

Newsletter

of the Wilderness Training Committee

Vol. 30, No. 1 / Spring 2019



Where Will WTC Take You?

(pg. 2)

Adventure in Your Own Backyard

(pg. 4)

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

(pg. 12)

A photograph of a woman, Molly Arévalo, smiling and looking towards the camera. She is wearing a dark t-shirt, a backpack with a blue hydration tube, and sunglasses on her head. She is standing in a grassy field with a large, snow-capped mountain in the background.

Molly Arévalo on the
Tour du Monte Blanc with the
Chamonix Valley in the background

Contents

FEATURES

Where Will WTC Take You?

Molly Arévalo ticked one thing off her bucket list with a nine-day, three-country hiking adventure on the Tour du Monte Blanc.

2

Adventure in Your Own Backyard

Ditch the long drive – in Southern California, there's adventure right out the back door and Will McWhinney has a few ideas.

4

Explore, Enjoy and Protect

Dig into the Angeles Chapter's sections and you find plenty of outdoor and other activities to keep you busy and involved for a very long time.

7

The Challenge Patch

The Challenge Patch has been given out just two times – we hear from Tejinder Dhillon how she nabbed one. Will you be next?

10

Hiking Hacks

Jewel Greenberg shares some of her favorite tips and tricks.

11

Gimme More!

WTC wasn't enough? You want more training and opportunities? Here you go.

20

SECTIONS

From the Editor

1

Outings

12

360 Degrees

An attorney by trade, Bob Myers, the Sierra Club's Navigation Chair, has done some pro-Bono work and found what he's looking for. Can you?

25

The Final Word

The Only Thing You Need to Know – words of wisdom from Brendan Leonard

26



WTC OFFICERS

(see your *Student Handbook* for contact information)

WTC Chair
Jane Simpson

WTC Registrar
Jim Martins

WTC Outings Co-Chairs
Adrienne Benedict
Tom McDonnell

LONG BEACH/SOUTH BAY

Area Chair
Neal Robbins

Area Vice Chair
Eric Granlund

Area Trips
Mike Adams

Area Registrar
Joan Rosenberg

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

Area Chair
Jeremy Netka

Area Vice Chair
Jan Marie Perry

Area Trips
Matt Kelliher

Area Registrar
Kate Miller

ORANGE COUNTY

Area Chair
Matt Hengst

Area Vice Chair
Gary McCoppin

Area Trips
Matt Hengst

Area Registrar
Wendy Miller

WEST LOS ANGELES

Area Chair
Pamela Sivula

Area Vice Chair
Bob Myers

Area Trips
Adrienne Benedict

Area Registrar
Tejinder Dhillon

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Molly Arévalo
Adrienne Benedict
Regge Bulman
Kim Crane
Lubna Debbini
Rachel Glegg
Jewel Greenberg
Matt Hengst
Brendan Leonard
Will McWhinney
Bob Myers
Jane Simpson
Susan Smetana

THE WTC NEWSLETTER is published for students and staff of the Wilderness Training Committee and is distributed at class sites. It is also available at WildernessTravelCourse.org as a download in PDF format. All questions, copy and photo submissions should be directed to Newsletter Editor at wtcnewsletter@wildernesstravelcourse.org.

Got a story?

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

wtcnewsletter@wildernesstravelcourse.org



EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT THE PLANET

From the Editor

Congratulations – you survived!

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

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

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

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

Really, I mean it. CONGRATULATIONS! BRAVO!

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

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

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

Whether it's what lies beneath the land and water or what grows on or in it, they see more value in extracting the resources from wild places – value that can be turned into dollars – than in leaving them be.

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

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

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

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

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

Welcome to the tribe.



Regge Bulman is
a WLA Group 4
Instructor



Ari Gordon/JoinTheUproar.com

Tour du Mont Blanc

Hiking around the “Monarch of the Alps”



Climbing a ladder along the route

I first heard about – well, technically *saw* in this age of Instagram – the Tour du Mont Blanc from Saveria Tilden, a SGV group leader who I met through

mutual WTC friends. After seeing her stunning photos of wildflower-lined trails winding through the picturesque mountains with views of the snowy “Monarch of the Alps” and its glaciated flanks below, I added it to my virtual bucket list. In 2018, I was finally able to check it off.



A breathtaking view on the trail near Les Houches in France

The Tour du Mont Blanc (TMB) is a 110-mile hike that circumnavigates the tallest mountain in Western Europe, taking you up and down over 32,000’ through three countries – France, Switzerland and Italy.

It is a very popular hike among Europeans, but comparatively few Americans do it. Because of the extensive network of mountain refuges (rifugios, gîtes, abris, etc.) along the route, it is possible to hike the entire loop with only a day pack.



An elusive ibex and the strange-looking Spanish Slug (in Italy)

There are many choices to make if you decide to do the TMB. Counter-clockwise or clockwise? Fully, partially, or self-supported? Alone, with a friend or two, or with a group? Leisurely over 10–12 days or in under 24 hours, as hundreds of ultramarathoners do every year as part of the Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc?

After realizing that I could save myself some serious cash by going DIY-style, I went online five months prior to book dormitory-style accommodations with half board (meaning your breakfast and evening meal are included in the price of your stay) for eight nights.

Advance reservations are essential during the high season, and the route can only be hiked in-season (mid-June to mid-September) due to weather conditions.



Only in Europe – cold beer and hot snails at the end of the day

There are many companies that, for a range of prices, will arrange as much (daily luggage service, all meals) or as little (just bookings) as you want. Another friend chose to camp all but one night, the most economical (but heaviest) option.

Having studied French for two years, I spent a month in France beforehand doing intensive formal language study (and informal food and wine study), and then met my boyfriend in Chamonix in early August for the trek.

The hike itself was nine days of gorgeousness – hiking through forests, fields and farms. I had been warned that it would be physically challenging, so I had conditioned for months, but was still surprised by the near constant ups and downs. There was very little flat ground along the route.

The mountain huts – each one unique – were welcoming and relaxing, providing a much-appreciated end-of-day drink, family-style meals (and occasionally entertainment) with fellow hikers from across the globe, and ample breakfasts to fuel the day ahead.

We met some fascinating folks, from a young French-Australian couple who had biked from Greece to China (!) to a Dutch couple who were mountainbiking the entire TMB. Most huts offered to prepare sack lunches for a small fee, but we



Swiss cows can only mean one thing...local Swiss cheese is close

preferred to stop at other refuges along the way, a restaurant or grocery store in one of the few towns we passed through, or a dairy farm that made fresh local cheeses from the iconic bell-clad Swiss cows.

The final days of our counter-clockwise route revealed constantly changing views of Mont Blanc and its glaciers towering above the legendary Chamonix Valley.

We had hiked through rain, clouds and wildflowers, past countless waterfalls, rock formations and jaw-dropping views, over mountain passes and up ladders. We had marveled at the fauna large (ibex, cattle, sheep), small (caterpillars, butterflies, beetles), and in-between (birds, marmots). Our bodies and our relationship became stronger. We took incredible photos and made memories that will last a lifetime.

For more information, see:

www.autourdumontblanc.com

Tour of Mont Blanc: Complete Two-Way Trekking Guide by Kev Reynolds



Molly Arévalo is a WLA Group 1 Instructor

Adventure in Your Own Backyard

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

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

Urban Adventure in Griffith Park

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

Old Standbys

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

Rock Scrambling on Strawberry Peak

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



Mountaineering

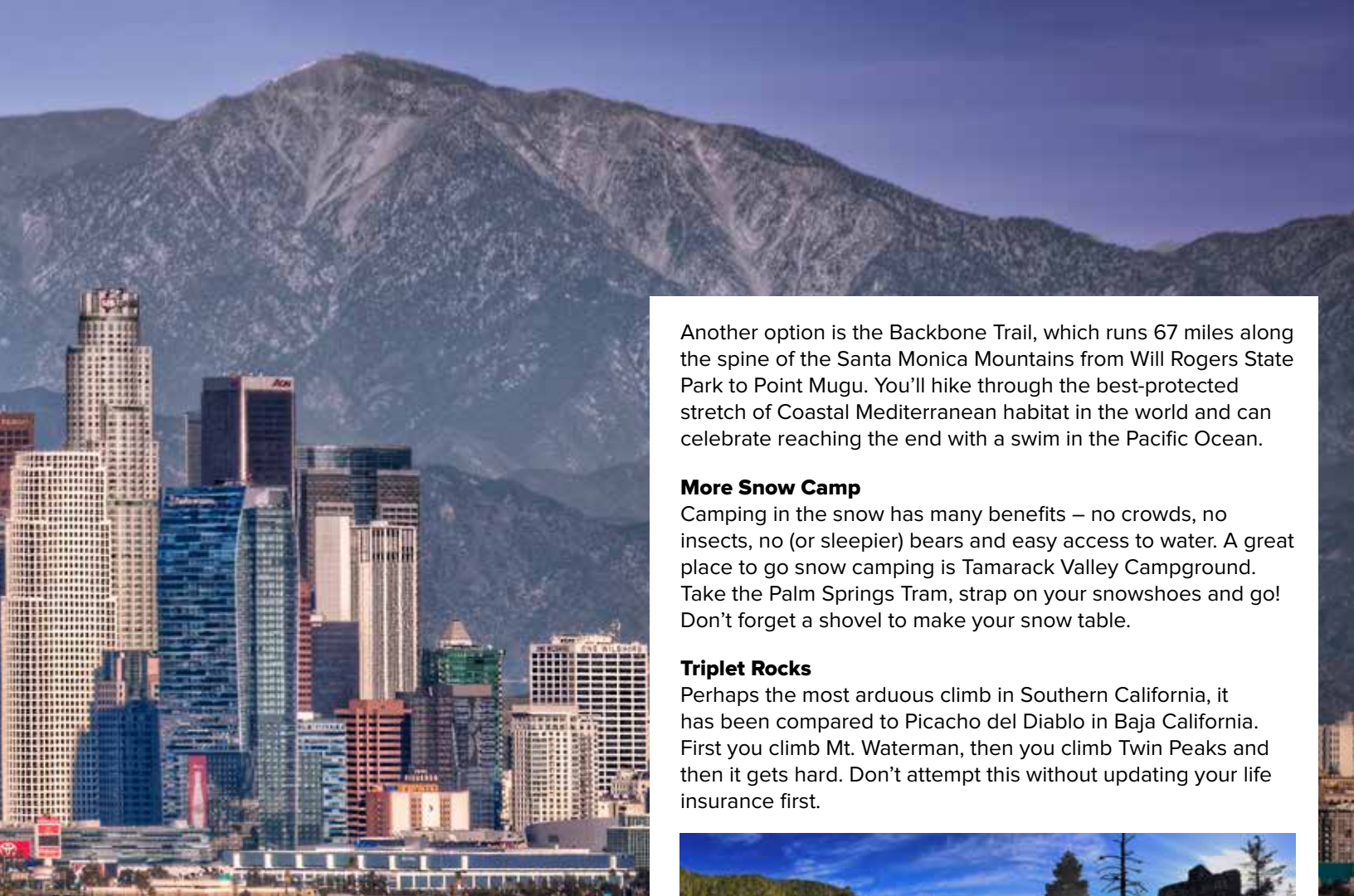
The traverse from Iron Mountain to Mt. Baldy along the San Antonio Ridge is long, hard and treacherous. And the car shuttle's no picnic, either. Bring plenty of water for this 9000-foot climb!

Classic Snow Climb

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



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



San Geronio

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

Thru-Hiking

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



Airy views from above Los Angeles on the Backbone Trail

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

More Snow Camp

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

Triplet Rocks

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



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

The Biggest, Baddest Day Climb

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



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

Wet Hike

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



The Bridge to Nowhere is somewhere near Azusa

Warm and Wet Hike

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



Hike, then soak, at Deep Creek Hot Springs

Friends and Family Hike

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



The Mueller Tunnel

Help someone else have an adventure

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



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

Resources:

Afoot and Afield: Los Angeles County, by Jerry Schad

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

Modernhiker.com, edited by Casey Schreiner

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

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

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

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

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

Socalhiker.net, another blog full of local adventures

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

Summitpost.org, has information for California and beyond



Will McWhinney
is a WLA Group 3
Instructor

Explore, Enjoy and Protect with the Angeles Chapter



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

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

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

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

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

Sierra Peaks Section

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



sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks

Desert Peaks Section

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



desertpeaks.org



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

Hundred Peaks Section

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



hundredpeaks.org

Wilderness Adventures Section

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

wildernessadventuresla.org

20s & 30s Section

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

sc2030singles.org

Griffith Park Section

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

angeles.sierraclub.org/griffith_park_section

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans

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

glstracks.org

Natural Science Section

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

sierraclub.org/angeles/natural-science

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

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

angelesico.org



A local ICO trip to Eagle Rock

Santa Monica Mountains Task Force

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

smmtf.org



WTC volunteers help out with SMMTF trail maintenance

Orange County Sierrans Section

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

angeles.sierraclub.org/ocss

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

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

angeles.sierraclub.org/backpacking

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

sierramulepacks.org

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

skimountaineerssectionlchaptersc.org

The Huts and Lodges

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

angeles.sierraclub.org/san_antonio_ski_hut

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

angeles.sierraclub.org/harwood_lodge

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

angeles.sierraclub.org/kellerpeakskihut



The Keller Ski Hut – still looking good after 80 years

Angeles Chapter Regional Groups

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

Look here for your regional group:

angeles.sierraclub.org/about_us/regional_groups

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

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



Jane Simpson
is WTC Chair

SIERRA CLUB BY THE NUMBERS



The Challenge Patch

Interview with a Winner!

Last November, Tejinder Dhillon was awarded one of only two WTC Challenge patches given out so far. We got all the details.

What is the Challenge Patch? Why is it a big deal?

The patch is a pretty new idea that WTC came up with to highlight all the things that the Sierra Club offers. You go on at least seven Sierra Club outings or participate in activities (even meetings or being on a committee) from at least seven different Chapter groups, sections or committees.



What drew you to the idea of going for the Challenge Patch?

I wasn't really trying for the Patch, I like to do lots of different things, and the LA Chapter makes it very easy because there are many great Sections that are doing things I like to do. I look at the Outings online calendar at least every week if not more often. I've made friends in a few sections by co-leading hikes, dayhikes and weekend trips. I've gotten involved with the management committees of a couple of the Sections, which I like because I want to give back to Sierra Club. I've even done a few outings with the SF Bay Area Chapter, which gives me hope if I move from Los Angeles one day.

Name those Patch achievements.

I did a Big Sur car camp with 20s & 30s Section, and a car camp to Red Rocks with Natural Science; PVSb conditioning hikes, Backbone trail hikes with WAS, and was involved with the Chapter Awards Committee, WTC MComm. I also did a hike with OCSS.



Tejinder Dhillon with the first awarded WTC Challenge Patch

What was your biggest "challenge"?

Making sure I had met all the requirements and within the timeline!

What's next? What has resonated the most among your choices? What do you want to keep on doing? Has your commitment deepened? (And do your friends now think you are nuts?)

My non-Sierra Club friends definitely think I'm nuts because I have to schedule a "down" day. I want to continue developing my outdoor skills, which I do with WTC, and by getting involved with management committees, I can influence policies to make the LA Chapter even better. I like being a mentor for potential and new leaders, you can see the light go on when they learn what's possible out there.



To learn more about the Challenge Patch, check out:

wildernesstravelcourse.org/challenge-patch/

Starting in November 2017, WTC has bestowed the patch on at least two deserving people so far: Tejinder Dhillon and Karen Buehler.

The Challenge Patch will be awarded to any WTC graduate who participates in seven Sierra Club outings or activities from at least seven different Chapter group, sections or committees.

To count toward the Challenge Patch, the following criteria must be met:

- Sponsorship will be based on the primary sponsor. For example, an outing sponsored by HPS, and co-sponsored by Lower Peaks and WTC would only count as an HPS outing.
- The following activities are illustrative of those qualifying: (1) Leadership Training Seminar; (2) a monthly meeting of a group, section, or committee; (3) a political march or rally sponsored by the Sierra Club; (4) a social gathering organized by the Chapter, group, section, or committee; and (5) any outing.
- Achievement will be documented on a form approved by WTC.
- All activities must be achieved within one year of the date of the completion of the first activity.



Jane Simpson
is WTC Chair

Hiking Hacks

A common adage is “work smarter, not harder” and there are many ways to do that on the trail. Using some simple “hacks” and gear that serves multiple purposes can make life on the trail a little easier.

While no pack is the perfect pack, hopefully you’ve found one that’s close. Now it’s time to build in some extra functionality. My day pack has lots of shoulder strap and hip belt padding, which I love, and it can hold everything I need, but I find the pockets on the hip belt too small for substantial snacks. To fix that, I’ve added a clip-on zip pocket from Eagle Creek’s Pack-It System. It easily clips on to the front of one of my shoulder straps and provides easy access and storage. Now, those small hip belt pockets have become useful for items like lip balm, sunscreen and hard candies rather than being stuffed to their zipper-bursting point with snacks.



My day pack does have a pocket inside for a hydration bladder, but there’s only one mesh pocket for a water bottle on the outside. When I take winter day hikes and my bladder hose could freeze up, I like to use two water bottles instead, ideally one on each side to even out the weight. I’ve added a water bottle bag to the side of the pack opposite the mesh pocket. Neoprene ones are easy to find on Amazon. Outdoor Research also sells some very nice ones that zip completely closed, but are a bit more expensive. Both are insulated to help keep your water from freezing.



I also like to keep a few S-clips or S-carabiners handy on my pack. You may have seen these from a company called Nite Ize. Klean Kanteen also makes them. I’ve clipped a few to the key hook inside my day pack and keep a CPR mask there, as well as a baggie that can hold some cash and my license. They’re lightweight, small, and easy to clip on and off a pack. On the outside of your pack, you can use them to hang whatever suits your fancy: an emergency whistle, sunscreen, ChapStick, hand sanitizer, etc.



Speaking of hand sanitizer, you can buy a fancy silicone holder, but you can also make one out of duct tape and cord. Tape the ends of your cord to your bottle, one end on the right side and one end on the left. You should have enough excess cord at the bottom to create a loop.

Now, wrap tape around and around the bottle to secure the cord in place. Clip the loop of cord to your pack where you want it and your hand sanitizer should be hanging upside down, ready for easy squirting.

Now, about that duct tape. It’s good to keep some handy, and a great place to store some extra is wrapped around your trekking pole. It’s easy to peel off and creates something to hold on to if you need a shorter pole for a little while. I also keep a few layers of duct tape folded into a square in my first aid kit. And another bit folded into the old Altoids tin I use for my emergency fire tools.

That old tin has become a great piece of my kit. It has room to fit a 10 Essentials card inside the lid, and a Bic lighter, some fire proof matches, a bit of tinder, and that extra duct tape in the other half. It’s light, it’s recognizable in my pack by look and touch, and I know if I’ve packed it, I’ve got my fire kit all handy just in case.



One more piece of multi-purpose gear I highly recommend, and use on most of my hikes in some way, is a Buff. A Buff can keep your neck warm if pulled down under your chin, your face warm if pulled up over your cheeks and ears, and your head warm if pulled up all the way. It can keep your hair out of your face on a windy day and, perhaps best of all, you can fold it over your eyes like an eye mask if you need a nap at camp or have a chance to sleep in. Finally, it’s one more piece of material you can wipe your nose on.



And that brings us to one more hack I use all the time. Rather than carrying a packet of tissues with me, and then having to stuff them into a baggie after their used, I much prefer a soft, thin bandana or handkerchief. I keep one pulled through a front belt loop so it’s handy. They’re light enough that you can pack an extra if you need it, and they dry quickly if you give it a quick rinse, a good squeeze, and hang it over the back of your pack while you hike. You can also use that bandana for some sun protection across the back of your neck, or over your face bandit-style for some face protection from sun, dust or wind.

With practice and innovation, you can add functionality to your gear and work smarter. Keep an eye out while you hike and see what other people are doing, ask questions and share your own hacks. It’s a great way to build community on the trail.



Jewel Greenberg
is a SGV Group 4
Instructor

OUTINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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



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



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

NOTE: Snow conditions may affect Sierra Nevada trips this year. A trip will be modified if snow obstructs the route. Check with the leaders and the WTC website for current information on a trip's status

Sat–Sun, March 23–24

I: Pyramid Pk (6703')

Megan Birdsill mbirdsill@gmail.com

Justin Bruno justinbruno@hotmail.com



Recover from the snowy Sierras on an early experience trip to Pyramid Peak, the highest point in the Funeral Mountains within Death Valley National Park. On

Saturday we'll make a late start to cross 3 miles of open desert to the base of the range where we will set camp and enjoy happy hour. On Sunday we will start early to tackle steep, loose and rocky terrain to the colorful summit, enjoy expansive views of the Panamint, Amargosa and other remote ranges, and sign the register before retracing our steps to break camp and return to the cars before dusk. Total trip about 13 miles and 3900 ft elevation gain. A strenuous outing that will keep a comfortable pace for new backpackers.

For consideration, please send hiking resume, current conditioning and references to leaders. Participants should be comfortable on second class terrain (loose, steep rock) and be prepared to carry all water into camp (6 liters minimum). A Death Valley or National Park pass is required for each vehicle entering the park. Preference given to WTC students. For consideration, please send hiking resume, current conditioning and references to leaders.

Sunday, March 24

I: Scodie Mountain (7294')

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

Rachel Glegg (310) 985-2826 rachel.dorman@gmail.com



Join us for a moderately-paced hike to the top of Scodie Mountain. This 7 mile, 2300' elevation gain dayhike will leave out of Walker Pass Campground and travel mostly crosscountry to our destination, where we will be greeted with spectacular views of the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Great practice for navigation! Wear lug sole shoes, bring at least 2 liters of water and all the other 10 essentials.

Sat–Sun, March 30–31

I: Sentinel Peak (9634') via Panamint City

Lubna Debbini lubna.debbini@gmail.com

Jeffrey Atijera jeff.atj@gmail.com



Hike through a surprisingly lush creek-filled, waterfall-adorned canyon into beautiful desert to arrive at one of the most intact mining ghost towns in Death Valley, Panamint City (5.5 miles, 4500 gain). We'll set up camp amongst the ruins and enjoy a happy hour. The following day, we'll bag Sentinel Peak (3.25, 3800) while enjoying vast views of the valley below. We'll return to camp and pack up then head back to the trailhead (5.5 miles). If you're interested in joining us, please email leaders your hiking and backpacking resume including your weekly conditioning. High clearance vehicles are recommended, and as always, carpooling is encouraged.

Sat–Sun, March 30–31

I: Quail Mountain (5813') & Minerva Hoyt (5405')

Keith Henry zhenry@pacbell.net

Shawnte Salabert shawnte@modernhiker.com

ET A classic hike with spectacular views at Joshua Tree NP's highest peak! Its an easy-paced, but moderately strenuous 2-day, 14 mile round-trip, 2100 gain backpack to Quail Mountain using a mostly crosscountry route. Starting from the Keys West backcountry board, Saturday is an easy-paced 4 miles to set-up camp and enjoy an evening Happy Hour. Sunday morning, we head out for a 6 mile roundtrip XC hike to summit Quail and bag Minerva Hoyt (5405') along the way. Then, we're back to break camp and hike out to our cars.

To sign up, please send hiking resume, current conditioning, WTC Group Leader name, if any, and rideshare ability to Keith Henry. Bring 10 essentials, minimum 6-7 liters water (dry camp), and layered clothing. A Joshua Tree day, year or National Park pass is required for each vehicle entering the park. Priority will be given to 2019 WTC students seeking an experience trip.

Sat–Sun, March 30–31

MR: Dyadic Peak (4360') & Spectre Peak (4482')

Regge Bulman r_bulman@fastmail.us

Monica Suua mosuua@gmail.com

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

Sat–Sun, April 6–7

I: Eagle Mountain (5350')

Phyllis Chung phyllischung8@gmail.com

Rodney Kieffer rodkieffer@yahoo.com

ET Join us for an enjoyable cross-country backpacking trip to Eagle Mountain at the southeastern corner of Joshua Tree National Park. 12 miles round trip with approximately 2,600 ft of elevation gain in 2 days. Leave late Saturday morning to hike to our wilderness campsite at the base of Eagle Mountain range to set up camp. We will start early on Sunday morning to the peak of Eagle Mountain #1 then return to break camp and hike back to our cars. This is a moderately-paced trip with rock scrambling which can be challenging and fun. Participants must be comfortable in class 2 terrain. Participants will be expected to carry all 10 essentials and all water required (minimum 6 liters). Please email recent hiking experience, conditioning, and contact information (email and phone number) to leaders. National Park Pass required for vehicles.

Sat–Sun, April 6–7

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

Sarah Wierszalowski swierszalowski@gmail.com

Rachel Glegg rachel.dorman@gmail.com

ET Welcoming all students on an early experience trip in Joshua Tree to explore Quail Mountain, the highest peak in the park. This is a well-paced, moderately-strenuous, 2-day backpack. Saturday morning we will hike on mostly flat terrain until we set up camp (4.5 miles/400'). We will then use those navigation skills and set off for Minerva Hoyt and Quail Mountain (5 miles/1700'), then make our way back to camp for happy hour. Sunday morning we will make the short hike out. Trip totals: 14 miles, 2000' gain. Bring your 10 essentials, a minimum of 6 liters of water (dry camp) and layered clothing.

Sat, Apr 13

I: Sheep Hole Mountain (4,613')

Emily Nelson emily.nelson1001@gmail.com

Matthew Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com

TI Join us Saturday for a trip to the desert NE of Twentynine Palms where we will do a dayhike to summit DPS peak Sheephole. We'll take Amboy Road out to the Sheep Hole Mountains. We'll start our 5.75 mile RT loop to Sheep Hole Peak with an elevation gain of 2,300' following canyons and climbing ridges. Expect rough crosscountry terrain with lots of boulders. Optionally, make it a full desert weekend and car camp Saturday night to then join the nearby trip to Rosa Point on Sunday! Please send recent conditioning to leader to join.

Sat–Sun, April 13–14

I: Eagle Mountain (5350')

Keith Henry zhenry@pacbell.net

Bernie Fox berniefox@gmail.com

ET Enjoy one of Joshua Tree NP's finest views atop Eagle Mountain during this moderately strenuous backpacking trip with 11 total miles and 2500' gain. On Saturday we'll start from Cottonwood Spring to cross 3 miles of open desert to where we will set-up camp and enjoy happy hour. On Sunday we start early on our class 2 scrambling ascent of Eagle Mountain, capturing expansive views of the Salton Sea and surrounding deserts at the summit before retracing our steps to break camp and return to the cars. Please send hiking resume, current conditioning, name of WTC Group Leader (if any) and rideshare ability to leader. Participants should be comfortable on second class terrain (loose rock and cholla, beware) and be prepared to carry all water into camp (6–7 liters minimum). Priority will be given to 2019 WTC students seeking an experience trip.

Sun, April 14

I: Rosa Point (5083')

Randy De Los Santos randyd242@gmail.com

Matthew Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com

TI Want to bag a peak that is both on the HPS and DPS list? Then join us for a moderately strenuous daytrip to Rosa Point in the Santa Rosa Mountains in Anza Borrego State Park! We will be meeting on Sunday morning to hike the south ridge route to get up to Rosa Point. We'll enjoy some beautiful desert scenery as we hike crosscountry approximately 12.6 miles with 5000' of elevation gain. Your 10 essentials are required along with 2–3 liters of water. Please email your hiking resume and recent conditioning to the outing leaders.

Fri–Sat, April 19–21

I: Death Valley Cottonwood-Marble Canyon Loop and Canyon Point (5890')

David Jahng dave.jahng@gmail.com

Molly Arevalo mollyarevalo@gmail.com

ET Join us for a 3-day backpack trip through some remote canyons in Death Valley National Park. Friday we will start our hike down Cottonwood Canyon Rd., 10.8 miles and 2455' gain, to Cottonwood Springs where we'll camp for the night. Saturday we'll hike 8.1 miles, 2500' gain, through Cottonwood Canyon to a seasonal spring in the friendly-sounding Dead Horse Canyon, with a side excursion to bag Canyon Point (5,890') along the way. Sunday we will hike 9.8 miles, 2630' loss, through the slot canyons of Marble Canyon back out to the cars at the entrance of Cottonwood Canyon. Email recent experience, conditioning, and carpool info to the trip leaders. High-clearance 4WD required to get to the trailhead. This is a WTC experience trip, therefore priority is given to current WTC students. Note: fresh water is available at Cottonwood Springs and Dead Horse Canyon, however these are seasonal springs. Dry springs may cancel the trip.

Sat–Sun, April 20–21

I: Sheep Mtn. (5141') and Martinez Mtn. (6560')

Richard Gillock r.r.gillock@ieee.org

Ronald Campbell campbellr@verizon.net

ET

This is an overnight backpack into the Santa Rosa Mountains above Palm Desert. Saturday we will hike in to Horse Thief Creek (2.9 miles, 120' gain, 720' loss), establish our campsite and switch to summit packs. From there we will do a part trail/part crosscountry dayhike to the relatively infrequently climbed Sheep Mountain (8 miles, 2100' RT). Named for the Peninsular Big Horn Sheep, don't get your hopes up for a rare sighting, but come to appreciate the habitat these rugged creatures live in and to cop some excellent views of Palm Desert and the Coachella Valley. We will return to camp for a traditional happy hour potluck.

On Sunday we will get an early start to climb Martinez Mountain which overlooks Martinez Canyon, a major route for Cahuilla Indians crossing to the Coachella Valley (11 miles, +2100' RT). We will return mid-afternoon and break camp before returning to the cars before sundown (2.9 miles, 720' gain). At the edge of the mountains and the desert, this is a great place to practice and learn navigation skills. Camp and trail water is available at Horse Thief Creek. Preference given to WTC Students needing an experience trip. For more details send hiking resume and recent conditioning to Richard Gillock.

Sat–Sun, April 27–28

I: Warren Point Navigation Noodle

Robert Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

TR

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

Sat–Sun, April 27–28

I: Mount Palmer (7958'), Grapevine Peak (8738')

Mat Kelliher mkelliher746@gmail.com

Stephen McDonnell mcdonnell0123@sbcglobal.net

ET

Join us for a nice spring weekend in Death Valley National Park to climb these classic DPS peaks near Beatty, Nevada. Saturday, we'll head out at first light from our dry, primitive campsite in Nevada and travel cross country to the south along rugged desert ridgelines and ascend Mt. Palmer, passing into California as we do so. We'll do this very strenuous hike at a moderate pace; expect about 11.0 miles and 3100' of gain round trip. Sunday, we'll head out from that same dry, primitive campsite and travel west; traveling crosscountry at a



Rosemarie Angeles, Sheena Kuo, Hillary Johnson, Kate Miller, Alisa Van Vliet (SGV, Group 4)

moderate pace, we'll ascend along ridgelines to the summit of Grapevine; expect about 6 miles and 2500' of gain round trip. Festive happy hour pot luck Saturday night under barely lit, last-quarter-moon night skies! High Clearance, 4WD vehicles are required to reach our campsite/trailhead. This DPS outing is co-sponsored by WTC and HPS. Email Mat Kelliher with contact, vehicle type and carpool info, recent conditioning, and experience for trip status and details.

Sat–Sun, April 27–28

I: Pinto Mountain (3983')

Tejinder Dhillon tkd.sierrahiking@gmail.com

Georgette Rieck tworiecks@aol.com

ET

Come backpack in a less traveled part of Joshua Tree from mid-Saturday to late afternoon on Sunday. We will start with a 2–3 mile backpack (about 400' gain) to our backcountry camp, setup camp, have a happy hour and dinner. Rise early Sunday to start our hike to the peak, with our day packs only. We will hike across a wash with ~2500' gain and loss to Pinto Mountain, then return to camp, pack up and hike back to our cars. This is a dry camp, so you will need to pack in all the water needed for the weekend (min 6–8L). Total hike for the weekend will be about 13 miles roundtrip. Email hiking experience and contact info to Tejinder Dhillon and Georgette Rieck.

Sun, April 28

I: Scodie Mountain (7294') Springtime Sashay

Kim Crane cranesnest@me.com

Matthew Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com

TI

Please join us on this fun cross-country challenge to the summit of Scodie Mountain. Springs bounty of flowers promises to be abundant in this ecotone of the Mojave Desert and Southern Sierra Nevada. Sunday's hike begins at Walker Pass Campground with a mostly moderate and occasional steep south ascent via Canebrake creekbed. Optionally, make it a weekend and car camp with us Saturday night at Walker Pass and enjoy a traditional happy hour and stories around the campfire.

Sat–Sun, May 4–5

I: Hockett Peak (8552')

Victor Gomez vgomex@gmail.com

Lubna Debbini lubna.debbini@gmail.com

ET

Join us for a challenging but rewarding and unique backpacking experience trip. This is a great opportunity for an early season journey through the Golden Trout Wilderness. The hike in (7.5 miles, 2150') meanders through beautiful forest and emerald meadows, crosses a picturesque bridge over the Kern River (where weather permitting, we can take a dip), and is only uphill for a short but steep portion of the way in. Our campsite promises a luxurious happy hour complete with a campfire! We will have plenty of water sources. Day two (16.5 miles 4600') starts early with a crosscountry hike through lush meadows and creeks (hopefully dotted with spring flowers), then climbs up to Hockett peak where you'll enjoy expansive views of the Southern Sierra. After bagging the peak, we'll return to camp and hike mostly uphill to return to the trailhead. Optional post trip dinner at Kern River Brewing Company. This is a STRENUOUS trip and we recommend you are in top physical condition to join. Please send trip leaders your resume including your weekly training regimen.

ET

WTC Experience Trip

TI

Trip of Interest

TR

Training Opportunity

MT

Mountaineering

Sat–Sun, May 11–12
I: Lone Warrior Pt (8440')

Will McWhinney @gmail.com
Kate Miller @gmail.com



Waterfalls, old-growth forests, and adventure just two hours from Los Angeles. Saturday, starting from Forest Falls, we'll take the Momyer/Alger Creek Trail, a quiet, mostly shaded route in the San Geronio Wilderness, 2900'+ and 6 miles to Dobbs Cabin, 7240'; a deeply forested campsite with year-round water. Optional exploratory side trips down to the Devils Navel or to Dobbs Tunnel. Sunday we'll climb 1650', 1.7 mile rt challenging off-trail to Pk 8872' and Lone Warrior Point, 8440'+, overlooking the rarely visited Allison Falls. Participants will lead the hike, on and off the trail, with leader support. Preference given to WTC students and prospective leaders.

Sat, May 18
I: Beginning Navigation Clinic

Diane Dunbar dianedunbar@charter.net
Richard Boardman



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 miles, 500' gain. Send SASE, phones, rideshare info, \$25 deposit (Sierra Club), refunded at trailhead, to Diane Dunbar.

Sat–Sun, June 1–2
I: Olancha Peak (12,133')

Garry McCoppin mccoppin@cox.net
Wayne Vollaie avollaie1@gmail.com



Join us for a two-day Southern Sierra trip to climb Olancha Peak, one of the 15 Emblem peaks in the Sierra. Car camp at Sage Flat trailhead Friday night or arrive for early start on Saturday to hike over Olancha Pass, along an alpine meadow on the Haiwee Trail to the PCT Trail junction. On the PCT we resupply water and arrive to setup camp for a Sierra Club happy hour. On Sunday we will climb Olancha Peak, crosscountry by an easy route up through a rocky forested section to a class 2 boulder field near the top to summit for views and photos. Refueled and rested, we will return to camp for lunch and hike out. Trip totals: 21 miles, 7000' elevation gain. Priority is given to WTC students as an experience trip. Email conditioning and hiking resume to leader to apply.

Fri–Sun, June 14–16
I: Julius Caesar (13,199')

David Chapman climberdave11@gmail.com
Stephanie Smith rbstephs@gmail.com



Join us for a three-day trip in the Sierra to climb Mt. Julius Caesar. We will start at the Pine Creek Trailhead and head up toward Italy Pass. Along the way we will pass the Pine Creek Mill and Brownstone Mine as we make our way to Honeymoon Lake, 6 miles and 3100' gain. Here we will set up camp and have happy hour. The next morning, we will be up early and continue on toward Italy Pass as we head through Granite Park known for its fantastic views and scenery. At the pass we will head north to the summit of Mt. Julius Caesar, 13,199'. We will reverse our route back to Honeymoon Lake where we will spend another night, round trip of 8 miles and 3000' gain. On the final morning we will pack up and head back to the cars, 6 miles. Send hiking resume to leaders. Preference given to WTC students.

Sat–Sun, June 15–16
I: Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle

Robert Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com
Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net



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

Sat–Sun, June 22–23
I: Johnson Peak (11,371')

Matthew Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com
Jennifer Blackie blackiejennifer@gmail.com



Join us for a two-day, meadow-filled extravaganza in the Southern Sierra! We'll start out at a 10,000' trailhead so arrive early the day before for bonus altitude/altitude adjustment potential! Saturday we'll cross the 11,000' Cottonwood Pass and drop down into a series of massive meadows with views of the Whitney area to the north (11 miles, +2000') Camp will be in a meadow near the peak. Sunday we'll be up early and do a crosscountry route to Johnson (4 miles, +1500' RT) before returning to camp, packing up and hiking out (11 miles, 2000'). Priority given to Wilderness Travel Course students who need an experience trip to graduate. Please email leader with recent hiking experience to apply.

Sat–Sun, June 22–23
I: Marion Mtn. (10,362') and Jean Peak (10,670')

William Payne leakycanoe@yahoo.com
Kim Crane cranesnest@me.com



Moderately-paced overnight backpack in the San Jacinto Mountains. Day one, 4 miles and 1500' elevation gain. We will meet at the Humber Park trail head in Idyllwild where we will climb the Devils slide trail to Saddle Junction. From the Junction, we will head southeast to Tahquitz Meadow where we will find a campsite and enjoy a Saturday night happy hour overlooking the meadow. Day 2, 14 miles (3 miles crosscountry), 2625' elevation gain. We will have a pre-dawn start for our climb of Marion and Jean Peaks. We will be on trail until we reach a point just north of Jean Peak. We will then begin our 3-mile crosscountry trek southward as we bag Jean and Marion Peaks. After bagging our peaks we will head crosscountry southeast from Marion Peak until we join our trail back to camp. After returning to camp we will break camp and return to Humber Park via the Devils Slide Trail. Send email with experience to Bill Payne.

Fri–Sun, June 28–30
I: Moose Lake (10,545') and Alta Peak (11,204')

Kate Miller miller.k8@gmail.com
Jeremy Netka jnetka@gmail.com



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

Thur–Sun, July 4–7

I: Yosemite: Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne Bus Backpack

Sherry Ross chlross@yahoo.com

Kent Schwitkis schwitkii@earthlink.net

ET

Sponsored by Backpacking Committee: Join us for three long, moderately-paced days on trail and crosscountry as we through-hike Yosemite National Parks Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne to enjoy its spectacular scenery. Total trip mileage is about 25 miles; with 5 miles of crosscountry travel. Total elevation 4200' gain/3600' loss. The trip is I-rated, with crosscountry at the beginning and end of the trip. This is a perfect opportunity to use your light/ultralight backpacking gear and practice traveling safe but light in the backcountry. This outing counts as an experience trip for WTC students. Sign up early as space is very limited. Trip cost is \$250 for SC members and \$275 for non-members. The trip cost covers bus transportation with tasty snacks and beverages, park entrance & permit fees as well as a delicious, sit-down, post-backpack dinner at a restaurant on the return trip.

Thur–Sun, July 4–7

I: Yosemite: Vogelsang Pk (11,498') Bus Backpack

Sridhar Gullapalli sridhar_gullapalli@yahoo.com

Tohru Ohnuki erdferkel944@yahoo.com

ET

Join us this 4th of July holiday weekend on a fun-filled adventure in the splendor of Yosemite's high country. Depart the LA area July 4 in the morning aboard our luxury bus and return July 7 in the late evening. Spend July 4th evening and night in a campground in small town USA (usually Mammoth Lakes or Lee Vining) followed by sauntering in the spectacular backcountry of Yosemite for the rest of the weekend. Our backpacking days are July 5–7. Backpack starts at the trailhead at Tuolumne Meadows and we set up camp by Fletcher Lake near Vogelsang High Sierra Camp. Legendary happy hours. Day 2, we dayhike to Vogelsang Peak by trail and crosscountry with some boulder hopping and scrambling to reach the summit. Vogelsang Peak is in the Cathedral Range of Yosemite and is a classic peak with spectacular vistas and on the Sierra Peaks Section (SPS) list. Day 3, we return to the trailhead where our bus picks us up for the ride home. Trip total is about 20 miles and 3300' gain at a WTC moderate pace. This trip is especially suitable for fit WTC students and will count as an experience trip. Group size limited due to permit restrictions. Trip cost is \$250 for SC members and \$275 for non-members. Entry fees, permit fees, transportation, snacks & beverages on the bus and a post-trip dinner on ride home on Sunday are included.

Thur–Sun, July 4–7

I: Yosemite: Nelson Lake, Echo Lake, & Rafferty Pk.

Sharon Moore justslm@earthlink.net

Karen Buehler karen.buehler2@gmail.com

ET

Join us for a high country exploration of the Cathedral Range in Yosemite National Park. Nelson Lake will be our first camp. This lesser known destination lies beyond Elizabeth Lake near Tuolumne Meadows. Our peak destination is Rafferty Peak (11,110'). We'll spend our second night at Echo Lake, then hike out via the JMT to meet the bus. Highlights include views of Unicorn Peak, The Cockscomb, Matthes Crest, Matthes Lake, Echo and Cathedral Peaks. We might even spot some of the Sierra Nevada Bighorn sheep that the NPS has recently reintroduced to the area. This trip meets the criteria for a WTC experience trip. Total trip mileage will be about 18 miles with 5000' of gain and significant off-trail travel; WTC or equivalent experience required. Trip cost is \$250 for SC members and \$275 for non-members. This covers bus transportation, permit fees, park admission, pre-trip campsite fees, bus snacks and drinks, and dinner on the way home. To

apply, please email a hiking resume with recent experience and your WTC Group Leader name to Sharon Moore, and cc Karen Buehler.

Thur–Sun, July 4–7

MR: Peppermint Peak (12,680') and Bear Claw Spire (12,563')*

Regge Bulman r_bulman@fastmail.us

Monica Suua mosuua@gmail.com

ET MT

Join us for an adventure to climb two rarely climbed peaks in the Pine Creek drainage. Thursday, backpack from Pine Creek Trailhead to camp at Upper Pine Lake (5 miles, 3000' gain). Friday, climb Bear Claw Spire (aka, Treasure Peak) via the third-class Southwest Ridge (2.5 miles, 2400' gain). Saturday morning, we'll attempt Peppermint Peak via Spire Col and the West Ridge (3 miles, 2400' gain). Total stats: 21 miles and 7800' gain. Must be comfortable on exposed third-class rock and have previous experience at altitude. Trip restricted to Sierra Club members – helmet and harness required. Permit limits group size. Note that excessive snow levels could cancel trip. Send email with experience and conditioning to leaders.

Fri–Sun, July 12–14

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

Mat Kelliher mkelliher746@gmail.com

Jeremy Netka jnetka@gmail.com

ET MT

Join us for a moderately strenuous early summer loop-trip out into northeastern Yosemite National Park for a fun and rocky ridge traverse to these two gorgeous peaks in the Sierra Nevada near Bridgeport, CA. Friday morning we'll start out from Virginia Lakes (9,852') and pack in on trail into the Yosemite Wilderness and set up camp alongside a gorgeous alpine lake at 10,250'. Expect a day's total of about 8.2 miles with 2600' of gain. Saturday morning we'll rise at first light to ascend a steep and sometimes loose Class 2 gully to the sometimes Class 3 ridge that connects Twin Peaks and Virginia Peak; once atop that ridge we'll make our way to the north to the summit of Twin Peaks, then retrace our steps for a bit to travel south along the ridge on our way to the summit of Virginia Pk. before making our way back to camp. Expect about 4.5 miles for the day with 3000' of gain and 2700' of loss. Sunday morning we'll pack up and head out over Virginia Pass (10,550') and then down Glines Canyon and Green Creek to the Green Lakes trailhead (8120') for a day's total of about 5.5 miles and 1100' of gain (3200' of loss). Festive Happy Hour Friday and Saturday evenings under waxing gibbous moon-lit skies! This is a Restricted Mountaineering outing; participants must be current Sierra Club members, and must submit a Sierra Club "Medical Form" to join us. Absolute comfort on talus and exposed Class 3 terrain required. Helmet, harness, belay device, and experience with their use is required. This WTC outing is co-sponsored by SPS. Email Mat Kelliher with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details.

Sat–Sun, July 13–14

I: Kern Peak (11,510')

Ronald Campbell campbellr@verizon.net

William Payne leakycanoe@yahoo.com

ET

Join us for a visit to the meadows and forests of the Kern Plateau. We'll climb one of the two tallest peaks on the Plateau and enjoy views stretching north to Whitney and south to the Mojave. And of course we'll have a potluck too. We'll enter via the Blackrock Trailhead off the Sherman Pass Road. Trip stats: Saturday 8.5 miles, 1800' gain, 2000' loss. Sunday summit climb 3.5 miles, 2900' gain; return trip 12 miles, 2000' gain, 4500' loss. Send recent experience and conditioning. Preference given to recent WTC students.

Fri–Sun, July 19–21

I: Moose Lake (10,550')

Marek Djordjevic marek3000@hotmail.com

Chuck Currier agr8skier@verizon.net



Beautiful, moderate backpack in Sequoia National Park. Friday morning start from Wolverton Trailhead (7200'), hiking via Panther Gap to our camp at Alta Meadow (6.5 miles, 2200' gain). Saturday crosscountry adventure hike (5.5 miles RT, 2000' gain) to a lunch at a serene alpine lake at 10,550', with plenty of wildflowers and stunning vistas along the way. Refreshing dip in the lake optional. Happy hour follows upon return to camp, hosted by local friendly marmots. Sunday morning optional crosscountry ascent of Alta Peak (2.5 miles, 1900' gain) then back to camp, pack up and hike out to cars. WTC students given priority. Send email with experience, conditioning and contact info to Marek Djordjevic.

Sat–Sun, July 20–21

I: Mt Waterman Area Nav Pak

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

Misha Askren misha.askren@gmail.com

Robert Myers rmmysers@ix.netcom.com

Virgil Shields vshields@alumni.caltech.edu



Looking for an opportunity to improve your navigation skills? Join us on this crosscountry romp to the areas around Mt. Waterman. We'll pack in about 1 mile and about 1300 to a dry camp on Saturday. We'll spend Saturday and Sunday exploring the area, practicing navigation, looking for wildflowers and taking in a peak. Sunday we will pack out. Bring enough water for two days. Send email with contact information and recent experience to Ann Shields.

Sat–Sun, July 27–28

I: Iron Mtn. (11,148')

Megan Birdsill mbirdsill@gmail.com

Jeremy Netka jnetka@gmail.com



We are on a two-day adventure in the Ansel Adams Wilderness in search of the vistas of the Ritter Range from atop Iron Mountain with the bonus of visiting at least three lakes. Total two-day stats: 19 miles, 5300' gain. Saturday morning we begin near Devils Postpile on the Beck Lake trail, leave it to go crosscountry to visit Gertrude Lake and finally make camp near Anona Lake (8 miles, +2600'). Sunday morning we rise before daybreak to summit Iron and return via Fern Lake trail (11 miles, 2700') to complete our ambitious loop. Participants



Elaine Arcelona is having a blast on 4377'
(OC, Kaweah Group)



WTC Experience Trip



Trip of Interest



Training Opportunity



Mountaineering

encouraged to camp at the trailhead Friday night, should have previous altitude experience, be comfortable on steep, loose 2nd class terrain, and be prepared for a few stream crossings. For consideration, please send hiking resume, current conditioning and references to leaders.

Sat–Mon, July 27–29

I: Mount Davis (12,303')

Mat Kelliher mkelliher746@gmail.com

Stephen McDonnell mcdonnell0123@sbcglobal.net



Join us for this strenuous but amazingly scenic trip up into the Thousand Island Lakes region of the Ansel Adams Wilderness to climb this often overlooked peak in the Ritter Range. Saturday we'll pack in 9 miles (4350' gain) via the Rush Creek trailhead out of June Lakes and set up camp. That night we'll enjoy a festive happy hour under nearly moonless night skies. Sunday we'll set out at first light for the summit of Mt. Davis over steep, sometimes loose, always rugged, crosscountry terrain. We'll enjoy phenomenal views up top and then return to camp the way we came up for a day's total of about 5 miles (2700' gain). Another festive happy hour that night, and then Monday morning we'll pack up and head back out the same way we came in. Permit limits group size and permit costs (about \$10 per person) will be split among the group. This WTC outing is co-sponsored by SPS. Email Mat Kelliher with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience.

Sat–Sun, July 27–28

I: Mount Huntington (12,405')

Matthew Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com

Jennifer Jones jones.jennylee@gmail.com



Join us for an overnight backpack to Pioneer Basin to climb a seldom visited peak off the Sierra Peak Section list! We'll hike in (10 miles, 3,000') and camp lakeside in Pioneer Basin where we'll swim and enjoy a traditional Sierra Club happy hour. The second day we'll climb Mount Huntington from the east (5 miles, 2000') before packing up and hiking out to the cars (10 miles, 2300') Please email leaders with your recent conditioning to apply. Priority given to Wilderness Travel Course students who need the trip to graduate.

Fri–Sun, August 9–11

I: Yosemite Tuolumne Meadows, Mattie Lake, Wildcat Point (9562')

David Meltzer dwm@crgpm.com

Karen Buehler karen.buehler2@gmail.com



Leave early Friday a.m. from LA by carpool for a moderate 3-day trip. We will start from Tuolumne Meadows and backpack 6 miles to Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp. The next day hike on and off trail to Mattie Lake, Wildcat Point and multiple waterfalls. Elevation gain for the trip is approximately 3200'. Trip will include walking on granite slab, bouldering and enjoying beautiful Yosemite. This trip is permit restricted. If you are interested and committed to go on the trip, provide email, cell phone, city you live in, with recent experience and conditioning. I will forward you a confirmation if you are approved for the trip or on the waitlist. I will forward additional information once approved for the trip.

Fri–Sun, August 9–11

I: Alta Meadow (9356'), Moose Lake (10,550') & Pear Lake (9550')

Shawnte Salabert shawntesalabert@gmail.com

Christopher Rigg rigphoto@gmail.com

ET

Enjoy a very strenuous, yet very rewarding backpacking trip in Sequoia National Park. Friday, we'll head 5.6 miles (2200' gain) on the Alta Trail from Wolverton to camp near picturesque Alta Meadow (9356'), with fantastic views of the Great Western Divide. Bocce ball and happy hour await! Saturday, we'll hike around 6 miles (2200' gain) crosscountry, first to the stark granite bowl of Moose Lake (10,550'), then down to shimmering Pear Lake (9550') to camp...where even MORE bocce ball and happy hour await! Sunday, we'll head back on the Lakes Trail, hiking out 6.2 miles to finish our loop. \$7 cost for permit; permit limits group size. Priority given to 2019 WTC students. Send hiking resume and contact info to leaders.

Sat–Sun, August 10–11

I: Sawtooth Peak (N) (12,343')

Mat Kelliher mkelliher746@gmail.com

Sridhar Gullapalli sridhar_gullapalli@yahoo.com

ET

Join us for a mid-summer weekend in the Sequoia National Forest out of Mineral King to ascend this amazingly scenic peak with outstanding views in all directions. Saturday morning we'll pack in on trail at a relaxed pace and set up camp at Lower Monarch Lake for a day's total of 3.4 miles with 2800' of gain. Saturday night we will celebrate with a festive happy hour under waxing gibbous moon-lit night skies. Sunday plan to set out at first light on trail and later crosscountry to the summit of Sawtooth Peak for a total of 2.2 miles and 2400' of gain. After savoring the views up top we will return to camp, pack up and head out. This WTC outing is co-sponsored by SPS. Email Mat Kelliher with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience.

Sat–Sun, August 17–18

I: Mount Lewis (12,296') via Bloody Canyon

Matthew Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com

William Payne leakycanoe@yahoo.com

ET

Join us for a quasi-relaxed stroll up a seldom visited peak that straddles the border of Yosemite! Saturday we'll pack in 4 miles and 2200' of gain and spend the afternoon relaxing by a lake and enjoying a traditional Sierra Club happy hour while we watch the sunset. Sunday we'll be up early and stroll up to the pass where we'll explore some old mining ruins and climb Mount Lewis before returning to camp (6 miles, 2600') and packing out (4 miles, 600'). Email leaders your recent conditioning to apply. Priority given to Wilderness Travel Course students who need the trip to graduate.

Sat–Sun, August 17–18

I: Mt. Conness (12,590')

Dennis Loya dennisloya@gmail.com

Richard Gillock r.r.gillock@ieee.org

ET

Join us for two days climbing a spectacular peak above Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park. Saturday we'll hike in to Young Lakes (5.8 miles, 1000' gain) where we will set up camp and spend a relaxing afternoon swimming and enjoying the area. That night we will have our epic Sierra Club happy hour so please bring something for everyone to share. Sunday, we'll wake up early and climb the Peak (3 miles, 2600') where we'll have lunch before returning to camp and hiking out (9 miles). The total stats for the weekend are 18 miles and 3600' of elevation gain. Email leader with recent conditioning to apply. Preference given to WTC students who need the trip to graduate.

ET

WTC Experience Trip

TI

Trip of Interest

TR

Training Opportunity

MT

Mountaineering

Fri–Sun, August 23–25

I: Pilot Knob (12,245')

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

Dave Scobie (323) 662-3538 davescobie@gmail.com

Tiffani Bruno (909) 783-7697 mtntrls@gmail.com

ET

Join us for this moderate three-day trip up into the gorgeous Humphreys Basin west of North Lake in the Eastern Sierra Nevada. Friday morning we'll meet near North Lake (9345') and pack in at a relaxed, but determined pace west along creekside trail and up past a series of gorgeous alpine lakes to and then over Piute Pass (11,423') before dropping down into the spectacular Humphreys Basin and making our way northwest to our camp for the weekend near the shore of Lower Desolation Lake (11,100'). Expect a day's total of about 7.5 miles with 2,600' gain. After setting up camp, relaxing a bit, and perhaps catching a fish or two, we'll settle in for a festive Happy Hour under the last quarter moon-lit, summer night skies. Saturday we'll head off cross country to the west and summit the wildly scenic Pilot Knob. After thoroughly enjoying the spectacular views surrounding us up there, we'll head back to our camp and enjoy an afternoon of swimming, fishing, lounging and/or snoozing. Expect a day's total of about 3.0 miles and 1,750' of gain. That evening we'll celebrate with an even more festive happy hour than the night prior. Sunday, we'll pack up and head out the same route we came in. Amateur anglers need a valid CA fishing license. Permit limits group size and permit costs will be split among the group (about \$10 each). This is a WTC Outing co-sponsored by SPS. Email recent conditioning and experience, including high altitude experience, WTC (if any) Area and Group, along with contact and vehicle/rideshare information, to Mat Kelliher.

Fri–Sun, August 23–25

I: Duck Lake Peak (12,051')

Robert Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Dwain Roque dwain@dwainroque.com

ET

Join us for three days in the John Muir Wilderness near Mammoth Lakes. On Friday, we will backpack from Lake Mary to Pika Lake (5 miles, 1900' gain) to set up camp in plenty of time for an afternoon swim. Saturday we will practice navigation and climb nearby Duck Lake Peak, returning for a leisurely afternoon at the lake. Sunday we will pack out and return to Mammoth in time for lunch. Priority given to 2019 WTC students. Send email with hiking resume to Robert Myers.

Fri–Sun, August 23–25

I: Noodling Around Pioneer Basin

Shawnte Salabert shawntesalabert@gmail.com

Saveria Tilden saveria@theadventurus.com

ET

Are you interested in brushing up your navigation skills while enjoying some alpine lakes in the gorgeous Eastern Sierra? Join us for this relaxed 3-day backpacking trip! We'll hike in about 8 miles via Mono Pass to camp in lake-studded Pioneer Basin. We'll spend all day Saturday navigating our way to different lakes in the basin – with very important swimming stops along the way. Once we've had our fill of off-trail fun, we'll head back to camp for games and happy hour! Sunday, we'll have breakfast at camp, then hike back out to the trailhead. This counts an experience trip for current WTC students who receive preference. Please email leader with your hiking resume and experience.

Mon–Mon, Aug 26–Sep 2

I: North Lake to South Lake, Evolution Valley

James Hagar jhagar1@gmail.com

Sharon Moore justslm@earthlink.net



Join us for a spectacular 8 day adventure making this iconic trip through the heart of the Sierras. Starting at North Lake we will climb over Piute Pass into the scenic Humphries Basin, descending to meet the JMT, then ascending gradually through magnificent Evolution Valley to Evolution Lake. Passing Wanda Lake we will ascend over Muir Pass to spectacular Le Conte Canyon and Big Pete Meadow. Leaving the JMT we will ascend again into Dusy Basin then a final push over Bishop Pass, Long Lake, and waiting cars. This trip has it all- the magnificent beauty of mountains, lakes and streams and vistas. Total 53 miles, 9300' gain, moderate pace with some short days to explore. Side trip to climb Pilot Knob or other off trail adventure planned. Opportunities to swim and fish every day. \$20 to cover permit and campsite costs. Email leaders a resume of recent backpacking and outdoor experience.

Sat–Sun, August 24–25

I: Duck Lake Peak (12,077') & Pika!

Kim Crane cranesnest@me.com

Matthew Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com



Join us for two glorious days out near Mammoth! Day 1 we'll drop cars off at Lake George then hike in from Lake Mary, crossing Duck Pass and camping at Pika Lake (5.3 miles, 2,000'). Sunday we'll be up early and climb nearby Duck Lake Peak before hiking out over Mammoth Crest where we'll have incredible views in pretty much every direction. 11 miles and 3000' gain for the entire day. Priority given to WTC students who need the trip to graduate and those with a really awesome happy hour item!

Fri–Sun, September 13–15

I: Midnight Lake (10,988')

Homer Tom hikerhomie@gmail.com

Megan Birdsill mbirdsill@gmail.com



Enjoy a ramble to high alpine lakes on a three-day backpack adventure in the John Muir Wilderness. Start Friday from Lake Sabrina and climb 1800' in 6.5 miles to camp at Midnight Lake in the shadow of Mt. Darwin. On Saturday, a cross-country scramble over Class 2 terrain takes us to Blue Heaven Lake and the Hell Diver Lakes. A lakeside happy hour awaits us and the rise of the full moon. Tearfully hike out Sunday. Send email with contact info and recent experience to Leader. Preference given to current WTC students

Sat–Sun, September 14–15

I: Vogelsang Peak (11,493')

Mat Kelliher mkelliher746@gmail.com

Jimmy Quan h2otigerjim@gmail.com



Join us in wildly scenic Yosemite NP on this trip to climb a classic Sierra Peak in the Cathedral Range. Saturday, we pack in out of Tuolumne Meadows at a relaxed, but purposeful pace on trail alongside Rafferty Creek up and over Tuolumne Pass and beyond. Once we reach Vogelsang Lake we will travel crosscountry around its western shore and set up camp near its headwaters to the south. Distance for the day will be about 8 miles with 1900' gain. At camp that night we will have a festive happy hour under moon-lit, summer-night skies. Sunday, we continue crosscountry up to and then along the Eastern Ridge of Vogelsang Peak to its summit; a total of 2 miles with 1200' gain. Back at camp, we will pack up and head out the same way we came in. Permit limits group size and permit costs will be split among the group. This WTC outing is co-sponsored by SPS. Email Mat Kelliher with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience.

Sun, September 29

I: Navigation: Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle

Robert Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net



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

Sat–Sun, October 12–13

I: "Really Last Chance" Graduation Trip

Robert Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net



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

Sat, November 2

I: Beginning Navigation Clinic

Diane Dunbar dianedunbar@charter.net

Richard Boardman



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 miles, 500' gain. Send SASE, phones, rideshare info, \$25 deposit (Sierra Club), refunded at trailhead, to Diane Dunbar.

Sat–Sun, November 16–17

I: Mission Creek Preserve Navigation Noodle

Robert Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net



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

Sun, December 8

I: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle

Robert Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net



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



WLA Group 4 on the Mt. Pinos summit.

Training Opportunities



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

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

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Leadership Training Program Seminar Saturday, April 13, 2019

Take that first step – become a leader!

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

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

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

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

Register by March 30, 2019

WHERE Stoneview Nature Center, Culver City, CA

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

For more information and to apply, go to:

angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc_leadership_seminar

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



MOUNTAINEERING SKILLS

Advanced Mountaineering Program

Offered by the Angeles Chapter Leadership Training Committee.

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

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

GENERAL INQUIRIES

Matt Hengst: matt@advancedmountaineeringprogram.org

www.AdvancedMountaineeringProgram.org



TWO-DAY ROCKCRAFT*

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



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

ITINERARY

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

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

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

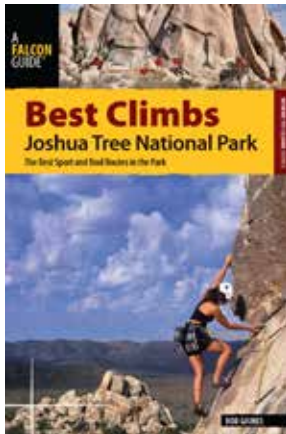
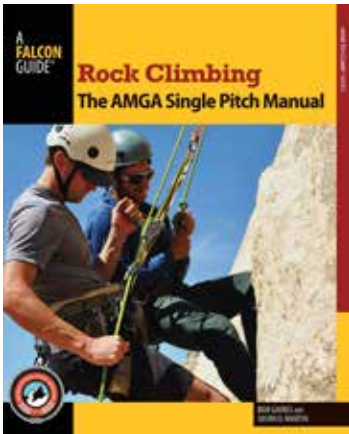
LOCATION Joshua Tree National Park

DATES April 13–14, 2019

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

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

www.VerticalAdventures.com



SNOW TRAVEL SCHOOL*

Learn the fundamentals of snow travel.

Skills covered include:

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



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

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

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

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

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

DATES April 27–28, 2019

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

YOU WILL NEED

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



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

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

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

Join the Club

Now that WTC classes are coming to a close, you might be wondering how to stay involved. Aside from joining us on experience trips, consider becoming a member of the Orange County or San Gabriel Valley book clubs. If you're in Long Beach or West LA, you might be inspired to start a WTC book club in your area.

The book club is a great way to continue learning about the outdoors. It's also fun to exchange ideas and hear what others liked or disliked about a book or its author. The OC book club was started because some of us had always wanted to read more. The book club introduced social and accountability elements to the goal. A few climbing friends in SGV were inspired by the OC chapter and started their own book club.

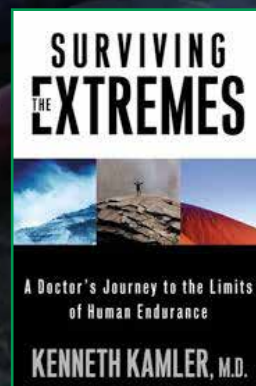
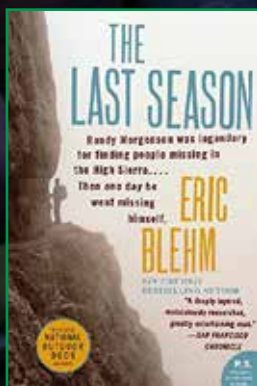
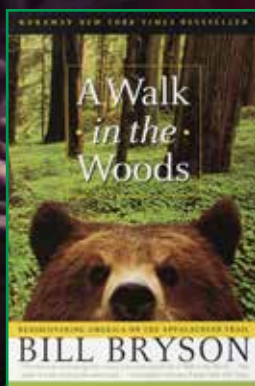
How It Works

We select a book by voting on various suggestions by the book club members. We then agree on a meeting date four to six weeks out, depending on the size of the book and participants' schedules. The person hosting the discussion chooses a location, sometimes their home or backyard, a restaurant, a coffee shop, or even the beach with a bonfire.

It's always fun and lively. Some people read and others listen if the audio book is available. Some have done additional research and even gone to museum exhibits related to the books. The book selections have been diverse and informative.

The OC Book Club tackled the following list: *Pickets and Dead Men*, *The Last Season*, *Into Thin Air*, *Endurance*, *A Walk in the Woods*, *The Alchemist*, *Speaking of Bears*, *Surviving the Extremes*, *The Big Burn*, and even chapter 16 of *Freedom of the Hills*.

I hope you'll join us – or maybe start your own group – and stay involved with WTC. Happy reading!



Lubna Debbini
is a OC Kaweah
Group Instructor



Daniel Tyrrell, Hillary Johnson, Lauren Pagoni (SGV, Group 4)



Aaron Arefe (WLA, Group 4) nears the 4377' summit

Save the Date

2019 WTC Graduation Saturday, October 26

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

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



Robert Draney and Patrick McKusky (SGV G4) entertain the crowd



SGV Group 4 staff and graduating students



WLA Group 4 staff and graduates

We Want You...

...to write a trip report.



We want to hear your stories and see the pictures from your spring, summer and fall trips and adventures.

Trip reports and their publication in the newsletter help build the tribal knowledge about routes, destinations and experiences.

Found a better way up a peak?

Tried a descent gully that cliffs out?

Is the beta on SummitPost bogus?

Did the route that was supposed to take 6 hours really take 12 hours?

Share the information and help the next person make their trip a success.

Trip reports are normally between 400 and 800 words, and we need a few good pictures. Remember, if you don't have a picture, did it really happen?

Send stories and pictures to:
wtcnewsletter@wildernesstravelcourse.org.

Spring Fling

Hundred Peaks Section



May 4–5, 2019

HPS Annual Spring Fling at Keller Ski Hut

Come join the 2019 Hundred Peaks Section Spring Fling! After spending the day bagging peaks, we'll all meet up Saturday night at the Keller Hut to celebrate with a big potluck Happy Hour at 6 p.m.

Hang out around a roaring campfire with old and new friends! Whether you're staying at the Hut or in town, everyone is welcome.

Please let us know if you will be staying at the Hut. The cost is \$6 per person for HPS members or \$15 for non-members. Please pay at the event. Further details will be provided at a later date.

As we get closer to the event, HPS outings will be posted. Make sure to check the HPS website at www.hundredpeaks.org/outings for newly added outings. Once you've found the hike(s) you're interested in attending, contact the respective outing leaders directly for status and specific details.

Location: Across from Snow Valley Ski Resort in a rocky, forested area in the San Bernardino Mountains at 6,800 feet elevation.

Overnight Capacity: 30 (inside 20 sleeping pads; outside space for tent, hammock, or sleep in vehicle)

Facilities: Two rustic living/dining rooms, two dormitory lofts (separate men and women on open weekends) with 10 sleeping pads each. Fully equipped kitchen with cookware, dishes and utensils. Furnish your own food, sleeping bag or bedding, lighting and personal items. For cold weather, please contribute firewood for the pot-belly stove and fireplace.

There should be ample parking. There is some parking at the Hut and more at a nearby trailhead.

For Info/Reservations Contact: William Chen (wchenhps@protonmail.com)



2019 Navigation Events

April 27–28	Warren Point Navigation Noodle
May 18	Beginning Navigation Clinic
June 15–16	Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle
September 29	Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle
November 2	Beginning Navigation Clinic
November 16–17	Warren Point Navigation Noodle
December 8	Warren Point Navigation Noodle

360degrees

The Joshua Tree

Can you find what you're looking for?

True or False? The photograph of the Joshua tree on the back cover of U2's iconic album, "*The Joshua Tree*" was taken in Joshua Tree National Park (JTNP).



Contrary to popular belief, the Joshua tree on the Irish band's iconic album jacket was not photographed in JTNP. It also was not photographed in Mojave National Preserve, which according to the National Park Service has the world's largest concentration of Joshua trees.

U2's famous Joshua tree, now fallen to the ground, can be found along a lonely highway between



I'll show you a place high on a desert plain where there is a makeshift memorial around what is left of *The Joshua Tree*

Lone Pine and Death Valley National Park and more than 170 miles as the crow flies from JTNP.

With the blue sky over the majestic High Sierra visible to the west and in an area of long abandoned red hill mining towns of years past, a makeshift memorial has arisen around the fallen tree.



You can wait all day for night to come at the marker

With cases full of personal notes and remembrances, derelict guitars, and the self-produced albums of aspiring song writers, it is unclear that visitors will find what they were looking for in this part of god's country. You will however, need your WTC-acquired navigation skills to find the memorial, since this is an area of California where the streets have no name.



Virgil Shields has run and has crawled to play that guitar



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

The Only Thing You Need to Know

The **FINAL** Word

Most sports aren't that complicated. You can usually boil them down into one simple rule. (Okay, maybe two.)

To Climb Rocks

Use your feet. Despite what you may have seen in *Cliffhanger* or depictions of climbing in energy drink ads, rock climbing is less about doing 40 pull-ups in a row and more about techniques that place your weight on your feet and reliance on core strength.

Another thing: If someone yells "rock," duck, don't look up. You're trying to avoid a falling object, not catch a foul ball at a baseball game. If a small rock, a cam, a carabiner, or a large rock comes flying down from above, catching it with your face is going to ruin your day.

To Boulder

Every fall is a ground fall.

Another thing: It's perfectly acceptable to spend half a day (or an entire day) trying to climb eight feet of rock.

To Climb Ice

You're not doing it because it's comfortable: it's cold, it's wet, you'll spend lots of time standing in snow, chunks of ice will come flying at you from above, your hands and feet will go numb, and that's just when you're belaying. When you're climbing, you're attached to several sharp points capable of ripping your clothes and/or flesh, and when you get to the top of a pitch of ice, you're likely to experience something called "the screaming barfies," a pain from rapidly warming hands so named because you will want to scream and vomit at the same time.

Another thing: It's pretty fun, if you're into that sort of stuff.

To Camp

In a tent, you will probably not sleep for eight hours straight like you do in your bed at home, but if you get good at camping, you can get five or six somewhat consecutive 90-minute naps.

Another thing: Other animals in nature also enjoy food, so don't leave yours out overnight or when you're away from your campsite. Squirrels can ruin your supply of snacks; bears can ruin your life.

To Go Backpacking

An oft-cited adage says, "ounces equal pounds, and pounds equal pain." When you're at home piling up all your stuff to pack for your trip, that paperback/French press/extra change of clothes may seem like it's worth it, but three miles into an eight-mile hike with all your stuff on your back, it may turn into the bane of your backcountry existence.

Another thing: Don't ever share a tent with anyone who says they "don't really snore."

To Hike

Hiking is pretty much just walking on dirt and rocks, so you don't need a lot of specialized skills to do it.

Another thing: It's different from walking in that you can get caught in a thunderstorm, get lost, and have unexpected things happen on the trail, so it's not a bad idea to buy a rain jacket, a map, and a headlamp, and always let someone know where you're going.

To Mountain Bike

Even a very slow mountain bike crash can be really painful.

Another thing: You don't need an \$8,000 mountain bike to get started (but they sure are fun).

To Ski

Taking a ski lesson may seem expensive when you're first starting out (in addition to lift tickets, equipment, and ski clothing), but think of the money you spend on it as an investment in fewer shitty ski days in your first season – you'll learn and get better way more quickly, and will spend less time flailing on the slopes your first ten times.

Another thing: Skiing fast doesn't mean you're good.

To Ski in the Backcountry

As the saying goes, "The avalanche doesn't care if you're an expert." Also, the inverse: The avalanche doesn't care if you are blissfully ignorant of what causes avalanches.

Another thing: There's no ski patrol in the backcountry.

To Snowshoe

Don't try to walk backwards while wearing snowshoes.

Another thing: It's really just walking, in snow, with big things on your feet.

To Trail Run

It's usually slower than road running (i.e., it's not just you), unless you're on a perfectly groomed, flat trail (which a lot of people including myself would say isn't really trail running).

Another thing: Rocks and roots may be taller than they appear.

To Bike Tour

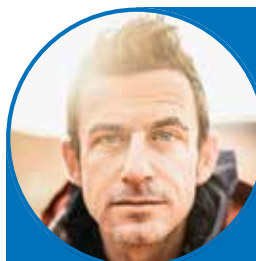
The slower you go, the more fun it is. Trying to hammer out as many miles as possible on a fully loaded bike is a recipe for burning out. It's a tour, not a race.

Another thing: Take care of your butt and it will take care of you.

To Bikepack

With a fully loaded bike, there's no shame in getting off and pushing it up hills.

Another thing: Bikepacking is just bike touring on dirt. Or bike touring without panniers. I think. I don't know if anyone actually knows. Also, take care of your butt.



Brendan Leonard is a writer who thinks we all need to get a little cold, tired and scared every once in a while.

His writing has appeared *Climbing*, *Adventure Journal*, *Backpacker*, *The Dirtbag Diaries*, *Outside*, *Men's Journal* and many other publications.

Books include *The Art of Getting Lost*, *Sixty Meters to Anywhere*, *The Great Outdoors: A User's Guide*, *Funny Shit in the Woods* and others.

Check out more on his website: semi-rad.com

Reprinted with permission. ©2018