



Newsletter

www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc
Vol 19, No. 1 / Winter 2008

Newsletter of the
Wilderness Training
Committee

September Sequoia
"NavPack" Turns Into
September Snow Camp!

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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@ca.rr.com

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.

For Sale!



Expedition Backpack, North Face Alpha Aurora, Red, Men's Medium, 6000+ cu in, Excellent condition. \$600 new, yours for \$180. Steve Schuster, steve.n.wfac2@sbc-global.net, 714-315-1886



Special Notice

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, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version

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.

California Sellers of Travel Disclaimer: CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.



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...

Headline Deadline

For publication in the Spring 2008 WTC Newsletter:

February 15 Last day for trips to be submitted to the WTC Outings Chair for inclusion in the next WTC newsletter (Volume 19: Issue 2 – Last Class). Provisional trips and leaders should already have an LTC review. Restricted trips should prepare a Mountaineering Application.

May 20 Last day for trips to be submitted to the WTC Outings Chair for inclusion in the next WTC newsletter (Volume 19: Issue 3 – June/July). Provisional trips and leaders should already have an LTC review. Restricted trips should prepare a Mountaineering Application.

Mar 5 Last day for trips to be submitted to the WTC Outings Chair for publication in next Angeles Chapter Schedule 308 (Jul 5 – Oct 31). Provisional trips and leaders should already have an LTC review. Restricted trips should prepare a Mountaineering Application

On The Cover

Margaret Pommert, Cynthia Rothrock, Karen Glassmaker, Pete Mura, Robert Freese, Chris Dowdell, and Dave Scobie all have different opinions about navigation as Jane Simpson's "NavPack" trip tuns into a snow camp in September. The trip was co-sponsored by WTC and Wilderness adventures. Co-leader was Adrienne Benedict. Photo by Jane Simpson. See story on page 3.

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Cover Story - Snow in September?

Cover Story -

Submitted by Jane Simpson

SUMMER SNOW CAMP, or CHASING SNOW ON THE LAST DAY OF SUMMER 2007

Plan A: A navigation-themed backpack in Sequoia NP, out of Lodgepole. Destination: Twin Lakes (9300') and beyond to explore the Silliman Crest.

"We could have some interesting weather this weekend. Brrr." wrote WTC SGV 2007 student Chris Dowdell to the nine email recipients packing for the trip sponsored by Wilderness Adventures and WTC. On the Tuesday before departure, NOAA advised: EARLY SEASON RAIN AND HIGH MOUNTAIN SNOW POSSIBLE LATER THIS WEEK.

As leader, I had already begun alerting everyone to the evolving conditions for a trip that could test not only our nav skills, but also basic comfort levels. Co-leader Adrienne Benedict and I were in deep discussion about canceling, modifying, and assorted Plan B options.

But, come Thursday, September 20th, Adrienne and I, along with participant Cynthia, were in the car cruising up to Sequoia to spend the first night at Wuksachi Lodge. Forget that low 30's nighttime Lodgepole campground start, we wanted warmth and hot food.

Adrienne and I had agreed that if the storm was underway by morning we would cancel at the trailhead. But, Friday dawned clear and gorgeous. Fortified from a buffet breakfast, we ventured into the crisp air to meet our party at the parking lot. Nobody had slept outside that night; everyone had decided to hole up for a last night of cozy comfort before our wilderness adventure.

The permit office confirmed that a storm was coming, with snow alert level now raised to 80%. A sense of excitement was in the air as we finished loading packs with last minute additional layers. We were thrilled to see that WTC training had kicked in and every one of our student participants had sufficient gear. As we set out on the trail later than planned, our merry band looked like snow campers without the snowshoes. And it was only September 21st.

From forest to peaceful meadow to rugged upper reaches, the Twin Lakes trail is one of the western Sierra's best. On this day, as we approached vast Cahoon Meadow, clouds were scudding across a blue sky above a golden field, drier than usual.

Clouds continued to taunt us on top of Cahoon Gap around 2 pm. It was then that we outlined Plan B.

Rather than go up to Twin Lakes, how about a stop at below 9,000 feet where fires were allowed. Our crew was unsure about what the advantages were until we arrived at an established campsite by Clover Creek (8400'). Its features were obvious: water, fire ring and a bear box maintained by Seki Foundation.

It was the fire ring that proved the biggest attraction. After an evening of quesadillas around a toasty fire we dove into our tents thinking that maybe we had ducked the storm. But that was not to be. In the middle of the night, rain began to fall. Its sound changed quickly to something more soft and crunchy.

By morning on the last day of summer a thin layer of snow coated everything. Yes! Our happy troop gathered up for a day hike to Twin Lakes and - weather willing - beyond. Participants took turns taking us from point to point in nav-noodle style.

As we got close to the outlet stream, the sun broke through and we began to have second thoughts on why we didn't move camp with us to the lakes. But that thought faded soon when we arrived at Twin Lakes (9300') where greyness prevailed. In fact, the bigger lake was invisible behind a blanket of fog. And, it was darn cold up there. A few campers were there huddled around a fire in an old established ring, a fire that they claimed not to know was now illegal above 9,000'.

Once again, we played tag with the clouds which parted long enough for us to discuss cross-country routes above the lake. We decided to explore further. Up we went to a low pass south of Twin, which was our planned starting point for the official nav noodle. But, at the top of this little pass and peaklet, clouds descended with a vengeance and snow began to fall.

We high-tailed it out of Twin Lakes, grateful for our camping spot below. We even considered packing out if it got really nasty.

Back in camp, with light snow chasing us, we decided to stay. The clincher was not only our sense of adventure, but also the tarp that I brought. Stringing up the tarp over the fire ring was a keystone cops enterprise saved by the fact that members of our resourceful crew also brought extra tent cord, rope, what-have-you.

We settled in for a night of photo-snapping, happy hour eating and betting on how many inches of snow would be there in the morning.

The first day of Fall 2007 at Clover Creek camp snow yield: 5-6 inches. Whoo-hoo!

As we readied to head out, I discussed with Dave Scobie the route out, now covered with snow. This would be a nice little x-country exercise. As soon as we were all about to cross the creek, the young campers from Twin Lakes came through. They told us that snowfall was at least a foot up at the lakes. We then followed their tracks back up to Cahoon Gap which were right on.

When we met up with the campers enroute, the leader guy was checking his GPS. He was retracing his route. So much for our pure snow route-finding experience. Now it was all about enjoying the snowy scenery and navigating our way home down a familiar trail below an unpredictable sky.

An unforgettable weekend of snow camping in September reminded all of us why we teach this stuff.



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.



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.



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



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 15/Sat



Hundred Peaks, WTC

O/Santiago Pk (5687'), Modjeska Pk (5496')

Strenuous dayhike to the highest points in Orange Co., also known as Saddleback Butte. 22 mi, 5000' gain. Mix of trail and dirt roads. Great conditioning hike for prospective WTC students. Drive on 10 mi of dirt road. Email city, phone, recent conditioning, and experience to Ldr: Ted Lubeshkoff. Co-Ldr: Wayne Vollaie.

Dec 16/Sun



WTC, 20-30 Singles, LB Group, PV South Bay

O/Mt Wilson/Manzanita Ridge

WTC Introductory Hike. Invigorating conditioning hike at a moderate pace. 10 mi rt, 4000' gain. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January 2008. Subjects include safe mountain travel, map & compass and wilderness first aid. This is a residential neighborhood so be mindful of parking regulations and resident's quiet enjoyment of their neighborhood. Meet 9 am at trailhead. Mira Monte Ave and Mt Wilson Trail Dr. Take I-210 to Baldwin Ave exit, take Baldwin N to Mira Monte, Right to trailhead. Bring hiking boots, 2 ltrs water, snacks to share. Ldrs: Dave Meltzer, Barbara Phillips-Meltzer.

January

Jan 1/Tue



Hundred Peaks, WTC

O/Mt Wilson (5700+')

Enjoy one of leader's favorite SoCal hikes, 14 mile loop, 4000' gain/loss, including some steep ridges on descent. Be prepared for any weather. Contact leader if in doubt. Meet 8 AM at Chantry Flat, upper parking lot. Ldr: Asher Waxman Asst: Mikki Siegel

Jan 5/Sat



WTC, LPC

O/Temescal Pk (2126')

Learn about the Wilderness Travel Course on this hike through oak glens and chaparral in Topanga State Park. Info will be provided on the ten essentials of safe mountain travel. We will hike to the park's highest peak with spectacular views. 8 mi rt, 1100' gain on fireroad and trail. Meet 9:00 a.m. at Trippet Ranch fee parking lot (from Topanga Cyn Blvd, east on Entrada Dr for about 1 mi, turning left at every opportunity until parking lot). Ldrs: Robert Myers, Jane Simpson.

January continued

Jan 12/Sat



WTC, Hundred Peaks

I/Warren Pt (5103')

Practice navigation for Sunday's checkoff on this 6 mi rt, 1300' gain hike in the pinyon pine and juniper region of western Joshua Tree National Park. We will take a cross-country route to Warren Pt and practice micro-navigation skills along the way. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldrs: Susan Richmond, Jane Simpson.

Jan 12/Sat

NEW



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 point for trip details. Binoculars, especially close focus, are quite helpful. Ldr: Keith Martin. Asst: Jim Murphy.

Jan 13/Sun



LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks

I/Warren Pt Navigation

Navigation Noodle in Joshua Tree National Park for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send navigation experience/training, rideshare info, H&W phones to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Phil Wheeler

Jan 26/Sat



LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks, Hundred Peaks
M/E/Local Baldy Snow Practice

Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, and snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Email SC#, climbing resume, email address, phone # to Leader: Nile Sorenson Co-Leader: Tina Bowman

Jan 26/Sat

NEW



WTC

O/Millard Canyon, San Gabriel Mountains

A 7 mile, 1800' gain hike exploring Millard Canyon and Sunset Ridge. Start on the Sunset Ridge Trail, going the Canyon with some creek crossings and boulder-hopping. After a visit to Dawn Mine, we will ascend to Sunset Ridge, and return to our starting place. Bring 2 to 3 liters of water, lunch and snacks. Meet at 8-30 am. Ldrs: Misha Askren, Sal Pelaez. Contact Misha at 323-935-1492 or maskren@sbcglobal.net to RSVP and get final details.

February

Feb 2/Sat **NEW** **Hundred Peaks, Desert Peaks, WTC** **I/Rabbit Pk #2 (6640+')**

Very strenuous outing in Anza Borrego State Park (6700' gain, 16 mi rt on use trail and prickly x-country). Bring lunch, 4-5 quarts water to trailhead, lug sole boots, flashlight. Limited participation. For more information/reservation email leaders with recent hiking experience. Ldrs: Joe Young And Asher Waxman.

Feb 2/Sat **NEW** **WTC, Verdugo Hills** **O/Verdugo Mountains Hike**

Join us to practice for the following week's WTC conditioning hike or just for a good time on this partially steep, 8 mi, 2000' gain loop hike. We will start out on a use trail, see the new fire breaks on the top of the mountains with great views over the Los Angeles area and return on a different trail. Meet 7 am at the Western most of the two Santa Monica Mountains conservancy trailheads on La Tuna Canyon Road, 3.2 mi east of Sunland Blvd, or 1.3 mi west of the 210 overpass / exit. Bring water, a snack to share, 10 essentials, long pants. scree gaiters advised. Ldr: Patricia Schneider. Asst: Garen Yegparian.

Feb 3/Sun **NEW** **WTC, Hundred Peaks** **O/Strawberry Pk (6164') and Mt Lawlor (5957')**

Easy, slow paced 8-9 mile rt venture all on trail with approximately 2000' gain. Orange County folks will meet at 7 am. Other hikers will join at 8 am. Send sase or esase to leader if interested and details will be distributed. Bring 2-3 liters of water, lunch and snacks, 10 essentials, appropriate extra clothing, and maybe something with strawberries to share on top. Adventure Pass required. Rain cancels. Hike is designed for incoming and new WTC students. Ldr: Cheryl Gill. Co-Leaders: Laura Curran, Gary Bickel.

Feb 9/Sat **LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks, Hundred Peaks** **M/E/Local Baldy Snow Practice**

Come review snow climbing, rope travel, ice axe, and snow anchors. Practice your skills or brush up on new techniques. Especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Email SC#, climbing resume, email address, phone # to Leader: Nile Sorenson Co-Leader: Tom McDonnell

Feb 10/Sun **NEW** **WTC** **O/Los Pinos Peak (4510')**

WTC Conditioning Special. Moderate pace 10 mi rt, 2700' gain. Always great views on ridge hikes. Meet 6:45 am at the North Orange County rideshare. High clearance vehicles encouraged. Pack the ten essentials, water (2 quarts), snacks. Rain/forest closure cancels. Contact leader to confirm. Ldr: Edd Ruskowitz. Co-Ldr: Melissa Kane.

Feb 10/Sun **NEW** **WTC, 20s and 30s Singles, HPS** **I/Little Berdoo Pk (5440'), Bernard Pk (5430)**

Come join us in this post holiday conditioning hike in the Joshua Tree National Park Wilderness. Cross country over 7 mi rt, 1400 ft. gain to Little Berdoo and Bernard Peaks on a loop. Bring 10 essentials, lunch and water. Send email (preferred), recent conditioning, phone and rideshare info to Ldr: Edie Jaranilla. Asst: Anne Marie Richardson.

Feb 17/Sun **NEW** **WTC** **I/Mt Waterman Snowshoe in the San Gabriel Mountains**

Join us on a moderately paced snowshoe hike to the Mt Waterman area of the San Gabriels. Exact route to be determined by snow conditions Anticipate 6-8 mi rt, approximately 1500' gain. Bring water, lunch, waterproof lugsoled boots, winter clothing, snowshoes, trekking poles w/ snow baskets. Send sase or e-mail with recent conditioning & experience to Ldr: Bruce Michaels. Asst: Gerard Lewis.

February continued

Feb 24/Sun **Natural Science** **O/Fire Recovery Hike in Griffith Park**

Join us on a morning hike to see how the vegetation is recovering from last spring's fires. If we're lucky, the winter rains will bring some unusual fire-following flowers. Half-day Natural Science credit for LTC leaders. Bring water, lunch if you would like to eat together after the hike. Contact leader for meeting time and place. Leader: Ginny Heringer, Assistant Leader and Naturalist Gabi McLean.

March

Mar 1/Sat **NEW** **WTC** **I/Pinto Mtn (3983)**

Enjoy a peak in Southern Joshua Tree with magnificent views of surrounding area. Hike is 9 miles, 2400' elevation gain. Good introduction to hiking desert peaks. We will be reaching the summit via the South Wash. Bring 3 to 4 liters water, lunch and snacks plus ten essentials. Send WTC group, conditioning and recent hiking info to Ldr: Misha Askren. Asst: Dave Coplen.

Mar 14-16/Fri-Sun **Natural Science** **O/Winter Ecology Workshop at June Lake**

Join us for two days of xc 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, breakfasts and trail lunches, and accommodation at local Sierra Club members' homes on Fri and Sat night. Reserve a place by Mar 1st, by sending sase and \$60 check payable to Sierra Club Natural Science Section to leaders Ginny and Jim Heringer, email: ginnyh@ix.netcom.com.

Mar 15/Sat **WTC** **I/ Snowshoe in the San Gabriels**

Enjoy a moderately paced snowshoe hike to one of the local peaks in the Chilao/Waterman area of the San Gabriels. Exact location to be determined by snow conditions. Anticipate 6-8 mi rt, 1000-1500' gain. Bring water, lunch, waterproof lugsoled boots, winter clothing (layers), snowshoes, trekking poles with powder baskets. Send sase or e-mail (preferred) with recent conditioning & experience to Ldr: Melody Anderson, Asst: Eric Scheidemantle.

Mar 29-30/Sat-Sun **NEW** **WTC** **I/Quail Mtn (5814'), Samuelson's Rocks**

Easy paced but moderately strenuous 14 mi rt 1800' gain, backpack to Quail Mtn, highest point in Joshua Tree NP using mostly cross-country route. Sat easy paced 4 mi to camp, set up, then 6 mi rt to Quail and back to camp for happy hour. We will encounter some rough, rocky sections on Quail. Sun, 2 mi rt cross country trip to Samuelson's Rocks. Bring 10 essentials, minimum 6 liters water (dry camp), lug soles and layered clothing. sase or email, H&W phones, w/recent experience & conditioning to Ldr: David Meltzer. Asst: Gary Novotny.

April

Apr 5-6/Sat-Sun **NEW** **WTC** **I/Jean Pk (10,670'), Marion Mtn (10,362'), Cornell Pk (9,750')**

11 mi, 3,700'. Sat 8am ride Palm Springs Aerial Tram to San Jacinto State Wilderness. Will there be snow? Backpack 2 mi, 700' to Round Valley campground. Set up camp then hike or snowshoe 6 mi, 2200' xc to first two peaks. Return to camp for happy hour. Sun pack out 3 miles, 800' via Cornell Peak. Preference given to WTC students. Number of participants limited by permit. \$22 Tram. Email backpacking experience, conditioning, phones to Ldr: Peter Lara, Asst: Sandy Sperling.

April

Apr 6/Sun NEW



WTC

I/Nav 'till it Hertz

Intermediate level Navigation Clinic, Malibu Creek State Park . 5 mi, 300' gain. Spend most of day with Navigation Instructors sharpening your skills with map & compass. Not a checkoff - but you'll be prepared. Send email (or sase) for required materials to Ldr: Marc "Roadkill" Hertz. Co-Ldrs: Jane Simpson, Robert Myers, Adrienne Benedict.

Apr 12-13/Sat-Sun NEW



WTC

I/Queen Mtn (5680'), Samuelson's Rock

Easy paced, but moderately strenuous, backpacking trip in Joshua Tree National Park. Enjoy spectacular desert scenery from the top of Queen Mtn. Sat easy paced 2 mi to camp, set up, then 6 mi rt to Queen w/1500' gain. Nav workshop on the way. We will encounter some rough, rocky sections on Queen. Sun, 2 mi rt cross country trip to Samuelson's Rock. Bring 10 essentials, minimum 6 liters water (dry camp), lug soles and layered clothing. Send sase or email, H&W phones, w/recent experience & conditioning to Ldr: David Meltzer. Asst: Sridhar Gullapalli

Apr 12-13/Sat-Sun NEW



Sierra Peaks, WTC

I/Rockhouse Peak (8,360') and Sirretta Peak (9,977')

Come climb these two peaks situated in the Southern Sierra with us. We will climb them via class 1 and 2 day hikes. On Saturday climb Rockhouse Peak via the north slope. On Sunday climb Sirretta. Experience with class 2 travel and good fitness required. Send email with conditioning, experience. Ldr: Alex Amies, Asst: Greg Mason.

Apr 19-20/Sat-Sun NEW



LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks

I/Indian Cove Navigation

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

May

May 2-4/Fri-Sun NEW



WTC

I/Hetch Hetchy Dome (6165')

Fri afternoon 7 mi 1000' backpack by Tueeulala Falls and Wapama Falls to Rancheria Falls backcountry campsite. Sat 6 mi rt 2200' exploratory to Hetch Hetchy Dome. Comfort on steep class 2 cross country required. Happy hour both nights. Sun 7 mi pack out. The Hetch Hetchy Valley was comparable to Yosemite Valley prior to the completion of the O'Shaughnessy Dam in 1923. Learn about the effects of creating a reservoir and see the amazing domeland that remains above water. Preference given to WTC students. Number of participants limited by permit. \$20 Yosemite NP entrance fee per car. Email or send sase with backpacking experience, conditioning, phones to Ldr: Peter Lara. Asst: Sandy Sperling.

May 10/Sat NEW



Palos Verdes - South Bay, HPS, WTC

I/Shay (6714'), Little Shay (6635'), Ingham (6355') and Deep Creek Hot Springs (5' deep)

18th semi-annual Deep Creek HS hike/soak/swim with some more peaks. Moderately paced 13 mi, 3100' gain w considerable cross country via exploratory routes. Some 4wd driving. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, lugs (swim suit optional). No beginners. Plan on spending full day - it's near Hesperia. Rain cancels. Send esase (preferable - bholchin@cox.net) or sase, along with carpool info to Ldr: Barry Holchin. Co-Ldr: Wayne Voltaire.

May continued

May 16-18/Fri-Sun



LTC, Harwood Lodge, WTC

C/Wilderness First Aid Course

Runs from 8 am Fri to 5.30 pm Sun. Fee includes lodging, meals and practice first aid kit. CPR required within previous 4 years to enroll. Fee \$190 with SC#/\$200 non-member; (full refund through April 11). Course is expected to fill 3 months in advance. For add'l info and application see website at <http://wildernessfirstaid-course.org/> or send email to Ldr: Steve Schuster.

May 17/Sat NEW



WTC, Hundred Peaks

I/Lake Pk (10,161')

Practice navigation for Sunday's checkoff on this 13.5 mile rt, 3500' gain hike in the San Geronio Wilderness. We will take a cross-country route to Lake Pk and practice micro-navigation skills along the way. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldrs: Jane Simpson, Adrienne Benedict.

May 18/Sun NEW



LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks

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 navigation experience/training, rideshare info, H&W phones to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Robert Myers.

May 31-June 1/Sat-Sun NEW



WTC

I/Newton Drury Pk (10,160'), Jean Pk (10,670'), Marion Mtn (10,362')

12 mi rt, 5000' gain. Enjoy a prudently-paced, but fairly-strenuous overnight backpack in the nearby San Jacinto Wilderness. Start at Marion Mtn Trail to Little Round Valley to set up camp, then cross-country routes and some rock scrambling to get up all three peaks. Send email or sase with contact information and conditioning to Ldr: Regge Bulman. Asst: Robert Myers.

Beyond May

Jul 18-20/Fri-Sun NEW



WTC

M/Mt McAdie (13,799')

Meet at Whitney Portal Friday morning. Backpack to Consolation Lake and set up camp (3300' gain). Early start Saturday morning heading south over moraine and talus to the saddle. Gain Arc Pass nearly to the top of the south summit, then negotiate class 3 climbing to the north summit (2100' gain). Back to camp for R&R. Sunday pack out to Whitney Portal. Class 3 experience, helmets, medical form required; restricted to Sierra Club members. Excessive snow may cancel. Send esase/sase, climbing resume/recent conditioning to Ldr: Josh Hibbard. Asst: Anne Marie Richardson.

Aug 30-Sep 1/Sat-Mon NEW



WTC

I/Mt Silliman (11,188')

Sat backpack 4 mi, 1,500' gain from Lodgepole, Sequoia NP to Silliman Meadow. Sun 5 mi, 3,000' gain to Mt. Silliman then return to camp. Happy hour both nights. Mon pack out. Comfort on class 2 granite slabs required. Send email with phone # and rideshare info, recent backpacking/conditioning experience to Ldr: Peter Lara, Asst: Sandy Sperling

Decadent Wilderness Weekend V

Dining high at the Pink Flamingo Café

By Ron Campbell

Another year brought another night of fine dining in the Sierra wilderness.

Decadent Wilderness Weekend V got off to a good start on Saturday, Aug. 11, in Horseshoe Meadow above Lone Pine. Seven of us set out, carrying all the usual back-packing gear plus the little extras that make life worth living: fine wine and gourmet foods. And also, because this was such a dry summer, we each brought at least one gallon of water.

We took the Trail Pass trailhead, reaching Trail Pass in mid-morning. One long glance at the brown meadow below was enough to tell us that we didn't want to trudge the extra three miles to Diaz Meadow, our original objective. Instead we found a wide, sheltered spot on the north side of the pass and set up camp.

After a leisurely lunch we left camp for Trail Peak. This is, or should be a straightforward climb. Unfortunately the real trail is about 200 vertical feet below the position shown on the topo map. We left the trail after about a mile, zig-zagging up the steep, boulder-strewn hillside to the ridge. Trail Peak is not on the Sierra Peaks Section list, but it's well worth a side trip for any hiker in the area.

From the top, Langley commands the view to the north; Whitney peeks out to one side. To the south there are Olancha and, in clear weather Kern Peak. And spread directly beneath on the north side is Horseshoe Meadow, which looks from here like, well, a horseshoe. A low, forested rise splits the meadow's arms; scarcely noticeable on the ground, the rise is strikingly obvious from above.

All told, a nice hike. But the real goal of Decadent Wilderness Weekend V was just beginning.

Georgette spread the traditional tablecloth, to which I added brass candlesticks. Then, to give our dining establishment the dignified air associated with Michelin 3-star restaurants, we inflated and posted four pink flamingos at the corners of the tablecloth. (Unhappily, the wind chose this moment to act up, blowing out the candles and knocking down two of the flamingos.)

Ed Cottone put on a white chef's toque and, with wife Priscilla, began assembling pizzas. They built them upside down in the pan: pepperoni and a tomato sauce, followed by a home-made garlicky crust, then added home-grown basil and mozzarella.

Georgette Rieck countered with crab cakes, special-ordered from the Santa Monica Seafood Company and topped with a Remoulade sauce.

Lisa Buckley borrowed my miniature cheese grater to grate some fresh garlic. With this foundation she quickly made a delightful Caesar salad.

Jim Montross served wild rice with Pacific scallops, sautéed in butter and garlic. (Let's see, that's three garlic-heavy menu items; no danger of vampires on this trip.)

Debbie Tracy whipped up a fruit compote and dumplings.

While everyone else was serving their dishes, I put together a mango salsa, made from two mangos, red onion, a little cilantro and jalapeno, and some lime juice. After letting it sit for 20 minutes or so I prepared salmon tacos, using vacuum-packed salmon and Dubliner cheese, topping the concoction with the Mango salsa.

After dinner, Georgette broke out Godiva ice cream, serving it with hot raspberry sauce.

In the fading light of sunset, we toasted each other, a great meal and the lovely flamingos with red wine.

So what do gourmet backpackers eat for breakfast? Leftovers - naturally.

Around noon we reached the cars where Lisa greeted us with a final surprise: cold beer from the Mammoth microbrewery.

My thanks to Ed and Georgette for a great co-lead. I'm already drooling in anticipation of Decadent Wilderness Weekend VI.



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Outings Leader Directory

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



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Journey to 13,000 feet +

On Labor Day weekend, 2007, eight intrepid adventurers go looking for Clouddripper - In the Eastern Sierra.

Where is Clouddripper? Written by Edie Jaranilla.

Provisional "I" trips are nerve racking but can be full of adventure. My planned WTC Experience backpack trip to Clouddripper Labor Day weekend, 2007 was just around the bend. The group of eight found their way to South Lake overnight parking as a comfortable 60 degree temp calmed our excited spirits. We considered ourselves lucky to get away from the unbearable triple digit temperatures that were scorching the LA area.

After introductions, signing the waiver, and last minute pit stops, the group of eight followed the Baker/Green pass trail. The easier and less steep way to get to the Green Lake trail was to take the round pipes that parallel the slope leading to the Green Lake trail.... not the route I chose due to the unsafe nature of trying to balance your 30-40 pound packs on these round continuous pipes that cut the distance and elevation gain in half, but allowed some exposure to a sheer drop of at least 30 feet down. We stuck with the trail that led to the Green Lake fork but had to descend 280 ft the first $\frac{3}{4}$ mi. to get there - which means that coming back we had to ascend the last mile to the cars. Who thought it would all be either uphill to our destination or downhill all the way back to the parked cars? Green Lake, our campsite area, was partially nestled in a bowl of steep rocky terrain. There were plenty of flat places to choose from for a camp spot, and trees nearby for our split breaks. On the map we noticed a trail that switched back and forth up the steep terrain to get over a hill. While on the trail, we got a spectacular view of the lake and its surroundings.

It was going to be a traditional garbage bag salad night for happy hour. It was nice to put our salad items in the ice cold stream that led to the lake as we set up our tents and unloaded our gear. I made myself eat the last salad left-overs. Who wants to pack this in the bear canister or pack it out? Chris treated us to some home made oatmeal cookies. Melanie and Diane opted out of doing a mini hike up the switchback trail after dinner. They watched the sunset instead from a vantage point $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up the trail. The word was out - "Don't forget to get your stuff ready for tomorrow." Wake up time of 5am.

Where is Clouddripper? None of us could see the peak anywhere. Not at South Lake, Brown Lake, Green Lake or on



Cloudripper, continued...

any trail coming from our campsite. Navigating and route finding through the 3 mile cross country route to find Cloudripper was a challenge. We encountered many rocky areas, not quite all talus, but uneven terrain. The continuous route of climbing slopes wasn't just straight up in one direction. The route started southwest for ½ a mile, then southeast another ½ mile, then a continuous elevation gain reaching the 13,000 ft mark. We travelled another 30 degrees west along this never-ending ridge. Either side of the terrain East or West is sheer steep drop. What? We have to climb 230+ ft to 13374 (Is this Vagabond?). All we can see ahead of us is just another steep rocky slope, class 2 - and stay away from that class 3 route! Finally, look ahead, it's Cloudripper. There were no other routes but to descend 240 ft. to get to the base of Vagabond and work our way another ¼ of a mile to the base of Cloudripper. We were running out of time but the urge to get close to the very top was in our bones. The last 20 minute push got the five of us die-hard wannabe peak baggers on the saddle just 30 feet short of the peak. I had to honor my 1PM turnaround time because we had to reverse the route and go down-hill to get back to the camp, and route finding when one is tired takes more time. In camp, our tents and stuff awaited our presence to be packed to go home. The goal was to make it back to camp before 5 PM so we could at least make it to the cars by 8pm, at sunset. That would make the day a total of 9 miles for the peak bagging and back to the cars.

What is planned and what is realized do not always match. The positive side, we had a long strenuous day, lots of adventure and made it out safely to the cars with head lamps free of injury. The negative side - I can't think of any for now. The next time I plan to do this trip, it will be a 3-day backpack trip so we have more time to bag the peak, relax that night, and pack out the next morning.

Participants for this trip: Edie Jaranilla, Diane Dunbar, Roberto DeCandia, Melanie Pipo, Karen Komesu, Chris Spisak, Jeanette Kirschner, Michelle Small.





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