

HI SIERRAN

WORKING TO PRESERVE THE SPECIAL NATURE OF SAN DIEGO FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY

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Children Rally for La Jolla Seals

Ellen Shively, Wildlife Committee Chair

Children are taking a firm stance to save the harbor seals of La Jolla. At a rally on Sunday, November 23rd, about twenty five children from "KidsforPeace," along with many of their parents, joined with members of the "Save Our San Diego Seals Coalition" at Casa Beach to let their voices be heard.

The children sang an original song, written for the occasion, exclaiming that the seals were beautiful and needed our protection. Arranged in rows against the backdrop of about fifty seals lying on the beach basking in the afternoon sun, the children's passion rang out crystal clear.

After the song, La Jolla Friends of the Seals docent Jerry Horna led the group out to the seawall and allowed the children to see the sleeping seals up close, while still keeping the twenty-five foot separation, a distance that seals are most comfortable with. The children held up home made posters they had colored themselves carrying the message to "Save Our Seals" and "Kids love the Seals and don't want to swim here." It was a peaceful rally. No seals were "flushed" or sent fleeing back into the water, even with the large crowd standing along the seawall.

Jerry explained to them that



Photo courtesy of Jill MacManigal, Director of Kids for Peace.

the seals have been using this specific location long before the seawall was built; that those born here instinctively return or never really leave. The most interesting fact is that the colony has reached a maximum carrying capacity (comfortable number supported by the resources) of about two hundred, and have stayed at that number for several years. Their presence at Casa Beach is an integral part of the living ecosystem, contributing to other forms of ocean life.

Upon their return to the rally point, the children all signed a petition to the San Diego City Coun-

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Chapter Outings-at-a-Glance

This partial listing is current as of December 20, 2008. Chapter outings listings, bus trip information, and California/Nevada Regional Conservation Committee outings are typically updated on a monthly basis on the Chapter website. To obtain the complete outing write-up or to sign up for a specific outing, please contact the leader and/or visit our Chapter website at: <http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/outings/index.asp?content=calendar>. A monthly list of outings is available via e-mail subscription at this link: <http://sierrasd.org/outings/index.htm>.

Wednesday, 1/7/2009

**DAYHIKE (E7A) WED IN
MTNS - ENCINITAS SOUTH**

Leader: Mac Downing
Assistant: Needed

Saturday 1/10/2009

**DAYHIKE (M4A) COASTER
SATURDAY - TORREY
PINES EXTENSION**

Leader: Mac
Downing; Assistant: Needed

Sunday, 1/11/2009

**DAYHIKE (V18E) RABBIT
PEAK FROM THE NORTH**

Leader: Mark Brown; Assistant:
Byron Cook

Saturday, 1/17/2009

**DAYHIKE (S25D) 5TH
ANNUAL HIKER'S
MARATHON**

Leader: Jim Jafolla; Assistant:
Susan McFetridge

Saturday, 1/24/2009

**DAYHIKE (M5B) CALCITE
MINE COUNTRY DAYHIKE
IN ANZA-BORREGO
DESERT STATE PARK**

Leader: Doug Hansen; Assistant:
Wanda Jackson

Wednesday, 1/28/2009

**DAYHIKE (M5B)
CALCITE MINE COUNTRY
DAYHIKE IN A-BORREGO
DESERT STATE PARK**

Leader: Wanda Jackson; Assistant:
Doug Hansen

Wednesday, 1/28/2009

**DAYHIKE (M5C) COWLES
MOUNTAIN 6:30 HIKE
FROM MESA ROAD**

Leader: Diane Purkey; Assistant:
Robert Burroughs

Wednesday, 2/11/2009

DAYHIKE (E8B) WED IN

MTNS - SUYCOTT WASH

Leader: Mac
Downing; Assistant: Needed

Wednesday, 2/11/2009 2/11/2009

**DAYHIKE (M6C) THE
PARK IN THE DARK:
NORTH FORTUNA LOOP**

Leader: Diane Purkey; Assistant:
Aaron Sweeny

Wednesday, 2/25/2009 2/25/2009

**DAYHIKE (M7C)
COWLES MOUNTAIN
6:30 EVENING HIKE**

Leader: Diane Purkey; Assistant:
Christine Driscoll

Sunday, 3/8/2009 3/8/2009

**DAYHIKE (M4B) COWLES
MOUNTAIN 6:30 HIKE
FROM BARKER WAY**

Leader: Diane Purkey; Assistant:
Robert Burroughs

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cil declaring their wish that the Council improve on their efforts to preserve this rookery and beach as a safe haul-out site for the colony. Plans are now underway for the children to make a presentation of the petition at a January session of the Council. Members of the coalition handed out flyers to the public urging them to contact their Council person with the same message.

The local chapter of "Kids for Peace," a non-profit group located in San Diego County, is dedicated to uplifting our world through love

and action. They may be contacted through their website at www.KidsforPeaceUSA.org. Other features of their peace-centered efforts include learning about other cultures, playing cooperative games and performing a monthly Peace Challenge. They speak and write to public officials to advocate a cause for which they want to be heard.

The San Diego Save Our Seals Coalition is composed of members from the Sierra Club, La Jolla Friends of the Seals, Animal Protection and Rescue League, and a

number of other interested groups and individuals. They have organized tirelessly asking the City not to dredge the beach, to place the rope up during pupping season to protect the new pups and for public safety, and to request a local member of the state legislature to include seal-watching in the land grant as a legitimate recreational use of Casa Beach. The group meets at the Sierra Club office. Interested persons are encouraged to contact Ellen at (619)479-3412 for further information.