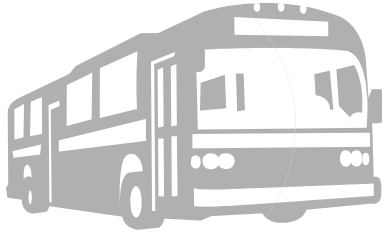


Orange-Chatham Group Sierra Club

<http://nc.sierraclub.org/ocg/>

P.O. Box 1303, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Orange-Chatham Executive Committee adopts Transportation policies



With the leadership of Loren Hintz, transportation issues coordinator, the Orange Chatham Sierra Club Group recently adopted transportation principles. The resolution voted on by the Executive Committee in August 2007 is as follows:

The Orange Chatham Sierra Club:

Supports town development projects in which streets connect with each other rather than forming cul-de-sacs;

Supports the creation of sidewalks, cross walks, bike paths, and bike lanes;

Supports the creation of light rail or fixed guide way modes of transportation that connect Orange, Durham, Chatham, and Wake counties;

Supports the creation of additional tax revenue for public transportation and pedestrian bicycle facilities;

Supports increased funding for Chapel Hill Transit and Triangle Transit Authority so there can be increased evening and weekend bus service;

Supports the incorporation of Chatham County into the Triangle Transit Authority system

In general, opposed to the widening of streets and highways as a means to reduce traffic congestion. Improved public transit and increased carpooling are to be the preferred options;

In general, opposed to the creation of new roads or by-passes, especially those requiring additional construction over streams;

Supports the use of alternative fuels for transportation.

Group Events:

“Biofuels, Ethanol, and Transportation”

Tuesday, January 15, 7-9 p.m.

Chapel Hill Public Library

In January, we will hear two speakers on how ethanol and biofuels can fit into a sustainable transportation system. Ms. Anne Tazewell, the transportation program manager at the NC Solar Center and Dr. Kim Tungate, who works on energy crops at NC State University, will discuss the effects of these fuels on production of green house gases and air pollution. Is there a trade-off between growing food and growing energy? What are the best new technologies for using cellulase enzymes? What's the potential impact of these fuels on forests? Where can we buy alternative fuels and do we have to modify our engines to use them? Please come to hear two experts discuss these and other questions about transportation in the future.

The meeting is open to all members, as well as the public. Refreshments will be served.

“A Celebration of Earth and Sky”

Sunday February 10, 2-6 p.m.

Carrboro Century Center

In February, we are all invited to participate in an environmental expo sponsored by the environmental program at Chapel Hill High School. There will be dynamic speakers, vivid student demonstrations, and informative exhibits by local environmental organizations. Refreshments will be served.

We're one of the local environmental groups, so we'll need help staffing our exhibit. Please call Judith Ferster.

Executive Committee Meetings

With the change in Executive Committee membership, there will be a new meeting time for 2008. Please look at our web site at the beginning of January to see the listing of Executive Committee members and the time and place for meetings. All members are welcome to join the Executive Committee in the discussion of issues and projects.

Have Fun Volunteering!

Volunteers are essential to the Sierra Club. Our goal is to provide any member who wants to help out the opportunity to do so. Volunteering is a great way to learn about our issues and have fun with other active Sierra Club members.

Publicity Coordinator – Coordinate media events. Provide information about events and activities to media outlets. This is a great opportunity for someone who doesn't have the time to go to meetings.

Sierra Watch – Members needed to attend various city and county public meetings to act as the Sierra Club's eyes and ears on environmental issues. If interested, we'll connect you to the meetings that meet your interest and concerns.

Outreach Coordinator - Coordinate logistics and organize volunteers to cover booth shifts at events such as Hog Day, Festifall, and others.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities or want to know about other volunteer possibilities, please contact our Group Chair.

Keep in touch online:

Orange-Chatham meetings podcasts:

<http://h2opodcast.com/earth.html>

Meeting/event announcement listserve:

Sign up via link at <http://nc.sierraclub.org/ocg/>

NC Sierra Blog:

<http://sierraclubnc.blogspot.com/>

Orange-Chatham Group Leaders

Chair+ **Bernadette Pelissier** bpelissier@juno.com 643-2762
 Treasurer* **Andrea Rohrbacher** arohrbacher@earthlink.net 967-4213
 Conservation+ **Judith Ferster** judith_ferster@ncsu.edu 929-6648
 Political & Transportation* **Loren Hintz** ldhintz@bellsouth.net 933-8987
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 Outings **Annette Jurgelski** jurge001@mc.duke.edu 644-0280
 Nominating **Dave Keesee+** dskeseee@bellsouth.net 933-4879
 Membership **Jamie Bort** jambort@gmail.com 619-0199

* = Executive Committee Member (term expires in 2007)

+ = Executive Committee Member (term expires in 2008)



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Outings

Sierra Club outings are open to all. Outings are educational unless designated as a social (S). All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you chose to participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Ongoing Service Outing:

3rd Saturdays on the Bolin Creek Trail: This is a long-term habitat restoration project, and we need many more volunteers. It's hard work, but very rewarding. We meet at the Greenway entrance on Bolinwood Drive, just off Hillsborough Street in Chapel Hill. Please contact Bill Bracey at arbor-net@mindspring.com, or 942-9937.

Current Outings:

William B. Umstead Park Saturday and Sunday morning hikes. Pre-registration for either Saturday and Sunday hikes is not required. In case of inclement weather or questions, contact Debbie Jacobowitz (HWG) at (919) 493-0780. For directions, see <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/wium/directions.html> or call (919) 571-4170.

Saturday hike description: Sycamore Trail. Moderate 7.2 mile hike at a steady pace. We will meet at the Crabtree Creek section off US 70 at 10 a.m. From the entrance, drive past the visitor center

and proceed to the second parking lot. Please wear hiking boots and carry water; a picnic lunch is optional.

Sunday hike description: Moderate 5.9 mile hike at a steady pace. We will meet at the Reedy Creek section off I-40 (exit 287, turn left on Harrison into the parking lot) at 10 a.m. Please wear sturdy footwear and carry at least 16 oz. water; a picnic lunch is optional.

FEB 16-18, Chunky Gal Trail Backpack. A 21.6-mile, moderate to strenuous backpack in Nantahala National Forest. Mostly up on ridge lines with occasional dips down into gaps. Many open, expansive views towards Middle Prong, Pisgah and the Smokies at elevations of 3-5 thousand feet. Limit of six, \$50 refundable deposit and trip will not be cancelled. Contact: Chris David (CG) at 919-673-1214 or chrisdavid@bellsouth.net

Watch for additional outings listings on our website.

2008-09 Executive Committee Members

The following individuals were elected to serve two-year terms on the Orange-Chatham Sierra Club Executive Committee:

Matt Scheer
Jean Westbrook
Loren Hintz
May Becker



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