



## LOCAL NEWS...

### PARAMILITARY FORUM

The East County Democratic Club reached national prominence and continues to be a general thorn in the side of Blackwater, as they pursue their agenda to install a paramilitary “bootcamp” near tiny Potrero (850 residents) about one hour east on 94.

Under the banner of “Citizens’ Oversight Projects (COPs), our nonpartisan oversight group, we’ve continued to attend and record videos of planning group meetings in Potrero, and we hosted the “Paramilitary Training Camps Forum” on August 12<sup>th</sup>.

*See Paramilitary on page 2.*

### East County Democratic Club

*Serving El Cajon, Rancho San Diego, Jamul, Lakeside, and outlying San Diego County*

#### OFFICERS:

<i>President</i>	<i>Raymond Lutz</i>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i>	<i>Tom Lamb (Tent.)</i>
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i>	<i>Karen Marie Otter</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Rosalie Star</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>(Open)</i>

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

<i>Membership</i>	<i>Kristy Mundt</i>
<i>Outreach</i>	<i>Tom &amp; Kathy Lamb</i>
<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Bonnie Rawson</i>
<i>Book Club</i>	<i>Jon Scanlon</i>

#### CONTACT:

<i>Telephone</i>	<i>619-820-5321</i>
<i>Email</i>	<i><a href="mailto:info@ecdcweb.org">info@ecdcweb.org</a></i>
<i>Mailing Address:</i>	<i>PO Box 252</i>
	<i>El Cajon, CA 92022</i>

#### MEETING LOCATION:

*Rancho San Diego Library  
11555 Via Rancho San Diego  
El Cajon, CA 92019  
(Unless otherwise noted!)*

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL  
CAMPAIGN COMING UP!**

## EVENTS

### CLUB CONVENTION

Last year, we had a very successful Democratic County Convention. This year, the clubs in the county are hosting the “Club Convention,” on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, from 8am to 5pm. The event starts with a showing of “SiCKO” followed by a mock debate among presidential candidates, and keynote speaker (she ran “Rock The Vote” and registered 1.5 million voters!) The afternoon will be a number of breakout sessions, including an overview and discussion of Blackwater hosted by Raymond Lutz.

Register online or call the Democratic party headquarters. It’s only \$20 for the day, and that includes lunch—a bargain!

### GO TEAM TRAINING

Looking for a way to make a huge difference? The “Grassroots Organizing Team” is the most important single contribution you can make. You simply volunteer to be the contact person for your home precinct, and contact other Democrats in your area, by walking, mailing, or phoning. After a short training, you will be ready to improve the voter participation right in your own neighborhood. The next training is Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Rancho San Diego Library at 10:30am. Contact Arlene Howe at 619-464-0369 or [ajljhowe@aol.com](mailto:ajljhowe@aol.com) in advance so they can have your precinct lists all prepared.

### FILM and MEETING

On September 16<sup>th</sup>, ECDC will be screening a very interesting film entitled *Zeitgeist*, followed by a Club meeting.

The film is in three parts. The first part links the story of Christ to astronomy and the Zodiac, the second reviews the myths surrounding the

## SCHEDULE

### Sunday Protest (noon - 1pm):

Antiwar protest: at the corner of El Cajon Blvd and Baltimore, La Mesa.

### 08 Sep 2007 (Sat 8am-5pm)

**Democratic Club Convention, NTC Promenade, (only \$20).**

Includes lunch. Register online: [http://www.sddemocrats.org/convention\\_registration.html](http://www.sddemocrats.org/convention_registration.html)

### 11 Sep 2007 Tue. 7pm

[SD Democratic Central Cte](#)  
(SD County Party Meeting)

### 13 Sep 2007 Thurs. 7pm

[Potrero CPG, Potrero Community Center](#)  
(7pm) [Discuss Blackwater]

### 15 Sep 2007 Sat 10:30am

**GO-Team Training** RSD Library

### 16 Sep 2007 Sun 1:30pm

[Current Events Theater](#)  
presents: *Zeitgeist*,  
[RSD Library](#) Doors open 1:00pm

### 16 Sep 2007 Sun 3:30pm

Club Meeting, RSD Library:  
Presidential Primary Straw Poll  
Support your favorite!

### 05-07 Oct 2007 (Fri-Sun)

(11am-11pm; Sun: noon-6pm)  
La Mesa Oktoberfest  
Volunteer for this fun event!

### 06-07 Oct 2007 (Sat-Sun)

[“Stop Blackwater”](#) Encampment  
and Protest, Potrero County Park  
and at the BlackwaterWest Gate.  
(More info soon to come!)

### 07 Nov 2007 (Wed) John Dean

book signing at La Mesa  
Community Center! (6:30 pm)



**PARAMILITARY (Cont.)**

This forum proved to be quite interesting, as we had invited three companies to participate who are setting up similar facilities in our area.

**Brandon Webb** represented Wind Zero, a training camp proposed for the Ocotillo/Nomirage area, just inside Imperial County on Interstate 8, which proposes a shooting range and driving track on a desolate desert parcel about 60 to 90 minutes from San Diego. The Wind Zero facility, a total of 963 acres, is proposed to be used by law enforcement, military, as well as the general public.

**Marc Halcon** represented Covert Canyon, a shooting range that had been in operation for a number of years several miles east of Alpine catering only to law enforcement and military. The parcel includes a one-time landing strip and about 160 acres.

**Brian Bonfiglio**, representing Blackwater, claimed to have a schedule conflict which would make it impossible to attend. Since they declined to represent themselves, Raymond Lutz, made a "fair and balanced" presentation about Blackwater.

COPs later discovered that Bonfiglio actually had no schedule conflict and was indeed available for the meeting that day.

Raymond Lutz, coordinator for Citizens Oversight said, "The event was very successful and effective, despite the fact that Blackwater refused to attend and, in addition, attempted to undercut our success." Lutz went on to explain that Bonfiglio had contacted at least one of the other presenters and asked him to skip the meeting.

"Blackwater says they welcome thorough debate. This is obviously just lip service unless they attend public meetings of this sort. Indeed, if they encourage other speakers to

**EVENTS (Cont.)**

attacks of 9/11, and the third covers the the crime of the Federal Reserve Bank.

During the Club meeting, we will conduct a comparison of Presidential Candidates and conduct a straw poll. Support your favorite!

**OKTOBERFEST**

ECDC is cooperating with the La Mesa-Foothills Democratic Club and the Santee Democratic Club in staffing the booth at the La Mesa Oktoberfest, October 5-7. Lori Kern-Greenberg is coordinating the event. Please contact Lori at 619-469-0856 to reserve your 2-hour shift.

**STOP BLACKWATER EVENT**

On the same weekend, we are supporting a very important event in Potrero, with an encampment and educational programs on Saturday, followed by a gathering at the gate of the property. Protesters are coming from all points to participate. Don't miss this experience of a lifetime!

More details available soon. Mark your calendar today!

**JOHN DEAN**

Converted Republican John Dean of Watergate fame will be speaking at the La Mesa Community Center on November 7<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm. Seating will be limited to the first 350 people, and book signing before and after his talk. Books available on site!



skip the meeting, you wonder why they are being so covert about their project," Lutz added.

**Part I** of the meeting was a presentation by Raymond Lutz regarding Blackwater and their proposed facility in Potrero. You can view this presentation on-line by visiting CitizensOversight.org. The Blackwater proposal utilizes an 824-acre parcel that is designated as an agricultural preserve. There is

substantial resistance from the local community against their proposal. In fact, a recall election will be held on Dec 11 to replace the Potrero Planning Group who voted for the project.

Part II of the meeting was a presentation by Brandon Webb, President of Wind Zero and former Navy SEAL. He described the Wind Zero project at the event, noting that there is a dire need for additional training facilities, especially a lack of a place for local law enforcement to drive on a track, and a place where local military personnel can get their training without traveling across the country. He made the point that Wind Zero is not a paramilitary organization, and instead offers a public-friendly training facility.

The site of their proposal lies between Interstate 8 and SR 98, along Molitar Road in Nomirage. They will have a club house, open to the public, air conditioned classrooms, lodging (60 rooms), and a 160-space RV park, open to the general public.

There are two driving tracks, a law enforcement track and a highway road track. There are no similar tracks in San Diego. San Diego Porsche club may also be interested in the track. Driving courses open to the public would also be available.

The shooting ranges include a set of public ranges, for pistol and rifle use. The other ranges would be contracted out to law enforcement and military contracts.

The property is in escrow and details of these plans is still under some discussion with the Ocotillo - Nomirage Community Council.

The water usage is less than the twenty-four homes that would otherwise be built on the property, and they are designating

**PARAMILITARY (Cont.)**

300 to 400 acres as an environmental preserve.

Webb said that Wind Zero would support legal action to stop organizations who are engaging in paramilitary operations.

Later in the meeting, a video of the site was shown. Questions were asked about the use of water and expressed concern also about the processing of waste. The noise abatement is handled by adding berms to completely redirect the sound so it will fade into the sound from the nearby freeway.

Webb noted that his project boasts of easy freeway access when compared to the Blackwater West project, which relies on the winding, two-lane SR-94, a road already impacted with heavy border traffic from Tecate.

Their firm is capitalized by private funds, friends and family, and an SBA loan. The area had been graded at one time, and the development area is in that dusty area.

They are planning to use a 90% lead-free range, using composite ammunition that disintegrates when striking the target.

Webb confirmed that his proposed installation would be a direct competitor with the proposed Blackwater West proposal in Potrero.

In Part III of the meeting, Mr. Marc Halcon made a presentation regarding "Covert Canyon." Halcon was born in Coronado and opened American Shooting Center ten years ago, located in Kearny Mesa. American Shooting Center mainly caters to the general public, focused on civilian firearms safety, law enforcement, and military training. He covered a wide range of training provided by his company, including handcuffing techniques, firearms, vehicle and personnel inspection,

defensive tactics, and protection of bases (guard duty).

He said that after 9/11, there was a large change. The military started to come to Halcon for training because a civilian firm could be more efficient in terms of providing expert and specialized training. After they expressed an interest in outdoor training, he started to look for a property for such training. Eventually, he located the site of Covert Canyon, 160 acres, and he said he owns it and lives on the site.

Eventually, Blackwater came to Halcon to subcontract his Kearny Mesa facility for a Navy five-year contract that ends September, 2007. Covert Canyon was never used by any Blackwater contract.

Covert Canyon is not open to the public, but only to law enforcement and military who need small arms and sharp-shooting training up to 50-caliber. His property is two miles from the main road, and a mile from the closest (legitimate) homeowner.

Halcon offered to Citizens' Oversight that we coordinate a visit to his site for a close review. (We have previously video taped a visit to his site, available for viewing at [CitizensOversight.org](http://CitizensOversight.org)) He showed an aerial photograph of the site to show the one-time landing strip that has been turned into a 1000-yard shooting range. The landing strip is no longer utilized, but a helicopter did visit the site one time. They do not allow civilians to rent the range, they do not train civilian security personnel, and they do not engage in overseas security contracting.

Then, Halcon described the fact that San Diego County knew about his operation, and had originally stated that he did not need any approval from the county as long as he did not cater to the general public. Later, he was told some of the grading that was performed had not been officially permitted. He has been operating since '06 without a problem, but then when the political

**From the President...**

We're in the process of shifting our club meeting to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, while still holding the Current Events Theater on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Month. This will give us more time during our meeting for a longer discussion after the film and less-rushed club meeting.

Our starting time will be 2pm and we're still meeting at the Rancho San Diego Library. If you discover any other meeting venue options, please let the club know.

Can you spare an hour per week to help rescue the East County from the grips of unethical Republican and religious extremists? I've got several easy and fun volunteer positions, and I'll help you get started. Just say "I volunteer!" and you'll never regret it!

-- Raymond Lutz, President. ☺

issues surfaced surrounding Blackwater, somehow his operation was turned in and shut down. Halcon said that his company is working hard to rectify the discrepancies with the County DPLU and expects to reopen soon.

Halcon confirmed that he is a direct competitor to Blackwater for sharpshooting and weapons training. He does not offer any drivers training on his site.

In Part IV of the event, we had a surprise guest, **Michael Lumpkin**, U.S. Navy SEAL Commander (RET) who corroborated the claim that law enforcement and the military needs additional ranges and driving training facilities. The public discussion of the issues developed a consensus that changing laws at the federal level may be required to stop the slippery slope of privatization we seem to be sliding down. ☺

### COPs NEWS

Citizens' Oversight Projects, AKA "COPs" has been a very successful project so far! As a citizen in a democracy, it's your job to oversee the entire government! Too bad the job not helped by a lack of independent investigative journalists, and a government that is so large, it doesn't even know how big it is.

Instead, we are looking for citizens who can just go to local governmental meetings, usually once or twice a month. Having a citizens in the room changes these meetings from insiders robbing the piggy bank to respectable affairs.

As our first success story, we noticed that the Government Access Channel (Cox 24) run by the City of El Cajon was broadcasting religious and partisan videos sponsored by cross-waver

councilmember Bob McClellan.

With a single COPs objection, the City pulled the videos, but they had been played for four years. If a single citizen had been in the room four years ago, we could have stopped this unconstitutional mix of religion and government.


Our most recent success was getting the El Cajon City Council to post their entire agenda on their web site, eliminating the need to purchase a \$20+ hardcopy or fighting over a copy at the library. Now, anyone can quickly review the entire document (sometimes 400+ pages) on any browser.

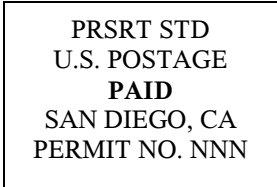
This same success can be rolled out to the rest of our government, and we submitted a proposed party resolution "WebAgendas" at the recent E-Board meeting in Sacramento. It was turned down for now, but I believe that is just a

temporary situation and they will be amenable to approving this once they get used to the idea.

Our hats are off to COPs **Kristy Mundt**, who has been attending every single El Cajon City Council meeting this year, and **Ivars Bezdechi**, who has been doing a great job of auditing the ugly situation with the Christian Community Theater takeover of ECPAC.

Of course, our involvement with the Blackwater West project grew out of our involvement with the Potrero community, and we've already had a huge impact, and have been noticed as far away as North Carolina media as the primary opposition to Blackwater.

Join in the fun. Simply go to [sdvote.org](http://sdvote.org), type in your address, and select a board, council, or group to oversee! 



ECDC  
PO Box 252  
El Cajon, CA 92022  
[www.ECDCweb.org](http://www.ECDCweb.org)

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED