or solicit suggestions from other Section

*[Continued on next page]*

*[Volunteers Needed, continued]*

members! Whatever your style, you may be exactly what we're looking for: — someone who is reliable and wants to help keep our Section meetings relevant and interesting.

#### **Treasurer**

Our treasurer keeps track of our sections funds, of course. It takes about an hour a month to deposit any new membership checks or checks from our classes, write checks for

section expenses, such as our newsletter, and reconcile the bank statements. At each monthly meeting, the treasurer gives a report on the financial status of the Section. Once a year, in December, the treasurer prepares an annual written accounting report for the chapter, which takes four or five hours. The treasurer should have basic knowledge of spreadsheet software.

#### **Refreshments**

It's been a long-standing tradition that we provide some sort of refreshment during the break between the evening program and Section business.

If you're interested in helping in any of these capacities, please contact Steve Sergeant at [backpack.chair@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org](mailto:backpack.chair@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org) or at (403) 937-8116.

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## **THREE PROPOSITIONS EVERY CALIFORNIAN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT**

*from the Sierra Club Insider, September 26, 200*

### **Shaping our state's environment and energy future**

No one can blame California voters for election fatigue. Three elections in one year. And on the ballot on November 7 — 13 ballot measures, 7 statewide races, and a chance to decide a seat on the Board of Equalization. (What is that?) But the Sierra Club is asking you not to sit this election out — not if you care about protecting wildlife habitat from destruction, preserving our ability to enforce zoning and land-use regulations and want to seize the opportunity to end our oil addiction and invest in renewable energy.

This Election Day, there will be three propositions on the ballot that

will shape the environmental and energy future of our state:

**Proposition 84** continues the fund that buys wildlife habitat and other lands to preserve or restore. We're all in favor of that.

**Proposition 87** requires oil companies that drill in our state to do what they already do in Texas and Alaska — and that's pay a fee. The money that's collected from Big Oil will be used to fund clean energy research and development. This just seems like common sense to us.

But if these two ballot measures don't get you out of your seat and to the polls — **Proposition 90** should. This proposition would destroy decades of environmental protection by making it extremely difficult and prohibitively expensive to enforce zoning and land use rules. We can keep that from happening — by voting No on 90 on November 7.

To learn more and find out how you can tell friends about these three very important Propositions, go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/ca/propositions/>. 🗳️

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## **MEETING MINUTES** *submitted by Jean Higham-Sergeant*

### **September, 2006**

After a two-month break from meetings, the Backpack Section reconvened in September. There were 21 people in attendance.

It was announced that Dave and Elizabeth Barry plan to move away from the area and are resigning their positions as programs director and treasurer/refreshments provider. These are key roles we need to fill as soon as possible.

Since Dave has been one of our most active trip leaders, his departure will put more pressure on us to recruit trip leaders for the next backpacking season. Steve Sergeant, Chair, brought up the idea of offering another Trip Leadership Workshop in the coming year, even though we're not scheduled for another until 2008. Further

discussion with those who teach the workshop is needed.

Steve Sergeant proposed contacting past Beginning Backpacking Class graduates, requesting that they consider becoming trip leaders. Steve Stearns will assemble contact information and Steve Sergeant will draft a letter before the next meeting.

Steve Sergeant reminded trip leaders that trip participant liability forms need to be turned in to Matt Hahne.

Steve Sergeant announced that this year's Snow Camping Class will be held in January, and the first outing is tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in February.

Steve Sergeant announced that Castle Rock State Park (where we take

the Beginning Backpacking Class every year) needs volunteers to help clean up the damage caused by a marijuana growing operation. The cleanup is scheduled for October 19-21. They are hoping to have the most help on the 20<sup>th</sup>. (For more information, see "Marijuana Grow-Site Cleanup" in this issue.)

Marj Ottenberg presented an encouraging conservation report. The Thompson Wilderness Bill passed the House and Senate, setting aside 273,000 acres of land in Northern California for protection as a wilderness area.

Section business was followed by a trip leader-presented slide show of pictures taken on Section backpacking trips during the summer. 🗳️

## MARIJUANA GROW-SITE CLEANUP

### Castle Rock State Park, October 19-21, 2006

*For years, Castle Rock State Park has been the site where students participating in the Section's Basic Backpacking class go on their first backpacking trip. Here's a chance for us to give back to the park in it's time of need. No matter which side of the marijuana legality issue you're on, these illicit farming operations are environmentally devastating. Please help save our local park! The message below is from the volunteer service organization, the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew.*

Hello Volunteers!

We are rapidly approaching the first Marijuana Grow-Site Cleanup of the fall season and we could really use additional volunteers.

For this trip we are going to Castle Rock State Park to help out the California State Park System. Our first trip to a State Park was last year at Big Basin Redwoods, in the same area, and it was a resounding success.

If you have time available between October 19-22, please consider joining us. See below for the full trip information. Thanks.

#### Trip Information

Join the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew in cleaning up Marijuana Grow Sites in Castle Rock State Park. We will be removing drip irrigation line, trash, fertilizer, etc. from the sites, and then performing site restoration, such as filling in planting holes and covering the hillsides with small branches and duff to help prevent erosion. We will be arriving at our basecamp on Wednesday and working on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The CHP helicopter will be lifting out

material on Saturday. Cleanup locations will be provided each morning. Weather will play a key role in which garden sites we clean up. We will need between 50 and 60 volunteers; 40 in the field and 10 to 20 as support staff, either in the kitchen or on the landing zone ground crew.

You may view additional information about our other trips and pictures at [www.trailcrew.org](http://www.trailcrew.org).

#### Requirements

There is no charge for this trip, and all meals, tools and safety gear will be provided. You **MUST** wear long pants, long sleeved shirt, and hiking **BOOTS** (no low cut hiking shoes or athletic shoes will be permitted).

#### Signup

To attend this trip you must register for it on the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew website at [www.trailcrew.org](http://www.trailcrew.org).

#### Location

Castle Rock State Park, located on Highway 35, just 2 1/2 miles southeast of the junction with Highway 9. The park encompasses over 5,200 acres of wildlands, and perches on the highest

ridge in the Santa Cruz Mountains, separating San Francisco and Monterey Bays.


Directions to the basecamp can be found on our discussion board at [www.trailcrew.org](http://www.trailcrew.org).

#### Dates

Arriving at base of operation Wednesday, October 18 to set up kitchen.

Clean up work: Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 19-21

#### Questions?

Email [Shane@trailcrew.org](mailto:Shane@trailcrew.org) or Tom Williams at [Tom@trailcrew.org](mailto:Tom@trailcrew.org), 

## ACTIVITIES AND TRIPS

### General information

#### Trip registration

Participants need not be Section members, however, trip leader approval is required. Contact the trip leader to preregister. For by-mail trip registration, send the trip leader two large, self-addressed, stamped envelopes (SASEs) with your name, address, work and home phone numbers, e-mail address, a summary of your back-packing experience, and if specified in the trip description,

send a check made out to the trip leader.

#### Up-to-date trip information

All trip information is subject to change. The Section Web site at <http://lomaprieta.sierraclub.org/bps/> may reflect changes that occur after *LUI!* publication. Contact the trip leader for up-to-date information.

#### Liability waiver

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. You may review the

### JOHN MUIR QUOTE



#### Muir's first encounter with animals, age 3

"On another memorable walk in a hayfield, when we sat down to rest on one of the haystacks I heard a sharp, prickly, stinging cry, and, jumping up eagerly, called grandfather's attention to it. He said it was only the wind, but I insisted on digging into the hay and turning it over until we discovered the source of the strange exciting sound- a mother field mouse with half a dozen naked young hanging to her teats. This to me was a wonderful discovery. No hunter could have been more excited on discovering a bear and her cubs in a wilderness den."

From *My Boyhood and Youth*, page 4..

liability waiver in advance at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

The Sierra Club assumes no responsibility of liability for transportation by private vehicle.

#### Equipment loans

Two bear canisters and some trail maintenance tools are available for

loan (deposit required) to Section leaders and members. For details, contact Matt Hahne, Equipment Manager, (408) 749-9968.

### Trip ratings

Max Daily Mileage		Max Daily Elev Gain		Additional Criteria	
<i>Distance in Miles</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Elevation in Feet</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Code</i>
0 – 5	1	0 – 1,000	A	Cross-country*	-xc
5 – 7.5	2	1,000 – 2,000	B	(Off-trail travel with backpack)	
7.5 – 10	3	2,000 - 3,000	C	Fast and light	-f&l
10 - 15	4	3,000 +	D	(Fitness/base pack-weight requirements)	
15+	5				

\* Any trip may include optional cross-country hikes from camp  
NR = not rated (Contact trip leader for information)

### Schedule

#### Oct 28-29 (Sat-Sun) Halloween Fast and Light Overnight

This is an up to 30-mile weekend overnight on a relatively nearby Bay-Area trail. Proposed destinations include the Ohlone Trail, Henry Coe State Park, or the Ventana Wilderness. The final destination choice will be

based on recent weather and the preferences of the participants.

This is a fast and light trip with special fitness requirements and gear-weight restrictions. We'll travel in through-hiker style, hiking between 15 and 18 miles per day, cooking on the trail, making camp at sunset, and continuing the hike at sunrise.

Individual commissary. Limit of five participants.

Contact the trip leader to register and discuss possible destinations: Steve Sergeant, [Steve.Sergeant@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org](mailto:Steve.Sergeant@lomaprieta.sierraclub.org), 408-937-8116. 📧

### Living It Up! Submissions

Thank you to everyone who contributed this month to *Living It Up!*

Articles of interest to other backpackers are welcome and encouraged. Your submissions make

this newsletter more interesting and relevant for all of us.

For e-mail submissions, please type LIU somewhere in the subject line, then send plain text or Word

files to [jean@effable.com](mailto:jean@effable.com), or call (408) 937-8116.

*The submission deadline is the last Monday of each month.*

