

Sierra Club calls on Big Three auto makers to improve fuel economy

America consumes 8 million barrels of oil each day. And the single biggest thing we could do to reduce that figure would be to make cars and SUVs that get more miles to the gallon.

Earlier this year Congress failed to include in their energy bill regulations to make cars and SUVs go further on a gallon of gas. So Sierra Club is taking a different tack: asking automakers to do the right thing themselves. The Club has gone to Detroit and called on Ford, GM, and Chrysler to give the American people what they want.

The Sierra Club has announced the launch of a three-year campaign to urge the "Big Three" automakers to improve



the fuel economy of their vehicles.

"The American people want the choice to drive cars, trucks, and SUVs that go farther on a gallon of gas," said Carl Pope, Sierra Club executive director. "It's time Detroit gave them what they want. The technology exists today to allow automakers to continue offering their most popular models, but with significantly improved fuel econ-

omy. New, safe, fuel-saving SUVs and pickups could be on sale very soon."

The Sierra Club's campaign will urge consumers to ask for cars with the "Freedom Options Package", a set of fuel-saving technologies which Detroit could have on the shelf very soon. You'd still be able to drive your Ford Explorer, but you'd be saving gas too!

The Sierra Club released just-completed public opinion research showing that consumers want automakers to offer cars and trucks with better fuel economy. Their reasons: to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, save money at the gas pump and cut

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Claudia Blalock wins Chapter outings award

Don't let that gimpy knee fool you.

Claudia Blalock is perhaps one of the most active outings leaders in the nation. In fact, she injured that knee while on a backpacking outing and participated in several more outings while waiting corrective shurgery.

She's the outings chair for the Fort Worth Group and her commitment to leading and overseeing Group outings hasn't gone unnoticed at the state level.

The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club has selected Blalock as the recipient of the Chapter's Virginia Murray Brewer Award for 2001.

This award is given to a Sierra Club member who has contributed to the Chapter and/or a Regional Group via the Outings Program.

"The award commemorates Virginia Murray Brewer, who along with her husband Byron, was an active member and founder of the Central Texas

Regional Group. She was active in leading and promoting group outings that drew many members into the group."

Claudia's leadership of the Greater Fort Worth Group's outings program exemplifies the spirit and commitment of Virginia to her group's outings activities.

"Claudia is simply an all-around wonderful person and is very deserving of the outings award and any other recognition for being one of the mainstays for the Fort Worth Group," commented Earl Burnam, conservation chair for the Fort Worth Group and a long-time Sierra Club activist.

"She is a leader for many administrative functions, conservation, etc., as well as being a good and faithful outings leader," he said.

Group Chair Tolbert Greenwood echoed those sentiments while noting that Blalock has been called upon to contribute even more to the Fort Worth Group.

He announced that the Fort Worth ExCom had elected Claudia to fill the term of Don Callaway, who recently moved from the Fort Worth area to accept a job in Sherman.

Blalock has previously served in that capacity for the Fort Worth Group, Greenwood noted.

This month's program

This month's program takes us halfway around the world. Bill Burton is giving the program on his trip to Tibet. Plan to join us July 17 to see this exciting program. For the time and place of the Fort Worth Group's monthly meeting, see Page 4.

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Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

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All the following numbers are Area Code 817 unless otherwise noted

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Sierra Club National Hotline 202-675-2394

Web Pages

Fort Worth Group <http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html>

National, Lone Star www.sierraclub.org

Lone Star Chapter www.texas.sierraclub.org

The Planet www.sierraclub.org/planet

Political page www.sierraclub.org/politics

Action Alert

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Public comments needed this summer on conservation plan

On June 14 The Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. publicly released the long awaited draft statewide Land & Water Conservation Plan.

TPW originally intended to release the plan in May but due to delays the draft plan was not available to the public until June. Its release will initiate the public comment period on the plan.

The Texas Legislature ordered TPW to produce the state-wide conservation plan to address the lack of park land and protected wildlife habitat. The Legislature mandated that the conservation plan guide all state acquisitions of parkland and protected wildlife habitat as well as guide TPW's efforts to protect our rivers and streams.

Now that the draft has been released by TPW, the Sierra Club will be organizing citizens throughout the state to comment on the conservation plan.

TPW will also hold six to eight pub-

**Action
Alert!**



lic hearings on the conservation plan this summer. It will be critical for citizens to comment and attend public hearings on the draft to ensure that the conservation plan recommends the acquisition of additional parkland and protected wildlife habitat and recommends that TPW take necessary actions to protect our river and streams.

The draft conservation plan and public hearing schedule will be posted on the Lone Star Chapter web site at www.texas.sierraclub.org. If you have any questions, contact Brian Sybert at briansybert@earthlink.net or 512/477-1729.

Bipartisan action in Congress would help protect America's wild forests

"The Sierra Club applauds the introduction of a new bipartisan bill to protect some of America's last wild forests. The Roadless Area Conservation Act (RACA) would protect 58.5 million acres of our National Forests' last pristine wild areas," noted Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club.

"Americans deserve this strong bill to protect forests from the Tongass in Alaska to Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. These increasingly scarce unspoiled places are crucial for providing quality hunting and fishing, for protecting watersheds that supply clean drinking water, for offering magnificent scenery and providing backcountry recreation, for our families, for our future."

"Since taking office, the Bush administration has whittled away at the core of the wild forest plan, ignoring overwhelming public support. The administration has voiced support for the plan while consistently working to undermine it, planning to move forward with dozens of timber sales and other destructive projects in wild roadless forests. The RACA turns forest protection

rhetoric into reality," Pope noted.

"Last year Americans celebrated when the most extensive public comment process in history culminated in protections for the last wild areas in our National Forests. Today we applaud the many members of Congress and forest advocates around the country who have maintained steadfast support to bring protection to these special places.

"Without the protections offered by the National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act, our last wild forests are at risk of being devastated by logging and other damaging activities. Right now many destructive logging and oil and gas drilling projects are threatening wild forests -- including more than 30 large projects in Alaska's Tongass Rainforest. These projects destroy wildlife habitat, imperil plant and animal species, and jeopardize the ability of our children and grandchildren to enjoy these wild places as we do," he concluded

For more information, go to <http://www.sierraclub.org>.

Greater Fort Worth Group Sierra Club Outings

Fort Worth Sierra Club outings are open to members and nonmembers. Trip leaders serve in a volunteer capacity and assume no responsibility above that of organizing the trip. If you have special needs or medical requirements, notify the leader prior to the trip. All outings officially begin at the trailhead. Leaders cannot assign carpools, but may help coordinate ride sharing. Many outings require advance reservations at the trip designation as well as from the participant. Notify the trip leader promptly if you must cancel. Donations of \$3 per person and \$5/family are requested for overnight trips to be used for conservation efforts of the club. Any park and/or camping fees are the responsibility of the participant. In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or call 415-977-5630.

August 3, Saturday

Dog Hike at Trinity Park. Bring your favorite canine on a short hike along the paved Trinity Trail. Distance dependent on temperature. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot just south of Hoffbrau Steak House on University Dr. Bring water for yourself and your pet and wear appropriate clothing. In the event of rain, hike will be cancelled. My dog is 13 years old and I just had knee surgery, so expect short hike. Leader: Claudia Blalock, cpblalock@msn.com or 817-924-6242.

September 5-8, Thursday-Sunday

Canoe the Illinois River in SW Oklahoma with car camping. This is flat water paddling suitable for beginners. Leave the Metroplex on Thursday

evening for canoeing all day Friday and Saturday. For details, contact Marilyn Sumner (Turnage), 817-491-2382 or marilynturnage@msn.com.

September 21, Saturday

Beginner Backpack Training at Fort Worth Nature Center 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Learn to set up a tent, plan a trip, select the right clothing and equipment, pack, and enjoy the outdoors in a low impact style. The Outings Committee, with a combined experience of over 60 years, teaches the class. Bring a bag lunch. Beverages provided. Cost: \$15 per person. Contact: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242. Preregistration and payment required in advance with minimum of 10 persons to hold class. Mail checks to Claudia Blalock, 2905 Benbrook Blvd. Ft Worth Texas 76109.

October 18-20, Friday-Sunday

Miss the Halloween trip to Caddo Lake we used to do 10 years ago? It's been revived complete with full moon. Camp at Caddo Lake State Park near Marshall on Friday night. On Saturday, we canoe about 1 mile to a nearby island to enjoy the seclusion and beauty of Texas' only natural lake. Saturday night meal will be a potluck affair complete with campfire and ghost stories. Canoe rentals available through Pine Needles Lodge (903-665-2911) and are limited so contact immediately to reserve your canoe. Call Texas State Park

Reservations at 512-389-8900 or visit on-line at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us> to reserve a campsite for Friday night. Trip is open to families and ends with a catfish lunch on Sunday. Leaders: Tolbert Greenwood, 817-346-3140 (tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com) and Marilyn Sumner, 817-491-2382, (marilynturnage@msn.com).

Dallas Group plans workshop

The Dallas Group plans a Forestry Workshop Saturday, July 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Dallas Nature Center. Ayelet Hines of the National Sierra Club will lead the program. Contact Cliff Rushing for details - Work (469) 201-6484 or Home (972) 395-0146.

Volunteer opportunities

Don Callaway resigned as chairman of our Conservation Committee to accept employment outside the area. Bob Scott and Earl Burnham have been stellar leaders in this area for years, and Don was off to a great start. Volunteer leaders for this important committee are needed. The Volunteer Committee has been without a chair for some time. This person is responsible for choosing events for our Group to participate and signing up volunteers to represent us. Also, people with experience in publicity and advertising are needed. If you are interested, please contact any ExCom member.

Hiking alone in Washington has a charm all its own

By WENDY LAMBERT

I took a last minute package vacation to Seattle. I left on a Saturday morning and returned Tuesday night.

I had always wanted to visit Olympic National Park and had never gotten around to it. It was June 8 and to my delight the weather was unusual in that it did not rain and temperatures were in the upper 60s to 70s during the day and mid 40s at night.

The first night I drove around the south side of the park and spent the night in an Olympic National Forest campground at Quinault Lake. It was practically empty because school was not out for the summer in Washington and it is usually too early in the season.

I drove the loop drive around the lake. It took me through the National Forest and the National Park. There

were only a couple of lazy mosquitos and the weather was clear. At 6:30 the next morning I hiked about 4 miles in the rain forest and then broke camp to head up Route 101.

I drove into the park at the famous Hoh Rainforest entry. There were a number of tourists taken the several short walks. Even though the season hadn't started, it was easy to tell what kind of traffic they get by the size of the parking lot and the overflow parking. Not a pretty sight. There were still too many people for me, but I had plans for the next morning. I continued north to Bogatiel State Park just south of Forks, Wash.

The park is situated right off the highway. It is not the quietest location, but again it was almost empty and the rainforest trail I wanted to hike the next

morning was on a road directly across from the park. I went back out to the coast and Rialto Beach in the afternoon. The National Park has miles of coastline not connected to the rest of the park. The coast was fogged in during the morning but clear and beautiful in the afternoon. It was 20 degrees cooler on the coast.

I saw a fine example of sea stacks and ate dinner in a restaurant that faced them. (I was not roughing it this night)

The next morning I left the park and got to the trailhead at 6:15 a.m. The trail was deserted and awesome. I hiked about five miles and then headed north to Sol Duc Springs. I wanted to see the waterfall and was not disappointed except for the other tourists.

There is a hot spring there and it true
Please see MORNING, Page 5

Coming Events

July 11, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at LaMadeleine's Restaurant, 305 Main St. For more information, contact Tolbert Greenwood, 346-3140.

July 17, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club General Meeting. See box at right for details.

Newsletter deadline. Submit articles, ads, letters, or other information in writing. Articles may be submitted by mail, email, or on Iomega Zip disks accompanied by hard copy. B&W or color nature photos and electronic images (150dpi or greater) will be accepted (prints returned if submitted with SASE). Photographs of outings or other club activities are particularly encouraged. Identify subject of photo and state photographer's name. Please do not write on the back of photos. Mail submissions to Newsletter Editor, P.O.

General Meeting Wednesday, July 17

Program: Bill Burton is giving a program on his trip to Tibet.

7:00 Main Auditorium, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Camp Bowie at Montgomery (exit Montgomery off I-30, go north about a mile to Camp Bowie).

Box 1925, Fort Worth 76101, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email jmoody166@aol.com.

Sierra Singles Events

Tuesday, July 16 at 7 p.m., join us for dinner at Gloria's, 972-668-1555, located at 8600 Gaylord Parkway in Frisco (in front of Target, just one block N of Stonebriar Mall). Contact: Carol Hohmann cjean@airmail.net.

Monday, July 22 at 7 p.m., dinner at Boston's Italian, located at 1100 Market Place Blvd (NW corner of MacArthur and 635) in Irving. Contact:

—Big Three targeted

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pollution.

The Sierra Club is targeting the Big Three automakers after Congress succumbed to a misleading campaign by the auto industry and voted not to raise fuel economy standards. "This campaign was created to correct the false impressions left by the automakers and to tell consumers that they can and should have the option of buying a safe, fuel-efficient car, SUV, or pickup truck," explained Pope.

The Sierra Club's campaign will urge consumers to ask auto dealers for a "Freedom Option Package," a set of fuel-saving components which could be added to most standard models, and which, taken together, could put the fleets of the Big Three on the road to 40 miles per gallon.

"Detroit wants to sell option packages featuring seat warmers and cup holders. What America needs is an option package that frees us from dependence on foreign oil, saves money at the pump, and cuts pollution," said Dan Becker, Director of Sierra Club's Clean Energy Program.

In addition, the campaign will mobilize the Club's 700,000 members across the country to hold events at local auto dealers, highlighting public

demand for fuel-saving technologies.

"I care about the auto industry; I care about my customers; and I care about the environment," said Chuck Frank, a prominent Chicago Chevrolet dealer and long-time advocate of increased fuel economy. "My customers want to be able to keep buying their favorite models of cars and SUVs, but they want them to get more miles to the gallon. I'd like to give them what they want."

Television and radio ads, featuring former Senator and decorated Navy Seal Bob Kerrey, and retired Vice Admiral Jack Shanahan, Military Advisory Committee Chairman of truemajority.com, appeal to automakers to do their part to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil by manufacturing more fuel-efficient vehicles. Both men have distinguished records of military service, and, in the ads, they urge the auto industry to do its part to loosen the grip of oil-producing countries and help save American lives.

"We have every hope and confidence that the automakers can deliver what the American people want and need: cars, trucks, and SUVs that go farther on a gallon of gas, without sacrificing safety, comfort, and affordability," con-

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Monday, Aug. 19 at 6 p.m. it's dinner at The Cheesecake Factory, 7700 W. Northwest Highway in Dallas. (Note earlier meeting time - this is the latest reservation they will accept). Contact: Jenny Lehman.

Tuesday, Aug. 27 at 6:30 p.m., Fort Worth Cats baseball game. Game begins at 7:05, tickets are \$9, and it's "free stuff night." Meet in front of the ticket window by 6:30 and we'll purchase tickets together. Parking is \$2 and beer \$3.50. See www.fwcats.com for more information. Contact: Jenny Lehman.

Monday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m., dinner at Bahama Breeze, near the intersection of 114 and MacArthur in Irving (same complex as Champps and BD's Mongolian). Contact: Jenny Lehman.

Friday - Sunday, Oct. 11-13 is the tentative weekend for our next Caddo Lake outing, to be led by DeAnn McDaniel. Details TBA.

Just a reminder that all events officially begin at the event site/trailhead.

You may just show up at an event unless specifically told to RSVP. The general rule is that you may show up for day hikes and dinners, and you need to RSVP for weekend camping trips.

Contact for Sierra Singles information: Jenny Lehman, (817) 263-1357 or lehje30@hotmail.com.

July 30, Tuesday

Conservation Committee meeting, 7 p.m., at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Library Building, Room 306. Contact: Earl Burnam, 244-2328 or Bob Scott, 282-1372.

August 5, Monday

Newsletter folding party, Smoky's Ribs, 6 p.m., 5300 E. Lancaster. Eat, or have the beverage of your choice, while working with other Sierrans to prepare the newsletter for mailing. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

August 7, Wednesday

Outings Committee Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Great Outdoors, one block west on Camp Bowie from, the Camp Bowie and University Drive intersection in the Cultural District. Contact Claudia Blacklock, 817-924-6242.

August 17, Saturday

New Member Potluck. Bring a dish to share and any meat you wish to grill. Beverages, plates, and utensils furnished. Location: home of Claudia Blacklock, 2905 Benbrook Blvd. Fort Worth. Time: 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. 924-6242.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

—Send Congress a card or a letter

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FROM PAGE 4

tinued Pope. "We urge them to help lead the auto industry, and the country, into a new age."

TAKE ACTION: The Sierra Club

Morning hike

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FROM PAGE 3

ly smelled like rotten eggs. The trails I hiked were entries to back country trails that traverse the park. I continued my journey north and then headed east at Lake Crescent, which is an immense lake with mountains in the background. I hiked a short trail to a falls, but was again faced with a number of other travelers.

I drove through Port Angeles and into the Hurricane Ridge Entrance to the National Park. The drive up to the ridge (5,500 ft) is beautiful and the mountain view from on top is quite impressive. I camped in the park and again had a largely empty campground and a wonderful little trail through old growth forest at 6 a.m the next morning. I headed east and then south on 101 completely my circuit and returning to Seattle to fly home. One of the benefits of traveling alone is the time I enjoy hiking in the morning.

needs your help. Send a card or letter to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle. Urge him to do his part to give Americans cars and SUVs that are fuel efficient, safe, affordable, comfortable, and popular. Address: The Honorable Tom Daschle, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

Or you might look for three tearout postcards included in your latest Sierra Magazine. They're addressed to Ford Chairman William Clay Ford Jr,

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, and Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, requesting better fuel economy. Sign, stamp, and mail all three postcards. Together, we can get our vehicles on the road to 40 mpg.

That would allow us to break our dangerous dependence on foreign oil, save consumers money at the gas pump, and cut pollution.

For more information, go to <http://www.sierraclub.org/freedom>.

Membership

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The purposes of the Sierra Club are: To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Mission Statement

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