

Newsletter

of the Wilderness Training Committee

Vol. 31, No. 1 / Spring 2020



Ready for
Summer?

Adventure in Your
Own Backyard

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Experience Trips:
You Want Them, We've Got Them!

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30 Years of WTC

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The Roof of Africa

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Second Lake and
Temple Crag near the
Big Pine Creek North Fork Trail

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SIERRA CLUB

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EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT THE PLANET

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Got a story?

If you've got a story to tell, we want to hear it. The WTC Newsletter team welcomes your tales and trip reports, and we're always looking for writers, stories and pictures.

wtcnewsletter@wildernesstravelcourse.org



Congratulations – you survived!

You have spent the last ten weeks learning skills that in today's modern world are, let's face it, really no longer required.

You've hiked the local hills. You've navigated – for real – not just by following the voice emanating from your phone. You've climbed rocks that a few months ago would have seemed – well, probably unwise.

You've learned that snow is not just a pretty backdrop for pictures, but something to hike across, dig in and slide down. And finally, you've learned that you can head into the wilderness in freezing temperatures and come out two days later none the worse for wear. And the little secret is...you might even have had fun out there!

Now you're just two experience trips away from a graduation party in the desert. Good work. CONGRATULATIONS!

But...you're only two-thirds of the way there.

If you haven't noticed, the Sierra's Club motto is *"Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet."* John Muir and others started the Sierra Club in 1892 with the simple idea of protecting the wild places that they found so special. You now possess the skills for parts one and two, but the final part is a stiff challenge.

Unfortunately, the "protecting" part will never be complete, will always be an uphill climb and will have just as many setbacks as successes. On a local, national and global level the protectors among us will always struggle against those who see wild places as untapped sources of economic opportunity.

We see the ebb and flow of the conservation movement around us constantly. We've seen public lands in our country expanded under one administration only to be contracted during the next. Countries, companies and powerful forces will always push to reach a little farther into the wilderness to get just a little more of what they're after.

Save the Date

2020 WTC Graduation Saturday, October 24

Graduation is just two experience trips and five months away. Make plans to come to Joshua Tree to enjoy the celebration, see friends and swap war stories from a summer of adventure.

Your group leader will have all the details as the date approaches.

From the Editor

The protectors see value too – just a different kind. Hopefully your time with WTC has helped you glimpse the true value of wild, untouched places. Value measured in new friendships and shared experiences, in solitude and natural beauty, in clean air and clear water, in a chance to recognize and remember our place in the world, and the value in new, exciting and unlimited challenges that are waiting out in the wild places for anyone willing to go experience them.

A second little secret is that there's a tribe of us protectors out there...and with you, it's growing. The tribe goes out and shares the wild places with friends and family so they can see and experience their value, too. We vote at the ballot box *and* at the cash register. We sign petitions and go to meetings and talk to elected officials. We make choices, big and small, that push the needle toward our priorities instead of the other way.

I hope you'll read through this issue of our newsletter and find ways to continue to explore and enjoy. Read the articles and get inspired. Go to the outings section and find a trip to take part in. Go meet even more new friends who share your passion for the wild places.

And whether with WTC and the Sierra Club, or on your own, don't hesitate – go explore, go enjoy, and perhaps most importantly, GO PROTECT!

Welcome to the tribe.



JOHN SAYS

I can't do it...
**BUT YOU
CAN!**



VOTE!

Celebrating 30 Years

What's that Statement on the Bandanna All About?

Most of us WTC leaders go about our business annually: spring and summer, lead experience trips; fall – graduation and prepare for next year's course; winter, Bam! Back to work doing what we love, teaching skills to a new batch of students and introducing them to new places.

We don't think about counting years and decades. We just keep going. But sometimes it's good to step back and appreciate how far we've come.

Since 1990, we've trained thousands of Southern California wilderness travelers. As a star attraction of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC) is sponsored by the Wilderness Training Committee – a strong and dedicated management team that oversees the course each year in the four Southern California geographic areas: Long Beach-South Bay, Orange County, San Gabriel Valley and West Los Angeles.

2020 is special because it marks WTC's official 30th year of operation. And what a 30 years it's been.

But first, here's some of background, culled from the "historical documents" and institutional knowledge of many of us who have been here a long time.

Before WTC, there was "BMTc" – the legendary Basic Mountaineering Training Course, run by a Mountaineering Training Committee as a more advanced class with an ambitious curriculum that included roped climbing and technical snow skills: ice axe and crampons, arrest, snow anchors. BMTc kicked off officially in 1963 with its first chair, Robin Ives, at the helm. The historical documents get fuzzy on this stuff: a few classes were held in the two years prior by a "Training Committee" for a small group of Club members before it was more formally established.

Over the next many decades, BMTc introduced Southern California aspiring climbers to technical challenges on rock and snow, along with navigation and basic backpacking outdoors skills. At its peak, BMTc was conducted in five southland locations such as SGV, OC, LB, WLA and the Valley. Sound familiar? That's because WTC's structure is based on BMTc. And like, BMTc, WTC likes acronyms.

BMTc lasted until the late 1980s when a few incidents brought an end to that higher level of training for students – many of whom were beginners. Insurance restrictions against ropes and ice axes went into effect and many instructors left BMTc.

As the Mountaineering Training Committee mulled its options, a few leaders saw an opportunity to continue to take students outdoors and so, WTC – a course less focused on technical skills or gear – was born in 1989.

Starting up a new course required a scrappy, dedicated and willing cohort of BMTc leaders to meet a bunch of times (at Georgette's kitchen table, for one place) to pound out a plan. BMTc leader John Horton took an interest and together with another leader, Joe Wankum, they pestered the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) until they got an agreement to proceed to create WTC, with the approval of a Safety Coordinator, Bob Hicks. By the end of 1989, they had an approval to proceed. SGV area was kept together under the leadership of Georgette Schultz (Reick) and, along with some Long Beach and Orange County leaders, SGV and LB were the first WTC areas to roll out in winter of 1990.

In 1990, WTC sponsored just 14 experience trips.

A few years later, Orange County area started up. And so, WTC proceeded for the next several years with three areas until a few leaders agitated to create a West LA area, pulling leaders from SGV to do so. Some might say it was a defection, but, nonetheless, in 1999 WLA area began operation, which brings us to the present with four areas conducting the course.

Today, WTC sponsors over 120 experience trips, intro hikes and training activities each year, some in tandem with Leadership Training or other Angeles Chapter climbing sections.

So what was the stuff that BMTc leaders saw that could carry over to a different course with a different focus? Well, backpacking for one. WTC is sometimes described as an advanced backpacking course. That's what LBSB group

30 YEARS 1990-2020

leader Mike Adams (40 years with BMTC/WTC) once told me. Backpacking, with a twist of snow camping and a taste of mountaineering. Navigation, of course, along with safe traveling and wilderness first aid and more.

While some leaders may miss the extra frisson of excitement that roped travel brings, WTC encourages students to push forward and gain experience with skills-based classes outside our course and – if ready – take the Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP) course. And then, go climb with the climbing sections: Sierra Peaks and Desert Peaks, or exploring with Wilderness Adventures or other Chapter sections.

WTC's curriculum has several things in common with its predecessor: *Freedom of the Hills* as a text, for one, a special student handbook, and a reverence for arcane terms and acronyms, as well as a healthy focus on safety, leadership and love of teaching.

Even today, some of our WTC instructors came from the BMTC days – that's how addicted they are to teaching new folks each year. Learn by doing some rock scrambling and climbing a desert peak; learn by testing yourself and your gear.

Yes, even staff learn new things each year just by hanging out with the students.

So, 30 years of WTC adds up to amazing adventures accomplished, places visited, mountains climbed, friendships made, skills acquired and staff and student smiles alike. Worthy of celebration.



Jane Simpson is WTC Chair (and un-official WTC historian)



The newsletter, circa. 2000

- WTC ACTIVITIES -1989
- PRINT, DISTRIBUTE APPLICATIONS
 - PROCURE STUDENT HANDBOOKS
 - PROCURE MAPS
 - US FOREST SERVICE INTERFACE
 - FINALIZE LECTURER ROSTER
 - ESTABLISH STAFF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS
 - LEADER QUALIFICATIONS FOR 1990 — SC MEMBER (SAFETY COMM) FA TRAINING TECH TRAINING
 - PREPARE TO CONDUCT WTC — REGISTRATION MEETING FACILITIES PERMITS RESERVATIONS TRANSPORTATION DISCOUNTS LECTURE COORDINATION LEADER STAFFING (AREAS)
 - PUBLICITY - EVERYONE

A very early WTC to-do list



(l to r) George Fauestle (long-time SGV G4 Group Leader), Georgette Rieck (founding member of WTC) and Ron Campbell (first elected WTC Chair, OC Ritter Group AGL and Chapter Safety Chair)



REI, Photographer Adam Wells

To the Roof of Africa

From WTC to the World's Tallest Freestanding Mountain

Mt. Kilimanjaro: Acclimatizing and planning our route from Mawenzi Camp with our guide Kibacha.

As the only non-technical mountain of the Seven Summits, Mt. Kilimanjaro appears on many bucket lists. From seasoned mountaineers who “just” need the peak to complete the Seven Summits (the highest mountain of each of the seven continents) to casual hikers who designated this 19,341'-tall mountain as their stretch goal, you will find people from all walks of life on the mountain.

My journey to Kilimanjaro last December was a bit unexpected, as I found out about six weeks prior to the date of departure that I would be climbing the tallest peak in Africa for a photoshoot with REI Adventures. Fortunately, with my WTC training and experience, I was adequately prepared for such an endeavor on short notice. I had been going on or leading experience trips in the Sierras all summer and concluded the season with a technical climb up Thunderbolt Peak at 14,003'. Yes, it's not 19,341' – but it was definitely something.

Many students and staff have ventured to Tanzania to climb “the roof of Africa” armed with the knowledge and confidence gained through WTC. If Mt. Kilimanjaro has been on your bucket list for years or if you're just interested in learning more about where these newfound skills can take you, here are some key WTC takeaways you can apply while summiting a continent on the other side of the world.

Pick the right team.

This one was easy for me, since it was already determined that I would be traveling with REI Adventures and the team they put together for this shoot. Hikers are required to climb Kilimanjaro with a licensed outfitter, so you'll need to find one that offers the route you want in the date range you want to do it in. Don't go based solely off of what's on their website; if you contact them directly, you may find that they have more offerings or can work something out for you. You certainly get what you pay for. As you would expect, REI Adventures was a top-rate operator with great English-speaking guides and porters who ensured that we all successfully summited.

I was very fortunate in that my fellow teammates were a fun and experienced group of people. We had six cast members, a photographer and a videographer from all over the U.S. convene in Tanzania for this exciting adventure. While I didn't know anyone prior to this trip, I made friends on this climb that I still keep in touch with today. I recommend gathering your adventurous hiking buddies and going with your own team so you can work with outfitters to essentially dictate the route, duration and pace that works best for you. You'll also be familiar with your team's conditioning and maybe have even trained together, which will make things easier when you're on a mountain on the other side of the world.



REI, Photographer Adam Wells

Stunning glaciers as we approach the summit.



Glaciers in the background as we near the summit.

REI, Photographer Adam Wells

We had over 50 porters and guides who made this trip possible. Our head guide Kibacha had climbed Kilimanjaro over 100 times and summited the mountain via all of its standard routes. The porters carried up to 32 pounds of communal and personal gear each; every day, they broke down camp after we departed, passed us on the trail and set up the next camp before we arrived. With their help, Mt. Kilimanjaro was extremely doable. Prior to summit day, we never hiked more than six miles a day with simple daypacks; any WTC graduate has done far more than that already.

Plan your route.

No matter what route you pick, a successful ascent of Mt. Kilimanjaro will require you to climb to 19,341'. You have several options regarding how you get there, though. We went with the less-traveled Rongai Route, which starts on the northern side of the mountain and is known for being one of the easier ways to climb it. This worked to our advantage from a filming perspective, since we encountered almost no one during the majority of the climb (we leapfrogged one couple early on) and only encountered other teams once our route merged with others.

All routes up Kilimanjaro go through multiple ecological zones, which is one of the most unique aspects of climbing this particular mountain. Very few mountains, including the other Seven Summits, provide opportunities to experience this kind of variety. We passed through forest, moorlands and alpine desert before arriving at the infamous glaciers near the summit. It was bittersweet, though. While we were approaching the summit, Kibacha pointed to the use trail we were on and said, "See this trail? Last year, it was completely covered in snow. There used to be a lot more snow here." I always wanted to climb Kilimanjaro before the glaciers melted away, and I felt incredibly lucky to witness their beauty while I was there.

In addition to route, you have your choice of duration. Generally speaking, the more time you have on the mountain, the more time you have to acclimatize and the higher the chances of a successful summit. We spent seven days on the mountain, including a designated acclimatization day at



Massive tents with cots, thick sleeping pads, pillows, a table...and is that a rug? Yeah, I can get used to this.

REI, Photographer Adam Wells

Mawenzi Camp (14,155') on day 4 during which we hiked a grand total of two miles with 240' gain and mainly goofed off, filmed, read, napped and watched the porters play an intense game of bottle-cap checkers.

Those who have traveled to Kilimanjaro know the term "pole pole," which is Swahili for "slowly, slowly." Guides say this to encourage their clients to go slowly up the mountain, since they've seen plenty of people who attempt to climb too high and too fast often succumb to varying degrees of altitude sickness. We didn't hear that phrase often with our team, though; we were so slow (often hiking, backtracking and re-hiking sections so the cameramen could get a better angle) that even our guides looked a bit antsy at times.

Condition...for altitude.

If you think back to the first night of WTC, you may remember that the key point we emphasized during that initial lecture was the importance of conditioning. Mt. Kilimanjaro is by no means the most strenuous peak I've climbed – but it is certainly the highest. The best way to prepare for altitude is to go to altitude, and I did the best I could in the limited time I had. Over the Thanksgiving holiday, I did some casual



Hanging out on the world's tallest freestanding mountain with my amazing teammates after our dance party.

REI, Photographer Adam Wells

hiking in Utah which gave me a few-thousand-foot edge over hiking near sea level in California. Six days before I flew out to Africa, I managed to squeeze in a snow ascent of Mt. Baldy at 10,064'. Of course, I would recommend getting a little more acclimatization in before your trip to Mt. Kilimanjaro, if time permits.

Staying hydrated is important while at altitude; it's even more critical if you're taking Diamox since it helps reduce the symptoms of altitude sickness...but is also a diuretic. Knowing this, I did the second-hardest thing I did on this trip: I gave up coffee. (The hardest thing was not showering for seven days.) We had the option of having coffee or ginger tea every morning and afternoon; though I savored delicious Tanzanian coffee the first couple of days on the mountain, I later switched to ginger tea since coffee is a diuretic and ginger helps mitigate altitude sickness.

Enjoy the journey.

As my yoga instructor often says, "The journey is the joy." And while slogging my way up a switchback path on a volcanic scree slope at 2 a.m. was not quite as pleasant as maintaining a seated forward-fold in a sunlit room, the slow climb to the summit was certainly a journey I will remember for a lifetime. On day 5, we made our way from Mawenzi Camp to Kibo Camp (15,520') where we got to rest our eyes for a few hours before departing for the summit around 1 a.m.; we were supposed to leave at midnight but we were always a bit pole pole. It was pitch-dark and freezing cold, and I knew despite our early start we were not planning to be on the summit for sunrise. I asked Kibacha why we climb at this ungodly hour if we're not planning for a sunrise ascent anyway and he responded, "The trail is so steep and boring that it's too demoralizing if hikers could actually see what they were climbing. It's better in the dark." I couldn't help but let out a laugh, or maybe it was more like a few gasps.

We made it to our intended objective of Gillman's Point

(18,650') in time for sunrise. The hike to Gillman's Point is the steepest and most demanding section of the climb; it's a

Lisa Miyake is a LBSB Group 3 Instructor. Check out Lisa's Kilimanjaro and other adventures on IG: @roadstoAdventure.



significant enough milestone that park authorities provide certificates of completion for those who make it to this point but not the summit. Fortunately, we all made it to our final intended objective of the summit and enjoyed stunning views and a dance party. Yes, a dance party.

There was always a lot of singing and dancing on the mountain, as the guides and porters celebrated our arrival at every camp. So as you can imagine, we had a massive dance party to celebrate our arrival on the summit. We danced for a solid ten minutes and sang at the top of our lungs, relishing this momentous occasion. Our fearless photographer and videographer captured all the festivity on cameras and the whole thing was glorious. Once we were done, there was a bit of silence as we all caught our breaths and I saw the videographer reach for more filming equipment. "Once more for the drone!" he exclaimed and we proceeded to sing and dance again for another ten minutes, admittedly with a little less energy the second time around.

Celebrate your success!

Your journey to the other side of the world doesn't have to end with the successful ascent of Mt. Kilimanjaro. In fact, it shouldn't. There are amazing opportunities to go on safari in Tanzania, with the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater only several hours away. After our respective climbs of Kilimanjaro, Neal Robbins and I met up and spent 13 days on safari and saw the "Big Five" – lions, leopards, rhinos, elephants and Cape buffalos. Historically, the term referred to the five most difficult animals in Africa to hunt on foot but now it's more of a marketing term used by safari operators; regardless, we were excited to see all five. This, combined with eating a picnic lunch in the middle of a wildebeest migration and flying over a pride of lions in a hot-air balloon on Christmas morning, were the highlights of our safari adventure.

After spending a week climbing Kilimanjaro and two weeks on safari, we decided to relax and enjoy our final week in Tanzania on the island of Zanzibar. We dove in the Indian Ocean for a few days and spent our remaining time checking out the island, soaking in the stunning-blue ocean and ringing in the New Year.

However you decide to do it, make sure you set aside some time to enjoy the country of Tanzania and all that it has to offer underneath the roof of Africa. Your WTC skills took you to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro; go ahead and reap the fruits of your labor halfway around the world before you return.



REI, Photographer Adam Wells

Day 1 and Day 7: Before and after photos of our lovely team. We don't look too terrible after not showering for seven days, do we?

Explore, Enjoy and Protect with the Angeles Chapter



It's a known fact that the Sierra Club has a fondness for acronyms and abbreviations. Some are on-the-nose and some are more mysterious like LTC, MOC, PLC and OMC. It gets to the point where people sound like they are talking code. Even within WTC we do it, thus we have SGV, WLA, OC and LBSB – shorthand for areas of the huge geographic region that WTC and the Angeles Chapter serves.

The Chapter wasn't always so big. It took a while from the Sierra Club's founding in 1892 to get around to the creation of the first local chapter in 1911. That year marked the start of the Southern California Section, which became the Southern California Chapter and, finally, the Angeles Chapter, which includes Orange County and has over 40,000 members, 27+ activity "sections" and "committees," and 15 regional groups, not to mention conservation and political committees and task forces.

These activity sections were created out of a shared bond of interests. Ski mountaineering fanatics formed the venerable Ski Mountaineers, photographers formed the Camera Committee, hikers and climbers who loved the Sierra Nevada formed the Sierra Peaks Section. You get the idea.

What this all means for you is that the many trips and activities listed in this newsletter's outings pages are really just a drop in the Angeles Chapter bucket. And when you get tired of outings, there are environmental groups and political committees to get involved with.

So, for a quick primer, here are some of the activity entities you're likely to run across. In fact, the WTC experience trip you go on soon might very well be co-sponsored by one of them.

Sierra Peaks Section

Since 1955, SPS members have been bagging Sierra peaks, class 1 to 5, with most in the class 2 to 3 range from a current list of 247 peaks. From introductory outings to death marches, SPS explores, enjoys, preserves and stimulates interest in climbing and hiking peaks mainly in the Sierra Nevada. The section offers a varied schedule of activities during the climbing season ranging from introductory trips for beginning climbers and graduates of WTC to multi-day backpacks that may require extensive mountaineering skills in rock and snow climbing.



sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks

Desert Peaks Section

The oldest peak-climbing section in the Angeles Chapter, DPS encourages members to explore and enjoy the desert mountain ranges of the Southwest, become familiar with their scenic resources and stimulate interest in climbing these vast desert ranges. Members also strive to enlist public interest and cooperation in protecting desert areas and advance the Sierra Club mission. DPS was informally organized in 1941 by founder Chester Versteeg and formally established in October 1945.



desertpeaks.org



A DPS/WTC co-sponsored experience trip to Dyadic Peak

Hundred Peaks Section

Legend has it that when this section was named back in 1946, no one could imagine doing more than 100 peaks. The list now has 279. HPS bags peaks all over Southern California; from San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties in the west, to Kern County and the Southern Sierra Nevada to the north, to Joshua Tree National Park in the east and to San Diego County in the south. Most of their peaks are class 1 and 2, with a few having class 3 summit blocks. Their trips can be easy trail hikes to grueling but rewarding crosscountry excursions. You'll see several WTC trips co-sponsored with these folks.



hundredpeaks.org

Wilderness Adventures Section

Don't want to bag just a peak? How about a lake or a National Park site? WAS was founded by individuals who love exploring all aspects of the great outdoors, but who don't feel compelled to climb every peak on a list (but will if it's there). WAS sponsors a wide variety of outings from on-trail day hikes to off-trail peak climbs, to car camps, bus trips, island trips and winter travel. WAS folks believe that when people are passionate about the outdoors, they'll work to protect it. They help people discover and enjoy the earth's wilderness, mountains, wetlands, woodlands, seashores, rivers, desert and plains.

wildernessadventuresla.org

20s & 30s Section

This section was formed to promote, organize and lead Sierra Club activities that interest environmentally conscious single people in their 20s & 30s. They have events all around Los Angeles, along with Orange and Ventura counties. Although the majority of their members are singles in their 20s & 30s, anyone is welcome to join and/or participate in activities that range from social and newcomer events to hikes and wilderness outings, including hiking, backpacking, car camping, canoeing, sailing, biking, kayaking and skiing.

sc2030singles.org

Griffith Park Section

The Griffith Park Section seeks to preserve and protect the natural ecology of Griffith Park, helping to assure its continuance as an open area always accessible to the public. They lead regular weekday evening hikes to increase awareness of the beauty and needs of Griffith Park. The Section also schedules regular cleanup events and other volunteer activities as a public service.

angeles.sierraclub.org/griffith_park_section

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans

GLS began as a grassroots effort in 1986 as the Gay and Lesbian Committee, with a few people who shared the environmental cause of the Sierra Club, but wanted to enjoy the wilderness "out of the closet." They sponsor a variety of activities, including day hikes, car camps, backpacks, mule packs, bike rides, peak bags, beach walks, boat trips and a host of other outdoor activities, as well as conservation education, fundraisers, outdoor skills training and social activities.

glstracks.org

Natural Science Section

NSS offers hikes, walks and workshops dedicated to the understanding of the natural sciences – botany, zoology, geology and ecology. You'll find a few WTC leaders on the NSS roster and you'll gain environmental awareness knowledge that will go a long way toward impressing your friends!

sierraclub.org/angeles/natural-science

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

The chapter's Inspiring Connections Outdoors is our local arm of a huge National ICO program that reaches out to underserved communities, providing opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world. In 2016, LA ICO led 136 outings for 4,277 children and 1,056 parents and teachers. This section does truly cool things and they can always use more help and support. Consider becoming a leader and joining the effort!

angelesico.org



A local ICO trip to Eagle Rock

Santa Monica Mountains Task Force

SMMTF began life in 1972 as a conservation-activist group with a mission to support and create the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area (SMMRA), which was achieved in 1978. Part of the effort has included trail building led by Master Builder Ron Webster. Forty-plus years later, the "trailies" crew continues the work of maintaining and building trails that we all use, including those impacted by the recent fires. SMMTF also sponsors several weekday hike series.

smtmf.org



WTC volunteers help out with SMMTF trail maintenance

Orange County Sierrans Section

From newcomer hikes in Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, to conditioning hikes in Irvine, to trips to see waterfalls, beginner backpacks and beyond, this very active OCSS hiking bunch can be found at

angeles.sierraclub.org/ocss

Are you tired yet? If you're not, here are a few more from the full list found at angeles.sierraclub.org/about_us/whats_your_passion/activity_sections_committees

The **Backpacking Committee** teaches beginner backpacking and does popular holiday weekend bus trips. You'll see some WTC leaders on their trips.

angeles.sierraclub.org/backpacking

Mule Pack Section: Just like it sounds – mules carry your gear and you hike. How great is that? These are very popular, so you gotta sign up early.

sierramulepacks.org

Ski Mountaineers Section: SMS skis mountains! They have high standards for those skiers who may join them, but check 'em out.

skimountaineerssectionlchaptersc.org

The Huts and Lodges

San Antonio Ski Hut Committee manages that blue-green house (aka, Baldy Ski Hut). It was built in 1936 by the Ski Mountaineers and it still greets you on your way up the Manker Flats/Baldy Bowl hiking route.

angeles.sierraclub.org/san_antonio_ski_hut

Harwood Lodge Committee manages the grand old stone lodge, Harwood, near Manker Flats.

angeles.sierraclub.org/harwood_lodge

Keller Ski Hut Committee runs the newly refurbished Keller Hut – (helped out by several WTC leaders!) located across the street from Snow Valley Ski area near Running Springs. It's spiffed up and ready for your visit. Consider volunteering to help out one weekend by contacting Mike Adams at adamsfreerange@gmail.com.

angeles.sierraclub.org/kellerpeakskihut



The Keller Ski Hut – still looking good after 80 years

Angeles Chapter Regional Groups

As a member of the Chapter, you automatically belong to a regional group. But you don't have to be a member to go on the various hikes, meetings, social events, fundraisers and what-have-you they offer. For instance, WLA Group has been sponsoring Friday night hikes to Parker Mesa Overlook for over 20 years. PVS (Palos Verdes), Long Beach and Pasadena list regular "conditioning" hikes during the week and Orange County has Wednesday night hikes and more! Not to mention the newly-formed Central Group with its interesting slate of events and walks.

Look here for your regional group:

angeles.sierraclub.org/about_us/regional_groups

And if you still have some energy, check out the chapter's website and discover everything else they're doing on environmental issues and political action – then get involved.

Welcome to the Angeles Chapter – you'll never be bored again!



Jane Simpson
is WTC Chair

SIERRA CLUB BY THE NUMBERS



Adventure in Your Own Backyard

Everest Base Camp. Kilimanjaro. Mont Blanc. Mt Fuji. The Australian Outback. Patagonia. Sure, there are thrilling places be found around the world. But you don't have to get a visa, a plane ticket, and immunizations to have an adventure. We've got plenty of opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the wilderness, and maybe even get extreme, that are within driving distance.

Wildfires are terrible, but the wildflowers that appear the following spring are wonderful. The hills of Malibu and Orange County typically explode with color after a fire. The heavy rains of 2019 may trigger "super bloom" in places that didn't burn, like Carrizo Plains and Anza Borrego. Whether you visit a scorched hillside or a desert basin, be mindful of the fragility of wildflowers – this is one time to stay on the trail.

Urban Adventure in Griffith Park

Griffith Park, one of the largest municipal parks in the United States, has numerous mountain trails. Local mountaineer Doug Mantle trained for climbing Mt. Everest by running those trails. Give them a try and soon you might be on top of the world, too! The Sierra Club leads evening conditioning hikes in Griffith Park every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Old Standbys

WTC groups go to several different local peaks for their all-day hikes, and they're all good workouts. In the San Gabriel Mountains, try hiking up Condor Peak, Mt. Lowe or Mt. Wilson (from Chantry Flat or the harder trail from Sierra Madre). Orange County has Santiago Peak, aka Saddleback Mountain. Another common hike, especially good for getting in shape for trips to the Sierra Nevada, is Mt. Baldy. The Ski Hut Trail is a favorite while the Bear Canyon trail adds 2000 more feet to your workout.

Rock Scrambling on Strawberry Peak

The Mountaineers Route on Mt. Whitney is famous, but Strawberry Peak has a Mountaineers Route, too. The West Ridge of Strawberry Peak is called "the fun climb" of the San Gabriels because of the 3rd-class rock scrambling. The trailhead, Colby Canyon, is just 10 miles from La Canada. Follow the painted arrows to the top, but don't forget to look back – there aren't any arrows to guide you down.



Mountaineering

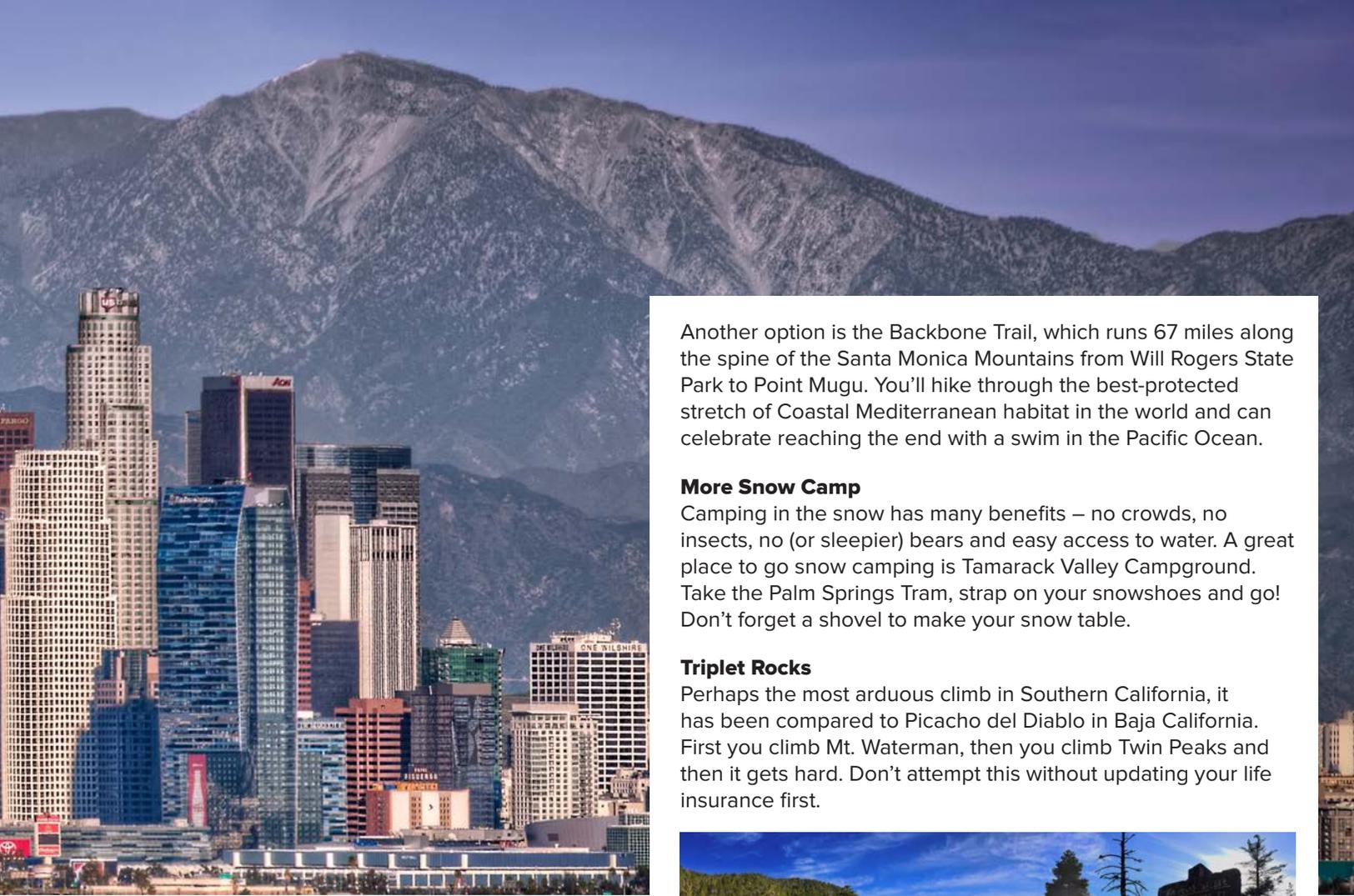
The traverse from Iron Mountain to Mt. Baldy along the San Antonio Ridge is long, hard and treacherous. And the car shuttle's no picnic, either. Bring plenty of water for this 9000-foot climb!

Classic Snow Climb

Baldy Bowl is the birthplace of Southern California skiing and it's an awesome sight when it's full of snow. Dig out your ice axe, strap on the crampons and head for the top. Book a berth at the Sierra Club's Ski Hut if you want to spend the night in a cozy chalet, or camp on the top for an awesome sunrise.



Located at 8,300' and built in 1936, the San Antonio Ski Hut can only be reached by the steep 3-mile Baldy Bowl (aka Ski Hut) Trail



San Gorgonio

At 11,503 feet, San Gorgonio is the tallest peak in Southern California. It's higher than the tallest peaks in 142 countries. On trail, it's over 18 miles and about 5400 feet of climbing. If you like a winter challenge, the North Chute has a fearsome snow slope that requires ice axe and crampon skills along with a lot of stamina.

Thru-Hiking

There's nothing like being on a trail day after day. Experience local segments of Pacific Crest Trail without resupplies or complicated logistics. For example, the hike from Cajon Pass (I-15) to Agua Dulce (Hwy. 14) spans the length of the San Gabriel Mountains, a little over 110 miles on trail.



Airy views from above Los Angeles on the Backbone Trail

Another option is the Backbone Trail, which runs 67 miles along the spine of the Santa Monica Mountains from Will Rogers State Park to Point Mugu. You'll hike through the best-protected stretch of Coastal Mediterranean habitat in the world and can celebrate reaching the end with a swim in the Pacific Ocean.

More Snow Camp

Camping in the snow has many benefits – no crowds, no insects, no (or sleeper) bears and easy access to water. A great place to go snow camping is Tamarack Valley Campground. Take the Palm Springs Tram, strap on your snowshoes and go! Don't forget a shovel to make your snow table.

Triplet Rocks

Perhaps the most arduous climb in Southern California, it has been compared to Picacho del Diablo in Baja California. First you climb Mt. Waterman, then you climb Twin Peaks and then it gets hard. Don't attempt this without updating your life insurance first.



At the beautiful Mt. Waterman/Twin Peaks saddle, you've still got a long way to go to get to Triplet Rocks

The Biggest, Baddest Day Climb

Want something harder? The Cactus to Clouds trail goes from the desert floor at Palm Springs to the top of Mount San Jacinto, a climb of over 10,000 feet. The climate zones vary so much it's like hiking from Mexico to Canada, so get an early start. Luckily, there's a restaurant 8000 feet up and a tram to take you down, so even if you cut it short, you can still have a cold beer near the top.



The San Jacinto Hut is the last stop before the peak on the biggest, baddest dayhike you may ever do in Southern California

Wet Hike

Not every adventure involves mountaintops. The “Bridge to Nowhere” over the East Fork of the San Gabriel River, is 4.5 miles away from the nearest road. Why is there a two-lane bridge in the middle of nowhere? Why do people jump off it for fun? Go there and find out. Just be ready to cross the river a few times on your way.



The Bridge to Nowhere is somewhere near Azusa

Warm and Wet Hike

Take off some (or all) of your clothes and slip into Deep Creek Hot Springs in the San Bernardino National Forest. Go ahead, you’ve earned it. Don’t get too relaxed, though – you’ll still have to hike back to your car.



Hike, then soak, at Deep Creek Hot Springs

Friends and Family Hike

Share the adventure with novices on an easy hike like Mount Lowe from Eaton Saddle. Drive up the Angeles Crest Highway and Mt. Wilson Road to the big clearing. From there it’s just 1.5 miles and a 500-foot gain to the top of Mt. Lowe. Almost anyone can reach the summit and it’s a worthy climb. A bonus is a trip though the 1946 Mueller Tunnel on the way.



The Mueller Tunnel

Help someone else have an adventure

One of the most satisfying activities you can engage in is trail building and repair. Shoveling dirt may not be an adventure for you, but fixing a trail so that others can experience nature safely is something to brag about. There are several groups you can volunteer with, such as the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force and the San Gabriel Mountains Trailbuilders.



WTC’s Karen Buehler helps out with Santa Monica Mountain Task Force trail maintenance

Resources:

Afoot and Afield: Los Angeles County, by Jerry Schad

Trails of the Angeles: 100 Hikes in the San Gabriels, by John W. Robinson

Modernhiker.com, edited by Casey Schreiner

Angeles Chapter Climbing Sections, famous for their trip guides and report archives:

- Hundredpeaks.org
- Desertpeaks.org
- Sierrapeaks.org

Snwburd.com, excellent trip reports from a guy who has climbed most of the peaks in SoCal

Hikinginsocal.blogspot.com, nice descriptions of hikes, both common and obscure

Nobodyhikesinla.com, despite the name, it has descriptions of over a 1,000 hikes

Socalhiker.net, another blog full of local adventures

Climber.org, one of the first web resources and still an excellent source

Summitpost.org, has information for California and beyond



Will McWhinney is a WLA Group 3 Instructor

Drinking from the Source

Like many of you, I've always had a romantic view of the outdoors, especially if an element of water was included. I love seeing creeks, rivers, lakes and waterfalls. The gentle sound of running water has a calming and soothing effect on a tired body or mind. I always find joy and special satisfaction when I pull water directly from nature. For me, water not owned by a corporation or municipality. Water not running through pipes or plastic bottles has a distinct taste and connection to the landscape. Water is also a source of security and nourishment so we usually camp near water sources making it convenient to refill as needed for cooking and hydration.



I'll never forget drawing my first bottle of unfiltered water, student year snow camp in Rock Creek, and marveling at how sweet and refreshing the water tasted. During subsequent backpacking trips, I sometimes filtered and others times didn't, depending on the source and its proximity to the front country. Sometimes the water is sweet, sometimes it's flat, and other times it has notes reflecting terroir minerals and flavors. After backpacking trips, I've treated my houseplants with the leftovers in my bottles and although it might be a placebo observation, they seemed to thrive on the backcountry water.

In June 2017, I had to stop backpacking for a few months because of back problems leading to surgery. My (then) husband went on to complete 21 backpacking trips that summer. One consolation to not joining him and our WTC friends on the backpacking trips was the gifts of water he'd bring home. Although I wanted to hear all about the experience and see the photos, more than anything, I wanted to taste the water. While my soul yearned to be outside again, my body could at least be replenished with the water I'd grown to love so much.

Luckily, by October 2017, I was back to the trails and once again drinking from the source. In 2018, I went on 14 backpacking trips and relished each drop of water our generous nature provided. As southern Californians, we are too familiar with droughts and the scarcity of water. Perhaps this is part of the reason we so appreciate its abundance in the outdoors.

When I ask others, everyone has their favorite source or memory of water in the wilderness, and their own opinion on filtering or not. Ask your fellow

hikers and leaders about their favorite water source. As you embark on your upcoming experience trips, I invite you to pause and notice the water around you, and take pleasure in every quenching sip.



Lubna Debbini
is a OC Kaweah
Group Instructor



At a small tarn below Moose Lake, with the Great Western Divide as our backdrop! (l-r) Cal Kelly, Dani Marzouca, Sharon Cech, Richard Schwerdtfeger, Jon Austin, Mimi Shing Ann Mohrbacher, Emma Shutko, co-leader Shawnté Salabert, kneeling (l-r) co-leader Chris Rigg, Crystal Issen



WLA Group 4 is all smiles on the summit of 4377

OUTINGS

The outings published in this newsletter are sponsored mainly by WTC. Some are also sponsored by other Sierra Club Angeles Chapter entities. As a WTC student, your training places you in good standing with other sponsoring groups and sections who welcome your participation. For a full listing of all that is offered, see the Chapter's Schedule of Activities at angeles.sierraclub.org/activities.

See your *Student Handbook* for more information about graduation requirements.

To reserve your place on an outing, follow the instructions listed in the trip description and provide all the information requested by the leader, typically your name, address, home and work phone numbers, WTC leader's name, the name and date of the outing you wish to join, and your experience and physical conditioning.

You may be placed on a waiting list if a trip is full. If your plans change and you need to cancel your reservation, it's common courtesy that you contact the leaders to let them know, even if you are on the waiting list.

Trips marked with an asterisk(*) were not yet final at the time of publication.

Want more? There are new outings and activities added all the time. Go to www.wildernesstravelcourse.org/outings for updated listings.

REMEMBER: New trips are being added all the time. For the latest WTC adventures, check out: www.wildernesstravelcourse.org/outings/



WTC Experience Trip qualifies as a WTC experience trip for graduation.



Trip of Interest does not qualify as a WTC experience trip.



Training Opportunity LTC Events, Navigation, Environmental Awareness and other opportunities.



Mountaineering Technically challenging, not suited to all WTC students. Strong students with prior mountaineering experience may qualify.

Fri–Sun, Mar 20–22 I: Canyon Point (5,890')

Neal Robbins 3105942293 neal.robbs@l-3com.com

Lisa Miyake lmiyake@gmail.com

Mat Kelliher (818) 667-2490 mkelliher746@gmail.com

ET Death Valley exploratory trip for WTC students and leaders or equivalent. Friday 4x4 car shuttle to setup Cottonwood Canyon to Marble Canyon loop backpack, then pack 9 miles & 2500' gain to Cottonwood Springs, a favorite of local wild horses. Saturday pack 5 miles & 1300' to camp in Horsethief Canyon. In route we will dayhike an additional 2 miles & 1100' RT to Canyon Point for views of the Panamints and into the depths of Death Valley. Sunday we will ascend 1300' to intersect Marble Canyon and then descend this deep winding slot canyon of black and white streaked marble 7 miles to our car shuttle. The sharp eye may catch sight of Indian petroglyphs that adorn the canyon walls. Priority will be given to those with 4WD vehicles. This DPS Outing is co-sponsored by WTC and HPS. E-mail contact info, recent experience & conditioning, and rideshare details to leader.

Sat–Sun, Mar 21–22 I: Quail Mtn. (5814') and Minerva Hoyt

Hollen Fuller (808) 670-0574 hollenfuller@gmail.com

David Meltzer (310) 913-1230 dwm@crgpm.com

ET Come on out and backpack with us to JTNP's highest peak, Quail Mtn, to join us for spectacular views. This is an easy paced but moderately strenuous 14.5 miles RT backpack with 1,800' of elevation gain using mostly cross-country routes. Saturday, easy paced 5 miles to camp, set up camp, 2 miles to summit Quail, then Minerva Hoyt, and back to camp for happy hour for a total rt of 9.6 miles. All hike out Sunday morning from camp. Whether looking to bag a peak for the Hundred Peaks Section or qualify towards WTC Course graduation, it is a great opportunity and lot of fun. Bring minimum 6 liters of water (dry camp), 10 essentials, lug sole boots, and layered clothing. We will encounter some rough, rocky sections on Quail and Minerva. Steady rain cancels. Group size is limited. \$30 Park entrance fee per car. If you

want to participate in the outing, please provide your hiking resume to leaders.

Sat–Sun, Mar 28–29

I: Eagle Mtn.

Sonia Soriano soniasor@gmail.com

Bernie Fox

ET Enjoy one of Joshua Tree NP's finest views atop Eagle Mountain during this moderately strenuous backpacking trip with 11 total miles and 2500' gain. On Saturday we'll start from Cottonwood Spring to cross 3 miles of open desert to where we will set-up camp and enjoy happy hour. On Sunday we start early on our class 2 scrambling ascent of Eagle Mountain, capturing expansive views of the Salton Sea and surrounding deserts at the summit before retracing our steps to break camp and return to the cars. Please send hiking resume, current conditioning and name of WTC Group Leader (if any). Participants should be comfortable on second class terrain (loose rock and cholla, beware) and be prepared to carry all water into camp (6–7 liters minimum). Priority will be given to 2020 WTC students seeking an experience trip.

Sat–Sun, Mar 28–29

I: Panamint City and Sentinel Peak via Surprise Canyon

Scot Angus 310-479-4595 jscotangus@gmail.com

Jason Seieroe 626-641-5828 jasonseieroe@gmail.com

ET Panamint City is a ghost town at the top of Surprise Canyon, laying just under Sentinel Peak on the western edge of Death Valley. A rough 5-mile hike up shallow waterfalls and through occasionally dense vegetation keeps the hike interesting before it opens up about halfway through. Several mines, some relatively well-preserved cabins, and year-round water sources make it a fun place to explore. There is a good chance of light snow on Sentinel, but there shouldn't be much. Leaders will turn back if snow conditions exceed the trip's I-rating.

Sat–Sun, Apr 4–5

I: Pinto Mountain (3983')

Chelsey Emanuel chelseyemanuel@gmail.com

Regge Bulman r_bulman@fastmail.us

ET Join us as we journey across Pinto Basin towards our objective of Pinto Mountain in the beautiful southern section of Joshua Tree National Park. We will meet Saturday afternoon and backpack roughly 2.5 miles across open desert to our camp for the night. Here we will enjoy a sunset happy hour and prepare for our climb the next morning. Sunday's climb will begin near dawn as we hike through a wash, keeping an eye out for the elusive desert tortoise! After 1.8 miles of wash we will begin our 1-mile climb up 1463' of rugged/rocky terrain. After enjoying a snack and pictures on Pinto Mountain, we will carefully retrace our steps back to camp and pack up for our hike out. Anticipated arrival to the cars is mid to late afternoon. Round trip will be 11 miles with 2193' gain. Participants should be comfortable on second class terrain (loose rock) and be prepared to carry all of your water for the weekend (6 liters minimum). Contact Chelsey Emanuel for trip status and details. Level: Moderate to Strenuous.

Sat–Sun, Apr 11–12

I: Minevera Hoyt (5405') and Quail Mt. (5813')

Susan Stahl (310) 315-5609 susanjstahl@gmail.com

Bernie Fox (310) 400-4043 berniefox@gmail.com

ET Moderately difficult backpacking trip in off-trail areas of a lesser-travelled region in Joshua Tree National Park. We start at the Keys West backcountry registration board (Boy Scout trailhead) on Saturday at noon to hike to our camp where we set up, enjoy a leisurely happy hour, and turn in early for the night. At dawn Sunday morning, we day-hike to Mount Minerva Hoyt (named after the woman responsible for the parks creation), then continue on to Quail Mountain (the highest peak in JTNP) and eat lunch. Well descend to camp, pack up, and head back to the cars. Mileage is approximately 14 miles RT, with 2140 elevation gain, mostly off-trail. Each participant must carry in enough water for 2 days of hiking, possibly in warm weather (trip will be modified if temperatures are unseasonably hot). Participants pay JTNP entry fee of \$30 per car (or bring a National Parks Pass). Parking is limited, so carpooling is encouraged. Please email your hiking/backpacking resume with recent conditioning and contact information to leader.

Sat–Sun, Apr 11–12

I: Peak 4769 and Pine City in Joshua Tree

David Meltzer (310) 913-1230 dwm@crgpm.com

Brian Decker (714) 642-0588 scubaairpig@yahoo.com

ET Sat 4.5 miles RT x-country to find and explore local mining history with Nav workshop on the way. Then we will venture another couple miles to Pine City to set up camp and explore the area. Pine City is not a city or a town but an island of desert greenery. View large pine trees among the isolated collection of rocky walls and boulder mounds. Sun we will climb peak 4769, explore more and then head out of camp. Bring 10 essentials, minimum 6 liters water (dry camp), lug soles and layered clothing. Email contact information, w/ recent experience and conditioning to leaders.

Sat–Sun, Apr 18–19

I: Quail Mountain (5,813')

Tara Kerin (404) 449-7056 tarakerin@gmail.com

Sarah Quist (608) 334-1033 sarahschuh@gmail.com

ET Two days/one-night backpack in Joshua Tree National Park. Saturday, we will have an easy backpack (5.5 miles/550 gain) to set up camp at the lovely Juniper Flats. Each participant will be required to carry a minimum of 6-7 liters (13-15.5 lbs) of water to our dry camp. We may have some downtime to practice navigation, read, or maybe even nap! Saturday evening Happy Hour, so bring your best snacks! Sunday AM, hike XC to Quail Mountain (3.5 miles/1000 Gain). Sunday afternoon, pack up camp and backpack out (5.5 miles/500 loss). Email leaders your hiking resume and your preferred "downtime at camp" activity for consideration. Group size limited, and priority will go to 2020 WTC students.

Sat–Sun, Apr 18–19

MR: Dyadic Peak and Spectre Peak

Regge Bulman (424) 750-9519 r_bulman@fastmail.us

Monica Suua (310) 399-1156 mosuua@gmail.com

MT ET Join us for a post-class climb in the rugged and remote Coxcomb Mountains -- its like 4377 on steroids -- lots of them. Saturday, backpack to camp (5 miles, 1300' gain). Sunday, climb peaks then back to camp and out to cars (9 miles, 1600' gain). Dyadic is the priority, Spectre will be done if time allows. Must be comfortable on exposed third-class rock and carry all water for two days. Trip restricted to Sierra Club members -- helmet and harness required. Send email with experience and conditioning to leaders.

Sat–Sun, Apr 25–26

I: Warren Point Navigation Noodle

Robert Myers rmmys@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

TR Navigation noodle at Warren Point to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sunday checkoff or additional practice. Send email with contact info (mailing address, telephone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to leader.

Sat–Sun, Apr 25–26

I: Last Chance Mountain (8,456')

Elyse Lattanzio elyselattanzio@gmail.com

Megan Birdsill mbirdsill@gmail.com

ET Make Last Chance Mountain your first experience trip! Ominous-sounding yet extremely fun, this peak looms over old mining ruins in an isolated area of northern Death Valley National Park. Well hike in on Saturday afternoon, traveling 3.5 miles / 1,300 gain on dirt roads to our camp among the ruins. (Bring your A-game for happy hour!) Well set out for the summit early on Sunday, enjoying panoramic views of Eureka Valley as we ascend a Pinyon Pine-dotted ridge. After hitting the peak, well reverse our route to break camp and pack out (11 miles / 2,400 gain). Trip totals approx. 15 miles and 3,700' of elevation gain. This DPS outing is co-sponsored by WTC.

Fri–Sun, May 1–3

M: Southern Sierras Sojourn

Jason Seieroe jasonseieroe@gmail.com

Mat Kelliher (818) 667-2490 mkelliher746@gmail.com

Regina Sullivan (206) 769-2438 rmsulli29@yahoo.com

MT ET If you enjoyed the JTree climb of 4377, you should join us for this trip in the Southern Sierras for an early season climb of SPS peaks Smith and Crag. On Friday we will hike in on-trail to our camp (4.5 miles 1300' gain), before continuing on to climb SPS peak Smith (9520') and unlisted Jackass Peak (9280') in the afternoon (additional 5.5 miles and 1700' gain half XC). Saturday will take us through the woods to a fun 3rd class climb of SPS Crag Peak (9480') and possibly the nearby USGS Crag Peak (9440') before returning to camp for a well-earned celebratory happy hour (9 miles 2600' gain mostly XC). Sunday, we hike out to our cars (4.5 miles 100' gain) and grab some non-dehydrated food in town before driving home. Good potluck contributions, conditioning, helmet and comfort on 3rd class terrain required. Preference given to WTC Students. Co-sponsored with Sierra Peaks Section. Send experience and conditioning to leader.

Sat, May 23

I: Beginning Navigation Clinic

Diane Dunbar (818) 248-0455 dianedunbar@charter.net

Richard Boardman (310) 344-8686 r.boardman@yahoo.com

TR Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers welcome and practice is available at all skill levels. Not a checkout, but it will help you prepare. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. 4 mi, 500' gain. Send sase, phones, rideshare info, \$25 deposit (Sierra Club), refunded at trailhead to leader.

Sat–Sun, May 23–24

I: Waterman Nav Pack, Angeles National Forest

Molly Arevalo (213) 804-9526 mollyarevalo@gmail.com

Nancy Le (818) 983-8149 nancytranle@gmail.com

Shawnte Salabert (843) 532-2545 shawntesalabert@gmail.com

Teresa Noonan teresanoonan@yahoo.com

ET Do you love navigation? Then come out for this overnight backpack on the Sat-Sun of Memorial Day weekend to practice staying found in the Angeles National Forest. This counts as a WTC experience trip. We will leave early Saturday morning with a short, but steep (1 mi., 1300' gain) hike to our dry campsite. After setting up camp, we will explore the area and practice our nav skills, returning for an evening happy hour. Sunday morning will involve additional nav practice before packing out in the early afternoon.

Sat–Sun, May 30–31

I: Deer Mountain (9,418')

Randy De Los Santos (949) 307-6443 randyd242@gmail.com

Emily Nelson (425) 503-1872 emily.nelson1001@gmail.com

ET Who's ready to get back out on the trail?! Join us for a 2-day, early-season trip, to the beautiful Southern Sierras. We'll leave out of the Kennedy Meadows Trailhead Saturday morning and hike about 8 miles (2600' of gain) to camp near Becks Meadow. After setting up camp, and hopefully enjoying a backcountry nap, we'll also be able to enjoy a group happy hour around a rare backcountry campfire! Sunday, we'll set off early to bag Deer Mountain and hike out. Hopefully we'll make great time on the trail out and we'll be able to enjoy some delicious food at the Grumpy Bears Retreat in Kennedy Meadows. Sunday will be 12 miles and approx. 1900' of gain. Your 10 essentials are required along with 2–3 liters of water. Preference is given to current WTC students needing an experience trip for graduation. Please email your hiking resume and recent conditioning to the outing leaders.

Sat–Sun, Jun 6–7

I: Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle

Robert Myers rmmymers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

TR Navigation noodle at Mt. Pinos to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sunday checkoff or additional practice. Send email with contact info (mailing address, telephone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to leader.

Fri–Sun, Jun 12–14

I: Boundary, Montgomery, and Dubois

Jason Seieroe jasonseieroe@gmail.com

Philip Bates (949) 786-8475 philipabates@gmail.com

ET Climb three of the four highest peaks on the DPS list, including an Emblem Peak! Friday, backpack in from Queen Mine to our dry camp for a potluck and amazing sunset views (4 miles, 2400' gain). Snow drifts at this high altitude (10,800') will be our water source for the weekend. An early start on Saturday will ensure we have time to reach all the peaks and enjoy the expansive views before returning to camp for a celebratory potluck (13 miles, 3600' gain). Sunday, break camp and hike out to the cars for the long drive home (4 miles, 700' gain). Must be experienced at altitude, have great conditioning and bring an excellent attitude for adventure. Weekend totals 21 miles and 6700' gain. Snow conditions may necessitate a reschedule, leaders will turn back if snow conditions exceed the trip's I-rating. Send email with experience, conditioning to leader.

Sat–Sun, Jun 13–14

I: Olancha Peak (12,123') via Sage Flats

Lubna Debbini (714) 457-0237 lubna.debbini@gmail.com

Kim Crane (949) 338-8062 cranesnest@me.com

ET Join us for one of Orange County's namesake peaks. It is a strenuous trip, so do some training and physical conditioning so you can enjoy it. On the first day, we'll travel 7.75 miles and gain 4500 elevation. We'll rest and enjoy a happy hour then sleep under a starry sky. The second day, we'll ascend another 0.75 mile and 1500 elevation gain then return 8.5 miles to our trailhead. This is a great training opportunity for those hoping to summit the 14K local mountains

or have even higher aspirations. It is also a great early season trip as you wait for the snow to melt in other parts of the Sierra Nevada. This definitely counts as a student experience trip and will get you halfway to graduation! Friday night optional camp at trailhead (5800').

Sat–Sun, Jun 20–21

I: Cirque Peak (12,900')

Joseph Speigl (909) 609-5609 jspeigl1@yahoo.com

Anne Marie Richardson annemariesc@yahoo.com

ET Hike to the top of this peak via the famous, nearly all crosscountry, Speigl Route. Starting on the Cottonwood Lakes trail Saturday morning, we'll quickly leave it and hike through forest and along streams, meadows and glacial moraine to camp at Cirque Lake (5 miles, 1000'). Then on Sunday, we climb sand and talus to the summit, then back to camp and hike out. (8 miles, 2100'). Send resume to leader.

Thu–Sun, Jul 2–5

I: Yosemite Bus & Backpack Trip – May Lake, Mt. Hoffmann & Tuolumne Pk

Sridhar Gullapalli sridhar_gullapalli@yahoo.com

Tohru Ohnuki erdferkel944@yahoo.com

ET Join us this July 4th weekend on a fun-filled bus trip and backpack to May Lake, Mt. Hoffmann (class 2 approach) and Tuolumne Peak and points nearby in the Yosemite high country. Expect a mileage of around 17 miles and an elevation gain of about 3500' for the weekend. With luck, we should also have a wildflower bonanza. This trip is sponsored by the Backpacking Committee, geared towards current WTC students, and counts as an experience trip. Depart the LA area on the 2nd of July aboard our luxury bus and return on the 5th. Make check payable to "Sierra Club" for \$250 if you are a current Sierra Club member (include your SC number) or \$275 for non-members. Please include recent conditioning and hiking info, contact e-mail & cell number along with the city you live in, to leader Sridhar Gullapalli.

Thu–Sun, Jul 2–5

I: Yosemite Bus & Backpack Trip – White Wolf to Smith Peak (7751')

Sharon Moore (562) 896-3081 (talk or text) justslm@earthlink.net

Karen Buehler (818) 363-6216 karen.buehler2@gmail.com

ET This moderate backpack traverses the western south rim of the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne through montane forests, meadows, and old burn scars. The summit of Smith Peak offers views of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and an epic spot to camp. The hike to the summit from White Wolf is 7.1 miles and 1280' of gain, and 1410' on the return. We will check out Harden Lake and explore Smith Meadow or other destinations as conditions permit. History, biology, geology, and thorny conservation issues all intersect in this less-visited corner of the park. 16 hours of Environmental Awareness Credit available to prospective leaders working towards an I or higher rating. This trip is also geared towards current WTC students, and counts as an experience trip. Depart the LA area on the 2nd of July aboard our luxury bus and return on the 5th. Trip fee is \$250 for current Sierra Club members (provide your SC number) or \$275 for non-members and also covers camping the night before the trip and dinner on the return. Email leaders with recent conditioning and hiking resume, contact email and cell number along with the city you live in to be considered for this trip.

Thu–Sun, Jul 2–5

I: Yosemite Bus & Backpack Trip – Mt. Conness (12,590')

Sherry Ross chlross@yahoo.com

Kent Schwitkis schwitkii@earthlink.net

ET Hike in Fri to base camp (9800'). Saturday, summit Mt. Conness 2nd-class summit block (12,590') via Alpine Lake and the east ridge. Sunday, pack out to the bus for the drive home. This trip is geared towards current WTC students, and will count as an experience trip.

ET WTC Experience Trip

TI Trip of Interest

TR Training Opportunity

MT Mountaineering

Fri–Sun, Jul 3–5

I: Cold Mountain (10,300')

Joseph Speigl (909) 609-5609 jspeigl1@yahoo.com

Anne Marie Richardson annemariesc@yahoo.com

ET This is a backpack to Cold Mountain from Tuolumne Meadows of Yosemite. On Friday, we will hike north on the PCT through Tuolumne Meadows following the meandering Tuolumne River. The trail gradually descends for a thousand feet to the waterfalls at Glen Aulin, then slowly ascends to where we'll make camp (8 miles, 1000'). On Saturday, from camp we'll hike up cross country following several creeks and a few lakes to the top of Cold Mountain (6 miles, 2200'). Then on Sunday we retrace the PCT back to Tuolumne Meadows (8 miles, 1000'). There should be some prime botanizing with lush green meadows, lupines and columbines along the way. Preference given to recent WTC students. Send resume to leader.

Sat–Sun, Jul 11–12

I: Cottonwood Lakes and Cirque Peak (12,900') Inyo National Forest

Lubna Debbini (714) 457-0237 lubna.debbini@gmail.com

Randy De Los Santos (949) 307-6443 randyd242@gmail.com

ET If you love great views, beautiful lakes, and aren't bothered at altitudes above 10,000', join us for a spectacular trip starting at Horseshoe Meadows and climaxing at Cirque Peak. On the first day, we'll travel approximately 6 miles and gain 1500'. We'll rest and enjoy a lakeside happy hour. On Sunday, we'll ascend about 1900' in less than 2 miles, but will be rewarded with breathtaking views (without the nearby Whitney crowds or wag bags). After some photos and lunch, well descend and hike back about 7.5 miles back to our trailhead. This is a great training opportunity for those hoping to summit the 14K local mountains or have even higher aspirations. This definitely counts as a student experience trip and will get you halfway to graduation! Email leaders your resume and include your weekly exercise and conditioning.

Sat–Mon, Jul 11–13

I: Red Slate Mountain Ramble

Saveria Tilden (310) 980-9314 saveria@theadventurus.com

Shawnté Salabert (843) 532-2545 shawntesalabert@gmail.com

ET Join us for a 3-day backpacking trip into the John Muir Wilderness via McGee Creek. Day 1 will have us leaving the trailhead in the morning and hiking in approximately 6.5 miles to camp around 10,500'. Participants should be physically prepared to gain over 3000' of elevation with full packs on day 1. We will settle into camp with happy hour, dinner, and some navigation practice before heading to bed. We will set out on day 2 with the goal of reaching the summit of Red Slate Mountain (13,410'), which includes a couple of miles of off-trail rocky terrain. After completing an approximately 6-mile RT day, we return to camp and commence with camp games, hang time and happy hour. After an early breakfast on day 3, we will pack up and hike back to the trailhead...thinking about the enchiladas, burritos, chips and salsa we will devour at our post-trip lunch! Permit fees will be split among the participants and collected prior to the trip. Preference given to WTC students. Please send hiking resume and conditioning experience to leader.

Fri–Sun, Jul 17–19

I: Kern Peak (11,480')

Mat Kelliher (818) 667-2490 mkelliher746@gmail.com

Stephen McDonnell mcdonnell0123@sbcglobal.net

ET Join us for this moderately strenuous trip at a relaxed pace up into the beautifully scenic Golden Trout Wilderness in the Sierra Nevada to climb this gorgeous SPS peak high atop the Toowa Range in the Inyo National Forest. Friday, we'll pack in out of Blackrock Campground on-trail to our campsite in the shadow of Indian Head near Red Meadows for a total of 8.25 miles with 1,800' of gain. Friday night, we'll enjoy a Festive Happy Hour under starry night skies essentially unlit by the late-rising waning crescent moon. Saturday, we'll set out early and ascend mostly XC up forested slopes to the remnants of the old lookout on the summit and enjoy exquisite views of the Whitney area, Mineral King, the Southern Sierra and the Domelands. Returning the way we came up, we'll arrive back at camp with a day's total of about 9.0 miles with 3,000' of gain, ready for another festive Happy Hour under that nearly moonless night sky. Sunday, we'll head back out

the way we came in for a day total of about 8.25 miles with 2,000' of gain. Satisfies WTC Experience trip requirements. Wilderness permit limits group size. This WTC outing is co-sponsored by SPS. Email Mat Kelliher with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details.

Fri–Sun, Jul 24–26

I: Fish Valley, Fish Valley Peak (10, 571'), Llewellyn Falls Loop

Sharon Moore (310) 781-5685 justslm@earthlink.net

James Hagar (818) 243-6574 jhagar1@gmail.com

Kent Schwitkis (310) 955-6146 schwitkii@earthlink.net

Sherry Ross (562) 881-8440 chlross@yahoo.com

ET Seek an endangered fish, meet a stone boy, marvel at giant junipers and bag a peak on this ramble through the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. We'll ID trees, wildflowers, and birds along the way, and stargaze at night. This trip counts as an experience trip for graduation and offers 16 hours of environmental awareness credit for prospective I leaders. Approximately 20 miles and 3300' gain for the weekend. Priority to current WTC students, and staff working on their leadership ratings.

Sat–Sun, Jul 25–26

I: Mt. Pinos Area Nav Pak

Robert Myers (310) 780-9176 rmmymers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi (818) 636-4655 apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

Misha Askren (323) 935-1492 misha.askren@gmail.com

Virgil Shields (818) 859-7281 vshields@alumni.caltech.edu

TR Looking for an opportunity to improve your navigation skills? Join us on this WTC experience trip for a cross-country romp to the areas around Mt. Pinos. We'll spend Saturday and Sunday exploring the area, practicing navigation and taking in a peak. Send email with contact information and recent experience to leader.

Fri–Sun, Jul 31–Aug 2

MR: Twin Peaks (12,323') & Virginia Peak (12,001')

Mat Kelliher (818) 667-2490 mkelliher746@gmail.com

Jeremy Netka 8187038607 jnetka@gmail.com

MT ET Join us for a moderately strenuous early summer loop-trip out into northeastern Yosemite National Park for a fun and rocky ridge traverse to these two gorgeous peaks in the Sierra Nevada near Bridgeport, CA. Friday morning we'll start out from Virginia Lakes (9,852') and pack in on-trail into the Yosemite Wilderness and set up camp alongside a gorgeous alpine lake at 10,250'. Expect a day's total of about 8.2 miles with 2,600' of gain. Saturday morning we'll rise at first light to ascend a steep and sometimes loose Class 2 gully to the sometimes Class 3 ridge that connects Twin Peaks and Virginia Peak; once atop that ridge, we'll make our way to the north to the summit of Twin Peaks, then retrace our steps for a bit to travel south along the ridge on our way to the summit of Virginia Pk, before making our way back to camp. Expect about 4.5 miles for the day with 3,000' of gain and 2,700' of loss. Sunday morning we'll pack up and head out over Virginia Pass (10,550') and then down Glines Canyon and Green Creek to the Green Lakes trailhead (8,120') for a day's total of about 5.5 miles and 1,100' of gain (3,200' of loss). Festive Happy Hour Friday and Saturday evenings under nearly full moonlit, summer night skies! This is a restricted mountaineering outing; participants must be current Sierra Club members and must submit a Sierra Club Medical Form to join us. Absolute comfort on talus and exposed Class 3 terrain required. Helmet, harness, belay device, and experience with their use is required. This WTC outing is co-sponsored by SPS. Email Mat Kelliher with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details.

Sat–Sun, Aug 1–2

I: Mt. Johnson (12,871')

Joseph Speigl (909) 609-5609 jspeigl1@yahoo.com

Justin Bruno (909) 731-2313 justinbruno@hotmail.com

ET We will backpack and climb to this peak that you might have seen on the skyline above South Lake. On Saturday, we'll hike up the Bishop Pass trail for about 1 mile and then take a hard right towards Treasure Lakes (3 miles, 2700'). We'll make camp at a

pristine high alpine lake at about 11,000' surrounded by jagged peaks to enjoy happy hour with a view of South Lake below. On Sunday, we'll continue up beyond the end of the trail and then up the class 2 southeast slope of Johnson, and then return to camp and pack out (6 miles, 1,800'). Send hiking resume to leader.

Sat–Mon, Aug 8–10
I: Mount Davis (12,303')

Mat Kelliher (818) 667-2490 mkelliher746@gmail.com
Stephen McDonnell mcdonnell0123@sbcglobal.net

ET Join us for this strenuous but amazingly scenic trip up into the Thousand Island Lakes region of the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Saturday we'll pack in out of Agnew Meadows via the River Trail along the scenic Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River about 8.75 miles (2,500' gain) and set up camp at Thousand Island Lakes. That night we'll enjoy a festive Happy Hour. Sunday we'll set out at first light for the summit of Mt Davis over steep, sometimes loose, always rugged, crosscountry terrain. We'll enjoy phenomenal views up top and then return to camp the way we came up for a day's total of about 6.5 miles and 2,600' gain. Another festive Happy Hour that night, and then Monday morning we'll pack up and head back out to Agnew Meadows. Satisfies WTC Experience trip requirements. Permit limits group size and permit costs (about \$10 per person) will be split among the group. This WTC outing is co-sponsored by SPS. Email Mat Kelliher with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details.

Sat–Sun, Aug 15–16
I: Cirque Peak (12,900')

Casey Sakamoto casey14505@outlook.com
Jaime Kalenik jaimekalenik@gmail.com

ET Join us for this fun moderately paced WTC Experience Trip in the southern Sierra. Early Saturday morning, we'll hike in 5 miles to our camp at beautiful South Fork Lakes. We'll get another early start Sunday as we head up the final 2 miles to Cirque Peak. After enjoying incredible views from the summit, we'll return to camp and pack out. This is a high elevation trip, sees 3,000' of gain/loss and is mostly cross-country and scree scramble. Email your hiking resume to leaders.

Sat–Sun, Aug 22–23
I: Mt. Lamarck (13,417')

Joseph Speigl (909) 609-5609 jspeigl1@yahoo.com
Tara Kerin (404) 449-7056 tarakerin@gmail.com

ET On Saturday, we'll backpack from the Piute Pass trailhead at North Lake to camp at Upper Lamarck Lake (3 miles, 1,800'). We'll enjoy happy hour with views of the sun setting over the Sierra crest and the Owens Valley to the east. On Sunday, with an alpine start, we'll ascend Lamarck Col and then the class 2 southeast slope to the top of the peak. We'll then return by the same route and pack out to the trailhead (9 miles, 2,700'). Send hiking resume to leader.

Sat–Sun, Aug 22–23
I: San Jacinto Peak, Marion Mtn.

KC Reid kcreid9395@gmail.com
Regina Sullivan regina.m.sullivan@gmail.com

ET Join us on a comfortably-paced backpacking trip with crosscountry travel to peaks in the San Jacinto Wilderness area. We start Saturday morning with a scenic ride on the Palm Springs Tram arriving at an elevation of 8240' and hike 1.5 miles on and off trail to our campsite Tamarack camp (8597'). After a brief break to snack and set up camp, we set out for Marion Peak (10,362') and San Jacinto Mtn (10,834'). We return to camp on and off trail for dinner. Sunday morning, we will hike up to Cornell's register (near but not at its 9750' summit block) before hiking out on trail for 2.4 miles, passing by Round Valley campground. Please budget \$30 for tram ride and permit if accepted on trip. Please send hiking resume, name of WTC Leader, and contact info (phone number) to leader.

Wed–Mon, Aug 26–31

I: Agnew Meadows to Tuolumne Meadows, Carson Peak

James Hagar (818) 468-6451 jhagar1@gmail.com
Sharon Moore (562) 896-3081 justslm@earthlink.net

ET Join us on one of the most memorable sections of the Pacific Crest Trail and John Muir Trail through the eastern Sierra. Taking the High Trail (PCT) from Mammoth and Agnew Meadows we enter the Ansel Adams Wilderness. First day takes us to scenic Badger Lakes to camp and happy hour. Day 2 we will climb nearby Carson peak 7.5 miles 1300' gain, easy class 2, with views of June Lake and the magnificent Ritter range. Next day continue over Donahue pass to camp near Lyell Fork. Day 4 we continue up Lyell Canyon, following the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River as it gently winds up a picturesque canyon and meadows to reach Tuolumne Meadows, with a burger and a YARTS shuttle ride (extra cost) back to cars. Total 35 miles, 5900' elevation gain. Contact leader Jim Hagar with outdoor resume and recent hiking experience. Qualifies as WTC experience trip.

Fri–Sun, Aug 28–30
I: Clouddripper (13,525')

Joseph Speigl (909) 609-5609 jspeigl1@yahoo.com
Inge Mueller

ET On Friday, we will backpack from the trailhead into the incredible Palisade basin. Along the way, we'll pass the glacier fed turquoise lakes on our way up to camp near Fourth Lake (7 miles, 3,500'). On Saturday, we'll get an early start and climb a class 2 route of sand, scree, and talus to the top of Clouddripper (6 miles, 3,000'). On Sunday, we will return back to the trailhead. Preference for WTC students. Please send hiking resume to leader.

Sat–Sun, Aug 29–30
I: Mt. Silliman (11,888')

Phyllis Chung phyllischung8@gmail.com
Rodney Kieffer rodkieffer@yahoo.com

ET Join us on a two-day moderately paced backpacking trip to a beautiful peak in Sequoia National Park. Trip totals approximately 10.5 miles with 4400' elevation gain. We will leave Saturday morning from the Lodgepole campground, backpacking approximately 3.5 miles, 2000' gain of equal parts on-trail and cross country to our backcountry campsite where we will set up camp and enjoy the splendid views. Starting early Sunday morning, we will travel on class 2 granite friction slabs and crosscountry to Mt. Silliman where we will enjoy the views and have lunch, then return to camp to pack up and return to the trailhead. Participants are encouraged to join the leaders camping and acclimatizing at the Lodgepole Campground (6730') on Friday night (reservation secured).

Sat–Sun, Sep 5–6
I: Sawtooth Peak (N) (12,343')

Mat Kelliher (818) 667-2490 mkelliher746@gmail.com
Justin Bruno (909) 731-2313 justinbruno@hotmail.com
Tiffani Bruno (323) 547-0985 mtntnrls@gmail.com

ET Join us for a Labor Day weekend in the Sequoia National Forest out of Mineral King to ascend an amazingly scenic peak with outstanding views in all directions. Saturday morning we'll pack in on-trail at a relaxed pace and set up camp at Lower Monarch Lake for a day's total of 3.4 miles with 2,800' of gain. Saturday night we'll celebrate with a festive Happy Hour under nearly full moon-lit night skies. Sunday, plan to set out at first light on-trail and later cross-country to the summit of Sawtooth Peak for a total of 2.2 miles and 2,400' of gain. After savoring the views up top, we'll return to camp, pack up and head out. Permit costs (about \$10 per person) will be split among the group. This WTC outing is co-sponsored by SPS. Email Mat Kelliher with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details.

Sat–Mon, Sep 5–7
I: Twin Lakes Nav Pack (Sequoia NP)

Molly Arevalo (213) 804-9526 mollyarevalo@gmail.com
Sarah Wierszalowski (334) 663-3077 swierszalowski@gmail.com

ET Explore a beautiful part of Sequoia NP while practicing your nav skills on this WTC experience trip to Twin Lakes. Saturday morning departure (optional car camp at Lodgepole CG on Friday night), 6.5 miles, 2600' gain, to camp at Twin Lakes. Saturday, we

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ET WTC Experience Trip | TI Trip of Interest |
| TR Training Opportunity | MT Mountaineering |

will explore Silliman Crest and climb an unnamed peak (7 miles, 1400' gain) before returning to camp for a potluck dinner. Sunday we'll pack up camp and head back to the trailhead.

Fri–Sun, Sep 11–13

I: Palisade Basin (11,523')

Homer Tom (818) 203-9752 hikerhomie@gmail.com

Geoffrey Mohan (818) 248-1564 geoff.mohan@gmail.com

ET Enjoy a long weekend in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park hiking a portion of the Sierra High Route. We hike 2500' up to Bishop Pass and drop into Upper Dusy Basin before going off trail to set up camp about 9 miles from South Lake. On day 2, we venture crosscountry over Knapsack Pass (11,680') and into Palisade Basin, honing our route-finding skills around the Barrett Lakes. Take in breathtaking views of Isosceles Peak and Columbine Peak over happy hour. Hike out on day 3 filled with memories of a strenuous but fun weekend.

Fri–Sun, Sep 18–20

I: Mount Gilbert (13,106')

Mat Kelliher (818) 667-2490 mkelliher746@gmail.com

Jeremy Netka (818) 703-8607 jnetka@gmail.com

ET Join us on our last trip of the summer to climb this scenic SPS peak in the North Palisades area near Bishop, CA. Friday, we'll pack in on-trail at a moderate pace from our trailhead at South Lake (9,800') about 3.0 miles with 1,800' of gain to our camp at one of the Treasure Lakes (11,175'). After setting up camp, we'll spend a leisurely afternoon around the lakes and enjoy a festive Happy Hour. Saturday, we'll set out for the summit of Mt Gilbert; after enjoying expansive views up top, we'll head back down to camp for a total of about 4.0 miles with 2,200' gain. Well enjoy another Happy Hour that night and in the morning, we'll pack up and head out the same way we came in. Comfort on steep, sometimes sandy, talus-choked, slopes required. Very small permit-quota limits group size. Permit costs (about \$10 per person) will be split among group. Email Mat Kelliher with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details.

Fri–Sun, Sep 18–20

I: Iron Mtn (11,148')

Megan Birdsill mbirdsill@gmail.com

David Jahng dave.jahng@gmail.com

ET We are on a three-day adventure in the Ansel Adams Wilderness in search of the vistas of the Ritter Range from atop Iron Mountain with the bonus of visiting at least three lakes. Total stats: 19 miles and 5300' gain. Fri morning, we begin near Devils Postpile on the Beck Lake trail, leave it to go cross-country to visit Gertrude Lake and finally make camp near Anona Lake (8 miles, 2600'). Saturday morning we rise before daybreak to summit Iron and return to our camp for a celebratory Happy Hour (6 miles, 2700'). Sunday, pack out via Fern Lake trail (5 miles) to complete our ambitious loop. SPS co-sponsors this WTC outing.

Sat–Sun, Sep 19–20

I: Chocolate Peak (11,682')

Will McWhinney (323) 221-0202 willmcw@gmail.com

Jane Simpson (310) 994-1989 outdoorjsimpson@gmail.com

Susan Richmond (310) 606-6831 richmondsm@msn.com

ET A nice little peak in a beautiful area. Backpack (4 miles, 1900' gain) into camp beside scenic Long Lake. Climb (3 miles roundtrip, 1000') to top of Chocolate Peak. \$11 permit fee. For WTC students only.

Sat–Mon, Sep 26–28

I: Ediza Lake (9272')

Homer Tom (818) 203-9752 hikerhomie@gmail.com

Nancy Le (818) 716-0608 nancytranle@gmail.com

ET Luxuriate in the Range of Light with a three-day jaunt in the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Settling at Ediza Lake after seven miles and 1700' of gain, we enjoy happy hour to steel for a full-day exploration of Iceberg Lake. Lots of navigation and route-finding will surely be included before we return to camp for happy hour part 2 and a lakeside sunset. Return to Agnew Meadows on the third day, completing a tiring, but fun weekend.

Sun, Sep 27

I: Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle

Robert Myers rmmymers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

TR Navigation noodle at Mt. Pinos to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Practice skills or checkoff. Send email with contact info (mailing address, telephone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to leader.

Fri–Sun, Oct 2–4

I: Moose Lake (10,545') and Alta Peak (11,204')

Kate Miller (310) 592-7965 miller.k8@gmail.com

Jeremy Netka (818) 703-8607 jnetka@gmail.com

ET Join us as we venture deep into the wilderness of Sequoia National Park to visit Moose Lake (10,545) and climb Alta Peak (11,204'). Thursday night, participants are welcome to join us for optional car-camping in legendary Lodgepole campground. On Friday, we'll take a late morning start from Wolverton and hike on-trail to Alta Meadow (5.5 miles, 2500' gain) where we'll set-up camp and enjoy the beautiful surroundings before a lively happy hour. Saturday, we'll trek cross-country through forest, meadow and class 2 rock to Moose Lake. We will break at the lake for swimming, fishing and napping before returning to camp for happy hour part deux (6 miles and 2000' gain/loss for the day). Sunday morning, we'll wake early to bag Alta Peak (1.5 miles one way, 2200' gain) before breaking camp and hiking out. Bonus: Sunday afternoon, optional excursion to Crystal Cavern tour before dinner in Three Rivers. Totals for the weekend are: 21 miles with 6100' elevation gain/loss.

Sat–Sun, Oct 10–11

I: "Really Last Chance" Graduation Trip

Robert Myers rmmymers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

ET Easy-paced backpacking trip in scenic California desert. We will take exploratory cross-country routes, taking in a peak along the way. Satisfy WTC requirements on this really last chance graduation trip. 9 miles RT, 1000' gain. Send email with contact info and recent conditioning to leaders.

Sat, Oct 17

I: Beginning Navigation Clinic

Diane Dunbar (818) 248-0455 dianedunbar@charter.net

Richard Boardman (310) 344-8686 r.boardman@yahoo.com

TR Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers welcome and practice is available at all skill levels. Not a checkout, but it will help you prepare. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. 4 mi, 500' gain. Send sase, phones, rideshare info, \$25 deposit (Sierra Club), refunded at trailhead to leader.

Sat–Sun, Nov 14–15

I: Mission Creek Preserve Navigation Noodle

Robert Myers rmmymers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

TR Navigation noodle at Mission Creek Preserve to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sunday checkoff or additional practice. Send email with contact info (mailing address, telephone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to leader.

Sun, Dec 6

I: Warren Point Navigation Noodle

Robert Myers rmmymers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

TR Navigation noodle at Warren Point to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Practice skills or checkoff. Send email with contact info (mailing address, telephone numbers), navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to leader.

TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Dade via Hourglass Couloir

MR-rated trip, June 1–2, 2019

Led by Lisa Miyake and Sandy Lara

The Secret to Snow: Trend Upwards...
...and do as the German climbers do.

There's nothing quite like homemade shiitake mushroom pizza in a snowstorm. We had started our backpacking outing at Mosquito Flat, taking the Rock Creek trail to Treasure Lakes, a 5-mile jaunt into one of the most beautiful parts of the Eastern Sierra.

We arrived at camp just in time to get a magnificent glimpse of the Hourglass Couloir and our Sunday objective: Mount Dade. Then the skies opened. But when the skies open at 11,400 ft in June, what comes down is thick and cold. Perfect timing to set up camp. Little did we know, the spastic weather would be a harbinger of Sunday's hike-out forecast. We scrambled with tent poles, dug catholes for later, boiled water. As our colorful snow camp arose from the whiteness fully assembled, the sun appeared as if on cue. Bright, blinding sunshine. An ideal backdrop for self-arrest and kick-step practice. We played around on a gentle nearby slope for an hour—throwing ourselves down headfirst, back against the snow, twisting into self-arrest position. That is one skill I hope I never need to execute in the field. Stoked for Sunday's adventures, we got down to business: it was happy hour time.



The group starting the backpack. Mt Dade is the pointed peak directly above the group. The route goes up the hourglass couloir to the left of Mt Dade in the photo.



The group climbing with ice ax and crampons toward the famous Hourglass Couloir. Mt Dade is in sunlight.

Andrew fired up the stove and started making gourmet backcountry pizza (and cauliflower crust for Lisa), and Tohru, Cal and Bob started digging out a table for the nine of us. Cal had brought a full-on taco potluck with all the toppings. Soon Tupperware with homemade goodies, tortillas, and flasks of whiskey were jockeying for space at our snow table. It was the fanciest happy hour I'd seen since the Joshua Tree navigation outing. So naturally, it started snowing. Like sideways, loss-of-visibility snowing. Perhaps it was my previous stressful work week and lack of sleep, but my stomach and head were having none of that, so I retreated to the tent with some crackers and hot cider. Andrew followed shortly thereafter, and one by one the tents zipped up. I'd never been camping where I could hear snow falling on my tent. At the risk of sounding cliché, it was magic.

Pre-dawn 4:45am wakeup came far too quickly. Fumbling with my Jetboil at our snow table in the half-light, I made some coffee and oatmeal, stuffing it down while assembling my gear for the day. After a couple runs back to the tent and crampons checks (Cal and I were the stragglers), it was 5:30am. The team was ready, and made it to the base of the couloir relatively quickly.

The Hourglass Couloir is a 1,000-ft chute of glorious snow with one of the most spectacular glissades in the Sierras: a perfect way to end the day. As we were shedding snowshoes and kitting up with ice axes and crampons, two ski mountaineers from San Jose—Brian and Matt—caught up to us at the base of the couloir. After exchanging names, jobs (they work at

Apple) and a pair of sunglasses, we started up the Hourglass together. The guys were keen to lead: they eyed the lines carefully and set a brisk pace straight up the slope. We'd realize later that they were a serendipitous addition to the team.

"Our new friends must be German," Sandy said.

"Why is that?"

"The French crisscross and switchback up slopes like this. The Germans go straight up," she said. I think that has more to say about German efficiency than anything, but I liked their style. They were setting up a fine line directly to the saddle/cirque. Lisa went next, then Justin, and so on down the team as we all took turns leading and breaking a line through the untouched snow. So putting my snow camp skills to action, I practiced how to break a trail up a steep slope and create a solid line for my fellow mountaineers to follow. It's exhausting work, but in the words of a fellow WTC friend, you just trend upwards. And don't fall. Easy peasy.

One thousand feet later, we reached a cluster of boulders at the top of the couloir and took a well-deserved break, exchanging high fives and snacks with our new friends. Our lines crisscrossed down the couloir into the expansive valley below, reflecting the golden morning light. Brian and Matt said their goodbyes as we took a quick clothing and water break before setting off across a large snowfield, summit ridge in sight. The last stretch to the summit presented a steep final challenge, with deep soft snow and the rising sun upon our backs, making clothing choices a bit more complicated.

I found myself in the lead again, but not making much progress: I'd created a little powdery trough for myself as the team behind me looked on quizzically. In that moment, I'd decided packing and unpacking for a trip would not be my Sisyphusian task any longer: postholing up a steep slope within meters of the summit had superseded that. But we were meters from the summit of Mt Dade, approximately 13,600 ft above the I-405 freeway. I discovered you can do almost anything for a few meters, and slogging through deep snow is made immensely more enjoyable to the tunes of Sound of Music (thanks, Megan!).

Lisa broke the final line up to the summit, which (due to the heavy snow year) was in fact a rather unstable-looking cornice. So we declared our current position the summit, and took turns in single file taking our requisite victory shots. It was definitely the shortest amount of time I'd ever spent on a peak, but it felt all the more sweet for the effort we'd put in to



Nearing the top of the hourglass couloir.

get there. All of Little Lakes Valley, Mt Abbot and Mt Morgan spread out before us in a 360-degree view of spiky snow-white peaks, alpine lakes and puffy cumulonimbus clouds ballooning in the distance. I could have stood there marveling all day, but time was ticking, the weather was shifting, and we had a 1,000-ft glissade to enjoy.

Down can sometimes be more intimidating than up, and the steep final stretch to the summit looked decidedly steeper on the descent. Some of the team opted for short glissades—I plowed down the ridge with Cal in uneven zig zags, trying not to slip. It was anything but graceful, but we arrived back at the top of the couloir in seemingly record time, elated to don rain gear and slide down the rest of the route. As we learned at snow camp: glissades are fun. A 1,000-ft glissade? Unreal. Get you to Mount Dade, my friends—if only for this glissade. After much laughter, speed, and snow in places it shouldn't be, we regrouped at the bottom and made our way back to camp, tired but joyful. As we broke camp, it started to snow.

The 5 miles back to Mosquito Flats became a Monty Pythonesque adventure in "How to Deal with Inclement Weather." We piled on layers as we departed, and 10 minutes in, the snow abruptly stopped and the blinding sun came again. Pit stop, clothing change #1. No sooner had we all gotten back into the groove and it started to rain. Pit stop, clothing change #2. You can imagine how it continued. I think I did more clothing stops in those 5 miles than both the conditioning and snow hike combined. Mother Nature certainly has a way of reminding you that she's in charge. And that layers are very, very important. WTC layering skills: check.

Not only enabling us to practice the skills we learned during WTC, but this trip also became an ideal in-the-field instruction on the importance of well-planned snow travel and avalanche safety in potential avi conditions. The key takeaways? 1) Leave before dawn and back before lunch; 2) Carry shovels and probes; 3) Choose your lines wisely, grasshopper; and 4) Always be prepared to tell the mountain: "Not today." She'll be there another day, perhaps not throwing all four seasons at you simultaneously. I was grateful for good conditions that allowed us to summit that day.

As a current student on one of my official experience trips, it gave me confidence in the skills I'd acquired during class and outings and reinforced my deep, hyperbole-laden love of the outdoors. This is why we do what we do. Here is where the sidewalk ends and the wilderness begins in all its glorious off-trail possibility. And now, my friends, we have our Suunto MC 2-G compass in hand and all of that nav training, so time to find that Sierra Mountaineering International (SMI) course. The ice-axe-wielding, crampon-stomping, snowshoe frolicking adventures are waiting!

When Lisa asked my fellow LBSB Group 3 classmate if he'd had a good time, Cal expressed a preference for summer hikes and summed up the trip in a proper Dickensian fashion: "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times." It was definitely a weekend of superlatives. But I think we'll convert him yet.



Kelly Randell is a LBSB Group 3 Instructor

Pyramid Peak

I-rated trip, October 6-7 2018

Led by Megan Birdsill, Saveria Tilden, Geoff Mohan

Pyramid Peak (6,703') is just east of Furnace Creek in Death Valley. It is on a few desirable lists: over 2000' of prominence, the Western States Climber's Star Peaks, and our very own Desert Peak Section (DPS). DPS is the oldest of the peak climbing clubs in California. It was established in the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club by Chester Versteeg in 1941 and mountaineers have been chasing its summits ever since. Pyramid Peak is quite colorful with very interesting geology, it is a wonderful destination that I recommend.

It just wasn't the one I had been planning for almost a year.



View of Pyramid from the 190 Highway

That would be Last Chance Mountain at the northeast boundary of the park. For that peak, and to qualify as an experience trip, the plan was to secretly send a leader ahead in a HC vehicle to the normal trailhead with twenty-five gallons of water, camp chairs, and pumpkins to decorate for the holiday while two leaders backpacked in with ten students. This would be one of their last chances for an experience trip before graduation. But an hour before leaving home my co-leader discovered the road from Big Pine was closed for flash-flood damage earlier that week, not an uncommon occurrence in Death Valley. So with a few phone calls, the DPS peak guide, and advice from fellow climbers (special thanks to Sandy Lara), we quickly changed our destination from Last Chance Mountain to Pyramid Peak.

For many, this was their first time in Death Valley and the change made it possible to explore some of the park's highlights. After camping at Furnace Creek Friday night, we used Saturday morning to explore Badwater Basin, Natural Bridge Canyon and the Artist's Palette. At 2pm we gathered the group at the visitors center to break the bad news: everyone needed to add two gallons of water to their packs for the three mile hike to camp near BM3900.



Megan Birdsill is a SGV Group 7 Instructor



On the ascent, looking southeast

A few hours later we settled into camp. Upon the conclusion of happy hour and dinner, a light rain began to fall. Myself and one participant hadn't brought a tent so we quickly wrapped ourselves in our emergency bivies and hoped it would pass quickly. It didn't. The rain got heavier as we fell asleep but eventually stopped around 11pm and clear skies emerged to highlight the abundant stars. The wind picked up to help the desert dry out before dawn.

In the morning we started up DPS Route A. Without prior scouting we encountered a few route-finding puzzles up the gully until we gained the ridge and enjoyed amazing views to the east. It was remarkably different from Last Chance - much steeper and rockier terrain filled with sharp cactus. But like true adventurers, everyone rose to the occasion with flexibility, strength, teamwork and great attitudes to bag this classic desert peak.

Maybe this year we'll have another chance at Last Chance.



On the summit: Guangchao Dong, Tiffany Duke, Jill Douglas, Joanne Edge, Lauren Flemming, Steven Frein, Sara Kim, Elyse Lattanzio, Megan Miller, Kyla Tolentino, Errin Vasquez, Megan Birdsill, Saveria Tilden, Geoff Mohan

Training Opportunities



Being a WTC student has its perks, and when you're ready for advanced training, some opportunities created just for you await.

Rock, snow, leadership or all of the above? We've got you covered.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Leadership Training Program Seminar Saturday, April 18, 2020

Take that first step – become a leader!

Becoming a Sierra Club outings leader starts with curiosity and a love of the outdoors. There is no better way to step up and lead than by taking advantage of the training opportunities that the Angeles Chapter's Leadership Training Committee provides each year.



As home to one of the largest outings programs on the planet, the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's many groups, sections and committees sponsor thousands of trips ranging from beach barbecues to mountaineering expeditions. You can take the first step toward becoming a leader by attending a one-day seminar.

The seminar – offered only twice a year – is led by a team of experienced outings leaders who will provide you with the basics of good leadership practices. You will learn how to plan a trip, prevent problems on the trail and make sure that everyone – including you – has a great time. You'll gain knowledge of good conservation and safety practices. Leaders will share tips for getting your "O" rating quickly and will review the more advanced ratings.

The application is available for download online where you can pore over more of LTC's upcoming offerings.

Register by April 4, 2020

WHERE Stoneview Nature Center, Culver City, CA

TIME Arrive at 8:00 a.m., done by 4:30 p.m.

For more information and to apply, go to:
angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc_leadership_seminar

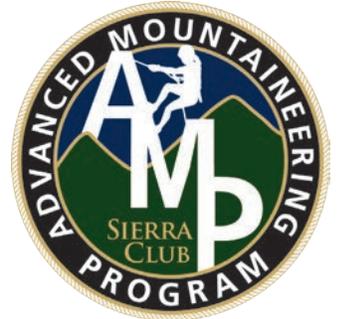
COST \$25, (includes latest *Leadership Reference Book*)

MOUNTAINEERING SKILLS

Advanced Mountaineering Program

Offered by the Angeles Chapter Leadership Training Committee.

AMP's mission is to produce safer climbers and to expose students to a broad spectrum of modern techniques and skills. AMP offers training for leader candidates seeking the chapter's advanced "M" and "E" ratings, and for leaders who already have earned these ratings and want to catch up on the latest techniques. The rock course starts in a classroom environment, but most of the instruction takes place in the field at iconic California climbing locations. Students have opportunities to build anchors and implement their climbing skills and techniques, preparing them for real-world mountaineering scenarios.



REQUIREMENTS All students must be Sierra Club members and have prior roped climbing experience.

GENERAL INQUIRIES

Matt Hengst: matt@advancedmountaineeringprogram.org

www.AdvancedMountaineeringProgram.org



TWO-DAY ROCKCRAFT*

If you have never done any rock climbing, or need a refresher, here's where to start. This is an introduction to the world of rock climbing with an emphasis on safety and fun. The class covers the essentials of technical rock climbing and is a valuable course for those wishing to pursue mountaineering.



In 2008, Vertical Adventures was ranked as the best rock climbing school in America by *Outside* magazine.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Equipment, knots, belaying technique, communication signals, the rating system, face climbing techniques (protected on a toprope) and rappelling. Classes are taught on low-angle, moderate rock suitable for novices.

Day 2 After reviewing knots and belaying, you'll complete a progression of climbs where a broad range of more challenging climbing techniques are encountered, including both face climbing and crack climbing techniques.

Protected by a toprope, you'll get personalized coaching from your instructor. Also includes an introduction to building anchor systems using nuts and camming devices.

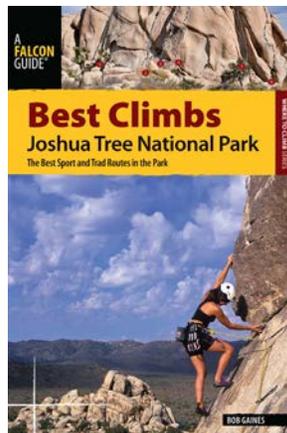
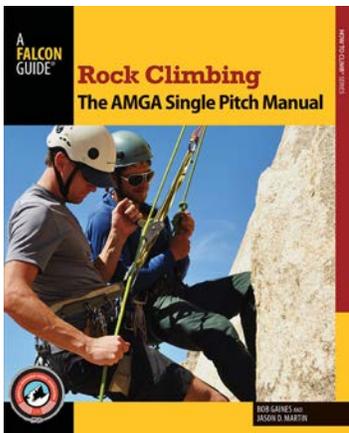
LOCATION Joshua Tree National Park

DATES April 18–19, 2020

COST Vertical Adventures Rock Climbing School is offering a special 20% discount to WTC students for a course cost of \$248.

For information visit the website. For reservations contact Bob Gaines, Program Director, at (800) 514-8785 or BGvertical@aol.com.

www.VerticalAdventures.com



SNOW TRAVEL SCHOOL*

Learn the fundamentals of snow travel.

Skills covered include:

- Ice axe self arrest
- Cramponing
- Rope travel on snow
- Efficient movement on snow
- Self care
- Essential skills for climbing in the Sierra and high peaks worldwide!
- Hands-on practice and critiques in addition to stories of past mountaineering experiences by veteran expert guides!



SIERRA MOUNTAINEERING INTERNATIONAL

ITINERARY Course participants may sign up for either or both days.

Day 1 Basic Snow Travel: climbing and descending snow covered terrain, ice axe self arrest, crampon techniques, rope travel, self care, efficient movement on snow.

Day 2 Snow Anchors and Crevasse Rescue: building snow anchors for climbing, belaying, rappelling, self rescue and crevasse rescue pulley systems.

TIME Meet at 8:00 a.m. and be finished by 4:00 p.m. each day.

LOCATION Classes are held between Bishop and Mammoth Lakes, depending on snow conditions. An email a few days prior to the class will give meeting location and instructor contact info.

DATES April 25–26, 2020

COST This specially priced course for WTC students and instructors is \$125/day, per person. Rentals of ice axe, crampons, helmet, harness, boots and backpacks are available from SMI.

YOU WILL NEED

Be prepared for any type of weather conditions from hot to cold, clear to stormy. Include a versatile clothing layering system, gloves, warm cap, gaiters, lunch, water bottle, boots, ice axe, crampons, sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm, lunch, water and a backpack appropriate for carrying the above items. A detailed equipment list with descriptions of each item will be provided upon registering for the course.



To sign up, go to sierramountaineering.com and click the "Book now" button. Select the "Skills Training" button and find the Snow Travel School – there are 1-day and 2-day options. Select the desired option and complete the registration.

For more information: (760) 872-4929 or info@sierramountaineering.com.

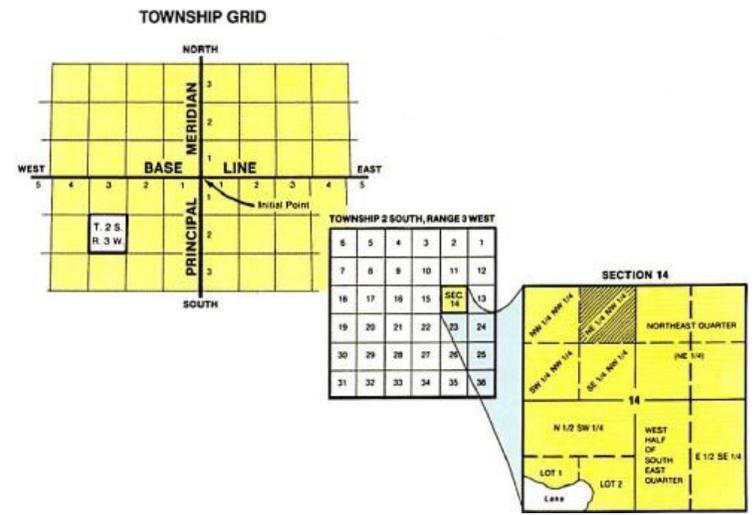
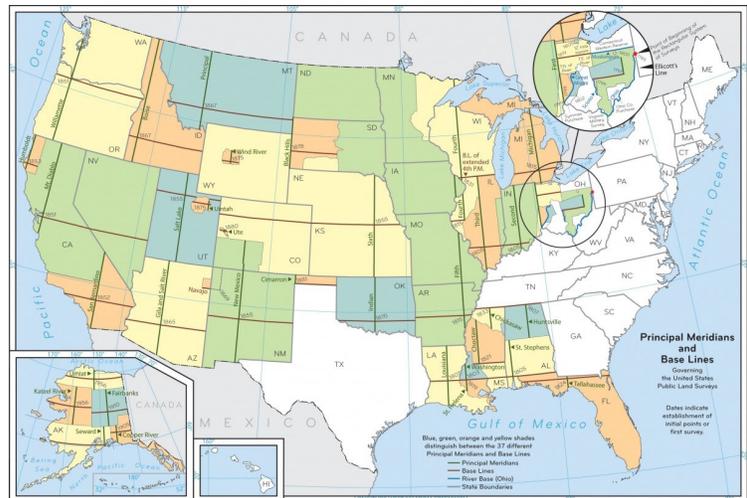
* These courses are not affiliated with the Sierra Club or the Wilderness Travel Course.



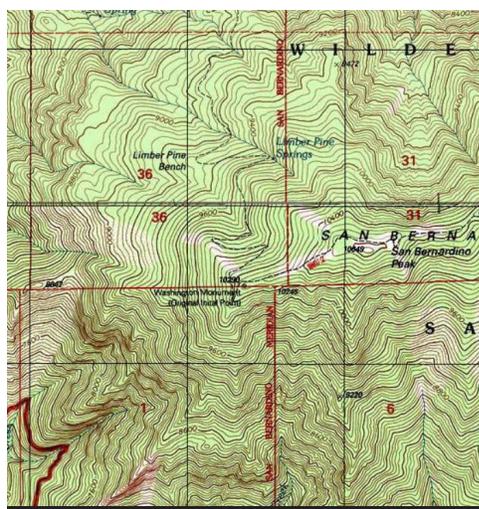
Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the PLSS* (*But Were Afraid to Ask)

Any trip in the outdoors can be turned into a navigation adventure by searching for survey markers that are part of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS). First proposed by Thomas Jefferson, the PLSS is a rectangular survey system enacted into law by the Land Ordinance of 1785. It provides a methodology for subdividing and describing land and is used in a majority of states. The PLSS is organized around principal meridians and base lines as illustrated below.

The heart of the PLSS is the establishment of Townships. Each Township is 36 square miles and consists of 36 one-square mile sections. Townships are numbered based on their location north or south of the base line and east or west of the principal meridian. A typical description might be "Sec. 6, T. 1 S., R. 1 E., San Bernardino Meridian." This Township is first township south of the base line and east of the San Bernardino Meridian.



The intersection of the principal meridian and base line is referred to as the initial point. In Southern California, the initial point for the San Bernardino Meridian was established by surveyor Henry Washington in 1852 on western slope of San Bernardino Peak. This initial point was twice relocated, once by 887 feet in 1892 and by 610 feet in 1907. The 1892 initial point is used for surveys north of the base line and the 1907 initial point is used for surveys south of the base line. This is why the principal meridian appears misaligned on topographic maps.



The twice repositioned (1892 and 1907) San Bernardino Meridian

Topographic map symbols provide helpful information for the PLSS. The key symbols are set forth on the next page.

When you hike in an area, check your map for nearby corner symbols. These are often fun navigation challenges and are usually marked in some way such as rock cairn, placard placed on a tree, or survey marker.

| Public land survey system | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Range or Township line | ————— |
| Location approximate | ----- |
| Location doubtful | - - - - - |
| Protracted | ----- |
| Protracted (AK 1:63,360-scale) | ----- |
| Range or Township labels | R1E T2N R3W T4S |
| Section line | ————— |
| Location approximate | ----- |
| Location doubtful | - - - - - |
| Protracted | ----- |
| Protracted (AK 1:63,360-scale) | ----- |
| Section numbers | 1 - 36 1 - 36 |
| Found section corner | —+— |
| Found closing corner | —+— |
| Witness corner | —+— WC |
| Meander corner | —+— MC |
| Weak corner* | —+— |

Most 7.5-minute topographic maps have survey corner symbols noted on them. For example, the WTC Combined Indian Cove/Queen Mountain topographic map has at least 14 corner symbols noted. Each provide an exciting navigation opportunity.

2020 Navigation Events

April 25–26

Warren Point Navigation Noodle

May 23

Beginning Navigation Clinic

June 6–7

Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle

September 27

Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle

October 17

Beginning Navigation Clinic

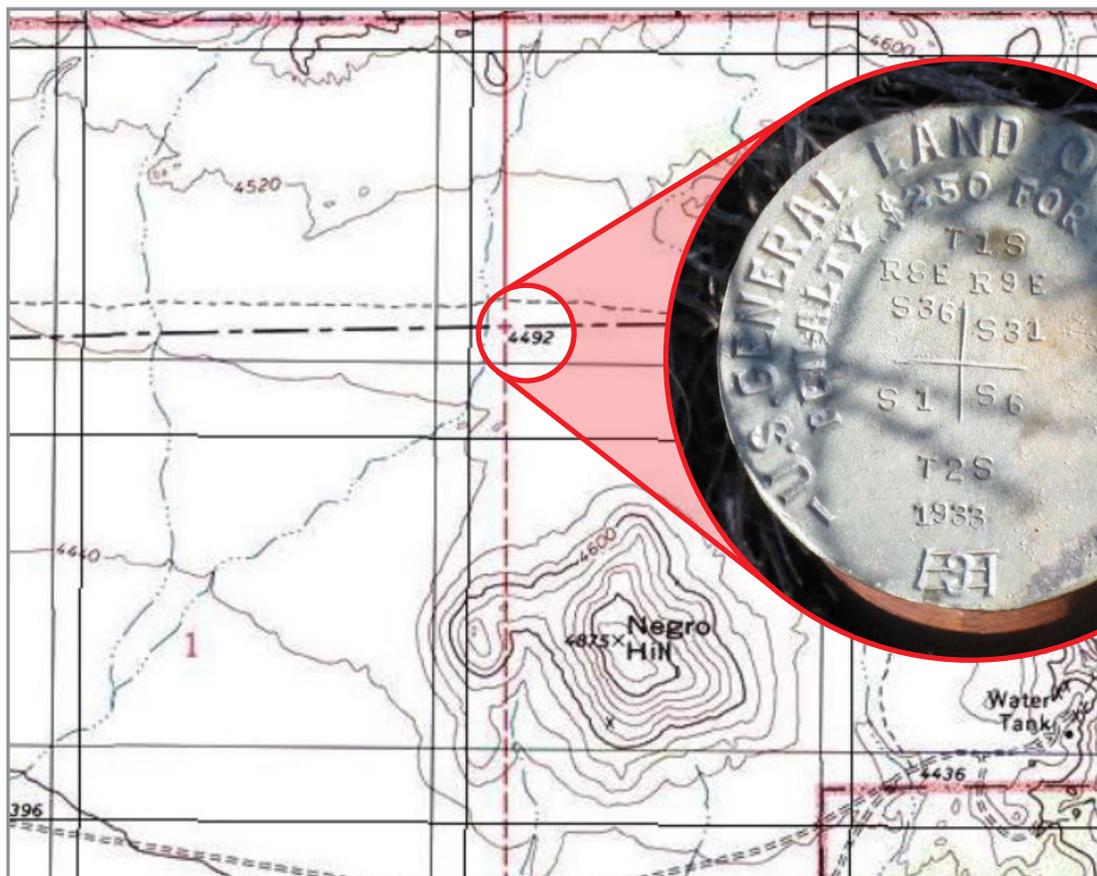
November 14–15

Mission Creek Navigation Noodle

December 6

Warren Point Navigation Noodle

The corner illustrated on the map below has a marker placed at this location in 1933. This corner marks the intersection of four Townships: (1) Sec. 36, T. 1 S., R. 8 E.; (2) Sec. 31, T. 1 S., R. 9 E.; (3) Sec. 1, T. 2 S., R. 8 E.; and (4) Sec. 6, T. 2 S., R. 9 E. All of this information can be derived from the survey marker.



Robert Myers is the Angeles Chapter Navigation Chair and the WLA Group 4 Leader