

# WTCNewsletter

Newsletter of The Wilderness Training Committee

Vol. 24, No. 4 | Fall 2013

## Learning The Ropes!

WTC takes you a long way, but there's so much more advanced training available in snow, rock, navigation, first aid and more! Making that point are West LA graduates Tohru Ohnuki and Brittany Pennington flying the colors on Pt. Ferene above the Kahiltna Glacier while on a mountaineering course in Alaska this year. Yeah, that's Denali back there.



# THE HOME STRETCH

## GRADUATION ROULETTE

For the first time in... ever, WTC Graduation plans feature a Half Dome-sized monkey wrench thanks to some in Washington. The National Parks are currently closed, forcing Graduation into four individual plan B's. Hopefully the government shutdown will be shut down by the time you read this, allowing all four WTC areas to celebrate as planned at our Paradise in the Desert.

But, if the shutdown continues, fear not: your WTC Leaders have cobbled together contingency plans. Unfortunately, instead of one big, all-inclusive multi-area clambake, those plans feature individual areas doing their own thing (e.g., Orange County WTC has reserved campsites in Idyllwild). If you've not heard from your Group Leaders about Graduation, contact them immediately for updates.

Finally, remember that WTC Graduation is a celebration and a culmination of something very special in your life. Graduating or not, you belong here. Shutdown or not, we'll see you soon.

## MARKING OUR TERRITORY

**Aside from the usual plea for photos and trip reports to feature in the WTC Newsletter, we're looking for photos like the one this issue's cover. No, I'm not talking about snow, crampons nor crawling, frozen rivers. I want to publish a spread of photos featuring that ubiquitous WTC bandana.**

**I've noticed more and more of these pics and thought the Winter Edition—the one new students get on their first day of class—would be an ideal welcome from our 2013 students and staff. Just be sure the bandanas are clean; they're really nothing to sneeze at.**

## Staying Found

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

Silly rabbit.

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

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

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

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

Do it because staying found can save your life.

— Edd Ruskowitz, WTC Newsletter Editor





### WTC CONQUERS MT. STARR KING

A wild bunch led by Matt Hengst (lower right) raises the flag on 5th class Mt. Starr King in Yosemite. Photo by Matt Hengst

## HEADLINE DEADLINES

For publication in the Fall 2013 WTC Newsletter: **August 23**

For publication in the Winter 2014 WTC Newsletter: **November 15**

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

## OUTINGS

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

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

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

*The WTC newsletter is published quarterly for students and staff of the Wilderness Training Committee and is distributed at class sites. It is also available at [WildernessTravelCourse.org](http://WildernessTravelCourse.org) as a download in PDF format. All questions, copy and photo submissions should be directed to Edd Ruskowitz, WTC Newsletter Editor, at [hikinedd@yahoo.com](mailto:hikinedd@yahoo.com)*

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

**On the Cover** West LA graduates Tohru Ohnuki and Brittany Pennington flying the colors on Pt. Ferene above the Kahiltina Glacier during a mountaineering course in Alaska this year.

## OFFICERS

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Adrienne Benedict  
and Tom McDonnell  
*WTC Outings Co-chairs*

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Joan Rosenburg *Area Registrar*

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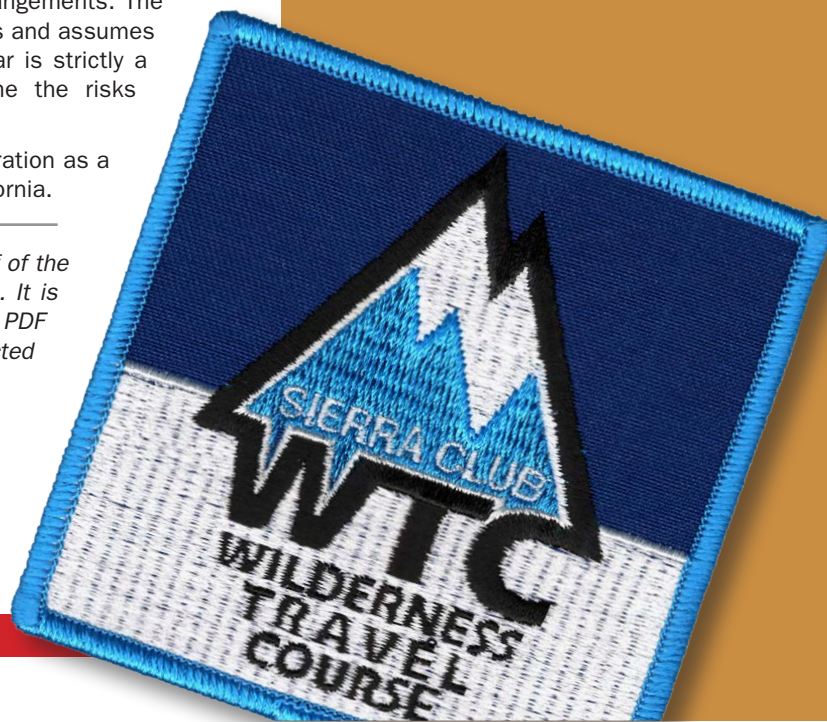
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Linda Robb *Area Vice Chair*  
Matt Hengst *Area Trips*  
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Adrienne Benedict *Area Trips*  
Danielle Zucker *Area Registrar*





**D**ays later and my calves still ache, my tailbone hurts from stumbling/falling, I have a black toe from dropping a book on it, as I cleaned out my car backseat to sleep in... all wonderfully painful reminders of the most amazing trip this year.

Once the itinerary went out a week prior, I went into a sea of deep-doubt. WTF am I doing? This is crazy! I'm going to cancel... all the usual b.s. It took my friend Mike from SF to sway me ("if you die, at least your body will be eaten by adorable animals, you love animals" – DO THIS!) as well as my leader from WTC ("this is a normal itinerary, your leader is a great guy") to get my butt to the McGee Creek trailhead late Friday night. My comfort zone was again, at the limits when the leader for this trip strongly suggested to campout in the Eastern Sierras, 5 hours north of LA, the night before our 7AM departure. For the first time in my life, I was going to sleep in my car. Okay fine. I'm going. Lets do this.

As I drove into the trailhead parking area around midnight, I was greeted by two bunnies, one giant bat, a panicked deer, some scurry-critters (unofficial) and a giant green meteorite or shooting star. I thought I was hallucinating from all the driving I just did but no, we were just beyond the peak of the Perseid meteor shower so it wasn't a stretch to see what I saw. It. Was. Surreal. I've arrived.

I parked and stretched and inhaled the crisp air and then I saw a group of late night hikers heading out from the trail with their headlamps a-glow. Of course after that meteor, I thought I was seeing aliens but alas, they were my nature-compadres. I snuggled up in the backseat and surprisingly actually got some sleep, since I dreamt a little. I woke up a little past 6 and made coffee and ate a bagel and greeted the group for our 6mi -in reality- 8.5 mi. hike into our camp at Big McGee Lake for the weekend. There were 7 of us total and like most nature loving people I meet, we formed a quick bond. The hike in was tough but gorgeous. We shared the trail with a lot of horses and cowboys, since there was a pack station at the trailhead. The assistant leader told this horrible story of how they came across a horse once that just died of a

# Red Slate

TRIP REPORT *by* JENNY COMPERDA, WTC/SGV STUDENT 2013





heart attack on the trail. I can see how a creature could go through such an extreme; this trail was brutal – with all the natural steps that just kept going and this empty promise of a campsite on a lake that never arrived. Until finally, it did.

We set up at Big McGee Lake (10,472 ) roughly 8 hours later and I immediately laid out in my tent once it was up, for a nap. I needed to not be vertical, my body hated me. I drifted in and out of not-quite-sleep when I heard mumblings from the group. “Bear.....coming to eat you Wasim.....use you as a toothpick.....it’s getting closer.....” and then finally JENNY GET UP! It was about 50 feet from my tent and our camp and I tried not to look at it, that is how in denial and terrified I was of it’s presence. I was locking up my bear vault when it occurred to me that DUH I NEED TO PHOTOGRAPH THIS AMAZING ANIMAL!! He leisurely strolled along the side of our campsite as we banged pots and pans to get him to leave. He disappeared down the hill and we never saw him again, thankfully. I didn’t get my picture but hopefully someone from the group did.

Soon after the bear excitement, we had happy hour and I tried to win the award for best contribution with my whiskey and hot chocolate combo but Wasim won with his eggrolls that he “homemade.” Just as the sky got dark, people were drifting off to their tents but I insisted on staying up until the stars came out, which I did. When you do all that backpacking, going to bed early like 8/9, is pretty normal.



## THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

*Mathew Kelliher, Tanya Roton, Patrick Blake, Patrick Vaughn, Wasim Khan, Tom Beckett and...*



*...Jenny Comperda*

The next morning we left our camp as is, at about 6AM and started back on the trail for Red Slate Mountain (13,123 ); 6 hrs of class 1+2 terrain over 2,900 of gain. This was supposed to be easier than the day before but it had it’s own challenges, despite not having a 35lb backpack on. The trail started off gorgeously next to a stream and waterfall, up more natural steps and past Little McGee Lake and Junior McGee Lake (unofficial). Then the nice dirt trail disappeared and we were ascending up talus and large scree for the remainder of the climb. It took a while into the hike to finally see our final destination, Red Slate is a shy peak. Apparently this was a big occasion for some members of our group. They had tried several times before to summit but couldn’t because of weather and had to turn back. We left early enough to avoid the afternoon thunderstorms that usually happen in the Sierras.

I just didn’t understand how we were going to get up there. I thought there were switchbacks hidden on the side but that wasn’t the case. We were actually going to climb, straight up the face – no trail – no switchbacks – just pure torture and that constant clanking sound of walking on talus and large scree. I wanted to cry, it was so hard and the altitude made it even harder to breathe and move. Eventually the talus turned into straight up scrambling with large rocks that moved when you stepped on them. I kept reminding myself not to turn around or look down. We were high up and there was no escaping the fact

that one slip back and you could be tumbling down the jagged talus. I thought we'd never get to the top but I heard Wasim yell – "this is it, we are here" and then miraculously, we were.

I was elated, I was alive! The view was unlike anything I've seen yet. All these alpine lakes below us, a panoramic view of mountains above us, we could even see the area where our campground sat. No picture could do justice but I tried to capture some semblance of the 360 degrees of uncorrupted beauty.

We hung out there, on top for a good 30 minutes while we snacked, snapped pictures and signed the registry. I wanted to be in the moment as deeply as I could and tried not think about how the hell we were going to get back down. I wished for a magical keg of beer to be hidden up there, somewhere. But just trailmix and poweraid for this girl.

There was no secret, easy, dirt trail that went down the other side of the mountain. Surprise, we were to go down the way we came up. Jesus H Christ. I just made every step count and really concentrated – this was not a daydream and enjoy the beauty type of hike. You really had to think, every step of the way. It payed off, I only slipped and fell once and it was closer to the bottom so I didn't go too far. It happened while I was looking for heart shaped rocks, there weren't any. It was brutal, severe and relentless – no hearts. The way down seemed even longer than the way up.

We made it back to our camp just after noon and had the whole day to do nothing. It was glorious. I just laid down for a second and tried not to sleep. There was a looming storm in the distance with the sound of thunder and faint lightening. The sun didn't come out for the rest of the day. We avoided the storm and even saw a double rainbow and a negative rainbow (unofficial) that looked like a line of gray across the sky. We had another happy hour and this time I won with my pasta dish, which wouldn't of won shit in the real world. But camping has simple pleasures. Warm food/drink wins people over. It got cold and people went to bed earlier than the night before. It started to rain a little and that's when I went into my tent for the night, soon after the stars came out.

We debated our 8AM departure time and came to that consensus. It was even more beautiful on the way down because I wasn't dropping f-bombs in my head constantly, and got to enjoy the scenery more. Definitely a better state of mind. We passed a group of hikers doing Red Slate as a DAY HIKE. Friggin bat shit cray. I just couldn't even imagine going all the way up there from the parking lot and back, in one day. I digress, the descent was great until we got to this insanely exposed meadow that never seemed to end, the tradeoff was that it was flat. The final stretch is always the toughest. I start thinking about taking off my pants and putting on a shirt-dress, eating Taco Bell, Starbucks drive through – VENTI ME PLEASE!, peeing in a toilet.... all the luxuries of civilization. Multiple costume changes and "mexican" food in an instant. I digress, again....

Once back down we hug, we congratulate, we say our goodbyes and I'm back on the road home, finally hitting that thunderstorm off the 14. Like a boss, I just casually drove through, passing all the wimps hiding under the overpasses.

What did I learn on this trip? Well, for one, is that I can do it! I might have been the slowest but I did it and felt great after. I learned to trust myself and my instincts. I chose this trip; leave it there and not succumb to the doubt-sea. I learned that if a chill-bear is near, take a damn picture of it! I need to bring more naughty snacks. All those nuts and trailmixes are boring! I was having cheeto envy. I learned that having generous backpacking friends who lend out their gear can make a trip

less stressful (thanks Gabe!). I also need to live near mountains which I also learned on this trip. The Sierras left a huge impression on me this time and I might be moving closer to a proper range, in the near future...



**THE AUTHOR** *Jenny Comperda flanked by trip leaders Patrick Vaughn and Mathew Kelliher.*

*This trip report was reprinted by permission from Jenny Comperda's wonderful blog, "The Dirt Diaries, Travel Tales from Earth." For more photos of her Red Slate adventure go to [dirtidiaries.wordpress.com](http://dirtidiaries.wordpress.com)*



**ALBUM COVER** left To right: Wasim Khan, Tanya Roton, Patrick Blake, Patrick Vaughn, Jenny Comperda, Mathew Kelliher, Tom Beckett



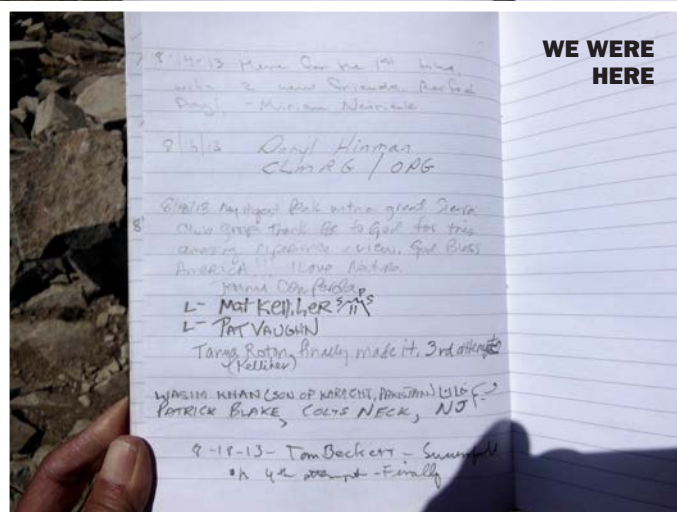
**THE DESCENT HOME**



**MR. BEAR**



**WE WERE  
HERE**







# Outings

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

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

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

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

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

## September 19 | Thu

**WTC**

### **TI O Franken-Stairs Series; Hike 2 of 5**

4 miles, 2 hrs. Stair hike into fall and explore the neighborhoods in Northeast Los Angeles. Wear a weighted backpack to increase your fun (optional). Leaders will share an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January 2014, a class about safe mountain travel, from rock scrambling to wilderness navigation and snow camping. Meet at 6:30 PM at Superior Grocers on 133 W Avenue 45 (90065) in Mt. Washington. Bring water, good spirit and strong legs! Ldr: ALEX PRIETO, Co-Ldr: NIELS QUIST, SARAH QUIST

## September 21 | Sat

**LTC**

### **TR Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar**

Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC Registrar for April 13 seminar to be held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Pasadena. See LTC website ( <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>) for registration information. Next seminar: Spring 2014.

## September 21-22 | Sat-Sun

**SPS, WTC**

### **ET M Moses Mtn (9,331'), N Maggie Mtn (10,234')**

Join us for an M rated trip into the west side of the Golden Trout

Wilderness, Southern Sierra. Perfect M-level WTC experience trip for students wanting to get back out on the rocks. Sat we'll hike in (3 miles, 1000') to set up camp & head for North Maggie Mountain (5 miles, 3000'). Sun we'll do a 3rd class scramble up Moses Mtn (5 mi, 2000') before returning to camp to pack up. Helmets and comfort on 3rd class rock required. Send recent experience, conditioning, and contact & carpool info to Ldr: NEAL ROBBINS, Co-Ldr: STEPHANIE SMITH

## September 21-22 | Sat-Sun

**WTC, SPS**

### **ET I Mt. Goode (13085)**

Last chance experience trip for WTC. Saturday, backpack 4 miles, 1,400' gain from South Lake to camp near Bishop Lake in the scenic Bishop Pass area. Enjoy group happy hour Saturday afternoon. Sunday, climb peak via xc route (2,000' gain, 3 miles rt) and pack out. \$5.50 permit fee to reimburse leaders payable at trailhead. Send email or SASE describing recent conditioning and experience, carpool info to leader: ANNE MARIE RICHARDSON ([annemariesc@yahoo.com](mailto:annemariesc@yahoo.com)). Co-leader: JOE SPEIGL ([jspeigl1@yahoo.com](mailto:jspeigl1@yahoo.com)).

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

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

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



**September 22 | Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS****TR | Grinnell Ridge Navigation**

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

**September 22 | Sun WTC****TI O WTC INTRODUCTORY HIKE**

Echo Mtn, Inspiration Point and Muir Peak (4688): Hike the Sam Merrill trail to the historic railway and resort area at Echo Mtn, then up Castle Canyon to Inspiration Point and on to Muir Peak. We will return by the Middle Merrill trail. Trip is a total of 12 miles with 2900 ft of gain. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January '14. Subjects include safe mountain travel, map & compass and wilderness first aid. Meet 8:30 am at the North end of Lake Street at the corner of Lake and Loma Alta Drive in Altadena by the "Gate". This is a residential neighborhood so be mindful of parking regulations and resident's quiet enjoyment of their neighborhood. Bring 2-3 liters of water, lunch, hiking boots, hat and layered clothing. Leader: DAVID MELTZER. Co-Leader: BARBARA PHILLIPS MELTZER.

**September 28 | Sat LTC, WTC, HPS****TR | Navigation: Beginning Navigation Clinic**

Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass in our local mountains. Beginners to rusty old-timers welcome, and practice is available at all skill levels. Not a checkout, but it will help you prepare. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. 4 mi, 500' gain. Send sase, phones, rideshare info, \$25 deposit, refunded at trailhead (Sierra Club) to Leader: DIANE DUNBAR. Co-Ldr: RICHARD BOARDMAN

**September 28-29 | Sat-Sun WTC, GLS****ET | Mt. Silliman (11,188')**

11 miles rt, 4300' gain. Come see the fall colors in Sequoia National Park. Strenuous but moderately paced backpack from Lodgepole to Silliman Lake 3200' gain (first 3.5 miles are on trail with some use trail; last mile is a cross country climb up to the lake). Sat evening happy hour. Climb Mt. Silliman Sunday morning (2 miles cross country rt, 1000' gain) and then pack out. Return to cars late Sun afternoon. Must be comfortable with cross country and Class 2 terrain and travel on steep friction slabs. Group size limited due to permit. Permit fee. Send recent conditioning and hiking experience, contact numbers, and carpool info to leader: ANNE MULLINS (hike2thepeak@gmail.com) Assistant: BETH EPSTEIN (b.epstein@verizon.net)

**October 2 | Wed LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC****TR M/E R Workshop: Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP8) – Basic Safety System**

First of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. Today's indoor evening workshop of 4 hours reviewing ropes, knots, harnesses, helmets, and basic

climbing gear will take place in Pasadena. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: PAT MCKUSKY

**October 3 | Thurs WTC****TI O Franken-Stairs Series**

Walk 3 of 5: 4 miles, 1.5 hrs. Stair hike into fall and explore the neighborhoods in Northeast Los Angeles. Wear a weighted backpack to increase your fun (optional). Leaders will share an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January 2014, a class about safe mountain travel, from rock scrambling to wilderness navigation and snow camping. Meet at 6:30 PM at Cindy's Restaurant on 1500 Colorado Boulevard (90041) in Eagle Rock. Bring water, good spirit and strong legs! Ldr: HOMER TOM, Co-Ldr: SARAH QUIST

**October 5 | Sat LTC****TR Leadership Training Seminar**

Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. Seminar at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Pasadena. For information, see the LTC website ( <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>). Deadline for receipt of application is September 21st. No registration after this date or at the door. Next seminar: Spring 2014.

**October 5 | Sat LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC****TR M/E R Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP8) – Belaying**

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

**October 5-6 | Sat-Sun WTC****ET | Lake Peak (10,161) - Pushing The Limit**

Are you pushing the limit? Do you need to get one more backpack trip before graduation? Join us for late-season backpack with a gourmet food demo and sunset on Lake Peak. Sat hike 6 miles and 2,100' gain, via the South Fork Trail to Dry Lake (9,065). Set-up camp and then hike XC to Lake Peak. Return to camp for gourmet happy hour demo. Sun a.m., gourmet breakfast demo, pack up and hike 6 miles back to TH. Send hiking resume to tonycebates@yahoo.com. Leaders TONYCE BATES AND VICTORIA OVERBEY.

**October 5-6 | Sat-Sun HPS, DPS, WTC****ET | Eagle Mountain #1 (5320)**

Join us for this moderate 11 mile, 3100' gain weekend outing over steep, rough and rocky terrain for a backpack in the remote wilderness of southern Joshua Tree National Park to this DPS listed peak. We will begin with an early afternoon start from Cottonwood Springs and travel cross-country to our dry campsite at the base of the Eagle Mountains; 3.5 mi, 800' gain to camp for happy hour. Early Sunday, with our daypacks, we'll travel on a cross-country, 2.5 mi, 1700' gain, to summit

**ET WTC Experience Trip****TI Trip of Interest****TR Training Opportunity****MT Mountaineering**

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the highest peak in the Eagle Mountains. After taking in the fantastic views from the top we'll descend via an alternate route for 2 miles heading back to camp to pack up and return across the desert to our cars 3 miles away. WTC or similar experience required, group size limited. This is an HPS Outing co-sponsored by DPS and WTC. Send e-mail with contact info and recent conditioning to Ldr: MICHAEL MCCARTY (mkmccarty@gmail.com) Ass't: DAVE SCOBIE. Sponsored by HPS, DPS WTC

**October 12 | Sat** **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**  
**TR M/E R Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP8) – Rappelling**

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

**October 12-13 | Sat-Sun** **WTC**  
**ET I “Really Last Chance” Graduation Trip**

Easy paced backpacking trip in scenic California desert. We will take exploratory cross-country routes in the Queen Valley area, taking in a peak along the way. Satisfy WTC requirements on this “really last chance” graduation trip. 9 mile rt, 1000' gain. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: ROBERT MYERS. Co-Ldr: ANN PEDRESCHI SHIELDS.

**October 13 | Sun** **WTC**  
**TI O WTC INTRODUCTORY HIKE: MT WILSON/MANZANITA RIDGE**

Invigorating conditioning hike at a moderate pace. 10-14 mile r/t, 4000' gain. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January '14. 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 8:30 AM at trailhead. Mira Monte Ave and Mt Wilson Trail Dr. Take I-210 to Baldwin Ave exit, take Baldwin N to Mira Monte, Right to trailhead. Bring hiking boots, 3 ltrs water, snacks to share. Leader: DAVID MELTZER. Assistant: BARBARA PHILLIPS MELTZER.

**October 17 | Thu** **WTC**  
**TI O Franken-Stairs Series; Walk 4 of 5**

3 miles, 1.5 hrs. Stair hike into fall and explore the neighborhoods in Northeast Los Angeles. Wear a weighted backpack to increase your fun (optional). Leaders will share an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January 2014, a class about safe mountain travel, from rock scrambling to wilderness navigation and snow camping. Meet at 6:30 PM at Starbucks on 7311 North Figueroa Street (90041) in Pasadena. Bring water, good spirit and strong legs! Ldr: AMY SMITH, Co-Ldr: ANNE MULLINS; HOMER TOM.

**October 19-20 | Sat - Sun** **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**  
**TR M/E R Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP8) – Rock Climbing Techniques and Anchors**

4th of 4 climbing workshops open to SC members with prior roped climbing experience. This weekend completes the series of AMP workshops at Joshua Tree National Park and focuses on

climbing and anchors. As space is limited priority will be given to participants who commit to all four workshops. Send e-mail with SC#, resume, phones to Ldr: DAN RICHTER (dan@danrichter.com). Asst: PAT MCKUSKY

**October 20 | Sun** **WTC**  
**TI I Eagle Cliff Mine (4620)**

Enjoy a 6 mile, 1400' gain, loop day hike within our Joshua Tree National Park. Starting from Split Rock we'll first travel xc to nearby Elton Mine & the Lucky Boy Vista before heading to the Eagle Cliff Mine on a xc route to see where a prospector built a rock shelter into the jumbo rocks and several of his artifacts that remain. After lunch we'll head toward the Queen Desert Mine before returning to our cars mid-afternoon. Participants must be comfortable going xc and negotiating steep, loose sections. Other routes possible. Pace slow to moderate. Bring your 10 essentials, a few quarts water, lug soles, lunch, snacks, layers, hat & sunblock. Leader: MICHAEL MCCARTY. Assistant: HOMER TOM.

**October 26 | Sat** **WTC, Long Beach, Crescenta Valley**  
**TI O WTC Introductory Hike - Mount Lukens (5074')**

Mount Lukens (5074') from Deukmejian Wilderness Park via Crescenta View Trail and Rim of the Valley Trail. By trail & fire road to Los Angeles' highest point, with great views of the Verdugo Mountains & Los Angeles. Slow to moderately paced 10 miles round trip with 2900' gain. Meet 8 AM at Deukmejian Wilderness Park, 3429 Markridge Road, Glendale, CA. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January 8, 2014. Subjects include safe mountain travel, map & compass and wilderness first aid. Leader: SHARON MOORE. Co-leader: KAREN BUEHLER.

**October 31 | Thu** **WTC**  
**TI O Franken-Stairs Series; Walk 5 of 5**

4 miles, 1.5 hrs. Halloween Stair Hike - costumes encouraged! Explore the neighborhoods in Northeast Los Angeles. Wear a weighted backpack to increase your fun (optional). Leaders will share an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January 2014, a class about safe mountain travel, from rock scrambling to wilderness navigation and snow camping. Meet at 6:30 PM at Chico's Mexican Restaurant on 100 N Avenue 50 (90042) in Highland Park. Bring water, good spirit and strong legs! Ldr: NIELS QUIST, Co-Ldr: ANNE MULLINS; AMY SMITH.

**November 2-3 | Sat-Sun** **WTC**  
**ET I Carey's Castle**

Travel cross country back in time through dry washes over 70 years to Mr. Carey's cabin constructed from stones in the SW corner of Joshua Tree National Park (4 miles with 1,300 feet gain). Once there, we will set up camp and explore. Far from city lights we will enjoy an amazing star filled night. Sunday AM we will climb nearby peak 3468 (420' gain) before packing up camp and hiking out. Must be comfortable with boulder scrambling and be willing to carry a minimum of 6-7 liters (13-15.5 lbs.) of water to our dry camp. 10 mile, 1720' foot gain total overnight trip. Email contact info and recent experience and conditioning to Ldr: SUZANNE DWYER. Asst: BERNIE FOX



**November 10 | Sun**

**WTC**

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

Hike the Sam Merrill trail to the historic railway and resort area at Echo Mtn, then up Castle Canyon to Inspiration Point and on to Muir Peak. We will return by the Middle Merrill trail. Trip is a total of 12 miles with 2900 ft of gain. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January '14. Subjects include safe mountain travel, map & compass and wilderness first aid. Meet 8:30 am at the North end of Lake Street at the corner of Lake and Loma Alta Drive in Altadena by the "Gate". This is a residential neighborhood so be mindful of parking regulations and resident's quiet enjoyment of their neighborhood. Bring 2-3 liters of water, lunch, hiking boots, hat and layered clothing. Leader: DAVID MELTZER. Co-leader: BARBARA PHILLIPS MELTZER.

**November 16 | Sat**

**LTC, WTC**

**TR MR Navigation Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain**

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

**November 16-17 | Sat-Sun**

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

**TR I Indian Cove Navigation**

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

**December 7 | Sat**

**WTC**

**TR M Leader Rock Workshop**

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

**December 8 | Sun**

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

**TR I Warren Pt Navigation**

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

# Another Way To Find Sierra Club Events

**OARS** lets you look for events and outings as a listing, on a map or on a calendar. Search tools allow you to look for things to do within a certain geographic area, on selected dates, by the type of activity, by the leaders and Sierra Club groups involved. Go to <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/outings/OARS.asp>. Events are added continuously.

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

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

**December 15 | Sun**

**WTC**

**TI O WTC INTRODUCTORY HIKE: MT WILSON/MANZA-NITA RIDGE**

Invigorating conditioning hike at a moderate pace. 10-14 mile r/t, 4000' gain. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins January '14. 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 8:30 AM at trailhead. Mira Monte Ave and Mt Wilson Trail Dr. Take I-210 to Baldwin Ave exit, take Baldwin N to Mira Monte, Right to trailhead. Bring hiking boots, 3 ltrs water, snacks to share. Leader: DAVID MELTZER. Co-leader: BARBARA PHILLIPS MELTZER.

**January 11-12, 2014 | Sat-Sun LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS**

**TR I Navigation: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle**

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 Leader: ROBERT MYERS. Assistant: PHIL WHEELER.

**ET WTC Experience Trip**

**TI Trip of Interest**

**TR Training Opportunity**

**MT Mountaineering**

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



# Outings Leader Directory

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

Tonyce Bates	TonyceBates@Yahoo.com	Robert Myers	RMmyers@ix.netcom.com
Adrienne Benedict	SierraAdrienne@verizon.net	Sue Northrop	SueNorthrop@yahoo.com
Richard Boardman	rb543@verizon.net	Victoria Overbey	OverbeyVR@Rocketmail.com
Karen Buehler	karen.buehler2@gmail.com	Ann Pedreschi Shields	apedreschi@sbcglobal.net
Brian Decker	scubaairpig@yahoo.com	Barbara Phillips Meltzer	bphillimelt@gmail.com
Bob Draney	rrdraney@yahoo.com	Alex Prieto	Alex.Prieto9@gmail.com
Diane Dunbar	DianeDunbar@Charter.net	Niels Quist	NQuist31@hotmail.com
Suzanne Dwyer		Anne Marie Richardson	annemariesc@yahoo.com;
Beth Epstein	b.epstein@verizon.net	Dan Richter	Dan@DanRichter.com
Dave Evans	Dave_Evans2004@yahoo.com	Neal Robbins	neal.robbins@L-3Com.com
Bernie Fox	BernieFox@gmail.com	Joan Rosenberg	jroosenburg@earthlink.net
Jack Kieffer	JockORock42@Yahoo.com	Edd Ruskowitz	hikinedd@yahoo.com
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Patrick McKusky	patrick.mckusky@lausd.net	Stephanie Smith	rbstephs@gmail.com
David Meltzer	DWM@CRGPM.com	Joe Speigl	jspeigl1@yahoo.com
Wendy Miller	Wendy@EclipseShielding.com	Homer Tom	HikerHomie@gmail.com
Sharon Moore	justslm@earthlink.net	Phil Wheeler	Phil.Wheeler@Sierraclub.org
Anne Mullins	hike2thepeak@gmail.com	Danielle Zucker	ZuckerD@Rocketmail.com

## Tell Us a Story

**Just got back** from a great experience trip and can't wait to tell everyone about it in 1200 words or less? Well, who doesn't?

If you have a trip report you'd like to submit for publication in the WTC Newsletter, please send it via **email only** with the subject line, "**WTC Trip Report**" to [hikinedd@yahoo.com](mailto:hikinedd@yahoo.com)

Your trip report must be 1200 words (good) or less (better) and submitted either in the body of the email or attached as a Word document; no other formats accepted (yeah, I'm lookin' at you, PDF). We (I) reserve the right to edit trip reports for spelling and length. All photos included with trip reports must be submitted as separate attachments (photos inserted into a Word document will not be used). All photos must conform to the same requirements detailed below.

We'd (I'd) also love to publish photos directly related to WTC instructors, students and activities. Photos for consideration must:

1. be of significant resolution and clarity;
2. include and identify name(s) and WTC group affiliation(s) of those in the photo;
3. include name and group affiliation of the photographer;
4. include photo location and any other pertinent information regarding the people, event, etc. for use in a caption.

Send photo and photo information (above items 1 through 4) via email only with the subject line, "**WTC Photo Submission**" to [hikinedd@yahoo.com](mailto:hikinedd@yahoo.com) (using a different subject line only confuses the editor).