

# The Highpoint

May 2007

Visit our Website [www.seniorsoutdoors.org](http://www.seniorsoutdoors.org)

Go

## Colorado Outdoor Search and Rescue Cards

*Colorado Department of Local Affairs*

### Why buy it?

- Cover search and rescue mission costs.
- Support Colorado search and rescue volunteers.
- Contribute to well trained and equipped search and rescue teams.

Does this entitle you to free rescue? No, this is one of the big misconceptions of the CORSAR, or Colorado Outdoor Search and Rescue card. The CORSAR card is not insurance but helps reimburse the volunteer search and rescue teams for expenses incurred in rescue operations from an existing state fund. The Colorado Outdoor Search and Rescue Fund is the prime beneficiary of CORSAR card sales. Funds remaining at the end of each year are used to help pay for training and equipment for volunteer teams. No one is charged for the cost of a rescue, although rescued individuals or their insurance companies are liable for costs related to medical care delivered outside of the rescue, such as transportation, which may include helicopter flights or ground ambulance to a hospital.

Other contributors to the fund are hunting or fishing licenses, and boat, snowmobile or ATV registration fees.

Who needs this card? Anyone who uses Colorado's backcountry – hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, campers, kayakers, climbers, cross country skiers, and photographers.

The CORSAR card costs \$3.00 for a one year card and \$12.00 for a five year card. Of this amount, vendors keep \$1.00 from every one year card sold and \$3.00 from every five year card sold. The remainder goes to the Colorado Search and Rescue Fund. The Seniors Outdoors organization is a vendor and you can buy your cards at every SO! meeting.

## California Condors

*By Ken McLaughlin*

As recently as the early 1805, thousands of California condors flew from British Columbia to Mexico before declining precipitously in population during the Gold Rush. They reached a low in the 1980s, when the population fell to just 27 birds. Desperate biologists captured all remaining wild condors in 1987 and began breeding them in zoos.

Through captive breeding, California Condors have been reintroduced to the coastal mountains of south-central



California and the Grand Canyon area of northern Arizona. Condors prefer mountains, gorges, and hillsides, which create updrafts, thus providing favorable soaring conditions.

Today the population of California condors has grown to more than 275. Of those, about 125 live in the wild at Big Sur, Pinnacles, Ventura County and the Grand Canyon, with a few in Baja California, Mexico. The rest live in captivity at the Los Angeles Zoo, San Diego Wild Animal Park and other facilities.

The California Condor has a body length of 43 - 52 inches, a wingspan up to 9 1/2 feet, and weighs 18 - 23 pounds. Its diet consists of medium and large-sized dead mammals like cattle, sheep, deer, and horses in any state of decay. Condors may

travel several hundred miles in search of food. Condors nest in a cave or cleft among boulders on a cliff or hillside. The female will lay the single egg directly on the floor of the cave. The egg is incubated for 54 - 58 days. The young condor learns to fly in about 6 months, but will stay with its parents for several more months. The extended breeding season prevents condors from breeding yearly. California Condors usually become sexually mature at 6 years of age. A juvenile condor has mottled white on the underside of the wing, the triangular patches on an adult condor are solid white.

Although the condor recovery effort has increased the number of birds tenfold in the past two decades, there have been other significant setbacks as well. About 40 percent of released condors have died from lead poisoning, hitting power lines and attacks by golden eagles.

The mortality rate in Big Sur, however, has been much lower -- raising hopes that birds born there will live to ripe old ages. Only nine of 41 condors released there have died. Sorenson theorizes it's because there are fewer power lines, fewer hunters (whose lead bullets kill condors when they munch on carcasses) and more dead marine mammals for the vultures to feast on.

In Big Sur, a biologist spotted a male and female condor displaying nesting behavior inside a hollowed-out cavity of a large coastal redwood tree. The society is keeping the exact location of the nest secret to make sure no one disturbs the couple. The male bird, 9-year-old Condor No. 167, was hatched at the Los Angeles Zoo and released in Big Sur by the society in late 1997. Its mate, 8-year-old Condor No. 190, born in the same zoo, was released in early 1999 in Big Sur.

This nest puts us one step closer to our goal of having 150 condors in the wild with 15 breeding pairs.

Seniors Outdoors! is an outing and social club providing organized year-round outdoor activities and related educational opportunities

To Join Seniors Outdoors!  
Contact Anne Rendon, 884-2729  
or e-mail: TRTRendon@mydurango.net

Membership forms are available on the website: <http://www.seniorsoutdoors.org/>, at the monthly meetings, and on outings.

## Board Briefs

Treasurer's Report:  
As of March 30, 2007  
Income-----\$6,587.50  
Expenses-----\$3,073.36  
Balance-----\$5,276.23

### Board Members

Co-Presidents:  
Bill Cagle, 385-4566  
Tom Rebbin 247-0551  
Secretary: Mary Ann Bryant 259-4278  
Treasurer: Dick Reitz 375-1870  
Outings Committee Chair:  
Sharron Chambers 259-9271  
*Board Meetings are OPEN to all members*

### Other Positions

Circulation: Jane Pederson & Steve Somora  
385-5233  
Carroll Groeger 375-2395  
Lani Graham 259-2649  
Email Message Coordinator:  
Wally Schmidt 385-1804  
Ruthanne Gartland, 884-5478  
Hospitality: Letha Cagle, 385-4566  
Membership: Anne Rendon, 884-2729  
Newsletter Editor:  
Inge Silton, 259-6881  
Outings Schedule Publisher:  
Sharon Kinton, 375-1152  
Olin Kane, 375-0060  
Phone Tree: Susan Beck-Brown,  
375-0948  
Programing Chairs:  
Tricia Bayless 375-2618  
Public Relations:  
Grace Deltscheff, 259-3040  
Trip Equipment Coordinator:  
Travis Ward, 247-1310  
Diana McMichael, 764-4190  
Website Manager:  
Lyle Hancock, 764-4531

### Seniors Outdoors! Sub-Groups

**Downhill Ski:** John Montle, 259-9469  
**Horse Riders:** Dell Manners, 382-9967  
**Single Seniors:** Carol Milliet, 259-0496

## Welcome New Members

*New members  
for  
April and May  
will appear in the  
June newsletter*

*Our total membership is now 443  
since the renewals of July 2006  
Let's keep growing!!!!*



### FIRST AID OUTING THURSDAY, MAY 31

All members, and especially leaders, are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about mountaineering First Aid while we hike the Junction Creek Trail. Jennifer Wrenn, a certified Physician's Assistant and teacher of mountaineering 1st Aid for the Seattle Mountaineers for 6 years, has arranged for several "injured" volunteers along the trail who will need our help and our 1st Aid Kit. It will be fun and informative. No dogs, however, not even St. Bernards. Meet at 9 A M at the Rec Center Lot or 9:15 at the Trail Head. RSVP: Jennifer Wrenn 497-2803, [jennifer.wrenn@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.wrenn@gmail.com)



## The EXtra Mile

*Many Senior Outdoors! Members go the distance in contributing the time and the expertise that is so vital in moving our group forward - SALUTE*

**May Trip Leaders:** Dell Manners, Olin Kane, Dale Suran, Sharron Chambers, Bill Cagle, Chris Weihage, Jim Beatty, Jim O'Brien, Harry Hance, Norm Broad, Graham & Caroline Murray, Warren Levingston, Ed Osterman

**May Hosts:** Ed and Mary Handrick, Georgeann Reitz, Melanie Palmer

**May Clean-up:** Betty Kilpatrick, Dorothy Bregar, Rae Haynes, David Wright

## OUTINGS COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITION

After four years of volunteering for SO!, Sharron Chambers will be stepping down as Outings Chair this summer. Organizing and editing the Outings Schedule that the Outings Committee puts together is an essential part of SO! and creates an opportunity for one of you to become a much needed and valuable contributor to SO!

The position requires a general knowledge of the trails, but this knowledge already exists in the form of good maps and write ups of past trips, plus information from our leaders and committee members. Other requirements for the Outings Committee Chair are an ability to organize, and to getting the completed Outings Schedule to the Publisher each quarter. The busy times will be late August, November, March and May with up-dating of the list of potential outings, leaders, and committee members. Also, the Outings Committee chairman is a voting member of the SO! board and attendance at the quarterly board meetings is required.

If you want to learn more about the 4-Corners area, its mountains, rivers, trails, and history; if you want to know more of our members with their vast experience and knowledge; and if you want our Outings Schedule to continue and improve, call

Bill Cagle at 385-4566  
or Tom Rebbin at 247-1551  
and volunteer today.



### Permits

Those wishing to collect natural products for personal use, such as firewood, tree transplants, fence materials, and decorative rock, from San Juan Public Lands, must first purchase a permit now available at San Juan Public Lands Offices.

**Firewood:** permits are \$10 per cord.

**Tree transplants:** \$5 per tree, min. \$20.

**Posts and poles:** Minimum \$22.50.

**Rock:** \$10 per ton of moss rock.

**Wood products:** Depends whether trees are dead or alive, size, deminsions.

For more information go to [www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan)

## From Lamplighter to IGCC

US Department of Energy

March 1, 2007

In the 1800s, lamplighters once made their rounds down the streets of many of America's largest cities lighting street lights fueled by "town gas," the product of early and relatively crude forms of coal gasification (Town gas is still used extensively in some parts of the world, such as China and other Asian countries). Once vast fields of natural gas were discovered and pipelines built to transport the gas to consumers in the 1940s and 50s, the use of town gas was phased out.

In the 1970s, interest in coal gasification revived, due largely to concerns that the U.S. supply of natural gas was waning. The massive Great Plains Coal Gasification Plant in Beulah, North Dakota, was built with federal government support to use coal gasification to produce methane, the chief constituent of natural gas. When government price controls on natural gas were lifted, however, large quantities of natural gas became available, and no other coal-to-methane gasification plants have been built to date in the United States.

Coal gasification, however, found its most important market application in the 1980s and 90s. Driven primarily by environmental concerns over the traditional burning of coal, gasification emerged as an extremely clean way to generate electric power. By turning coal into a combustible gas that could be cleansed of virtually all of its pollutant forming impurities and burned in a gas turbine, coal could rival natural gas in terms of environmental performance.

The first major use of coal gasification to generate electric power in the United States took place in the mid-1980s at Southern California Edison's experimental Cool Water demonstration plant near Barstow, California. The 110-megawatt Cool Water plant established the early technical foundation for future Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) power plants. Coal gasification-based power concepts got their biggest boost in the 1990s when the U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Coal Technology Program provided federal cost-sharing for the first true commercial scale IGCC plants in the United States.

• Tampa Electric's Polk Station

The Polk Power Station near Mulberry, Florida, is the Nation's first "greenfield" (built as a brand new plant) commercial gasification combined cycle power station.

Capable of generating 313 megawatts of electricity - 250 megawatts of which are supplied to the electric grid - the power plant is one of the world's cleanest. The plant's gas cleaning technology removes more than 98 percent of the sulfur in coal, converting it to a commercial product. Nitrogen oxide emissions are reduced by more than 90 percent.

• The Wabash River Re-powering Project  
The Wabash River Coal Gasification Re-powering Project is the first full-size commercial gasification combined cycle plant built in the United States. Located outside West Terre Haute, Indiana, the plant started full operations in November 1995.

The plant can generate 292 megawatts of electricity -- 262 megawatts of which are supplied to the electric grid -- making it one of the world's largest single train gasification combined cycle plants operating commercially.

IGCC, integrated gasification combined cycle power plants, are the most environmentally friendly coal-fired power plants, offering the immediate opportunity to gen-



*The Wabash River Clean Coal Power Plant*

erate power with near zero greenhouse gas emissions, producing hydrogen and/or liquid fuels.

Coal gasification is the process of converting coal to a gaseous fuel through partial oxidation. The coal is fed into a high-temperature container to produce a synthetic gas called syngas. The gas is cooled and undesirable components, such as carbon dioxide and sulphur are removed. The gas

can be used as a fuel or further processed and concentrated into a chemical or liquid fuel. This is the first stage.

The second stage takes the cleaned gas and burns it in a conventional gas turbine to produce electrical energy, and the hot exhaust gas is recovered and used to boil water, creating steam for a steam turbine which also produces electrical energy. Typically, 65% of the electrical energy is produced by the gas turbine and 35% by the steam turbine.

The advantages of IGCC are:

- IGCC plants operate at higher efficiencies than conventional coal fired power plants thus requiring less fuel and producing less carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. Current efficiency is 42% with efficiencies as high as 60% expected in the near future using high efficiency turbines.

- It produces about half the volume of solid wastes as a conventional coal power plant.

- It uses 20-50% less water than a conventional coal power plant.

- Up to 100% of carbon dioxide can be captured making the technology suitable for CO<sub>2</sub> storage.

- CO<sub>2</sub> capture is easier and costs less than capture from a pulverized coal plant.

- A minimum of 95% of the sulphur is removed which exceeds the performance of most advanced coal-fired generating units.

- The syngas produce from a gasifier unit can be burned in a gas turbine for electricity generation, or used in other applications such as hydrogen-powered fuel cells vehicles.

- Coalbed methane recovery has been combined with CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration in some field projects. In a seven year project with CONSOL Energy in West Virginia, both methane recovery and sequestration in an unmineable coal seam are being investigated. The project is currently in the pre-injection phase and a similar project is being undertaken in the San Juan Basin, New Mexico.

With its private sector partners, DOE is continuing research on gasification projects aimed at reducing emissions, reducing capital cost and increasing process efficiency. Each percentage point gain can mean as much as \$20 million in reduced operating costs over the life of a typical gas-fired combined cycle plant.



### SO! Bulletin Board on Google

There is now a bulletin board on Google at: <http://groups.google.com/group/du-rango-so>. In order to become a member, first go to: <http://groups.google.com/support>. For information contact Michael Lubin at 946-1030

### Next Meeting June 12, 2007

6:30 pm Social 7:00 pm Meeting  
Rec Center

### Pot Luck Dinner

Please bring your own table service and a dish for 8 with a serving utensil.

A - F  
Dessert

G - M  
Main Dish

N - R  
Salad

S - Z  
Main Dish

### CORSAR

Colorado Outdoor Search and Rescue cards for sale by your co-presidents every month at SO! meetings \$3 for one year or \$12 for 5 years The card is a contribution to the Search and Rescue Fund which will reimburse these teams for costs incurred.

### EASY

Get the newsletter on the Web [www.seniorsoutdoors.org](http://www.seniorsoutdoors.org)  
Contact Anne Rendon at 884-2729 to have your name removed from the mailing list.



In a contribution of one or more articles per month

Please remember to bring a non perishable food item to donate to the Manna Soup Kitchen at the June pot-luck for those less fortunate.



Seniors Outdoors!  
Membership Chair  
265 Pine Valley Road  
Bayfield, CO 81122