

Vol. 23, No. 4 / Fall 2012

# WTC Newsletter

Newsletter of The Wilderness Training Committee

To the class of 2012...

# Climb On!



Retiring Orange County instructor Melissa Kane waves goodbye  
from Cloudripper, wrapping up twelve years with WTC

photo by Edd Ruskowitz



# Find Yourself



And you thought WTC graduation signaled the culmination of your outdoors training, that there was nothing left to learn, that you've covered it all.

Silly rabbit.

Though the list of outings in this newsletter is brief, it's weighted toward training with a special emphasis on navigation. Even though nav was covered in class and in the field more than any other subject, it's like most anything else in life: use it or lose it.

These navigation outings can be merely for practice, to satisfy leadership qualifications, or both. Just like WTC, these opportunities for continued instruction and experience are overseen by qualified Sierra Club Angeles Chapter leaders and instructors volunteering their time and expertise for the same reason participants take part: education, camaraderie, fun and – most important – confidence in your ability to stay found.

Musicians and composers can look at a piece of sheet music and hear it in their head as though they were standing in front of an orchestra. With practice, experience and guidance, you'll glance at a topographic map and see flowing streams and glistening lakes, good pathways up ridges and gulleys, sheer cliffs to avoid and to admire; you'll see the terrain before your very eyes as though you're standing smack dab in the middle of it all.

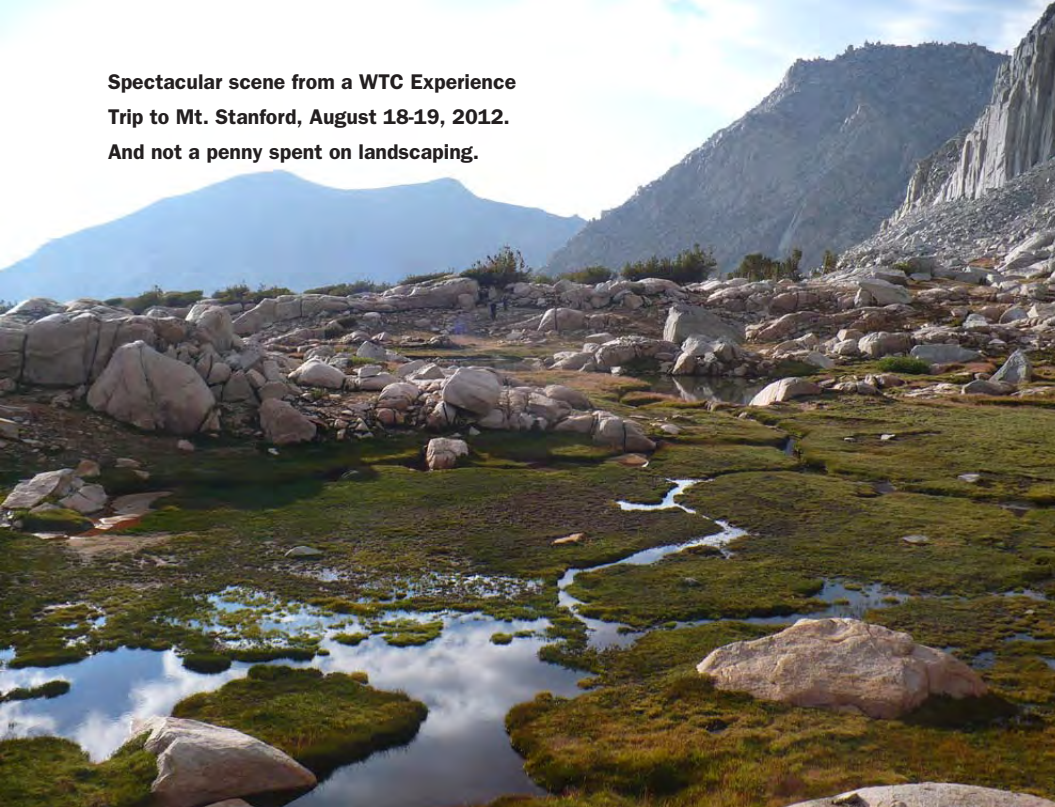
If there's one thing you've learned from WTC, it's that you never stop learning. Take advantage of these wonderful – and unbelievably economical – training opportunities. Do it for fun. Do it for your confidence. Do it because staying found can save your life.

— Edd Ruskowitz, WTC Newsletter Editor





Spectacular scene from a WTC Experience  
Trip to Mt. Stanford, August 18-19, 2012.  
And not a penny spent on landscaping.



## HEADLINE DEADLINES

For publication in the Winter 2013 WTC Newsletter: **December 14, 2012**

For publication in the Spring 2013 WTC Newsletter: **February 15, 2013**

These are the last days for outings 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.

## OUTINGS

**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](http://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.

## GRADUATION

Graduation will be held October 20 this year in the local desert. If you've not already received full details, contact your Group Leader for all the information. You'll also want to be sure to get your fully filled-in Student Card to your area Registrar ASAP in time to awarded your certificate and – especially – the patch.

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 at [WildernessTravelCourse.org](http://WildernessTravelCourse.org) as a download in PDF format. All questions, copy and photo submissions should be directed to Edd Ruskowitz, WTC Newsletter Editor, at [hikinedd@yahoo.com](mailto:hikinedd@yahoo.com)

**WTC Info Line: (310) 967-2029**

## OFFICERS

### WTC

**David Meltzer** WTC Chair

**Adrienne Benedict  
and Tom McDonnell**

WTC Outings Co-chairs

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**Mike Kanne** Area Vice Chair

**Mike Adams** Area Trips

**Joan Rosenburg** Area Registrar

### ORANGE COUNTY

**Dave Evans** Area Chair

**Joe Harvey** Area Vice Chair

**Matt Hengst** Area Trips

**Wendy Miller** Area Registrar

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

**Joe Speigl** Area Chair

**Lydia Leos** Area Vice Chair

**Joe Speigl** Area Trips

**Sue Northrop** Area Registrar

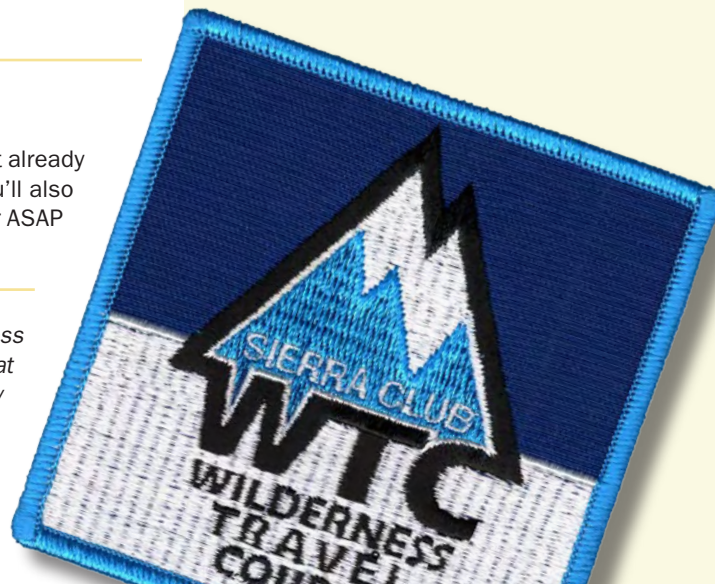
### WEST LOS ANGELES

**Bob Myers** Area Chair

**Ann Shields** Area Vice Chair

**Adrienne Benedict** Area Trips

**Danielle Zucker** Area Registrar



# Outings

The outings published in this newsletter are sponsored by a variety of Sierra Club groups and sections. As a WTC student, your training places you in good standing with other groups and sections of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club who welcome your participation in their outings. For a full listing see the Chapter's Schedule of Activities or go to [angeles.sierraclub.org](http://angeles.sierraclub.org)

**ET WTC Experience Trip** Trips that qualify as WTC experience trips.

**TI Trip of Interest** Outings of interest do not qualify as WTC experience trips, but can be... well, very interesting.

**TR Training Opportunity** WTC students should find many of these trips within their abilities.

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

**NEW** These are trips published for the first time

**June 23-24 | Sat-Sun**

**WTC**

**ET | Jean Pk (10,670'), Marion Mtn (10,362'), Newton Drury Pk (10,160')**

12 mi rt, 5000' gain. Enjoy the San Jacinto Wilderness on a fairly-strenuous overnight backpack featuring 3 cross-country peaks. Sat am leave from Marion Mtn Trailhead for Little Round Valley, relaxation, happy hour, and dinner. Sun am, x-c navigation and some rock scrambling will put us atop Newton Drury Pk, Jean Pk, and Marion Mtn., then out to the cars. The perfect weekend. Send email or sase with contact info and conditioning to Ldr, Chuck Currier, Asst. Ldr Garen Yegparian

**October 3 | Wed**

**LTC, WTC, SPS, DPS**

**TR Workshop: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP) – 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 e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter. Assistant: Patrick McKusky

**Oct 6 | Sat**

**LTC, WTC, SPS, DPS**

**TR M/E R Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP) – 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 e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter. Ass't: Patrick McKusky

**Oct 6 | Sat**

**LTC**

**TR Leadership Training Seminar**

Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. For info, see LTC web page. Deadline for receipt of application and payment is Sep 22. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Spring 2013. Contact: Steve Botan

**TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON AN OUTING,** follow the instructions listed in the trip description and provide all the information requested by the leader, typically your name, address, home & work phone numbers, WTC leader's name, the name and date of the outing you wish to join, and your experience and physical conditioning. If a SASE is requested, send a 9.5 x 4 inch self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) along with your information. You may also sign up for an outing through the Chapter's new OARS application.

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

**Most students will find the WTC Experience Trips within their abilities.** When selecting a trip read the description carefully and contact the leader for additional information. Consider the distance, elevation, duration, and destination, then contact the leader listed in the trip description. Remember that "M" level trips are a bit more technical than those you took during WTC. Trip leaders will select participants that match up well to the trip.

**These outings fill up early!** Plan ahead and reserve a place. If you must cancel, please notify the leader as soon as possible so another student who wants to graduate can take your spot. Remember to take your Student Record Card with you on the outing so the leader can sign it for you.

Participation in WTC outings may be denied by leaders for legitimate reasons. The leaders are responsible for the safe and enjoyable conduct of these outings, and will use their best judgement in selecting participants.



**Oct 7 | Sun**

**WTC**

**TI O WTC INTRODUCTORY HIKE: Echo Mtn, Inspiration Point and Muir Peak (4688)**

Hike the Sam Merrill trail to the historic railway and resort area at Echo Mtn, then up Castle Canyon to Inspiration Point and on to Muir Peak. We will return by the Middle Merrill trail. Trip is a total of 12 miles with 2900 ft of gain. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January '13. Subjects include safe mountain travel, map & compass and wilderness first aid. Meet 9:00 am at the North end of Lake Street at the corner of Lake and Loma Alta Drive in Altadena by the "Gate". This is a residential neighborhood so be mindful of parking regulations and resident's quiet enjoyment of their neighborhood. Bring 2-3 liters of water, lunch, lugsoles, hat and layered clothing. Leader: David Meltzer (dwm@crgpm.com). Co-Leader: Roland Kelly.

**Oct 13 | Sat**

**LTC, WTC, SPS, DPS**

**TR M/E R Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP) – 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 e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr Dan Richter. Ass't: Patrick McKusky

**Oct 13-14 | Sat-Sun**

**WTC**

**ET I Quail Mountain (5814')**

One more "last Chance" to get your WTC Experience Trip in. Preference given to 2012 WTC students. Enjoy an easy paced, moderately strenuous 13 mi RT 1800' gain backpack to Quail Mountain. Hike to campsite (4 miles 630 gain), set up camp, bag the peak and back to camp for Happy Hour all on Saturday. Sleep late and eat big Sunday morning, then break camp and hike out to cars. Bring 10 essentials, minimum 6 liters water (dry camp), and layered clothing. Rain does NOT cancel. Send email with contact info and recent conditioning to Ldr: Paul Warren (pwarren@janusetcie.com) Asst Ldr: Misha Askren

**Oct 13-14 | Sat-Sun**

**WTC**

**ET 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.

**Oct 20-21 | Sat - Sun**

**LTC, WTC, SPS, DPS**

**TR M/E R Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP) – 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 e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: Dan Richter. Ass't: Patrick McKusky

**Oct 21 | Sun**

**LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

**TR I Indian Cove Navigation**

Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: Robert Myers. Ass't: Phil Wheeler

**Nov 10 | Sat**

**LTC, WTC, HPS**

**TR 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. Ass't: Richard Boardman

**Nov 17 | Sat**

**LTC, WTC**

**TR 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 Leader: Robert Myers. Co-Leader: Jack Kieffer.

**Nov 17-18 | Sat-Sun**

**LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

**TR I Indian Cove Navigation**

Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park 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

**Nov 17-18 | Sat-Sun**

**DPS, WTC**

**(rescheduled from October 2011)**

**MT MR Castle Dome Peak, (3,788'), Signal Peak (4,877')**

Mountaineering outing for Sierra Club members only. Climb two sought-after desert peaks in the Kofa Wilderness of SW Arizona. Sat climb class 3 Castle Dome Peak, 6 mi rt, 2100' and then have happy hour back at car camp. Sun hike to Signal Peak, 4 mi rt, 2000'. Helmets and recent 3rd class rock climbing experience required. Send an e-mail with medical form, recent experience and conditioning, H&W phones, and rideshare info to Ldr: Stephanie Smith. Ass't: Mike Adams

**ET WTC Experience Trip**

**TI Trip of Interest**

**TR Training Opportunity**

**MT Mountaineering**

**WAS** Wilderness Adventures Section | **PVSB** Palos Verdes South Bay Group | **LB** Long Beach Group | **OCSS** Orange County Sierra Singles | **SPS** Sierra Peaks Section | **HPS** Hundred Peaks Section | **LPC** Lower Peaks Committee | **WTC** Wilderness Travel Committee | **LTC** Leadership Training Committee | **DC** Desert Committee | **NS** Natural Science | **PG** Pasadena Group | **VH** Verdugo Hills | **BC** Backpacking Committee | **MP** Mule Pack

# Outings Leader Directory

To reserve your place on an outing, contact the leader as specified in the trip description. Include your name, address, home & work phone numbers, your WTC leader's name, the outing you wish to join, your experience, your physical conditioning routine and whether you need or can offer a ride to the outing.

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mike Adams            | AdamsFreeRange@AOL.com      |
| Misha Askren          | Misha.Askren@gmail.com      |
| Richard Boardman      | rb543@verizon.net           |
| Bob Draney            | rrdraney@yahoo.com          |
| Diane Dunbar          | DianeDunbar@Charter.net     |
| Dave Evans            | Dave_Evans2004@yahoo.com    |
| Roland Kelly          | Rkelly@Jefferies.com        |
| Jack Kieffer          | JockORock42@Yahoo.com       |
| Peter Lara            | Plara@mw2h2o.com            |
| Tom McDonnell         | t.mcdonnell@sbcglobal.net   |
| Patrick McKusky       | patrick.mckusky@lausd.net   |
| Cheryl McMurray       | Cherylamcmurray@gmail.com   |
| David Meltzer         | DWM@CRGPM.com               |
| Wendy Miller          | Wendy@EclipseShielding.com  |
| Robert Myers          | RMmyers@ix.netcom.com       |
| Sue Northrop          | SueNorthrop@yahoo.com       |
| Ann Pedreschi Shields | apedreschi@sbcglobal.net    |
| Dan Richter           | Dan@DanRichter.com          |
| Joan Rosenberg        | jroosenburg@earthlink.net   |
| Stephanie Smith       | Ssmith@PlatinumEquity.com   |
| Joe Speigl            | jspeigl1@yahoo.com          |
| Paul Warren           | Pwarren@Janusetcie.com      |
| Phil Wheeler          | Phil.Wheeler@Sierraclub.org |
| Danielle Zucker       | ZuckerD@Rocketmail.com      |

Nov 18 | Sun

## **TI O WTC INTRO HIKE: Mt Wilson/Manzanita Ridge**

Invigorating conditioning hike at a moderate pace. 10-14 mile r/t, 4000' gain. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January '13. 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, 3 ltrs water, snacks to share. Leader: David Meltzer (dwm@crgpm.com) Co-Leader: Roland Kelly

WTC

Dec 8 | Sat

## **TR M Leader Rock Workshop**

This staff development workshop is intended to prepare WTC staff to be effective instructors in WTC's rock scrambling instruction. This workshop is open to all staff members; new staff members are strongly encouraged to participate. Early sign-up recommended, since group size is limited. Climbing helmets required. To participate, send name, contact and rideshare info, WTC area, and Class 3 climbing experience to Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Assts: Robert Myers, Bob Draney.

WTC

Dec 9 | Sun

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

## **TR I Warren Pt Navigation**

Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park for either checkout or practice to satisfy the Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To participate, send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare, to Ldr: Robert Myers. Asst: Phil Wheeler

Dec 9 | Sun

WTC

## **TI O WTC INTRO HIKE: Echo Mtn, Inspiration Point and Muir Peak (4688)**

Hike the Sam Merrill trail to the historic railway and resort area at Echo Mtn, then up Castle Canyon to Inspiration Point and on to Muir Peak. We will return by the Middle Merrill trail. Trip is a total of 12 miles with 2900 ft of gain. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January '13. Subjects include safe mountain travel, map & compass and wilderness first aid. Meet 9:00 am at the North end of Lake Street at the corner of Lake and Loma Alta Drive in Altadena by the "Gate". This is a residential neighborhood so be mindful of parking regulations and resident's quiet enjoyment of their neighborhood. Bring 2-3 liters of water, lunch, lugsoles, hat and layered clothing. Leader: David Meltzer (dwm@crgpm.com). Co-Leader: Roland Kelly.

Jan 5-6, 2013 | Sat-Sun

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

## **TR I Indian Cove Navigation**

Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park 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

**ET WTC Experience Trip**

**TI Trip of Interest**

**TR Training Opportunity**

**MT Mountaineering**

**WAS** Wilderness Adventures Section | **PVSB** Palos Verdes South Bay Group | **LB** Long Beach Group | **OCSS** Orange County Sierra Singles | **SPS** Sierra Peaks Section | **HPS** Hundred Peaks Section | **LPC** Lower Peaks Committee | **WTC** Wilderness Travel Committee | **LTC** Leadership Training Committee | **DC** Desert Committee | **NS** Natural Science | **PG** Pasadena Group | **VH** Verdugo Hills | **BC** Backpacking Committee | **MP** Mule Pack



# Mt. Stanford

August 18-19, 2012



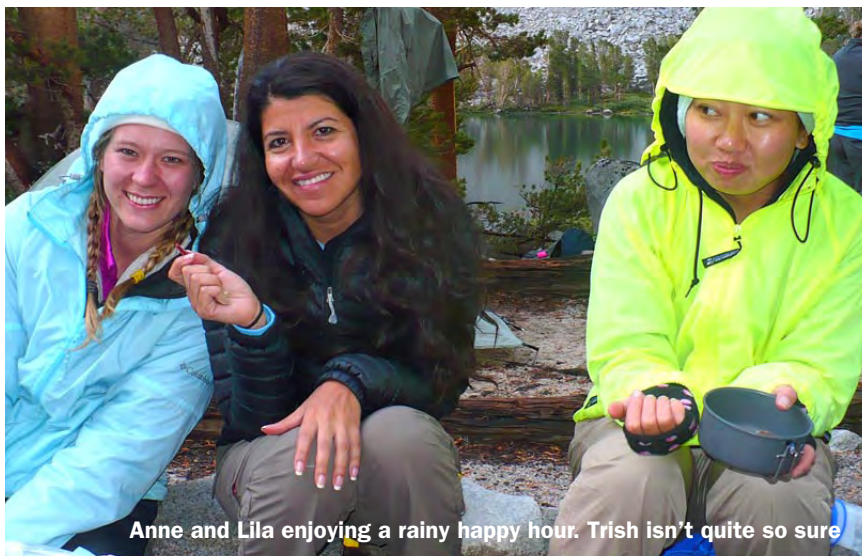
**Matt Hengst, John Cyran, and Linda Robb** led a great group of students, former students, and WTC staff up to the Hilton Lakes/Mt. Stanford area in August 2012. All three Orange County Groups were represented by staff and students including Dave Evans (Orange County WTC Chair), Trisha Vu and Shane Pacillo (OC Modjeska Group, 2012), Lila Garibay (OC Whitney Group, 2012), Gingi and Bill Borg (OC Kaweah Group, 2012), and Anne Kircher (OC Modjeska Group, 2011).

After a nice backpack through a pine forest in the Rock Creek area, we set up camp at Lake 10,353 in the Hilton Lakes area. We got some rain showers throughout the afternoon, but that didn't stop us from enjoying a fabulous happy hour complete with a fantastic trout dinner (freshly caught by John), freshly popped popcorn, and a birthday cupcake extravaganza created by Anne for Linda and Trish who celebrated birthdays just three days prior. The second day, we left camp at the crack of dawn and headed up the canyon. A bit of bushwacking was required in the beginning, but the vegetation quickly opened up to a nice open canopy of pines dwarfed by heavy



winds and an abundance of beautiful hanging valleys. Climbing the headwall at the end of the drainage just southeast of Mt. Stanford proved to be straightforward despite some confusion from written sources as to the best approach. This was the first of this type of Sierra large rock scrambling challenges for several students (like a big, scary game of Jenga per one student) and they did great! The weather cooperated, it was a gorgeous day, and the views were spectacular! We headed back later that day with lots of great pictures and memories of a fun adventure.

— *Linda Robb*





# Sheep and Martinez Mountains

## April 21-22, 2012



Photo by Chris Doyle

DPSer John Ide and seven WTC students including Rachel Cushing, Chris Doyle, Jim Dunn, Gary Hughes, Kris Kuhlman, Francesca Marcus, and Rick Miller. Uh oh. Not only was the weather going to be quite warm, but it looked like I was the oldest and most broken down member of the group. So my cover excuse was that we would move at a slow but steady pace because of the heat, hiding the fact that I could move faster only if chased by rabid jackalopes or their ilk. I'm sure everyone saw through that excuse, but they were a very generous lot.

They were so generous that they good naturedly went along when I led us the wrong way virtually right off the bat when we started about 7:15. The road went one way and what looked like a trail seemed to parallel it, both in the general direction of the old dolomite mine. Some post was lying split on the ground by the side of the "trail," but there was no sign on it, and I assumed the two would link up. Wrong. Later we saw many more of these posts with "Trail" carved into them. Too bad we hadn't seen one before; I might have gotten a clue from it. (On the way back, I didn't see any lettering on this broken rail.) Take the trail on the right. Of course, I had no memory of the correct way to go from the previous two times I was there, in 1983 and 2005, though presumably I followed the trail. What we did is follow the road till it ended rather abruptly with a view of the mine southeast of us. The trail is on the north side of the mine. Oops. After various apologies, I led us around various pointy plants down the slope and up a small drainage to meet the trail just east of the

Co-leader Rudy Fleck and veteran DPSer John Ide celebrate on high

Photo by Tina Bowman

mine. Ok, that's better. Let's just say I was teaching the WTCers a lesson that they should always pay attention and that leaders are not always right. Besides, they got a bit x-c experience as a taste of more to come when we climbed the peaks.

Clearly I was going slowly when the whole group was together on one another's heels whenever I led. Two members might have been slower had I persuaded them not to carry extra gallons of water from the car. Maybe, but doubtful. It was bad enough to load up at Horsethief Creek for the two miles to our camp near Cactus Spring, let alone carry lots of extra water about three more miles. We weighed packs loaded with water: the heaviest was 52 pounds, lightest 36. Rudy and I both had 48. On we plodded up out of the canyon and into the wash. By the way, before we reached the stream, we crossed two tiny streams, still flowing helped by the past weekend's rain and snow up high.

OC student Chris Doyle and trip co-leader Tina Bowman



Photo by Chris Doyle



Rudy thought I'd missed our watering spot when we crossed the first one, so I enjoyed calling back, "Not yet, Rudy!" when we crossed the second one. At our camping spot at 10:45, we took an hour to set up camp, eat something, and get ready for our assault on Sheep.

Off we went for Sheep, keeping an eye out for Pat Vaughn's lost GPS. No sign of it. We took several nice, long breaks in a bit of shade and finally wandered to the summit at 1:40. When we had a breeze, it didn't feel so hot; when we didn't, yikes. Though I had a scale with me for the outing, I didn't have a thermometer. My guess is high 80s, low 90s—that's what the NOAA forecast said when I clicked on various points of our route. It was 104 in Palm Desert below us. We stayed about half an hour on the summit, but without shade lingering wasn't all that enticing. Having offered to turn the lead over to someone else, I was pleased that Francesca said she'd give it a go. So down we went with Rudy staying beside her. I trailed along in back. We were back in camp about 3:40.

At 5:00 we gathered for happy hour—lots of goodies making the rounds for an hour or so. Half the group—Rudy, Kris, Rachel, Chris, and Gary--decided to go back to the stream for more water and left on the four-mile round trip about 6:15, back at 8:20. Francesca and I were starting to imagine all sorts of things that could happen and were quite relieved to see the headlamps bobbing our way.

Sunday morning we hit the trail just after 6:00, enjoying the hiking before the sun reached us. Rachel went back to camp not long after the trail turned south towards the saddle west of Martinez, having a foot problem. Not too far below the saddle, Kris decided to wait for us, a bit concerned about the hike out in the heat. Two wise women. I was dragging along

behind the group since Rudy was in the lead. We had a bit of miscommunication when I said we could decide between the gully and the ridge route when we got to the base of the gully. What I was thinking of was the DPS guide, which suggests the prominent



Horsethief Creek

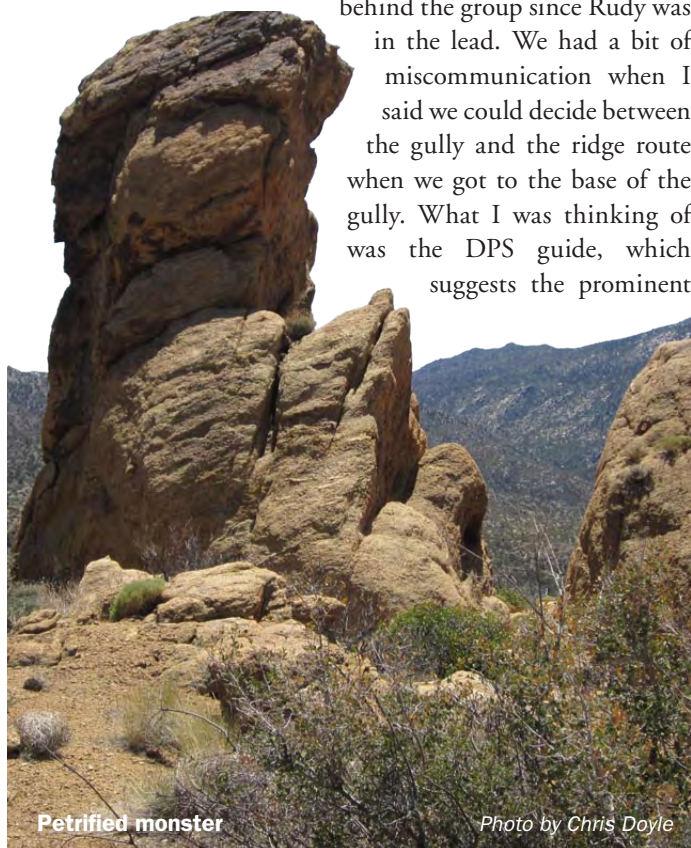
Photo by Chris Doyle

gully on the north or the ridge just east of it. The ridge Rudy was talking about and led us on was the one from the saddle (described as very brushy in the DPS guide) often used by the HPS. Ah ha! It's very well ducked and not very brushy—a good route. Rudy was on top of the summit block at 8:40. Some of the group stayed below. About 9:15 we started down, with me leading—so we were all pretty much bunched up again. After a break at the saddle, we soon picked up Kris and tooled along back to camp (Rudy was in the lead again).

We were all ready to go and back on the trail at 12:25, bunched since I was leading. Everyone said they were happy about the slow pace, but they were a very kind and perhaps not very truthful group. We pushed through the heat back to the stream and had a lovely break there. Many of us dipped hats and bandanas in the refreshing water before I led the plod up, mostly, back to the cars. We had some steep sections, usually where there was no breeze, which made keeping on the move challenging. One member of the group was flagging, but that was the hear's doing, not my pace. Besides, we did almost 3800' gain and eleven miles or so on Sunday after 2500' and eight or more (squiggle factor) on Saturday, several miles with pretty heavy packs. We took some nice breaks to help us out the last three miles and admired the wildflowers to keep our minds off the heat. Some were talking about ice cream as a post-outing treat.

We were back to the cars about 3:40 and soon on our way home. Thanks to having a fine co-leader and a great bunch of participants. Everyone did really well.

— Tina Bowman



Petrified monster

Photo by Chris Doyle



# Cloudripper

September 7-9, 2012

Photos by Edd Ruskowitz



**Eleven went up, eleven came down... success.** Only two WTC students – Orange County's Will Black and Long Beach's Alina Mardesich – joined a wonderfully eclectic group on a semi-relaxing trip out of Big Pine to climb 13,525' Cloudripper in the Inconsolable Range. I'd climbed the peak several years ago from South Lake and wanted to lead it through the back door. Joining me on the trek were my assistant leader and OC Assistant Group Leader John Cyran, retiring OC instructor Melissa Kane (see cover), 2013 student Scott Sanfillippo, Orange County Hiking Meetup buddies Glenn Plank and Erica Woolman, Seven Summits finisher Bill Burke (and oldest American to summit and safely return from Mt. Everest), his friend from San Diego Rick Dryer, and Tim McCoy: a guy who was stuck on my waiting list for Pickering ten years ago and finally got around to applying for another of my trips.

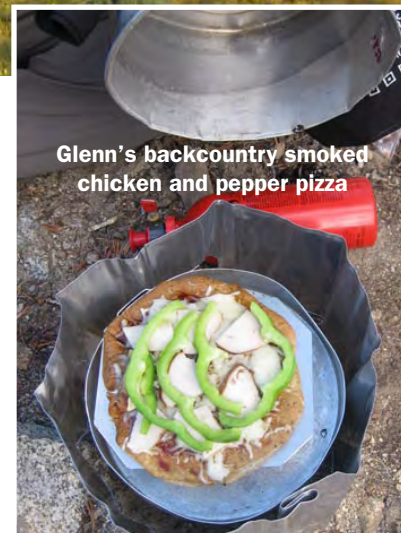
The Big Pine Lakes are spectacular. Of the seven lakes, most are glacier-fed, giving them a gorgeous blue-green glow. Our original plan to camp at the fourth lake was nixed by early campers. Turns out it was for the best as John found a perfect site with a view above the fourth and fifth lakes with plenty of tent sites and a perfect kitchen area.

Saturday morning we followed the trail to its end beyond the sixth lake and continued to tree line where we could see our saddle and the talus slope leading to it. Once at the saddle we turned left, following the east ridge up toward the peak. As we found

later on the way down, the better play would've been to follow the ridge, then veer to the right and parallel the ridge on the nice, flat terrain until a spot somewhere between Cloudripper and Vagabond. From there it's pretty good up the north facing slope over easy talus and sandy ledges.

With careful planning, all eleven of us sat on the peak together, spending as much time as we could before heading down. Back in camp we relaxed, made dinner and turned in for a restful night.

— Edd Ruskowitz



Glenn's backcountry smoked chicken and pepper pizza





**Clockwise from left: Big Pine Lake #3 glistens; on the east ridge of Cloudripper; Will entertaining the troops, Melissa and Bill by Big Pine Lake #3; view from the peak with South Lake at the top.**





**SIERRA CLUB ANGELES**

Home About Us News Environment

Welcome

Roll your cursor over an event to see details. Click on a date to view the calendar for that month.

NOTE: In the map view, you can click on a location to see details.

Enter a location, and we'll show you directions. Enter an address, ZIP code or city and state.

609 activities shown Customize these

List View Map View

| Date        | Activity (click name for full details)                                  | Group                           | Type   | Difficulty | Map or Directions                 |
|-------------|---|---------------------------------|--------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Thu 1/12/12 | O: Conditioning Hike on Signal Hill                                     | Long Beach Group                | Outing |            |                                   |
| Thu 1/12/12 | O: Irvine Conditioning Hike   |                                 | Outing |            |                                   |
| Thu 1/12/12 | O: Henninger Flats Conditioning Hike                                    | Angeles Chp Hundred Peaks       | Outing |            |                                   |
| Thu 1/12/12 | O: Henninger Flats Conditioning Hike                                    |                                 | Outing |            |                                   |
| Fri 1/13/12 | Martin Luther King Ski/Snowshoe Weekend in Wawona                       | Angeles Chp Wilderness Advntr   | Outing |            |                                   |
| Fri 1/13/12 | Ti: Mammoth Lakes/Backcountry Ski Touring                               | Angeles Chp Ski Mountaineers    | Outing |            |                                   |
| Fri 1/13/12 | O: Pacific Palisades Hike in Topanga State Park To Parker Mesa Overlook | West Los Angeles Group          | Hike   | Moderate   | <a href="#">Map or Directions</a> |
| Sat 1/14/12 | CANCELLED -- I: Snowshoe in our local mountains                         | Angeles Chp Hundred Peaks       | Outing |            | <a href="#">Map or Directions</a> |
| Sat 1/14/12 | O: Long Beach El Dorado Park Nature Walk                                | Angeles Chp Orange City Singles | Hike   | Moderate   | <a href="#">Map or Directions</a> |
| Sat 1/14/12 | O: Death Valley Bus Trip  | Palos Verdes Group              | Hike   | Easy       | <a href="#">Map or Directions</a> |
| Sat 1/14/12 | O: Hike to Lion Canyon Falls  | Sierra Sage of SOC Group        | Hike   | Moderate   | <a href="#">Map or Directions</a> |
| Sat 1/14/12 | O: Peters Canyon Regional Park Conditioning Hike                        | Angeles Chp Orange City Singles | Hike   | Moderate   | <a href="#">Map or Directions</a> |

Legend: ● Outing ● Club support event ● Social event ● Activist event ● Multiple events (map only)

# OARS

The Sierra Club has launched a new web page to help you find Sierra Club events and outings. The new site called OARS lets you look for events and outings as a listing, on a map or on a calendar. Search tools allow you to look for things to do within a certain geographic area, on selected dates, by the type of activity, by the leaders and Sierra Club groups involved.

## A Better Way To Find Sierra Club Events

You can visit the site at <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/outings/OARS.asp>. Many events have already been added, and new ones are being added continuously (eventually, this site will list everything found in the Schedule of Activities and the Southern Sierran).

OARS can also be found at the Hundred Peaks Section site ([angeles.sierraclub.org/hps/outings.asp](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/hps/outings.asp)) and the WTC site (<http://www.wildernesstravelcourse.org/outings>)

To have your Sierra Club group's events listed on OARS please contact Melody Anderson at [melodygrace1@gmail.com](mailto:melodygrace1@gmail.com) or Susan Heitman at [susan.heitman@ca.rr.com](mailto:susan.heitman@ca.rr.com).