



Newsletter

Newsletter of The Wilderness Training Committee

Vol. 25, No. 3 / Summer 2014

Hiking on a Sierra High

2011 OC Student Grace Wang + 3 at Precipice
Lake while on one of the most spectacular
of all High Sierra journeys (*see inside*)





Dave Evans
1958-2014

They say that, in volunteer organizations, 90 percent of the work is done by 10 percent of the people. For Dave Evans, who passed away suddenly March 26th at the too-young age of 55, 90 percent was only the beginning. Whether it was about WTC, his friends, his family or his fiancée Linda—but never about himself—Dave was as devoted as they come.

In his sixth year as a WTC instructor, Dave served two years as Orange County WTC's Chair and had just been enthusiastically elected to serve a third term. In a sometimes-contentious Management Committee, Dave was the rock, the even keel, the thoughtful one always angling for compromise and common ground.

Dave had a big heart and a giving soul. He was loved by every one his friends, of whom he had a ridiculous amount. A separate memorial held at REI where he worked was standing room only. His co-workers respected and loved him for his selflessness and his smile.

Dave is survived by his mother and two sisters. And he is survived by Linda Robb, a WTC instructor and the woman he was to marry in the Fall of this year.

We can all call up Dave's voice in our head, clearly see his face and smile in the remembrance of his easy laugh. Dave was my dear friend. His failing heart broke all of ours. He is and will forever be so very missed.

—Edd Ruskowitz



Tell Me 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

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 (using a different subject line only confuses the editor).

DEADLINE for publication in the Fall 2014 WTC Newsletter: **September 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.

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, 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 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
WTC Info Line: (310) 967-2029

ON THE COVER Grace Wang, 2011 WTC/OC Graduate at Precipice Lake along the High Sierra Trail.

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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

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.

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). **See Outings Leader contact information on page 20.**

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.

July 4-6 | Fri-Sun

WTC

ET | Thousand Island Lake / Mt. Davis (12,303)

Starting Friday from Agnew Meadows near Mammoth Lakes, enjoy magnificent views of the Minarets, Mt Ritter and Banner Peak along 9 mi, 2000' gain High Trail portion of PCT en route to camp at Thousand Island Lake (9840') in the Ansel Adams Wilderness. Saturday class 2 cross country route to Mt. Davis via North Glacier Pass, 8 miles round trip and 2500' gain. This will be a long strenuous day crossing boulder and possibly snowfields. Sunday pack out 10 mi via JMT and Shadow Creek Trail. Priority given to 2014 WTC students. Wilderness permit \$5; shuttle bus \$7. Send e-mail with contact info, experience, recent conditioning, and WTC group leader info to leader: Casey Sakamoto. Ass't: Daniel Kinzek.

July 4-6 | Fri-Sun

WTC

ET | Moose Lake Loop - Alta Peak (11204'), Alta Mdw (9200'), Moose Lake (10560'), Pear Lake (9560')

Join us for this strenuous backpack with magnificent mountain views of the Great Western Divide and a copious number of lakes in Sequoia National Park. Friday backpack via the Wolverton/Alta Peak Trail to Alta Meadow and over talus/rock to Moose Lake where we'll set up camp, 11 mi, 3300' day. Saturday explore the Tablelands on our way down to Pear Lake, 6 mi. Sunday optional xc to Alta Peak (add 3 mi, 1,600 ft), then hike back to the cars via the Lakes Trail, 6 mi. Send hiking resume to leader. Ldr: Bernie Yoo, Asst. Leader: Sarah Schuh Quist.

July 11-13 | Fri-Sun

WTC

ET | Pilot Knob (12,245)

Come join us for a fun outing in the Humphrey's Basin west of North Lake in the eastern Sierras. The trip will begin on Friday at the Bishop Pack Station near North Lake (elevation 9345') with a backpack over Piute Pass to the Lower Desolation Lake area (approx. 8 miles, 1855' gain). Saturday we will travel cross-country east through the Humphreys Basin to Pilot Knob and return to camp for a fun happy hour (approx. 8 miles round trip, 1,050' gain/loss). Pack out on Sunday. Send email and hiking/backpacking resume to co-leaders Wayne Vollaire and Linda Robb.

July 11-13 | Fri-Sun

WTC

ET | Moose Lake (10,550+)

Friday backpack from Wolverton Trailhead(7283') in Sequoia National Park to camp at beautiful Alta Meadow (9356', 6.5 miles, 2200' gain), wildflowers and eye-popping scenery. Saturday we go cross-country to Moose Lake and surroundings (7 mi rt, 2000' gain) to enjoy some spectacular views of the Great Western Divide. We'll return to our camp at Alta Meadow in the afternoon for some lively conversation, relaxation, and happy hour. Sunday morning there will be an optional x-c adventure to Alta Peak (2.5 mi rt, 1,900' gain) for a memorable 360 degree view, then out to the cars. Send experience and conditioning, phone number, info to leader. Ldr Chuck Currier, Asst. Ldr Bob Dryden.

NAV NOTE

Early (at least two weeks prior to the event) sign-up for all navigation checkoffs and practices is recommended. These outings require substantial pre-outing preparation work, including completion of both a comprehensive written exam and a route planning assignment that will be mailed to you prior to the checkoff. See Chapter 6 of the Leaders Reference Book for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

July 11-13 | Fri-Sun

WTC, SPS

ET | Giraud Peak (12608), Mt. Goode (13085)

Join us for a trip over Bishop Pass to camp in beautiful Dusy Basin and climb a remote and seldom climbed peak (Giraud) along with an old staple (Goode). Friday backpack from South Lake over Bishop Pass and into the Dusy Basin, 7.5 Miles, 2600' gain. Saturday climb Mt Giraud, 6 miles r/t, 2500' gain. Sunday, break camp and pack back over Bishop Pass and down to the trailhead, 7.5 miles, 800' gain. If time allows we will climb Mt Goode while in-route, 4 miles r/t, 2000' gain. Please send email with resume containing recent experience, phone, email and rideshare info to Ldr: Kristen Lindbergh and Asst Ldr: Neal Robbins.

July 12-13 | Sat-Sun

WTC

ET | Mt. Silliman Backpack and Navigation (11,188)

Enjoy two moderately paced days backpacking and navigating in Sequoia National Park totaling 10 miles of mixed trail and cross country travel with an elevation gain of 4,403 feet. Starting early Saturday morning we will backpack from Lodgepole Campground to Silliman Lake via trail and cross-country travel. Saturday night happy hour and navigation presentation (map, compass and GPS). Sunday it's our cross-country climb to the top of Mt. Silliman. Then we will return to Silliman Lake to break camp and hike out to our cars. Perfect for a WTC experience trip. Send email to Paul Warren at pwarren@janusetcie.com. Co-Leader Fran Penn at fpenn@rutan.com.

July 18-20 | Fri-Sun

WTC

ET | Midnight Lake (10,988)

Enjoy a tour of high alpine lakes on a three-day backpack trip in the John Muir Wilderness spanning over 640,000 acres thanks to the Wilderness Act passed 50 years ago. Starting Friday from Lake Sabrina (9,128') and climbing 1800' over 6.5 miles to camp by Midnight Lake. On Saturday we will tour cross-country over Class 2 terrain to explore lakes such as Hungry Packer Lake, Topsy Turvy Lake, Pee Wee Lake and Dingleberry Lake. Hike out Sunday. Send email with contact info and recent experience to Ldr Homer Tom. Co-Leader: Fran Penn.

July 18-20 | Fri-Sun

WTC

ET | Mt. Mallory (13851), Mt. Irvine (13770)

Climb two namesake peaks in the Mt. Whitney region. Depart early Fri. from the Whitney Portal Rd. and hike the Meysan Lk trail to camp near Lake 10,850 (3.5mi, 3600' gain). Sat. climb Mt. Irvine via drainage west of camp and northeast ridge (1.6mi, 2600' gain). Time permitting, traverse down southeast slope of Irvine crossing bowl to ascend Mt. Mallory (1 mi, ~800' gain) via east ridge, returning the same route to Camp (2.6 mi, ~700' gain). Friday, Saturday evening happy hours. Sunday hike out. Email current conditioning, altitude tolerance and contact info. Ldr: Philip Bates (philipabates@gmail.com), Asst. Ldrs: K.C. Reid (kcreid@dslextreme.com), Tonyce Bates (tonyce.bates1@gmail.com)

July 18-20 | Fri-Sun

WTC

ET | Mt. Tyndall Backpack (14025)

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act in the Inyo Mountains and John Muir Wilderness and the 150th Anniversary of the first summit of Mt. Tyndall (14,025'). Start the three-day backpack on Friday, backpacking 6 miles, gaining 4,600' up Shepherd Pass. Saturday hike 7 miles RT gaining 3,700' to climb Mt. Tyndall via the northwest ridge with class 2 off trail terrain. Sunday hike out the way we came in. The hike will be strenuous but moderately paced. Total for weekend is approx. 22 mi rt, 8,000'+ gain. Ldr: Sarah Schuh Quist (Sarahschuh@gmail.com), Co-ldr: Misha Askren

July 26-28 | Sat-Mon

WTC, SPS

MT MR Mount Tyndall (14,019')

Join us on a strenuous adventure up and over the dreaded Shepherd Pass to scale this classic California 14'er. Saturday pack in 9.5 miles with 7,200' to our camp near one of the lakes on the interior side of the Pass. Sunday we'll scramble up Mt Tyndall's airy and exposed 3rd class North Rib to the summit, where we'll marvel at the spectacular views out over all that beauty surrounding us up there. Then we'll return to camp for a festive potluck under a star-packed New Moon sky. Expect a strenuous 2.6 miles for the day, with about 2,000' of gain on rugged, rocky and exposed, extremely fun terrain. Monday we'll pack out via the same route we came in. Must be a current Sierra Club member in excellent condition and be comfortable at high elevation on exposed 3rd class rock. Sierra Club "Medical Form" required. Helmet, harness, belay device, and experience with their use required. Permit limits group size and permit fee (\$46) will be split among the group. Email Sierra Club number, contact info, climbing resume, recent experience and conditioning, and carpool info to Mat Kelliher for trip status and details. Leaders: Mat Kelliher, Brad Jensen

July 26-27 | Sat-Sun

WTC

ET | Cloudripper (13,525)

Experience trip for leaders and WTC students. Moderately paced but strenuous trip in the South Lake area. Early Sat backpack from South Lake (3 miles, 1750') to Green Lake. Set up camp before heading out to climb Cloudripper (7 miles rt, 2500'). Return to camp for Happy Hour. Sun morning pack out (3 miles and 1750' loss). Send e-mail, recent experience and conditioning, H&W phones, and rideshare info to Ldr: Eric Granlund. Ass't: Stephanie Smith

July 26-27 | Sat-Sun

MT ER Mt. Humphreys (13986)

Climb an Emblem Peak and the highest peak visible from the Bishop area. Saturday backpack from North Lake trailhead over Piute Pass to the uppermost Humphreys Lake, 7 miles and 2600' gain. Sunday, we will get an alpine start up the SW Slope & NW face to Mt Humphreys, 3 miles RT and 2100' gain. Return to camp and pack out. Participants must have 4th class roped climbing experience, and be comfortable on exposed 3rd class and loose talus. Send e-mail or SASE with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: Jack Kieffer, Asst Ldr: Tina Bowman.

SPS, WTC

August 2-4 | Sat-Mon

ET | Mount Conness 12,590'

WTC

Leave Saturday morning from Tuolumne Meadows and hike 5 miles with 1200 ft of elevation gain to Young Lakes. Set up camp, gather around for a happy hour, and karaoke. On Sunday, hike cross-country (7 miles round trip, 3000 ft gain) to the southern flank of Mt. Conness and do some class 2 scrambling up to the peak. Head back to camp at Young Lakes and spend the night. Pack out Monday. Send email with current experience and conditioning to Leader: Caroline Lee. Assistant: Bob Draney.

August 2 | Sun

LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS

TR | Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle

Navigation noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkout or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Send email or sase, navigation experience/training, rideshare info, contact info, any WTC, leader rating to Leader: Robert Myers, Assitant: Phil Wheeler.

August 7-10 | Thu-Sun

MT ER Mt Goddard (13,568), The Hermit (12,328)

SPS, WTC

Strenuous outing into the Evolution area of the central Sierra to climb a pair of the most remote emblem and mountaineer's peaks in the range, Mt Goddard and The Hermit. On Thursday we'll pack from North Lake over Lamarck Col and through the upper Evolution basin to reach Wanda Lake, 12 miles & 4600' gain with much XC. On Friday we'll climb Mt Goddard following the 3rd class Starr's Route, 6 miles and 2800' gain. On Saturday we'll climb The Hermit, which is mainly 2nd class but with a 4-5th class summit block, 7 miles & 1800' gain. Sunday we'll reverse the backpack, 12 miles & 2800' gain. Participants must be in excellent condition, have alpine roped climbing experience, and be comfortable on 3rd class and loose talus. Send e-mail or SASE with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: Neal Robbins, Co-Ldr: Matt Hengst

August 8-10 | Fri-Sun

ET | Mount Pickering (13,485), Joe Devel Peak (13,325)

WTC

Come with us on a trip to the Miter basin and ascend Joe Devel Peak and Mount Pickering. Day 1: Hike in from Horseshoe Meadows over Cottonwood pass and along a section of the PCT with views of Kern Canyon and the Kaweahs to camp near the Soldier Lakes, 1600' gain, 9.5mi. Day 2: Hike up into Miter basin and ascend Pickering and traverse around to Joe Devel, returning to camp for a relaxing evening with happy hour, 3500'gain/loss 8mi. Day 3: Hike out over New Army Pass with an option of climbing Cirque Peak, 1600 loss, 12mi. WTC or equivalent experience required, please email climbing resume and recent conditioning (and WTC group leader's name, if applicable) to the trip leader, Tohru Ohnuki . Assistant: Sharon Moore.

August 8-10 | Fri-Sun

ET | Mt. Davis (12,303)

WTC

On Friday, meet and backpack 8.5 miles via the River Trail from Agnew Meadows (8300') to set up camp at beautiful Thousand Island Lake (9840') in the Ansel Adams Wilderness. We'll have a happy hour and enjoy a Sierra sunset. On Saturday, we will hike a class 2 cross-country route to Mt. Davis (12303') from North Glacier Pass (11,158'), approximately 6 miles roundtrip and 2500' gain. On Sunday we'll pack up and hike out via the scenic High/PCT trail. WTC or equivalent required. Shuttle fee needed for transport from Mammoth Mt. Ski area to trailhead required. Email w/ contact information and recent conditioning to Ldr: Niels Quist (nquist31@hotmail.com); Asst Ldr: Dave Scobie.

August 8-10 | Fri-Sun

MT MR Fin Dome (11693), Painted Lady (12126), Mt. Rixford (12887)

SPS, WTC

27 mi rt, 10,000' gain. "Enjoy" a weekend of strenuous hiking and class 3 scrambling in the High Sierra backcountry. Friday: start early at Onion Valley and hike over both Kearsarge and Glenn passes to Rae Lakes area (10 miles, 4000'). Saturday: climb Fin Dome and Painted Lady (7 miles, 3600'). Sunday: drop packs at Glenn Pass and take the West Ridge to Rixford, then back to the pass and out to the trailhead (10 miles, 2500').

OARS

A Better Way To Find Sierra Club Events

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

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

OARS can also be found at the Hundred Peaks Section site (angeles.sierraclub.org/hps/outings.asp) 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 or Susan Heitman at susan.heitman@ca.rr.com.

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

Participants must be comfortable on third class terrain and have good conditioning. Trip restricted to Sierra Club members—helmet and harness required. Send email with experience and conditioning to Ldrs: Regge Bulman (r_bulman@fastmail.us) and Monica Suua.

August 8-10 | Fri-Sun

WTC

ET | Bighorn (10,997), Dragons Head (10,886)

Backpack Trip

Moderately-paced hike to two 10,000'+ peaks in the San Geronio Wilderness. Friday mid-day, backpack in to Fish Creek Saddle via the Fish Creek Trail, 5 miles, 1700' gain. Set up camp, get water from Lodgepole Spring, and enjoy happy hour. Early start Saturday to summit Dragons Head and Bighorn, 9 miles, 2000' gain. Route includes both trail and cross-country and has steep, rocky terrain. Return to camp for dinner. Sunday morning, pack out. 4WD required. For consideration send hiking/conditioning resume to overbeyvr@rocketmail.com. Leader: Victoria Overbey. Asst Leaders: Tonyce Bates, Rod Kieffer.

August 15-17 | Fri-Sun

WTC, SPS

ET | Let's climb Cloudripper (13,525')

Join us on this adventurous backpack in the John Muir Wilderness, with views of the Palisades Glacier, stunning alpine lakes and a fun climb of Cloudripper-the highest peak in the Inconceivable Range of the Palisades with a superb payoff- views of several peaks including Mt. Sill, North Pal, Mt. Agassiz, Goode, Humphreys and many more. Friday morning begin backpacking from the North Fork of Big Pine Creek (at Glacier Lodge) to camp at 5th Lake (6 miles 3200 ft of gain on trail). Saturday hike 2.8 miles 2800 ft all cross-country to climb Cloudripper and then return to camp for our legendary Happy Hour. Sunday pack out, and return home. This exciting trip is especially designed for fit WTC students and will count as an experience trip. The gain and elevation make this trip a challenge, good conditioning is a must, but we are taking our time over three days to enjoy the stunning vistas all along the way. Pace will be WTC moderate. Permit limits group size. This is a WTC outing co-sponsored by SPS. Send email with recent experience & conditioning, H&W phones, rideshare info along with WTC Group (if any) & Leaders names to Leader: Mat Kelliher (mkelliher746@gmail.com). Co-leader: Sridhar Gullapalli. \$7 permit fee.

August 15-17 | Fri-Sun

WTC

ET | 20 Lakes Basin Photography / Navigation Backpack

Spend a weekend photographing nature and practicing navigation in this gorgeous part of the Hoover Wilderness, designated as such under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Friday hike from Saddlebag Lake 2.5 miles to camp at one of the lakes and enjoy shared potluck dinner; Saturday explore the lakes, find a peak, a mine and a hidden lake; approx 5 miles of hiking, followed by happy hour festivities. Sunday, pack out. Send experience and conditioning info to Ldr: Jane Simpson. Co-leader: Adrienne Benedict.

August 15-17 | Fri-Sun

WTC, SPS

MT MR Mt LeConte (13,960'), Mt Corcoran (13,760')

Climb the East Arête of iconic namesake Mt LeConte and Mt Corcoran, both prominent points on the awesome Comb Ridge. We'll have spectacular views of Mt Whitney, too. Fri hike to Meysan Lake from Whitney Portal (5.5mi, 4100'). Sat pre-sunrise departure to climb Mt LeConte via Mallory-LeConte plateau to Class 3 East Arete (~1mi, 2600ft). From Mt LeConte optional Class 3 traverse of SW facing side of Comb Ridge to Mt Corcoran (<1mi) via SW facing traverse route. Return to camp via Mt LeConte, Mallory-LeConte plateau, and main chute to Meysan Lake. Sun leisurely departure and hike to cars via Meysan Lake trail. Required gear: climbing helmet, harness, ATC, Prusik. Fri/Sat Happy Hours. Send Alpine climbing resume to philipabates@gmail.com Ldr: Phil Bates, Asst Ldrs: Peter Lara, Sandy Lara

August 16-17 | Sat-Sun

WTC

ET | Cirque Peak (12,900')

Experience trip for WTC students and leaders. Based out of Horseshoe Meadows, this moderately paced hike will require good conditioning as the elevation gain makes for a strenuous trip. Leave early Saturday from Horseshoe Meadows, hike to Long Lake, set up camp, then climb Cirque Peak (6.5 miles rt, 3000'). Return to camp (2.5 miles) for Happy Hour. Relaxed Sunday morning hike out (5 miles). Permit limits group size. Send e-mail w/ recent experience/conditioning, phone contact, and rideshare info to Leader: Anne Marie Richardson. Co-Leader: Saveria Tilden.

August 16-17 | Sat-Sun

SPS, WTC

ET | Cirque Peak (12900) Gourmet Backpack!

Join us for Decadent Wilderness Weekend XI. Sat backpack 4 mi, 1300' via Cottonwood Pass to Chicken Springs Lake for 5-star dining experience. Sun, work off those calories with 2.5 mi, 1700' gain to Cirque. Send email (preferred) or sase with H&W phones, recent conditioning and your most outrageous culinary ideas to Ldr: Ron Campbell. Assts: Ed Cottone, Georgette Rieck, Lisa Buckley.

August 16-17 | Sat-Sun

WTC

ET | Mt. Silliman (11,188)

Starting Saturday morning from Lodgepole Springs in Sequoia National Park, we'll enjoy a moderate paced 3.5mi, 2000' gain day that will be mixed trail and cross-country, before a relaxing happy hour next to Silliman Creek. Early Sunday we start up some class 2 granite friction slabs and grab brunch on the summit after 3.5 mi, 2400' gain. Return to break camp, then back to trailhead. Moderate pace, comfort with class 2 rock required. Send e-mail with contact info, experience, recent conditioning and WTC group leader info to Casey Sakamoto. Assistant: Rudy Fleck.

August 20-24 | Wed-Sun

SPS, WTC

MT ER Mt Brewer (13,570), North Guard (13,327), South Guard (13,232), Mt Jordan (13,320), Mt Geneva (13,054)

Strenuous outing into the remote Great Western Divide to climb Mt Brewer, an emblem peak along with other interesting peaks as time and stamina allow. Wednesday backpack from Roads End to Reflection Lake, 13.5 miles & 5500' gain. Thursday climb South Guard, Brewer and North Guard, 9.5 miles &

6300' all XC. Friday climb Genevra and Jordan, 5.5 miles & 3700' all XC. Saturday pick up what we missed, or Mt Francis Farquhar. Sunday pack out 13.5 miles. Totals for the outing are 42 miles & 15,500' gain. Participants must be in excellent condition, have alpine 4th class roped climbing experience, and be comfortable on exposed 3rd class and loose talus. Send e-mail or SASE with climbing resume and recent experience to Ldr: Neal Robbins, Co-Ldr: Jack Keifer.

August 22-25 | Fri-Mon

WTC, SPS

MT MR Arrow Peak (12,959'), Mt. Ruskin (12,920')

Join us on this very strenuous 4-day backpack into Kings Canyon National Park in quest of a couple of classic SPS Mountaineer's Peaks. Friday we'll pack in over the dreaded Taboose Pass (6.3 miles, 6,000' gain) and descend (2.8 miles, 780' loss) to our camp at 10,850' for a day's total of 9.2 miles with 6,300' of gain and 780' loss. Saturday we'll travel west, passing along the north shore of the lovely Bench Lake, and follow the Northeast Spur route to the summit of Arrow Peak. Arrow's NE Spur involves solid class 3 climbing along an airy and exposed ridge with breathtaking drop-offs, and includes narrow knife-edges near its top. We'll return to camp for a festive Happy Hour via the same route we came in, for a day's total of 8.2 miles and 3,400' gain (includes 700' on return). Sunday we'll travel north along the John Muir Trail for a couple of miles and then head off to the west to gain the East Ridge of Mt Ruskin via its southeast flank. Expect more solid class 3 climbing with lots of exposure and outstanding scenery; be prepared for absolutely exquisite views once we reach the summit! From the summit we'll return to camp for another festive Happy Hour via the same route we came in. The day's total will be 8.4 miles and 3,500' gain (includes 800' on return). Monday we'll pack out the way we came in; if interest and the group's energy permit, we'll consider an optional side trip (2.9 mi RT, 1,900' gain) at Taboose Pass to head over and get Cardinal Mtn (13,397') via its class 2 County Line route. Must be a current Sierra Club member in excellent condition and be comfortable at high elevation on exposed 3rd class rock. Sierra Club "Medical Form" required. Helmet, harness, belay device, and experience with their use required. Permit severely restricts group size and permit fee (\$36) will be split among the group. This is a WTC Outing co-sponsored by SPS. Email Sierra Club number, contact info, climbing resume, recent experience and conditioning, and carpool info to Mat Kelliher for trip status and details. Leaders: Mat Kelliher, Beth Epstein.

August 22-24 | Fri-Sun

WTC

ET I Thousand Island Lake, Peak 10344

Friday backpack 8 miles, 2000' gain to camp at picturesque Thousand Island Lake in Ansel Adams Wilderness near Mammoth. Saturday climb cross-country, class 2 route to Peak 10344, 6 mi rt, 800' gain. Sunday pack out. Shuttle fee of \$7 from Mammoth Mountain to Agnew Meadows trailhead required. Send email (preferred) or sase, with contact info & recent conditioning to Ldr: Robert Myers. Co-Ldr: Dwain Roque.

August 22-24 | Fri-Sun

WTC

ET I Payne Lake and Big Pine Lakes

A chance to immerse yourself in an enchanting area of the Sierras. Edgar Payne, an artist of the first half of the 20th century, loved to come here to draw and paint (edgarpaynegallery.com). On Friday we hike in to Fourth Lake along the north fork of Big Pine Creek, about 6.5 miles, 3100' gain. On Saturday, about 1.5 miles to Payne Lake. Bring your pencils, your paints, your camera, or just your appreciation. We'll also bag a peak so it counts as experience trip. Hike out on Sunday. Happy hours are a must. No artistic experience necessary. Send recent backpacking experience, WTC group and leader to Leader: Misha Askren, (misha.askren@gmail.com). Co-leader: Ann Shields (apedreschi@sbcglobal.net).

August 26-31 | Tue-Sun

Mule Pack, SPS

I Bernice Lake, Vogelsang Peak, Mt Florence

Use Bernice Lake in Yosemite National Park as your base camp to climb peaks in the area. This trip is designed for strong hikers who want to do mainly cross-country routes and peakbagging. We will start at Tuolumne Meadows. On Tuesday morning we will hike 11 mi, 2600' gain, with our daypacks over Tuolumne Pass (9992') and Vogelsang Pass (10,670') to Bernice Lake (10,200'). This will be a superior peak-bagging opportunity with Vogelsang Peak and Mt Florence in close proximity, and also other peaks in the area. There are many streams, lakes, a few trails, and many cross-country options. Wednesday - Saturday you can hike, climb peaks, take photos, fish, or relax in camp. We will have organized gourmet dinners each night. The dinner food will be provided but we will all take part in preparing it. While the higher elevation means we can't have campfires, mosquitoes and other pests should be minimal. Sunday we will hike out. Weight limit for the mules is 45 lbs and cost is \$350 per person including dinner and wine. Note reserve/cancel policy under the Additional Information link on Mule Pack Section website <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/mps>. Accepted participants will need to complete Participant Medical Form found at <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/forms.html>. To apply, email recent high altitude tolerance, conditioning, and experience to Co-Leader: Sandy Lara, Co-Leader Peter Lara

August 29-31 | Fri-Sun

WTC

ET I Big Pine Lakes

Join us for a scenic backpack in the John Muir Wilderness along the North Fork of Big Pine Creek. Friday backpack approx 5 miles 2500' to camp near Third Lake with an incredible view of the towering Temple Crag (12,982'). Saturday explore the numbered lakes along the Big Pine loop, climb an unnamed peak, swim, fish & relax. Pack out Sunday. Send email with contact info and recent conditioning and experience to Ldrs: Shobhan Bhatt, Katherine Yi

August 30 - September 1 | Sat-Mon

WAS, WTC

ET I South East Yosemite Labor Day Backpack

Carpool on Friday to trailhead near Chiquito Campground, Bass Lake Ranger Dist of Sierra NF. Recommend leaving plenty of time driving up on Friday as the last 31 miles from Oakhurst is on backcountry road and will take over 1.5 hours. Need a

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

vehicle with good clearance. Saturday hike over Chiquito Pass into Yosemite NP. Hike about 8 miles with about 2200' gain, some X country, to Givens Lake (8800'). Pace will be moderate. Sunday will spend day doing cross country hiking. Navigation practice available to those interested. Plan is to climb Moraine Peak and spend lunch on peak and practice identifying surrounding terrain. Spend afternoon route finding back to lake from north side of peak. Monday get up early to be back to cars around noon, retracing 8 miles with about 500' gain. Small group. To confirm a place send \$10 (made out to Wilderness Adventures Section) to Keith Martin, 530 South Lake Ave. #708, Pasadena, CA 91101. Include information about recent backpacking experience and conditioning. Suitable for WTC students. A carpool list will be emailed about a week before the trip. Leaders: Keith Martin and Beth Powis Martin.

August 30 - September 1 | Sat-Mon WTC, SPS
ET | Mt Pickering (13,485), Joe Devel (13,325)

Join us for a trip to climb to two high elevation SPS peaks in Sequoia NP. Saturday hike from Horseshoe Meadow over Cottonwood Pass, along the scenic PCT, to our high lake camp @ 11,200' with amazing views of the Sierras (10 mi, 2800' gain). Sunday climb Mount Pickering (5 mi xc RT, 3200'), then optionally traverse the ridge to Joe Devel Peak before returning to camp (total 7.3 mi xc Class 2 RT, 4200' gain). Sunday hike out cross-country to New Army Pass and down through the Cottonwood Lakes basin (11 mi, 2000' gain). Weekend total 28 miles, 9,000' gain. Great experience trip for strong WTC students. Email current conditioning, altitude tolerance and contact info. Ldr: Jason Seieroe, Asst: Phil Bates.

September 4-6 | Thu-Sat WTC
ET | Dicks Pk (9974), Mt Tallac (9735), Freel Pk (10,881)

Ever wonder what it's like north of Yosemite? Here's an opportunity to explore peaks in the Desolation Wilderness SW of Lake Tahoe. Thursday we'll pack into Gilmore Lake via the Glen Alpine Trail (5 miles, 1800'), make camp and climb Dick's Peak (5 miles, 1600'). Friday we'll climb Mt. Tallac (4 miles, 1400') then pack out (5 miles, 0'). Friday night we'll car camp at the Armstrong Pass Trailhead before day hiking Freel Peak on Saturday (11 miles, 2800'). Totals for the trip are 30 miles and 7600' gain. Send recent experience, conditioning, and contact & carpool info to Ldr: Neal Robbins, Asst Leader: Sandy Lara

September 5-7 | Fri-Sun WTC
ET | Cloudripper (13,525')

Backpack from Glacier Lodge approx. 6 miles, 3100' gain to camp at Big Pine Lakes, followed by happy hour and sound sleep. Climb Cloudripper Saturday (3 mi./3,000'), then pack out Sunday morning. Good conditioning a must. \$5 permit fee if confirmed. Email conditioning, experience (including WTC group information if applicable), H&W phones and rideshare info to leaders Edd Ruskowitz, John Cyran.

September 5-7 | Fri-Sun WTC, SPS
MT MR Mt Ritter (13157), Mt Banner (12945)

Climb the infamous high point on the Ritter Range and the awesome adjacent peak, Mt Banner overlooking the Ritter-Banner glacier and views of the Minarets. Fri hike from Agnew Meadows to Lake Ediza (8mi, 2200') via Shadow Lake trail. Pre-sunrise departure Sat to climb Mt Ritter via Class 3 SE

approach (4mi RT, 3600'). Sun, pre-sunrise departure to climb Mt Banner via Class 3 Ritter-Banner Saddle SE Col (4mi RT, 2800'). Return to camp and cars by late afternoon. Back-up approach pending Ritter SE Glacier conditions: Hike River Trail to Lake Catherine (11mi, 3500'). Sat climb Mt Ritter via West slope (4mi RT, 2500'), Sun climb Mt. Banner via Class 2 Ritter/Banner Moraine and Glacier (3.5mi RT, 2100'). Return to camp and cars early evening. Req. Gear: Helmet, Bear Can. Fri/Sat Happy Hours. Send alpine climbing resume to philipabates@gmail.com Ldr: Phil Bates, Asst. Ldr: Rod Kieffer.

September 13-14 | Sat-Sun WTC
ET | Cloudripper (13,525)

Experience trip for WTC students and leaders. Based out of the South Lake area, this moderately paced hike will require good conditioning as the elevation gain makes for a strenuous trip. Leave early Saturday from South Lake to Green Lake area (3 miles, 1750'). Set up camp, then climb Cloudripper (7 miles rt, 2500'). Return to camp for Happy Hour. Relaxed Sunday morning hike out (3 miles and 1750' loss). Permit limits group size. Send e-mail w/ recent experience/conditioning, phone contact, rideshare info, and WTC leader reference. Leader: Josh Hibbard. Co-Leader: Saveria Tilden.

September 13-14 | Sat-Sun WTC
ET | Golden Trout Lakes (11,391)

Discover high alpine basins on a backpack trip near Kearsarge Pass. Enjoy 640,000 acres known as the John Muir Wilderness thanks to the 1964 Wilderness Act. Saturday start from Onion Valley (9,200') and climb up 2200' in 2.2 miles on the Golden Trout Lakes trail to a lakeside camp. From camp we will tour cross-country over Class 2 terrain to explore a nearby moraine and touch a glacier. Hike out Sunday after a brisk morning hike. Send email with contact info and recent experience to Ldr Homer Tom. Co-leader: Anne Mullins.

September 13-15 | Sat-Mon WTC
ET | Mt Davis (12,303')

Join us for a relaxed 3-day climb of Mt Davis. Saturday we'll stroll in past a series of pretty lakes doing 8 miles and 2000 ft of gain to camp near the incredibly scenic Thousand Island Lake. Sunday we'll climb nearby Mt Davis and be back in camp early enough to enjoy an epic lakeside happy hour. Monday we come out. Send conditioning / experience / rideshare info to Leaders: Matt Hengst, Paul Warren.

September 13-15 | Sat-Mon WTC
ET | Agassiz (13,893) and Goode (13,085) from Bishop Lake

Three day/two night backpack in the Bishop Pass area of the Inyo National Forest. Saturday backpack to Bishop Lake where we will set up camp for two nights. (5 mi, 1600' gain). Sunday we will travel xc and climb the steep, class 2, west slope of Mt. Agassiz (4 mi r/t, 2700' gain) returning to camp to enjoy time by the lake and Happy Hour. Monday a.m. we will travel xc and climb Mt. Goode via the class 2, southeast slope (4 mi r/t, 1800' gain), return to camp, pack up and return to the cars (5 mi). (Three-day totals: mileage ~18, gain ~6100'). Priority given to current WTC students. Permit limits group size and permit fee of \$56 will be split among the group. Email contact info, WTC group (if any), recent experience and conditioning to leader. Ldr: Suzanne Dwyer, Asst Ldr: Bernie Yoo

September 19-21 | Fri-Sun**WTC****ET | Twin Lakes/Silliman area "Nav Pack" in Sequoia NP**

Improve your navigation skills, get a peak and get happy on our 6th annual moderately-paced 6.5 mi, 2900' gain backpack to beautiful Twin Lakes. Sat xc explore Silliman Crest area, and climb a no-name peak, 1400' net gain via 6 mi loop. Return to camp for shared treats and gourmet quesadillas. Sun head home. Comfort on class 2 climbing required. No tigers please – this is about "staying found". Email contact & rideshare info, recent backpacking & conditioning experience to Ldr: Adrienne Benedict, Co-Ldr: Tonyce Bates, Phil Bates

September 20-21 | Sat-Sun**WTC****ET | North Maggie Mtn (10,234)**

Join us for a casual ramble into the west side of the Golden Trout Wilderness, Southern Sierra. This is an easy paced outing with opportunities for fishing and exploration. Sat we'll hike in to Maggie Lakes (9 miles, 1200'). The afternoon will be at leisure to fish and explore Peck's Cabin. Sunday we'll head for North Maggie Mountain (3 miles, 1100') before breaking camp and packing out (9 miles, 500'). Send recent experience, conditioning, and contact & carpool info to Ldr: Neal Robbins, Co-Ldr: Stephanie Smith

September 20-21 | Sat-Sun**WTC****ET | Humphreys Lakes Basin and Pilot Knob (12,245')**

Moderately paced backpack in the Eastern Sierras, ~20mi rt, 4000' gain over mostly xc routes. The trip will begin on Saturday morning at the North Lake Trail head (directions/meeting times to be given to participants). Saturday we will hike on trail to Piute pass, explore several of the lakes via xc travel in the Humphreys Basin, then make camp at one of the lakes that afternoon. Sunday we will hike xc to Pilot Knob, then pack up camp and hike out via xc and trail back over Piute Pass. WTC or similar experience strongly preferred. Send email and hiking/backpacking resume to Leader: Tiffani Bruno (mntnrls@gmail.com). Asst. Leader: Joe Speigl.

September 20-21 | Sat-Sun**WTC****ET | Goat Mountain (12,212)**

Backpacking trip into Kings Canyon suitable for strong WTC students. Saturday backpack from Copper Creek trail head to Grouse Lake (6.3 mi, 5200') --- All on trail, trail miles are free miles! Lakeside camping and Saturday night happy hour. Sunday, travel cross-country to climb Goat Mountain via class 2 northwest ridge, (4.5 mi r/t, 1800' gain). At the summit, we will enjoy vistas of the Palisades, Mt Whitney, and Kaweah Ridge. Those who attain the summit will be rewarded with free goat stickers! We will descend back to camp and pack-out the same day. Email leaders with recent conditioning, backpacking experience, H&W phones, and SC#. Ldrs: Jeff Atijera (jeff.atj@gmail.com) and Jen Blackie (blackiejennifer@gmail.com)

September 21 | Sun**LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS****TR | Grinnell Ridge Navigation Noodle**

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 Leader: Robert Myers. Assistant: Phil Wheeler

September 26-28 | Fri-Sun**WTC****ET | Shell Mountain (9,594')**

Friday backpack to Jennie Lake, 5.4 miles, 1,000'. Sat climb Shell Mountain, 5 miles round trip, part trail, part xc, 600' then fish. Sunday pack out. Send e-mail with recent experience and conditioning, phone number, and rideshare info to Co-Ldrs: Linda Campbell, Mike Dillenback, and Stephanie Smith

October 1 | Wed**LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC****TR Workshop Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP10) – 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 4 | Sat**LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC****TR M/E R Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP10) – 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 4-5 | 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 11 | Sat**LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC****TR M/E R Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP10) – 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

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

October 11-12 | Sat-Sun**WTC****ET | '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 18-19 | Sat-Sun**LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC****TR M/E R Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP10) – 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 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 25 | Sat**LTC****TR Leadership Training Seminar**

Become a qualified Sierra Club leader. Seminar at the Costa Mesa Community Center. For information, see the LTC website (<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/>). Deadline for receipt of application is October 11. No registration after this date or at the door. Next seminar: Spring 2015 Leader: Steven Botan - 714-321-1296 ltcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org

November 1 | Sat**LTC, WTC****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

November 15 | Sat**LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS****TR M-R Navigation: Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain**

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

November 15-16 | Sat-Sun**LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS****TR | Indian Cove Navigation Noodle**

Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sunday checkout. Send email/sase, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to Leader: Robert Myers. Assistant: Phil Wheeler

November 15-16 | Sat-Sun**LTC, HPS, DPS, SPS****TR M/E R Indian Cove Rock Checkout, Joshua Tree National Park**

M and E level rock practice and checkout for LTC leadership candidates. Practice Saturday, checkout Sunday. Restricted to Sierra Club members with technical rock climbing experience. Climbing helmets and harnesses required. Email climbing resume to Leader: Patrick McKusky. Assistant: Dan Richter

December 6 | 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, Sierra Club Number, contact and rideshare info, WTC area, and Class 3 climbing experience to Ldr: Tom McDonnell. Assts: Robert Myers, Bob Draney, Jack Kieffer, Ron Campbell.

December 7 | Sun**LTC, WTC, HPS, DPS, SPS****TR | Warren Point Navigation Noodle**

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

Interested in Becoming a**Sierra Club Outings Leader?**

The Angeles Chapter is home to one of the largest outings programs on the planet – thousands of trips ranging from beach barbecues to mountaineering expeditions. You can take the first step toward becoming a leader by attending a class offered by the chapter Leadership Training Committee on Saturday, October 25 at the Costa Mesa Community Center in Orange County.

The seminar covers all the basics of leadership. Experienced leaders will tell you how to plan a trip, prevent problems on the trail and make sure that everyone – including you – has a great time. They'll also explain good conservation and safety practices. And they'll give you tips for getting your "O" rating quickly and then, if you choose, pursuing more advanced ratings.

The application is online at angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc. The all-day class costs \$25. Mail the application and check, payable to Sierra Club, to Steve Botan, LTC Registrar, 18816 Thornwood Circle, Huntington Beach 92646. You also can reach Botan by phone (714-321-1296) or e-mail (ltcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org).

Applications and checks due October 11!

Scholarships are available for those with financial need. Apply to LTC Chair Tina Bowman (tina@bowmandesigngroup.com)



THE HIGH SIERRA TRAIL

by Grace Wang, WTC/OC 2011

FOUR STRANGERS, having met only through the internet, gathered at the trailhead in Sequoia National Park in mid-August to embark on the spectacular High Sierra Trail. Though starting out as strangers, we emerged from Whitney Portal almost 65 miles and 7 days later as friends.



day of hiking consisted of approximate 9 miles to aptly-

named Nine Mile Creek Camp. By the end of the day we had been greeted by a barrage of greenery and gigantic sequoia trees, playful black bears, and lively deer.

The second day, we made our way past Bearpaw Meadow Campground, and enjoyed the stunning views of glaciated granite towering over a valley of vividly green trees. There was a nice preview of elevation gain that we would be seeing in the later days, which led us to a large ledge, with Hamilton Creek running through, giving us a different angle of the incredible view complemented by an relaxing icy foot soak for hot and tired feet. We continued on and made camp at Big Hamilton Lake, which was heavily populated by boy scouts and fishermen. At sunset, Hamilton Lake turned golden from the setting sun, and suddenly came alive with whizzing of insects near the surface of the water, and subsequent splashes from feeding trout. Daniel and I tried our hand at fishing, but despite our finest efforts we were left empty-handed. Luckily, some fishermen were in



Crabtree Meadow or Bust!

need of butter to cook the fish, so we bartered with them and were able to enjoy a few freshly caught trout that evening. We slept with the view of the moonlit Valhalla, a sheer granite wall, overshadowing everything else nearby.

Day three was the most challenging, yet, the most varied and beautiful part of the hike. From Hamilton Lake, we made the strenuous climb up exposed switchbacks into a land of beautiful alpine vegetation and sheer granite walls in the background. We stopped shortly to marvel at the grandeur of Precipice Lake, then continued on to Kaweah Gap on the Great Western Divide. Then, we dropped down into the vast valley of Big Arroyo, and continued on our way to Moraine Lake up a series of ascending switchbacks. Throughout, majestic views of the mountain ranges making up the Western Divide draped the landscape. After a full day of hiking, we arrived to Moraine Lake in the dark. Rest and warm food was fully appreciated after the long day.

The fourth day on the High Sierra Trail was certainly a memorably relaxing one. After a long day of hiking the third day, and having a shorter mileage ahead, we slept in and took time to enjoy the serenity of Moraine Lake. As we dove deeper into the HST, we encounter fewer and fewer backpackers throughout the trail; at times, it felt as though we had the whole wilderness to ourselves. We descended down steep switchbacks towards Kern Trench. Towering canyon walls of brown and black porous rock looked over us as we trudged downward among thickets of ferns. Soon enough, we found ourselves at the bottom of the canyon, the trail

following the snaking Kern River. We arrived to camp early afternoon, and excitedly did some laundry in the icy-cold river. Nearby the Kern, we were welcomed by the Kern Hot Springs, a trickling spring running off into a small little cement bathtub with a worn wooden stopper. Despite the rather rudimentary appearance of the mossy tub, we happily soaked our tired muscles in the hot spring runoff. After dinner, we went for another run, enjoying the bright evening stars and

swigs of warming Knob Creek bourbon.

Day 5 was when the clouds opened up and rain began to fall. After attempting to fish the Kern and packing up camp, we followed a relatively flat trail through Kern Canyon, to arrive at Junction Meadow. Here, the trees were more dense, bugs more plentiful, and by the humidity and sounds of distant thunder, it was clear that a rainstorm was imminent. We got to camp quickly, and encountered some other backpackers in the area. Daniel and I ventured off to go fishing, and this time around, Daniel caught a small golden trout which was shared during dinner time. As we began making our way back for dinner, rain began to pour down. We huddled around a large tree along with another group of backpackers, and exchanged stories over dinner. We went to bed with the sound of hypnotic



Gourmet Kitchen

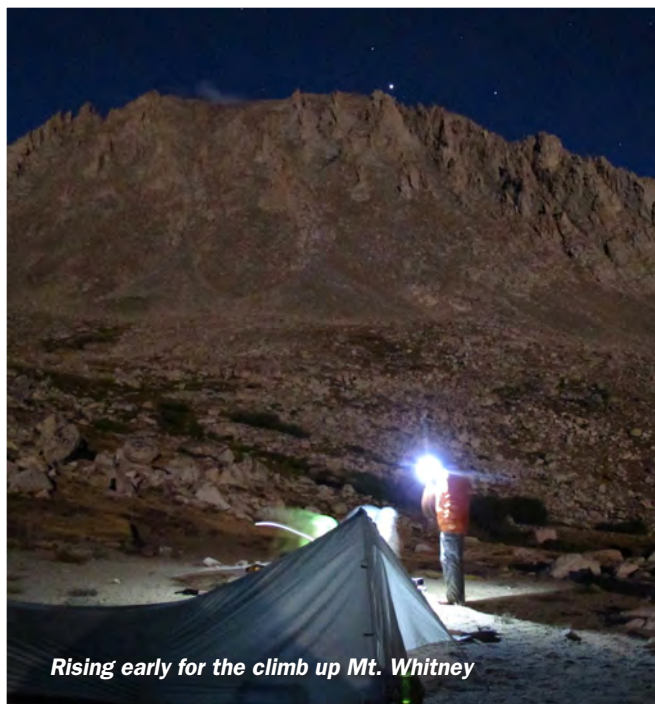


raindrops pattering down on our tent, and the soft roaring of the Kern River flowing in the background.

On the sixth day, rain for the most part continued on, but at times ceased, allowing for us to pull out our wet soggy tents to dry as much as possible. As we climbed up towards Crabtree Meadow, the scene drastically changed from a dense Jeffery-pine forest to open meadows populated with fewer pine trees, to rocky-covered landscape. At the Crabtree Ranger Station, we were warmly welcomed by a husband and wife ranger couple who encouraged us to drop our backs and enjoy some tea as we waited for the rainstorm to die down. After an hour of delightful conversation, the rain slowed and we trotted our way towards Guitar Lake before another round of raining and lightening began. As we made our way to Guitar Lake, the iconic rocky mountains of the Eastern Sierras began to dominate the scenery. Turn after turn, the views were more and more dramatic. Eventually, we raced to Guitar Lake, set up our tents just in time before the water-laden clouds let loose.

Wake up call was 4:30 a.m., and when I awoke, the moon was nearly full. It so happened that this last day,





Rising early for the climb up Mt. Whitney



Daniel registers at the hut atop Mt. Whitney

the seventh day, was my 25th birthday. We packed our things, simultaneously lamented and rejoiced at going back to civilization by the end of the day, and headed up the steep switchbacks that lead us to the highest point in the contiguous 48 states. At Trail Crest, we gleefully dropped our packs and made our way to the barren top of Mount Whitney where we celebrated the near end of our trip with lunch. We trudged our way down the infamous 99 switchbacks, down towards Outpost Camp, and finally, in

the evening, to Whitney Portal.

The end of the trip was a bittersweet goodbye. I could not help but burst with happiness and thanksgiving at the privilege we had in hiking this beautiful trail together in the company of people who were once strangers and now friends.

If you have any questions about my experience with the trail, contact me at grace.he.wang@gmail.com



Angeles Chapter Safety Chair Ron Campbell auditioning for the Food Channel



DONE!

The Narrows

ZION NATIONAL PARK

by Sarah Schuh Quist



photo ©Kelli Dickinson

When we exited the Narrows at the Temple of Slnawava we were surrounded by tourists in flip flops and shorts. One tourist approached a man in a full drysuit, carrying an old car tire and said, “I have to ask, why are you carrying a car tire?”

THE MAN WITH THE TIRE was a 2014 WTC Student on his first experience trip – the Zion National Park “Narrows” hike. The reason for the tire started many miles earlier.

After a stress free Saturday drive from Los Angeles to Springdale, Utah, we obtained our wilderness hiking permit at the ranger station and met up with our WTC group of 11 at Zion Adventure Company to rent all the gear we needed to stay dry and warm while walking in 50 degree Virgin River water for two days. We rented dry suits, canyoneering shoes, neoprene socks, and walking sticks. We capped off the first day with a BBQ dinner in town before hitting the tents for a good night’s sleep.

As the sun rose, so did we in order to catch the first shuttle to the Chamberlain Ranch trailhead where we would begin our 16 mile one way through hike. The first two miles are through the Colorado Plateau with a few ranches and rolling

grassland. The Virgin River gradually deepens into a gorge. Once we entered the canyon, there was no exiting until the end. We walked and waded in the water which mainly covering our feet or up to our knees. The water infiltrated our canyoneering shoes but the neoprene socks kept our feet warm as we trekked over the slippery rocks underfoot, described as slippery bowling balls. Over the two days, we crossed the river time and time again to catch the more easily traversed sandy banks when we could.

The river deepened and we couldn’t resist zipping up our star trek inspired full body dry suits to swim in the river while remaining dry. We snapped pictures of the soaring walls, sandstone grottos, natural springs and hanging walls until our go-pro and iPhone batteries ran low. The canyon walls reached up to 2000 feet high and at times spanned only 20 to 30 feet wide.

Before we reached the much anticipated photographic 12-foot falls, WTC Student Zeb Wallace, spotted a tire. Now Zeb had been packing out trash he found along the way – water bottles, plastic bags, stray socks. He saw the tire and at first walked by, but he couldn't resist going back to carry it at least part of the way out of the canyon.

He planned to carry it to camp where another group could pick up where he left off. He "rotated" the tire when one arm grew "tired," from one shoulder to his side, to the other shoulder, and to his other side. Zeb now had a seat for breaks and a piece for endless witty jokes.

We passed the Deep Creek Junction at about nine miles. Our feet could feel the mileage and we rested on a small sandy bank next to campsite #1. Shortly after, we reached camp. Campsites in the Narrows are limited to a dozen assigned sites. Our tents were up and dinners hydrating when the park ranger arrived to check our permit. Seeing the tire, she exclaimed, "You're the tire guy!" She had heard stories of Zeb and his tire all through the canyon that day. We ate dinner, stayed up as long as we could, but by 8:00 p.m. we nodded off with the sun not yet set. Several students camped without a tent for the first time and told any hikers still passing by in the river about it. Meanwhile, some students had more energy and led evening yoga while avoiding ticks.

The next morning, Memorial Day Monday, we packed up camp and continued down river into Wall Street, the most photographed and incredibly spectacular section of the Narrows. Zeb decided to continue on with the tire instead of leaving it for a future group. We spent plenty of time to enjoy the scenery and take photographs as we hiked this miles-long section where water filled canyon floor from wall to wall. In one deep section we could have walked over a sandy bank but opted to try swimming with our

backpacks. We unclipped the waist belts of our packs, some floated the packs just in front of them, and we slowly swam a 30 foot section around a boulder. Everything in our packs was safely in dry bags or plastic bags. I noticed quickly how cold my hands became after just a short while swimming. Thank goodness for our dry suits.



In addition to the 15 lb. tire Zeb dragged out were prescription glasses, a working go-pro camera lost by four random guys who overnighted the Narrows August 18, 2011, three mismatched socks, numerous bottles, wrappers, and other treasures.

We saw our first day hiking tourists within two hours, and the more we walked, the more people flooded the river. Among the abundant marvels, we saw a 6-point buck that took no issue with our passing through. We made a short side trip to explore the lower reaches of Orderville Canyon, which branches off from the main canyon just below Wall Street. Eventually the walls opened to a wider canyon and we neared the final paved walk back to the shuttle bus. Changing into our own flip flops felt glorious after two days walking in the river.

By the end of the hike, Zeb had carried that tire for roughly 12 miles. A man on the national park shuttle ride back to our cars informed us that the tire was an old variety no longer made. That sealed the deal. Zeb and the 15-pound tire were inseparable.

He threw the tire in his car and started the drive back to Los Angeles.

We were there.

Kelli Dickinson, WLA Group 1
Jessica Bashaw, WLA Group 1
Jessica DiMascio
Leah Murphy, WLA Group 2
Zeb Wallace, WLA Group 1
Niels Quist, WLA Group 1 Staff
Sarah Quist, WLA Group 1 Staff
Pamela Sivula, WLA Group 2 Staff
Smadar Levy, WLA Group 2
Christina Siebeneicher, WLA Group 2
Joseph Bell, WLA Group 2 Staff



Virgil Shields and Niels Quist claim the peak for their own

FLY LIKE AN EAGLE

Our trip to Eagle Mountain in Joshua Tree National Park

by Niels Quist

In late March, I led an I-provisional trip with my inimitable co-leader Virgil Shields to Eagle Mountain in the southern end of Joshua Tree National Park. One logistical item you'll need to figure out before going on this trip these days is where you will park your cars overnight. The backcountry board and parking lot at Cottonwood Springs is currently closed. Rains have unearthed arsenic used in the old mines around Mastadon Peak which caused the Park Service to close the trails leading out of Cottonwood Springs. Luckily, the closure does not extend to the area leading up to Eagle Mountain and the rangers at the Visitor Center allowed us to park our cars at the bathroom parking spots at the Cottonwood Springs campground.

Our group of ten left the campground in mid-afternoon, since we weren't planning on going very far that day. We found campsite 17B, where a wide sandy wash headed northeast. We wanted to follow the wash for roughly 1.5 miles on a northeast bearing and then head east toward Eagle. It was a nice walk, pretty flat and not rocky. Various washes snaked across our wash and there was a fair amount of zigging and zagging as we tried to stick to our general bearing. After roughly a mile and a half, we turned right and headed in the direction of the gully that we would be taking tomorrow to the peak.

I started looking for an area I had camped in previously that had some nice flat spots for tents and some taller rocks that could serve as shelter in case of high winds, which weren't in the forecast for tonight. It didn't take too long to find it and everyone was happy to get their packs off since this is a dry camp and everyone was carrying enough water for two days of hiking and cooking.

After we set up camp, we still had time for a short navigation exercise before happy hour and dinner. There is a section marker not too far from where we camped and we broke up into two groups to navigate to the marker. Both groups got into the general area and after a little looking

they found the manmade pile of rocks that marked the section marker. We got back to camp for a nice happy hour and dinner, and then watched the sun set from atop some rocks on the backside of our campsite. A cool night made for comfortable sleeping.

We woke up around 6:30, ate breakfast and took off in good spirits with our day packs. The plan was to hit the peak before it started getting too warm, hike back, pack up and beeline back to the cars. The immediate goal was to head towards the major gully due east that would lead us towards the peak. The walk out to the wash wasn't too bad which was good because once we hit the gully it was tough going. There's lots of big boulders and plenty of foliage. And not just your normal desert scrub, but full-on trees. It was amazing how much more lush this gully was than the one leading up to some other peaks in Joshua Tree, like Pinto. We were able to maneuver around obstacles and the scrambling was mostly fun, though definitely left me huffing and puffing as the going got steeper. We made a few stops along the way for snacks and water, but we were making good time.

Toward the top of the gully, you can keep going straight up, where you'll run into some pretty steep scree-y stuff. I've gone that route before, so I decided to veer off to the right onto a ridge that seemed a little less steep. I'm not sure it was any easier, as the first 50 feet or so was pretty steep and involved traversing some loose stuff, but then it got easier and soon we were up at the top of the gully.

When you reach the top of the gully, sadly we were not done. From the topo, it looks like it would be an easy jaunt across some relatively flat terrain. In reality, the area between the top of the gully and the peak has several large rock formations that you have to negotiate, or go around them. Having tried to go around on a previous trip, which didn't go that well, instead we weaved our way down and then up again on basically a straight line to the peak. I'd say this is much easier and definitely a better idea when going with a group.

There was one more big hump to ascend that we made quick work of and then we were on the peak! We had the peak all to ourselves and the weather was nice with barely any wind. We all signed into the summit register and had lunch. Then we began the descent back to camp.

We backtracked on roughly the same path to the gully. Going down, I decided to lead the group straight down the gully rather than starting on the ridge and dropping down into the gully. It was a steep descent with some definite loose spots but after everyone made it through that intact, we were able to move pretty quickly. There were definitely



The group also included WLA students Mark and Thuy Kudsi, Erika Wetzl and students Alex Prieto (SGV), and James Marsalla (WLA)

parts of the gully where the temperature was rising, but a breeze coming up the gully made it quite comfortable. We had made sure to identify our rock formation where we had set up camp among the other outcroppings and followed the bearing we'd taken from the mouth of the gully on the way up to guide us back to camp.

We broke camp with ease since we'd already eaten lunch and with a lot less water than we came in with, everyone's packs were much lighter. We followed the washes and eventually found the path back to the Cottonwood Springs campground (a hint is to use the water tower up in the hills opposite the campground as a landmark since you won't be able to see the campground until you're almost on it).

To put the cherry on top of the trip, as we were caravanning out of the park, we saw several mountain goats down in the flat areas by the road. Since no one else was on the road, we all got to stop and take pictures. It was my first time seeing the park's goats, which was very exciting for me and hopefully for all the other participants as well. A great ending to a great trip!



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.

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