



www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc
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Newsletter

Newsletter of the Wilderness Training Committee

A full-page photograph of a hiker with a large red backpack climbing a steep, rocky mountain slope covered in snow. The hiker is wearing a blue jacket, dark pants, and a cap, and is using a climbing tool. The background shows a vast mountain range under a blue sky with some clouds.

E, I, E, I, O...M?

Think you are ready for the challenge of an 'M' trip? See page 3 for an introduction into this exhilarating level of Sierra Club outings.

WTC Officers

See page 8 for contact info

WTC

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The WTC Newsletter is published quarterly for students and staff of the Wilderness Training Committee and delivered via U.S. mail or distributed at class sites. It's also available in color on the WTC website:
www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc as a download in PDF format.
All questions, copy and photo submissions should be directed to Kay Novotny, WTC Newsletter Editor at (562) 860-4078, or emailed to:
knovo@comcast.net

WTC Info Line 310-967-2029

Welcome to WTC!

Welcome to the world of WTC. You have made a decision to join a select group of people who have a unique relationship with our natural world. Most of the volunteers and students who make up the world of WTC will tell you that after experiencing the program, they never look at the world in quite the same way as they used to. Your old, comfortable cotton jeans and t-shirts will no longer be your hiking garb of choice. The phrase "waterproof boots" takes on a whole new meaning. Packing light becomes a religion. You will learn new limits to what your physical body can accomplish, and you may proceed past your mental "comfort zone" as well.

You will learn about "pocket rockets" and backpacker ovens. You will learn that you can pack light and eat well, too. You will learn the mysteries of snow camp – just how can you spend two nights in the Sierras in the winter without freezing, and where do you go when you need to go?

You will learn about the beauty and glory of a moonlit hike through the snow. You will learn kick-stepping and plunge-stepping, and how to stay vertical on a pair of snowshoes. You will navigate across the desert, and learn how to "see" the features of the terrain in a topo map.

Most of all, we hope that you will come to agree that we all need to work hard to maintain our wilderness areas, that they are a National Treasure beyond measure, and that every American has a responsibility to keep the wilderness alive for the next generation to experience – perhaps through WTC.

Special Events

Training programs from Sierra Mountaineering International:

Both of these programs are open to WTC staff and students. Details of course content and enrollment procedures will be available in January. Enrollment for these courses will be handled direct through SMI. The courses are private activities and not Sierra Club activities.

Apr 8-9, 2006---Level One Avalanche course at \$160 per person.

Apr 29-30, 2006---Snow School. This is an ice axe introduction course reviewing basic snow travel, use of ice axe, crampons, and ropes. Cost is \$75 per person per day. Participants can choose one or two days.

These courses are an excellent way to gain the training and experience necessary to participate in "M" level Sierra Club trips which require snow travel experience with ice axe and crampons.

Please see the article on page 3 for additional information on the subject of "M" level trips.

Liability Waiver Notice To participate in a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To see a copy of this waiver prior to attending the outing, please see www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms

Transportation Notice In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make voluntary carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Contents

Page 2 Welcome message and the WTC Officer listings.

Page 3 Our cover story about Sierra Club trip ratings, and tips for gaining the experience to participate in higher level trips – or perhaps lead them.

Page 4 is the start of the Outings descriptions.

Page 7 is our ETC page. In this issue: WTC holds a garage sale.

Page 8 contains the leader directory (print version).

Pages 10 and 11, enjoy a trip write up "Quail Mountain in Joshua Tree National Park" about the traditional end-of-summer pilgrimage up Quail Mountain.

Tell a Friend

You may not know this, but most WTC students first hear about the course through a friend or relative. If you enjoy WTC, tell a friend. Or a relative, an acquaintance, business associate, your receptionist, the UPS guy (I think his name's Brown), the annoying neighbor down the street with the yappy dog...

no, wait; scratch that last one...

See page 7 for 2006 WTC application information.

Headline Deadline

For publication in the Spring 2006 WTC Newsletter:

February 15 Last day for trips to be submitted to the WTC Outings Chair. Provisional trips and leaders should already have an LTC review. Restricted trips should prepare a Mountaineering Application.

On The Cover

Nile Sorenson takes a breather at 17,000 feet on the west buttress of Mt. McKinley in Alaska. Photo by Maria Roa.

E, I, E, I, O ... M?

Cover Story -

Kay Novotny, WTC Newsletter Editor

E, I, O, and M. What do these letters have in common? They are all used to designate the rating of Sierra Club outings. All WTC graduates become very familiar with the "O" and "I" level rated trips. During the class, students are led on both O and I level trips, and in order to graduate, they must independently participate in two additional I level trips. However, often students are unclear about what the "M" level rating means, and what additional training is necessary to participate in these trips.

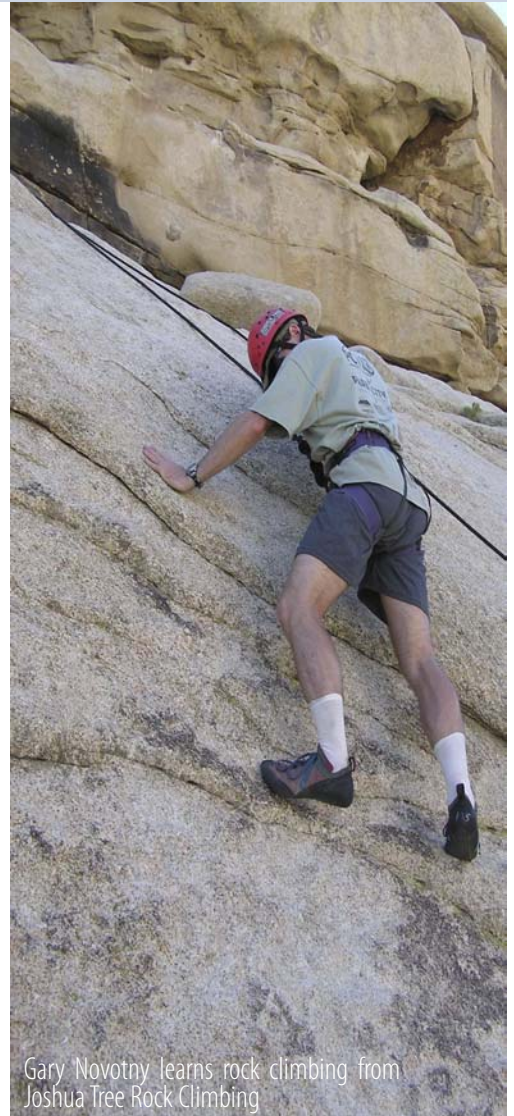
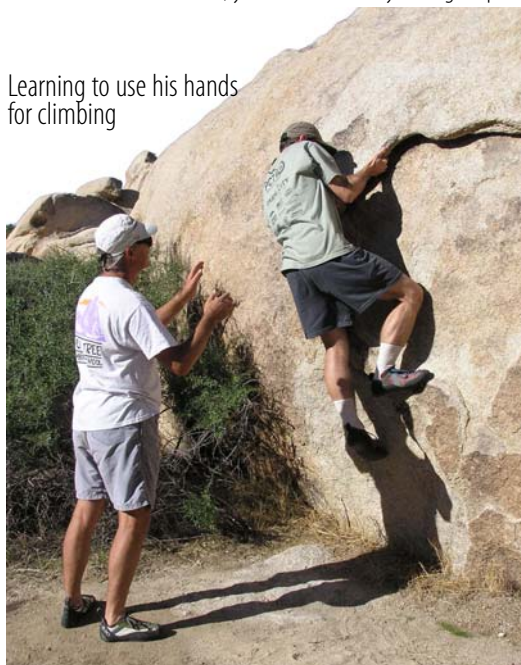
Angeles Chapter Sierra Club trip ratings are established by the safety committee. The definition of an M trip is as follows: "Includes moderate level climbing: 'Class 3' terrain. On rock, the hands are used for climbing. Some participants may want a safety belay. On snow, safety dictates the use of ice axes and the ability to self-arrest." In practice, what does this mean? What kind of skills are you expected to have to participate in M level trips? How do you acquire those skills? How do you apply for an M level trip? How can you become an M level leader?

There are two different flavors of M rated trips. Trips with Class 3 rock climbing are rated M. Often these trips will have one or two places where a specific move is required which might call for a safety belay (ropes), but the entire trip should not require roping. Successful completion of the trip will typically require the use of hands for actual climbing, not just for balance. WTC students get an introduction to this type of climbing during the Joshua Tree outing, however, to qualify for M level trips, a WTC graduate must seek out additional opportunities to learn rock climbing. The Sierra Club does not offer training of this type. However, there are several companies in the Los Angeles area which offer classes in rock climbing, and once the student has taken a couple of classes, there are practice trips available in the outings section where the student can hone their skills. See pages 5 and 6 of this newsletter for rock climbing practice opportunities. Students will be required to offer evidence of training to the trip leaders in order to participate in these practice sessions.

The other flavor of M rated trips has to do with snow travel. Trips which are designed to cover terrain where the participants may need to use an ice axe for self arrest will be classified as M trips. "Using an ice axe for self arrest" means that you would know how to use an ice axe to stop yourself as you are falling down an icy slope. This skill is not something which is intuitive, and if you do not get the proper training, use of an ice axe can be very dangerous. While the WTC program includes snow travel experience, there is no discussion or training in WTC regarding the use of an ice axe. The training for this tool must be acquired outside of the Sierra Club. The WTC program does recommend some private classes in ice axe, crampons, and avalanche training. Please see page 2 for information about classes offered by Sierra Mountaineering International, a vendor located in Bishop, CA. These classes are not Sierra Club activities, and enrollment arrangements must be made directly with Sierra Mountaineering International. The classes do offer the training required to participate in the Sierra Club practice trips, detailed on pages 5 and 6 in this newsletter.

Once you have taken some classes and have participated in some of the practice outings, how do you sign up for an M level outing? One important thing to do while you are taking your classes and participating in the practices is to develop a mountaineering resume. This is a detailed list of the classes you have taken, where they were taken, and who the instructor was. In addition, you should add any outings experience: Where you went, when, and with whom (leaders).

Learning to use his hands for climbing



Gary Novotny learns rock climbing from Joshua Tree Rock Climbing

Establish a relationship with the leaders. These people will be your trail references for future trips. You should detail your conditioning program. Most leaders will be looking for a good fit between the intensity level of their outing, and the conditioning of the participants. If you have any questions regarding the conditioning level or skills required to complete the trip, ask the leaders before you sign up - not at the trailhead! Most M level trips are going to be on the strenuous side. They do not tend to be for the weekend warrior. Be prepared. Ask what equipment will be used, and have your equipment ready to use at the trailhead. Be honest. Make sure you have adequate training on all equipment which will be used before you begin the trip. Nothing spoils a trip faster for all participants than a person who is not prepared or not qualified for a trip.

So, now you have participated in a few M trips, and you are really enjoying yourself. In fact, you are thinking you might like to become an M rated leader yourself, leading Sierra Club outings and perhaps joining the WTC organization as a group leader or assistant leader. How do you go about becoming an M rated leader? Although there is no official mentoring program in the WTC, there are many successful M rated leaders in the WTC organization. These people have already shown their willingness to volunteer to educate students about the wilderness, and the Sierra Club system. Pick an M leader to establish a mentoring relationship with. Discuss your ambitions with your mentor. WTC M leaders will be able to help you to sign up for the leadership training seminar and to complete the requirements for becoming a Sierra Club M rated leader. There is no substitute for experience in this program. The more trips you participate in, the better prepared you will be to fulfill the requirements for leadership ranking.

M level trips really are the "next step up" from the WTC program. There is a whole world of places to go and things to see by participating in M level trips. If you have the desire, you now have the tools, and all you need to apply is the ambition.

Outings

To reserve your place on an outing, follow the instructions listed in the trip description and provide all information requested by the leader. If a sase (self addressed stamped envelope) is requested, send a 9.5 x 4 inch envelope along with your other information. Typical requested information includes name, address, home & work phone numbers, WTC leader's name, name and date of outing you wish to join, your experience and physical conditioning. You may be placed on a waiting list if the number of persons interested in the desired trip is large. If you change your plans, it is very important that you contact the leader to let them know your revised plans, even if you are on the waiting list.

Please see Outings Leader Directory on page 8 for SASE and contact information.



Trips which qualify as WTC experience trips are identified by a backpack logo.



Outings of interest will be identified by binoculars. These do not qualify as WTC experience trips, but they are very interesting.



Training opportunities are identified by a book. WTC students should find many of these trips within their abilities. Snow travel training will require prior experience.



Last, but not least, the gnarly trips are identified by an ice-axe and crampons. These are technically challenging trips - typically not suited to WTC students. Strong WTC students with prior mountaineering experience may qualify.

December

Dec 3 / Sat

LTC, WTC

I / Mt Lowe (5603')

Beginning Navigation Clinic: 5 mi, 500' gain. Spend the day one on one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass. Beginners to rusty old timers welcome. Not a check-off. Many expert leaders will attend; many "I" rated leaders started here in the past. Deposit refunded at trailhead. Send large sase with \$25 deposit check made out to Sierra Club, H&W phones to Ldr: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman.

Dec 4 / Sun

LTC, WTC

I / Warren Pt Navigation Noodle

Come to Joshua Tree National Park for either checkout or practice to satisfy the Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send sase, navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&W phones, sase to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Co-Ldr: Bob Bradshaw.

January 2006

Jan 7 / Sat

Natural Science

O / Butterfly Preserve

See Monarch butterflies in one of their more popular over-wintering sites. The AM will cover the over-wintering site, the PM is open for a visit to the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden (requires fee). Meet at 8:00 am at the Woodland Hills Rideshare Meeting Place for trip details. Binoculars, especially close focus, are quite helpful. Ldr: Keith Martin (310-316-7617 Asst: Jim Murphy).

Jan 8 / Sun

LTC, WTC

I / Warren Pt Navigation Noodle

Come to Joshua Tree National Park for either checkout or practice to satisfy the Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send sase, navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&W phones, sase to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Co-Ldr: Bob Bradshaw.

January continued

Jan 14 / Sat

WTC

O / 7th Annual Pre-Conditioning Hike

New students practice for the real deal the following week or old-timers just reminisce what it was like as a student on this 9 mi, 2000' gain car shuttle hike in the Verdugo Mtns. Meet 7 am western most of two Santa Monica Mtns Conservancy trailheads on La Tuna Cyn Rd (3 1/4 mi east of Sunland Blvd or 1 1/4 mi west of I-210 overpass/exit, exit at Beaudry in Glendale; parking is tight-rideshare if possible). Ldr: Garen Yegparian, Co-Ldr: Will McWhinney.

Jan 14 / Sat

WTC, 20s 30s Singles

O / Temescal Pk (2126")

Practice conditioning hike for WTC students and others through oak glens and chaparral in Topanga State Park. We will hike to the park's highest peak with spectacular views. 8 mi rt, 1100' gain on fire road and trail. Send email (preferred) or SASE w/contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Sarah Myers. Asst: Ann Pedreschi.

Jan 14-16 / Sat-Mon

Nordic Ski Touring, WTC

I / Mountain Home State Forest Ski Tour

Ski tour and snow camp among the sequoias. Sat ski with overnight packs up unplowed road to Balch County Park, 4 mi., 1300' gain, and set up camp. Sun loop excursion, 10 mi., 400' gain/loss past the Hercules tree, return for group happy hour. Mon ski back to cars. Intermediate cross-country skills and snow camping experience required. Lack of snow cancels. Send email and experience info to Ldr: Maria Roa. Co-Ldr: Anne Bittner

Jan 15 / Sun

WTC, Hundred Peaks

I / Mt Pinos Snowshoe Trip

Enjoy a day in the snow with the Wilderness Training Committee and Hundred Peaks Section on this winter snowshoe trip. Three mile round trip, 600'-gain from Mt Pinos Rd in Los Padres National Forest to Ventura County's highest point. Those new to snowshoeing are welcome - but must bring own equipment. Lack of snow postpones. For an equipment list, directions, and meeting time send e-mail or SASE to Ldr: Ted Slap. Asst: Marc Hertz.

January continued

Jan 21 / Sat  **Long Beach, WTC**
O / Echo Mtn, Inspiration Pt, Muir Pk (4688')

Hike the Sam Merrill trail to the historic railway and resort site at Echo Mountain, then up Castle Canyon to Inspiration Point, and on to Muir Peak. Return by Middle Merrill trail, 12 mi rt, 2900' gain. Meet 7:45 am at Long Beach rideshare point or 9 am at N end of Lake Ave in Altadena with minimum 2 liters water, lunch, lugsoles, hat. Heavy rain postpones one week. Ldr: John Hinz, Asst. Ldr: David Meltzer.

Jan 21 / Sat  **LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks**
M/E / Local Baldy Snow Practice

Review all aspects of snow climbing, including rope travel, use of the ice axe, snow anchors. For anyone wishing to practice their skills or brush up on new techniques, especially for aspiring M and E candidates. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-Ldr: Tom McDonnell.

February

Feb 4 / Sat  **LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks**
M/E / Local Baldy Snow Practice

Review all aspects of snow climbing, including rope travel, use of the ice axe, snow anchors. For anyone wishing to practice their skills or brush up on new techniques, especially for aspiring M and E candidates. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-Ldr: Tina Bowman.

Feb 11 / Sat  **Angeles Chapter**
Annual Volunteer Training Workshop

This is the date of our annual Volunteer Training Workshop. New members of management committees are among the primary beneficiaries of this program, but all members benefit from the variety of training and informational sessions included in the workshop. Help strengthen our chapter and plan to attend this event. If you have any questions, would like to participate in the the Workshop, or help organize it, contact Garen Yeghparian at 818/563-3918 or by email at yeghpairiank@earthlink.net.

Feb 12 / Sun  **Natural Science**
O / San Gabriel River West Fork

Join naturalists Gabi and Cliff McLean on an easy nature hike in this scenic canyon. We will look at plants rejuvenated by winter rains, as well as birds, insects and anything else that we find. This is a slow-paced nature hike, about 4 miles rt with no gain. Bring hand lens, binoculars, field guides and/or camera. Distance hiked will depend on the plants and animals that we see. Meet 8:30 Azusa rideshare point or 9 am at the West Fork parking lot, Rt 39, 10.2 miles North of Angeles National Forest entrance. Adventure Pass required for parking in National Forest. Bring water, lunch. Heavy rain cancels. Co-leaders: Cliff McLean and Gabi McLean.

Feb 26 / Sun  **Natural Science**
O / Plant Walk/Arroyo Seco Canyon

Slow paced, 3-hour plant walk to identify plants and learn about plant uses with botanist Bob Muns and naturalist Liana Argento. Meet at 10 am in parking area at intersection of Windsor Ave and Ventura St in Altadena. Bring water, lunch, hand lens, optional \$1 for plant list and \$1 for hand lens. Rain cancels. Leaders: Liana Argento, Bob Muns.

March

Mar 17-19 / Fri-Sun  **Natural Science**
O / Winter Ecology Workshop at June Lake

Join us for two days of cross-country skiing, tracking and naturalizing in the spectacular Mammoth-June Lake area. Intermediate ski touring ability required. This trip satisfies the Natural Science requirement for the I-rating. Fee of \$60 includes naturalist instruction, breakfast and trail lunches and accommodation at a local Sierra Club member's home on Fri and Sat night. Reserve a place by March 1st, by sending SASE and \$60 check payable to Sierra Club - Natural Science Section, to leaders: Ginny and Jim Herringer.

Mar 18 / Sat  **LTC**
Leadership Training Seminar

Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar: Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC Registrar for enrollment in April 1 seminar, to be held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Pasadena. Next seminar: Fall 2006. See ad p xx. Registrar: Steve Botan.

Mar 18 / Sat  **LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks, WTC**
M/E / Stony Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff

This intermediate and advanced practice and workshop (in Chatsworth) is based on the rock requirements for M and E leadership. Checkoffs for M and E rock must be pre-arranged. It is a restricted trip; to participate you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have some prior basic training/experience on rock. Send sase, email, SC#, H&W phones, climbing resume to Ldr: Ron Hudson. Co-Ldrs: Dan Richter, Patty Rambert.

Mar 25 / Sat  **Sierra Peaks, WTC**
M / Mt Baldy (10064) Snow Climb

Strenuous 3900' gain, 8 miles. Restricted to Sierra Club members with ice axe & crampon proficiency. Group size limited. Call leaders for reservation & verification of qualifications. Ldr: Don Croley. Co-Ldr: Tom McDonnell.

Mar 25-26 / Sat-Sun  **WTC**
I / Eagle Mt # 1 (5320)

11 mi rt, 2400' gain in the remote Eagle Wilderness of southeastern Joshua Tree National Park. We will start at Cottonwood Springs and visit historic Mastodon Mine before traveling xc to our dry campsite at the base of the Eagle Mts; 3.5 mi, 700' gain to camp. From our camp, we will travel xc 2 mi, 1700' gain to summit the highest peak in the Eagle Mts. WTC or similar experience. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Susan Richmond.

April

Apr 1 / Sat  **LTC**
Leadership Training Seminar

Leadership Training Seminar: Become a qualified Sierra Club leader! To be held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Pasadena. For info, see LTC section in front of Schedule. Deadline for receipt of application and payment is Mar 18. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Fall 2006. See ad p xx. Registrar: Steve Botan.

Apr 8-9 / Sat-Sun  **WTC**
I / Carey's Castle Mystery Backpack

8 mi rt, 1300' gain on xc route in remote Eagle Wilderness of southeastern Joshua Tree National Park. We will backpack 1 mi to dry camp and after setting up camp hike xc 3 miles to Carey's Castle, an intact miner's cabin. Class 2 rock climbing requires WTC or similar experience. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info and recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Bill Jackson.

April continued

Apr 8-9 / Sat-Sun 

LTC, WTC

I / Indian Cove Navigation

Navigation noodles at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresh, altimeter, campfire. Sun for checkout. To receive homework assignment, send sase, navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare, H&W phones to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw.

Apr 8-9 / Sat-Sun 

LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks, WTC

M/E / Indian Cove Rock Checkoff

For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. At Joshua Tree National Park. Practice and instruction available for those wanting to brush up on new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training on rock. Send 2 sase, SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: Dan Richter Co-Ldr: Pat McKusky.

Apr 22-23 / Sat-Sun 

WTC

I / Quail Mt (5813')

Easy paced, but moderately strenuous, 14 mile rt, >>> 2400' gain, to the highest peak in Joshua Tree National Park. Enjoy >>> spectacular desert scenery and a visit to historic Johnny Lang Mine. Substantial cross-country travel with some steep, rocky portions. WTC or similar experience. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Sarah Myers. Asst: Susan Richmond.

Apr 22-23 / Sat-Sun 

LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks, Ski Mountaineers

M/E / Sierra Snow Checkoff

Demonstrate your skills to receive an M or E snow checkoff or sharpen snow climbing skills. Restricted to Sierra Club members with prior ice axe, crampon, rope training/experience. Eastern Sierra site depending on snow conditions. Email or send 2 sase, SC#, resume of snow climbing/training, H&W phones to Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co-Ldr: Randall Danta.

Apr 29 / Sat 

LTC

O / Basic GPS

Introduction to Global Positioning System at Eaton Cyn Nature Center. Start 9AM for GPS theory, receiver functions and operation, use and limitations of various models. How to use with standard coordinate systems and templates on U. S. Geological Survey topographic and other maps. Hands-on practice outside. Recommend you bring a GPS receiver, but not mandatory. Send sase with \$10 fee (check to LTC) to Ldr: Phil Wheeler. Asst: Harry Freimanis.


Apr 30 / Sun 

Palos Verdes-South Bay, Long Beach, WTC

I / Carey's Castle

Discover secret miner's cabin hidden among boulders in Joshua Tree National Park. Search for lost mine and artifacts. Moderately strenuous 8 mi rt, 1300' gain xc hike across desert, dry streambeds, with class 2 boulder scrambling. Group limit 15. Send e-mail or SASE, H&W phones, recent experience/conditioning to Ldr: Sharon Moore Asst: Karen Cassimatis E, Hiking, Wildflowers.

May

May 13 / Sat 

LTC, WTC

I / Mt Lowe (5603')

Beginning Navigation Clinic: 4 mi, 500' gain. Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass. Beginners to rusty old timers welcome. Not a check-off. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. Send sase, \$25 deposit, (Sierra Club--refunded at trailhead), H&W phones to Ldr: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman.

May 13-14 / Sat-Sun 

LTC, WTC, Desert Peaks

I / Places We've Saved Navigation Noodle

Places we've saved navigation noodle in the Mojave National Preserve. Join us for our annual journey through this jewel of the Mojave, now preserved under the California Desert Protection Act as a result of the efforts of Sierra Club activists and others. An intermediate x-c navigation dayhike workshop will be conducted out of a carcamp in the pinyon and juniper forests of the Mid Hills. Potluck and social on Sat, also for those arriving early on Fri. Send sase/email to Ldr: Virgil Shields. Asst: Harry Freimanis.

May 20-21 / Sat-Sun 

LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks

M/E / Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice

For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC mbrs with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, 2 SASE or email, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson. Co-Ldr: Doug Mantle.

May 21 / Sun 

LTC, WTC

I / Grinnell Ridge Navigation

Navigation Noodle in San Bernardino National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send sase, navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&W phones, to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw.


June

Jun 2-4 / Fri-Sun 

Natural Science

O / Nature Knowledge Workshop

Join us for Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon naturalizing in the Barton Flats area in the San Bernardino Mtns. Fees (\$138 members/ \$158 non-members) include dormitory cabins and six hearty meals. Reservation information will be available in January 2006. Leader: Liana Argento

Jun 3 / Sat 

Hundred Peaks, WTC

O / Baldylocks and the Three T's

Our third annual hike for Big Bad Wolves only! You know the story: Baldylocks heads out from her Mt. Baldy Village home at the strike of dawn and hikes up 6000' in 6 miles to the top of Mt. Baldy (10,064') where, gazing eastward, she spies Mama T, Papa T and Baby T, aka the Three T's. "A T party!" she exclaims and scrambles over Devil's Backbone, past the ski lift and up Thunder Mt. (8587'), Telegraph Peak (8985') and Timber Mt. (8303') before descending Icehouse Canyon to Grandma's house and a waiting car shuttle. "Only 20 miles and 8000' gain -- this hike was ju-u-u-st right!" This will be a very long and very strenuous hike, paced to complete pre-dark. But if you think this hike is just right too, email your conditioning, experience and contact info to Ldr: Edd Ruskowitz. Asst: Melissa Kane.

Jun 9-11 / Fri-Sun 

LTC, Harwood, WTC

C / Wilderness First Aid Course

Runs from 8 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Includes lodging, meals, practice first aid kit. CPR within previous 2 years required to enroll. Fee \$190 with SC#/\$200 non-member (full refund thru May 5). Contact Ldr: Steve Schuster.

June continued

Jun 10-11 / Sat-Sun  **WTC, Hundred Peaks**
I / Newton Drury Pk (10,160'), Folly Pk (10,480'), San Jacinto Pk (10,804')

13 mi rt, 4400' gain in San Jacinto Wilderness. Easy paced but strenuous hike up the Marion Mt trail to beautiful Little Round Valley, one of the gems of our local mountains. We will take cross-country routes to Drury and Folly with some boulder hopping to reach the summits. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Georgette Rieck.


Jun 30-July 2 / Fri-Sun  **WTC, Hundred Peaks**
I / San Bernardino Pk (10649'), San Bernardino East Pk (10691'), Anderson Pk (10840+'), Shields Pk (10680+')

Fri long backpack at an easy pace on trail 6 mi 4000' gain to Trail Fork Camp. Sat bag the peaks in an easy 7 mi loop, 1800' total gain with much xc and minor boulder hopping. Also visit 1852 survey monument. Sun easy backpack out. Send sase/email conditioning/experience (WTC leader if applicable) to Ldr: Gary Bickel, Co-Ldr: Pat Vaughn.

July, August, September

Jul 22 / Sat  **Desert Peaks, WTC**
I / Charleston Pk (11,915'), Mummy Mtn (11,528')

Our second annual. A mere 45 minutes from the Las Vegas Strip awaits an alpine forest offering a wealth of Aspens, gnarled Bristlecone pines and enormous ridge top views. This truly is one of the most beautiful hikes you'll ever do. We'll head up the South Loop Trail and down via the North Loop, picking up Mummy Mtn. off trail on the way down encompassing 19 miles and 4600' gain. This will be a long, strenuous day. Camp Fri and/or Sat nights and Sunday's all yours to explore, gamble or beat the crowd back to L.A. Send 2 sase or email (preferred), conditioning, experience, H&W phones and rideshare info to Ldr: Wayne Voltaire. Asst: Edd Ruskowitz.

Aug 12-14 / Sat-Mon  **WTC**
I / Alta Peak (11204'), Alta Mdw (9200'), Moose Lake (10560'), Pear Lake (9560')

Join us for a scenic climb of this fine peak and rest at the beautiful meadows and lakes of Sequoia National Park. Moderately paced 22-27 mi rt backpack. We will pack in via the Wolverton/Alta peak trail. Sat hike 11 mi, 4200' gain to Alta Peak and Alta Mdw, stopping at Panther Gap for vistas of the Great Western Divide. Sun pack xc over rock / talus 6 mi, 2100' to Pear Lake. Optional 2.5 mi loop around Moose Lake to eastern shore. Mon 6 mi downhill pack out past two lakes. WTC or equivalent. Send ESASE, H&W phones, ride share info, \$4 for permit fee and recent conditioning/hiking experience. Ldr: Patrick Vaughn, Asst. Leader: Eric Scheidemantle.

Sep 9-11 / Sat-Mon  **WTC**
I / Iron Mtn (11,149')

Visit two lakes, Minaret Falls, Devil's Postpile and see, but not touch, a glacier all on one trip! Moderately paced 6 mi, 1300' gain from Devil's to Anona Lake on Sat. Sun. climb class 2 Iron, skirting south end of glacier, 6mi, 2050' gain xc over possible snow. Mon pack out different route 8 mi on Becks Lake trail, passing Minaret Falls before returning to Devil's. Send esase, H&W phones, ride share info, \$6 for permit fee and recent conditioning/hiking experience to, Leader: Eric Scheidemantle, Assist. Leader: Patrick Vaughn

ETC.

WTC holds a garage sale - great equipment at bargain prices!

Compiled by Gerard Lewis

North Face Denali Fleece Jacket

Mens, Small, Black, Like New condition, have had it for a year with little use. No rips, tears, stains, or anything. Retail for \$165. My price: \$110 Contact: jdstrings@excite.com

Never Used Jansport Backpack

3-Layer hipbelt, detachable waistpack lid, hydration ready, drop down organizer pocket, sleeping bag compartment, mesh water bottle pockets. Perfect for a week-plus backcountry trip. \$110. Contact: mbmertz@aol.com

Mountaineering boots

Men's size 8, new, full shank, imported, old-fashioned, hand-made, Norwegian welt. \$200. Interested people are welcome to come by and try them on. Call Hamid Cheraghi at 323-665-2684

North Face Gortex XCR pants

Unisex. Brand new-never worn-and tags still on it. Size small. Perfect for snow travel or skiing. Retail for \$275. My price: \$120.00 Contact: achirra@ucla.edu

Eureka Gossamer one-person backpacking tent

Great condition. No rips, tears, or stains - infrequent use. Retail for over \$100.00. Asking \$40.00 Contact: apedreschi@charter.net

Tubbs Discovery 27 Snowshoes

Excellent condition, medium blue color, great starter set. Easy-on bindings. Rated for 160-220 lbs, including pack. Retail for \$104, asking \$30.00. Contact: knovo@comcast.net

Solomon Performa 7.0 Alpine Ski Boots

Good condition, dark blue color. Size 25.0 which corresponds to a women's size 9. 4 buckle style - great intermediate boots. Lots of cushion inside. Asking \$40.00. Contact: knovo@comcast.net

The WTC newsletter will run the garage sale feature in each Winter newsletter. Please send any submissions for next year's feature to Gerard Lewis, at Ahumada@aol.com.

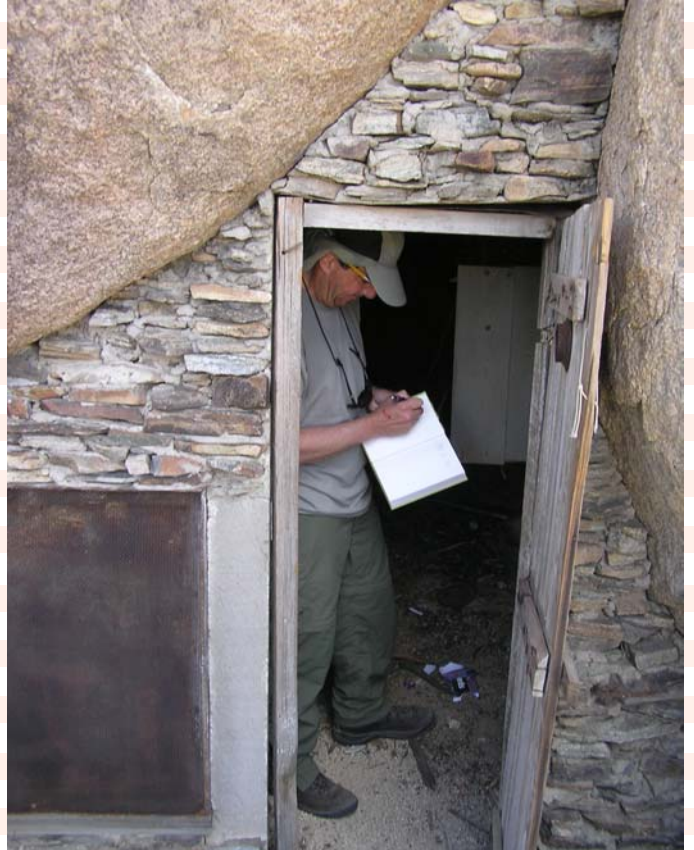
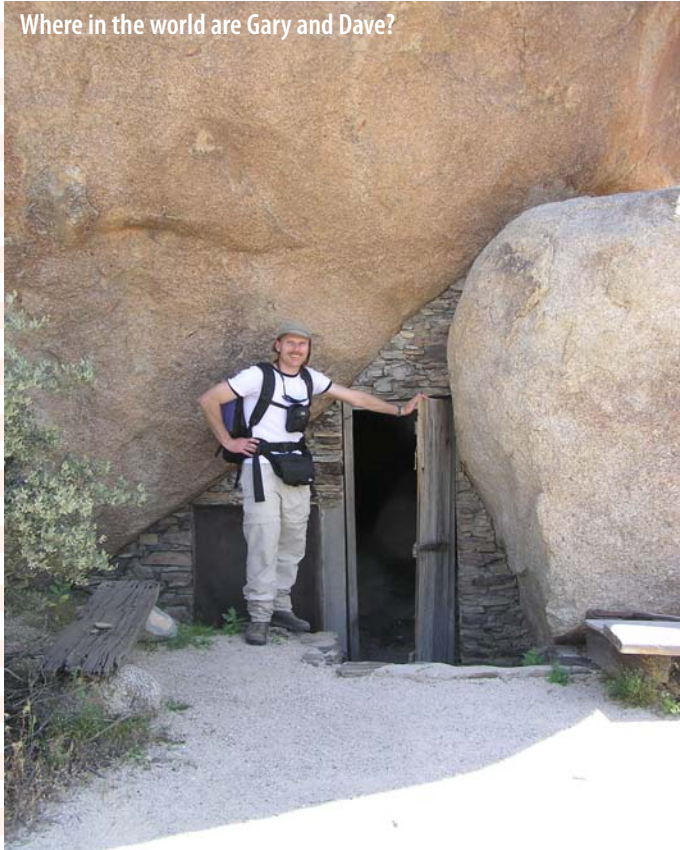


Snowflower detail by Gary Novotny

Outings Leader Directory

Please see the Outings Leader Directory on page 8 of the WTC Newsletter print version for SASE and contact information.

Where in the world are Gary and Dave?



“To explore, enjoy,
and protect the wild
places of the earth;
to practice and
promote the
responsible use of
the earth’s ecosystem
and resources;
to educate and
enlist humanity to
protect and restore
the quality of the
natural and human
environment...”



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Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
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Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club,
Wilderness Training Committee

FRIP # F94Q [N0469] - 1



Quick ascent to Quail

The traditional late summer ascent of Quail Mountain, in Joshua Tree National Park

Quail Mountain (5,814 ft.)

Quail Mountain, at 5814 feet, is the highest point in Joshua Tree National Park. It is also a favorite "last minute" experience trip for WTC students who have procrastinated over the summer, and see graduation looming large in October. There is traditionally a hike to the top of Quail Mountain scheduled in late September or early October, which is a great trip, since it is a peak summit, and there is seldom rainy weather to cancel the peak summit. Gary and I participated in this early October ritual in 2004, on a hike led by Kristen Mahaffey and assisted by Janet Yee.

The hike begins on Saturday morning, with a five mile ramble through desert creosote and Joshua trees to reach our campsite at juniper flats. Juniper flats is well-named, and the juniper trees are well-appreciated for the shade they lend. Although our trip was not as hot as it could have been, the shade was still very welcome. We stop here to eat a snack and drop the heavy stuff out of our packs - including all the water we would need for the next 24 hours, since juniper flats is a "dry camp". We quickly pick out a spot for our tent, and pitch it. We have to pick carefully in order to avoid large patches of prickly spent wildflowers with round seed heads. We find out later these space-age looking wildflowers are called Chia. When all the tents are up, we then set out to climb the peak. Quail Mountain is not hard to spot from the campground at juniper flats. However, juniper flats is not all that distinctive an area to find on your way down. As we hike toward the peak, we take bearings on our campground and write them down, so we can find our way back in the afternoon.

We pick a gully to climb as our way up the mountain. There are many choices for routes, and our gully is just one of them. The gully is full of rocks and boulders - as many of the gullies in Joshua Tree are. There are plants growing in the crevices between the rocks, but since it is late summer, everything looks very spent and weary. About half way up the gully, Kristen surprises a rattlesnake, who is not at all happy about accommodating a multitude of intruders in his living room. We give him plenty of room, and make a mental note to return down the mountain via a different route!

As we are climbing up the gully, it is a good thing that we have all learned how to pick out terrain features on the map, and the leaders know where they are going, because the peak disappears behind a ridge, and is no longer in sight. As we top out of the gully, a welcome breeze picks up, and the peak returns to sight, accessible by a short hike

Quail Mountain
Photo by Kay Novotny



Quail Mountain, continued...

along the ridge. There is a pile of dark rocks which marks the peak summit. Buried in the pile of rocks is the peak register. There is also quite a bit of miscellaneous junk at the top of the mountain, and a truly spectacular view. Mt San Geronio, which has been playing hide and seek with us all day, is clearly visible. There is a large area of Joshua trees and junipers which was razed by a fire, leaving scores of burned trees. We all take many pictures, including the group picture at the top.

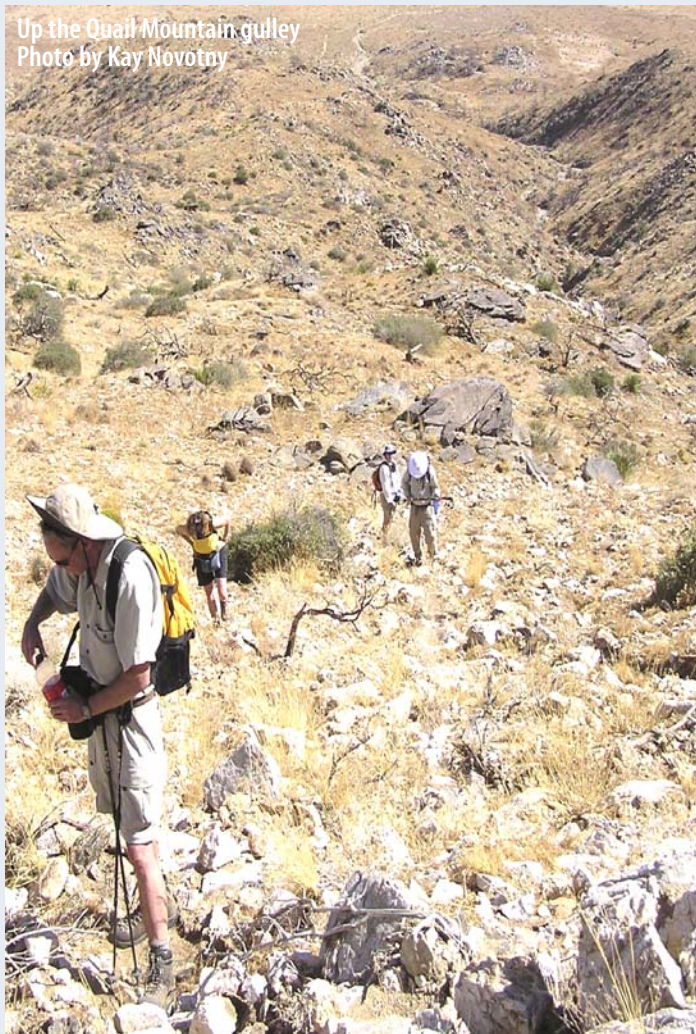
As we head down the mountain, we use a route down a ridge line which will put us at about the same spot where we started our climb. We then check our bearings for the campground, and arrive there without incident. As we prepare for dinner, several of us bring out surprises or one of the participants who is celebrating her birthday that day. We bring a feather boa, and a crown, and Janet brings out a delicious chocolate bundt cake, which she has packed in from the parking lot. We have a fine celebration under the stars, in a place that we love, doing what we all love to do, in the company of good friends. It is a perfect finale for the WTC season.

We all wake up the next morning to a perfect sunrise peeking through the Joshua trees, junipers and yuccas. The colors are glorious – the sunrise starts with yellow in the center, radiating out to orange. Then comes the palest of pinks, fading off into blue and then finally indigo. The Joshua trees stand in formal silhouette, like soldiers at attention, waiting for the call to duty. We all eat breakfast, then pack up our gear and head back to the cars. On our way out of the park, we stop at Samuelson's Rocks, a unique and curious spot in the park. Samuelson was a Swedish sailor who lived in the park in the late 1920's, working for Bill Keys. During his time there, he carved political sayings on the rocks near his house. Samuelson's house burned down, but his carvings still remain, and many of his sayings have bearing even on the current political arena. Can it be that not much has changed?

Sunrise at juniper flats
Photo by Kay Novotny



Up the Quail Mountain gulley
Photo by Kay Novotny





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WTC Long Beach group 2 enjoys fresh baked pizza at snow camp



Photo by Gary Novotny