

# WTCNewsletter

Newsletter of The Wilderness Training Committee

Vol. 25, No. 4 | Fall 2014

## Almost There!

**OC Whitney Group student Jenny Lee nears the 13,525' summit of Cloudripper while completing her second Experience Trip. Next stop: Graduation!**





# 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 heavily weighted toward training opportunities 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

## LEAVE A LEGACY

*Give next year's students a taste of what's to come with a trip report in the next WTC Newsletter*

**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 at right.

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).



### MT. DAVIS EXPERIENCE TRIP

*Matt Hengst and Paul Warren lead an Experience Trip to Mt. Davis and Thousand Island Lake; Mt. Banner & Mt. Davis loom in the back. Photo by Matt Hengst.*

## HEADLINE DEADLINES

For publication in the Winter 2015 WTC Newsletter: **November 15**

For publication in the Spring 2015 WTC Newsletter: **February 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 [angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/transfers/SignInWaiver.pdf](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc/transfers/SignInWaiver.pdf) 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** Soon-to-graduate Jenny Lee, OC Whitney Group student, strikes the pose near the summit of Clouddripper in the Eastern Sierra. Photo by Edd Ruskowitz.

## OFFICERS

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**Adrienne Benedict  
and Tom McDonnell**

WTC Outings Co-chairs

### LONG BEACH

**Brian Decker** Area Chair

**David Meltzer** Area Vice Chair

**Mike Adams** Area Trips

**Joan Rosenberg** Area Registrar

### ORANGE COUNTY

**Laurent Hoffman** Area Chair

**Jeanne Mendoza** Area Vice Chair

**Matt Hengst** Area Trips

**Wendy Miller** Area Registrar

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

**Joe Speigl** Area Chair

**Lydia Leos** Area Vice Chair

**Saveria Tilden** Area Trips

**Amy Smith** Area Registrar

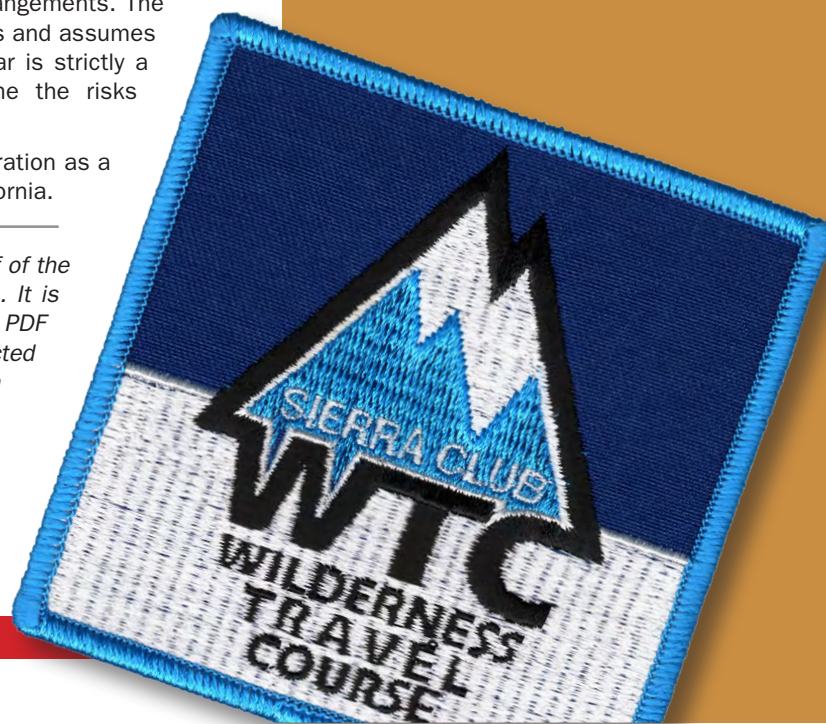
### WEST LOS ANGELES

**Ann Pedreschi Shields** Area Chair

**Sarah Schuh Quist** Area Vice Chair

**Adrienne Benedict** Area Trips

**Danielle Zucker** Area Registrar







# 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.

**IT 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.

**October 11 | Sat** **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**  
**IT 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](mailto:dan@danrichter.com)). Asst: Pat McKusky

**ET October 11-12 | Sat-Sun** **WTC**  
**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 12 | Sun** **WTC**  
**IT 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 '15. 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. East Mira Monte Ave and Mt Wilson Trail Dr. Take I-210 to Baldwin Ave exit, take Baldwin N to East Mira Monte, Right to trailhead. Bring hiking boots, 3 ltrs water, snacks to share. Leader: David Meltzer. Co-Leader: Barbara Phillips Meltzer

**October 18-19 | Sat-Sun** **LTC, SPS, DPS, WTC**  
**IT 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](mailto: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](mailto:ltcregistrar@hundredpeaks.org)

**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

**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 NP**

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

**November 16 | Sun****WTC****TI O WTC Introductory Hike – Echo Mountain, Inspiration Point, 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 '15. 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

**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

**December 14 | 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 '15. 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. East Mira Monte Ave and Mt Wilson Trail Dr. Take I-210 to Baldwin Ave exit, take Baldwin N to East Mira Monte, Right to trailhead. Bring hiking boots, 3 ltrs water, snacks to share. Leader: David Meltzer. Co-Leader: Barbara Phillips Meltzer

## 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.*

**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.

Mike Adams	AdamsFreeRange@AOL.com
Adrienne Benedict	SierraAdrienne@verizon.net
Richard Boardman	rb543@verizon.net
Bob Draney	rrdraney@yahoo.com
Diane Dunbar	DianeDunbar@Charter.net
Jim Fleming	JimF333@att.net
Matthew Hengst	matthew.hengst@gmail.com
Jack Kieffer	JockORock42@Yahoo.com
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Wendy Miller	Wendy@EclipseShielding.com
Robert Myers	RMmyers@ix.netcom.com
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Ann Pedreschi Shields	apedreschi@sbcglobal.net
Kathy Rich	kathyrnarich@gmail.com
Dan Richter	Dan@DanRichter.com
Joan Rosenburg	jroosenburg@earthlink.net
Edd Ruskowitz	hikinedd@yahoo.com
Saveria Tilden	Saveria.Tilden@gmail.com
Phil Wheeler	Phil.Wheeler@Sierraclub.org
Danielle Zucker	ZuckerD@Rocketmail.com



## SERENITY NOW.

*OC Kaweah Group Staff Matt Hengst and Kristen Lindbergh gaze upon Thousand Island Lake, one of WTC's more popular destinations.*

## Schedule of Activities

**The Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities** 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 [angeles2.sierraclub.org/activities](https://angeles2.sierraclub.org/activities) where events are added continuously.

The Schedule of Activities can also be found at the Hundred Peaks Section site ([hundredpeaks.org/outings.htm](https://hundredpeaks.org/outings.htm)) and the WTC site ([wildernesstravelcourse.org/outings](https://wildernesstravelcourse.org/outings))



**THIS IS LON CHANEY'S CABIN.**

**THIS IS NOT LON CHANEY.**



From the WTC Experience Trip to Cloudripper Sept. 5-7. Above: OC Assistant Group Leader John Cyran kicks back on the porch of Lon Chaney's cabin. The structure is reached only by a three mile, 1,700' gain hike in from the Big Pine Creek trailhead. The actor who starred in "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" and "The Phantom of the Opera," Chaney was referred to as "the man of a thousand faces," and for millions of moviegoers in the 1910s and 1920s was the personification of humanity within horror. It's now property of the U.S. Forest Service. See [articles.latimes.com/2003/jun/07/local/me-outthere7](http://articles.latimes.com/2003/jun/07/local/me-outthere7) for more info.

OC student Jana Oak on the summit of Cloudripper with the Big Pine Lakes below.



The group attacks the east ridge of Cloudripper.

