



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierra Club, Oklahoma City Regional Group



PRAIRIE DISPATCH

No.26, Vol. 5, Sept.-Oct., 2003

WOO HOO!!!

Before I get to this issue's column, let me say thanks to each and every one of you who came out to volunteer your time at this year's Balloon Fest. You helped out the club and the Regional Food Bank. I don't have the final numbers but I can tell you that we more than doubled our participation over last year.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

by David Franklin

I try to read the paper every day and the first thing I do is turn to the comics. It helps to start the day off with a laugh. Recently, one of my favorite cartoons, Buckles, has had a storyline that centers around Buckles going to a vacation on the farm. For those of you who don't know, Buckles is a dog. A recent strip had Buckles running towards the river for a swim. In the first couple of frames, as he runs, he tells himself "I shouldn't jump in the river! It's too cold! I'll get soaked! I'll be shivering all night! There's a current! I could get a cramp! I might land on a rock! The seaweed is too thick! There's a strange fish swimming amok." But in the next frame you see him yelling "Banzai!" and diving in. He concludes by saying that "all the reasoning in the world can't stop four legs running on pure impulse." Well, I don't have four legs, but I can identify with that dog!

I recently had a great trip to

Yosemite, four days in the valley and four days backpacking in the high country. In an earlier comic strip, Buckles held his head out the car window shouting "Woo Hoo" on the way to his great adventure. I didn't yell out loud on the way to Yosemite - airport security might have arrested me - but I certainly felt it. What I did do on the way was read an article in a national magazine (which I won't name, but it has NEWS in it and comes out every WEEK, Aug 11 issue) which profiled the "latest" in outdoor backpacking gear. Featured was a lightweight tent, boots and an Eagle Creek Pack with a CD/MP3 player pocket. On the final day of my Yosemite backpack, I had started out on my own early in the morning when I met a teenager coming up the trail with headphones on. Headphones?? How can she possibly drown out the symphony that was this glorious Sierra morning with whatever noise was coming out of those headphones? I just shook my head and trudged on. I could hear the babbling stream nearby, the birds singing, the wind shaking the trees, even the sound of my own heart and lungs. I guess I just didn't get it, so I just yelled "Woo Hoo" and went on. Or - maybe I got it after all! * * *

**September Meeting:
Monday, Sept. 15, 7:30pm**
**October Meeting:
Monday, Oct. 20, 7:30pm**

Warr Acres Community Center
4301 N. Ann Arbor
(Between Meridian & McArthur Blvds.)

The Oklahoma City Regional Group of the Sierra Club meets the 3rd Monday of each month, **except December.**

>>SEPT. & OCT. PROGRAMS<<

Sept 15: Scott Thompson, OKLA. DEQ Director of Land Protection Division, will discuss Tar Creek: Problems and Possible Solutions of the Tar Creek Superfund Site in northern Ottawa County. Cleaning up Tar Creek, riddled with chat from decades of zinc and lead mining, has been a hot topic of discussion among state and federal officials during the past year.

Oct. 20: Mark Bays, Dept. of Agriculture Forestry Services Urban Forester, will provide insights into the value of the urban forest to enhance a community's quality of life. He will also share his personal story of the "Survivor Tree" at the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial.

* * *

HAD FUN ON A SIERRA CLUB OUTING? GOT SOME PHOTOS OR STORIES TO SHARE?

We will have our **first-ever** Group wide outings photos/stories party **SUNDAY, SEPT. 28th** from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM. If you have been on an outing with the Sierra Club, please join us at Jim and Karen Hood's home, 11623 Smoking Oaks Drive. Go east on I-40, exit on Anderson Road northward for a mile or so, turn left onto Burning Oaks and take the 2nd Smoking Oaks Drive on the right. Call the Hoods if you get lost at 732-6131. See oklahoma.sierraclub.org/okc for a map. The first \$100 worth of pizza for the party is the Group's treat - if we eat through that we'll take up a collection and order some more!

HOTLINE: REPORT POLLUTION COMPLAINTS TO OKLAHOMA DEQ - 1/800/522-0206

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE of the SIERRA CLUB OKC REGIONAL GROUP

Our September and October meetings will be at **6:15pm** just before the regularly scheduled Group meeting on the third **Monday of the month**. Try to be there a few minutes early so we can start promptly on time. See you there.

Thanks! Esther Houser, Conservation Chair

SAVING THE SONGS OF THE SEA

(an excerpt from the Full Circle Magazine - Author; Jean-Michel Cousteau, son of Jaques Cousteau)

The sea is not a silent world. There are songs in the sea that must be heard. Some are only whispers, but important. Consider this: Between 20 and 60 years of age, female sea turtles reach sexual maturity and must navigate thousands of miles of open ocean to find the beach where they were hatched. Eons of evolution are focused on their finding the exact place where their eggs might survive, as they did. Researchers believe that, once close, they may listen for the unique sound of their beach: how the surf breaks or how pebbles roll in the tide. This melody of the sea sings only to them of the one place in the world where they can create a new generation.

This is only one of many song lines of the sea, including passionate arias of humpback whales, the staccato survey of the dolphin, the territorial pounding of the drum fish. It is a world of aquatic operas, where animals must make sense of sounds to find food and each other, and to avoid danger.

Now, this world is threatened by what has been called an "acoustic holocaust" blasting the sea with sound. Along with high-intensity, mid-range sounds, the United States Navy is experimenting with a Low Frequency Active sonar system called LFA that generates extremely loud sounds to detect silent submarines at great distances. Extremely loud, these sounds can flood entire ocean basins. Scientists claim the noise from a single LFA test off the California coast was detected across the entire North Pacific Ocean.

In the water, sound also has a physical impact - the equivalent of a stun gun. We know that in March 2000, at least 16 whales and dolphins stranded themselves in the Bahamas with bleeding in their ears and other evidence that the deaths were caused by sound, after the Navy broadcast mid-frequency sound in the ocean in a military exercise,

We have the power to cut every tree in the forest, but we don't. The same applies to the ocean. For now, we know too little about the potentially lethal effects of this sonar to let testing continue. The ultimate question concerning military preparedness is this: How safe would we be on a dead planet??

This is no time for us to be silent - you and I. We need to speak clearly for the whales, dolphins, turtles, the hidden creatures of the sea. We **MUST** not invade this magical realm with a deadly force of sound. We must protect it for the creatures who fill it with song and listen for its whispers.

(OUTINGS, Continued from page 3)

DEC. 13-14: Trail Maintenance, Ouachita Forest. Join us as we do trail maintenance at a time of year that hopefully will see some cooler weather and few bugs! **Learn how trails are maintained and extended without damaging the environment.** Spend Saturday afternoon working on the trail, and Sunday exploring the area. Contact **trip leader Aubrey Arrington**

DEC 31-JAN 4: SOMETHING, SOMEWHERE??? E-mail suggestions to David Franklin at dfranklin@ussok.com

A NOTE OF THANKS TO SOME OKC GROUP VOLUNTEERS

Several members of the OKC Group recently joined the Eco-Motion mobile environmental education program and Edison-the-Bus for a fun-filled day at Frontier City. Special thanks to Aubrey Arrington, Jeanie Herndon, Olivia Waldkoetter, Nancy Cain, Mary Beth Allen and Sarah Kimball for helping out on our very hot Sierra Club recycling/sustainability day. As sponsors of Eco-Motion, we were allotted one day during the summer Frontier City appearance of Edison-the-Bus and company to help out with the program. --**Susie Shields, EE Chair**

>>>>FUND RAISERS by the OKC GROUP of the OKLA. SIERRA CLUB - <<<<<

CERTIFIED ORGANIC, SHADE GROWN, FAIR TRADE COFFEE FOR SALE

Types Available: (price shown is per 12 oz. bag):

Whole Bean—Custom Blend (\$8), French Roast (\$8), Custom Blend Decaf (\$9)

Drip Grind—Custom Blend (\$8), French Roast (\$8), Custom Blend Decaf (\$9)

Available at Oklahoma City Group meetings the 3rd Monday of each month or from <sshields@cox.net>

RECYCLE PRINTER AND COPIER CARTRIDGES

Bring your expired inkjet and copier cartridges for recycling to our meetings, or give them to any active Group member.

We receive from \$1 to \$5 as a fund raising benefit for the Oklahoma City Group of the Sierra Club.

INNER-CITY OUTINGS (ICOs)

ICO CHAIR: JAY TRENARY

The following dates are set for outings with
Eisenhower Elementary School:
DAYHIKES: 9/13 10/11 11/8

To reach the school, go east on Britton Road to a stopsign about 1/2 mile east of the Broadway Extension; turn north about 1/4 mile. The school is on the right and sets back from the road a bit.

These trips will all leave from the school at 8:30am (Adults please arrive by 8:15) and return at approximately 5:00pm.

Prior registration is needed to go on any of these trips and which ones you will try to make. It greatly helps my planning if I know how many adults I have to work with as far in advance as possible.

Outings , Etc.

CONTACTING OUTINGS LEADERS

Elean Ainette 341-5204 elean1@juno.com
A. Arrington 324-6717,recycleman1@juno.com
John Bass 495-6446,pjbass6446@worldnet.att.net
Dave Franklin 789-5377,dfranklin@ussok.com
Neil Garrison3730309atlatlgarrison@hotmail.com
Lance Harris 364-8028,
Lance.Harris@chguernsey.com
Jim Hood 732-6131, jimhood@cox.net
Jana Johnston 751-1571,janajcpa@hotmail.com
Tom Libby 615-6390,tomlibby@yahoo.com
James Martin 319-1844, frazelberry@yahoo.com
Alan Morris 720-8934 DRMorris40@aol.com
Bill Scimeca 879-2040,wscim@swbell.net
Jennifer Scimeca 879-2040 jenscim@swbell.net

OKC GROUP OUTINGS CHAIR - BILL SCIMECA

Sierra Club outings are open to members and non-members alike. In order to participate on an outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver.

Copies can also be obtained from the Group Outings Chair. Transportation is not a part of the outing. While it is customary for participants to make carpooling arrangements for outings, the Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar, and assumes no liability for them.

PLEASE NOTE: THE DATES SHOWN FOR EACH EVENT INCLUDE WHOLE TRAVEL DAYS FOR PLANNING

FOR THE LATEST ON OUTINGS, GO TO: WWW.OKLAHOMA.SIERRACLUB.ORG/OKC

AUG 30-31: BACKPACK CREST TRAIL 25, NEAR RUIDOSO, NM (travel on Aug 29 and Sep 1) Join us on a moderate backpacking trip that is always a favorite. **Learn about conservation issues in the area from the trip leader.** We will hike crest trail #25 from Nogal Peak over to Spring Cabin Creek. (pictures from past trips are here: http://oktrails.com/New_Mexico/Nogal.htm) This trip takes place between 8,000 feet and 9,200 feet and offers stunning views of the desert to the west and the heavy forests to the east. For more info, contact **trip leader David Franklin.**

SEPT 13: ICO DAYHIKE - to Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Contact **ICO Leader, Jay Trenary**

SEPT 20-21 CANOE THE LOWER MOUNTAIN FORK RIVER EAST OF BROKEN BOW, OK. Join us as we canoe below the dam and enjoy some mild whitewater. **This is a trout maintenance stream - learn how the water temperatures are adjusted to facilitate these conditions.** We will leave Oklahoma City on Friday, camp along the river and float on Saturday. Options available for those that want to camp another night, or return Saturday. For more info, contact **trip leader Bill Scimeca.**

OCT 11: ICO DAYHIKE. - to Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Contact **ICO Leader, Jay Trenary**

OCT 11: WINE TASTING TOUR - A ONE DAY OUTING. **Learn how Oklahoma is becoming a wine region and represents potential economic growth through use of natural resources without damaging the environment.** Contact **trip leader Neil Garrison** for more information.

OCT 18: DAYHIKE TO REDROCK CANYON, OK. **Rating:** Moderate. Required Donation: \$2 per person. Spend a day hiking at Red Rock Canyon (45 minutes west of Oklahoma City, near Hinton, OK). **Learn about the geological forces that created this unique canyon environment.** Depending on the weather, we'll hike a trail on the canyon floor through dense woods or on top of the canyon over rock and through desert-like flora. Or if time and weather permit, hike both. Contact **trip leader Aubrey Arrington.**

OCT 25-26: BACKPACK OUACHITA TRAIL. **Learn about one of the oldest geological formations in North America.** Backpack the beautiful Ouachita Trail from Winding Stair Campground to Pashubbe Trail Head. **Rating:** Moderate. Required Donation: \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members. Backpack 6 miles on Saturday and 4.5 miles on Sunday. Contact **trip leader Jana Johnston** for more information.

NOV 1-2: BROKEN BOW TRAIL MAINTENANCE

NOV 8: ANNUAL BANQUET - OKLAHOMA CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB. The Aquarium in Jenks, OK just south of Tulsa.

NOV 8: ICO DAYHIKE. to Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Contact **ICO Leader Jay Trenary.**

NOV. 15-16: BACKPACK IN THE OZARK HIGHLANDS. Join us for cool, crisp mornings and sunny warm autumn days on Section 2 of the Ozark Highlands trail in west central Arkansas. We'll camp on White Rock mountain Friday night and head east on Saturday morning. **Learn about the variety of landscapes and wildlife in the area.** We'll hike 6.5 miles on Saturday over some moderate terrain and past some nice waterfalls (if we get some water soon) and camp at Spirits Creek. Sunday we'll hike out 7.5 miles mostly downhill after a early morning climb over Black Mountain. Required Donation : \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members. **Contact trip leader Lance Harris for more information.**

NOV 15-16: CAR CAMPING, DAYHIKING AT OSAGE HILLS STATE PARK. Join us on what is fast becoming an annual tradition as we enjoy a relaxing weekend car camping and dayhiking beautiful Osage Hills State Park. **Learn about the unique environmental features of this scenic area.** Contact trip leader **Bill Scimeca.**

DEC 6: CHRISTMAS PARTY!! See details in the insert of this issue titled "Christmas Already??".

BACK- WOODS AD

"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense."—John Muir

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REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



SIERRA CLUB
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Enclose check and mail to:
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

2003 OKC Regional Group Volunteer Directory

Executive Committee (ExComm)

The ExComm meets this month at Bill Scimeca's office on Wed., January 8th, 7:30 pm. Call Bill for directions

ALL CLUB MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!!

Group Chair	David Franklin	789-5377
Vice Chair	Bill Scimeca	879-2040
Secretary (non-voting)	Kathy Cunningham	942-6911
Treasurer	Aubrey Arrington	3 2 4 - 6717
Member	Esther Houser	282-8074
Member	Tom Libby	6 1 5 - 6390
Member	James Martin	319-1844
Member	Anita Scott	3 5 9 - 9319
Member	Cindy Stone	942-9340
Member	Jay Trenary	831-5535

Committee Heads

Conservation Chair	Esther Houser	282-8074
Environmental Educ.	Susie Shields	297-0179
Fundraising	Vacant	
Inner City Outings	Jay Trenary	831-5535
Legislative	Olivia Waldkoetter	821-2304
Membership/V-Mail	Kathy Scurlock	942-6343
Merchandise	Vacant	
Outings Chair	Bill Scimeca	879-2040
Political	Vacant	
Programs	Susie Shields	297-0179
Social	Jeanie Herndon	474-5754
Volunteer Coord.	Susie Shields	297-0179
Webmaster	David Franklin	789-5377

Prairie Dispatch Newsletter

SIERRA CLUB
 OKLAHOMA CITY REGIONAL GROUP
 David Franklin, Group Chair
 Post Office Box 22732
 Oklahoma City, OK 73123

THE PRAIRIE DISPATCH

The PRAIRIE DISPATCH is published 6 times a year for the benefit of the members of the Oklahoma City Regional Group of the Sierra Club. Group members receive this publication free. Non-members may subscribe at the rate of \$10 per year. Address subscription requests to Andy Scurlock, 3333 NW 20th, Oklahoma City, OK 73107 (Ph:942-6343). Editorial opinions are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the Sierra Club or the Oklahoma City Regional Group. Dues, fees and contributions to the Sierra Club are NOT tax deductible. Address correspondence to: EDITOR, P.O.Box 18396, Oklahoma City, OK 73154-0396.

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Ad deadline: 15th of the preceding month

Inquiries:

EDITOR: Larry Swanson 840-2161

Notice to authors:

Articles submitted for the Prairie Dispatch can be in cursive, typed, on disk or sent e-mail (LNSWANSON@JUNO.COM). If disk, please write your name on the diskette, and write the name and version of the word processor used. Please save in ASCII format, as well. Your name will help to get the diskette back to you - and please, observe the deadline which is officially the nite of the monthly general meeting (3rd Thurs. of each month). Ed.

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**SIERRA CLUB OKLAHOMA CHAPTER HOTLINE: (405) 945-1998
 FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL AND LEAVE A MESSAGE,**

ELECTIONS ARE COMING SOON

for some Group members to serve on the OKC Group Executive Committee, the governing body of the Oklahoma City Group of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Sierra Club.

If elected, members serve two years, attend once-a-month meetings and are eligible to run for Chairman, Vice-Chairman and other offices of the committee. The following rules of our bylaws govern the election. (for a complete copy, go to oklahoma.sierraclub.org/okc) If you are interested in running, please contact Jeanie Herndon, Becky Garrison, Cindy Stone, or Larry Swanson to have your name placed on the ballot (see paragraph 4.2 below) **Jeanie Herndon (474-5754) is Chair of the Nominating Committee .**

Bylaw 4. Nominations and Elections

4.1 Annual Election. An Annual Election shall be held in the fourth quarter of each year to choose ExCom members. This election and any special elections shall be conducted by secret written ballot mailed to all Group members of record at least four weeks before the closing date of the election, and shall be conducted in such a manner as to ensure facility of voting and tabulation, and secrecy of ballot. The ballot shall allow each voter to vote for as many candidates as there are positions to be filled. A voter may not cumulate votes for any candidate.

The ExCom shall specify the calendar dates and deadlines for appointing the Nominating Committee (NomCom), production of eligible voter lists, receipt of names for consideration by the NomCom, receipt of ballot issue petitions, the NomCom report of names of nominees, receipt of candidate petitions, appointment of the Election Committee, printing and mailing dates for ballots allowing at least four weeks for return of the ballots, receipt of returned ballots, and the date, time and place for counting ballots.

The ExCom shall provide written notice of this schedule and of the opportunity to nominate candidates by petition to all Group members.

4.2 Nominating Committee. A Nominating Committee (NomCom) of at least three Group members, at least one not an ExCom member, none of whom may be a candidate, shall be appointed annually by the ExCom not later than four months before the designated closing date of the election. Sufficient opportunity shall be given for Group members to submit names for consideration by the NomCom. The NomCom shall attempt to nominate at least two more candidates than the number of ExCom members to be elected, and shall report the nominees' names to the ExCom at least two weeks before the deadline for submission of nomination petitions and five weeks before the scheduled mailing of the ballots. Nominees shall be Group members who give their consent. If the NomCom chooses not to nominate a willing candidate, the NomCom shall promptly inform that candidate of the opportunity to seek nomination by petition.

4.3 Petition Candidates. The name of any Group member proposed in writing by at least fifteen (15) Group members prior to the deadline for submission of petitions, and who gives consent, shall also be included on the ballot. The nomination petitions shall be retained until the ballots are destroyed [after the election].

>>> NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE <<<

The City of Warr Acres has announced repaving construction will soon begin on Ann Arbor from 39th

Street north to 50th Street. Those of you attending our monthly meetings at the Warr Acres

Community Center should plan on accessing the building from either east or west on NW 42nd

Street. The Center is between MacArthur Blvd. and Meridian Avenue. The next meeting is scheduled



CHRISTMAS ALREADY???

We know it's early to be thinking about the Holidays, but we want to let you know about our annual

Oklahoma City Group Christmas Banquet and Silent Auction to be held Saturday, December 6th.

For the BANQUET (casual dress), the Group provides freshly baked Turkeys and all the fixin's including wine and cold soft drinks. Yum, yum! Just bring your hungry tummy.

For the SILENT AUCTION, please donate a **quality item** or a **personal service** to be auctioned off. **If possible, bring the item or service description to the September group meeting so that we can begin to catalog it and get ready for this great event.** The silent auction is our best fund raising event for the group, so please be generous with your donations! Do a bit of Fall cleaning and find those "useful items" that can be donated to the Silent Auction. For questions: contact Jeanie Herndon at o2bcampng@yahoo.com or call her at 474-5754. If needed, she will be glad to store your donated items until the auction.

Please help fund our WONDERFUL Club!!! and thank you for making this event a great success!!



Need a gift for Christmas or a Birthday? Think Sierra Club!

Our club is selling USEFUL GIFTS such as Shade-grown Coffee, Scenic 2004 Calendars and Appointment Books!!! Come to the monthly meetings to purchase: or call Anita Scott for Calendars/Books, and Susie Shields for Coffee (see bottom of page 2, this issue - ph. #s on back page). Help fund our Club!!! Some gift wrapping available.

For the first time ever, you can pre-order our best selling Sierra Club calendars at a **discount**. They make great Christmas gifts, and **if you pre-order at our September**