

Newsletter

of the Wilderness Training Committee

Vol. 29, No. 1 / Spring 2018



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Shawnté Salabert,
guidebook author and WTC instructor,
on the Pacific Crest Trail

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THE WTC NEWSLETTER is published biannually 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 Newsletter Editor at wtcnewsletter@wildernesstravelcourse.org.

Got a story?

If you've got a story to tell, we want to hear it. The WTC Newsletter team welcomes your tales and trip reports, and we're always looking for writers, stories and pictures.

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EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PROTECT THE PLANET

From the Editor

Congratulations—you survived!

You have spent the last ten weeks learning skills that in today's modern world are, let's face it, really no longer required.

You've hiked the local hills. You've navigated—for real—not just by following the voice emanating from your car's dashboard. You've climbed on, around and up rocks that a few months ago would have seemed—well, probably unwise.

You've learned that snow is not just a pretty backdrop for holiday pictures, but something to hike across, dig in and slide down. And finally, you've learned that you can head into the wilderness in freezing temperatures and come out two days later none the worse for wear. And the little secret is...you might even have had fun out there!

Now you're just two experience trips away from a graduation party in the desert. Good work.

Really, I mean it. CONGRATULATIONS! GOOD WORK! BRAVO!

But...you're only two-thirds of the way there.

If you haven't noticed, the Sierra's Club motto is *"Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet."* John Muir and others started the Sierra Club in 1892 with the simple idea of protecting the wild places that they found so special. Now you possess the skills for parts one and two; but the final part is a stiff challenge.

Unfortunately, the "protecting" part will never be complete, will always be an uphill climb and will have just as many setbacks as successes. On a local, national and global level the protectors among us will always struggle against those that see wild places as untapped sources of economic opportunity.

Whether it's what lies beneath the land and water or what grows on or in it, they see more value in extracting the resources from wild places—value that can be turned into dollars—than in leaving them be.

We see the ebb and flow of the conservation movement around us now. Just recently we've seen public lands in our country expanded one year and contracted the next. Countries, companies and powerful forces will always push to reach a little farther into the wilderness to get just a little more of what they're after.

The protectors see value too, just a different kind. Hopefully your time with WTC has helped you glimpse the true value of wild, untouched places. Value measured in new friendships and shared experiences,

in solitude and natural beauty, in clean air and clear water, in a chance to recognize and remember our place in the world, and the value in new, exciting and unlimited challenges that are waiting out in the wild places for anyone willing to go experience them.

A second little secret is that there's a tribe of us protectors out there...and with you, it's growing. The tribe goes out and shares the wild places with friends and family so they can see and experience their value, too. We vote at the ballot box and at the cash register. We sign petitions and go to meetings and talk to our elected officials. We make choices, big and small, that push the needle toward our priorities instead of the other way.

I hope you'll read through this issue of our newsletter and find ways to continue to explore and enjoy. Read the articles and trip reports and get inspired. Look for yourself or your new friends in the pictures. Go to the outings section and find a trip or two or ten to take part in. Go meet even more new friends who share your passion for the wild places.

And whether with WTC and the Sierra Club, or on your own, don't hesitate...go explore, go enjoy, and perhaps most importantly, GO PROTECT!

Welcome to the tribe.



Regge Bulman is
a WLA Group 4
Instructor



Ari Gordon/JoinTheUproar.com

Smiles, Not Miles

Section Hiking along the Pacific Crest Trail



Shawnté near the top of Forester Pass while researching her guidebook

The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) stretches a staggering 2,650 miles (give or take) between Campo, CA, in the south and Manning Park, BC, in the north. Attempting a thru-hike (hiking the entire length in one continuous effort) of this iconic trail is a huge dream for a lot of folks, but the reality is that most people experience the PCT in bits and pieces by section hiking at their own pace.

I spent two years doing just that while covering the trail's first 942.5 miles for my guidebook *Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail: Southern California*. While I did enjoy almost two solid months on trail one summer, most of my trips lasted between two and four days—and as it turns out, those shorter experiences were just as memorable as the big haul. Here are some of the reasons why you might enjoy section hiking, too.

Choose your own adventure. When you thru-hike the PCT, you're essentially on a race against time. You want to begin at Campo before it gets too hot in the desert, but not so early that the Sierra is still completely snowbound—and you want to arrive in Manning Park

before winter storms begin rolling through the Cascades. This offers a pretty narrow window for most hikers to begin the trail. When you're section hiking, however, you can customize a hiking itinerary to fit your own schedule. I built a lot of trips around holidays and during quieter times at my job, using vacation days for extra padding. Sometimes I only had a weekend to crank out an adventure. I was committed to squeezing as much as possible out of my trips, so I would often leave right after work on Friday and head for a campground or BLM land near a trailhead, allowing me to start first thing the next morning and enjoy two full days in happy backpacker mode.

Hike all year long, in any season. Thru-hikers traverse the California desert sections just as the thermostat is beginning to rocket; they also have to move through the Sierra when deep snow and swollen rivers pose a risk. If you're section hiking, you can plot trips when the conditions feel right—and when they match your skill level. Not comfortable hiking in trail-obscurer, posthole-inducing snow? Wait until late summer or even early fall to enjoy the Sierra. Sensitive to heat? Enjoy the desert portions in the late fall, winter and early spring—the latter

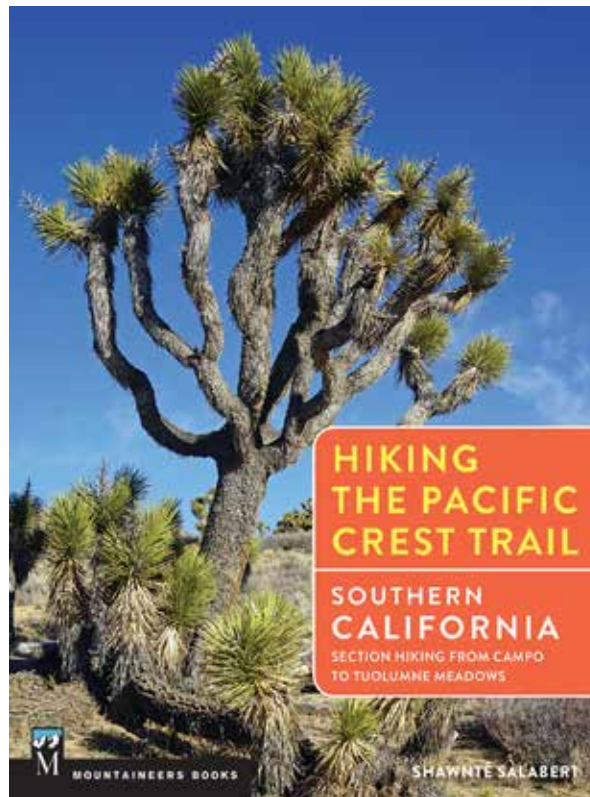
is especially fantastic when the spring bloom begins in March. One of my favorite experiences was a multi-day backpack in the Scodie Mountains, located south of Walker Pass in the Southern Sierra. We began the trip on New Year's Eve and ended up walking through calf-deep fresh powder on the north-facing slopes...while admiring Joshua trees and other desert denizens on completely bare south-facing slopes—an incredible experience!

Avoid the risk of “scenery fatigue.”

I will tell you an embarrassing secret. I spent an entire day huffing through one of the most beautiful portions of the High Sierra at warp speed, all because I was *hangry* and tired after nearly five weeks on trail. I remember at one point mumbling, “Yeah, nice trees. Nice rocks. Nice mountains. WHATEVER,” in my extremely cranky state. Scenery fatigue—that feeling of being unimpressed and bored with the normally awe-inspiring natural world surrounding you—is real, and it can creep up at the most unusual times. Shorter trips definitely help combat this experience, as you're more apt to appreciate the time you do have out there.

Enjoy surprising amounts of solitude. If you've spent any amount of time in any of the PCT groups on *Facebook*, you'll likely encounter at least one person making a derogatory comment about *Wild* (the book, the movie or both). The naysayers speak as if the trail is now crawling with mini Reese Witherspoons, all chucking Danner boots off the side of cliffs while humping 60-pound packs. While it's true that you'll encounter larger groups of hikers during the thru-hiking “season,” it's also incredibly easy to find complete solitude along most of the PCT. In fact, outside of my summer on the trail, and a few other experiences on more generally popular segments of trail, I was usually alone out there, save for any friends who were along for the hike. When I did meet other people, they were often other solo hikers out for a quiet adventure, and they enhanced my experience rather than detract from it.

...Or chose to sample a bit of “trail culture.” If solitude is not your thing, you can also choose to hop on the trail when thru-hikers are making their pilgrimage from Campo and sample a small part of the culture that comes along with that experience. Sure, there are some thru-hikers who aren't interested in mingling with



section hikers, but others are incredibly friendly and will happily regale you with tales of their dirtbag adventures. You'll also likely learn a few tips and tricks from any long-distance hikers you meet and, if you're lucky, you'll encounter a little trail magic along the way—I received rides, soda, beer, candy bars, ice cream, spaghetti, sweet potatoes, and even much-needed contact solution from kind trail angels along the way!

There is no true “Pacific Crest Trail experience.”

There's a popular saying in the long-distance hiking community that I think can extend to anyone who heads out to explore any portion of any trail: “Hike Your Own

Hike.” Simply put, it doesn't matter whether you're day hiking, enjoying a quick weekend trip, backpacking for a week, or trying for the whole enchilada: the PCT is for everyone—including you!



A sign you don't want to miss on the PCT in Southern California

FOURTEEN QUESTIONS

Shawnté Salabert describes herself as a curiosity-seeking, adventure-loving, outdoor-rambling professional word wrangler. We wanted to know more—so we asked.

Native or transplant?

Transplant! I grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, spent almost five years in Charleston, South Carolina and just over a year in New York City before moving to LA, where I've been for the past 11 years.

Have you always been an “outdoors person”?

I grew up in a rough neighborhood and didn't experience any non-urban “nature” until I went to a Boys' and Girls' Club summer camp at eight years old. It blew me away, and I knew I'd found something special in that place. From then on, I sought to be outside as much as possible, even if it was just spending an hour walking around a city park with friends.

When and how did you get involved in WTC?

I took WTC five years ago, hoping to become comfortable with off-trail navigation and snow travel. I did, and really enjoyed the course as a whole, so I wanted to pay it forward by volunteering on staff.

What convinced you to change careers?

I spent nine years working in the music industry with wonderful, wonderful people. A few summers ago, I took a two-month sabbatical while working on the book so that I could knock out a large portion of field work. One night while camping alone in the Sierras, I had an epiphany: I've been dreaming of being a professional writer since childhood—how could I pass up this opportunity? I gave my notice as soon as I returned.

What was the hardest thing about being out on the trail by yourself?

I thought it would be navigating hazards, from bears to lightning storms, but it turns out that the hardest thing was being alone with my own thoughts and having all of that space to reflect on what I was feeling and experiencing. I pondered some big questions throughout those miles.

And the best?

Having that space to, well, ponder those big questions! I didn't always like the answers I came up with, but having the time to explore all of that was an incredible gift.

What's the best piece of advice for someone planning to tackle a lot of trail miles?

Ask yourself why you're really heading out there, and then remember that reason when times get tough—because they will, no matter how beautiful the location, no matter how wonderful the company. Also, find your dream shoes or boots and then buy several pairs a half-size up!

What's the biggest lesson you learned from your time on the PCT?

A lot of the things we think we need in life are just window dressing. What we truly need is actually quite simple: Purpose. Love. Security. Okay...and a large handful of Swedish Fish.

Did you have any close calls?

I nearly high-fived a black bear after turning a blind corner about a mile away from the Woods Creek suspension bridge. I also saw a mountain lion, postholed thigh deep in a boulder field below Forester Pass and narrowly missed a lightning strike while traversing Glen Pass. That classic adage about thunderstorms only occurring after noon in the Sierra? Not always true!

What's the craziest thing you experienced out there?

In Vidette Meadow, I ran into a man dressed as a Canadian Mountie who began singing “O Canada” as soon as I approached. He then offered me a bag of snacks and invited me to join his campfire, where a group of very kind “trail angels” were making spaghetti and sweet potatoes. I thought I'd died and gone to heaven!

Favorite outdoor writer?

That's an impossible question. But my favorite read from the past year was Rahawa Haile's absolutely stunning piece for *Outside* magazine on her experience as a black woman solo hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Favorite book?

I can recite *The Lorax* in its entirety.

Where can we read more of your stuff?

www.ShawnteSalabert.com

What's next?

That's a secret!



Shawnté working on the PCT with the Trail Gorillas

Shawnté's recent bylines include *Outside*, *Alpinist*, *Backpacker*, *Adventure Journal*, *Modern Hiker*, *REI Co-op Journal*, *Land+People* and *Verticulture*.

Shawnté spent more than two years hiking, writing and photographing for her new book, *Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail: Southern California: Section Hiking from Campo to Tuolumne Meadows*. It is available from Mountaineers Books and booksellers everywhere.

Is This the End? Or Just the Beginning?



Now that class is coming to an end, you can look forward to enjoying your new skills outside.

While the ten-week class can sometimes feel like you're drinking from a fire hose, you can only learn so much sitting in a classroom. Just like learning a new language or learning to play an instrument, practice makes perfect. The real opportunity to grow and develop your own best practices will come from going on experience trips.

Graduation is a fun time to reconnect with your classmates and look back at your exciting journey. You'll need to have completed two experience trips to receive your commemorative patch and certificate. However, during your student year, you have top priority for joining experience trips, and we highly recommend going on as many as your schedule allows.

When you can't dedicate a whole weekend for an experience trip, join dayhikes and stay active in the WTC group and greater Sierra Club community. There are opportunities to volunteer for trail maintenance, participate in navigation noodles, learn on nature walks and much more.

During our student year, Victor and I (Lubna) figured we paid for the class and acquired all the gear, so we wanted to take full advantage of our investment, and experience as many trips as possible. At first, we wanted to celebrate our 15-year anniversary with 15 trips. Unfortunately, a medical issue stopped me at eight trips, but Victor went on 21 trips between the end of class and graduation in October. If you include WTC snow camp, I guess we still got to 30 trips combined, averaging 15 each, so it still counts—right?

Here are ten tips to help ensure you join some unforgettable experience trips:

- Maintain your experience résumé so you can email it at anytime.
- Choose trips to destinations you've always wanted to visit.
- Sign up for trips in the early, middle and late season. You'll want to keep the learning momentum with the early trips, see the Sierra Nevada in the middle season and enjoy fall foliage in the late season.
- Chose a diversity of destinations to expose yourself to different environments. You'll have a chance to visit deserts, rivers, lakes, glaciers and, of course, MOUNTAINS!

- Go with leaders you like and leaders you don't know. You'll expose yourself to different leadership styles, learn new skills and develop new friendships.
- Maintain excellent communication with the trip leaders.
- Garner goodwill by going on the trips on which you reserve a space. Life happens, and we sometimes need to alter plans, but it's important to be courteous and inform your trip leaders as soon as possible if you need to cancel. Remember, your reputation has a way of following you.
- Don't lament the waitlist. Keep your calendar flexible and you may be able to jump in when last-minute spots open up.
- Use checklists when packing. It will reduce the inevitable anxiety of forgetting something important—like your boots.
- Be creative with happy hour items. Sharing some good food and drinks with new friends makes for a fun gathering after a long day.

If you are organized or have friends who are, consider going on a private trip. Planning trips is an experience in itself. Your leaders can support you with information on permits, trails, campsites and other things you'll need to have a successful experience.

Now that you're part of the WTC and Sierra Club community, you'll always have something to do and places to go. We've begun rock climbing and signed up for AMP (Advanced Mountaineering Program). We also plan on joining some of the advanced snow training opportunities.

Furthermore, we're joining friends to surf and play volleyball. The possibilities are endless; now you get to choose yours!

Remember, Chapter 10 in your *Student Handbook* has a lot of great information about experience trips and how to get on them.

We look forward to seeing you on the trails.



Lubna Debbini and Victor Gomez are OC Kaweah Group Instructors

Adventure in Your Own Backyard

The denizens of Southern California live with a wonderful dichotomy—we have all the advantages of living in one of the great urban cities of the world, yet we are surrounded with a bevy of outdoor activities and wilderness opportunities.

No matter the time of year, whether you're looking for an easy hike or a mountaineering challenge, there's no reason to log a lot of miles to find an adventure—all you have to do is just look around.

Urban Adventure in Griffith Park

Griffith Park, one of the largest municipal parks in the United States, has numerous mountain trails. Local mountaineer Doug Mantle trained for climbing Mt. Everest by running those trails. Give them a try and soon you might be on top of the world, too! The Sierra Club leads evening conditioning hikes in Griffith Park every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Old Standbys

WTC groups go to several different local peaks for their all-day hikes and they're all good workouts. In the San Gabriel Mountains, try hiking up Condor Peak, Mt. Lowe or Mt. Wilson (from Chantry Flat or the harder trail from Sierra Madre). Orange County has Santiago Peak, aka Saddleback Mountain. Another common hike, especially good for getting in shape for trips to the Sierra Nevada, is Mt Baldy. The Ski Hut Trail is a favorite while the Bear Canyon trail adds 2000 more feet to your workout.

Rock Scrambling on Strawberry Peak

The Mountaineers Route on Mt. Whitney is famous, but Strawberry Peak has a Mountaineers Route, too. The West Ridge of Strawberry Peak is called "the fun climb" of the San Gabriels because of the 3rd-class rock scrambling. The trailhead, Colby Canyon, is just 10 miles from La Canada. Follow the painted arrows to the top, but don't forget to look back—there aren't any arrows to guide you down.

Mountaineering

The traverse from Iron Mountain to Mt. Baldy along the San Antonio Ridge is long, hard and treacherous. And the car shuttle's no picnic, either. Bring plenty of water for this 9000-foot climb!



The Bridge to Nowhere is somewhere near Azuza

Classic Snow Climb

Baldy Bowl is the birthplace of Southern California skiing and it's an awesome sight when it's full of snow. Dig out your ice axe, strap on the crampons and head for the top. Book a berth at the Sierra Club's Ski Hut if you want to spend the night in a cozy chalet, or camp on the top for an awesome sunrise.

Triplet Rocks

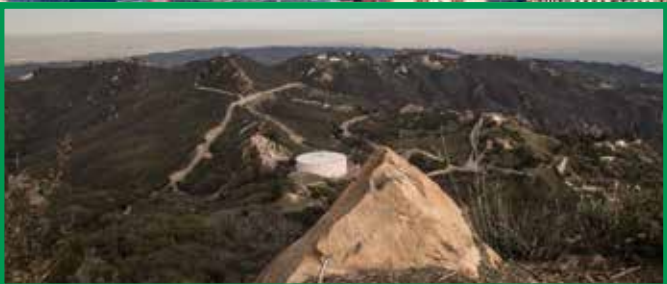
Perhaps the most arduous climb in Southern California, it has been compared to Picacho del Diablo in Baja California. First you climb Mt. Waterman, then you climb Twin Peaks and *then* it gets hard. Don't attempt this without updating your life insurance first.

San Gorgonio

At 11,503', San Gorgonio is the tallest peak in Southern California. It's taller than the tallest peaks in 142 countries. On trail, it's over 18 miles and about 5400 feet of climbing. If you like a winter challenge, the North Chute has a fearsome snow slope that requires ice axe and crampon skills along with a lot of stamina.

Thru-Hiking

There's nothing like being on a trail day after day. Experience local segments of Pacific Crest Trail without resupplies or complicated logistics (see page 2). For example, the hike from Cajon Pass (I-15) to Agua Dulce (Hwy. 14) spans the length of the San Gabriel Mountains, a little over 110 miles on trail.



Airy views from above Los Angeles on the Backbone Trail

Another option is the Backbone Trail, which runs 67 miles along the spine of the Santa Monica Mountains from Will Rogers State Park to Point Mugu. You'll hike through the best-protected stretch of Coastal Mediterranean habitat in the world and can celebrate reaching the end with a swim in the Pacific Ocean.

More Snow Camp

Camping in the snow has many benefits—no crowds, no insects, no (or sleepier) bears and easy access to water. A great place to go snow camping is Tamarack Valley Campground. Take the Palm Springs Tram, strap on your snowshoes and go! Don't forget your shovel to make your snow table.

The Biggest, Baddest Day Climb

Want something harder? The Cactus to Clouds trail goes from the desert floor at Palm Springs to the top of Mount San Jacinto, a climb of over 10,000 feet. The climate zones vary so much it's like hiking from Mexico to Canada, so get an early start. Luckily, there's a restaurant 8000 feet up and a tram to take you down, so even if you cut it short, you can still have a cold beer near the top.

Wet Hike

Not every adventure involves mountaintops. The "Bridge to Nowhere" over the East Fork of the San Gabriel River, is 4.5 miles away from the nearest road. Why is there a two-lane bridge in the middle of nowhere? Why do people jump off it for fun? Go there and find out. Just be ready to cross the river a few times on your way.

Warm and Wet Hike

Take off some (or all) of your clothes and slip into Deep Creek Hot Springs in the San Bernardino National Forest. Go ahead, you've earned it. Don't get too relaxed though—you'll still have to hike back to your car.



Hike, then soak, at Deep Creek Hot Springs

Friends and Family Hike

Share the adventure with novices on an easy hike like Mount Lowe from Eaton Saddle. Drive up the Angeles Crest Highway and Mt. Wilson Road to the big clearing. From there it's just 1.5 miles and 500' gain to the top of Mt. Lowe. Almost anyone can reach the summit and it's a worthy climb.

Mountain Climbing with a Side of Shrimp

The Sandstone Peak loop, from Circle X Ranch, is a fine hike for anyone in good shape. It's near the western tip of Mugu, past Malibu and Trancas, and the drive is half the adventure. Take the Mishe Mokwa Trail to Split Rock, then up to the top, past Echo Cliffs, Skull Rock and Balanced Rock. A hundred thousand ladybugs roost in the canyon in the fall and there's a quick road back down. Follow up with lots of shrimp and beer at Neptune's Net, overlooking PCH and County Line Beach.

Resources:

Afoot and Afield: Los Angeles County, by Jerry Schad

Trails of the Angeles: 100 hikes in the San Gabriels, by John W. Robinson

Modernhiker.com, edited by Casey Schreiner



Will McWhinney is a WLA Group 3 Instructor

Alphabet Soup

Making Sense of the Angeles Chapter's Sections



If you hang around with Sierra Club members from the Angeles Chapter, you'll soon notice they seem to speak in a sort of code. Something along the lines of "the MOC is reviewing my trip for WTC and SPS, but is waiting on the LTC." No, they're not trying to keep secrets from the NSA or trying to foil Russian election meddlers, they're just talking "section-speak."

When you get involved with the Angeles Chapter, you quickly realize it's big—really big—36 sections/committees and 16 regional groups big. So first, a little history.

The Angeles Chapter was founded in 1911, starting first as the Southern California Section, then as the Southern California Chapter and, finally, as the Angeles Chapter.

Over the years, members have explored every nook and cranny of our region, both on their own and in tens of thousands of chapter-sponsored outings. After a while, like-minded members started to hang out and form little groups—"sections" were born.

Bicyclists formed the Bicycle Touring Committee, photographers formed the Camera Committee, hikers and climbers who loved the Sierras formed the Sierra Peaks Section. You get the idea.

What this all means for you is that the many trips and activities listed in this newsletter's outings pages are really just a drop in the Angeles Chapter bucket. And when you get tired of outings, there are environmental groups and political committees and, well, there is a group for just about anything you might be interested in.

So, for a quick primer, here are some of the groups you're likely to run across. In fact, the WTC experience trips you go on soon might very well be co-sponsored by one of them.

Sierra Peaks Section

The name says it all. They bag peaks in the Sierras, class 1 to 5, with most in the class 2–3 range. From introductory outings to death marches, SPS explores, enjoys, preserves and stimulates interest in climbing and hiking peaks in the Sierra Nevada. The section offers a varied schedule of activities during the climbing season ranging from introductory trips for beginning climbers and graduates of WTC to multi-day backpacks that may require extensive mountaineering skills in rock and snow climbing.

Their current list has 247 peaks and the group was established in 1955.



sierraclub.org/angeles/sierra-peaks

Desert Peaks Section

DPS is an outings activity section with a membership of about 250. Their section encourages members to explore and enjoy the desert mountain ranges of the Southwest, become familiar with their scenic resources and stimulate interest in climbing these vast desert ranges. They also strive to enlist public interest and cooperation in protecting desert areas and foster among members the purposes of the Sierra Club. They are the oldest peak-climbing section in the Angeles Chapter, being informally organized in 1941 by founder Chester Versteeg and formally established in October 1945.



desertpeaks.org

Hundred Peaks Section

Legend has it that when this section was named, no one could imagine doing more than 100 peaks. The list now has 279.

The HPS bags peaks all over Southern California; from San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties in the west, to Kern County and the Southern Sierra Nevada to the north, to Joshua Tree National Park in the east and to San Diego County in the south. Most of their peaks are class 1 and 2, with a few having class 3 summit blocks. Their trips can be easy trail hikes to grueling but rewarding cross-country excursions. This section was established in 1946.



hundredpeaks.org

Wilderness Adventures Section

Don't want to bag just a peak? How about a lake or a National Park site? WAS was founded by individuals who love exploring all aspects of the great outdoors, but who don't feel compelled to climb every peak on a list (but will if it's there). WAS sponsors a wide variety of outings from on-trail day hikes to off-trail peak climbs, to car camps, bus trips, island trips and winter travel.

They believe that when people are passionate about the outdoors, they'll work to protect it. They help people discover and enjoy the earth's wilderness, mountains, wetlands, woodlands, seashores, rivers, desert and plains.

wildernessadventuresla.org/

20s & 30s Section

This section was formed to promote, organize, and lead Sierra Club activities that interest environmentally-conscious single people in their 20s & 30s. They have events all around Los Angeles, along with Orange County and Ventura County.

Although the majority of their members are single people in their 20s & 30s, anyone is welcome to join the section and/or participate in its activities.

Their section is very active and the activities reflect that. Among them, you will find various meetings, social events and wilderness outings, including hiking, backpacking, car camping, canoeing, sailing, biking, kayaking and skiing. For those who want an introduction to 20s & 30s, they have newcomers' meetings and hikes where anyone can come and find out more about the section.

sc2030singles.org

Griffith Park Section

The Griffith Park Section seeks to preserve and protect the natural ecology of Griffith Park, helping to assure its continuance as an open area always accessible to the public. They lead regular weekday evening hikes to increase awareness of the beauty and needs of Griffith Park. The Section also schedules regular cleanup events and other volunteer activities as a public service.

angeles.sierraclub.org/griffith_park_section

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

The Inspiring Connections Outdoors group manages a community outreach program that provides opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world.

In 2016, LA ICO led 136 outings for 4277 children and 1056 parents and teachers. The Angeles group is just one of 50 Inspiring Connections Outdoors groups nationwide that make up the Sierra Club's national outreach program.

This section does truly cool things and they can always use more help and support.

angelesico.org

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans

This section began as a grassroots effort in 1986 as the Gay and Lesbian Committee, with a few people who shared the environmental cause of the Sierra Club but wanted to enjoy the wilderness "out of the closet." They sponsor a variety of activities, including dayhikes, car camps, backpacks, mule packs, bike rides, peak bags, beach walks, boat trips and a host of other outdoor activities, as well as conservation education, fundraisers, outdoor skills training and social activities.

glstracks.org

Are you tired yet? If you're not, here is the list of *just* the Activity Sections and Committees for the Angeles Chapter.

20s & 30s Section	San Antonio Ski Hut Committee
Local Hikes Committee	Harwood Lodge Committee
Backpacking Committee	Sierra Peaks Section
Lower Peaks Committee	Hundred Peaks Section
Bicycle Touring Committee	Sierra Student Coalition
Mule Pack Section	Inspiring Connections Outdoors
Camera Committee	Ski Mountaineers Section
Natural Science Section	International Community Section
Desert Committee Outings	Trails Committee
Nordic Ski Touring Section	Keller Peak Ski Hut Committee
Desert Peaks Section	Wilderness Adventures Section
Orange County ICO	Leadership Training Committee
Gay & Lesbian Sierrans Section	Wilderness Training Committee
Orange County Sierrans Section	Little Hikers & Junior Explorers Committee
Geographic Information Systems Committee	
River Touring Section	
Griffith Park Section	

And if you still have some energy, check out the chapter's website and discover everything else they're doing on environmental issues and political action—then get involved.

Welcome to the Angeles Chapter—you'll never be bored again!

SIERRA CLUB BY THE NUMBERS





OC Ritter Group's Judi Grissmeyer and Judith Villegas appear ready to party

Martin Keyt modeling the latest in snow travel eyewear



Kim Cart (LBSB G3) gives her boots the test



SGV Group 4 on the trail to Mt. Wilson



SGV Group 4 on Mt. Wilson



WLA Group 4 on 4377'



OC student Barry Yoch (center) is not impressed



SGV Group 7 on top of Strawberry Peak



Erik Coll, Zachary Crocker and a tree hug it out during WLA Group 4's snow travel day



SGV Group 4's Chris Alonso, Tianhe Zhang, Zara Kunkler and Suzetty Shen



Someone (Tak Idehara) in SGV Group 7 is having way too much fun!



Zara Kunkler with Patrick McKusky and the rest of SGV Group 4 close behind



WLA Kristina Larson's shelter confidence level is not high



Letty Jimenz from LBSB G3



OC Kaweah student Kristin Metcalfe hoping that the foot holds



The OC Kaweah group staying found

OUTINGS

The outings published in this newsletter are sponsored mainly by WTC. Some are also sponsored by other Sierra Club Angeles Chapter entities. As a WTC student, your training places you in good standing with other sponsoring groups and sections who welcome your participation. For a full listing of all that is offered, see the Chapter's Schedule of Activities at angeles.sierraclub.org/activities.

See your *Student Handbook* for more information about graduation requirements.

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 and work phone numbers, WTC leader's name, the name and date of the outing you wish to join, and your experience and physical conditioning.

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 common courtesy that you contact the leaders to let them know, even if you are on the waiting list.

Trips marked with an asterisk(*) were not yet final at the time of publication.

Want more? There are new outings and activities added all the time. Go to www.wildernesstravelcourse.org/outings for updated listings.



WTC Experience Trip

qualifies as a WTC experience trip for graduation.



Trip of Interest

does not qualify as a WTC experience trip.



Training Opportunity

LTC Events, Navigation, Environmental Awareness and other opportunities.



Mountaineering

Technically challenging, not suited to all WTC students. Strong students with prior mountaineering experience may qualify.



Sat–Sun, March 24–25

I: Monument Mountain (4834')

Mark Stone fortunableblessings@yahoo.com

Sharon Moore justslm@earthlink.net



This strenuous 20-mile backpack explores a diverse ecosystem in the transition zone between the Mojave and Colorado Deserts. On Saturday, we arrive at 7:30 a.m. for an early start. Our route takes us cross country to the Ruby Lee Mill site and then into the Hexies to camp on a bench in the shadow of the mountain. We breakfast early Sunday, then summit Monument Mountain to enjoy far-ranging views. On breaking camp, we will return via Porcupine Wash. Total gain/loss: +2849'/-2851'.

Each participant must pack a minimum of 7 to 8 liters of water. Participants cover their park entry fee of \$25 per car. Parking at the backcountry board is very limited. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. Space on this trip is restricted to 10 participants total. Rain cancels (portions of the route are subject to flash flooding). Please send hiking résumé with recent conditioning and contact information to trip leader.

Sat–Sun, March 24–25

I: Pinto Mt. (3987')

Molly Arevalo mollyarevalo@gmail.com

Bernard Yoo bernie.yoo@gmail.com



Enjoy desert scenery and camaraderie on a backpack in Joshua Tree National Park. Saturday afternoon start with ≈3-mile backpack (400' gain) to camp at Turkey Flats and evening happy hour. Sunday early morning start with daypacks up a wash (Class 2 scramble, 2600' gain) to the summit, then return to camp to pack up. Steady, reasonable pace. Please note that this is a dry camp, so hikers will need to pack in all the water they need for the weekend (at least 6–8L). 13-mile round trip. Send email with contact info and recent experience to trip leader.

Sat–Sun, March 24–25

MR: Dyadic Peak (4360') & Spectre Peak (4482')

Regge Bulman r_bulman@fastmail.us

Monica Suua mosuua@gmail.com



Join us for a post-WTC climb in the rugged and remote Coxcomb Mountains—it's like 4377 on steroids—lots of them. Saturday, backpack to camp (5 miles, 1300' gain). Sunday, climb peaks then back to camp and out to cars (9 miles, 1600' gain). Dyadic is the

priority, Spectre will be done if time allows. Must be comfortable on third-class rock and carry all water for two days. Helmet and harness required. To apply, send email with experience and conditioning to leader.

Sat–Sun, March 31–April 1

I: Minerva Hoyt (5405') and Quail Mt. (5813')

Marina Batzke mbbp2013@yahoo.com

Bernard Yoo bernie.yoo@gmail.com



Come backpacking Easter weekend in Joshua Tree National Park. We start at the Keys West backcountry registration board (Boy Scout trailhead) on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. to hike off-trail to our camp where we have Saturday afternoon to set up, enjoy Happy Hour and turn in for the night. Early Sunday, we will take our daypacks and hike up to Mount Minerva Hoyt, then continue on to Quail Mountain (the highest peak in JTNP) for early lunch. Then we'll hike back to camp, pack up and head back to the Keys West backcountry board. 14 miles RT with 2140' elevation gain. Outing will be moderately difficult as we are hiking entirely off-trail and we each have to carry all our water. Participants cover their JTNP entry fee of \$25 per car. Parking at the backcountry board is very limited. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. Space on this trip is restricted to 10 participants total. Please email your hiking/backpacking résumé with recent conditioning and contact information to Marina Batzke.

Sat–Sun, April 7–8

I: Pinto Mountain (3983')

Cate Widmann cathryn.widmann@gmail.com

Dwain Roque dwain@dwainroque.com



Spend two days backpacking in the heart of Joshua Tree National Park. Meet early Saturday afternoon to backpack 3.5 miles on mostly flat terrain to our dry camp. Practice your navigation skills with the leaders along the way. Once we arrive at camp, we will share a relaxed happy hour while enjoying the solitude of the desert. Sunday morning, hike 2.5 miles and 2000' up gullies and ridges to the summit of Pinto Mountain. Terrain will be rocky and steep at times. Once we have taken in the views we will return to camp and then pack out, returning to the cars by late afternoon. Trip totals for 2 days: 12 miles and 2500' gain, all cross country. Email Cate Widmann with experience, conditioning and contact info.



A 2017 experience trip to Mt. Silliman



Bear canisters aren't just for bears—this cute, but sly, Mt. Whitney marmot wants your food!

Saturday, April 14, 7:30 A.M.

Leadership Training Seminar



Offered just twice a year, the next Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's Leadership Training Seminar is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2018. Apply by March 31 (see website link) to guarantee a spot and learn all about the best leadership practices of our outings program. This all-day event covers group management, our ratings system, rules of conduct, safety and much more, from presentations, breakout groups and scenarios. See page 22 for details.

Sat–Sun, April 14–15

I: Eagle Mountain (5350')

Gideon Strich gideonstrich@yahoo.com

Jason Seieroe jasonseieroe@gmail.com



Moderately-paced, off-trail backpack to Eagle Mountain in Joshua Tree National Park. Leave early Saturday afternoon and do some navigation practice on Mastodon Peak before striking off across the desert to a wilderness campsite at the base of the Eagle Mountain range. Set up camp, then participate in some optional navigation practice in the desert before happy hour that evening. Sunday morning, make an early ascent of Eagle Mountain then returning to break camp and hike back to our cars. Total distance around 11 miles and 2600' of gain. Participants will be expected to carry all 10 essentials, appropriate gear and all water required for the weekend (minimum 6 liters). This trip counts as an experience trip for WTC. Email leaders with your hiking résumé and current conditioning for consideration.

Sat–Sun, April 14–15

I: Quail Mt. (5817') & Mt. Minerva Hoyt (5413')

Timothy Martin yoseki@att.net

Joseph Speigl jspeigl1@yahoo.com



WTC experience trip and moderate 2-day backpack. Total distance for the weekend about 14 miles, elevation gain ≈2300'. This is a concept hike. The concept is French author and aviator Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's literary gem, *Le Petit Prince*, most of which is set in the desert. The leader will present, among other things, the author's background, why he chose the desert as a setting for his story, and the story's narrative, characters, themes and use of mythology. Send hiking résumé and conditioning information to leader. WTC students given priority.

Sat–Sun, April 21–22

I: Pinto Mt. (3983') Backpack

Timothy Martin yoseki@att.net

Justin Bruno justinbruno@hotmail.com

ET

This is a concept hike. The concept is David Lean's 1962 cinematic masterpiece, *Lawrence of Arabia*, most of which is set in the desert. The leader will present, among other things, the historical and production background for the film, its portrayal of the desert and its use of mythology. 11-mile, 2-day overnight backpack in Joshua Tree NP with 2500' gain and loss. WTC experience trip with 2–3 miles of steep, difficult terrain. Send hiking résumé and conditioning information to leader. WTC students will be given priority.

Sat–Sun, April 21–22

I: Castle Peaks

Inge Mueller inge_mueller@msn.com

Teresa Noonan teresanoonan@yahoo.com

ET

Join us for a moderately paced overnight backpack to the base of Castle Peaks, the jagged peaks with majestic columns and pillars in the northeastern corner of the Mojave Desert Preserve. Great experience trip for WTC students! We will travel cross country and discover some of the last remnants of the Old West, as well as find Dove Spring. We will hike a total of 10 miles (1000' gain) across rocky terrain surrounded by Juniper, Yucca and Joshua trees. Dry camp, each hiker needs to bring 6–7 liters of water. High-clearance and 4-wheel-drive required.

Sat–Sun, April 21–22

I: Sheep Mountain (5141') and Martinez Mountain (6560')

Richard Gillock gillock@aol.com

James Hagar jhagar1@gmail.com

ET

This is an overnight backpack into the Santa Rosa Mountains above Palm Desert. Saturday we will hike in to Horse Thief Creek (2.9 miles, 120' gain, 720' loss), establish our campsite and switch to summit packs. From there we will do a part trail/part cross-country dayhike to the relatively infrequently climbed Sheep Mountain (8 miles RT, 2100'). Named for the Peninsular Big Horn Sheep, don't get your hopes up for a rare sighting, but come to appreciate the habitat these rugged creatures live in and to cop some excellent views of Palm Desert and the Coachella Valley. We will return to camp for a traditional happy hour potluck. On Sunday we will get an early start to climb Martinez Mountain which overlooks Martinez Canyon, a major route for Cahuilla Indians crossing to the Coachella Valley (11 miles RT, 2100'). We will return mid-afternoon and break camp before returning to the cars before sundown (2.9 miles, 720' gain). At the edge of the mountains and the desert, this is a great place to practice and learn navigation skills. Camp water is available at Horse Thief Creek, bring 3-4 liters of water Saturday for the hike in and the summit hike, we'll filter water in camp that evening. Preference given to WTC Students needing an experience trip. For more details send hiking résumé and recent conditioning to leaders



At the base of Pilot Knob (l to r) Sherry Ross, Jan Marie Perry, Susan Smetana, Kate Miller, Emily Hua, Jason Malburg

Sat–Sun, April 21–22

I: Navigation—Mission Creek Navigation Noodle

Robert M. Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

TR

Navigation noodle at Mission Creek Preserve to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sunday checkout. Participants are welcome to attend either or both days. Send email/SASE, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to leaders.

Note: Early sign-up (at least two weeks prior to the event) 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 *Leadership Reference Book* for more information. Send contact information (including mailing address) and your qualifications to the leader as soon as possible.

Saturday, April 28

O: 37th Annual Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days

Rachel Glegg rachel.dorman@gmail.com

Ronald Webster mawebster1984@gmail.com

TI

Join the Sierra Club trail crew on April 28, as we join forces with other local volunteer groups, families and individuals to repair and restore trails in Point Mugu State Park as part of the 37th annual Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days festival (April 27–29). Tools and instruction are provided; there's a job for everyone and no experience is needed. Come just for the day or stay for the weekend. Optional extras for volunteers (not part of the Sierra Club outing) include free camping at Danielson campground Friday/Saturday nights, morning coffee and bagels, free BBQ and campfire Saturday evening and much more.

Bring sturdy footwear with a closed toe, work gloves, long sleeves/pants, sun protection, water and lunch/snacks. Registration required. Contact Trail Work Coordinator, Rachel Glegg.

Saturday, April 28

I: Scodie Mountain (7294')

Angela Chung megyoung@gmail.com

Homer Tom hikerhomie@gmail.com

TI

Get a head start on your WTC spring adventures with a moderate off-trail hike over scree, scrub and pinyon pine in the Southern Sierra Kiavah Wilderness. This rarely visited peak offers hikers the chance to experience real cross-country travel and route finding. Saturday morning, we'll depart from Walker Pass Campground on the PCT and make our way to the summit (7 miles RT, 2300' gain). We'll enjoy panoramic views at the top and then return to the campground. Optional car camping before and after the hike at Walker Pass (please indicate plans to leader) with a relaxed happy hour, plus possible additional exploration Sunday morning. Participants should bring 10 essentials and all food/water for the day. Send email with hiking résumé and contact info to leader.

Sat–Sun, April 28–29

I: Mt Waterman Area Nav Pack

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

Adrienne Benedict, Virgil Shields, Misha Askren

ET

Looking for an opportunity to improve your navigation skills? Join us on this cross-country romp to the areas around Mt. Waterman. We'll pack in about 1 mile and about 1300' to a dry camp on Saturday. We'll spend Saturday and Sunday exploring the area, practicing navigation, looking for wildflowers and taking in a peak. Sunday we will pack out. Bring enough water for two days. Send email with contact information and recent experience to leader.

Sat–Sun, April 28–29

M/E-R: Snow: Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice

Nile Sorenson nsorenso@pacbell.net

Neal Robbins neal.robbs@l-3com.com

John L. Kieffer jockorock42@yahoo.com

Phil Bates philipabates@gmail.com

MT TR

Sierra Snow Checkoff/Practice: For M- and E-candidates wanting to check off leadership ratings. We welcome others who wish to practice new techniques. Restricted to SC members with some prior basic training with the ice axe. Send SC#, climbing résumé, email, H&W phones to Nile Sorenson.

Sat–Sun, May 5–6, 2018

I: Lone Warrior Pt. (8440') Student Navigation Trip

Will McWhinney willmcw@gmail.com

Anne Mullins hike2thepeak@gmail.com

ET

Waterfalls, old-growth forests and adventure just two hours from Los Angeles. Saturday, starting from Forest Falls, we'll take the Momyer/Alger Creek Trail, a quiet, mostly shaded route in the San Geronio Wilderness, 2900'+ and 6 miles to Dobbs Cabin (7240'), a deeply forested campsite with year-round water. Optional exploratory side trips down to the Devils Navel or to Dobbs Tunnel.

Sunday, we'll climb 1650', 1.7 miles RT challenging off-trail to Peak 8872' and Lone Warrior Point (8440'), overlooking the rarely visited Allison Falls. Participants will lead the hike, on and off the trail, with leader support. Preference given to WTC students and prospective leaders.



Martin Baek, Sarah Zeitlin and Bernie Fox near the top of Dyadic Peak in Joshua Tree National Park

Sat–Sun, May 12–13

I: Marion (10,382'), Jean (10,670'), Drury (10,180') and Mt. St. Ellen's (10,174')

Crystal Davis marie.crystal@gmail.com

Stephanie Smith rbstephs@gmail.com

ET

Experience trip for WTC students. Saturday afternoon, backpack from top of Palm Springs Tram to camp at Round Valley (2 miles and 800' gain). Set up camp and dayhike Drury Peak, Mt. St. Ellen's Peak, Marion Mountain and Jean Peak (approx 8 miles, 2000' gain, significant cross-country). Headlamps required. Sunday return to cars via the tram. WTC or equivalent required. If accepted on trip, you will be required to send \$29.95 (for tram ticket and permit). Send e-mail with recent experience and conditioning, H&W phones to leader.

Sat, May 12

I: Practice Your New Navigation Skills

David Meltzer dwm@crgpm.com

Brian Decker scubaairpig@yahoo.com

TI

Practice your new navigation skills on a 6-mile hike in Joshua Tree NP searching (and hopefully finding) test wells, section markers, bench marks, etc. Leaders will review navigation concepts learned in WTC. Optional hike through the Chasm of Doom. Please email David Meltzer if you are interested. Additional details will be provided upon confirmation of reservation.

ET

WTC Experience Trip

TR

Training Opportunity

TI

Trip of Interest

MT

Mountaineering



Monica Suua, Sonia Soriano and Fiona McGinty (l to r) negotiate the third-class East Ridge of Mt. Russell

Saturday, May 19

I: Navigation—Beginning Navigation Clinic

Diane Dunbar dianedunbar@charter.net

Richard Boardman 310-374-4371

TR

Beginning Navigation Clinic: Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor, learning/practicing map and compass skills 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 miles, 500' gain. Send SASE, phone numbers, rideshare info, \$25 deposit (refunded at trailhead) to leader.

Sat–Sun, May 19–20

M/E-R: Sheep Pass/Indian Cove—Joshua Tree Rock Checkoff & Practice

Patrick Mckusky pamckusky@att.net

Daniel Richter dan@danrichter.com

MT

TR

M & E level rock checkoff and practice for LTC leadership candidates wishing to pursue a rating or practice skills. Also open to Advanced Mountaineering Program students wanting to solidify what they learned in the course. Practice Saturday and optionally checkoff Sunday. Restricted to active Sierra Club members with previous rock climbing experience. Climbing helmets and harnesses required. Email climbing résumé to leader to apply.

Sat–Sun, June 16–17

I: Navigation—Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle

Robert M Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net

TR

Navigation noodle in Los Padres National Forest for either checkoff or practice to satisfy Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. Saturday is a practice day; Sunday is for checkoff or additional practice. Participants are welcome to attend either or both days. Send email with contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating and rideshare to leaders.

Sat–Sun, June 23–24

I: Cirque Peak (12,900')

Joseph Speigl jspeigl1@yahoo.com

Anne Marie Richardson annemariesc@yahoo.com

ET

On Saturday, backpack to Cirque Lake by a cross-country route to camp at Cirque Lake (4 miles, 1000'). On Sunday, we'll practice navigation and route finding up a class 2 route to Cirque Peak (2 miles, 1800'), then return to camp and hike out. WTC students will get priority. Email climbing résumé to leader.

Sat–Wed, June 30–July 4

I: Yosemite—10 Lakes Basin Backpack Bus Trip

Sherry Ross chlross@yahoo.com

Kent Schwitkis schwitkii@earthlink.net

ET

Join us for a fun-filled backpacking adventure in the spectacular backcountry of Yosemite National Park over the July 4th weekend. Depart the Los Angeles area on Saturday morning, June 30, aboard our luxury bus, and camp overnight close to the trailhead.

Sunday: Our bus will drop off our group at the Ten Lakes Trailhead on Tioga Pass Road where our backpack begins. We'll hike in about 6.2 miles & 2100' of gain to set up our base camp in the Ten Lakes Basin. Relax, fish (license required), swim and enjoy the legendary happy hour.

Monday: Dayhike part trail/part cross-country to Colby Mountain and Grand Mountain (both climbed by John Muir in 1871). A pre-dinner happy hour tops off the day.

Tuesday: Cross-country meander to Grant Lakes and possibly Double Rock. Relax for the rest of the afternoon/evening and dinner on your own.

Wednesday: Hike out 6.2 miles to the Yosemite Creek Trailhead, board our bus for the ride home, with a late lunch/early dinner en route.

Total trip mileage is around 25 miles with an elevation gain of about 5000'. Participants will help navigating the trail and off-trail sections. This trip is permit restricted and is especially geared toward WTC students. Cost: \$250 SC members/\$275 non-members. Cost includes bus transportation, permit and entrance fees, bus snacks & beverages, and a post-backpack restaurant dinner.

Sat–Wed, June 30–July 4

I: Yosemite—Glen Aulin-Mattie Lake, Cold Mt. Bus Trip

Sridhar Gullapalli sridhar_gullapalli@yahoo.com

Will McWhinney willmcw@gmail.com

ET

Join us for a fun-filled backpacking adventure in the spectacular backcountry of Yosemite National Park over the July 4th weekend. Depart the Los Angeles area on Saturday, June 30, aboard our luxury bus to camp at a backpackers' campground.

Sunday: From Tuolumne Meadows, hiking downhill about 5.5 miles to set up our base camp near the Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp. Explore, relax and partake in our "legendary community happy hour" and then sleep under the stars.

Monday: Dayhike cross-country up the famed Yosemite granite slabs and climb through a narrow slot to find hidden Mattie Lake, with a possible side trip to nearby Wildcat Point to check out the amazing view (8.5 miles RT with 1400' gain/loss).

Tuesday: Dayhike to Cold Mountain (9.8 miles RT, 3000' gain).

Wednesday: Hike out to the Murphy Creek Trailhead (6.8 miles, 1000' gain) and board our luxury bus for the ride home.

Total trip mileage over the weekend is around 30.5 miles with an elevation gain of about 5,500'. Participants will help navigating the trail and off-trail sections. This trip is permit restricted and is especially geared towards WTC students. Cost: \$250 SC members/\$275 non-members. Cost includes bus transportation, permit and entrance fees, bus snacks & beverages, and a post-backpack restaurant dinner.

Sat–Wed, June 30–July 4

I: Yosemite—Polly Dome and Other Wonders Bus Trip

Sharon Moore justslm@earthlink.net

Karen Buehler karen.buehler2@gmail.com



Join us on a backcountry adventure from the lightly traveled Murphy Creek Trail to Polly Dome Lakes. We will tag Polly Dome (9806') and spend our first night by the lakes. The next day, we'll navigate through the montane forest and granite wonderlands between the dome and the Tuolumne River, identifying trees and other flora along the way. From our camp at a hidden lake, we'll check out glacially shaped granite domes and a rare volcanic formation, the Little Devil's Postpile. On our final day, we'll exit out to Tuolumne Meadows (with a possible climb of Pothole Dome) to catch the bus back to civilization. Total trip is 15 miles, 4100' gain. This experience trip meets the requirements for WTC graduation and 16 hours of Environmental Awareness credit for LTC candidates.

Cost: \$250 SC members/\$275 non-members. Cost includes bus transportation, permit and entrance fees, bus snacks & beverages, and a post-backpack restaurant dinner.

Fri–Sun, July 6–8

I: Alta Meadows (9356'), Moose Lake (10,550') and Pear Lake (9550')

Angela Chung megyung@gmail.com

Saveria Tilden saveria@theadventurus.com



(Very Strenuous) Enjoy an epic backpacking trip in Sequoia National Park. Friday, we'll start off at 5.6 miles (2200' gain) on the Alta Trail from Wolverton to camp near picturesque Alta Meadow (9356') with breathtaking views of the Great Western Divide. Saturday, we'll hike cross-country through 6 miles (2200' gain), first to the granite bowl of Moose Lake (10,550'), then down to Pear Lake (9550') to camp. Sunday, we'll head back on the Lakes Trail, hiking out 6.2 miles to finish our loop. \$5 cost for permit; permit limits group size. Send experience and contact info to leader.

Fri–Sun, July 6–8

I: Buena Vista Peak (9,709')

Stephen McDonnell mcdonnell0123@sbcglobal.net

Scott Nelson scottnelson808@gmail.com



Buena Vista Peak sits at the end of Buena Vista Crest and is among the highest points in south-central Yosemite. The peak is a simple class-2 scramble from most directions and offers one of the best views in southern half of the park. To the north the vista includes Buena Vista Lake, Half Dome, Mt. Starr King, and the Clark and Cathedral Ranges. To the south one can see Royal Arch Lake, Johnson Lake, Crecent Lake and the Wawona Valley. Day 1: from Bridalveil Campground to Buena Vista Lake (12.6 Miles +2000'). Day 2: climb Buena Vista Peak and then circle down to Royal Arch Lake (6 miles). Day 3: loop around Johnson Lake and back to Bridalveil Camp (13 miles). Participants limited to 6 due to permit restrictions. Priority will be given to WTC students. Send email with contact information and recent experience (including higher altitude [9,000'+] experience) to leader.

Fri–Sun, July 13–15

I: Moose Lake (10,550')

Sarah Wierszalowski swierszalowski@gmail.com

Chuck Currier agr8skier@verizon.net



Do you love green meadows, views of the high Sierras and alpine lakes? Then this Moose Lake trip is for you! Come join us for a three-day trip in Sequoia National Park. We will be backpacking from Wolverton Trailhead (7270') deep into the park where we will camp at Alta Meadows (9356') for two nights.

Day two will be a full-day cross-country trek to Moose Lake (10,550') where you will be rewarded with majestic views and a swim, if you dare. Saturday night we will have happy hour with plenty of time to check out the sunset and do some star gazing.

Early Sunday morning there is an optional ascent of Alta Peak (11,204', 2.5 miles RT, 1900' gain) before we pack up and head back to the cars. Note this is a high-altitude trip and we ask that you are well conditioned. Trip totals: 19 miles, 4200' gain (includes on- and off-trail hiking). Alta Peak is in addition to totals. Permit limits group size. Priority given to WTC students. Day 1: 6.5 miles, 2200' gain. Day 2: 5–6 miles, 2000' gain. Day 3: 6.5 miles + optional Alta Peak.



Gary Abrams, Molly Arevalo, Eddy Ramirez

Fri–Sun, July 20–23

MR: Red and White Mt. (12,816') and Mt. Crocker (12,458')*

Regge Bulman r_bulman@fastmail.us

Monica Suua mosuua@gmail.com



Join us for an adventure to two peaks in the McGee Creek drainage. Friday, backpack from McGee Creek Trailhead to camp at Big McGee

Lake (7 miles, 3,000' gain). Saturday, climb Red and White Mountain via the third-class Northeast Ridge (2.5 miles, 2500' gain). Sunday morning we'll attempt Mt. Crocker via the Northwest Face (1.5 miles, 2100' gain). Then we'll head back to camp and out to the trailhead. Total stats for trip: 22 miles and 7600' gain. Must be comfortable on exposed third-class rock and have previous experience at altitude. Trip restricted to Sierra Club members—helmet and harness required. Permit limits group size. Send email with experience and conditioning to leaders.

Sat–Sun, July 21–22

I: Big McGee Lake (10,472')

Stephen McDonnell mcdonnell0123@sbcglobal.net

Homer Tom hikerhomie@gmail.com



Enjoy a scenic trek through the Eastern Sierra Nevada. We will travel 7 miles and climb 2200' to reach our camp nestled below the Sierra Crest. Pack a fishing rod in hope of landing a happy hour contribution. We will get an early start on day two as we go cross-country to several nearby lakes. Participants limited to 6 due to permit restrictions. Priority will be given to WTC students.

Sat–Sun, July 28–29

MR: University Peak (13,589')

Justin Bruno justinbruno@hotmail.com

Mat Kelliher mkelliher746@gmail.com



Saturday morning we will depart on the trail from Onion Valley and make camp above Bench Lake. Sunday we will leave camp at dawn to make our way up the mostly third class North Face to the summit for a total of 1.4 miles and 2000' gain. After summiting, we will head back down to camp via the same route, pack up and head out. This is a Restricted Mountaineering outing, so participants must be current Sierra Club members and must submit a Sierra Club Medical Form to join the trip.

Fri–Sun, August 3–5

I: Mount Stanford North (12,838')

Tara Kerin tarakerin@gmail.com

Joseph Speigl jspeigl1@yahoo.com



Come along with us for a three-day, moderately-paced backpack to Mt. Stanford North (12,838') from Rock Creek. Friday, we'll hike in 5 miles and 1000' to set up camp and enjoy a relaxed evening at Hilton Lakes. Saturday, we will travel cross-country and summit Mount Stanford North (5 miles, 2500' RT), then return to camp and enjoy a lakeside happy hour. Sunday morning, pack out (5 miles) and head home. Spaces limited; priority given to 2018 WTC students.



On the way to the top of Mt. Starr King

Sat–Mon, August 4–6

I: Palisade Basin (11,523')

Homer Tom hikerhomie@gmail.com

Scott Nelson scottnelson808@gmail.com



Enjoy a long weekend in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park hiking a portion of the Sierra High Route. We hike 2500' up to Bishop Pass and then down into Upper Dusy Basin before going off-trail to set up camp about 9 miles from South Lake. On Sunday, we explore cross-country over Knapsack Pass (11,680') and into Palisade Basin, honing our route-finding skills around the Barrett Lakes. Take in breathtaking views of Isosceles Peak and Columbine Peak over happy hour. Hike out on Monday filled with memories of a strenuous but fun weekend. Send email with contact info and recent experience to leader. Preference given to current WTC students.

Sat–Sun, August 11–12

I: Treasure Lakes (10,650')

Karen Buehler karen.buehler2@gmail.com

David Meltzer dwm@crgpm.com



Moderate-level, but slow-paced backpack 3 miles one-way from South Lake (9750') to the first pair of the seven Treasure Lakes (10,650', 900' gain) in John Muir Wilderness. After lunch, we will hike via use trail and cross-country to Lakes 3, 4 and 5. Sunday, we will hike cross-country to Lake 6 and then return to camp to pack up and hike out, returning to our cars by 3 p.m. Permit limits group size, WTC students given priority. Send email with home and cell phone numbers, city, recent conditioning and backpack experience to Karen Buehler.



WTC Experience Trip



Trip of Interest



Training Opportunity



Mountaineering

Sat–Mon, August 11–13

I: Pilot Knob (12,245') & Humphreys Lakes Basin

Justin Bruno justinbruno@hotmail.com

Tiffani Bruno mtntnrls@gmail.com



Join us on a moderately-paced backpack to an SPS peak in the Eastern Sierras; ≈20 miles RT, 4000' gain with significant off-trail travel. Begin Saturday morning at the North Lake Trailhead where we will hike on trail over Paiute pass, then travel cross-country to make camp at Mesa Lake. Sunday, we will hike cross-country to Pilot Knob and return to camp. Monday, we will reverse the route to return to our trailhead. WTC or similar experience strongly preferred. Send e-mail with recent experience, conditioning, high altitude tolerance, contact and rideshare info to leaders.

Fri–Sun, August 17–19

I: Cloudripper (13,525')

Teresa Noonan teresanoonan@yahoo.com

Inge Mueller inge_mueller@msn.com



Friday to Sunday experience trip backpack in the Sierras. We will leave from Glacier Lodge and hike approximately 6 miles, 3100' gain, to camp at Big Pine Lakes and enjoy happy hour. The next day we will climb Cloudripper (3 miles/3,000') and then pack out Sunday morning. Good conditioning a must. \$5 permit fee, if confirmed. Email hiking résumé and conditioning to leader.

Sat–Sun, August 18–19

I: Florence Peak (12,438')

Megan Birdsill mbirdsill@gmail.com

Sarah Quist sarahschuh@gmail.com



Join us for an idyllic weekend in one of the most beautiful parts of Sequoia National Park! Total two-day stats: 20 miles and 4600'. Saturday morning, we will stay on-trail for 7 miles and 2600' to make camp at Franklin Lakes. Sunday morning, we will rise early to summit Florence Peak (12,438') and take in the views of the Great Western Divide before signing the register and returning the way we came to break camp and hike back to the trailhead (13 miles, 2000'). Participants are encouraged to camp with us at the trailhead Friday night.



Hiking up to the top of Pilot Knob (l to r) Emily Hua, Jan Marie Perry and Sherry Ross

Sat–Sun, August 18–19

I: Vogelsang Peak (11,493')

Mat Kelliher mkelliher746@gmail.com

Jimmy Quan h2otigerjim@gmail.com



Join us for a couple pleasant days in wildly scenic Yosemite NP on this overnight trip to climb a classic Sierra Peak in the Cathedral Range. Saturday, we pack in out of Tuolumne Meadows at a relaxed, but purposeful pace on-trail alongside Rafferty Creek up and over Tuolumne Pass and beyond. Once we reach Vogelsang Lake, we will travel cross country around its eastern shore and set up camp near its headwaters to the south. Distance for the day will be about 8 miles with 1,900' of gain. At camp that night, we will celebrate the gorgeous country we find ourselves in with a festive happy hour under starry, summer-night skies. Sunday, we continue our southern course cross-country up to and then along the Eastern Ridge of Vogelsang Peak to its summit, where we will savor the expansive views all around us before heading back down to our camp for a total of 2 miles RT with 1200' of gain. Back at camp we will pack up and head out the same way we came in. Permit limits group size and permit costs (about \$10 per person) will be split among the group. This WTC outing is co-sponsored by SPS. Email Mat Kelliher with contact and carpool info, recent conditioning and experience, including high-altitude experience, for trip status and details.

Sat–Mon, August 18–20

MR: Mt. Huntington (12,405') and Mt. Stanford (North) (12,836')*

Regge Bulman r_bulman@fastmail.us

Monica Suua mosuua@gmail.com



Join us for a ridge traverse of a section of the Sierra Crest above Hilton Lakes. Saturday, we'll backpack from Hilton Lakes Trailhead to camp at Lake 10,353' (≈4.5 miles, +1000'). Sunday, we'll start very early to climb Mt. Huntington via the class 2/3 Northeast Ridge (1.5 miles, +2000'). From Huntington, we'll attempt a 1.9 mile class 3 traverse of the Northwest Ridge to Mt. Stanford (N) (≈+1200'). We'll return to camp from Stanford via the class 2 East Slope route (≈2.3 miles). Monday morning, we'll hike back to the trailhead. Total stats for trip: 15 miles, +4500'. Must be comfortable on exposed third-class rock and have previous experience at altitude. Trip restricted to Sierra Club members—helmet and harness required. Permit limits group size. Send email with experience and conditioning to leaders.

Fri–Sun, August 24–26

I: Thousand Island Lake, Peak 10,344'

Robert Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Dwain Roque dwain@dwainroque.com



Friday, backpack 8.5 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 10,344' (6 miles RT, 800' gain). Sunday, pack out. Shuttle fee of \$7 from Mammoth Mountain to Agnew Meadows trailhead required. Send email with contact info and recent conditioning to leader.

Fri–Sun, August 24–26

I: Basin Mt. (13,181')

Molly Arevalo mollyarevalo@gmail.com

Rachel Glegg rachel.dorman@gmail.com

ET

Follow in the footsteps of history by climbing the same route taken by Norman Clyde on his first ascent of Basin Mt. in 1930. We will carpool in high-clearance vehicles to Horton Lakes trailhead near Bishop. Friday, backpack 4 miles, 2100' to camp at Horton Lake, relax, explore and happy hour. Saturday, cross-country climb to peak, 5 miles RT, 3200' gain. Sunday, break camp and pack out. Strenuous hike at altitude, conditioning required.

Sat–Sun, August 25–26

I: Sawtooth Peak (N) (12,343')

Kate Miller miller.k8@gmail.com

Jeremy Netka jnetka@gmail.com

ET

Join us for a weekend in the gorgeous Mineral King area of Sequoia National Park. We'll climb Sawtooth Peak, an SPS peak with stunning 360-degree views. On Saturday morning, we'll meet in Mineral King and backpack at a moderate pace up to Lower Monarch Lake (4.5 miles with 2700' gain). We'll camp at the lake, where we can swim, fish, relax and enjoy goodies at happy hour. Sunday morning, we'll hike on trail up to Sawtooth Pass, then go cross-country to Sawtooth Peak via its northwest ridge (2.2 miles, 2300' gain). After a break on the peak, we'll head back to camp, pack up and return to the cars. Permit limits group size. Priority given to WTC students. This trip is co-sponsored SPS. Please send email with contact info, hiking résumé, conditioning and altitude experience to the leaders.

Sat–Thur, September 1–6

I: Rae Lakes Loop, Mount Bago (11,870')

Jim Hagar jhagar1@gmail.com

Sharon Moore justslm@earthlink.net

ET

Join us on one of the most beautiful loop hikes in the Sierra. This trip has it all: stunning scenery, opportunities for swimming and fishing, and an SPS-listed peak. The six-day adventure starts in Kings Canyon and overlaps a section of the JMT, camping at lakes and meadows along the trail. We'll tag Mt. Bago from Charlotte Lake along the way. The entire trip is approximately 42.5 miles with 8100' gain at a relaxed pace. Email both leaders with your name and WTC Group Leader's name (if a current student) and your contact/carpool information. Hiking résumé with recent experience and conditioning required. \$10 to cover permit and campground fees, payable to leader.

Sat–Sun, September 8–9

I: Chocolate Peak (11,682')

Will McWhinney willmcw@gmail.com

Jane Simpson outdoorjsimpson@gmail.com

ET

Sierra Nevada appreciation trip with great views. A starry night hike and a dawn climb are possible options. 4 miles, 1900'+ pack into camp beside scenic Long Lake. 3 miles RT, 1000' climb of Chocolate Peak. \$7 permit fee. Send a description of your previous experience and your contact information to the leader.

Sat–Sun, September 8–9

I: Red Cones (9012')

Anne Mullins hike2thepeak@gmail.com

Homer Tom hikerhomie@gmail.com

ET

Spend a weekend near Mammoth Mountain as we go almost 4 miles on trail from Horseshoe Lake (8960') over Mammoth Pass (9371') to Upper Crater Meadow. The fun continues as we go to the Red Cones, rambling cross-country at every opportunity to practice navigating and route finding. Savor the sunset over happy hour before enjoying a night in the Ansel Adams Wilderness. We begin Sunday with further exploration of the area before hiking out. Send email with contact info and recent experience. Preference given to current WTC students.

Thu–Sun, September 20–23

I: Four Gables (12,720')

Rachel Glegg rachel.dorman@gmail.com

Dave Jahng dave.jahng@gmail.com

ET

Join us for a fun, 4-day backpack in the beautiful John Muir Wilderness. On Thursday we will hike in from the Horton Lakes trailhead and set up camp at Lower Horton Lake (4.5 miles, 2280' gain). Friday, move to a higher camp at Upper Horton Lake (1.4 miles, 960' gain). Saturday, climb Four Gables via South Ridge, a strenuous class 2 talus slope (7.2 miles RT, 2300' gain), then back to camp for happy hour. Pack out on Sunday morning. High-clearance, 4WD/AWD vehicles are required to reach the trailhead. Spaces limited; priority given to 2018 WTC students.

Sat–Sun, September 22–23

I: Mount Stanford North (12,838')*

Alex Hunt alexbhunt@gmail.com

Kristen Lindbergh kmlindbergh@gmail.com

ET

Join us on a two-day backpacking trip to beautiful Mount Stanford (N)! Saturday, we'll hike in 5 miles and 1500' to set up our camp where we will enjoy happy hour with views of the Mt. Huntington. We will start early on Sunday to summit Mount Stanford (5 miles, 2500' RT) and pack out (5 miles, 400'). Email leaders with most recent conditioning, backpacking experience and phone number.



They found Samuelsons Rock on a last chance trip in Joshua Tree National Park

Sunday, September 23

I: Navigation—Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle

Robert M. Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net



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 with contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating and rideshare to leaders.

Fri–Sun, September 28–30

I: Pioneer Basin (10,400')

Jon Stinzel jon.stinzel@gmail.com

Homer Tom hikerhomie@gmail.com



Explore the upper reaches in the John Muir Wilderness above Rock Creek Lake on this strenuous three-day trip. Pioneer Basin is surrounded by four peaks named after the Big Four California businessmen who backed the construction of the first transcontinental railroad—Stanford, Hopkins, Crocker and Huntington. Starting at Mosquito Flat TH (10,270') we ascend 1800' over 5.5 miles to reach Mono Pass (12,070') and then 2.5 miles more to the lowest of the Pioneer basin lakes to set camp for two nights (10,400'). On day two, we will meander on-trail and cross-country to visit the Pioneer Basin Lakes, fine-tune navigation skills and possibly ascend peak 12,404' before returning for happy hour. We'll stop at Ruby Lake before heading home on day three. Send email with contact info and recent experience to leader. Preference given to current WTC students.

Sat–Sun, October 6–7

I: Last Chance Mountain (8456')

Megan Birdsill mbirdsill@gmail.com

Saveria Tilden saveria@theadventurus.com



We are off to Last Chance Mt. (8456') as your last chance for a graduation trip. It is in super-secluded northern Death Valley NP, just a few miles from the Nevada state line. Total two-day stats: 15 miles and 3700'. Saturday afternoon, we will hike in on dirt road through the abandoned mines for 3.5 miles and 1300' to make camp and tell ghost stories over happy hour among the ruins. Sunday morning we will rise early to summit, sign the register and return the way we came to break camp and hike back to the trailhead (11 miles, 2400').

Sat–Sun, October 6–7

I: “Really Last Chance” Graduation Trip

Robert M. Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi Shields apedreschi@sbcglobal.net



Easy-paced backpacking trip in the 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 miles RT, 1000' gain. Send email (preferred) or SASE with contact info and recent conditioning to leader.



WTC Experience Trip



Training Opportunity



Trip of Interest



Mountaineering

Saturday, October 20

I: Navigation—Beginning Navigation Clinic

Diane Dunbar dianedunbar@charter.net

Richard Boardman



Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor learning/practicing map and compass skills 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 miles, 500' gain. Send SASE, phone numbers, rideshare info and \$25 deposit (refunded at trailhead) to leader.

Sat–Sun, November 17–18

I: Navigation—Warren Point Navigation Noodle

Robert M. Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net



Navigation noodle at Warren Point to satisfy the basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Saturday for practice, skills refresher, altimeter, homework, campfire. Sunday checkout. Participants are welcome to attend either or both days. Send email/SASE, contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating and rideshare to leader.

Sunday, December 9

I: Navigation—Warren Point Navigation Noodle

Robert M. Myers rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net



Navigation noodle at Warren Point for either checkoff or practice to satisfy the basic (I/M) level or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To participate, send email with contact info, navigation experience/training, any WTC, leader rating, rideshare to leader.



A campsite with a beautiful view of Banner Peak on a Thousand Island Lake experience trip

Training Opportunities



Being a WTC student has its perks, and when you're ready for advanced training, some opportunities created just for you await.

Rock, snow, leadership or all of the above? We've got you covered.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Leadership Training Program Seminar April 14, 2018

Take that first step—become a leader!

Becoming a Sierra Club outings leader starts with curiosity and a love of the outdoors. There is no better way to step up and lead than by taking advantage of the training opportunities that the Angeles Chapter's Leadership Training Committee provides each year.



As home to one of the largest outings programs on the planet, the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter's many groups, sections and committees sponsor thousands of trips ranging from beach barbecues to mountaineering expeditions. You can take the first step toward becoming a leader by attending a one-day seminar.

The seminar—offered only twice a year—is led by a team of experienced outings leaders who will provide you with the basics of good leadership practices. You will learn how to plan a trip, prevent problems on the trail and make sure that everyone—including you—has a great time. You'll gain knowledge of good conservation and safety practices. Leaders will share tips for getting your "O" rating quickly and will review the more advanced ratings.

The application is available for download online where you can pore over more of LTC's upcoming offerings.

Register by March 31, 2018

WHERE Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Pasadena

TIME Arrive at 7:30 a.m., done by 4 p.m.

For more information and to apply, go to:

angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc_leadership_seminar

COST \$30, (includes latest *Leadership Reference Book*)

MOUNTAINEERING SKILLS

Advanced Mountaineering Program

Offered by the Angeles Chapter Leadership Training Committee.

AMP's mission is to produce safer climbers and to expose students to a broad spectrum of modern techniques and skills. AMP offers training for leader candidates seeking the chapter's advanced "M" and "E" ratings, and for leaders who already have earned these ratings and want to catch up on the latest techniques. The rock course starts in a classroom environment, but most of the instruction takes place in the field at iconic California climbing locations. Students have opportunities to build anchors and implement their climbing skills and techniques, preparing them for real-world mountaineering scenarios.



REQUIREMENTS All students must be Sierra Club members and have prior roped climbing experience.

GENERAL INQUIRIES

Matt Hengst: sierraclubampinfo@gmail.com

REGISTRATION INQUIRIES

Dannelle-Mimi Phan: sierraclubampregistrar@gmail.com

www.AdvancedMountaineeringProgram.org



TWO-DAY ROCKCRAFT*

If you have never done any rock climbing, or need a refresher, here's where to start. This is an introduction to the world of rock climbing with an emphasis on safety and fun. The class covers the essentials of technical rock climbing and is a valuable course for those wishing to pursue mountaineering.



In 2008, Vertical Adventures was ranked as the best rock climbing school in America by *Outside* magazine.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Equipment, knots, belaying technique, communication signals, the rating system, face climbing techniques (protected on a toprope) and rappelling. Classes are taught on low-angle, moderate rock suitable for novices.

Day 2 After reviewing knots and belaying, you'll complete a progression of climbs where a broad range of more challenging climbing techniques are encountered, including both face climbing and crack climbing techniques.

Protected by a toprope, you'll get personalized coaching from your instructor. Also includes an introduction to building anchor systems using nuts and camming devices.

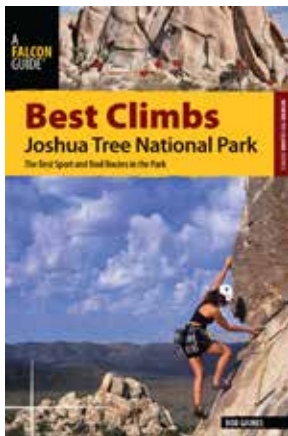
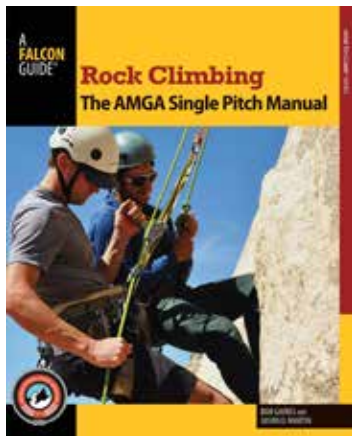
LOCATION Joshua Tree National Park

DATES April 28–29, 2018

COST Vertical Adventures Rock Climbing School is offering a special 20% discount to WTC students for a course cost of \$248.

For information visit the website. For reservations contact Bob Gaines, Program Director, at (800) 514-8785 or BGvertical@aol.com.

www.VerticalAdventures.com



SNOW TRAVEL SCHOOL*

Learn the fundamentals of snow travel.

Skills covered include:

- Ice axe self arrest
- Cramponing
- Rope travel on snow
- Efficient movement on snow
- Self care
- Essential skills for climbing in the Sierra and high peaks worldwide!
- Hands-on practice and critiques in addition to stories of past mountaineering experiences by veteran expert guides!



ITINERARY Course participants may sign up for either or both days.

Day 1 Basic Snow Travel: climbing and descending snow covered terrain, ice axe self arrest, crampon techniques, rope travel, self care, efficient movement on snow.

Day 2 Snow Anchors and Crevasse Rescue: building snow anchors for climbing, belaying, rappelling, self rescue and crevasse rescue pulley systems.

TIME Meet at 8:00 a.m. and be finished by 4:00 p.m. each day.

LOCATION Classes are held between Bishop and Mammoth Lakes, depending on snow conditions. An email a few days prior to the class will give meeting location and instructor contact info.

DATES April 21–22, 2018

COST This specially priced course for WTC students and instructors is \$125/day, per person. Rentals of ice axe, crampons, helmet, harness, boots and backpacks are available from SMI.

YOU WILL NEED

Be prepared for any type of weather conditions from hot to cold, clear to stormy. Include a versatile clothing layering system, gloves, warm cap, gaiters, lunch, water bottle, boots, ice axe, crampons, sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm, lunch, water and a backpack appropriate for carrying the above items. A detailed equipment list with descriptions of each item will be provided upon registering for the course.



To sign up, go to sierramountaineering.com and click the "Book now" button. Select the "Skills Training" button and find the Snow Travel School—there are 1-day and 2-day options. Click on the desired option and complete the registration.

For more information: (760) 872-4929 or info@sierramountaineering.com.

* These courses are not affiliated with the Sierra Club or the Wilderness Travel Course.

TRIP REPORTS

Mt. Johnson

I-rated trip, WTC, SPS, July 22–23, 2017
Led by Rudy Fleck and Tina Bowman

Last spring, Tina Bowman put out a general request asking if anyone would be interested in co-leading an introductory hike for aspiring Sierra Peak Section members, especially that reservoir of eager Wilderness Travel Course students looking for experience trips in order to graduate.

Since I enjoy hiking with Tina, whose gravity tends to balance out my levity, I agreed to try to put something together. In light of her many years of having done this kind of thing, which, let's face it, can be tedious, if not daunting, and in light of my having done very little of it, I volunteered to do the organizing.

After a number of improbable suggestions on my part, we agreed on Mt. Johnson. Having secured the six reservable



On the summit of Mt. Johnson (l to r) Taylor Chestnut, Jon Stinzel, James Bias, Rudy Fleck, John Fisonotti

permits for the Treasure Lakes trail, I was struck with buyer's remorse; seemed like a big effort for a small number of people. Tina allayed my fears after we came up with a plan to try for some additional walk-in permits.

As I suppose is typical, we had a fluctuating wait list and, after much email correspondence, were all set until the week prior to our hike, when the walk-in permit plan fell through. It was

a good thought. How did people ever do this before texting and email?

The huge snow year, a week's worth of high-water warnings and an increasing rain chance on our projected summit day were of some concern as we set off on a beautiful Saturday morning from South Lake. When last seen, the lake looked like a dry bathtub with a small surviving puddle. On this morning, it was full to the brim, fed by gushing creeks, six of which we crossed with bridges or something very like one. The trail eventually crossed a narrow outlet between two good-sized lakes. Clever of everyone to have brought wading shoes and get to experience the onset of frozen legs.

Not long after, the intermittent snow banks became a sunny wonderland of snow and rock. The questions of access to the hoped-for dry southeast slope of Johnson and where anyone could possibly camp, prompted the decision to start up the drainage of the next day's planned climb, as it was still before noon and a bit of exploring is never a bad idea. Looking down from a saddle on to the second to the last lake in line to the southeast slope, Tina brilliantly suggested we summit after a quick lunch. The snow was perfect, we were looking at some possible steep slopes and there was that projected rain probability as well as the certainty of stiff morning snow. An "aha" moment if there ever was one.

Having lulled our participants with our solid leadership, everyone agreed to the idea and just short of 2000' later the group summited at 3-ish. Thankfully, that southeast slope was dry, though somewhat sweat stained. Gorgeous 360° views on a clear day—it doesn't get much better.

From above, we noted a possible dry area around the largest of the three lakes in a row at 11,000'.

After a short drop into that drainage, we were rewarded with the perfect Sierra camping area: numerous flat rocks and sandy benches, and a view worthy of eating up all your remaining camera memory.

A well-earned casual Sunday morning still allowed our getting back to the cars before noon. A video of highlights can be seen at YouTube rfleck3 videos.



Rudy Fleck is a
WLA Group 3
Instructor

Gemini Peak

I-rated trip, WTC, SPS, August 3–4, 2017
Led by Paul Garry and Anne Mullins

This was it. I completed the Wilderness Travel Course and was embarking on my first experience trip into the alluring but still mysterious Sierras. I'd seen jaw-dropping photos of the area online and now I was going to see it firsthand.

Paul Garry (WLA G2) and Anne Mullins (SGV G5) led the trip and had planned a three-day weekend in early August in the Western Sierras with an off-trail summit of Gemini Peak. The trip was rated as strenuous, consisting of over 30 miles and 4700' of elevation gain. The participants included five WTC students and a non-WTC veteran backpacker.

Our trip began early Friday morning at Florence Lake. One of the cool things about starting here is that the trip starts with a ferry ride across the beautiful lake—it set the tone for the adventure to come.

Once we disembarked, we hiked on a fairly even trail in lush wooded terrain for the first five miles. We then merged with the famed John Muir Trail and Pacific Crest Trail. Our base for the two nights would be an isthmus between the two Sallie Keyes Lakes. At 10,000', the clouds looked closer than they do in Los Angeles and they showcased a dreamy landscape with verdant forest surrounded by mountains, rivers and lakes in a glorious natural setting.

On Saturday, we headed for Gemini Peak, a lesser-known peak, but proudly standing almost 14,000'. We had to briefly traverse through snow and ice, which was a surprise to me in August. We carefully carried on and, before we knew it, we were at the top of Selden Pass and were rewarded with a magnificent view of Marie Lake.



On top of Selden Pass (l to r) Meghan Cason, Danny Orellana, Paul Garry, Janet Liao and Wansun Song.

Here, we headed off-trail over boulders toward our destination. After hiking all morning, we ended up at a spot where we couldn't go further without crossing a deep stream. After evaluating possible paths forward, Paul ultimately decided it was too dangerous for the group to make the attempt. I later learned he was also considering what the conditions might look like on our way back; it would be dark and cold, further increasing the risk level. This is where an

experienced leader's judgment was invaluable—deciding that it wasn't worth the risk.

We had lunch overlooking Three Island Lake where Danny Orellana and I took a quick dip—it was freezing! We then scrambled over rocks and made our return to camp. On our way back, we encountered a furious rain storm, which seemed to come out of nowhere. Rain quickly turned into hail and the thunder and lightning felt very close. Fortunately, we were on the trail by then and we rushed back to camp. Everyone made it back safely and, after a couple of hours, the sun returned as quickly as it had disappeared.

This trip whet my appetite for the magnificent Sierras. It was like a tantalizing trailer to a movie that hasn't yet been written. I gathered intelligence for the next time I'll be there, perhaps when I'm hiking the JMT.



Wansun Song is a WLA Group 2 Instructor



Mt. Starr King

E-rated trip, WTC, SPS, September 22–24, 2017
Led by Matthew Hengst and John Kieffer

A few tourists milled around with the sparrows and squirrels coming out to sun at Glacier Point. An early snow sat fresh on the landscape. We had this sublime vista to ourselves.

We were bound for Mt. Starr King, a 9096' dome just south of the famous Half Dome.

I'd heard about the 5th-class route from buddies in WTC. Though I'd climbed rock before, this trip had the added challenge of hiking in our climbing ropes, helmets and harnesses in addition to our standard backpacking gear.

We took the trail down from Glacier and split off just shy of a brush-choked gully. Hands steadied us as we crossed the gully, hiking poles plunging into water and mud hidden in the undergrowth. We straddled felled trees, the charcoal from a past burn smudging our pants.



Daunting terrain ahead on Mt. Starr King

We made camp on a wooded slope. The next morning, with frost still on our tents, we started very early. My bear-proof container was almost human proof, the plastic locked from the cold. Our route ascended up the brushy slope east of camp. The brush gave way to exposed rock and snowmelt ran in slick black patches on the rock. As we gained the saddle, we found the sun warming the far side of the granite dome we were about to climb.

Helmets were donned, snacks were eaten, and for those who had spent little or no time on rock and rope, courage was drawn up. We were about to test gravity's effect on the technical rubber of our approach shoes. "Trust your feet," our leader intoned. And we did, calves burning as we made our way up the steep slab.

Our leaders had set two roped pitches. Sweeping arcs in the rock face showed clear weaknesses in the rock, places where the stone had cracked like a chocolate shell on ice cream. Those cracks provided holds for hands to latch and feet to balance on. We were all familiar with hiking, but now our whole bodies were involved. The feel of granite under our hands. Sweat building as we hoisted through awkward positions. Finding balance and tension to make the next move.



Jack Kieffer at the anchor on Mt. Starr King

Eventually, the whole group assembled on the top of Starr King. Ice had formed in depressions in the rock, and a dusting of snow lay on the distant peaks ringing us on the horizon. We looked down at Half Dome's shaded aspect.

Getting to the peak is only half of mountaineering. One by one, we made our way down on rappel, trusting the rigging, putting our full weight on the rope. The exhilaration was palpable: being on the mountain, watching the weather shift, having a new experience of gravity, knowing a piece of earth in a completely new way.

The sun set on us as we hiked down the brushy slope back to camp. The glow of the trip up Starr King stayed with us well into the night.



Valerie Thomas
is a WLA Group 1
Instructor

We Want You...



...to write a trip report.

The next issue of the WTC Newsletter comes out in October, and we want to hear your stories and see the pictures from your spring, summer and fall adventures.

Trip reports and their publication in the newsletter help build the tribal knowledge about routes, destinations and experiences.

Found a better way up a peak?

Tried a descent gully that cliffs out?

Is the beta on SummitPost bogus?

Did the route that was supposed to take 6 hours take 12 hours instead?

Share the information and help the next person make their trip a success.

Trip reports are normally between 400 and 800 words, and we need a few good pictures. Remember, if you don't have a picture, did it really happen?

The deadline for the fall newsletter is September 1. Send stories and pictures to:
wtcnewsletter@wildernesstravelcourse.org.

Save the Date

2018 WTC Graduation Saturday, October 27

Graduation is just two experience trips and five months away. Make plans to come to Joshua Tree to enjoy the celebration, see friends and swap war stories from a summer of adventure.

Your group leader will have all the details as the date approaches.



Robert Draney and Patrick McKusky (SGV G4) entertain the crowd



SGV Group 4 staff and graduating students



WLA Group 4 staff and graduates



The OC Kaweah Group lets the flag fly at the summit



SGV Group 4 marches on



Rockin' the WTC beanie



A break along the way to Mt. Wilson for SGV Group 4

Everyone Loves a Challenge...and a Patch!

Introducing the WTC Sierra Club Challenge Patch

An achievement patch is awarded to WTC graduates who participate in **seven** Sierra Club outings or activities from at least **seven** different Chapter groups, sections or committees.

To count toward the achievement patch, the following criteria must be met:

- Sponsorship is based on the primary sponsor. For example, an outing sponsored by HPS, and co-sponsored by Lower Peaks and WTC, would only count as an HPS outing.

The following activities are illustrative of those qualifying: (1) Leadership Training Seminar; (2) a monthly meeting of a group, section or committee; (3) a political march or rally sponsored by the Sierra Club; (4) a social gathering organized by the Chapter, group, section or committee; and (5) any outing.

- Achievement will be documented on a form approved by WTC.
- All activities must be achieved within one year of the date of the completion of the first activity.
- The WTC Sierra Club Challenge Patch launched on November 1, 2017. All qualifying activities must have occurred after that date.

The Challenge Patch completion form can be found at: www.wildernesstravelcourse.org/download/771/.

Contact challengepatch@wildernesstravelcourse.org for more information.



A stunning view from the PCT in Southern California

photo: Shawnte Salabert

360degrees

An important component of the Wilderness Training Course is navigation training. We don't want WTC students to get lost in the wilderness as they begin to venture into the backcountry on their own.

A number of recent reports suggest that hikers are being led astray by magnetic interference from their own hiking gear. Many packs have magnets in the strap to affix water bladder tubes, and many items of clothing and gear are using magnetic fasteners. These magnets can interfere with the use of your compass. Moreover, do not store your compass near a magnet—this can result in your compass reversing polarity.

Mountaineering Scotland recently issued a warning about magnets in clothing. The photograph below shows the impact on your compass needle when a compass is held by a glove with a magnetic closure.



Magnets and compasses don't mix! The magnetic glove on the right, and its owner, are likely going to head in the wrong direction.

2018 Navigation Events

April 21–22	Mission Creek Preserve Navigation Noodle
May 19	Beginning Navigation Clinic
June 16–17	Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle
September 23	Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle
October 20	Beginning Navigation Clinic
November 17–18	Warren Point Navigation Noodle
December 9	Warren Point Navigation Noodle

We hope that you will continue your navigation training. The Leadership Training Committee offers numerous opportunities for WTC students to continue to develop sound navigation skills.

The principal mission of our navigation program is to help prospective I-, M-, and E-leaders develop and demonstrate the skills necessary to pass the navigation checkoff. Without a cadre of appropriately rated leaders, our climbing sections would be unable to offer the range of trips that you find in the schedules of the *WTC Newsletter*, *HPS Lookout*, *DPS Desert Sage*, or *SPS Echo*.

However, our navigation program is not limited to prospective leaders. We provide opportunities for beginners to learn basic navigation skills and for experienced leaders to refresh their skills. In other words, **our navigation program is for everyone.**

We encourage you to attend one of our navigation events in 2018. Our noodles are held in scenic areas and all are free. We will work with you to accomplish your navigation objectives and you will receive a variety of helpful navigation materials. And, if you are a prospective leader, we will help you pass the checkoff.



Robert Myers is the Angeles Chapter Navigation Chair and the WLA Group 4 Leader

Put More Self-Flagellation in Your Vacation

Wouldn't you like to get away? To a place where you can be pampered and just relax?

Of course you wouldn't.

This is the 21st Century. We're already soft enough from sitting 13 hours a day. You want something different. Something more adventurous. Something more masochistic. Here are a few ideas to put the "wow, this is really miserable" in your "vacation."

Instead of: Getting a hot stone massage

Try: An unplanned open bivy!

Why have a luxurious experience that will have you wishing it would never end, instead of freezing your ass off on a cliff edge, huddling with your climbing partner, and counting the minutes until dawn, just hoping you live through it?

Instead of: A detoxifying spa seaweed wrap

Try: Getting ripped out of a whitewater raft by hundreds of gallons of river water!

You'll love the sudden, slightly terrifying feeling of being churned through nature's spin cycle as you flail and try to stay afloat until someone from a boat throws you a line.

Instead of: A posh ski vacation in Aspen

Try: Ice climbing!

The combination of searing cold, rock-hard chunks of ice falling and hitting your face and/or knees, and your extremities going numb and excruciatingly warming up again will make you wonder why more people aren't lining up to do it!

Instead of: A long walk on a sunlit beach

Try: Mountaineering!

While getting out of bed for the day at 1 a.m., or even better, 11 p.m. the night before, and then tromping through snow up thousands of feet of elevation might have you wondering how it could get any better, wait until you have to crap in a plastic bag while roped to someone else—and then have to carry it with you the rest of the way up and down the mountain!

Instead of: Sitting on the beach and sipping mojitos

Try: Bikepacking in the desert!

Enjoy both pedaling your fully-loaded bike AND getting off and pushing it through deep sand and up steep inclines. Bonus: sand in your toothbrush!

Instead of: Spreading out in a king-size memory foam bed

Try: Cramming yourself into the back of a truck, van or station wagon filled with outdoor gear

Or better yet, sleeping on a slowly leaking camping pad that will subtly remind your shoulders and hips of the unforgiving rigidity of the ground at 3 a.m.

Instead of: A jacuzzi suite overlooking the pool

Try: Pooping in a hole in the ground!

Nothing complicated here, just like it sounds—and when you're done you get to wipe your ass with a stick and/or a rock!

Instead of: An all-inclusive luxury resort

Try: A vacation where nothing is included!

Bring all your own equipment, food and water for several days out to the middle of nowhere, find a spot where you can't see another human being, and hang out for a few cold nights. Oh, and be careful with your stuff, or bears might eat your food, or your face!

—Brendan



Brendan Leonard is a writer who thinks we all need to get a little cold, tired and scared every once in a while. His work centers around adventure, travel and human experiences with both of those.

His writing has appeared *Climbing*, *Adventure Journal*, *Backpacker*, *The Dirtbag*

Diaries, *Outside*, *Men's Journal* and many other publications.

His books include *Sixty Meters to Anywhere*, *The Great Outdoors: A User's Guide*, *Funny Shit in the Woods* and others.

Check out more on his website: semi-rad.com

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