



# Newsletter

Newsletter of the Wilderness Training Committee

# What's Cookin'?

**Come and get it!**  
WTC/OC student Marc Brown  
pops up a happy hour delicacy in  
Sequoia National Park



## WTC Officers

Please see page 4  
for contact information

### WTC

**Tom McDonnell**  
Chair & Outings

**KC Reid**  
Registrar

### Long Beach

**Richard Boardman**  
Chair

**Dave Endres**  
Outings

**KC Reid**  
Registrar

### Orange County

**Tony Pond**  
Chair

**Tom McDonnell**  
Outings

**Ed Morente**  
Registrar

### San Gabriel Valley

**Patrick McKusky**  
Chair & Outings

**Ann Bittner**  
Registrar

### West Los Angeles

**Will McWhinney**  
Chair

**Susan Richmond**  
Outings

**Larry McKinley**  
Registrar

## On the cover

Orange County WTC student Marc Brown prepares his happy hour contribution on the eve of climbing Mt. Pickering, his first Sierra peak, while on a WTC Experience Trip in September.

—photo by Edd Ruskowitz

WTC Info Line 310-967-2029

# Graduation Info

Check with your group leaders for additional information.

### Long Beach

Sat-Sun, Oct. 18-19 /

Sheep Pass in Joshua Tree National Park

Graduation ceremony 6pm Saturday evening. Check with group leaders for directions, site number(s), carpool info and activities.

### Orange County

Sat-Sun, Oct. 18-19 /

Sheep Pass in Joshua Tree National Park

Graduation ceremony 6pm Saturday evening. Check with group leaders for directions, site number(s), carpool info and activities.

### San Gabriel Valley

Sat-Sun, Oct. 18-19 /

Indian Cove in

Joshua Tree National Park

Test your rock and navigation skills, explore/hike area. Pot-luck/Happy

Hour: **prizes for the top five**

**contributions!** Camping available

for Saturday night. Parking is

limited, car-pool strongly

recommended. mail rsvp to: Debbie Munsey,

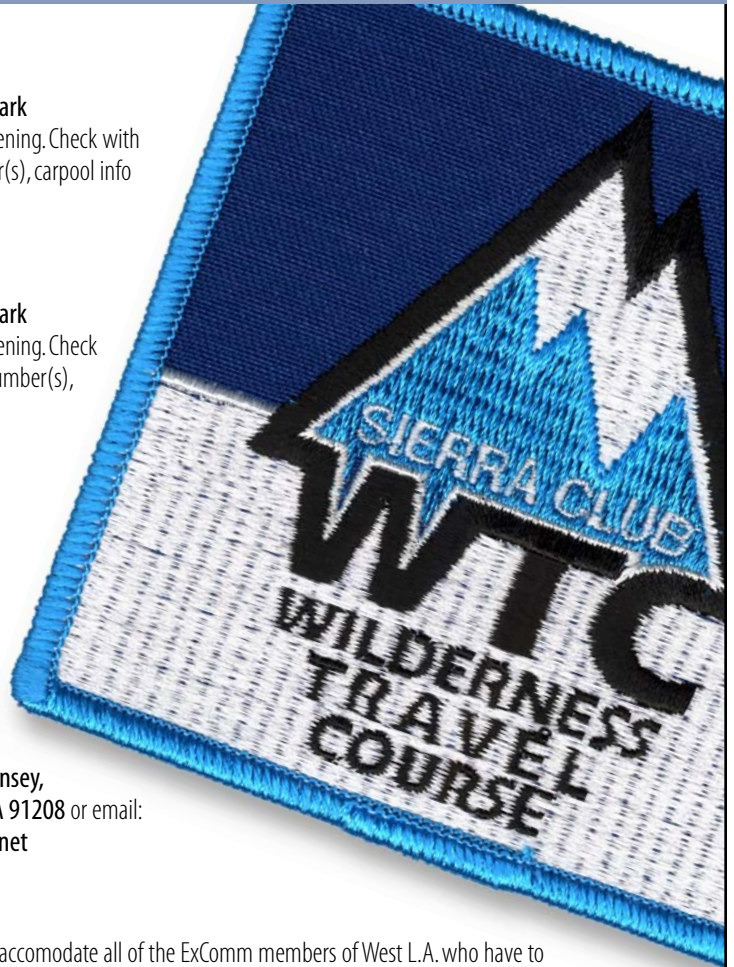
3505 Rosemary Avenue, Glendale, CA 91208 or email:

Leah Bovee at [Imdnbovee@earthlink.net](mailto:Imdnbovee@earthlink.net)

### West Los Angeles

Sat, October 25 / Harwood Lodge

This year's graduation is on Saturday to accommodate all of the ExComm members of West L.A. who have to attend an Ex Comm meeting on Sunday. Folks can feel free to arrive Friday anytime after 2:00pm. Also there will be a Baldy hike on Sunday plus other events.



## Headline Deadlines

### For publication in the Winter 2004 WTC Newsletter:

**November 30** Last day to submit restricted outings to the Outings Chair.

**December 7** Last day to submit non-restricted outings to Area Outings Coordinators.

**December 14** Last day for Outings Coordinators to submit write-ups to the Outings Chair.

**December 28** Last day for all WTC Newsletter submissions.

### For publication in the March 1 through July 4, 2004 Angeles Chapter Schedule #295:

**October 20** Last day to submit restricted and non-restricted outings to Area Outings Coordinators.

**October 27** Last day for Outings Coordinators to submit write-ups to the Outings Chair.

**November 10** Last day for all Angeles Chapter Schedule submissions.

The WTC Newsletter is published quarterly for students and staff of the Wilderness Training Committee and delivered via U.S. Mail and/or distributed at class sites. **The WTC Newsletter is also available in color online at the WTC website –**

**[www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc](http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc)**— as a download in PDF format. All questions, copy, letters and photo submissions should be directed to **Edd Ruskowitz, WTC Newsletter editor** at (714) 771-6710; [hikinedd@yahoo.com](mailto:hikinedd@yahoo.com)

# WTC Backward & Forward

by Bill Jackson, WTC Staff, WLA

**At its September meeting,** the WTC Management Committee approved funding to purchase computers, data projectors and related software and hardware for all four WTC areas in order to make a transition to modern electronic presentation technology. This is an important innovation, but from the viewpoint of an “old-timer” it fits into a long-term pattern. I am going to take this opportunity to share some observations of important themes in the continuing evolution of WTC. These observations may give some insight into the future.

WTC, as most readers know, is the successor to an earlier program, the Basic Mountaineering Training Course, or BMTC. We still have quite a few BMTC veterans in our ranks. (I am a 1976 graduate of BMTC). Some of the evolutionary themes I have observed started back in BMTC days and continue quite smoothly into WTC. One of these themes is constantly reviewing what we do and try to improve those things that are not working.

I am informed that in the early days of BMTC, the classes were entirely lectures, and group leaders and assistants did not attend class at all. Students only saw their group leaders at field trips. By the time I was a student, group leaders had gotten a foot in the lecture hall door and we had very brief group meetings during breaks between lectures and films. As time went by, 16mm film technology was becoming obsolete. Some of our films were wearing out. Others had content that was becoming outdated. Student surveys showed that the films were the least popular element in the program. So we decided to drop the films. The student surveys also showed that group time was the most popular part of the program, so we expanded group time and got classrooms in addition to the traditional lecture hall. This was such a success that we later cut the number of lectures and now the majority of the class time is spent in group meetings.

Since the elimination of the 16mm movies, the lectures have taken over the spot as the least popular part of the program. The acquisition of modern presentation technology is an effort to spruce up this part of the program. The creative use of high tech hardware and software should enable us to put a little more zip into the lectures. Students should see the same kind of professional polish they experience in business presentations

instead of being reminded of Uncle Fred showing his vacation slides to a weary family.

Can we extrapolate from this trend a prediction that the lectures will ultimately disappear? I don't think so. We also have an issue of maintaining some uniformity of content. Group leaders have a tendency to re-define course content. The lecture program, where the same speakers deliver the same content at all areas, helps to assure that there is some common core content that every student gets regardless of group assignment.

The new presentation technology also illustrates the more general theme of embracing technology. This did not get very far in BMTC, where the biggest technical breakthrough was computer-printed address labels for hard-copy mailings to students and staff. In WTC we have embraced websites where abundant and frequently updated information can be conveniently accessed. We use e-mail for rapid communications. It's been a long time since I have had to stuff envelopes and take them to the post office to communicate with students or staff between classes and meetings.

Another theme which presents a real challenge is the increasing number of constraints imposed by external regulators, including the Forest Service, the Park Service, outings management bodies of the national Sierra Club and the Club's insurance carriers. We have to constantly adapt to new rules and restrictions. This trend is not going to go away. Get used to it.

These external forces have led to one of our greatest challenges: the shortage of “M” rated leaders. Responding to liability and insurance issues has led the Chapter's Safety Committee and Leadership Training Committee to raise the bar for the “M” rating. At the same time, these same issues have also reduced the training opportunities to reach “M” level technical proficiency. The combination of these forces with normal attrition means that we have an inadequate supply of “M” leaders to accommodate growth in WTC student enrollment. Safety policies require that we have two “M” leaders per group. Forest Service restrictions for Snow Camp limit group size to 25. We have pushed group size to the limit. We cannot increase the number of groups because we don't have enough “M” leaders. So student enrollment is capped and we cannot grow the program. Our next priority has to be improving staff training to produce more “M” leaders.

## WTC & OBA: On a Mission

WTC MANAGEMENT REACHES OUT TO OBA

**What's an “OBA?”** In our acronym-filled world, all we need is one more alphabet soup organization to clutter our brains. OBA stands for Outward Bound Adventures Inc., a nonprofit organization that has been delivering challenging outdoor environmental learning experiences to LA-based urban youth for 40 years. According to WTC SGV Group 5 assistant leader, Wendell Hall, the OBA mission is to teach youth more about themselves, the outdoors, and their relationships with the environment. The organization legally goes by the name OBA Inc. so as not to confuse people with the large outdoor training school by the same name. The two organizations have no affiliation.

Hall states that OBA does not target potential staff based on an individual's outdoor knowledge. Instead, they look for skill-sets that allow OBA leaders to relate to the OBA urban youth audience. Therefore, the outdoor component often needs to be taught – with the result that OBA has encouraged many of its leaders to take WTC to gain an understanding of wilderness safety and backcountry travel. OBA Executive director,

Charles Thomas, has taken both BMTC (the discontinued Basic Mountaineering Course) and WTC. Last year, three OBA volunteers took the course in the San Gabriel Valley section.

In August, 2003, Hall brought his six-plus years of involvement with OBA to WTC Management's attention by presenting an irresistible outreach proposal. Management unanimously approved a motion to solicit Sierra Club Leaders, and WTC Leaders specifically, to train OBA Staff. If you would like to learn more about OBA, visit them on the web at [www.obainc.org](http://www.obainc.org). To get a first-hand look, WTC leaders and staff are welcome to stop by an open house at OBA's new offices on November 8, from 2pm-5pm, at 2020 N. Lincoln in Pasadena. Come and check out OBA trips, gear, education approach, and a short program from 3pm to 4pm, moderated by Hall. If kids aren't your thing, there are still huge opportunities with OBA to share our knowledge and our love for the outdoors.

# Outings Leader/Staff Directory

Please see the Outings Leader/Staff Directory on page 4 of the WTC Newsletter print version for SASE and contact information



**Mount Rush No More** Sunset view from Lower Rock Creek Lake in Sequoia National Park during the September 12-14 Mt. Pickering Experience Outing.

## Experience Outings

Only two left! If you haven't got your second trip in, hurry and contact these leaders... **NOW!**

**October 11-12 / Sat-Sun**

**WTC**

### I / Providence Peak Massif

Car-camp and strenuous climb of 4 summits in the Providence Peak massif in the Mojave National Preserve. Saturday meet at the Mitchell Caverns parking area for a 4W drive to the trailhead. Over two days we will climb Edgar, Mitchell and Providence Points and Fountain Peak. Contact leaders, then send 2 SASE (or SASE plus email), qualifications with recent experience/conditioning, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr: Virgil Shields. Asst: Marc Hertz.

**October 11-12 / Sat-Sun**

**WTC**

### I / Tahquitz Pk (8846), Red Tahquitz (8738)

6th Annual LAST CHANCE BACKPACKING TRIP! This is it. This is your last chance to graduate the Wilderness Travel Course! Join us for an exciting weekend with thoughts of your graduation certificate in the works! We will begin our hike from the Humber Park trailhead in beautiful Idyllwild. Hike in to camp Saturday. Bag peaks Saturday or Sunday. Bring secret ingredient for garbage bag salad Saturday night. Most creative wins a prize! Send resume of conditioning to leader. We will send you trip info. Leader: Georgette Rieck. Co-Leader: Jason Lynch

*The outings published in this newsletter are sponsored by a variety of Sierra Club groups and sections. As a WTC student, your training places you in good standing with other groups and sections of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club who welcome your participation in their outings.*

### **Wilderness Training Committee (WTC)**

These outings are open to anyone with appropriate experience and physical conditioning. WTC leaders plan these outings to help students fulfill the requirements for graduation. These outings are reviewed by the WTC Outings Coordinators to ensure that they do not exceed the abilities of WTC students on rock and ice, but still provide the students with an opportunity to summit a peak.

### **Sierra Peaks Section (SPS)**

A number of SPS introductory outings are offered as well as joint SPS/WTC outings suitable for WTC students. WTC students who are interested in the SPS are encouraged to participate in these outings.

### **Hundred Peaks Section (HPS)**

Most HPS outings are dayhikes in the local mountains. They are a good way to explore our local wilderness and stay in shape. Some HPS outings are overnight backpacks that fulfill the requirements for WTC graduation.

### **Desert Peaks Section (DPS)**

Because most DPS outings are dayhikes with carcamps, few meet the requirements for experience trips. However, they are an excellent way to gain additional hiking and climbing experience with knowledgeable leaders.

### **Wilderness Adventures Section (WAS)**

WAS offers a wide variety of events including dayhikes, backpacks, ski trips, car camps & bus trips. Some of their backpacks fulfill the requirements for WTC graduation.

# Training Opportunities

Most WTC students will find these trips within their abilities.

**October 11 / Sat**

**LTC**

## **Beginning Navigation Clinic**

The Leadership Training Committee invites you to spend your day with an expert (one to two students per instructor) learning or practicing your map and compass skills. Enrollment is limited to ensure personal instruction. Beginners or rusty old-timers welcome. Our practice route takes us up Mt. Lowe (5603'), 4 miles round trip, 500' gain. Rated O. This is not a check off. To register in the clinic, send contact info, SASE and \$25 check (payable to Sierra Club) to leader Diane Dunbar, 2351 Chapman Road, La Crescenta, 91214-3014, (818) 248-0455. The clinic is free; your check will be returned at the trailhead. If you no-show the check will be deposited. Co-leader: Richard Boardman

**October 19 / Sun**

**LTC/WTC**

## **I / Sheep Pass Navigation**

Practice or checkoff to satisfy Basic level I/M navigation at Joshua Tree National Park. To receive homework assignment, send sase w/nav experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&W phones to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Co-Ldr: Bob Bradshaw.

**October 31-November 2 / Fri-Sun**

**LTC, Harwood, WTC**

## **O / Wilderness First Aid Course (WFAC)**

Runs from 8:00 Fri morning to 5:30 Sun evening. Proof of CPR within previous 2 years required. Course fee of \$160 members/\$170 non-members includes lodging and meals. Send sase, SC member #, proof of CPR, and check made out to WFAC (full refund thru 26 Sep) to WFAC, PO Box 3414, Fullerton, CA 92834. For course info call Leader: Steve Schuster

**November 2 / Sun**

**WTC**

## **I / Nav till it Hertz!**

Practice Navigation on 5 miles, 300' gain in Malibu Creek State Park. Spend most of the day with navigation instructors sharpening your skills with map & compass. Not a check-off, but good preparation. Send email or SASE for required material & information to Ldr: Marc "RoadKill" Hertz. Co-Ldrs: Adrienne Benedict, Gary Embrey, Susan Richmond, Dave Coplen, George Denny, Jane Simpson.

**November 15-16 / Sat-Sun**

**LTC/WTC**

## **I / Indian Cove Navigation**

Practice or checkoff for I/M navigation at Indian Cove in Joshua Tree National Park. Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Co-Ldr: Bob Bradshaw.

**December 6 / Sat**

**LTC**

## **Beginning Navigation Clinic**

The Leadership Training Committee invites you to spend your day with an expert (one to two students per instructor) learning or practicing your map and compass skills. Enrollment is limited to ensure personal instruction. Beginners or rusty old-timers welcome. Our practice route takes us up Mt. Lowe (5603'), 4 miles round trip, 500' gain. Rated O. This is not a check off. To register in the clinic, send contact info, SASE and \$25 check (payable to Sierra Club) to leader Diane Dunbar, 2351 Chapman Road, La Crescenta, 91214-3014, (818) 248-0455. The clinic is free; your check will be returned at the trailhead. If you no-show the check will be deposited. Co-leader: Richard Boardman

# Outings of Interest

Most WTC students should find these outings within their abilities. Unfortunately, these trips do not qualify for WTC graduation.

**November 1-2 / Sat-Sun**

**Wilderness Adventures/WTC**

## **O / Santa Paula Canyon/Last Chance Trail Backpack**

Moderately paced 10 mi rt, 1700' gain backpack on trail in the historic Sespe Wilderness area of the Los Padres NF for an overnight stay at Jackson Camp. Dayhike along the Last Chance Trail to Last Chance Camp, 6 mi rt, 2025' gain. Rain postpones. Send sase or email, recent conditioning/backpack experience, carpool info to Ldr: Bill Valentine. Co-Ldr: Jane Simpson.

**January 3 / Sat**

**Wilderness Adventures/WTC**

## **O / Mt Pinos Snowshoe**

Winter snow play on moderately paced 4+ mi rt, 500' gain snowshoe hike on groomed road & trail on gentle slopes of Mt Pinos & Condor Observation Site in Los Padres NF. Rain or no-snow postpones. Send sase or email your interest & carpool info to Ldr: Jane Simpson. Co-Ldrs: Bill Valentine, Dave Coplen.

**January 24 / Sat**

**Wilderness Adventures/WTC**

## **O / The Peaks of Boney Mountain**

Big Dome, Boney Peak, and 4 other spectacular summits await us on this tour of highest points in the Santa Monica Mountains. Easy paced 11 mi, 2300' gain hike along the Mishe Mokwa & Backbone Trails. Meet 8am at the Mishe Mokwa

trailhead. Bring 2 qts water, lunch, boots, and a sense of adventure. For ride share/pre-hike info send sase or email to Ldr: Bill Valentine. Co-Ldr: Lynn Heath.

**January 25 / Sun**

**WTC, HPS**

## **I / Mt Pacifico (7124')**

Moderately paced hike to this beautiful sylvan peak. 12 mi rt, 2200' gain. Short off trail piece to complete loop. Meet 7 am La Canada rideshare pt. Bring 2 liters water, 10 essentials. Ldrs: Don Croley, George Wysup.

**February 1 / Sun**

**WTC, HPS**

## **O / Mt Markham (5742'), Mt Lowe (5603')**

Strenuous hike to these two historic peaks. 15 mi rt, 4300' gain. Meet 7am at end of Lake St in Altadena. Bring 2-3 liters water, 10 essentials. Ldrs: Don Croley, George Wysup.

**February 15 / Sun**

**WTC, HPS**

## **O / Mt Wilson (5710')**

Strenuous hike on Old Mt Wilson Trail from Sierra Madre. 14 mi rt, 4700' gain. From 210 Fwy take Baldwin north to Mira Monte turn rt. Trailhead on left. Meet 7am. Bring 2-3 liters water, 10 essentials. Ldrs: Don Croley, Ray Riley.



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Email (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
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Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club,  
Wilderness Training Committee, FRIP # 0469



# TRIP REPORT

## Koip Peak / Mt. Gibbs

August 9-10, 2003 by Joe Wankum, WTC/WLA

**Saturday**, all eight participants climbed Koip, including WTC student Lisa Quane on her first Sierra peak climb. Sunday, five climbed Gibbs, while the other three settled for a view of the old mining activity east of Mono Pass. Markey and Robert Neighbors qualified for SPS membership on Gibbs. And Susan Livingston, who could probably have done the climbs in half the time, had a chance to develop and practice patience in putting up with a slow paced leader. It was a pleasure to have all of these, as well as Richard Whitcomb and Maria Montag on the trip.

Parker Pass: Saturday, with the temperature somewhere near the freezing point, the leader got in the permit line at 7:15 and finally had a permit an hour and a quarter later. This resulted in a rather late, almost 9 am, departure from the Mono Pass trailhead (1.4 mi west of Tioga Pass and 5.6 mi east of the Tuolumne Meadows permit station). Assistant Mike Dillenback, made up for lost time by leading the group over Parker Pass (6 mi, 1500' gain) and down to a rocky camping area, somewhat out of the wind, in 3-1/2 hours.

Koip: After spending an hour for lunch and setting up tents, it was nearly 1:30 when the group left for Koip. The switchbacks that show on the map seemed to take forever, but the last of the group made the summit by 5 pm, and all were back in camp by 8:15. Most of the group shared food and stories for a short time before settling in for the night.

Mono Pass: Sunday, with I-leader Markey available and willing to assist, Mike bowed out of the climb to stay with the non-climbers. A 7:15 planned departure was delayed while one participant spent time searching for trash which had been stashed under a rock. After the lost items were found and hurriedly stuffed into a pack, the group hiked out to near the trail junction west of Mono Pass.

Gibbs: After dropping the backpacks, the group started the Gibbs climb at 8:30. A plan to climb to the west ridge, then the south ridge was changed when a trail was encountered part of the way up the south slope. The trail disappeared all too soon in the midst of loose, steep talus, but the group eventually made the west ridge, then contoured northeast up toward the summit. All were on top by 11. After a half hour for snacks, peak identification, and photos, the group descended by way of the easier west ridge for a brief lunch and time to re-pack.

Pack out: Around 1 pm, O-leader Robert led the pack out. All were at the cars by 2:30, where a couple of rangers shortly arrived (with a chainsaw) and treated us to a quick (and noisy) demonstration of removal of a tree that had fallen into the parking lot.

Suitability of trip for an WTC experience trip: This two-day trip worked ok, and gave participants a chance to get two peaks to qualify for SPS membership on this co-sponsored trip. However, if there are slow hikers in the group, two days is pushing things a bit. The trip would have been more enjoyable as a three-day trip, with camp near Mono Pass allowing time to explore old mining activity. A single-peak, weekend trip, with a climb of Koip early on Sunday morning is also a good option.

I'd like to thank Markey and Robert for their assistance. And I'd especially like to thank Mike for helping plan and in joining to lead this trip.



## **Mt. Pickering, Sept. 12-14, 2003**

*Top:* The climb to Mt. Pickering included a brief respite with an acceptable view. Front row: Melissa Kane, Bill Burke, Michael Stancato, Marc Brown and Terry Keating. Back row: Mt. LeConte, Mt. Corcoran and Mt. Langley.

*Above:* Michael Stancato at Chicken Spring Lake. This lake no longer attracts large crowds ever since chickens began using shock absorbers.

*Right:* Marc Brown, Bill Burke and Michael Stancato near the bottom of a sandy, rocky and screey descent.

**Registration 2004** Register at our website: [www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc](http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc) or use this application. Mail your application and course fees to: KC Reid, WTC Registrar, P.O. Box 666, La Habra, CA 90633-0666. For more info call (310) 967-2029 or email [wtcregistrat@angeles.sierraclub.org](mailto:wtcregistrat@angeles.sierraclub.org)

**NEW!**

Register online at:  
[www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc](http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc)

## 2004 WTC Course Application

**Reserve your space — apply today!** Check location preference:

Long Beach     San Gabriel Valley     Orange County     West L.A.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone / Eve \_\_\_\_\_ Phone / Day \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about WTC? \_\_\_\_\_

I'm registering with a friend or group and want to be assigned to the same group as:

\_\_\_\_\_ who is:  an instructor     a co-applicant.

*Students must be at least 14 years old. Students under 18 years old must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian throughout the entire course. For more information about gear and conditioning requirements, check our website or call the info line at (310) 967-2029.*

**Withdrawal from course** Students withdrawing from WTC are entitled to (1) a full refund (less a \$10.00 service charge) 10 or more days before the first class; (2) a 75% refund on or before the first class; (3) a 50% refund prior to the fourth class. No refunds after the fourth class. Refunds for the required text made only if you've not received the book.

**Note:** All refunds will be made by check regardless of payment method.

### Course Fees

**Sierra Club member** \$195   
after 12/5/03: \$210

Sierra Club membership no. \_\_\_\_\_  
or application date \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-member** \$210   
after 12/5/03: \$225

Required text  
"Freedom of the Hills" 7th edition    prepaid \$21   
at the door \$24

Make registration checks  
payable to **WTC**    **Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## WTC ROAD SHOW

Come meet our leaders and learn about WTC

**OCTOBER 22 and NOVEMBER 19 @ 7 p.m.**

**REI / ARCADIA**

214 N. Santa Anita Ave. / 626-447-1062

**REI / MANHATTAN BEACH**

1800 Rosecrans / 310-727-0728

**REI / NORTHRIDGE**

18605 Devonshire St. / 818-831-5555

**REI / SANTA ANA**

1411 Village Way / 714-543-4142

**OCTOBER 28 and DECEMBER 3 @ 7 p.m.**

**SPORT CHALET / LONG BEACH**

7440 Carson St. / 562-429-9560

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