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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Sunday afternoon walk to see butterfly trees and a sunset-sunrise camp-out in the Nipomo Dunes are the two unusual excursions offered by the Sierra Club for next weekend in the scenic sand dune area of south San Luis Obispo County.

The Sunday afternoon walk, January 23, will be an easy one of about three miles round trip, to visit butterfly trees near the beach, where Monarch butterflies concentrate in many thousands during their winter migrations through Pismo State Beach Park. A State Park Ranger will be guest guide for this interesting excursion, which children may particularly enjoy.

Meeting time is 2:00 p.m. at the entrance to Oceano Campground of Pismo State Beach, 3 miles south of Pismo Beach. The public is cordially invited.

Sunset-Sunrise Trip in the Nipomo Dunes

The other Nipomo Dunes outing this weekend of January 23 and 23, will be an innovation offered by the Sierra Club group: a sunset-sunrise overnight knapsack trip. It will be easy enough for beginners.

Winter sunsets from these most scenic dunes in California are often spectacular in color and cloud formation. Sunrises are frequently dramatic, also. Coastal winter temperatures are traditionally mild. It is a unique experience to spend a night among the dunes, reminiscent of the Chumash Indians who in recent centuries camped here. Archaeological conjecture estimates that

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areas in the dunes have been used by different tribes for thousands of years. It is reported that night breezes in these towering sand formations create a rhythmic sound, which has been called "sand music". The hiking group hopes to hear this unusual phenomenon.

The knapsack hike during the sunset hour will be only a short one of two or three miles. In addition to food and water for two meals, and the usual overnight backpack equipment, it is requested that those attending bring two aluminum foil deep-size plates filled with charcoal for cooking supper and breakfast. Use of such charcoal containers will eliminate leaving any camp trace in the dunes.

After the seven o'clock sunrise, and a leisurely Sunday breakfast, some will return to cars at Oso Flaco Lake. Others plan to continue with a morning hike northerly through the length of the sand dunes, seven miles to Oceano, picnicking for lunch enroute, and joining at 2:00 p.m. the scheduled Sunday afternoon walk to see the Monarch butterfly trees.

Meeting time for the sunset-sunrise knapsack trip is Saturday, January 22, at 4:15 p.m. at Oceano Campground entrance of Pismo State Beach. From this point cars will shuttle to Oso Flaco Lake for the start. Rain cancels this outing. For further information, please telephone Mrs. Kathleen Jackson, Paso Robles, 238-4353.

Membership in the Sierra Club is not required in order to participate in outings; all those interested are cordially invited.