



The Sequoia

Sierra Club Tuolumne Group Seeks New Leaders for Local Outings

Sierra Club Tuolumne Group ExCom

AFTER OVER 10 YEARS OF LEADING HIKES with the Groveland hiking group, outings leader Bob Asquith is stepping down from that role. Bob's leadership and intimate knowledge of Tuolumne County and Yosemite, as well as its history, geology, and biology brought people together weekly to share the wonders of the region. Anyone who has experienced a day on the trail with Bob will testify to his good humor and passion for the outdoors. He will be sorely missed.

Tuolumne Group Outings Chair Keith Martin will be picking up some of Bob's duties, and will manage the email list (350+) and Facebook page that Bob has used to keep hikers informed during his tenure. We also strongly encourage new outings leaders to step forward to lead their own trips.

The Groveland hiking group of the Sierra Club has been hiking 50 Thursdays a year for over 40

years. We hope this proud tradition can continue to serve our membership.

The importance of connecting with the natural world has never been more clear. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about how to become a Sierra Club Outings leader, read the article on the inside of this newsletter, and email your questions to Keith at keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net.

INSIDE

HOW TO BECOME A SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS LEADER
FOREST SERVICE SHIFTS TO FASTER PLANNING APPROACH



These photos show just a few of the hikes that Bob Asquith led for the Groveland hiking group of the Sierra Club.

Share Your Love of Wild Places — Become a Sierra Club Outings Leader



*“The mountains
are calling and
I must go”*

— John Muir

IF YOU ENJOY EXPLORING THE MOUNTAINS, meeting new people, and leading adventures for them, you could make a great Sierra Club Outings leader. The Sierra Club’s outdoor activities aim to connect all people with the natural world and with the Club. As an outings leader, you will join others in exploring the Sierra, grappling with conservation issues, and even changing perceptions.

Because trips are often specialized around a unique theme or activity, such as day hiking, backpacking, kayaking, bicycling, or doing service work — it’s up to you to choose, because you will ultimately design and lead your own trips.

Benefits of Being an Outings Leader

- Designing trips that reflect your interests.
- Spending time with like-minded people.
- The satisfaction of leading the conversation on local conservation issues and providing trips that help others connect with natural wonders.
- Discounts on premium outdoor gear through the Sierra Club’s pro deal program.

Steps to Becoming a Club Outings Leader

- Be a current Sierra Club member and at least 18 years old.
- Go on a Sierra Club Outings trip and get a recommendation from an existing leader(s).
- Complete the Sierra Club Outings Leader Application.
- Complete a wilderness first aid class (or higher).
- Complete an adult CPR class.
- Complete Sierra Club Outing Leader Training.
- Be an assistant leader on a Sierra Club trip.
- Provisionally lead a trip under the guidance of an experienced mentor leader and get certified to lead by your subcommittee chair.
- Lead your very own trip!

Leader Training

A Basic Wilderness First Aid course meets the First Aid training requirement for most outings leaders. You can get certified in Wilderness First Aid either through a course hosted by a chapter

or through an outside provider (in person or online). The first aid requirement can be waived for leaders with extensive medical training.

Outings Leader Training

All Outings leaders must complete the Sierra Club’s 8-hour Outings Leader training (OLT 101). This course includes detailed information on trip planning, communications, and the larger vision and goals behind the outings program. A downloadable pdf of the OLT 101 Learners Guide is posted on our Group’s outings page at www.sierratuolumne.org/index.php/outings/.

The Sierra Club’s Sacramento Chapter is currently offering this 1-day class four times each year in Sacramento. For details on class dates and locations contact Bruce Notareus via his email at outingssierraclub@gmail.com.

Learn from Experience

Choose a current outings leader to act as your mentor — you can meet outings leaders by participating in their trips, or find their contact information on the Sierra Club website. Tuolumne Group Outings Chair, Keith Martin has been leading Sierra Club outings for over 20 years.

Planning and Leading Outings

Once training is completed, Sierra Club Outings Leaders can plan and execute their own outings. This can include everything from spring wildflower hikes in the foothills to multi-day backpacking trips in the Sierra. It is a great way to share your favorite places, activities, and inspiration with new friends. See the article on page 1 to see what our own hiking group has been up to.

If you or anyone else you know is interested in learning more about becoming a Sierra Club Outings Leader, email our Group Outing Chair, Keith Martin at keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net.

Forest Service Shifts to New, Untested, Speeded-Up Planning Approach

Sierra Club Tuolumne Group ExCom

UNLIKE SIERRA CLUB GROUPS in many other parts of the country, the Tuolumne Group has generally had a good relationship with the Stanislaus National Forest. Because the Tuolumne Group has been a long-time participant in the Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions (YSS) forest stakeholder group, the YSS Leadership Team has consistently pressed the Forest Service to avoid projects that are highly controversial or that would create opposition from any of the YSS stakeholder members – including the Sierra Club.

For years USFS projects have gone through “normal” environmental planning as it’s spelled out in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for all federal actions. Now, the Stanislaus Forest staff has released a controversial plan to use streamlined planning to approve a huge project. The Project is named the Hazard Tree Mitigation Project, and it would allow widespread logging of “hazard trees” in broad strips along both sides of forest roads or near campgrounds or facilities in the Stanislaus Forest. Any tree judged to be dead, dying, or possibly at risk, could be cut down. A huge number of trees could be logged.

Instead of doing normal NEPA planning, the Forest Service is proposing to use a new “Determination of NEPA Adequacy” (DNA). DNA basically means that if hazard tree logging was already approved somewhere else, then the Stanislaus Forest staff can claim that analysis elsewhere is good enough to approve

hazard tree logging here in the local region. This would allow the Forest Service to speed up approval of logging projects without doing the previously required level of local environmental review.

In many ways the Forest Service is at a crossroads. Will it decide to do long-established planning analysis to keep the public trust and ensure that threats to local resources are carefully considered? Or will the agency use the threat of destructive wildfires as its rationale for pointing to already approved logging projects elsewhere as grounds to quickly approve “similar” logging projects in this local region without doing the normal environmental analysis?

The Forest Service is currently seeking public input on this far reaching issue. Comments can be submitted up until midnight on Friday, May 5th. Make your voice heard – click the link to the USFS comments page on our Sierra Club group website home page at www.sierratuolumne.org



LOCAL CONSERVATION NOTES

Winter Storm Damage Means Closures or Delays for Access on Forest Roads

While it’s a relief for the mountain ecosystem to get so much winter season precipitation, the effects of all the rain and snow have caused widespread damage to roads in both the Stanislaus National Forest and in Yosemite National Park.

Yosemite was closed for some time due to road damage and the deep snow that limited where vehicles could go in the Park. In the local national forest, Forest Service officials are still unclear as to how much road damage may be found once the deep snowpack melts enough for crews to get out to monitor road conditions. Forest officials already know, however, that Lumsden Road that leads down to the Tuolumne River, Mather Road that extends along the edge of the river canyon, and other roads are either blocked by landslides or in need of major repair.

It may be that some areas of the Stanislaus Forest may be inaccessible for much of the summer season due to so many roads needing repairs or reconstruction. The deep winter snowpack may also delay the opening of mountain passes and trailheads until much later than normal.



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Due to COVID-19, the Tuolumne Group Executive Committee is currently only meeting by phone or with online sessions. For information on how to participate in the next ExCom meeting, contact Elaine Hagen at the email listed below.

Chair Jim Bearden, jbearden@ieee.org

Secretary-Treasurer

Karen Swanson, tuolumnegroupsecretary@gmail.com

Outings Keith & Beth Martin, keithwmartin@sbcglobal.net

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Membership Elaine Hagen, elainehagen@att.net

News Editor Joe David, jd@daviddesign.com

We welcome your input and feedback.

NOTES & UPDATES

CONNECT WITH YOUR SIERRA CLUB TUOLUMNE GROUP

Want to put your support for the environment into action?

Consider joining our Executive Committee. **Have a great idea for a local Sierra Club presentation?** There are many ways to volunteer with our local group. Interested members are invited to attend one of our ExCom meetings. Contact Membership Chair, Elaine Hagen at elainehagen@att.net.

GET INVOLVED • TAKE ACTION

Today, years of hard-fought environmental protections are under threat—and to influence governments and businesses, we need everyone to speak up and shout out. Explore how you can get involved: go to www.sierraclub.org/take-action

RATHER RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL?

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email either instead of, or in addition to our printed edition, email your request to mail@sierratuolumne.org.

The Sequoia Newsletter is designed to provide local Sierra Club members with a trusted source of information on people, events, and issues impacting our environment. Members can also find additional information on our updated web page: www.sierratuolumne.org.

