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by making invalid arguments on too many issues.

Robert B. Hoff

Apology for Uncensored 'Member View'

During my ten years with the Sierra Club, I have held six different leadership positions. The club's local and national leaders are expected to maintain and increase our membership.

Without our 700,000 plus members, there would be no club. Over 95% of these members join with intentions to support an organization that works to protect our environment. With only this in common, they are a diverse group.

Our leaders' actions must satisfy a diverse group. I do not support publishing uncensored articles in our newsletters. By doing this we are providing a platform for

someone to offend our members. As a leader, I apologize for this happening.

Spencer Johnston

Editor's Response: Because we do **not** believe in censoring opinions clearly marked as those of one member (or two), the Editor directs readers to our own Sierra Club website for discussions of matters of fact mentioned in Mr. Hoff's letter: see www.sierraclub.org and specifically the **water and forests** sections in the pull-down menu entitled "Select an Issue" in the top center of the banner for the main page. For Clean Air, see www.sierraclub.org/cleanair/ and for discussions of genetically engineered seeds (while the GM crops may cause no illness, their use, especially when a strain is non-viable in nature, may be engineering a dependence on seed companies where previously fertile "heirloom" seeds were the staple of farmers' planting regimens), see: www.sierraclub.org/biotech/

SIERRA SINGLES GROUP SPONSORED HAPPENINGS

ALL Pikes Peak Group members, regardless of marital status, are welcome at the following events. Events are in, or leave from, Colorado Springs and all area codes are 719 unless otherwise noted.

A donation of \$1 per member per outing is requested to help our Sierra Club chapter defray costs of offering you these activities.

Friday, April 8 5:30 - 7:30 pm Happy Hour at the Sunbird

Join the Sierra Singles for a Happy Hour at the Sunbird Restaurant in the lounge. Discount drinks, free eats, live band, fantastic views of the city and great conversation on local issues as well as the environment. No RSVP required. Dave Harmer, 597-3996.

Outings: Dress for winter weather and bring waterproof hiking boots, trail snacks, sunscreen and water.

Saturday, April 16 9 am - 3 pm Florissant Fossil Beds: Boulder Ck Loop

This easy walk is at the Florissant Fossil Beds, known for fossilized tree stumps, plants and insects. The park offers many activities to teach you the history and ecology of this area. At the visitor center, exhibits explain the history of the Fossil Beds, southern Rocky Mountain wildflowers, and ancient life and landscapes of Florissant. Dist: 3.5 miles, elev. gain/loss: 150 ft. Bring \$5 for park admission. Group Limit 15. Children are welcome to hike with their parents. Call Jinny Lucas at 687-8954 or 237-9675.

Sunday, April 17 9 am - 1 pm Seven Bridges Hike

Join the Sierra Singles for a Sunday morning hike up the mountain on this popular trail. Along the way we'll review local geology and discuss related environmental issues. Rated moderate in difficulty, this is 6-miles RT; elev. gain/loss is 800 ft. We may stop for lunch afterwards. RSVP to Dave Harmer, 597-3996, by 8 pm Sat., April 16.

Saturday, April 30 10 am - 2 pm Hike the Crag! (from COS)

We'll follow the trail along Fourmile Creek to the Crag, viewing gorgeous rock formations along the trail! The hike is rated easy; 5 mi. RT; Elev. Gain/Loss 700 ft. As the trail nears the Crag we'll gain a few hundred feet of elevation, but it's worth it as the views from the top are beautiful! The hike ends at the Crag formation, overlooking Ute

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PPG Outings

Events are in or from Colorado Springs. A donation of \$1 per member per outing is requested to help our Sierra Club chapter defray costs. Added charge where noted.

Saturday, March 5 all day Weston Peak Proposed Wilderness Full-Day Ski/ Snowshoe

Replete with scenic subalpine and alpine landscapes, Weston Peak includes some of the highest-elevation terrain in the Wild Ten proposal. This trip will explore a riparian valley in Weston's lower eastern realm, below timberline. Participants need skis or snowshoes and intermediate skills in using them on this moderately strenuous six mile trip, with 600 ft of elevation gain. They will learn about the wilderness potential of Weston Peak and other nearby Wild Ten areas. For more information and to register, contact John Stansfield, 303-660-5849 or e-mail jorcstan@bewellnet.com by 5 pm March 4.

Sunday, March 13 6:30 am— evening Cross-Country Skiing, Old Monarch Pass (from COS)

This will be a cross-country ski trip, over easy terrain on a road grade, but rated moderate because of distance. We'll cover about 10-11 miles; elev gain/loss is 500 ft, descent 2000 ft. Duration: 12-13 hours, with driving time. Bring cross country skis and equipment, clothing suitable to mid-winter weather conditions, including water repellent outer clothing and gaiters, sunscreen, sunglasses, lunch and water. Along the way we can discuss Monarch Pass

quarrying as well as other environmental issues. Participant Limit: 15. For details or to sign up, call Jim Lockhart at 719-385-0045.

Saturday, April 16 9 am - 1 pm Pikes Peak Greenway Hike (COS)

This is a 5-mile hike along Monument Creek in Colorado Springs, rated as easy. Elev. gain/loss is 500 ft. Bring water, snacks, clothing to fit the weather - it CAN get cold! Along the way we'll review local geology and discuss related environmental issues. Both the PPG general membership and Sierra Singles are invited. Participant Limit: 15. Call Spencer Johnston at 649-3837.

Sunday, May 1 all day Beaver Creek Proposed Wilderness Full Day Hike

Take a walk on the wild side: the wild south slope of Pikes Peak. Our annual spring trip takes us into the spectacular, granite-walled canyon of Beaver Creek on a strenuous eight-mile trek with an elevation gain of 2,500 ft. Participants will learn about the natural and cultural history of the area and its future as a proposed wilderness. For more information and to register, contact John Stansfield, 303-660-5849 or e-mail jorcstan@bewellnet.com by 5 PM April 30.