

# Range of Light Group

Toiyabe Chapter, Sierra Club  
Inyo and Mono Counties  
P. O. Box 1978, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

\*\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*\*NEW \*\*\*\* T-SHIRTS AND TOTE BAGS!\*\*\*\*

We now have **Range of Light t-shirts available**, beautifully designed by John Muir Laws, \$20 (includes tax). Also, Sierra Club lightweight **tote bags** for groceries or whatever, \$5. Get yours at monthly meetings, or call Mary K, 934-0355.

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## \*\*\*\*OUTINGS

**Summer outings have ended and we are now waiting for the snow to fly to start our winter activities. Check the TRAILS**, local papers, or our website for details of upcoming outings.

Our second Eastern Sierra ICO outing, conducted by Maurica Anderson, was a short one to see the kokanee salmon running in Robinson Creek above Twin Lakes, Bridgeport. It was a great success with 24 kids participating. More at our website: <http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup> or Maurica, 760-932-7175, [maurica\\_And@Yahoo.com](mailto:maurica_And@Yahoo.com).

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## \*\*\*\*YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The **Range of Light Group Executive Committee** (ROLG ExCom) meetings are usually the first Monday of the month and are open to all members (December meeting tentatively cancelled). You may bring or submit items for discussion at any time. To join the ExCom as an elected officer or committee member to help with membership, conservation, outings, administration, or any area you find interesting, contact Malcolm, 924-5639, [wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com](mailto:wmalcolm.clark@gmail.com). ROLG ExCom officers and Committee Chairs are listed on the website <http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup>.

**Note: Watch for your Toiyabe Chapter and Range of Light Group ex-com election ballot in your mail in November as it will not be included in the Toiyabe Trails as in the past.**

### **We need your input: Range of Light Monthly Meeting Potluck Questionnaire**

If you attend the ROLG monthly program meetings, we would like your input on the “to have or not to have potlucks” question. Simply stated, some people like the potlucks, others do not. In 2009 we have experimented with having potlucks for some meetings and snack-type foods for the others. Let Us Know Your Preference:

- Continue with most meetings having only light refreshments prior to the program \_\_\_\_\_
- Reinstigate the practice of full potluck dinners before most monthly meetings \_\_\_\_\_
- No preference or no opinion \_\_\_\_\_

And A Bit More:

- If you favor a potluck, would you be willing to help out (beyond bringing your dish)?
- How many of the 12 monthly meetings do you normally attend a year?
- What do you think about giving attendees the option of contributing a nominal cash amount if they do not wish to bring food?

Any other comments?

**Please reply to [marshalle@earthlink.net](mailto:marshalle@earthlink.net). Thanks.**

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## \*\*\*\*TAKE ACTION

- **Public meetings scheduled for proposed geothermal project** (BLM-California news release, 9/11/09)  
Public meetings are scheduled to gather public comments on proposed geothermal exploration and development on public lands managed by the BLM within the Haiwee area near Ridgecrest in Inyo County. The meetings are Oct. 13 in Lone Pine, Oct. 14 in Bishop, Oct. 15 in Ridgecrest. More: [http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/newsroom/2009/september/CDD0969\\_Haiwee\\_NOI.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/newsroom/2009/september/CDD0969_Haiwee_NOI.html)
- The Inyo National Forest, White Mountain Ranger District is initiating public scoping and soliciting comments for a proposal to reroute a ½ mile section of the Bishop Pass Trail away from an unstable

rockfall zone that currently presents a public safety hazard. Comments due by October 30, 2009. More: Jeff Novak, 760-876-6231.

- **Attention kids! U.S. Forest Service Launches the “Get to Know Your Wild Neighbor” Calendar Contest.** The contest encourages kids 18 and younger to submit entries in the art, digital photography, or the writing category. The theme is “forests” and will run until November 30. This year’s winning artwork will be published in the United Nations 2011 Get to Know Calendar. Youth are encouraged to go outside and “get to know” their wild neighbors and National Forests. California State Board of Education approved lesson plans for grades K-12 are available. For full details: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/get2know/>. **More locally, Nancy Upham, 873-2427.**
- The Sierra Club Natural Gas Fracturing Task Force is extending the comment period on the Sierra Club's Proposed Policy on Unconventional Natural Gas to ensure that all members of our community have a chance to respond and that commentors can address the proposal in the context of the Club's overall energy policy. **The new comment deadline is October 30.** The draft policy is online at <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/conservation/policy/unconventional-natural-gas.aspx>. More: Lane Boldman, Natural Gas Fracturing Task Force
- The Forest Service is seeking **comments on a proposal to change the overnight camping fees** at five campgrounds - Aspen, Boulder, Cattleguard, Moraine, and Lower Lee Vining Campgrounds in Lee Vining Canyon. Comments due by October 31, to Matt Peterson, Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514 or [comments-inyo-fee-change@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-inyo-fee-change@fs.fed.us) ; or drop any Inyo National Forest Visitor Center. More: Matt Peterson 873-2494 or [mbpeterson@fs.fed.us](mailto:mbpeterson@fs.fed.us).
- “Do Not Call” registry to get rid of most junk phone messages: 888-382-1222.

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#### \*\*\*\*A QUICK MENTION

- Nine different projects on the Inyo National Forest have been funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), with money coming directly to the Forest Service to contract or enter into agreements for the work to be accomplished. Recipients of these funds include: E S InterAgency Visitor Center in Lone Pine, Mono Basin Scenic Area V C in Lee, Lake Mary Road Bike Trail, Mammoth signage and wayfinding, Mazourka Canyon, and Casa Diablo Mine and Black Eagle Mine. More: [http://fs.usda.gov/economic recovery](http://fs.usda.gov/economic%20recovery) or Jeff Marsolais 760-873-2515.
- A Huge Victory Against mountaintop removal Coal Mining. After eight long years of rubber-stamp permits during the Bush Administration, the EPA has announced that all 79 mountaintop removal permits submitted by the Army Corps of Engineers would likely violate the Clean Water Act. This is one of the most dramatic actions yet taken by the Obama administration to halt a process that destroys our lands and pollutes our communities with toxic mining waste. More: Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign
- **Salazar launches DOI climate change response strategy** (DOI news release, 9/14/09) Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar launched the DOI’s first-ever coordinated strategy to address current and future impacts of climate change on America’s land, water, ocean, fish, wildlife, and cultural resources. [http://www.doi.gov/news/09\\_News\\_Releases/091409.html](http://www.doi.gov/news/09_News_Releases/091409.html)
- **Solar energy firm drops plan for project in Mojave Desert** (Los Angeles Times, 9/18/09) Ending a bitter feud in the rush to develop solar farms, BrightSource Energy Inc. has scrapped a controversial plan to build a renewable energy facility in the eastern Mojave Desert wilderness that Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) wants to transform into a national monument. <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-solar18-2009sep18,0,1844073.story>
- **Coso ready to break ground at Hay Ranch** (Inyo Register, 9/22/09) Coso Operating Company is inching closer to begin pumping water from Hay Ranch to its geothermal plant ... In May, Coso was granted permission from the county to pump, and in July, it was granted a right of way permit from the BLM to construct the pipeline. <http://www.inyoregister.com/content/view/121147/27/>
- **Pot farms raided in Southern Inyo** (Inyo Register, 9/21/09) Inyo County is popular, indeed. Tourism is up, the fishing’s great and Mexican cartels have, once again, chosen the local mountains and public lands to grow marijuana. Again the weed was found and destroyed by law enforcement. Officials are concerned with the potential for violence, and warn visitors to be on the lookout. The BLM is a member of the multi-

agency task force eradicating marijuana gardens. <http://www.inyoregister.com/content/view/121140/27/>

- **LINKS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, ISSUES, and ACTIVITIES can be found on our website**  
<http://nevada.sierraclub.org/rolgroup>