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Enjoy,
and
Protect the
Planet

Sierra Sentinel

The Greater
Fort Worth
Group of the
Sierra Club
SEPTEMBER
2005

New gas mileage standards for light trucks less than they appear

Amidst rising oil and gas prices, the Bush Administration yesterday announced its new Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for light trucks. Environmentalists say the proposed rule changes will do nothing to help American motorists at the pump, nor will they reduce America's dependence on imported oil.

The new standards appear to raise the current light truck standard of 22.2 miles per gallon (mpg) in model year

2007 to a fleet-wide standard of 24 mpg by model year 2011.

However, the new standards actually exempt vehicles weighing from 8,500 to 10,000 pounds-- such as the Hummer H2, Ford Excursion, and some models of the Chevy Suburban-- all vehicles that achieve very poor mileage due to their size.

Environmentalists argue that the Bush Administration should make use of the latest in automotive technology

and establish a more stringent fleet-wide average standard. Ironically, General Motors is already producing a vehicle in China that achieves 43 miles per gallon.

"Instead of harnessing America's technological know-how to require light trucks and autos to meet a 40-mile per gallon (mpg) average standard," said Anna Aurilio, U.S. PIRG legislative director, "the Administration has proposed a pathetically weak increase in light truck miles per gallon standards and has given automakers an opportunity to game the system by increasing the size of their SUVs and other light trucks."

According to the Sierra Club, a 40-mpg standard would save the average driver \$2,200 in fuel savings over the lifetime of a vehicle. The distribution of light trucks into six size-based categories was supported by the big three U.S. automakers, General Motors, Ford Motor Co., and DaimlerChrysler AG.

Department of Transportation Sec-
Please see NEW GAS, Page 2

GFWSC Conservation Notes

Cement Plant Settlement

Two cement plant operators, responding to legal and administrative challenges by environmental groups, have agreed to terms limiting emissions from their facilities in Midlothian.

In one case, the Blue Skies Alliance and Downwinders at Risk have dropped opposition to a permit request by Holcim, Inc. currently pending with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality which would allow an increase in emissions. In return, Holcim Cement will install new equipment designed to reduce nitrogen oxide discharges, a major contributor to ozone pollution.

Holcim will also pay \$2.25 million to finance programs aimed at reducing pollution from other sources in the Metroplex and will reimburse Blue Skies and Downwinders for expenses incurred up to \$120,000.

EPA Regional Administrator Rich-

ard Greene hailed the action as a "historic agreement" and urged other industries to take similar steps.

In a related case, TXI Operations, LTD has agreed to withdraw its request for a permit modification allowing them to turn off certain pollution control equipment during the so-called "non ozone" months from November to April. In a settlement with the two environmental organizations and Midlothian residents, TXI will continue to operate its regenerative thermal oxidizer all year, and in exchange will be allowed an increase in emissions not affecting the ozone accumulation in North Texas.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality had refused to deny the permit, agreeing with TXI that cost factors could be considered, and the settlement was reached only after a hearing before an administrative law judge and extended mediation.

The September program of the Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club will be on the Group's upcoming trip to Big Bend in November. Trip coordinator Todd Nichols will make the presentation, explaining the various options offered by the trip. Whether you're an experienced backpacker or strictly a day hiker, you're sure to find a trip to fit your needs.

Update!
Update!
Update!

Beginning in October, we meet at a different site

Beginning Oct. 19, the Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club will be meeting in the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center Complex.

We'll be meeting in the Azalea Room. Going north on University Drive, take the second entrance into Botanic Gardens and you'll see the Garden Center straight ahead.

The meeting times and dates remain unchanged: we meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

The change in meeting sites was unanimously approved at a recent meeting of the Group's Executive Committee.

Coming Events

September 21, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Newsletter deadline. Submit articles, ads, letters, or other information in writing. Articles may be submitted by mail or email. B&W or color nature photos and electronic images (150 dpi or greater) will be accepted (prints returned if submitted with SASE). Photographs of

The *Sierra Sentinel* is published monthly by the

Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

P.O. Box 1874, Burleson, TX 76097-1874

<http://sierraclub.org/chapters/tx/fortworth/index.html>
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Mission statement

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.

General Meeting

Wednesday, September 21

7:00 Main Auditorium, Univ. of N. Texas Health Science Center, Camp Bowie at Montgomery (exit Montgomery off I-30, go north to Camp Bowie). Program notes on Pg. 1.

outings or other club activities encouraged. Identify subject of photo and state photographer's name. Do not write on the back of photos. Mail submissions to Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 1874, Burleson, Texas 76097-1874, bring to the ExCom meeting, the general meeting, or email jmoody166@mac.com.

September 30, Friday

Noon meeting for Sierrans unable to attend the evening general meeting. This group meets the last Friday of each month, 12 noon-1:00, at Local Color Art and Coffee, 208 W. Main St., Arlington. Bonnie Bowman will be

Day hikes, Marufa Vega backpack among the highlights of Group's upcoming Big Bend trip

Todd Nichols present a program on this year's annual trip to Big Bend.

"We'll be traveling by van, leaving early Wednesday morning and arriving before sunset." Everyone will camp Wednesday night in the Basin Campground before parting company Thursday morning for the trip they signed up for.

Mike Seal will lead a car camping (van-camping) trip from the Chisos Basin campground and James Moody will take the more adventurous folks onto the more remote hiking trails.

Mike will be hiking the Lost Mine Trail, the Window Trail, and to the top of the park to Emory Peak. Additionally, Mike will be visiting other trails around the park, such as Santa Elena Canyon, Mule Ears Trail and the

heading up this meeting.

October 3, Monday

Newsletter folding party at Braum's, 6770 Bridge St. at 6:30 p.m. Call Steve Turner, 457-7131.

Sept. 6 & Oct. 4, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Fort Worth Sierra Club ExCom Meeting, 6:30 p.m., at Spiral Diner, 1314 W. Magnolia. For more information, contact Susan Haney, 254-582-8228.

September 6 & October 4, Tuesday

Outings Meeting immediately following the ExCom meeting to plan new outings and reminisce about old trips. See location above. Contact Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242.

September 13, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

The Conservation Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. All members are welcome. For meeting location, contact: Chair Glenn Ford, 469-6540, Earl Burnam, 244-2328, or Bob Scott, 282-1372.

Homer Wilson Ranch.

James will be taking a slightly more adventurous group on the Marufa Vega Trail, one of the most scenic backpacking trips in the park.

"This great hike is a repeat of the very first backpack I lead when this annual trip was first started," he said. The route is entirely within the Dead Horse Mountains and features two ascents to the Rio Grande within Boquillas Canyon.

Additional trip details will be put on the group's webpage. The cost again will be \$160 per person. Send checks, payable to Fort Worth Sierra Club, to Todd Nichols, 200 Hibiscus Dr. Arlington, Texas 76018.

Please have registration submitted by Nov. 1.

New gas plan: fill 'er up with loopholes *FROM PG. 1*

retary Norman T. Mineta boasts that, "This is a plan that will save gas and result in less pain at the pump for motorists without sacrificing safety."

But Dan Becker, director of the Sierra Club's Global Warming Program, says the new standards will do nothing to help consumers save money at the gas pump, reduce oil dependence or curb global warming. "At a time when

Americans are paying record prices for gas, the Bush administration has sided with its cronies in the auto industry and rejected real solutions," said Becker.

"Unfortunately, the proposed gains in fuel economy are likely to be eliminated as a result of the radical overhaul of the current structure," the Sierra Club said in a statement released late last month.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

No pets, firearms or radios are allowed on Sierra Club outings. All children (17 years or less) must be accompanied by a parent on any outing. All overnight trips require preregistration with the trip leader. A donation of \$5 per person to the Fort Worth Sierra Club is requested for all overnight trips.

September 17, Saturday

Day hike and picnic at Horseshoe Trails at Lake Grapevine. We will walk approximately 1.5-2 hrs (about 3 mph) on part asphalt and part rugged dirt trails through the woods. We will hike along the lake and have a chance to view waterfowl. Meet promptly at 9 am. Not suitable for strollers or young children. Please no dogs on hike. No reservations needed – just show up. Bring water and sunscreen and your lunch for picnic on a wooded point overlooking Lake Grapevine. Rain that morning cancels hike. Directions: From Fort Worth: Take Hwy 121 North to Grapevine, exit William D Tate and go north or left. From Dallas take LBJ Freeway west. Exit Hwy 121 South, then exit William D Tate and go north or right. For all: William D Tate turns into Ball Street at Dallas Rd. Continue on Ball and turn left on Northwest Hwy. Turn right (north) onto Dove Rd; PDQ Store is on NE corner of this intersection. Go about 1 mile to another PDQ Store on your right. At this intersection, Dove Road goes straight and Dove Loop turns left. Go straight on

Club Outings

Dove Loop to the “Welcome to Oak Grove Park” sign. Turn left at the sign. You are headed west now to McPherson Slough. At the second park road to the right, turn in and park by the restrooms. Tarrant Mapsco 27X. Leaders: Terry Jensen (metro 972 988-8687, ext 3104) and Claudia Blalock.

October 14-16, Friday-Sunday

Canoe and camp at Caddo Lake. We will camp at Caddo Lake State Park near Marshall in east Texas about 3 hours from Fort Worth 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 are 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 email www.tpwd.state.tx.us to reserve your campsite for Friday night. This trip is open to families. Trip ends with a catfish lunch at noon on Sunday. Leaders: Tolbert Greenwood, 817- 737-8698 (email tgreenwood@canteyhanger.com) and

Marilyn Turnage, 817-491-2382, (email marilynturnage@msn.com).

October 21-23, Friday-Sunday

Texas Sierra Celebration. This year is the 40th Anniversary of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club and we are celebrating with Sierrans across the state at Canyon of the Eagles Resort near Marble Falls (www.canyonoftheeagles.com) or 800-977-0081. Activities may include hikes and outings to see local Bald Eagles. Reservations will be necessary. Check the *Lone Star Sierran* summer issue for details or contact the Lone Star Chapter (512.477.1729).

November 9-13, Wednesday-Sunday

Big Bend National Park Join us for a long weekend in this national park about 9 hours away. We’ll travel by van, leaving early Wednesday morning and arriving before sunset. Mike Seal will lead a car camping (van-camping) trip from the Chisos Basin campground and will lead day hikes to Emory Peak, Lost Mine Trail, and the Window. James Moody will lead a backpack to remote desert areas of the park (for details contact him-817-295-1623). The cost is approximately \$160 per person. Mail checks prior to Nov. 1, payable to Fort Worth Sierra Club, to Todd Nichols, 200 Hibiscus Dr. Arlington, TX 76018. For more information contact Todd at 817-937-5217.

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Annual dues include subscription to Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1.00). Dues are not tax deductible.	<table border="1"><tr><td>F94QT19002</td><td>-1</td></tr><tr><td>F94Q W99901</td><td>Entity Code</td></tr></table>	F94QT19002	-1	F94Q W99901	Entity Code
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Mail to Sierra Club Member Services, 85 Second St. 2nd Floor, San Francisco, Calif. 94105-3441					

Sierra Celebration set for Oct. 22-23 at Canyon of the Eagles

Join Sierra Club members from all over Texas for a Hill Country weekend. Make plans to join your fellow Sierra Club members from all over Texas in October in the beautiful Texas Hill Country for a "Sierra Celebration" unlike any held before. This year the annual get-together of Texas Sierrans – set for the weekend of Oct. 22-23 at the Canyon of the Eagles Lodge and Nature Park on Lake Buchanan – will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club.

For four decades the Lone Star Chapter – the state-level arm of the Sierra Club in Texas – has been a strong force for preservation of our state's natural heritage and the protection of the health and quality of life of its people. Moreover, the Chapter and its regional groups have provided a bounty of opportunities for Sierrans and others to enjoy the great outdoors of Texas. Now it's time to reflect on all the Lone Star Chapter has accomplished and to look forward to what can be accomplished in the future – and, most

importantly, to have fun doing it!!

The 40th Anniversary Celebration will be centered at Canyon of the Eagles, a 925-acre nature park and preserve owned by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) in the Highland Lakes region of Central Texas. A variety of activities will be available on Saturday and Sunday at and in the vicinity of Canyon of the Eagles – including hiking and biking, swimming and fishing on Lake Buchanan, excursions on the Vanishing Texas River Cruise on the Lake and up the Colorado River, tours of the Fall Creek Vineyards and Winery, and late Saturday night star gazing with telescopes on site.

A highlight of the weekend will be the 40th Anniversary Sierra Celebration Dinner on Saturday night in the dining lodge at the Canyon of the Eagles. The evening will include a reception, an outstanding meal, music, and a special guest speaker.

Overnight accommodations are available for Sierrans at the Canyon of the Eagles on Saturday evening. Canyon of the Eagles has 64 guest rooms

as well as three different types of campsites (25 RV sites, 33 campsites with tables, and 15 primitive campsites). Lodging is also available at hotels and motels in nearby Burnet, Texas.

Full more details on the 40th Anniversary Sierra Celebration and to register for the weekend and the dinner, consult the Lone Star Chapter website at www.texas.sierraclub.org or contact the Sierra Club State Conservation Office in Austin at 512-477-1729. Information on lodging and making plans for various weekend activities will also be available on the website or by contacting the office. Details will also be available in the Lone Star Chapter newsletter, the Lone Star Sierran, which will be in the mail in early September.

Don't forget —

September is the last month we'll meet at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. Beginning in October, we have a new site. See Page 1 for directions.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club