



[www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc](http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc)  
Vol 20, No. 1 / Winter 2009

# Newsletter

Newsletter of the Wilderness Training Committee

A group of about eight people are climbing a steep, yellowish-brown rock face. They are wearing helmets, backpacks, and outdoor gear. The scene is set against a clear blue sky.

## Taking a "Peak" in Joshua Tree



## WTC Officers

See page 8 for contact info

## WTC

Chair  
**Jane Simpson**

## Long Beach

Area Chair  
**David Meltzer**  
Area Vice Chair  
**Jean Konnoff**  
Area Trips  
**Mike Adams**  
Area Registrar  
**Jean Konnoff**

## Orange County

Area Chair  
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**Tom McDonnell**  
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## San Gabriel Valley

Area Chair  
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Area Chair  
**Gerard Lewis**  
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**Kathy Rich**  
Area Trips  
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Area Registrar  
**Ann Pedreschi**

*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: knovotny27@gmail.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 Sierra in the winter without freezing, and where do you go when you need to go?

You will learn about the beauty and glory of a moonlit hike through the snow. You will learn kick-stepping 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.

## Late Trip!

Feb 8/Sun

Crescenta Valley Group, WTC

O/Colonel Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park: Come celebrate Black History Month and experience some California history on this trip to Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park, located just north of Bakersfield. Allensworth, founded in 1908, is the only California town to be founded, financed and governed by African Americans. Park staff will give us a guided tour, followed by free time to further explore and enjoy this historic treasure. Space is limited; contact leader for reservation. Park entrance fee is \$4 per vehicle. Ldr: Gerard Lewis (818-727-7682, ahumada@aol.com). Co-Ldr: Melody Anderson.

## Trips Liability Notice

**Liability Waiver Notice** To participate in a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To see a copy of this waiver prior to attending the outing, please see [www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms), or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version

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

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



## 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 2009 WTC Newsletter: Feb 15**

**For publication in the Summer 2009 WTC Newsletter: May 15**

These are the last days for trips to be submitted to the WTC Outings Chair. Provisional trips and leaders should already have an LTC review. Restricted trips should prepare a Mountaineering Application.

**For publication in the 311 Angeles Chapter Schedule (Jul 5 - Oct 31): Mar 9**

**For publication in the 312 Angeles Chapter Schedule (Nov 5 - Feb 28): Jul 9**

These are the last days for trips to be submitted to the WTC Outings Chair. Provisional trips and leaders should already have an LTC review. Restricted trips should prepare a Mountaineering Application.

## On The Cover

Under a bright blue desert sky, the Long Beach/South Bay Group 1 WTC class makes their way up a peak in Joshua Tree National Park, during the navigation/rock climbing outing.

Photo taken by Gary Novotny, instructor, Group 1.

# Café Cirque

## Enjoying the high life at Café Cirque

Submitted by Ron Campbell

Café Cirque had all the accoutrements of a fine dining establishment: tablecloth, brass candlesticks, chefs in toques and, of course, inflatable pink flamingos.

Seven back-country gourmets met at Café Cirque near Chicken Springs Lake on Saturday, July 26, to celebrate Decadent Wilderness Weekend VI.

Most were hardened veterans of past Gourmet Backpacks, enured to the harsh rigors of hauling fresh produce, wine and ice cream near treeline. You've got to be tough to eat well at altitude.

We had gathered in the dim pre-dawn hours (8 a.m.) at a primitive, remote trailhead (Horseshoe Meadow) to brave the brutally long (4 miles), dizzying (1,300-foot gain) death march to Chicken Springs Lake.

On arrival at camp, a few dove in the lake. Most chose to gather their strength (nap) for the coming labor.

As dinner approached, the cooks commandeered several granite countertops to prepare their fare.

I was first out the gate with Crimini mushrooms and roasted red peppers, marinated in olive oil, balsamic vinegar and garlic.

Lisa Buckley quickly topped that with marinated Shiitake mushrooms, gently sautéed and skewered on fresh rosemary sprigs.

Next up was a trio of salads – a Greek salad from co-leader Georgette Rieck, grapefruit with avocado from the very busy Lisa and an amazing combo of baby spring mix, pears, Gorgonzola and candied walnuts in a raspberry vinaigrette from first-time Gourmet Backpacker Pamela Rowe.

While we were awaiting the main courses, we sipped a variety of red wines, including a nice Black Swan Cabernet contributed by co-leader Ed Cottone and a red of uncertain vintage and missing label from Edd Ruskowitz.

Melissa Kane prepared the first entrée, vegan pasta with mushrooms in a vegan cream

sauce that couldn't have been creamier if it mooed. Georgette and I catered to our more carnivorous (fisherous?) companions. She sautéed Alaskan sockeye salmon and served it with dill. I meanwhile offered up shrimp pasta in a spicy arrabiatta sauce.

Right around this time, a ranger came into camp. After she checked our wilderness permit, we invited her to dinner. She accepted. We also offered her some wine. I need to point out for the record that she declined the wine, explaining that she was on duty for another hour. Apparently some obscure, onerous federal regulation bars government employees from drinking on the job. Oh, the humanity.

While most of us were stuffing our faces with dinner, Pamela prepared a delightful strawberry chocolate fondue. Ed Cottone, fresh from months of Army Reserve training, whipped up a most unmilitary dish, Bananas Foster. He cut several bananas lengthwise, sautéed them in butter, doused them with rum, flambéed the mix and topped it with ice cream. He'd kept the ice cream cold with several pounds of dry ice. You'll never find that in an MRE, Ed.

On Sunday morning I cooked Hangtown Fry, a scramble of eggs, oysters, bacon, bread crumbs and green onions. It's said to have been the last meal of many condemned men in Gold Rush-era Placerville.

Thus fortified, we set out for Cirque Peak, reaching the summit in a couple of hours via the west slope. Then it was back to camp where we munched leftovers (yes, there were some) and drank a little wine before hoisting our (slightly lighter) backpacks and returning to the trailhead.

In the parking lot we met one of my former WTC students, Chuck Ward. Chuck and a couple of friends had just completed the 98-mile segment of the Pacific Crest Trail from Walker Pass, near Ridgecrest, to Horseshoe Meadow. After exchanging stories of our trips, Chuck, a confirmed ultralighter, let me pick up his backpack.

It weighed 9 lbs.

But of course Chuck had not enjoyed wine or fresh salad or salmon or pasta or ice cream or even inflatable flamingos on his trek.

Life is filled with hard choices. Mine just happen to include pasta, red wine and chocolate.



**The wine selection at Decadent Wilderness Weekend VI was extensive. Photo by Ron Campbell**

# 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 13/Sat 

LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks

### 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 checkout. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. Send sase, \$25 deposit (Sierra Club-refunded at trailhead), phones to Ldr: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman.

Dec 13/Sat 

WTC

### M/Staff Rock Workshop

This staff development workshop is intended to prepare WTC staff to be effective instructors in WTC's rock scrambling instruction. Participation is limited to WTC staff who have passed the M-rock checkoff or are scheduled to take it. Early sign-up recommended, since group size is limited. To participate, send name, contact and rideshare info, WTC area, Class 3 climbing experience, and date of M-rock checkoff to Ldr: Patrick McKusky. Asst: Tom McDonnell.

Dec 14/Sun 

LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks

### I/Warren Pt Navigation

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

Dec 14/Sun 

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

### O/Mt Wilson/Manzanita Ridge

WTC Introductory Hike. Invigorating conditioning hike at a moderate pace. 10-mile r/t, 4000' gain. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January '09. Subjects include safe mountain travel, map & compass and wilderness first aid. This is a residential neighborhood so be mindful of parking regulations and resident's quiet enjoyment of their neighborhood. Meet 9 am at trailhead. Mira Monte Ave and Mt Wilson Trail Dr. Take I-210 to Baldwin Ave exit, take Baldwin N to Mira Monte, Right to trailhead. Bring hiking boots, 2 liters water, snacks to share. Ldr: David Meltzer. Co-Ldr: Gary Novotny.

## December continued

Dec 14/Sun



WTC

### O/Mt Lukens (5074')

Big Tujunga to Mt. Lukens via Stone Canyon Trail. Moderate hike to the highest point in the City of LA, 8 mile rt 3200' gain. A magnificent vista on a clear day. Meet 8 am Ralph's parking lot, 10455 Sunland Blvd. (Frwy 210 and Sunland Blvd. Bring: 2 liters water, lugsoles, sunscreen, lunch. Co-Leaders: Steve Curry, Edie Jaranilla.

## January

Jan 3/Sat



WTC, LPC

### O/Temescal Pk (2126')

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

Jan 4/Sun



WTC

### O/Bedford Pk (3800'+)

A good prep for WTC students who aren't sure where they stand physically - here's your chance to find out before your scheduled Conditioning Test Hike. At 7 mi round trip, 2000' gain, the hike is challenging, consistently uphill, led at a moderate pace and climaxing with unobstructed views of Mt. Baldy, San Geronio and San Jacinto peaks. Meet 7:30 am at the parking turnaround at the end of Silverado Canyon. Bring water (2 qts min), snacks and an extra clothing layer or two. Rain cancels. Ldr: Edd Ruskowitz. Co-Ldr: Melissa Kane.

Jan 10/Sat



WTC Hundred Peaks

### I/Warren Point (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 Warren Pt and practice micro-navigation skills along the way. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldrs: Ann Pedreschi, Jane Simpson.



## January continued

**Jan 10/Sat** **NEW**  **OCSS**  
**O/Sitton Pk (3,273')**

Leisurely paced 10 miles round trip, 1,400' gain hike to Sitton Peak in the Santa Ana Mountains. Meet 8 am at Parking lot next to Candy Store off Ortega Highway (for directions go to [www.ortegaoaks.com/store](http://www.ortegaoaks.com/store)). 2009 WTC students welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring water, hiking boots, 10 essentials, sunscreen, snack lunch, Adventure Pass, Rain Cancels. Ldr: Bill Payne. Asst: Matthew Hengst.

**Jan 11/Sun** **LTC, WTC, DPS, HPS, SPS**

**I/Warren Pt Navigation** 


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

**Jan 17/Sat** **NEW**  **WTC, Lower Peaks**  
**O/Los Pinos Peak (4510')**

Leisurely paced 11 mile round trip, 2700' gain hike to Los Pinos Peak via the end of Trabuco Creek Road. We will meet at the North Orange County Rideshare point in Orange at 6:45am (just off the 55 Fwy on the East side of Tustin Avenue south of Lincoln). You can alternatively meet us at 7:30am at the intersection of Trabuco Canyon and Trabuco Creek Roads (where you leave the pavement). If you have an Adventure, please bring it along. High clearance vehicles encouraged. 2009 WTC students welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring your ten essentials, hiking boots, snack lunch, water, and sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leader: Joe Harvey at [jharvy@hotmail.com](mailto:jharvy@hotmail.com) or 859-358-2800. Assistant: John Cyran.

**Jan 24/Sat**  **Long Beach, WTC**  
**O/Echo Mtn (3207'), Inspiration Pt (4714'), 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 (by the recycling center at Cal State Long Beach, across from the pyramid, near the corner of Atherton Street and Merriam Way) or 9 am at N end of Lake Ave in Altadena with minimum 2 liters water, lunch, lugsoles, hat. Ldr: John H. Asst: Ldr: Dave Fujiyama.

**Jan 24/Sat** **NEW**  **WTC, LPC, Hundred Peaks**  
**O/Mt Zion (3575')**

Loop from Chantry Flat, 10 mi, 2200' gain on trail. Moderately paced hike will go up the Winter Creek and Mt. Zion trails to the summit, and will loop down the Gabrielino Trail. Meet 7:15 am at Chantry Flat. Adventure Pass req'd. Bring Lunch, 2+ liters of water, layered clothing, and appropriate footwear. Rain or shine. Ldr: Robert Bortolin. Asst: KC Reid.

**Jan 25/Sun** **NEW**  **WTC, Hundred Peaks**  
**O/Josephine Pk (5558')**

Hike to this popular peak in the Angeles National Forest which used to be a fire lookout. Enjoy great views of the city and mountains. 8 miles rt, 2100' gain via Colby Canyon Trail and Josephine Peak Trail. Meet 8 am La Cañada rideshare point (Angeles Crest Hwy (Hwy 2), Just N of Foothill Fwy (I-210). Park on Angeles Crest Hwy only). Bring lunch, 2+ liters of water, good footwear, suitable clothing layers. Rain or shine. Ldr: Jeffrey Zinn. Asst: Barry Holchin.

## February

**Feb 7/Sat** **NEW**  **WTC, LPC**  
**O/Temescal Pk (2126')**

Practice conditioning hike for WTC students and others through oak glens and chaparral in Topanga State Park. We will hike to the park's highest peak with spectacular

## February continued

views. 8 mi rt, 1100' gain on fire road and trail. Meet 9:00 a.m. at Trippet Ranch fee parking lot (from Topanga Canyon Blvd, east on Entrada Dr for about 1 mile, turning left at every opportunity until parking lot). Bring water, lunch (or snack), 10-essentials. Rain or shine. Ldr: Monica Suua. Asst: Robert Myers.

**Feb 22/Sun** **NEW**  **WTC**  
**I/Mt Waterman Snowshoe in the San Gabriel Mountains**

Moderately paced snowshoe trek in the Mt Waterman area of the San Gabriel Mountains. Exact route to be determined by snow conditions. Plan on 4-6 mi rt, and approximately 1500' of gain. Bring water, lunch, waterproof lug soled boots, winter clothing, snowshoes, trekking poles w/ snow baskets. Send e-mail with recent conditioning & experience to Ldr: Bruce Michaels. Co-Ldr: Ann Pedreschi.

**Feb 28/Sat** **NEW**  **Desert Peaks, WTC**  
**I/Corkscrew Peak (5804')**

Never leave home without a Corkscrew! Journey to Death Valley with Tina and Mary Mac for an old favorite. Prospective DPSers, WTC students, old seasoned DPSers welcomed! Saturday - climb 3300' gain and 6 miles and join Potluck & Poetry on Saturday night. Time to sightsee in Death Valley on Sunday. Send e-mail/sase, telephone/recent conditioning and ride share information to Ldr: Tina Bowman. Asst: Mary McMannes.

## March

**Mar 15/Sun** **NEW**  **LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks, WTC**  
**E/M/Stoney Point Rock Workshop/Checkoff**

This intermediate and advanced workshop is based on the rock requirements for M and E leadership. Checkoffs for M and E rock must be pre-arranged. It is a restricted trip; to participate you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have suitable rock climbing experience. Helmet and climbing gear required. Email or send climbing resume, completed medical form (2 copies-include SC# on form), address and phone # to Ldr: Ron Hudson. Co-Ldrs: Alex Amies, Dan Richter.

**Mar 21/Sat** **NEW**  **LTC**  
**Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar**

Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC Registrar for Apr 4 seminar. Next seminar: Fall 2009. See ad in back pages of Schedule.

## April

**Apr 3-5/Fri-Sun** **NEW**  **Hundred Peaks, WTC**  
**I/Big Four - Samon Pk (6227'), Big Pine Mtn (6800'), West Big Pine (6490'), Madulce Pk (6536')**

Three day, two night backpack mainly on dirt roads and trails in Santa Barbara County (Big Pine is the high point of Santa Barbara County) with some steep cross-country. Total statistics: about 51 miles and 8000' gain. This trip satisfies WTC experience trip requirements. Email leader with recent conditioning and experience, city, and phone. Ldr: Ted Lubeshkoff, Co-Leader: Wayne Vollaie.

**Apr 4/Sat** **NEW**  **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 21. No registration after this date or at door. Next seminar: Fall 2009. See ad in back pages of Schedule.

## April continued

**Apr 5/Sun** **NEW** 

**LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks**

### O/GPS Class

Intro to Global Positioning System at Eaton Cyn Nature Center, Pasadena. Apply early, no registration at door, start 9am indoors. Focus on Garmin models includes features, selection, operation, use with maps (provided), hands-on field practice in afternoon. We have loaner GPS. Send email/sase, phones, GPS experience & model, \$20 (LTC-no refund later than 5 days prior) to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Robert Myers.

**Apr 18/Sat** **NEW**  **Hundred Peaks, Palos Verdes - South Bay, WTC I/Deer Mtn (5586') and Deep Creek Hot Springs (5' deep)**

19th semi-annual Deep Creek Hot Springs hike/soak/swim with another peak. Moderately paced 17 mi, 4300' gain, utilizing another exploratory x-cntry loop. Bring 10 essentials, lugs, (swim suit optional). High clearance vehicles desirable for dirt road driving. No beginners. Plan on spending full day - it's near Hesperia. Rain cancels. Send email (preferable - bholchin@cox.net) or sase with carpool and recent conditioning info to Ldr: Barry Holchin. Co-Ldr: Wayne Vollaie.

**Apr 18-19/Sat-Sun** **NEW**  **I/Quail Mtn (5814')**

**WTC**

Easy paced but moderately strenuous 14 mi rt, 1800' gain, backpack to Quail Mtn, highest point in this region of the desert 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 steep, rocky sections 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: Charles Irving.

**Apr 18-19/Sat-Sun** **LTC, WTC, Hundred Pks, Desert Pks, Sierra Pks I/Indian Cove Navigation** **NEW** 

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

**Apr 18-19/Sat-Sun** **NEW**  **Desert Peaks, WTC MR/Clark Mtn (7907'), New York Mtns (7532')**

Climb two classic 3rd class dessert peaks in beautiful settings in the Eastern Mojave with a car camp in the local dessert. Happy hour Sat night. Both climbs are moderate 3rd class. Sat we will climb Clark (2 mi rt, 1900' gain), Sun New York (4 mi rt, 1900' gain). Class 3 rock experience required. Restricted to Sierra Club members (medical forms required). Send email/sase, detailed resume including class 3 rock experience to Ldr: Dan Richter. Asst: Asher Waxman.

**Apr 18-19/Sat-Sun** **NEW**  **WAS, WTC I/Whale Pk (5349'), Granite Mtn #2 (5633')**

Join us to climb two desert-type peaks in Anza Desert SP which is known for its wildflowers and variety of desert plants. Sat climb Whale Peak, 9 mi rt, 1700' gain. Sun do Granite from the south (Oriflamme Canyon), 8 mi rt, 3000' gain. Both are moderately paced but strenuous hikes. Car camp Fri and/or Sat nights. Sat evening potluck. Bring goodies to share, water, lunch, 10 essentials, all-weather gear for day-hikes. Send 2 sase or email, with recent experience & conditioning, H&W phones, and rideshare info to Ldr: Doan-Trang Tran. Asst: Neal Robbins.

**Apr 25/Sat** **NEW**  **O/Leave No Trace Workshop**

**WTC**

Join us for a short hike in O'Melveny Park to learn more about using Leave No Trace ethics in your outdoor activities. The workshop strives to educate all those who enjoy the outdoors about the nature of their recreational impacts as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts. Material will be provided. Includes Environmental Awareness credit for prospective I rated leaders. Meet at 8.30 am in

## April

parking lot of O'Melveny Park, 17300 Sesnon Blvd. just west (0.6 miles) of Balboa Blvd. in northern San Fernando Valley above Granada Hills. All day workshop, will end at 4 pm. \$5 fee for materials. Space limited, contact Ldrs for reservation. Bring water, lunch, notebook and pen. Rain cancels. Contact Ldr: Gerard Lewis Co-Ldr: Melody Anderson

**Apr 25-26/Sat-Sun** **NEW** 

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

## May

**May 2/Sat** **NEW** 

**WTC, LTC**

### 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: Robert Myers, Adrienne Benedict, Jane Simpson.

**May 2-3/Sat-Sun** **NEW** 

**Hundred Peaks, WTC**

### I/The Big Three - McKinley Mtn (6200'), San Rafael Mtn (6593'), Santa Cruz Pk (5570')

Very strenuous, moderately paced backpack in central Santa Barbara County, two-day total 33 miles, 8600' gain, following roads and often overgrown trails. This trip satisfies WTC experience trip requirements. Email leader with recent conditioning and experience, city, and phone. Leader: Ted Lubeshkoff, Co-leader: Wayne Vollaie.

**May 2-3/Sat-Sun** **NEW** 

**WTC**

### I/Quail Mtn (5814')

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

**May 9-10/Sat-Sun** **NEW**  **LTC, WTC, Desert Peaks, Desert Comm I/Places We've Saved Navigation Noodle in Mojave National Preserve**

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

**May 16-17/Sat-Sun** **NEW** 

**Sierra Peaks, WTC**

### M/Rockhouse Pk (8,360'), Taylor Dome (8,802')

Climb these two peaks situated in the Southern Sierra. We will climb these as 2 day hikes with a car camp Sat night. On Saturday climb Rockhouse Peak via the class 2 north slope. On Sunday climb Taylor Dome via the class 2 west ridge and a class 3 summit block. Experience with class 3 rock and good fitness required. WTC OK. Send email with conditioning and experience to Ldr: Greg Mason, Co-Ldr: Alex Amies.

## May continued

### May 16-17/Sat-Sun **NEW** **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 some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing resume, email, H&W phones to Ldr: Tina Bowman. Co-Ldr: Tom McDonnell.

### May 23/Sat **NEW** **LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks 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 checkout. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. Send sase, phones, \$25 deposit (Sierra Club, refunded at trailhead) to Ldr: Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman.

### May 23-25/Sat-Mon **NEW** **Desert Peaks, WTC I/Inyo Crest Traverse (Mt Inyo, Keynot Pk, New York Butte, Pleasant Mtn)**

On Saturday, set up car shuttle then backpack from Cerro Gordo to the Inyo crest and out to Pleasant Mtn (9,690'); explore Salt Tram on the way. Sat eve camp near New York Butte (10,668'), climb peak Sun am, then continue 4 mi along crest to Keynot Pk (11,101'). Spend Sun eve at Bedsprings Camp, Mon climb Mt Inyo (10,975') and head down to cars. Total stats ~15mi, 2000', mostly xc, carry own water. Send email detailing experience, conditioning and rideshare info to: Ldr: Kathy Rich. Co-Ldrs: Barbee and Larry Tidball.

### May 30/Sat **NEW** **Hundred Peaks, WTC O/Baldylocks and the Three Ts**

Our sixth annual - for Big Bad Wolves only! You know the story: Baldylocks heads out from her Mount Baldy Village home at the strike of dawn and hikes up 6000' in 6 miles to the top of Mount Baldy (10,064') where, gazing eastward, she spies Mama T, Papa T and Baby T, aka the Three Ts. "A T party!" she exclaims, then scrambles over Devil's Backbone, past the ski lift and up Thunder Mountain (8587'), Telegraph Peak (8985') and Timber Mountain (8303') before descending Icehouse Canyon to Grandma's house and a waiting car shuttle. "Only 20 miles and 8000' gain - this hike was ju-u-u-u-st right!" Long, strenuous and paced to complete pre-dark. But if you think this hike is just right, too, email your conditioning, experience and contact info to Ldr: Edd Ruskowitz. Asst: Melissa Kane..

## Beyond May

### Jun 6/Sat **NEW** **WTC, Hundred Peaks, LTC I/Heart Bar Pk (8332')**

Practice navigation for Sunday's checkoff on this 7 mile rt, 1400' gain hike. We will take a cross-country route to Heart Bar Pk and practice micro-navigation skills along the way. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldrs: Jane Simpson, Adrienne Benedict.

### Jun 6-7/Sat-Sun **NEW** **WTC, Sierra Peaks MR/Mt Abbot (13,715')**

Join us for a fun filled two day snow climb of Mt Abbot (an SPS Emblem peak) by the North Couloir. This trip will involve approximately 1000' of snow climbing followed by third class as we approach the summit. Depending on weather and snow conditions, we will either climb the peak on Sat or Sun. Restricted to Sierra Club members with suitable ice axe, crampon, and class 3 rock experience. Medical form required. Please send email with contact information and climbing resume to Ldr: Jennie Thomas. Assts: Tom McDonnell, Ed Cottone.

## Beyond May continued

### Jun 7/Sun **LTC, WTC, Hundred Peaks, Desert Peaks, Sierra Peaks I/Grinnell Ridge Navigation** **NEW**

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

### Jun 12-14/Fri-Sun **NEW** **LTC, Harwood Lodge, WTC C/Wilderness First Aid Course**

Runs from 8 am Fri to 5.30 pm Sun. Fee includes lodging, meals and practice first aid kit. Proof of CPR within previous 4 years required to enroll. Fee \$205 with SC#/\$215 non-member (full refund through May 8). For application contact Ldr: Steve Schuster.

### Jun 13-14/Sat-Sun **NEW** **Sierra Peaks, WTC MR/Mt Abbot (13,704'), Mt Dade (13,600')**

Saturday backpack from Rock Creek to camp at Treasure Lakes; climb Dade via The Hourglass (5 mi, 3400 gain). Sunday climb Abbot via Southeast Buttress, hike out (5mi, 2,500 gain). Trip restricted to Sierra Club members having experience with 3rd class rock, ice axe and crampons. Send email with Sierra Club #, medical form and resume detailing experience, conditioning and rideshare info to: Ldr: Kathy Rich. Co-Ldr: Alexander Smirnoff.

### Jun 20-21/Sat-Sun **NEW** **Sierra Peaks, WTC MR/Mt McAdie (13,799')**

Sat. hike 3880' elevation gain to Consultation Lake at 11,680'. Sun climb to Arc Pass 13,120'. From pass climb McAdie, 3rd class rock near summit. Return to camp and out to cars. June could be a snow climb. Restricted to SC membership, experience with 3rd class rock, ice ax and crampons, waiver and medical questionnaire. Send sase or email with experience and conditioning, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr: Barbee Tidball. Co-Ldr: Kathy Rich.

### Jun 27/Sat **NEW** **WTC O/Leave No Trace Workshop**

Join us for a short hike in Griffith Park to learn more about using Leave No Trace ethics in your outdoor activities. The workshop strives to educate all those who enjoy the outdoors about the nature of their recreational impacts as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts. Material will be provided. Includes Environmental Awareness credit for prospective I rated leaders. Meet 8:30 am at Griffith Park Ranger Station, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive. All day workshop, will end at 4:00 pm. \$5 fee for materials. Space limited, contact ldrs for reservation. Bring water, lunch, notebook and pen. Rain cancels. Contact Ldr: Gerard Lewis Co-Ldr: Melody Anderson

### Jul 31 - Aug 2/Fri-Sun **NEW** **WTC I/Mt Stanford (N) (12,836')**

Fri leisurely paced hike from Rock Creek to camp at Hilton Lakes, 5 mi, 1500' gain. Relax and enjoy Hilton Lakes...and happy hour! Sat, boulder hop and talus climb our way to the summit, 5 mi rt, 2500' gain, then back to lakes for another group happy hour. Sun pack out, 5 mi to cars. Send email experience/conditioning to Ldr: Nicole Bunni. Asst: Kim Homan.

### Sep 18-20/Fri-Sun **NEW** **WTC I/Twin Lakes-Silliman NavPack Sequoia NP**

Improve your navigation skills, get a peak and get happy on a moderately paced 6.5 mi, 2600' gain backpack to beautiful Twin Lakes. Sat xc explore both sides of Silliman Crest, and climb a no-name peak, 1400' net gain via 7 mi loop. Return to camp for shared treats and gourmet quesadillas. Sun head home. Comfort on class 2 climbing required. No tigers please. Send check for \$5 permit fee (payable to WTC), 1 sase (or email preferred), contact & rideshare info, recent backpacking & conditioning experience to Ldr: Jane Simpson. Co-Ldrs: Adrienne Benedict, Ann Pedreschi.



# Outings Leader Directory

Please see the Outings Leader Directory on page 8 of the WTC Newsletter print version, contact the newsletter editor, Kay Novotny, at [knovotny27@gmail.com](mailto:knovotny27@gmail.com), or call the WTC info line at 310-967-2029 for SASE and leader contact information.





“To explore, enjoy,  
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to practice and  
promote the  
responsible use of  
the earth’s ecosystem  
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to educate and  
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# Back to “The Beast”

(North Guard, Aug. 1-3, 2008)

By Ron Campbell

In the summer of 2007, Tom McDonnell and I led what was supposed to be a three-day climb of Mt. Brewer and North Guard from the east side. Sometime around 2:30 p.m. on Day 2, we stood atop Brewer looking across the col at North Guard. We were out of time and could go no farther.

So when we started planning trips last spring, North Guard topped both of our grudge lists.

This time, we decided, it would be different. This time we wouldn't do the rollercoaster backpack 2,800 feet up Kearsarge Pass, 3,600 feet down to Junction Meadow and 1,300 feet up to East Lake. No, this would be a simple, straightforward slog from the west side, straight up from Cedar Grove to a lakeside camp near Sphinx Crest. We wouldn't waste valuable morning hours navigating the forested maze on Brewer's east slope either. No, we'd just follow a use trail over a pass and so onto the upper slopes of North Guard.

And we'd have plenty of time to do Brewer that same day.

Real. Nice. Theory.

Four climbers - Susan and Bill Livingston, Wayne Vollaie and Edd Ruskowitz - joined Tom and me at Cedar Grove on Friday morning. After listening to the ranger lecture, we picked up the North Guard register; rangers had taken it out via helicopter two summers previously while looking for a lost hiker. We had volunteered to take it back.

The trip to North Guard starts in the forested bottom of Kings Canyon and gets more scenic by the mile. For the first hour or so you gain little elevation. Then, after reaching the junction of Bubbs Creek and Sphinx Creek, the trail turns almost straight up. A good trail climbs the slope east of Sphinx Creek, offering spectacular views of Kings Canyon and the Sphinx, until about the 8,800-ft. level. From that point on, one must follow an increasingly obscure use trail. Around 9,200 ft. we crossed to the west side of the creek and almost immediately encountered thick brush and a





# "The Beast", continued...

steep boulder field perhaps 200 ft. high. I'm sure there's a good route across this boulder field. We didn't find it. It took a few hours to navigate the boulder field and the steep hillside above it to the second in a chain of lakes. There we made camp.

Sometime during our climb of the boulder field we stopped referring to our destination as North Guard. It became The Beast.

We left at 6 a.m. Saturday, quickly reaching a pair of lakes at 10,500 ft. From there we swung south and a little west through soggy ground to a higher lake (marked 10,752 on the map) and a magnificent view of the Sphinx Crest. The Sphinx Col is the obvious low point (about 12,00 ft.) southeast of this lake. From here we dropped into the Brewer Creek basin, staying as high as we could until we had traversed to the east slope of a prominent ridge that runs southwestward from North Guard.

Here at last we got a clear view of The Beast. A staircase of slabs aiming to the south of the peak is the obvious route. Even better, it's the correct route. After a few hundred feet of moderate 3rd class climbing we came to a steep section ending with a head wall. We belayed this last section, circled wide to the left of the head wall and dropped down 10 feet or so into a sandy chute. From there we slogged up toward the summit. We tried to cut directly over the rocks to the summit, quickly got cliffed out, dropped a little to the right (toward Brewer) and squeezed up between a few large boulders and so to the summit.

The summit block of North Guard is, as advertised, a long, narrow pyramid of rock bending out above an abyss. I got just close enough to touch the base before retreating. Susan, who had failed to reach North Guard on two prior attempts, shinnied up the pyramid and touched the top.

North Guard commands an extraordinary view in all directions. To the east is Kearsarge and the crest of the Sierra. Just to the south, the taller, gentler peak of Brewer seems somehow anticlimactic. To the west the hills fall away quickly; in clearer weather one could imagine seeing the Coast Range.

It was 2 p.m. Tom and I felt absolutely no desire to reprise Brewer. We turned back for the long, long return to camp.

My thanks to Tom for the great assist and to our very patient participants for carrying the register and helping us cross The Beast off our grudge list.

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**Gourmet Backpack co-leaders (from left) Ron Campbell, Georgette Rieck and Ed Cottone drink a celebratory toast at Cafe Cirque. Photo by Edd Ruskowitz**