



Newsletter

Newsletter of the Wilderness Training Committee

Reflecting On The Past 100 Years



www.WildernessTravelCourse.org
Vol 22, No. 1 / Winter 2011

WTC Newsletter

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See page 8 for contact info

WTC

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Adrienne Benedict

Area Registrar

Danielle Zucker

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 Sierra 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, 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.

Trips Liability 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 the participants make voluntary carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ridesharing or any similar arrangement 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.

Headline Deadline

For publication in the Spring 2011 WTC Newsletter: Feb 15

For publication in the Summer 2011 WTC Newsletter: May 15

These are the last days 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.

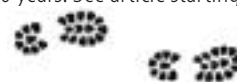
For publication in the 318 Angeles Chapter Schedule (Jul 5 - Oct 31): Mar 9

For publication in the 319 Angeles Chapter Schedule (Nov 5 - Feb 28): Jul 9

These are the last days 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

Laura Molnar and Peter Ireland pose in different centuries - illustrating the advancements in outdoor gear in the last 100 years. See article starting on page 3.



The WTC newsletter is published quarterly for students and staff of the Wilderness Training Committee and is distributed at class sites. It is also available in color on the WTC website: <http://www.wildernesstravelcourse.org/> as a download in PDF format. All questions, copy and photo submissions should be directed to Kay Novotny, WTC Newsletter Editor, at knovotny27@gmail.com or (562) 860 - 4078.

WTC Info Line: (310) 967 - 2029

A Hundred Years of Gear - From Wool to Primaloft, and Back

By Jane Simpson, WTC Chair

On the upper reaches of Mt. Everest in 1999, famed mountaineer Conrad Anker came upon a stunning sight: a marble-white body partially clad in wool and cotton. This was no ordinary mountaineer frozen amongst the ice and rock. The non-technical fabric was a dead give-away that the deceased was from a by-gone era. Then, the name on the label clinched it: "Mallory", which put the date at 1924, when legendary climber George Mallory and his teammate Sandy Irvine went missing, leaving behind a tantalizing mystery as to whether they had summited the peak or not.

Aside from the tattered garments, other items were strewn about or tucked pockets: a fingerless knit glove, a bit of rope, snow goggles, an altimeter, letters, a knife, and a pocket watch. One of the most intriguing finds was a set of quaint leather hobnailed boots, *de rigueur* for mountain travel back in the day.

How could anybody attempt such a feat without goretex, down and crampons? The answer is that people have been getting outdoors for a long time without modern fibers, thank you very much. Whether questing for fire, food, conquest, or peace, walking outside has always been part of man's life on earth. What is more recent in the human timeline – in the last 100-plus years or so – is the concept of hiking for mere pleasure, or as Mallory famously said: to climb, "because it is there." Getting there requires gear – and something to wear.

Once upon a time, you got your Pendleton woolens only from sporting goods stores or army surplus. Or, your grandma knit you a sweater. As a hiker, you might have resembled an English schoolboy in knickers or a frisky hiking girl in adapted undergarments known as "bloomers." Above all, you were stylish. Today, you have the added advantage of hundreds of brick and mortar specialty shops and online stores screaming for your discretionary dollars as part of a multi-billion-dollar industry that thrives on changing tastes, fashion, textiles and of course: science. The science of how we sweat, how we stay warm or cool, and so on. During the last one hundred-plus years since the Angeles Chapter's founding in 1911, the Sierra Club has been a key trendsetter in hiking fashion, for better (big colorful bandanas) or worse (long-john style leggings under shorts). Sierra Club hikers have been conspicuous all over the country in the vanguard of this pastime, symbolized in America perhaps first in the person of John Muir, whose wild beard, wool gabardine trousers, shirts and jaunty bowties cut an iconic figure in the wilderness in the late 1800's-early 1900's..

Photo by Bob Cates



As a gear-centric course, it is only fitting that WTC takes a look at what we would have worn and carried in the early 1900's versus today. On our newsletter cover, (and accompanying this article) we have created an image of old and new for some comparisons, featuring at least two individuals of each era. Representing the early days, we have archival photos of a few original Angeles Chapter Sierra Clubbers, along with current WTC WLA Instructor Peter Ireland in WWI wool breeches, khaki shirt, bandana and knee-high boots. Peter is a member of the chapter's history committee and an avid collector of vintage gear that he wears so well. Together with Chapter Historian, Bob Cates, they have displayed their impressive array of canvas tents, rucksacks, heavy wood ice axes, stoves, boots and vintage food tins for many events. Representing female mountaineers of today, we give you Laura Molnar, past WTC student and summitter of too many Sierra peaks to count. Laura is sporting a striking electric orange down jacket, guaranteed to create envy among the winter animal kingdom while keeping her toasty warm. On her feet are boots and snowshoes. She carries adjustable trekking poles, too.



Outings

To reserve your place on an outing, follow the instructions listed in the trip description and provide all the 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 information. Typically requested information includes name, address, home & 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 the number of persons interested in the trip is large. If you change your plans, it is very important that you contact the leaders to let them know your revised plans, even if you are on the waiting list.

Please see the Outings Leader Directory on page 8 for 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.

January

Jan 16/Sun NEW!  **VH, PolComm, WTC**
O/Hike with your Burbank city councilmember & celebrate the Angeles Chapter's centennial

Easy 2.5 mi rt hike with Gary Bric. Come discuss your concerns and issues of the day with him on the way to the "Picnic Table Peak" and great views of Burbank, Glendale, the San Fernando & La Crescenta Valleys and more. Meet at 8:45 am at the Stough Canyon Nature Center in Burbank. From the intersection on Glenoaks and Walnut in Burbank, drive on Walnut until the road ends. The nearest highway exit is Burbank Blvd. from I-5. Co-leaders Garen Yegparian and Carol Henning.

Jan 20/Thu NEW!  **Orange County Sierra Singles**
Beg. Basic Navigation Workshop – Fullerton, 6:00 pm

Workshop designed for people who have never used a compass or have experienced difficulty with navigation. Concepts presented in a simple, easy to understand format. Class ends approx. 9:30 pm. Send email (or 1 SASE), H&W phones, & check payable to OCSS for \$7 for materials and refreshments to Ldr/Instr.: Michael Dodson, 1600 Lark Ellen Drive, Fullerton, CA 92835. Assts: Robert Neighbors, Scott Meek

Jan 22/Sat NEW!  **LTC, Desert Pks Sec, Sierra Peaks, 100 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 mbrs 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

March

Feb 5/Sat NEW!  **WTC**
MR/Rattlesnake Canyon Loop

Strenuous rock scramble through the Wonderland of Rocks, near Indian Cove, 7 mi, 1300'. Class 3 rock travel experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. This trip will be of special interest to WTC staff working toward an M-rating and those who completed the Indian Cove Navigation Noodle trip planning exercise. Helmets and medical forms required. Send SC#, class 3 experience, fitness info, email, and phone to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Regge Bulman.

February continued

Feb 12/Sat NEW!  **LTC, Sierra Pks, Desert Pks Section, 100 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 Sierra Club members with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Email Sierra Club number, climbing resume, email address and phone number to Leader: Nile Sorenson, Co-leader: Doug Mantle

Feb 20/Sun NEW!  **VH, PolComm, WTC**
O/Hike with your Glendale school board member & celebrate the Angeles Chapter's centennial

Easy 2 mi rt hike with Nayiri Nahabedian. Come discuss your concerns and issues of the day with her on the way to great views of Glendale, the S F Valley, and beyond. Meet 8:45 am in Brand Park beside library. Start at I-5, exit onto Western. Drive east, toward the hills, directly to park entrance. Co-leaders Garen Yegparian and Frank Dobos.

Feb 21/Mon NEW!  **WTC, LTC, HPS**
I/Mt. Pinos Navigation Practice on Snowshoes

Ever wonder what it was like to navigate in snow? Find out on this navigation practice as we take a cross-country route to Mt. Pinos (8831'). 4 mi rt, 700' gain. Snowshoes required. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Leader: Robert Myers Assistant: Adrienne Benedict

March

Mar 11/Fri NEW!  **Orange County Sierra Singles, WTC**
Snow Saw Workshop – Fullerton

Arrive 3:00-6:00 pm for hands-on experience fabricating your own snow saw. Class ends approx. 10:00 pm. Class size limited. Send email (or 1 SASE), H&W phones, & check payable to OCSS for \$10 for materials, food, and refreshments to Ldr/Instr.: Michael Dodson, 1600 Lark Ellen Drive, Fullerton, CA 92835. Asst: Dave Evans

Mar 19/Sat NEW!  **LTC**
Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar

Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC. Register for Apr 2 seminar to be held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Pasadena. Next seminar: Fall 2011.

Mar 20/Sun NEW!  **VH, PolComm, WTC**
O/Hike with your Burbank school board member & celebrate the Angeles Chapter's centennial

Easy 2 mi rt hike with Roberta Reynolds. Come discuss your concerns and issues of the

March continued

day with her on the way to great views of great views of Glendale, Burbank, the San Fernando Valley, and Hollywood Hills. Meet at 8:45 am at the entrance to Wildwood Canyon Park in Burbank (from the intersection of Glenoaks Blvd and Harvard Rd, drive towards the hills to the park entrance and park immediately past it). Co-leaders Garen Yegparian and Annette Kargodorian.

Mar 20/Sun NEW!



WAS, WTC

I/Cholla Cactus Garden to Bingo Peak (2900')

Join us for a moderately paced 8 mile route trip, 1000' gain hike in the desert of Riverside County. Start out at Cholla Cactus Garden which lies within the ecological transition zone between the Mojave and Colorado deserts, a great chance to see beautiful wild flowers cover the ground. Hike across several washes to the SW of Pinto Basin to climb Bingo Peak. Sturdy boots, 3 qts water and 10 essentials required. Send H&W phones, email, recent conditioning and hiking experience to Provisional Leader: Doan-Trang Tran, Assistant Leader: David Coplen

March 26-27/Sat-Sun NEW!



WTC, DPS

MR/Tensor Peak (4418'), Spectre Peak (4480'), Dyadic Peak (4362')

Visit three rarely climbed peaks in the remote Coxcomb Mountains. Saturday, backpack into camp (5 miles, 1300' gain). Sunday, climb peaks then back to camp and out to cars (9 miles, 2000' gain). Must be comfortable on third-class rock and must carry all water for two days. Trip restricted to Sierra Club members—helmet and harness required. Send email with experience and conditioning to Ldr: Regge Bulman (r_bulman@fastmail.us). Asst Ldr: Eric Scheidemantle.

April

Apr 1-3/Fri-Sun NEW!



Orange County Sierra Singles, WTC

I/Igloo Construction Workshop/Snow Camping Trip

Learn to construct an Igloo and spend two nights out in the backcountry. Winter travel & camping experience mandatory. Ski or snow shoeing in, build Igloo, spend some time skiing or snow shoeing before leaving area. Group size limited. Send email three weeks in advance min. (or 2 SASE), H&W phones, email, & winter camping experience to: Ldr: Michael Dodson, Asst: Virgil Talbott

Apr 2/Sat NEW!



LTC

Leadership Training Seminar

Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. Seminar at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Pasadena. Deadline for receipt of application and payment is Mar 19. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Fall 2011.

Apr 2-3/Sat-Sun NEW!



LTC, WTC, DPS, Desert Committee

I/Places We've Saved Navigation Noodle in Mojave National Preserve

Join us for our ninth annual journey through this jewel of the Mojave; preserved under the California Desert Protection Act, as a result of the efforts of Sierra Club activists and others. A basic to intermediate xc navigation day-hike workshop will be conducted out of the Mid Hills area in the pinyon and juniper forests at 5500' elevation. Potluck and social on Sat, and for those arriving early on Fri. Limited to 14 participants. Send email/sase to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldrs: Virgil Shields, Ann Shields, Adrienne Benedict.

Apr 3/Sun NEW!



LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

E/MR/Stoney Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff

This intermediate and advanced workshop 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 suitable rock climbing experience. Helmet and climbing gear required. Email or send climbing resume, completed medical form (2 copies-include SC# on form), address and phone to: Ldr: Ron Hudson. Co-Ldrs: Greg Mason, Dan Richter, Pat McKusky.

April continued

Apr 9/Sat NEW! Palos Verdes – South Bay, Hundred Peaks, WTC I/Artic Point (8336'), Gold Mtn 8235') and Deep Creek Hot Springs (5'deep)



21st semi-annual Spring Deep Creek HS hike/soak/swim with more peaks. Moderately paced 11 mi with x-cntry, 3500' gain. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, lugs (swim suit optional). Significant dirt road driving, but high clearance not required. Plan on spending full day - it's near Hesperia via Big Bear. We'll probably be hiking back to the cars in the moonlight (nearly full moon). Possibility of doing Deleamar Mtn. and/or Bertha Peak, depending on hiking speed and road/participant condition - hot spring is priority. Rain cancels. Send email (preferable - bholchin@cox.net) or sase with conditioning and carpool info to Ldr: Barry Holchin. Co-Ldr: Wayne Vollaie.

Apr 16/Sat NEW!



LTC, WTC

MR/Navigation Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain

This navigation workshop is limited to individuals participating in the Indian Cove Navigation Noodle and is intended to explore special navigation issues that arise on 3rd class terrain. Class 3 rock travel experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members. Helmets and medical forms required/group size limited. Send email/sase, SC#, class 3 experience, conditioning, contact info to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Jack Kieffer

Apr 17/Sun NEW!



VH, PolComm, WTC

O/Hike with your Los Angeles city council member & celebrate the Angeles Chapter's centennial

Easy 2 mi rt hike with Paul Krekorian. Come discuss your concerns and issues of the day with him on the way to La Tuna Peak and great views of the Burbank, Glendale, the San Fernando Valley, and more. Meet at 8:45 am at the Northeast corner of Glenoaks Blvd and Lanark St. Co-leaders Garen Yegparian and Evelyn Alexander.

Apr 15-17/Fri – Sun NEW!



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. Proof of CPR within previous 4 years required to enroll. Fee \$210 (full refund through March 11). For application contact (e-mail preferred) to Ldr: Steve Schuster

Apr 16-17/Sat-Sun NEW!



LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I/Indian Cove Navigation

Navigation noodle to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sun checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Phil Wheeler

Apr 20/Wed NEW!



LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/ER/Workshop: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP3) – Basic Safety System

First of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today's indoor evening workshop of 4 hours reviewing ropes, knots, harnesses, helmets, and basic climbing gear will take place in Pasadena. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: Pat McKusky

Apr 23/Sat NEW!



LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/ER/Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP3) – Belaying

2nd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on belaying and principles of anchor building. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: Pat McKusky

WTC Newsletter

April continued

Apr 23-24/Sat – Sun NEW!



LTC, SPS, DPS

M/ER/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 members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson Co-Ldr: Doug Mantle.

Apr 23-24/Sat-Sun NEW!



WTC

I/Quail Mtn (5814')

Easy paced but moderately strenuous 14 mi rt 1800' gain, backpack to Quail Mtn, 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 section on Quail. Sun, 2 mi rt xc trip to Samuelson's Rock. 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. Co-Ldr: Gary Maxwell

Apr 30/Sat NEW!



LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/ER/Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP3) – Rappelling

3rd of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today at Stoney Point in Chatsworth, focus is on rappelling. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: Pat McKusky

May

May 7/Sat

NEW!



LTC, SPS, DPS

M/ER/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 members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: Tina Bowman Co-Ldr: Tom McDonnell

May 7-8/Sat – Sun NEW!



LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC

M/ER/Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP3) – Rock Climbing Techniques and Anchors

4th of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. This weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on climbing and anchors. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send sase or e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: Pat McKusky

May 14/Sat NEW!



LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks

I/Beginning Navigation Clinic

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, \$25 deposit (Sierra Club, refunded at trailhead) to Ldr: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman

May 14-15/Sat-Sun NEW!



WTC, SPS, PVS

M/Smith Mountain (9533'), Crag Peak (9420') and Jackass Peak (9277')

Get some introductory M-level climbing in the Kennedy Meadows area of the Southern Sierra. Sat backpack from Hooker Meadows Trailhead to Albanita Meadows,

May continued

5 mi, 1300'. We'll pitch tents; then continue 4 mi rt, 1500' gain to Smith Mtn and Jackass Peak. Happy hour/potluck follows at camp. Sun climb 7 mi rt and 1800' gain to Crag Peak, then pack gear and hike the 5 mi back to cars. Comfort on easy 3rd class required, WTC students welcome. Send esase (preferable – bholchin@cox.net) or 2 sase, recent experience and conditioning, carpool info to Ldr: Barry Holchin. Co Ldr: Eric Scheidemantle




May 15/Sun NEW!

Verdugo Hills, PolComm, WTC

O/Hike with your Glendale school board member & celebrate the Angeles Chapter's centennial

Easy 2 mi rt hike with Christine Walters. Come discuss your concerns and issues of the day with her on the way to great views of the Crescenta Valley, Glendale, and threatened local woodlands. Meet at 8:45 am at the entrance to the Beaudry fire road in Glendale (from the intersection of Canada Blvd and Country Club Rd, drive West towards the hills to Beaudry Blvd., turn left to the gated drainage basin entrance and park there). Co-leaders Garen Yegparian and Annette Kargodorian.

May 21/Sat NEW!  **Hundred Peaks, WTC, Wild. Adventures, West LA O/Thunder (8587'), Telegraph (8985') and Timber (8303)**

10 miles. 2,700' gain, 3,400' loss. Hike all THREE of the T's and enjoy High T(ea) on the trail (really!!!...an assortment of goodies at tea time!!). A sumptuous pot luck dinner will await you at the Harwood Lodge HPS Centennial Spring Fling. After taking the ski lift to Baldy Notch, you will summit three peaks and enjoy continuous vistas, while walking amongst Pine, Fir and Cedar. Descend Icehouse Canyon for a car shuttle. WTC students, Wilderness Adventures, West LA members (and all others) are extended a hearty welcome to join weekend HPS Spring Fling activities. Contact Marlen Mertz for meeting time and other details. Leaders: Marlen Mertz, Terry Ginsberg, Mark Allen

May 21-22/SAT-SUN NEW!



SPS, WTC

MR/Excelsior Mtn (12,446'), Dunderberg Peak (12,374')

Two moderate snow- (we hope) climbs, 3-6 mi rt, approx 3000' gain each. Restricted to Sierra Club Members, medical form required. Ice axe, crampon experience required. Carcamp and Happy Hour, probably at Trumbull Lake. Send resume w/experience, training, to Leader: Asher Waxman. Co-leader: Dan Richter

May 22/Sun NEW!



Hundred Peaks Section, WTC

O/Ontario Peak (8693')

12 miles, 3,700' gain. Special invitation to WTC students. Join the fun festivities at the Hundred Peaks Section (HPS) Spring Fling (Sat and Sun) and choose from a range of hikes in the Mount Baldy area. Come one day or both and stay overnight. Sunday's outing to Ontario Peak is led by WTC leaders. Hike beautiful, lush Icehouse Canyon to the Saddle, then onto Ontario Peak. Don't get out of shape before you embark on WTC experience trips this summer. Here's a great local opportunity to hike at elevation, enjoy a fabulous spring weekend at a great historic Sierra Club Lodge and learn about the Hundred Peaks Section. Write either leader for meeting time and place and weekend details. No cost. Leaders: Marlen Mertz, Wayne Voltaire

June

June 4/SAT NEW!



LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I/Heart Bar Peak (8332')

Practice navigation for Sunday's checkoff on this 7 mile rt, 1400' gain hike. We will take a cross-country route to Heart Bar 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, Ann Pedreschi Shields

June continued

June 5/Sun **NEW!**



LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

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. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Phil Wheeler

Jun 19/Sun **NEW!**



Verdugo Hills, PolComm, WTC

O/Hike with your Los Angeles community college board member & celebrate the Angeles Chapter's centennial

Easy 2 mi rt hike with Mifuel Santiago. Come discuss your concerns and issues of the day with him on the way to great views of the Crescenta Valley, Glendale, threatened local woodlands, and more. Meet at 8:45 am at the south end of Whiting Woods Road. Co-leaders Garen Yegparian and Delphine Trowbridge

July

July 2-4/Sat-Mon **NEW!**



WTC

I/Mt Tyndall (14,018')

Come celebrate the Chapter Centennial on this trip to Mt Tyndall which is a loose re-creation of a trip done over Fourth of July in 1931 by Norman Clyde, Alice Knapp, H. R. "Bob" Sturdevant, Niles Werner, D. D. Chalmers & Kasper Casperson, among others. Sat pack in 6 mi, 4,000' gain on trail to camp at Anvil Camp. Sun hike on trail 3 mi, 2,000' gain to Shepherd Pass (12,025'), then xc climb Tyndall via 2nd class NW ridge, approx. 2 mi, 2,000' gain. Mon pack out on trail. Total for weekend is approx. 22 mi rt, 8,000'+ gain. This will be a moderately paced but strenuous trip. Strong WTC students welcome. Send contact info & recent conditioning/experience to ldr at melodygrace1@gmail.com. Ldr: Melody Anderson, Co-Ldr: Dwain Roque

July 16-17/Sat-Sun **NEW!**



WTC, SPS

I/Mt Agassiz (13,893')

From South Lake trailhead, backpack to Bishop Lake (4 mi 1600' gain) and set up camp followed by an afternoon happy hour. Sunday we'll climb Mt. Agassiz via class 2 route (4 mi RT 2650 gain) then pack out. Please send ESASE/SASE with recent experience and conditioning info to Ldr: Bob Draney. Co-Ldr: Joe Speigl.

Jul 31-Aug 6/Sun-Sat **NEW!**



Mule Pack, Sierra Peaks, WTC

O/I/Soldier Lakes Mule Pack, Joe Devel Peak (13,327'), Mt Pickering (13,474'), Mt Newcomb (13,422'), Mt Chamberlin (13,169')

Trip designed for strong hikers who desire cross-country routes and peakbagging. From Cottonwood Pack Station at Horseshoe Meadow (9,900'), hike 10 miles over Cottonwood Pass (11,128') to Soldier Lakes (10,400'). Joe Devel Peak, Mt Pickering, Mt Newcomb, and Mt Chamberlin, as well as Mt Langley and Cirque Peak, are accessible from campsite. Mon-Fri climb peaks with leaders, hike near camp, photo, fish, or relax in camp. Enjoy nightly organized dinners. Sat hike out. \$300. Mules will carry 50 lbs gear per person. Participants selected will be asked to complete the Participant Medical Form found at <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltr/forms.html>. Note reserve/cancel policy at http://angeles.sierraclub.org/mps/Reservation_Policy.htm. To apply, email high altitude and distance conditioning to Co-Ldr: Sandy Lara. Co-Ldr: Peter Lara.

August and beyond

Aug 7/Sun **NEW!**



LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

I/Mt. Pinos Navigation

Navigation noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Kim Homan.

Aug 13-14/Sat-Sun **NEW!**



WTC, SPS

M/Mt Gayley (13,510')

Climb an SPS peak that provides a great climb to one of the best views of the Palisades. From the South Fork of Big Pine Creek we'll travel 5.8 miles, 3900+ ft gain via trail and cross country to camp and afternoon happy hour. Sunday we'll climb Mt. Gayley via a class 3 route dubbed, The Yellow Brick Road, to gain our peak (3 mi RT 2350 gain/loss) then pack out. Send ESASE/SASE with recent experience and conditioning info to: Ldr: Bob Draney. Co-Ldr: Joe Speigl.

Aug 19-21/Fri-Sun **NEW!**



WTC

I/Thousand Island Lake, Mt. Davis (12,311')

Fri relaxed pace backpack 10 mi, 1500' gain via incredibly scenic portion of PCT (High Trail) from Agnew Meadows to camp at Thousand Island Lake (9,840') in Ansel Adams Wilderness. Sat class 2 xc route to Mt. Davis via North Glacier Pass, 6 mi rt, 2,500' gain. This will be a strenuous day, but the views will be well worth it! Sun pack out via River Trail. WTC or equivalent required; priority given to 2011 WTC students. Shuttle bus fee of \$7 from Mammoth Mtn ski area to trailhead required; \$5 for wilderness permit. Send e-mail (preferred) or SASE with contact info, experience, recent conditioning and WTC group leader info to Ldr: Melody Anderson (melodygrace1@gmail.com), Co-Ldr: Bob Draney

Aug 26-28/Fri-Sun **NEW!**



WTC

I/Thousand Island Lake, Peak 10344

Friday backpack 8 miles, 2000' gain to camp at picturesque Thousand Island Lake in Ansel Adams Wilderness near Mammoth. Saturday climb cross country, class 2 route to Peak 10344, 6 mi rt, 800' gain. Sunday pack out. Shuttle fee of \$7 from Mammoth Mountain to Agnew Meadows trailhead required. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Sarah Myers Rebensdorf.

Sept 16-18/Fri-Sun **NEW!**



WTC, Wilderness Adventures

I/Twin Lakes-Silliman NavPack Sequoia NP

Improve your navigation skills, get a peak and get happy on a moderately paced 6.5 mi, 2600' gain backpack to beautiful Twin Lakes. Sat xc explore both sides of Silliman Crest, and climb a no-name peak, 1400' net gain via 7 mi loop. Return to camp for shared treats and gourmet quesadillas. Sun head home. Comfort on class 2 climbing required. No tigers please. Email contact & rideshare info, recent backpacking & conditioning experience to Ldr: Jane Simpson. Co-Ldr: Adrienne Benedict.

OCT 8-9/Sat-Sun **NEW!**



WTC

I/"Really Last Chance" Graduation Trip

Easy paced backpacking trip in scenic California desert. We will take exploratory cross-country routes in the Queen Valley area, taking in a peak along the way. Learn about the Wilderness Travel Course or satisfy WTC requirements on this "really last chance" graduation trip. 9 mile rt, 1000' gain. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Ann Pedreschi Shields.

Outings Leader Directory

Unless indicated by a letter "c" (cell), "w" (work), the numbers listed are home phone numbers and should be respected as such. To reserve your place on an outing, contact the leader as specified in the trip description. Include an information sheet with the following information: your name, address, home & work phone numbers, your WTC leader's name, the outing you wish to join, your experience, your physical conditioning program and whether you need or can offer a ride.

Name	Contact
Adams, Mike	adamsfreerange@aol.com
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A Hundred Years of Gear - From Wool to Primaloft, and Back

But first, we'll take a closer look at the past. Known as "The Great Hiking Era," the period from 1895-1938 saw an explosion of bloomers, breeches, ties, blouses and lace-up boots tramping up into Southern California's mountains. People dressed for the moderate regional climate that had brought so many of them here in the first place. While the concept of "layering" may not have been preached, hikers stowed extra clothes and lunches in canvas knapsacks of various sizes, which they schlepped on the Pacific Electric Red Car in Sierra Madre to get to their San Gabriel front range trailheads for local Sierra Club hikes. Their adventures were published in chapter schedules and L.A. Times, and sometimes included a hotel stay, or dinner. One thing we hikers today have in common with those great hiking era folks, is that we all care about the weight of our gear. While army infantrymen are saddled with a ton of heavy stuff due to their job, day hikers, backpackers or "knapsackers" have always sought out lighter gear to carry. For instance, in the 1920's, a woman could find a size small canvas daypack that weighed just 10 oz., lighter than most you can find today. Of course, it would not have had a camel-back pouch or a cell phone pocket, or even a zipper.

Peter Ireland notes that the Angeles Chapter may well have been in the forefront of the adoption of light-weight shoes, well before the invention of the modern ones we use today. He observes, "One item that repeatedly appears in the chapter archive photos from the 1920's is a canvas shoe used for hiking. This was counter to the typical and almost universally used knee-high leather boots typical of the era. Reference to this gear item appears in Van DerGrift's Hike Shop advertising as 'Canvas Hiking Shoes' - \$2.50." Peter's exhibit for a 1920's Sierra base camp includes Canvas 'A' frame tent, canvas sleeping cot, canvas hand waxed, water repellent, bamboo external frame Anderson & Thompson rucksack, American Gas Machine "hanging tank" camp stove, 1924 Coleman Camp Stove with oven, assorted canned goods, collapsible camp stools, canteen, water bag. As hiking grew in popularity, many of the local sporting goods stores catered especially to the Sierra Club crowd. There was Kerr's



The Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club will turn 100 years old on Nov. 1, 2011. Plans for celebrations, hikes and activities will be announced throughout the year. When first formed, the chapter was known as the Southern California Section, the very first "chapter" of the Club. Its first hike took place for the Winter Season of 1911-1912: a 13.5 miler up the Arroyo Seco to Glendale via Sycamore Canyon (today, Chevy Chase Drive). Many of those early hikes - some without the trails we now use - are similar to hikes in the San Gabriels we do today, barring fire closures, of course, and some were social activities like ice skating parties. WTC (Wilderness Training Committee) congratulates the Chapter on its Centennial.



Archival photos courtesy of the Angeles Chapter archives, Bob Cates, Historian

A Hundred Years of Gear - From Wool to Primaloft, and Back

in Beverly Hills, and VanDerGrifts. These stores even made things to "Sierra Club" specifications and advertised in the chapter schedules. One item that just about everyone carried was his/her own "Sierra Cup": a tin cup with a metal wire hooked handle, often attached to your waist. Cups embossed with "Sierra Club of California" (later shortened to "Sierra Club") identified the owner as a member. Typically, folks drank freely from most streams along the way. No Nalgene or water bladders. No plastic.

During the 1920's, knickers (aka breeches) for men gave way to long pants, and for women, bloomers gave way to knickers and sailor or "middy" blouses. Both men and women still wore ties, a nod to fashion, but boots gradually settled down from lace-up hightops to more comfortable footwear. The ultimate trendy hiker, such as D.D. Chalmers, wore big colorful bandanas, wrapped around the head Bedouin style. By 1929, as work began on the Angeles Crest Highway, further extending human access to more remote areas, long pants for both sexes gradually became acceptable and practical. The first great hiking era came to an end in 1938 when torrential rains and floods wiped out roads, bridges and trails in the mountains, leaving such nostalgic remnants as the "Bridge to Nowhere." But hiking did not go away. It was subdued for a while, much as our current access to the San Gabriels has been curtailed by the 2009 Station Fire and subsequent slides and floods.

Vintage gear is an acquired taste, still cultivated. Some of your WTC staffers have items that have been around for a few decades and are worthy of comparison with today. Even items from the 1970's compare interestingly. It is significant to note that until the 1950's packs literally rode on your back only. It took gear-maker Kelty to come up with the concept of a weight supporting waist belt. Today, with our plethora of gear, packs, tents, stoves, and clothes to choose from, choosing wisely can be a challenge. It is something that WTC helps students learn. Of course, the fashion part is up to the individual taste. My own suggestion is that you not buy all black, although it looks great wherever you go.



So, back in 1999 on the upper northern side of Everest, Anker and his expedition mates made the Mallory discovery while wearing their goretex, down and crampons, complete with sponsor logos emblazoned on their gear. The contrast is startling with the simplicity of Mallory's attire. But don't pooh-pooh the past. . . Today, we have come full circle, sort of. Along with the dri-clime, wicking layers and ultra-lite gear, we have returned to the use of wool. Not knickers or bloomers or ties, but Smartwool socks and thin wool layers are back in use with new science behind them. Maybe waffle-stompers are next?

Special thanks to Bob Cates, Angeles Chapter Historian, and Peter Ireland, WTC WLA Staff Instructor and member of the Chapter's history committee.



WTC Newsletter

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