



## A Vision for the San Jacinto Valley

Now that all approvals for the Villages of Lakeview (City of Lakeview) have been vacated by the County, this is a golden opportunity for the Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley, residents and visitors to our beautiful and irreplaceable valley to revisit our purpose and our vision for the San Jacinto Valley. On September 28, 2012, several board members, armed with various maps of the area, drove around both the Davis Road and Potrero Units (see website for maps: <http://www.northfriends.org/maps>) of the area and began the process of identifying which lands we would like to see made part of the SJWA, which lands could be placed in a conservation easement [perhaps



Father and son Emanuel and Andrew Salinas came to a birding walk at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area last year and took to birding like ducks to water. This is just one example of why creating a lasting vision for the sanctity of the San Jacinto Valley is so important. Photo by Rosedith Marx

held by the Friends], which lands could be part of an agricultural preserve, and which lands could be sensitively and sustainably developed.

Because we know that we are all interconnected, but that our economic, political and social systems are often based on the delusion that we are separate and independent which leads to greed and hatred, our vision will try to acknowledge our dependence on each other and the environment and to be more altruistic.

We welcome your input into this vision which we plan on presenting to the Board of Supervisors as the vision, not only of Friends, but also of the many others who live, work, drive through and visit the SJWA and the San Jacinto Valley. Please contact Sue

Nash at [northfriends@northfriends.org](mailto:northfriends@northfriends.org), [snash22@earthlink.net](mailto:snash22@earthlink.net), 909-228-6710 if you would like to join us in this important process of providing sane sustainable living in the San Jacinto Valley, which also considers the impacts of Global Warming and the ways in which we can help reduce the break-neck speed at which it is taking place.

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**IF YOU GOT A HARD COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER IN THE MAIL AND HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE EMAIL [northfriends@northfriends.org](mailto:northfriends@northfriends.org) ASAP. If you do not give us an email, we will continue to send you a hard copy.**

## LEGAL EAGLE

Information about these cases can be obtained online by going to <http://public-access.riverside.courts.ca.gov/OpenAccess/Civil/CivilCases.asp> and typing in the case number.

### **Friends v. County of Riverside, Villages of Lakeview (RIC 10007572)**

On August 28, 2012, the Riverside Board of Supervisors vacated all approvals (specific plan and general plan) for the Villages of Lakeview project. We have heard that Randall Lewis is planning on coming back to the County soon with another proposal for the 3,000 acres his company owns in Nuevo. Friends and others will be prepared to offer the county an alternative "Vision" to the county's City of Lakeview. *Please see the article on page 1 for what this means and how you can get involved.*

### **Paulek v. Department of Fish and Game (RIC 1104726)**

We alleged the Department's Wildlife Conservation Board wrongly approved an exemption from CEQA for a Conservation Easement on the Ramona Duck Club property which did not prohibit lead shot, did not prohibit a gate on DFW public land, and did not protect endangered plants (San Jacinto crowscale, etc.). The Board stated it was exempt because there were no environmental impacts, or those impacts had been mitigated. The trial court ruled against us and we are now before the Court of Appeal. We are also demanding an answer from the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Army Corp of Engineers, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to our questions of why the Clean Water Act, Fish and Game Code section 1600, and the CA and Federal endangered species acts were not enforced when the Ramona Duck Club constructed and/or refurbished

its duck ponds in 2011 and 2008.

### **Paulek v. Department of Water Resources (RIC 1120142)**

We alleged the DWR approved the EIR for the Lake Perris Dam Remediation Project which did not properly mitigate for impacts to the mitigation lands for the state water project, the Stephens' kangaroo rat, and numerous MSHCP covered species. The trial is set for June, 2013. The emergency outlet channel was deleted from the final EIR.

### **Paulek v. Regional Conservation Authority (RIC 1203353)**

We allege the RCA approved an exemption from CEQA for the removal of 200 acres from Conservation, using the Criteria Refinement Process, in the Multi Species Habitat Conservation Plan. We allege it was not exempt because it involved endangered species and mitigation for the loss of the 200 acres was provided. The trial is set for April 2013.

### **Motte Ranch Project**

Comments were made by Friends and

many others opposing this project located on the southern border of the SJWA. We expect this project may come back in conjunction with a new Villages of Lakeview Project and will keep you posted on both.

### **Mid-County Parkway and Cajalco Road Widening**

The draft EIR's for these projects, which would expand the Ramona Expressway from two to 6-8 lanes and expand Cajalco Road from two to four or more lanes, are expected to be out for public review in 2013. You can get information on public meetings and documents at <http://rcprojects.org/> for Cajalco and <http://www.midcountyparkway.org/> for the Mid County Parkway Project.

### **Riverside General Plan**

The draft EIR for the Riverside County General Plan update is also due out for public review in 2013. You can go to [http://www.rctlma.org/planning/content/temp/rc\\_genplan\\_2008.html](http://www.rctlma.org/planning/content/temp/rc_genplan_2008.html) for more information on public meetings and documents.

## A Game Changer for DFG

**G**overnor Jerry Brown signed into law AB 2402, sponsored by Assemblyman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael) on September 25, 2012. The new law changes the name of the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). Most importantly, the law directs/mandates that ecosystem based management, informed by credible science, be used in future DFW resource management decisions. Even though existing law provides that the fish and wildlife resources of our state are held in trust for the people and by and through the Department, it has not always been a good trustee of California's spectacular biodiversity. It has not been uncommon for the Department to manage game species to the detriment of nongame plants and animals. We are hopeful the new mandate and direction to DFW will result in improved biodiversity management decisions. Perhaps the first test of the new law will be reflected in the upcoming DFW San Jacinto Wildlife Area Management Plan reported to be available for public review in the immediate future and in efforts to have lead shot banned on all state DFW managed wildlife areas. Go to [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201120120AB2402](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201120120AB2402) for the full text of the bill.

## Lifeblood of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area

**W**ater is, without a doubt, the lifeblood of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Without it, the miles of riparian habitat and the bulk of the wetland areas found on the wildlife area would not exist.

Way back in 1987, when the wildlife area was in its early development stages, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) entered into a 25-year contract to bring up to 4,500 (forty five hundred) acre feet of reclaimed water to the SJWA to facilitate the development of all the valuable wildlife habitats you see on the wildlife area today.

Set to expire in 2014, the current DFW contract with EMWD is currently in negotiations. The importance of the future water contract to the public cannot be overstated. The quantity, the timing and the cost of water delivery to the SJWA will, with-



out question, determine the future look and value of the wildlife habitats maintained on the wildlife area.

It will also determine the capability of the DFW/EMWD to fulfill their habitat maintenance obligations under the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conserva-

tion Plan (MSHCP).

Fortunately, the negotiations are in their early stages and we expect both DFW and EMWD will encourage public involvement in the negotiations and the required environmental (CEQA) review of this important project.

## Roadkill Observation Reporting

**W**e all see them along the roads — dead coyotes, squirrels, rabbits, barn owls, skunks, raccoons, snakes, etc. Well now thanks to an online program started by UC Davis you can volunteer to submit a roadkill incident to the California Roadkill Observation System (CROS), found at [www.wildlife-crossing.net](http://www.wildlife-crossing.net). CROS is a research organization that uses volunteer submitted data to understand how road-kills occur and what can be done to reduce them. Roadkill observations submitted to the site are made public and a “Roadkill Map” of California can be viewed. So next time you are driving down the road and see an animal that has been hit by a car simply make a mental note of the street you are on and the approximate time and enter the info to the website. This is important information which can bolster efforts to get wildlife crossings between the Potrero and Davis Road Units, especially on Gilman Springs Road.

## Wanted: Submissions For Future Newsletters

Friends welcome articles for the newsletter, subject to the Board’s approval, regarding any and all issues relating to the SJWA. We want to know your concerns, a great birding day, book or movie reviews about the environment, poems, photos, etc. Submit to [northfriends@northfriends.org](mailto:northfriends@northfriends.org).

## Donate

Now you can make a donation to Friends online. Go to <http://www.northfriends.org> and click the Donate button.



Friends is now on Facebook! Go to our page (<http://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfTheNorthernSanJacintoValley>) and hit “like” to follow us and learn about our nature walks, rare bird alerts, and other happenings in the San Jacinto Valley. We also have maps of SJWA & surrounding areas and love to see your nature photos taken in the area. You can upload photos directly on our page or “tag” us in your photo.

## The Green Coalition

The Green Coalition of the San Jacinto Valley has recently agreed to add the Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley as a link on their webpage. This organization is a California non-profit grass roots citizen group based in the San Jacinto Valley. It was established in August 2008, and its mission is to create a sustainable community. They are a group of residents who are working together to balance the ecological, economic, and social needs of the valley to ensure a clean, healthy and safe environment for all of society and for generations to come.

To create a sustainable community, the Green Coalition has looked at the valley's relationship with government, schools and jobs. It has looked to protected open spaces and trails, and considered ways to produce less waste and maintain clean air. Theirs is a long-term view of how present actions affect future generations in the San Jacinto Valley.

The Green Coalition is working

to raise awareness of bicycling. Its goals are to create bike trails and green space to help stimulate our valley's economic development. They have discussed bike trails linking the open spaces around Temecula, Hemet, San Jacinto and the SJ Wildlife area. They have held biking events, and training programs for school children.

The Green Coalition Neighborhood Pride Program encourages San Jacinto Valley residents to keep their neighborhoods clean, green and safe. The e-waste program alone has collected over 100,000 lbs of electronic waste that might have ended in the trash or sidewalks. Recently the Green Coalition has successfully lobbied and had passed Hemet's amended abandoned shopping cart ordinance.

For the most part most people identify "sustainability" with the environment, but it can really apply to anything. For the Green Coalition, sustainability is also about economic development.



In 2009, the Green Coalition partnered with the San Bernardino Valley College Nanotechnology center and provided a workshop on the Nanotechnology Technician certificate course. Nanotechnology is the study of manipulating matter on an atomic and molecular scale. It is this technology that makes cell phones, computers, storage drives much smaller but with a bigger capacity. Applications of nanotechnology in the green economy include: Increasing the electricity generated by windmills, Generating electricity from waste heat, Storing hydrogen for fuel cell powered cars and making solar power cells smaller and more efficient among others. The future sees the Inland Empire as the nanotechnology center of California.

The Green Coalition holds a general meeting, open to all, every third Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 pm, at the First Christian Church, 200 E. Acacia Ave, in Hemet. For more information, visit their website at [www.greencoalition-sjv.org](http://www.greencoalition-sjv.org).

## Global Warming Is Here!

On May 5th, 350.org conducted a global day of action to call attention to impending climate change. Since the beginning of human civilization up until 200 years ago, our atmosphere contained about 275 parts per million of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). 350 parts per million is what many scientists, climate experts and progressive national governments are now saying is the safe upper limit for CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere. Accelerating arctic warming and other climate impacts have led scientists to conclude that we are already above the safe zone at our current 390ppm, and that unless we are able to rapidly return to below 350ppm this century, we risk reaching tipping points and irreversible impacts such as the melting of the Greenland Ice Sheet, rising sea levels, and increasing extreme weather events.

As James Hansen, from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the first scientist to warn about global warming has said, "If we wish to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed

and to which life on Earth is adapted, we need to reduce the current 390ppm CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere to at most 350ppm.

Returning to the 350ppm is not impossible. To do it, we need to stop taking carbon out of the ground and stop putting it into the air. Above all, it means we need to stop burning so much coal—and start using solar and wind energy and other such sources of renewable energy. If we do, the earth's soils and forest will slowly cycle some of that extra carbon out of the atmosphere, and eventually CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations will return to a safe level. By decreasing the use of fossil fuels and improving agriculture and forestry practices around the world, scientists believe we could get back below 350ppm by mid-century.

The longer we remain in the danger zone—above 350ppm—the more likely that we will experience disastrous and irreversible climate impacts. We need to do this for our children and grandchildren.

## Departures and Arrivals of Migrants this Fall

**A**utumn can be a very exciting place in the San Jacinto Valley. Numerous migrating birds can be seen in our area. Migration is the seasonal movement of birds between breeding and non-breeding areas. More than half of the world's approximately 10,000 species of birds are classified as migrants.

What's interesting is that not all of the migrants are going the same direction or place. Some are arriving to spend the winter here, some leave to spend the winter farther south, some are simply passing through our area, and some never leave!

### Fall Arrivals

Welcome back many species that will spend the winter here: Horned Grebe, Lesser Scaup, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Herring Gull, Mountain Bluebird, Vesper Sparrow, and White-crowned Sparrow to name a few. Some White-crowned Sparrows may have come 2600 miles from Alaska to winter in Southern California!

### Fall Departures

Bon voyage to these species who used Southern California as their breeding grounds and will be spending the winter in Latin America: Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Western Wood-peewee, Western Kingbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Blue Grosbeak are just a few!

### Passing Through

Birds that spent the summer north of us are en route to their wintering grounds far south in Latin America. For most of these species, migration is a nightly process, with birds "dropping-out" in the morning to spend the day refueling for the next flight : American Golden-Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, Canada Warbler.

### Residents

These common residents can be seen any time of the year: Red-winged blackbird, Marsh Wren, Black-necked Stilt, Anna's Hummingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, American Coot, Red-tailed hawk, Ruddy duck, Great Blue Heron, White Pelican, Great Horned Owl, Osprey, and many more.

Click here to see the extensive list of the comings and goings of the numerous bird species that have been observed at the SJWA (<http://ebird.org/ebird/GuideMe?src=changeDate&getLocations=hotspots&hotspots=L163561&parentState=US-CA&reportType=location&monthRadio=on&bMonth=08&eMonth=11&bYear=2007&eYear=2012&continue.x=43&continue.y=17>).



From top: Western Kingbird, Belted Kingfisher and Mountain Bluebird. Photos taken by Steve Wolfe at the SJWA. (<http://www.lonewolfphotos.com>).

A list of bird species for the entire Riverside County is also available here (<http://ebird.org/ebird/GuideMe?step=saveChoices&getLocations=counties&parentState=US-CA&bMonth=08&bYear=2007&eMonth=11&eYear=2012&reportType=location&counties=US-CA-065&continue.x=30&continue.y=1>).

# Calendar of Friends Meetings and Friends and Audubon Walks at the SJWA

## Board Meetings

We do not have regular public meetings at this time, but if you think you might be interested in joining our board, the meetings are second Tuesday at 6 p.m., every other month (Nov. 13, Jan. 8, March 12, May 14). Call or send Sue Nash an email to confirm we are meeting and location. 909-228-6710, [snash22@earthlink.net](mailto:snash22@earthlink.net).

This year Friends are sponsoring Beginning Bird walks on the second Sunday of several months. There is also a walk at adjoining Lake Perris on the second Saturday of several months. San Bernardino Valley Audubon is also sponsoring a number of walks at the SJWA, Lake Perris and in the San Jacinto Valley.

We hope you can join us and invite your friends and family to learn more about all aspects of nature and how we are connected to and dependent upon the well-being of our environment for our own well-being. All Friends walks are free and open to all (see Audubon's student policy). Children are welcome!

Binoculars and bird books can be borrowed for the day. For more information call 909-228-6710. To all walks, wear comfortable walking shoes, hats and sunscreen and bring water, snacks and binoculars if you have them.

## Bird Walks

*With Rosedith and Joyce*

Sun., Oct. 14, 2012; Sun., Feb. 10, and Sun., May 19, 2013. 9am to 11am. Meet in SJWA Parking Lot.

Come and join Rosedith and Joyce at the SJWA to observe birds feeding, mating, nesting and watching us watching watching them. The second Sunday of most months. Leaders: Rosedith Marx (951-321-9812) and Joyce Schwartz.

## Lake Perris Bird Walks

*With Rosedith and Joyce*

Sat., Oct. 13, and Sun., Nov. 10, 2012. Sat., April 13, and May 11, 2013. 9am to 11am. Meet in Lot 12. Rosedith Marx (951-321-9812).

Also, there are eagle counts from December, 2012, to March 2013. Call Ellen Absher for more info: (951) 940-5656.

These are moderately easy walks of 1-2 hours. All are Welcome. Free with paid day use fee or camping fees.

## San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society Walks

(<http://www.sbvas.org/calendar.htm>)

## Beginning Bird Walks

*With Brad Singer (909-838-7951) or Doug Karalun (909-425-5355).* Nov. 4, Jan. 6, March 3. Sundays 8am to 10am. Meet in SJWA Parking Lot

The goal is to teach you basic birding skills and introduce you to some of our local species. The walk is free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome.

## Northern San Jacinto Valley

*With Tony Metcalf (951-242-7038) and Dave Woodward (909-783-2417).* Sunday November 18, 2012, 7am. Meet in SJWA Parking Lot

The goals of this trip is to have fun and to see 100 species on and around the SJWA. Wintering birds of prey, costal sage scrub and wetlands all make the San Jacinto Valley known for its high species diversity.

## 113Th Annual Christmas Bird Count

December 14, 2012—January 5, 2013

The San Jacinto Valley count has always been on a Tuesday to let the birds rest from hunting on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Check out the Friends and Audubon websites for details in November.

## San Jacinto Valley And Lake Perris

*With Chet McGaugh (951-781-3699) & Tony Metcalf (951-242-7038).* Sunday, January 27, 2013, more information to come

## San Jacinto Wildlife Area

*With Tony Metcalf (951-242-7038).* Sunday, April 21, 2013, more information to come.

NORTH HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT POLICY APPLIES

## Bird Checklist for Beginning Birders

Rosedith Marx has shortened the exhaustive list of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area for beginning birders which shows 175 of the over 350 birds on the exhaustive list prepared by Doug Morton and others. This is the list we are now distributing on our birding walks. Both list can be downloaded at [www.northfriends.org](http://www.northfriends.org) before you come on our walks.

On our website you can also find more about the SJWA and Friends; nature walks, take action, membership, contacts; past newsletters; online donations and signing up for email delivery of newsletters and bulletins.

## Overview Schedule of Meetings and Walks

### 2012

Date	Event	Time
Oct. 13	Lake Perris Bird Walk	9-11 am
Oct. 14	Rosedith & Joyce Bird walk	9-11 am
Nov. 4	Audubon BBW	8-10 am
Nov. 10	Lake Perris Bird Walk	9-11 am
Nov. 13	Board Meeting	6-8 pm
Nov. 18	Audubon San Jacinto	7-? am
12/14-1/5	Christmas Bird Counts	dawn to dusk

**(Note: Waterfowl Hunting Closures:** All Day Wednesday and Saturday, October 20 - Jan. 27. East side of Davis Road only, closed to non-hunting public.)

### 2013

Date	Event	Time
Jan. 6	Audubon BBW	8-10 am
Jan. 8	Board Meeting	6-8 pm
Jan. 27	Audubon San Jacinto & Perris	7-? am
Feb. 10	Rosedith and Joyce bird walk	9-11 am
Mar. 3	Audubon BBW	8-10 am
Mar. 12	Board Meeting	6-8 pm
Apr. 13	Lake Perris Bird Walk	9-11 am
Apr. 21	Audubon San Jacinto WA	8-?
May 11	Lake Perris Bird Walk	9-11 am
May 14	Board Meeting	6-8 pm
May 19	Rosedith and Joyce Bird Walk	9-11 am

## Directions to the SJWA

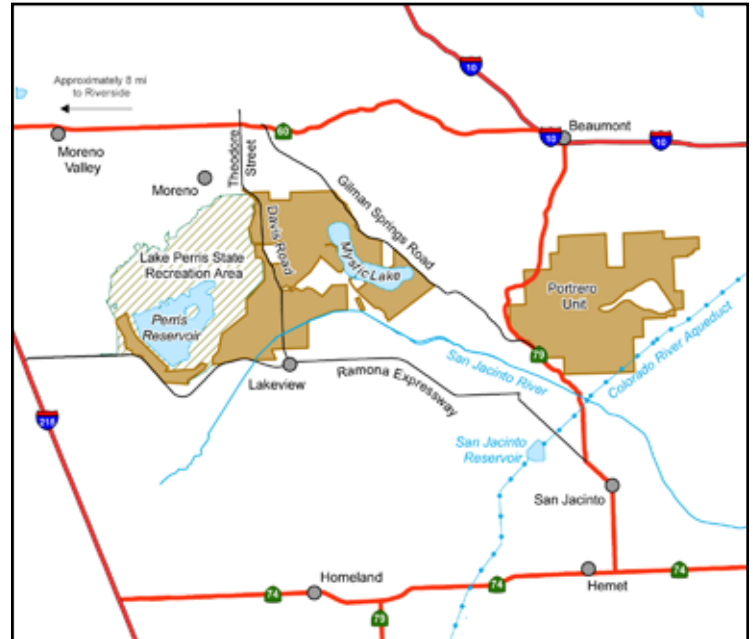
All walks begin in the SJWA headquarters parking lot, 17050 Davis Road, Nuevo CA. Tel. (951-928-0580) Because Davis (Theodore) Road is closed from Moreno Valley the only access is north off the Ramona Expressway — despite what your GPS may tell you. There is now a traffic light on Davis Rd.

**From Moreno Valley:** go south on Perris Blvd; east on Ramona Expressway; north 2.3 miles on Davis Rd.

**From San Jacinto/Hemet:** go west on Ramona Expressway; north 2.3 miles on Davis Rd.

**From Interstate 215:** go east on Ramona Expressway; 2.3 miles north on Davis Road.

USE EXTREME CAUTION. If raining, call area office for road conditions: (951) 928-0580.



Map from DFW

## Information About the San Jacinto Wildlife Area

The San Jacinto Wildlife Area is 19,000 acres of wildlife habitat managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Its lands are partial mitigation for the State Water Project, the project that brings water from northern California to southern California so that we can live and work here. It is a Stephens' kangaroo rat reserve for the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA); it is a cornerstone reserve in the Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Agency (MSHCP), the county reserve system which is supposed to protect and preserve the county's endangered ani-

mals and plants. Tens of thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds winter in the northern San Jacinto Valley. It is a known resting point and/or wintering site for migrating birds traveling the Pacific Flyway. The northern San Jacinto Valley is known for its large number of wintering birds of prey (peregrine falcon, bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, prairie falcon). The SJWA is considered one of the premier hunting areas in southern California. (All state-owned wildlife areas allow hunting. Hunting fees help support the acquisition of wildlife habitat throughout the state of California.) The northern San Jacinto Val-

ley is considered a Significant Natural Area by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The northern San Jacinto Valley and Mystic Lake are considered Important Bird Areas by the National Audubon Society. The San Jacinto Wildlife Area represents an \$80 million investment of the taxpayers' money. The San Jacinto Wildlife Area includes the 10,000 acre Davis Road Unit (includes 2,000 acres of Mystic Lake) plus the 9,000 acre Potrero Creek Conservation Unit. San Jacinto Wildlife Area, 17050 Davis Road, Lakeview; (951) 928-0580; <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/lands/wa/region6/sanjacinto/index.html>

FRIENDS OF THE NORTHERN  
SAN JACINTO VALLEY  
P.O. Box 4266  
Idyllwild, CA 92549

NEWSLETTER  
October, 2012

“Return Service Requested”

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### Membership/Donation Form

I would like to become a member of the Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley. I will contribute:

\_\_ \$10 \_\_ \$20 \_\_ \$50 \_\_ \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Make checks payable to:

Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley  
Mail to: Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley  
P.O. Box 4266  
Idyllwild, CA 92549  
e-mail: [northfriends@northfriends.org](mailto:northfriends@northfriends.org)

The Friends is a 501(c)(3) organization.

\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer for the Friends

### Make sure we have your email address.

This is the last issue of the newsletter that will be mailed to the general membership. From now on the newsletter will be emailed, and also available for viewing and downloading on-line.

#### IMPORTANT!

Email us asking to be included on the email list.

Send the email to:

**northfriends@  
northfriends.org**