



Newsletter

Newsletter of the Wilderness Training Committee

Snow Camp...



2003 Snow Camp



2006 Snow Camp

or No - Snow Camp?

What will 2007 bring?

www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc
Vol 18, No. 1 / Winter 2007

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See page 8 for contact info

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The WTC Newsletter is published quarterly for students and staff of the Wilderness Training Committee and delivered via U.S. mail or distributed at class sites. It's also available in color on the WTC website:

www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc as a download in PDF format. All questions, copy and photo submissions should be directed to Kay Novotny, WTC Newsletter Editor at (562) 860-4078, or emailed to: knovo@ca.rr.com

WTC Info Line 310-967-2029

Welcome to WTC!

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

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

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

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

Special Events

Training programs from Sierra Mountaineering International:

The following activities are not sponsored nor administered by the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club has no information about the planning of these activities and makes no representations or warranties about the quality, safety, supervision or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service because they may be of interest to the readers of this publication.

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

Apr 14-15, 2007---Level One Avalanche course at \$190 per person for WTC members. Saturday classroom sessions in Bishop. Saturday and Sunday field sessions will take place above Bishop and near Mammoth Lakes.

Apr 28-29, 2007---Snow School. This is an ice axe introduction course reviewing basic snow travel, use of ice axe, crampons, and ropes. Cost is \$80 per person per day. Participants can choose one or two days.

May 12-13, 2007---Basic Rock Skills. Covers topics needed to go rock climbing with a more experienced leader. Cost is \$160 per person for WTC members.

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

Contact Sierra Mountaineering International at: (760) 872-4929 or info@sierramountaineering.com. www.sierramountaineering.com

Tell a Friend

You may not know this, but most WTC students first hear about the course through a friend or relative. If you enjoy WTC, tell a friend. Or a relative, an acquaintance, business associate, your receptionist, the UPS guy (I think his name's Brown), the annoying neighbor down the street with the yappy dog... no, wait; scratch that last one...

Headline Deadline

For publication in the Spring 2006 WTC Newsletter:

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

Nov 10 Last day for trips to be submitted to the WTC Outings Chair for publication in next Angeles Chapter Schedule 304 (Mar 1 - Jun 30). Provisional trips and leaders should already have an LTC review. Restricted trips should prepare a Mountaineering Application

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

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

On The Cover

Kristen Mahaffey basks in the sun at snow camp, 2003, and fresh snowfall on a crisp, 4 degree (F) morning at snow camp 2006. Photos by Gary Novotny.

Snow Camp, or No-Snow Camp?

Cover Story -
Editor

Kay Novotny, WTC Newsletter

Whenever new WTC students are asked what part of the class they are most concerned about, inevitably the answer is "Snow Camp". Just the idea of spending two nights in a tent, in the Sierra mountains, in the winter, sounds crazy to most people. Whenever I describe this part of the course to family or friends, they typically look at me quizzically, and say, "You're joking, right?"

However, it is part of the course, and an important part, as well. For even though snow camp is the most worrisome part of class, it is also the part that is every student's proudest moment. To be able to say you made it through snow camp - now that is an achievement.

Each year, the WTC instructors take a group of nervous students, give them the necessary training and confidence to make the trip, and make the pilgrimage across the snow to the campsite, in the dark. Everyone can pitch their tent in the dark, because they have practiced at least once or twice at home. As everyone settles in for the night - quickly as they can - the only sounds that can be heard are the gentle babbling of the brook - and whoever is that loud snorer!

In the morning, a snow table is created, if the picnic tables are so buried they can not be liberated. One or two folks typically torch their eyebrows trying to light their camp stoves. Soon the smells of brewing coffee and hot oatmeal waft across the breeze. The general conversation revolves around how cold it is, how far away the outhouse is, and how cold it is. Soon, however, snowshoes are strapped on, and the day's adventure begins.

Students learn about hiking in snowshoes, some avalanche basics, and "differential melting". If the sun is out, and there is fresh snow, the world looks like it is covered with a diamond blanket. Sometimes you can hear snow ledges breaking off, and tumbling down a slope. If you are very lucky, you might see a small flock of Willow Ptarmigan, making their way across the snow. Ptarmigan are not native to the Sierra, however, they seem to be quite at home there, picking off the willow buds to eat in the winter.

Typically, if the conditions are right, we will spend the entire day hiking around in the area, building up an appetite for the evening meal. WTC leaders like to eat well, so there will usually be a notable repast for dinner - and the students are encouraged to be creative as well.

Most groups do not stay up late at night - one, it gets dark, and two, it gets cold! So, most folks are in the sack not too long after the cocoa course, apres dinner. The next day is usually an early one, in order to get a nice hike in before breaking camp to go back to the bus. Don't be the one who is late for roll call - everyone will be mad at you for making them wait in the cold!



Sheryl O'Rourke and Glenn Simmons snowshoe along South Lake road. Photos by Gary Novotny.

Harmoni Simmons examines the avalanche pit, as Greg Yanagihara looks on.



After a nice hike, it is back to camp to pack up, and then the hike back to the bus. The hike back to the bus is often a little bittersweet - this is the last time the group will be facing the elements together.

This year, the WTC program has something new to offer. We have purchased brand new pairs of MSR Denali Classic snowshoes for the students to use, so they will not have to rent or buy a pair. They come with the extension tails, so they will adjust in size to fit the smallest or the tallest students.

WTC also has made a special purchase of compasses this year, and is offering them to the students at a reduced cost. The compass is a Suunto MC-2 professional mirror compass, with all of the features the mountaineers look for in a quality compass. See the WTC website or talk to your leader for more information about this quality compass.

So what kind of snow camp will 2007 bring? Will there be single-digit temperatures and fresh snow each night, like 2006? Will there be a raging 18 hour storm which will pin the students and instructors in their tents? Or will there be spring-like temperatures and sunshine, like in 2003? We will not know until we get there, but whatever comes, we will be ready for it - because we are WTC!

Outings

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

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



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



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



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



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

December

Dec 9/Sat



LTC, WTC

I/Mt Lowe (5603') Beginning Navigation Clinic

5 mi, 500' gain. Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map & compass. Beginners-to-rusty old timers welcome. Not an LTP checkoff. Many expert leaders will attend; many "I" rated leaders started here in the past. Recent no-shows required a \$25 deposit, refunded at trailhead. Send sase, deposit (Sierra Club), phones to Ldr: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman

Dec 10/Sun



LTC, WTC

I/Warren Pt Navigation

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

Dec 10/Sun



WTC, OCSS

O/Lion Cyn Falls

Join a few of the Orange County WTC leaders on a stroll through the Santa Ana Mtns chaparral, 10 mi rt, 1500 ft. gain. Picnic at Lion Cyn Falls hopefully not dry. Meet 8 am at lot across from Hwy 74 Candy Store or 7:30 am at South Orange County rideshare. Bring 2 quarts, lunch, lugs. Rain cancels. Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Asst: Cheryl Gill.

Dec 10/Sun



WTC, 20's & 30's Singles, Long Beach

O/WTC Introductory Hike Mt Wilson Trail/Manzanita Ridge

Invigorating conditioning hike at a moderate pace. 10 mi rt, 3000' gain. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins Jan 2007. Subjects include safe mountain travel, map and compass, wilderness first aid. Meet 9 am trailhead at Mira Monte Ave and Mt Wilson Trail Dr (take I-210 to Baldwin Ave exit, take Baldwin N to Mira Monte, R to trailhead). Bring hiking boots, 2 liters water, snacks to share. Ldrs: David Meltzer, Melody Anderson, Sridhar Gullapalli.

Dec 16-17/Sat-Sun



Hundred Peaks, WTC, OCSS

I/Snow Camping - Cornell Pk (9750'), San Jacinto Pk (10,804')

Moderately paced and moderately strenuous snow camping and peak climbing trip in the San Jacinto Wilderness. 4 mi, 1500' gain for the first day from the Palm Springs Tram, most with full backpack while on snowshoes. 7 mi of peak climbing, 2000' gain with snowshoes and daypacks the second day, before we pack out 2.5 mi to the tram. Send sase or 2 sase, phone, recent conditioning/experience to Ldr: Lisa Buckley. Asst: Wayne Voltaire.

January

Jan 6/Sat



WTC, OCSS

O/Sitton Pk (3273')

Intermediate conditioning hike at a moderate but challenging pace in the beautiful Ortega Mountains. 9.5 mi and 2000' gain. This may be just what prospective WTC students would like. Enjoy lunch and 50 mile vistas in every direction at the summit. Meet 7:30 am at the South Orange County rideshare. Bring ten essentials, water, lunch and lug soles required. Rain cancels. Contact leaders for more information. Ldr: Lisa Buckley. Co-Ldr: Wayne Voltaire.

Jan 13/Sat



WTC, Hundred Peaks

I/Warren Pt (5103')

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

Jan 14/Sun



LTC, WTC

I/Warren Pt Navigation

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

Jan 14/Sun



WTC

O/Bedford Pk (3800')

WTC students - to check your fitness before your Conditioning Test Hike. Moderate pace consistently uphill 7 mi rt, 2000'. Great views of Baldy, San Geronio and San Jacinto. Meet 7 am at the North Orange County rideshare, or 7:30 am at end of Silverado Canyon. Pack the ten essentials, water (2 quarts), snacks. Rain cancels. Ldr: Edd Ruskowitz. Co-Ldr: Melissa Kane.

Jan 20/Sat



WTC, 20&30s, Hundred Peaks

I/Bernard Pk (5430'), Little Berdoo Pk (5440')

Easy-paced hike to these two peaks in Joshua Tree Nat'l Park. 7 mi rt, 1800' gain, all xc. Great views of the Park and the Coachella Valley. WTC students -- a great opportunity to get a head start on your Navigation skills! Optional car camp Saturday night. High clearance vehicles recommended. Send email (preferred) or sase w/contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Melody Anderson. Asst: Gerard Lewis.

January continued

Jan 27/Sat 

LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks

M/E / Local Baldy Snow Practice

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

Jan 27/Sat 

WTC

O/Sugarloaf (3227')

The hard way: Opportunity for 2007 WTC students to get really prepared for the conditioning test with OC WTC leaders, 9.0 mi, 2700' gain. Meet 7:30 am at the South Orange County rideshare. Bring ten essentials, 2 quarts water, lunch and lug soles. Rain Cancels. Ldrs: Gary Bickel, Greg De Hoogh.

Jan 27/Sat 

Long Beach, WTC

O/Echo Mtn, Inspiration Pt, Muir Pk (4688')

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

February

Feb 3/Sat 

LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks

M/E/Local Baldy Snow Practice

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

March

Mar 3/Sat



WTC, Hundred Peaks, 20s30s

I/Sugarloaf Mtn (9952')

Snowshoe in the San Bernardino Mountains. Destination may change with snow conditions. Strenuous 10-12 mi rt, 2700' gain. Send sase/esase, conditioning to Ldr: Eric Scheidemantle, Co-Ldr: Melody Anderson.

Mar 3/Sat 

WTC, Hundred Peaks

I/Quail Mtn (5813')

Moderately strenuous 8-10 mi loop hike, 1800' gain, to the highest peak in Joshua Tree National Park via Samuelson's Rocks through spectacular desert scenery. Substantial cross-country travel with some rough, rocky portions. Bring your camera (optional) and 4 quarts water and good footwear (mandatory). Send email (preferred) or SASE, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Charles Irving. Asst: Asher Waxman.

Mar 24/Sat 

WTC, Hundred Peaks

I/Bernard Pk (5430'), Little Berdoo Pk (5440')

Two lesser traveled HPS peaks in Joshua Tree National Park with views into the Coachella Valley. 7 mi rt, 1800' gain, entirely cross county. AWD or 4WD vehicles preferred, due to sandy nature of road. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Kim Homan. Asst: Karen Leverich.

March continued

Mar 25/Sun 

WTC, Hundred Peaks, 20s30s

I/Devil's Canyon

Visit a quiet, lush canyon and 20' waterfall in the San Gabriel Wilderness not far from Upper Chilao Campground. Moderately paced 9.8 mi rt, about half xc, 2100' gain hike to upper falls. Possible 3 mi rt xc, 600' gain side trip to rarely visited basin. Send sase/esase to Ldr: Eric Scheidemantle, Co-Ldr: Pat Vaughn.

Mar 25/Sun 

Hundred Peaks, WTC

I/Queen Mtn (5680') from Indian Cove

Need an Explorer Route to Queen? How about capping off Spring Fling with this adventurous cross-country route. The hike is a strenuous but rewarding 10 mi rt with 3,600' gain for experienced desert hikers. Send email (preferred) or SASE, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Paul Garry. Asst: George Wysup.

Mar 25/Sun 

WTC

I/Nav 'till it Hertz

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

Mar 31/Sat 

LTC

E/M/Stony Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff

This intermediate and advanced workshop is based on the rock requirements for M and E leadership. Checkoffs for M and E rock must be pre-arranged. It is a restricted trip; to participate you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have suitable rock climbing experience. Helmet, basic climbing gear, and completed medical form required. Send or e-mail climbing resume, SC#, address and phone to Ldr: Ron Hudson. Assts: Pat McKusky, Alex Amies

Mar 31/Sat 

LTC

Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar

Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC Registrar for enrollment in April 14 seminar. Next seminar: Fall 2007. Registrar: Steve Botan

Mar 31 - Apr 1/Sat-Sun 

WTC, Desert Peaks

I/Pinto Mtn (3983')

Enjoy a DPS peak and Spring wildflowers in the central area of Joshua Tree. Sat backpack to base of mtn and setup camp. Sunday summit and pack out. 12 mi rt through sandy washes and class 2 rock and 2400' gain. Great experience trip for WTC graduates. Send sase/esase, conditioning to Ldr: Eric Scheidemantle, Co-Ldr: Robert Myers.

April

Apr 1/Sun 

WTC, Sierra Peaks

M/Mt Baldy (10,064') Snow Climb

Strenuous 3900' gain, 8 miles starting on the Ski Hut trail. Restricted to Sierra Club members with ice axe & crampon proficiency. Medical form required. Group size limited. Send sase/esase, mountaineering resume showing relevant experience, SC number, contact info to Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Co-Ldrs: Don Croley, Ed Cottone.

Apr 7/Sat 

WTC

O/Inspiration Pt

9 mi rt, 3114' gain. The trails takes us up the Sam Merrill and Castle Canyon Trails with a stop for lunch at Inspiration Point. Meet 8 am Lake Street trail head in Altadena (from I-210 in Pasadena exit Lake Ave., N to end). Bring water, lunch, boots, layered clothing, hat, sunscreen. Heavy rain cancels. Ldr: Sal Pelaez. Asst: Georgette Rieck.

April continued

Apr 14/Sat



WTC

O/Mission Pt

4.5 mi rt, 1325' gain. A great local hike with expansive views of the Valley and surrounding mountains. Beginners are welcome. Meet 8 am Neon Way trail head in Granada Hills (from 405 fwy N, take 118 fwy W, exit Balboa Blvd. turn rt head N, left on Jolette Ave., left on Doric St., rt on Neon Way, go to end). Bring water, snack, lug soles, weather appropriate clothing, hat, sunscreen. Heavy rain cancels. Ldr: Sal Pelaez. Asst: Garen Yegparian.

Apr 14/Sat



LTC

Leadership Training Seminar

Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. For info, see LTC section in front of Schedule. Deadline for receipt of application and payment is Mar 31. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Fall 2007. Registrar: Steve Botan.

Apr 21-22/Sat-Sun



LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks, Ski Mountaineers

M/E/Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice

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

Apr 21-22/Sat-Sun



WTC, Hundred Peaks

I/Quail Mtn (5814')

Easy paced but moderately strenuous 14 mi rt 1800' gain, backpack to Quail Mtn, highest point in Joshua Tree NP using mostly cross-country route. Sat easy paced 4 mi to camp, set up, then 5 mi rt to Quail and back to camp for happy hour. We will encounter some rough, rocky section on Quail. Great opportunity to practice your Nav skills and photograph desert wildflowers! Send esase or sase, contact info and recent conditioning to Ldr: Kim Homan. Asst: Jane Simpson.

Apr 21-22/Sat-Sun



LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks

I/Indian Cove Navigation

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

Apr 28-29/Sat-Sun



LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks

M/E/Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice

For M & E candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings or others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with prior basic training with the ice axe. Completed medical forms will be required. Send SC#, climbing resume, SASE or email, to Ldr: Nile Sorenson Co-Ldr: Doug Mantle.

Apr 28-29/Sat-Sun



WTC, Hundred Peaks

I/Quail Mtn (5,813'), Samuelson's Rocks

Sat hike 5 mi in JTNP, moderate gain to Juniper flats and setup camp. Nav workshop on way. Sun xc 2 mi, 1,000' gain and boulder scrambling. Optional Sun xc trip to Samuelson's Rocks. Bring 10 essentials, minimum 5 liters water (dry camp), lug soles and layered clothing. Send sase or email, H&W phones, recent experience & conditioning to Ldr: David Meltzer. Co-Ldrs: Gary and Kay Novotny.

April continued

Apr 28-29/Sat-Sun



LTC, WTC, Desert Peaks, Desert Committee I/Places We've Saved Navigation Noodle in the Mojave National Preserve

Join us for our fourth annual journey through this jewel of the Mojave now preserved, under the California Desert Protection Act, as a result of the efforts of Sierra Club activists and others. An intermediate cross-country navigation day-hike workshop will be conducted out of a car camp in the pinyon and juniper forests of the Mid Hills. Potluck and social on Sat, and also for those arriving early on Fri. Send email or sase to Ldr: Virgil Shields. Asst: Harry Freimanis.

May

May 5/Sat

Hundred Peaks, Palos Verdes-South Bay, WTC

I/Ken Pt (6423'), Butterfly Pk (6228')



Moderate 10 mi rt, 3000' gain hike on road/xc in Desert Divide area, hopefully encountering wildflowers and beautiful views. We may have an opportunity to do Rock Point (5280'). Bring 10 essentials, lunch, and water. Potluck in evening. Esase (preferable) or sase with recent conditioning, phones & rideshare info to Ldr: Barry Holchin. Co-Ldr: TBD.

May 6/Sun



Hundred Peaks, Palos Verdes-South Bay, WTC

I/Cone Pk (6800')

Strenuous 11 mi rt, 2900' gain hike on road/xc in Desert Divide area, hopefully encountering wildflowers and beautiful views. Bring 10 essentials, lunch, and water. Esase (preferable) or sase with recent conditioning, phones & rideshare info to Ldr: Barry Holchin. Co-Ldr: TBD.

May 12/Sat



LTC, WTC

I/Mt Lowe (5603') Beginning Navigation Clinic

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

May 12-13/Sat-Sun



WTC, 20s30s

I/Quail Mtn (5813')

Easy paced, but moderately strenuous, 14 mile rt, 2400' gain, to the highest peak in Joshua Tree National Park. Enjoy spectacular desert scenery. Substantial cross-country travel with some class 2 steep, rocky portions. WTC or similar experience. Participants will take turns practicing navigation. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Sridhar Gullapalli, Asst: Bob Beach.

May 19/Sat



WTC, Hundred Peaks

I/Grinnell Mt (10,284')

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

May 19/Sat



Hundred Peaks, Palos Verdes-South Bay, WTC

I/Old Man Mtn (5525'), Monte Arido (6010')

Moderate 6 mi rt, 1600' gain hike on rd/xc in Santa Barbara Co w/lots of dirt rd driving. Inability to obtain special permit cancels trip. Bring 10 essentials, lunch, and water. Esase (preferable) or sase with recent conditioning, phones & rideshare info to Ldr: Barry Holchin. Co-Ldr: TBD

May continued

May 19/Sat **Hundred Peaks, Sierra Peaks, WTC** **M/Big Iron (8003') via North Ridge**

A seldom-led, adventurous route pioneered by Bill T. Russell, up E. Fork and Fish Fork San Gabriel River, with 30+ significant stream crossings, followed by a bushwhack and a steep (including some class 3) climb up a north ridge to summit, down usual (steep) south ridge route, blessedly ending with 5 mi on trail, approx 7000' total gain, 20 mi loop. Predawn start, possible after dark finish. Send sase or email to Ldr w/phone, relevant experience. Ldrs: Asher Waxman, Erik Siering.

May 20/Sun **LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks** **I/Grinnell Ridge Navigation**

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

June

Jun 2-3/Sat-Sun **Sierra Peaks, WTC** **M/Mt Dade (13,600'+)**

Sat pack in to camp at Treasure Lake (4 mi, 1000' gain). Sun climb Dade via Hourglass couloir (up to 40 degree slope) and pack out. Ice ax, crampons and helmet required. Restricted to Sierra Club members, medical form required. Send sase/esase w/experience to Ldr: Steve Curry. Asst: Asher Waxman.

Jun 8-10/Fri-Sun **LTC, Harwood Lodge, WTC** **C/Wilderness First Aid Course**

Runs from 8 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Includes lodging, meals, practice first aid kit. CPR within previous 4 years required to enroll. \$190 with SC#/\$200 non-member (full refund thru May 5). For application, contact Ldr: Steve Schuster.

Jun 15-17/Fri-Sun **WTC, Hundred Peaks** **I/San Bernardino Pk (10649'), San Bernardino East Pk (10691'), Anderson Pk (10840'+), Shields Pk (10680'+)**

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

Jun 16/Sat **LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks** **O/GPS Class**

Intro to Global Positioning System at Eaton Cyn Nature Center, Pasadena. Start 9AM indoors, no registration at door, apply early. Includes features, selection, operation, use with maps (provided) in field, hands-on field practice in afternoon. Bring a GPS, but we have loaners. Send sase, phones, email, GPS experience & model, \$15 (LTC-no refund later than 5 days prior) to Co-Ldrs: Harry Freimanis, Phil Wheeler.

Jun 23/Sat **WTC, Hundred Peaks** **I/Mt Hawkins (8850'), Copter Ridge (7499'), Middle Hawkins (8505')**

11 mi rt 3500' gain moderate pace on trail and xc from Islip saddle to peaks. Send sase/esase with experience and conditioning to Ldr: Patrick Vaughn. Co-Ldr: TBD.

Jun 23-25/Sat-Mon **Sierra Peaks** **I/Kern Peak: (11,510')**

SPS introductory trip in southern Sierra geared to prospective SPSers and WTC students. Moderate and enjoyable pace. Sat backpack 9 mi, 1500' of gain to camp at Redrock Meadows at 8600'. Sun climb class 2 Kern Pk in 8 mi, 3000' gain rt, all x-country. Legendary community happy hours Sat and Sun evenings. Mon backpack

June continued

out 9 mi, 800' gain (With ups and downs). Send sase, recent conditioning, H&W phones, ride share info to Ldr: Patty Kline. Assts: Joe Wankum, Gary Schenk.

Jun 30/Sat **WTC, Hundred Peaks** **I/Pallett Mtn (7660'+), Goodykoontz Pk (7558')**

Strenuous approximately 15 mi rt, 4500' gain on trail and xc by way of Burkhart trail. We will ascend up a seldom ventured ridge route to Goodykoontz. Send sase/esase with experience and conditioning to Ldr: Patrick Vaughn. Co-Ldr: Eric Scheidemantle.

Beyond June

Sep 7-9/Fri-Sun **WTC, 20s30s** **I/Mt Silliman (11,188')**

Moderately paced backpack Fri 4 mi one-way, 2000' gain from Lodgepole to below the Silliman Lake area. Sat (4 mi rt, 2500' gain) climb slabs, bag the peak for stunning vistas of the Great Western Divide and return to camp for group happy hour. Sun pack out; explore sights of Sequoia National Park. Comfort on class 2 granite slab is essential. Permit fee \$6 per participant. Participants will take turns practicing navigation. Send esase (preferred) or sase with contact and rideshare info, recent backpacking and conditioning experience to Ldr: Sridhar Gullapalli. Asst: Jane Simpson

Sep 22-24/Sat-Mon **WTC** **I/Mt Silliman (11,188')**

Sat backpack 4 mi, 2000' gain on a use trail from Lodgepole, Sequoia National Park to camp. Time to relax or explore. Sun 4 mi, 2500' gain to summit for spectacular views. Mon pack out. Comfort on class 2 rock required. There will be a \$5 permit fee collected at the hike. Send sase/esase, phones, rideshare info, recent backpacking/conditioning to Ldr: Pat Vaughn, Co-Ldr: Eric Scheidemantle.

What has a cool logo, wicks moisture like crazy, is anti-bacterial and can be worn on any of your hiking adventures?



The new WTC performance shirt!

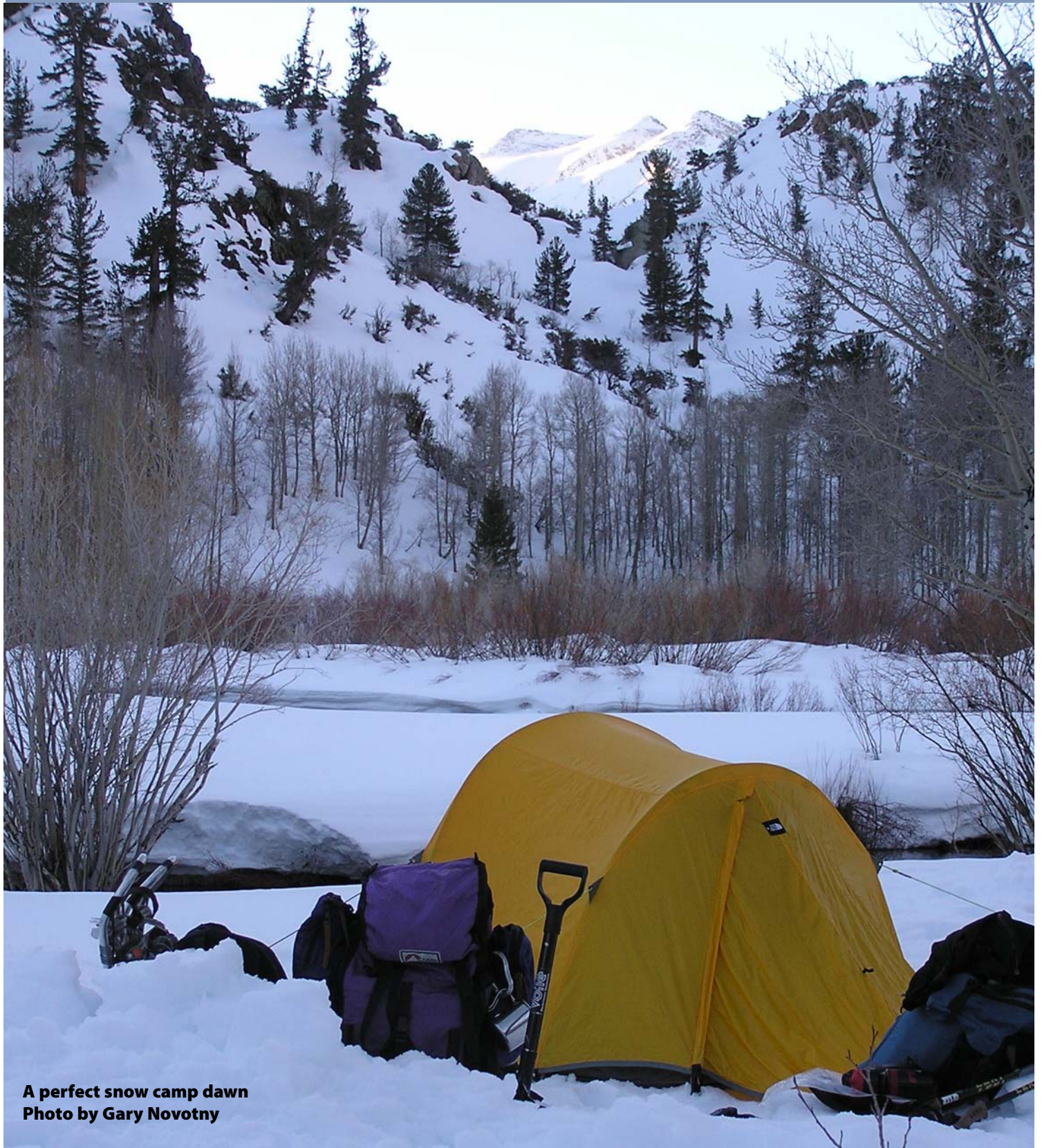
The advantages of performance shirts like Coolmax® are well known to all of us. The new WTC performance shirts take moisture management to the next level by using Intera®. Intera® yarn is the only patented moisture wicking technology built right into the fabric instead of being applied as a coating afterwards. In addition, we use UV resistant dyes for the WTC logo.

But wait, there's more! These WTC shirts are custom made to your exact requirements. You get to pick the shirt style, size and logo type that matches your specific needs. There are even shirt styles specific for you ladies!

Visit <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc> and click on the shirt link at the bottom of the page for details.

Outings Leader Directory

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



A perfect snow camp dawn
Photo by Gary Novotny

“To explore, enjoy,
and protect the wild
places of the earth;
to practice and
promote the
responsible use of
the earth’s ecosystem
and resources;
to educate and
enlist humanity to
protect and restore
the quality of the
natural and human
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Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club,
Wilderness Training Committee

FRIP # F94Q [N0469] - 1



Where in the Sierra is Payne Lake?

On August 12, 2006, 10 intrepid adventurers discovered the answer...

Payne Lake, and Peaklet 11,818

On August 11th, 10 people set out on a quest - to find Payne Lake, and to see the Palisade Glacier. Luckily, they are very close to each other.

Payne Lake was named after Edgar Alwin Payne, a plein air impressionist style painter, who spent much of his time in the Sierra Nevada painting scenes of the mountains and lakes. Born in Missouri in the 1880's, Payne made much of his reputation on his paintings of the scenery in the High Sierra. There are many paintings in his body of work which depict scenes from the Big Pine area. He was known to spend days at a time camping in the Big Pine area, collecting sketches which he would later translate into completed paintings in his studio.

From checking the map, we knew that Payne Lake was nearly due west of Sixth Lake, one of the creatively named lakes in the drainage for the North Fork of Big Pine Creek. Our original plan was to hike on trail to Fourth Lake the first day, and make our camp there. We started up the Big Pine Creek trail, with Fourth Lake on our minds. However, as we passed Third Lake, we saw a very inviting campsite near the bank of Third Lake, along side a rounded cove of the lake. A quick poll was taken, and the decision was made. We had found our campsite.

Everyone unpacked, pitched their tents, and relaxed after the day of hiking. The evening rolled around, and all were prepared for the group potluck with their offerings. There was fresh baked pizza, sliced apples, avocado, salami and cheese, and crackers. We were lucky with the weather - although the hike was warm, we had none of the ubiquitous late afternoon thundershowers that the Sierra is famous for.

Saturday morning, we set out on our trek to find Payne Lake, which we knew was hiding behind Peaklet 11,818. We took the trail as far as Sixth Lake, but after that, we were on our own, with map and compass. The trail peters out on a saddle above Sixth Lake, which gave us a good view of the lake valley and the terrain beyond. After taking some bearings, we decided on a course of action, and set off in the direction of Payne Lake. On the other side of the valley, we found that we were slightly north of our intended des-



Alex Novotny, Kay Novotny, Rick Pudil, Jim Dohn, Collette Simonds, and Jean Konnoff navigate to Payne Lake Photo by Gary Novotny

Payne Lake, continued...

tination. We made the course correction and found ourselves on track to Payne Lake. We were a bit disappointed in the size of the lake, once we found it – but the trek to the lake was interesting, because the outflow from the lake flowed under our feet – beneath the boulders we were scrambling across. We clambered to the top of the peaklet – a pile of rocks near the two lakes, where we ate our lunch. After lunch, we returned to camp, enjoying the beautiful view of the meadow area around Sixth and Seventh Lakes. These lakes do not have fish in them any more, and therefore are great amphibian habitat.

The next day, several of us embarked on a trip to Palisade Glacier. To get to the glacier, you go through Sam Mack Meadow, a worthy destination in its own right. Once through the meadow, you follow a switchback trail up the side of the mountain next to the meadow. Along the way are fields of shooting stars and columbine. At the top of the cliff, the trail peters out into a duck-marked use trail to the glacier. To get the best view of the glacier, you must cross a talus slope, and climb up the side of the terminal moraine. Once at the top of the ridge, you are greeted with a wide view of the glacier, including the glacial lake, complete with icebergs! The glacier is shrinking, however, it still extends from the base of Mt. Sill on the left, to the base of Mt. Winchell on the right. The color of the glacial lake is an almost iridescent blue, because of the minerals suspended in the water which the glacier has carved out of the mountains.

Upon returning from the glacier, we packed up camp and headed back down the trail toward Big Pine and civilization. As is often the case, the trip down seemed to fly by, and before long, we were standing outside of the small grocery store located at the Big Pine Resort area. Susan Richmond, our co-leader for the trip, bravely asked the proprietor of the store if she would re-open for us, since we had our hearts set on ice cream bars from her freezer. The kind (and wise) retailer complied, and we all sat around the picnic table, eating ice cream, and re-living the best moments of the trip.

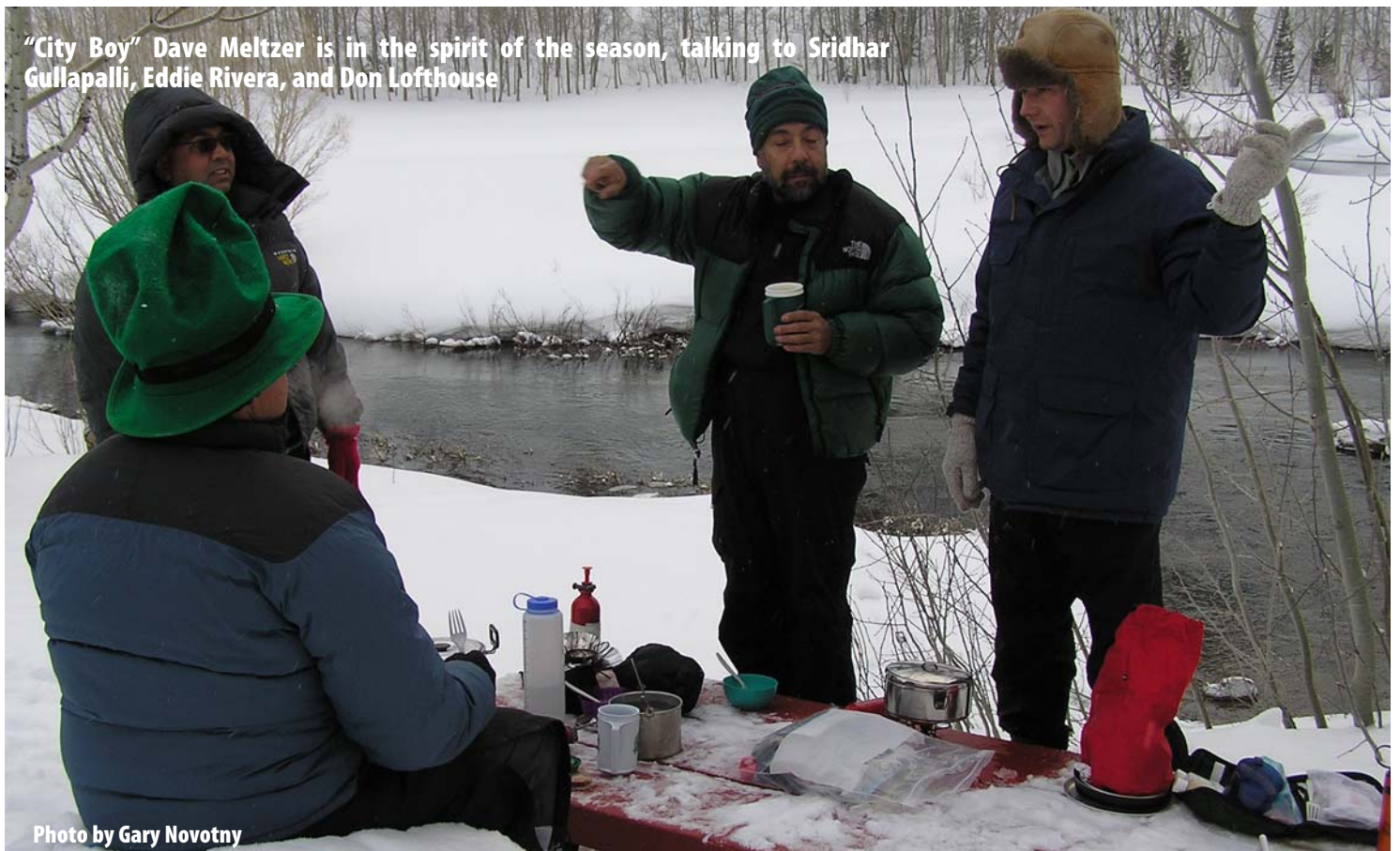


Alex Novotny negotiates the stream through Sam Mack Meadow as Kay Novotny, Rick Pudil, and Jean Konhoff look on. Photo by Gary Novotny



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"City Boy" Dave Meltzer is in the spirit of the season, talking to Sridhar Gullapalli, Eddie Rivera, and Don Lofthouse

Photo by Gary Novotny