

Newsletter

of the Wilderness Training Committee

Vol. 29, No. 2 / Fall 2018



What a Summer!

Peaks, Thru-Hikes and
Self Rescues



Dylan Galvan and
Trang Pham on the Mt. Ian
Campbell experience trip

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Mathilde Fallot/JoinTheUproar.com

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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.

wtcnewsletter@wildernesstravelcourse.org

I hope you all had a summer full of adventures and using your new outdoor skills. Hopefully, they helped you safely venture a little deeper into the wilderness and wander a little farther off the beaten path.

Maybe you made it up some peak you couldn't even imagine getting to the top of ten months ago or perhaps you took in wilderness views that pictures can't do justice. If so, WTC was a grand success. Undoubtedly, you've also made new friends along the way – that makes the success two-fold.

This newsletter is chock full of reports from the collective adventures of the WTC tribe – perhaps you'll find yourself or your friends among the pages.

My wife and I had a summer jam packed with planned trips and adventures. As usual, we had a couple successes, one spectacular failure and a number of adventures that just didn't get off the ground – sometimes life just gets in the way.

Strangely, however, our most profound Sierra Club experience this summer wasn't on a far-flung peak.

On September 30 we attended a one-man show, "Dr. Keeling's Curve." The production in Santa Monica was a fundraiser for the Sierra Club and starred Mike Farrell as the atmospheric scientist Dr. Charles David Keeling (1928-2005) whose life's work on CO₂ levels gave us the first warnings about global warming.

Farrell's Dr. Keeling spent 90 minutes speaking to us from an afterworld that looked a lot like a scientist's modest and drab office.

In all honesty, it was a production that had the potential to be dry, technical and perhaps a little dull. It was anything but. The performance was funny, engaging, informative and sobering – and in the end, ever so slightly hopeful.

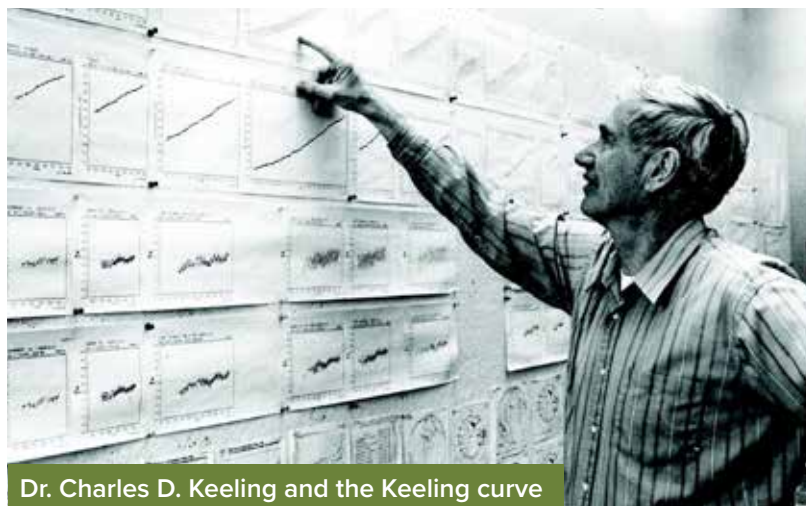
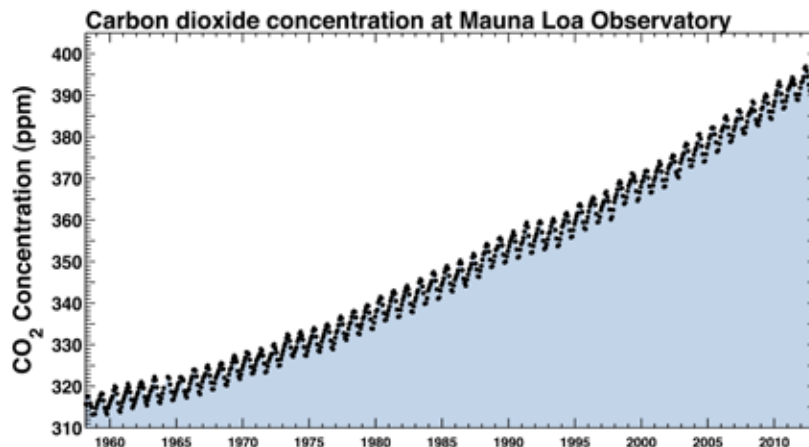
You might remember "the curve" from 2006's *An Inconvenient Truth*. It represents the research that is the foundation of understanding man-made global warming. And Farrell's one-man show was a reminder of what it all means, now and for the future.

There is no denying the story is bleak; but bleak and hopeless are not the same. We left the theater sobered, but reminded that we can take actions that will help. And if enough of us take action, and change our habits a little, and make some noise, and make life for our elected officials just a little uncomfortable...

Again, bleak and hopeless are not the same thing.

We all take part in WTC because we love the *Explore* part of the Sierra Club's motto; *Dr. Keeling's Curve* was a vivid reminder that the *Protect* part might be much more important – if not for us, for our children and generations to come.

So remember, November 6 is election day. If you're not registered, get registered. And then get your butt out the door and **VOTE!**



Dr. Charles D. Keeling and the Keeling curve



Regge Bulman is a WLA Group 4 Instructor



Taking Pictures The Low-Tech Way

Adrienne Benedict sketches
a scene of Skelton Lake

“Take only pictures, leave only footprints” – we all try to follow that principle. But you don’t have to lug around a heavy camera or drain the batteries on your phone to capture memories of your trips. John Muir wrote in his journals about the beauty he saw in nature and drew pictures of the landscape, plants and animals. You can too!

Consider “taking pictures” the low-tech way by jotting down notes about what you’ve seen and felt, or making a quick sketch...it doesn’t have to be elaborate, and don’t think you have to be an “artist” to do it! I started keeping simple travel diaries years ago, then started adding quick sketches –

looking back on them now, I may smile at my “artwork,” but the words and pictures together bring those trips back to life for me in a way that photos just can’t match.





I started out using a small sketchbook and a few colored pencils; now I use watercolors, supplemented with a fine-point Sharpie. I have one palette that's the size of a business card case (total weight with brush, pen and a couple scraps of paper is a bit over two ounces) but when weight or size isn't so much of a concern, I'll go with the small sketchbook (3" x 5") and a travel watercolor set I got from an art supply store.

So on your next trip, throw a pencil and a piece of paper in your pack, tuck in a small journal, or check out a light-weight travel pencil or watercolor kit and try capturing what you see, what you did and what you felt...and you'll likely have a souvenir that will make you smile too.

Want a template for a "nature journal?" Check out the Sierra Club's version here:

https://vault.sierraclub.org/education/nature_journal.asp



Adrienne Benedict is a staff member in West Los Angeles Group 1





Lubna Debbini and Victor Gomez snacking and taking in the view of Iceberg Lake from the summit

Mt. Whitney, Finally

After dozens of road trips past the iconic Mt. Whitney, we finally set out to climb it. As many of you know, Mt. Whitney is the highest peak in the contiguous 48 states; so it's kind of a big deal. We've been climbing other mountains in the Sierra Nevada over the past couple of years and now it was time for the big one.

Our WTC classmate, Jason Quan, secured overnight weekend permits for July 28. He was generous enough to invite us and we jumped at the opportunity! We were joined by Dave Jahng and Stephen Taliadoros.

Dave suggested we camp at Cottonwood Lakes Walk-In Campground (elevation near 10,000 feet) to begin our acclimatization. We set out from Orange County Friday around 6:30 p.m. and, despite carpooling with Dave and taking the toll road, we sat in horrible traffic. We eventually made it to the trailhead around 12:30 a.m. On Saturday morning, we met Jason and Steve at the Alabama Hills Cafe and filled up on hearty breakfasts of blueberry muffin french toast and eggs, omelets, and a giant slab of chocolate cake. We grabbed a turkey club sandwich for lunch and headed to the visitor center for our permits.

Not surprisingly, a large crowd of hikers and backpackers had gathered at the visitor center which opened at 8:00 a.m. A lottery system eliminates the need to arrive early or camp out to be the first in line, however all that can be avoided by requesting a night box drop the evening before. While Jason waited for the permits, I did some yoga in the rock garden and Victor toured the gift shop. Until then, Victor, Dave and I had been reading trip reports and planning our hike up the mountaineer's route, the shorter, steeper, but less busy route.



Hikers and backpackers awaiting permits at the Eastern Sierra Visitor Center south of Lone Pine.



Sunshine and sparkling waters along the Mt. Whitney trail.

The most popular and heavily used route by far is the Mt. Whitney Trail (22 miles round trip from Whitney Portal). Although the mileage on either route allows for a dayhike, and many people do it that way, we highly preferred the overnight option allowing for leisurely sight seeing, time to adjust to altitude and an overall more pleasant experience.

As luck would have it, Jason's permits were not for the mountaineer's route but for the Whitney Trail. Admittedly, we were disappointed but resolved to climb the mountain; after all, we had been training for two months. We grabbed our permits and wag bags (more on the bags later), and headed to the trailhead.

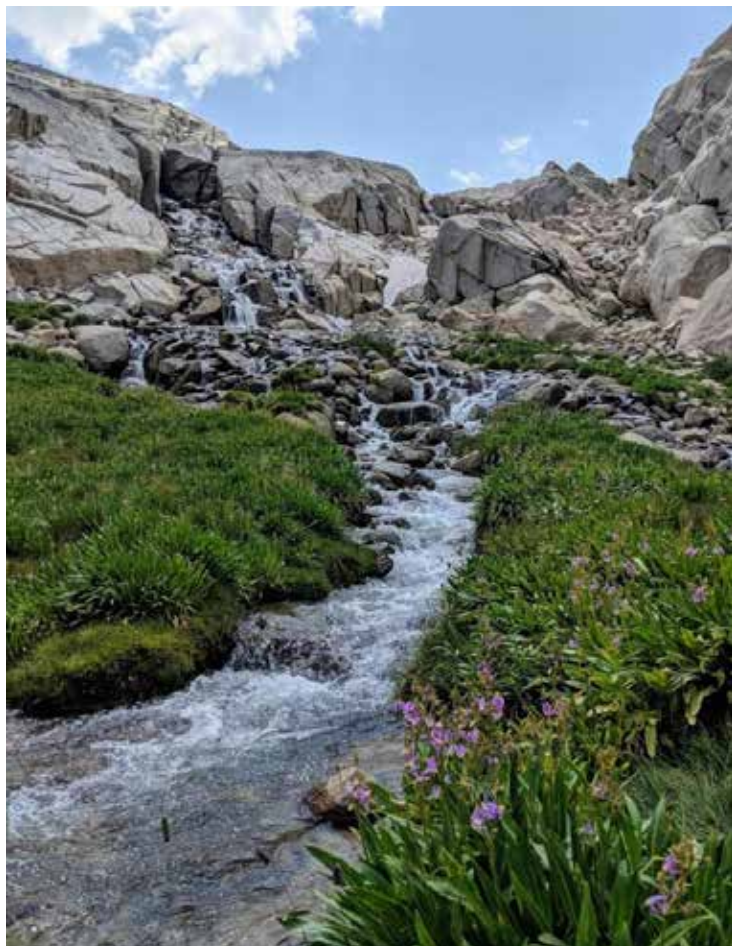
Nature was smiling upon us in many ways. The weather forecast indicated temps ranging from a 67° high to a 40° low, and no rain. As a bonus, mosquitoes were not an issue! We hit the trail just before 10:00 a.m. and were soon smitten by the colors, textures and sounds of the forest. Shortly after setting out, we were treated to views of a distant ribbon of water falling over granite.

Lone Pine Creek runs along the trail, feeding lush vegetation and colorful wildflowers. The dryer parts of our path were dotted with Indian paintbrush and gooseberry bushes. Scrub jays darted around branches showing off their brilliant blue wings while song birds chirped high above. Before we knew it, we were at Lone Pine Lake. We dropped our packs and walked to the water's edge to see granite peaks reflected in its calm water. Dayhikers were enjoying the beaches, but we had miles to cover, so we headed back to our packs and hit the trail again.

At around mile four, we passed Outpost Camp and stopped for lunch at the nearby Mirror Lake, another idyllic setting for relaxing and admiring the beauty around us.

Despite strong urges to linger after lunch, we picked up our packs and continued up the trail. We ascended what seemed an endless staircase until we reached a sparkling cascade of water inviting us to seek respite in its meadow.

Again, we dropped our packs and sat a while enjoying the tranquility of the rushing water. We also took some time for trailside yoga. Rejuvenated, we continued up the trail toward camp.



A perfect spot for trailside yoga

The brilliant blue waters of Consultation Lake beckoned, another break to appreciate its stunning beauty. From there, it was a short distance to Trail Camp where we planned to camp among dozens of other backpackers.

Side note: in the backcountry, it is customary to bury human waste; however because of the number of hikers to Whitney, wag bags are issued with permits so that hikers can pack out their waste. It's an unfortunate fact that not all campers pack out their trash or filled wag bags. This not only makes for an unsightly and unpleasant experience for other hikers, but also invites the marmots and chipmunks to rummage for food.



Jason, Dave, Victor and Lubna chillin' at happy hour

Near Trail Camp, Victor found a more secluded site above the crowds and with great views of the lake.

We set up our tents, filtered water and gathered for a happy hour with a view. Victor and I shared cheese tortellini with pesto and homegrown cherry tomatoes, Dave offered salami and cheese, Jason served the obligatory Oreo cookies, and Steve (who is still learning happy hour etiquette) tried to share a high protein cookie. Victor also pulled out a flask of Johnnie Walker Blue Label to celebrate the occasion. With the full moon above and an agreement to begin hiking at 4:30 a.m. on Sunday, we cleaned up and turned in before dark.

We woke on Sunday at 3:30 a.m. thinking we'd be the early birds, but were surprised to see multiple headlamps bobbing up the infamous 99 switchbacks above camp. After a quick breakfast, we turned on our headlamps and joined the trek. Victor, who climbs like a mountain goat, led the way; the rest of us huffed and puffed behind.

A vermillion sunrise gave us pause from our heavy breathing to admire its glow in the distant haze. The switchbacks finally gave way to a more gradual side hill climb, oh wait, more switchbacks. Eventually, the climb leveled out just as the oxygen levels dropped off. I reached the summit by 8:00 a.m.

I found Victor (who had already been there 15 minutes) and collapsed into his arms with tears of exhilaration. The rest of our group caught up in the twenty minutes that followed and we took our time enjoying the views and relishing the moment.



Sunrise on the Mt. Whitney Trail



Steve, Dave, Victor, Lubna and Jason successfully on the summit

By 9:00 a.m., we had all signed the summit register and were ready to head back to camp. We were at camp before noon and agreed to leave within an hour (giving us time for lunch and breaking down camp).

Shortly after 1:00 p.m., we left our camp and headed for the Whitney Portal with visions of giant hamburgers fueling our pace.

The trail was no less beautiful on the way out, so we stopped several times to appreciate our trek and to rest our weary legs. Once we reached the trailhead, we discarded our wag bags and trudged the few extra steps toward the Whitney Portal Store where we bought cold drinks, double bacon cheeseburgers, crispy fries and ice cream.

Feeling accomplished and grateful, we all agreed it was a wonderful experience and, now full, we set out for the long drive home.



Lubna Debbini and Victor Gomez are OC Kaweah Group Instructors



Good compass skills got us to our goal – a Whitney Portal Store bacon double cheeseburger!



From Participant to Patient A Broken Leg on Basin Mountain

This is not a drill: making due in a pinch, a backpack and a sleeping pad make an emergency stretcher

These are five words you never want to hear on your backpacking trip, “She’s fallen and she’s hurt!”

As a wilderness trip leader those are the words you most dread hearing. We had hiked into the Eastern Sierras on Friday afternoon, camped at Lower Horton Lake, summited the very challenging talus and scree slopes of Basin Mountain on Saturday and were returning to the trailhead via the Horton Lakes Trail on Sunday afternoon.

Then those dreaded words rang out.

Immediately I dropped my pack and ran back to see what had happened. One of the nine participants, an older, sprightly lady who was not a WTC student, but a very experienced backpacker (having just returned from Colorado, where she summited nine peaks over 14,000'), had fallen and was clearly in a lot of pain. The whole group sprang into action.

First aid kits were procured and I took out a copy of an emergency report to remind myself and guide my next actions. We gently palpated her leg and checked her distals for sensation. “It feels like my leg is floating!” she exclaimed.

We recorded her vitals and tried to move her onto her back, but that was too painful, so we left her on her side. Meanwhile, other participants donated gear to the cause and created a shade structure from a ground cloth and trekking poles.



Rebecca Butler, Judson Aiken, Miguel Navarro, Kevin Doyle and crew take a break on the way down from the summit

Thankfully, we were close enough to the trailhead that we had cell reception, so we called 911 and they connected us with Inyo National Forest Search & Rescue. Unfortunately, they informed us that it could be hours before they could have volunteers or a helicopter come get us. The patient was in too much pain to try to hop out on one leg which meant we were going to have to carry her out.

Another complication was that, given the poor conditions of the 4WD road, we had left our cars a few miles from the trailhead. We asked that an ambulance travel as far as it could down the dirt road and we would meet it there.

Using what we had at hand, we did our best and made a splint from a portion of a hiking pole and bandage wrap – it wasn't perfect, but it worked. Perhaps more successfully was the improvised stretcher made from an external frame backpack and a sleeping pad. We carefully moved her onto a ground cloth and then onto the "stretcher."

One participant ran down to bring his car up to the trailhead while four others lifted the four corners of our makeshift stretcher and began carrying the patient down the trail. The remaining participants carried two backpacks each. Once at the trailhead, we loaded her into the car (she was so petite that she fit laying down in the backseat) and brought her to the waiting ambulance.

Eventually, all eight participants reconvened in the waiting room of the hospital where we learned that she had a broken femur and would need immediate orthopedic surgery. She would also need to stay in the hospital for a few days.

She was the only participant who had come from the Bay Area (the rest of us were L.A.-based) and she had her car in Bishop. Thankfully, her son lived in Santa Clarita, so we had one person drive her car to her son's house so that he could pick her up a few days later.



A collection of gear created a perfectly serviceable shade for the patient.

All in all, it was a terrifying experience, but I feel very good about the way we handled it as a team. We did the best we could given the unfortunate circumstances and got her to a hospital as soon as possible.

We were lucky in many ways – this didn't happen when we were summiting Basin Mountain where a helicopter

rescue surely would have been necessary; we had reception and were relatively close to the trailhead; someone had an external frame backpack; everyone in the group was helpful and worked well together.

The patient herself was very appreciative of our actions as well, commenting how glad she was that she was hiking with a Sierra Club group with leaders trained in Wilderness First Aid.

I have followed up with her several times since the incident and although there have been some complications (the rod they initially inserted was too large and will need to be replaced with a smaller one), her recovery is going well. It will be a while before she can hike again, but she is expected to make a full recovery. Thank goodness!



Molly Arevalo is a WLA Group 1 Instructor



At the summit of Basin Mt. (l to r front) Judson Aiken, Kevin Doyle, Rebecca Butler, Rachel Gregg, Miguel Navarro; (l to r back) Alex Amerri, Sheuneen Ta, Ning Yeh

AMP'd About Rock Climbing



Celebrating a successful completion of spring 2018 AMP

During my WTC student year, I LOVED the weekend at Joshua Tree National Park for the rock scrambling fun we had. The navigation exercises were good too, don't get me wrong, but I found the rock climbing exhilarating and couldn't wait to do more. So, when I heard OC WTC Chair, Matt Hengst, talk about the Advanced Mountaineering Program (AMP), I couldn't wait to sign up.

AMP is cheaper, shorter and different than WTC in that it focuses on safety related to mountaineering that involves assisted climbing. Also, it is offered twice each year, in the spring and fall. When registration opens, class fills up in under two minutes – that's faster than you can complete the necessary fields on the form. Hopefully your computer has your address, phone and email info stored in autofill so you can jump to Sierra Club member number and a few quick questions.

When registration for spring 2018 opened, my husband (famed WTC trip record holder, Victor Gomez) and I were backpacking in New Zealand but made sure we booked a hotel night with good Wi-Fi, then we set our alarm to coincide with California time in order to register for AMP. Luckily, we both got in, just barely. Next, we needed to acquire the list of climbing gear (available on the AMP website and nothing REI can't supply).

AMP begins shortly after WTC classes end, so in April 2018, we found ourselves immersed in all things related to knots, ropes, helmets, harnesses and carabiners. In addition, we learned various belay and rappel techniques, and how to use rocks or other objects to setup SERENE and "bomber" anchors. We often had time to top rope and improve our climbing techniques too. Along the way, we bonded with our fellow

classmates and our generous instructors who patiently volunteered their time and endured relentless sun and heat on our behalf.

As luck would have it, not only did I celebrate my birthday at AMP, but I shared it with two classmates, Derek Shirk and Andrew Wong. Another classmate, Jennifer Jones celebrated one day later, so we had a combined celebration with a tiramisu cake made by our classmate Emily Hua.

If you love rock scrambling, want to know what some of the above terms mean, or if you just want to continue the adventurous path you're on, then AMP might just be perfect for you.



Learning to rappel safely



Lubna Debbini is a OC Kaweah Group Instructor

My First Thru-Hike

Seven Days on the High Sierra Trail



Day 2: On the shores of Precipice Lake; (l to r) Megan Birdsill (SGV G5), Marisa Rodriguez (SGV G7), Meghan Cason (SGV G5) and Jacqueline Sly (SGV G5)

The High Sierra Trail (HST) has been considered a classic ever since it was completed in 1932 and for good reason: it is a spectacular journey right in our own backyard.

My first memory of the HST was in 2016 from a WTC pre-lecture. As a student, I remember being amazed at the beauty, magnitude and the presenter's achievement, but also, not paying much attention to the details. I had yet to backpack even a single night or to visit the Sierras. It was difficult to imagine ever following in his footsteps and completing a six- to eight-day trip of my own.

Yet later that same year, snow camp and experience trips instilled such wonder, freedom, confidence, challenge and sheer fun in the mountains. So, just two years later, Marisa Rodriguez and I stayed up until midnight to submit our HST permit application on March 1st. We secured our permit, began planning and conditioning, and we invited two other women to join us, Jacqueline Sly and Meghan Cason, whom we had met on WTC experience trips. On August 26th of this year, off we went to Crescent Meadow to begin traversing across the Sierra Nevada.



Day 1: The beginning in Crescent Meadow

You, dear reader, should have the opportunity to discover and explore this trail for yourself (besides there are plenty of blogs and books on this subject) and I would never rob you of the joy of discovery. So instead, I choose to convey this boilerplate inspiration to all recent graduates, courtesy of Dr. Seuss, "You're off to great places! You're off and away! You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourselves any direction you choose... Oh! The Places you'll go!"

But, to further wet your appetite, a few notes:

1. The High Sierra Trail was not nearly as crowded as expected. Big Arroyo Junction was very full, but we had Kern Hot Springs entirely to ourselves and we planned an off-trail summit of Mt Kaweah that was spectacular. Use your new navigation and route-finding skills to occasionally get off the beaten path.
2. Know your companions well! Or be prepared to get to know them. We all knew each other's hygiene needs within a few days and it only got worse once the wag bags were required. Continue to foster your relationships with your new wilderness friends. You'll be that much luckier to be invited on a rare permit your friend was lucky enough to snag.



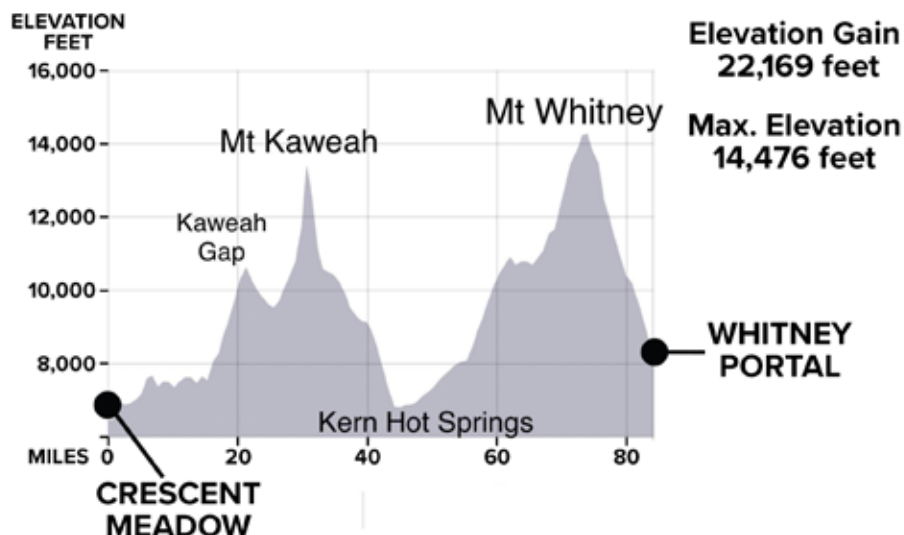
Day 3: The summit of Mt Kaweah



Day 7: The summit of Mt. Whitney

3. Despite two steady years in the wilderness I had never seen a bear in the wild – but found four on this trip (one solo and one mamma with two cubs). Both encounters were magical, mostly because they had a healthy fear of us. Do your part to keep it that way and practice careful LNT policies.

Questions? Please do not hesitate to contact me at: mbirdsill@gmail.com



Seven days, 83 miles

Our itinerary from Crescent Meadow:

- Day one to Bearpaw Meadow.
- Day two to Big Arroyo Junction.
- Day three summit of Mt Kaweah (10,802') to Moraine Lake.
- Day four to Kern Hot Springs.
- Day five to Wallace Creek Junction.
- Day six to Guitar Lake.
- Day seven summit of Mt Whitney (14,505') and Mt Muir (14,012'), then out to Whitney Portal.

OLANCHA PEAK



Olancha Peak; back row (l to r) Gregg Savage, Justin Barham, Garry McCoppin, Kevin Rigdon, Chris Howard, Diane Prendergast; front row (l to r) Ross Doering, Steff Mahan, Caryn Winslow. Trip led by Ross Doering and Garry McCoppin, June 9–10, 2018.

MT. RIXFORD



On Mt. Rixford (l to r) Kevin Doyle, Lila Jones, Rich Gillock, Barry Yoch, Chris Howard, and Ross Doering. Trip led by Ross Doering and Rich Gillock, July 7, 2018.

PINTO MOUNTAIN



On top of Pinto Mountain in Joshua Tree National Park; back row (l to r) Adam Carpinelli, Ruben Valverde, Harold Gutierrez, Bernard Yoo, and Norma Ramirez; front row (l to r) Tejinder Dhillon, Steff Mahan, and Caryn Winslow. Trip led by Molly Arevalo and Bernard Yoo, March 24–25, 2018.

GABLE LAKES



On a ridge above Gable lake (l to r) Chris Doering, Jenny Dziurzynski, Mimi Shing, Ross Doering, and James Montross August 4, 2018.

SAWTOOTH PEAK



On the summit of Sawtooth Peak



MT. STARR



On the summit of Mt. Starr, from the third-class South Ridge route (l to r) Monica Suua, Ainesh Sewak, Eric Scheidemantle and Sonia Soriano, June 23, 2018.



Eric Scheidemantle gets some big exposure on the south ridge of Mt. Starr with Bear Creek Spire in the background

MT. IAN CAMPBELL



On the cozy summit of Mt. Ian Campbell, (l to r) Nick Castillo, Terry Offenberger, Jay On, Lani Ong, Reina Acosta, Matthew Hengst, Jacky Gomez, Frank Martin, Jen Jones, Gary French, Dylan Galvan, July 29, 2018.



A bit of bushwacking on the way to Mt. Ian Campbell.



A dip in Crater Lake

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 under the Challenge Patch tab at:

www.wildernesstravelcourse.org or email challengepatch@wildernesstravelcourse.org for more information.

OUTINGS

Outings current as of publication. Please check online at www.wildernesstravelcourse.org/outings for latest information.

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.



Sat, October 13

I: Beartrap Bluff (6160+ ft)

Will McWhinney willmcw@gmail.com

Marina Batzke 310-701-7687 mbbp2013@yahoo.com

Saturday, we'll start from Reyes Creek trailhead (3950 ft), near Frazier Park, taking the Gene Marshall/Piedra Blanca trail to Beartrap camp (5 mi, 2100 ft). After setting up camp we'll take a steep, rocky climb to the bluff (2 mi rt, 1000 ft). Happy hour follows. Sunday hike out for beer and burgers at Reyes Bar & Grill. Send climbing resume to leaders: Will McWhinney, Marina Batzke

Sun, October 14, 8:00 A.M.

O: WTC Introductory Hike to Echo Mountain - Inspiration Point

Jan Marie Perry (818) 489-8324 janmarie3@yahoo.com

Kate Miller (310) 592-7965 miller.k8@gmail.com

Interested in learning more about WTC? Join current staff and former students on a local hike to learn more about the program. Already signed up? This is a great opportunity to meet your future classmates and hiking buddies while getting in shape for the class. Since it's October, we'll start out in the Haunted Forest of Cobb Estate and hike the Sam Merrill trail to the historic railway and resort area at Echo Mtn, then up

Castle Canyon to Inspiration Point. Leaders will provide an overview of the Wilderness Travel Course (WTC), which begins in January. Subjects include safe mountain travel, map & compass and wilderness first aid. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the North end of Lake Street at the corner of Lake and Loma Alta Drive in Altadena by the Gate. This is a residential neighborhood so be mindful of parking regulations and residents quiet enjoyment of their neighborhood. Bring 3 liters of water, lunch and snacks, hiking boots, hat and layered clothing. The hike is 10 miles round trip, 2740' gain. Ldr: Jan Marie Perry, Co-Ldr: Kate Miller

Thu, October 18, 6:30 P.M.

O: Walking on Sunshine Stair Hike #8

Anne Mullins (323) 698-6455 hike2thepeak@gmail.com

Molly Arevalo (213) 804-9526 mollyarevalo@gmail.com

Walking on Sunshine Stair Hike #8 – 3.5 miles, 2 hours. Just want you back for this last stair hike in the series! Come join us to wander the Los Feliz Hills and take in spectacular views of Los Angeles. See some historic homes and climb 400+ stairs. Condition for your upcoming hikes with a heavy pack. Meet 6:30 p.m. at the Coffee Bean at Hillhurst and Franklin (2081 Hillhurst Ave 90027). Bring water and good walking shoes. Heavy rain cancels. Flashlights encouraged.



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, October 20–21

I: Pyramid Peak (6,703), Smith Mountain (5,913)

Mat Kelliher (818) 667-2490 mkelliher746@gmail.com

Bill Simpson (323) 683-0959 simpphone@yahoo.com

I: Pyramid Peak (6,703), Smith Mountain (5,913) - Join us for a moderately strenuous weekend in southeastern Death Valley as we climb one day to the high point of the Funeral Mountains (10 RT miles with 3,700 feet of gain), and the next to the high point of the Black Mountains (6.2 RT miles with 2,100 feet of gain). High Clearance, 4WD vehicles are required to reach the trailhead for Smith Mtn. Email Mat Kelliher at mkelliher746@gmail.com with contact, vehicle type and carpool info, recent conditioning, and experience for trip status and details. Leaders: MAT KELLIHER, BILL SIMPSON

Sun, October 21, 8:00 A.M.

O: WTC Introductory Hike To Sitton Peak

Matthew Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com

Kristen Lindbergh kmlindbergh@gmail.com

Interested in learning more about WTC? Join current staff and former students on a local hike to learn more about the program. Already signed up? This is a great opportunity to meet your future classmates and hiking buddies while getting in shape for the class. Sitton Peak offers excellent hiking right off Ortega Highway, including abundant wildlife and views of the Santa Ana mountains. For this hike, we will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking area just past the Candy Store off Ortega Highway: San Juan Loop Trailhead Trabuco Canyon, CA, 92679. Please arrive with proper hiking boots, layers, 2 liters of water, sun protection and snacks to last through the early afternoon. This hike will be a moderate 9 mile hike with 2200 ft gain RT. Note that parking requires an adventure pass or national parks pass.

Tue, November 6

ELECTION DAY



https://angeles.sierraclub.org/political_action/endorsements

Sat, November 10, 8:00 A.M.

O: WTC Introductory Hike to Mt Lukens

Kate Miller (310) 592-7965 miller.k8@gmail.com

Jan Marie Perry (818) 489-8324 janmarie3@yahoo.com

Interested in learning more about WTC? Join current staff and former students on a local hike to learn more about the program. Already signed up? This is a great opportunity to meet your future classmates and hiking buddies while getting in shape for the class. Join us on a hike of the HPS Mt. Lukens, at 5,074 feet the highest point in the city limits of Los Angeles, and also the westernmost major summit of the San Gabriels. We will start from Deukmejian Wilderness Park in Glendale, ascending via the Rim of the Valley Trail and descending via the Crescenta View Trail. The views on both legs of the hike are great; if visibility is good, expect to see Old Saddleback, Catalina Island, Santa Barbara Island, the entire Santa Monica range and more. All are welcome to come and learn about WTC, or reconnect with old friends if you're a former student. Ten miles at a moderate pace. Bring 3 liters of water, snacks, lunch, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, layered clothing, a hat, sunscreen, and hiking poles for descent if desired. Meet in the parking lot at Deukmejian at 8 a.m. 3429 Markridge Rd, Glendale, CA 91214 Leader: Kate Miller, Co-Leader: Jan Marie Perry

Sun, November 11, 8:00 A.M.

O: WTC Introductory Hike To Crystal Cove

Matthew Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com

Kristen Lindbergh kmlindbergh@gmail.com

Interested in learning more about WTC? Join current staff and former students on a local hike to learn more about the program. Already signed up? This is a great opportunity to meet your future classmates and hiking buddies while getting in shape for the class. Crystal Cove is a wonderful area to hike in Orange County with its rolling hills and spectacular views of the ocean and Catalina island. For this hike, we will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Crystal Cove parking area near the Ranger Station/Visitor Center: 8471 N Coast Hwy, Laguna Beach, CA 92652. Please arrive with proper hiking boots, layers, 2 liters of water, sun protection and snacks to last through the early afternoon. This hike will be a moderate 9 mile loop with 1700 ft gain. Note that parking is \$15 for the day unless you have a state park pass.

Sat, December 8

M: WTC Staff Leader Rock Workshop

Tom McDonnell (714) 542-1856 t.mcdonnell@sbcglobal.net

Jack Kieffer (714) 522-1376 jockorock42@yahoo.com

Robert Myers (310) 829-3177 rmmyers@ix.netcom.com

Ron Campbell (714) 425-5169 campbellr@verizon.net



This staff development workshop is intended to prepare WTC staff to be effective instructors in WTC's rock scrambling instruction. This workshop is open to all staff members; new staff members are strongly encouraged to participate. Seasoned staff welcome to add your wisdom. Early sign-up recommended, since group size is limited.

Sun, December 9

I: Navigation: Warren Point Navigation Noodle

Robert Myers rmmymers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net



Navigation: Warren Point Navigation Noodle: 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: Robert Myers. Assistant: Ann Shields.

Sun, December 09, 8:00 A.M.

O: WTC Introductory Hike to Cucamonga Peak via Icehouse Canyon

Jan Marie Perry (818) 489-8324 janmarie3@yahoo.com

Kate Miller (310) 592-7965 miller.k8@gmail.com

Interested in learning more about WTC? Join current staff and former students on a local hike to learn more about the program. Already signed up? This is a great opportunity to meet your future classmates and hiking buddies while getting in shape for the class. With one of the coolest summits in the San Gabriel Mountains, the Cucamonga Peak hike is a favorite - it's both on the Six Pack of Peaks list and the Sierra Club Hundred Peaks Section list. Cucamonga Peak, at 8,862 feet, has spectacular views of the LA sprawl, the desert, and surrounding peaks. It is well worth the steep climb up Ice House Canyon. We'll go at a moderate pace, as this trip is 12 miles round trip, 3800' gain. Bring 3 liters of water, snacks, lunch, sunscreen, sturdy hiking boots or shoes, a hat, layers for the higher elevations, rain gear, and hiking poles if desired. Meet at Ice House Canyon at 8:00 a.m. - Address: 20 Ice House Canyon Road, Mt Baldy, 91759. Because trailhead parking can get crowded, we will arrange carpools in advance of this hike. Please contact the leaders for more information. Leader: Jan Marie Perry janmarie3@yahoo.com, Co-Leader: Kate Miller miller.k8@gmail.com

Sun, December 16, 8:00 A.M.

O: WTC Introductory Hike To Sugarloaf Peak

Matthew Hengst matthew.hengst@gmail.com

Kristen Lindbergh kmlindbergh@gmail.com

Interested in learning more about WTC? Join current staff and former students on a local hike to learn more about the program. Already signed up? This is a great opportunity to meet your future classmates and hiking buddies while getting in shape for the class. Sugarloaf Peak offers excellent hiking right off Ortega Highway, including abundant wildlife and views of the Santa Ana mountains. For this hike, we will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking area just past the Candy Store off Ortega Highway: San Juan Loop Trailhead, Trabuco Canyon, CA, 92679. Please arrive with proper hiking boots, layers, 2 liters of water, sun protection and snacks to last through the early afternoon. This hike will be a moderate 12 mile loop with 2400 ft gain. RT. Note that parking requires an adventure pass or national parks pass.

Sat, January 12, 2019

I: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle

Robert Myers rmmymers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net



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

Sat, January 12, 2019

M-R: Navigation Workshop on 3rd Class Terrain:

Robert Myers rmmymers@ix.netcom.com

John Kieffer jockorock42@yahoo.com



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

Sun, January 13, 2019

I: Indian Cove Navigation Noodle

Robert Myers rmmymers@ix.netcom.com

Ann Pedreschi apedreschi@sbcglobal.net



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



Just south of Jumbo Rocks on The Really Last Chance Graduation Trip in Joshua Tree National Park, October 6-7, 2018

Outings current as of publication. Please check online at www.wildernesstravelcourse.org/outings for latest information.



TRIP REPORTS

San Jacinto Wilderness

I-rated trip, July 23–24, 2018

Led by Kim Crane and Garry McCoppin

4 Ladies and 2 Gents

In the words of Tom Petty, “It was a beautiful day, the sun beat down,” on this group of 10 intrepid backpackers as they set out to conquer a small corner of the vast San Jacinto Wilderness. Our first discovery was our common WTC thread – instructor, alumni or graduate candidate hiking their first experience trip.

After introductions and “pound-shedding” pack inspections, the group set off up the Marion trail – destination Little Round Valley campground. And it was most definitely “up” for 4 miles with 3300 feet gain. In spite of the fact that this route is the steepest way up, it is, without a doubt, very picturesque and a most beautiful introduction to the wonders of the San Jacintos.

As the temperature rose, so did the frequency of our short breaks, especially as we wended our way through the waist-high chinquapin hedges. A mile or so out from the campground, we found a very welcoming rocky spring in the shade surrounded by lush mountain greenery and floral specimens. It was a perfect place to rest and refill for the ambitious cross-country trek planned for the next day.

We arrived at Little Round Valley campground where we found a perfect spot to camp for the night. The orange reflection of the sunset up against the trees and mountains was a stunning backdrop for our wickedly good happy hour. Variety was the spice of the evening and all of the courses were covered, from hors d’oeuvres to salad to fish to dessert, as well as many cuisines – Italian, Mexican, Asian and Mediterranean. The evening ended with lore and legend from San Jacinto’s first people – the Cahuilla Indians – and the sharing of a flask of very fine Kentucky bourbon.

Some tried cowboy camping for the very first time even though the night quickly changed from chilly to cold. The moon was bright and beautiful, providing Jason Mahlborg, equipped with camera and ultra-light tripod, the perfect opportunity to capture the majesty of the night sky’s Milky Way.

Sunday began with a 5:00 a.m. wakeup call and a 6:00 a.m. alpine start. Every single member of the group rose, breakfasted and was ready to go on time. And so began our cross-country quest to conquer Newton Drury and the 4 Ladies – all 10,000-foot plus peaks. The panoramic view from the top of Newton Drury, named after an avid giant redwoods conservationist, gave us a better look at the rocky terrain that was ours to cover in search of the 4 Ladies.

Some of the “ladies” proved to be a bit more elusive than Drury. An impostor lured us to her peak and so we signed Joyce’s register as a bonus. Back on track, we scrambled to the top of Ellen, our intended target. From Ellen, so named by beloved friends of a local mountaineering enthusiast, we set our sights on finding Marion as the sun climbed and the temperatures began to rise.

This notable peak was named after Marion Kelly, a teacher for the Indian Bureau in the Morongo Valley Reservation in the 1890’s. While hiking in the Strawberry Valley, Marion met the dashing USGS Topographer, Edmund Taylor Perkins, Jr. It was love at first sight for Marion – not so much for Perkins as he insisted that he was married to his work. The beautiful blue-eyed Marion did not give up hope.



The Milky Way from the San Jacinto Wilderness



On top of Marion Mountain.

Shirley was our next conquest. She was honest and straightforward. Like Joyce, her name is unofficial, but none the less a worthwhile climb.

Unlike Shirley, Jean was a sly one, who tempted us up to her 2 false peaks before she revealed her true self. Local lore has it that Jean and Marion were both named in 1897 by Perkins. He named Jean Peak for his sweetheart and future bride – Jean Waters of Plumas County. Perkins spent the summer of 1897 trying to decide which woman to marry while he completed his topographical study of San Jacinto Peak and its environs. Now, there isn't a record of how Joyce and Shirley fit into this story, but it is possible that Perkins may have broken more than a few hearts that summer. We do know that his marriage lasted for 14 years until Jean's untimely death in 1917. Perkins, a consummate lady's man, married Louise shortly thereafter.

With 5 Ladies and 1 Gent under our belts, we descended Jean's western ridge back over to Little Round Valley Camp. After a stop at our rocky spring for a cold drink, we were back down to Marion Campground. The trip was a success – one more Lady than planned – Joyce. One less Gent than expected – San Jacinto. While we said our farewells and toasted each other with ice cold strawberry lemonade, we all promised to come back and take that Gent on, .



From the peak of Jean (l to r) Jason Mahlberg, Tao Zhang, Garry McCoppin, Victoria Perera, Jackie Gomez, Melina Zhang, Meng Zhao, Sun Tsui and Albert Sandoval

RECIPE BONUS

San Jacinto Lettuce Wraps

Ingredients

- 1 pkg extra firm tofu, well drained and sliced thinly across the long side
- 1 head iceberg lettuce,
- 1 carrot, peeled and grated or minced
- 2 celery stalks, minced
- 2 green onions, sliced thinly
- 3 tbsp of minced ginger, peeled and minced
- 5 or 6 snap peas, minced
- 5 tbsp chopped cashews or peanuts

Marinade

- 2 tbsp honey
- ½ cup soy sauce
- ¼ cup water
- 2 cloves of crushed garlic
- 1 tsp of fish sauce (optional)

Prep (can be done a few days ahead)

Place thinly sliced tofu in a single layer in a 13" x 9" glass dish. Mix all marinade ingredients and pour over all. Cover with plastic wrap and marinate for a few hours at room temp or overnight in the fridge. Turn tofu occasionally.

Add a little oil to a large frying pan and add the drained tofu and let it cook for 4 or 5 mins until crisp and brown. Do not crowd – use several frying pans or fry in batches. Turnover and continue to cook until crisp and brown. When done, remove from heat and let cool on paper towels. Cut into thin strips. Cut the strips into small dice.

Core lettuce and place in a big bowl of ice water. As the leaves become loose, gently remove them from the head and drain on paper towels or in a strainer. Try to keep the leaves whole. Wrap in paper towels and place in a plastic produce bag. Refrigerate.

Package vegetables in separate snack bags and refrigerate.

Assembly (just before serving)

Lay lettuce leaves out on work surface. Portion about 2 tbsp of cooked tofu into the center of each leave. Do the same with a tablespoon each of the carrot, celery, ginger, snap peas and nuts. Top with a sauce of your choice and fold into a package.

Bring a few take-out packets of Hoisin, Sambal, sweet chili sauce, hot Chinese mustard, Serracha.

Note: pack the lettuce in the top of your bear canister. Makes enough for seconds at happy hour.

Polly Dome and Other Wonders

I-rated trip, June 30 – July 4, 2018

Led by Sharon Moore and Karen Buehler

We planned this trip as a combined Wilderness Training Course experience trip and Natural Science Section trip, but in fact, the primary sponsor was the Backpacking Committee, which provided bus transportation and logistical support for several groups over the Independence Day holiday. Our hope was to explore the glacial geology of Yosemite, identify a variety of conifers and get a lot of off-trail experience. As they say, “two out of three ain’t bad!”

We began our trip on the Murphy Creek Trail, heading north from Tenaya Lake through a lodgepole pine forest. *Pinus contorta* subsp. *Murrayana* to be precise, but if my participants remember lodgepole, I’m happy. Soon I was able to point out mountain hemlock, *Tsuga mertensiana* – I love these trees for the beautiful pattern of their needles. That was almost it for variety for the rest of the weekend, until we encountered red fir, *Abies magnifica*, on the way to our second camp. However, the trail did open out to magnificent granite vistas.

Glacially carved granite is the *raison d’être* for Yosemite National Park and our wanderings took us through a lot of it. An open spot along the trail gave us a view of Tuolumne Peak in one direction, and open slabs with examples of glacial polish and erratics in another. We reentered lodgepole forest, made our way to the largest of the Polly Dome Lakes and set up camp. From there it seemed like it would be a short but steep climb to the summit. Our lake was northwest of



Glacially polished granite slab with glacial erratics (boulders carried over a distance by glacial ice and left behind when the glaciers retreated).

the dome, and the only nontechnical route to the top wraps around northeast of the summit and approaches from the southwest. This is where we discovered how the directional movement of ice left behind furrowed terrain with low points full of forest vegetation and high ridges of rock perpendicular to our path, which both demanded intense route finding. Like all of the domes in the Tuolumne Meadows area, Polly Dome is a *roche moutonnée* (“sheep rock”). Although more deeply weathered than Lambert or Pothole Dome, it has the same shape formed by ice polishing and smoothing the northeast side and plucking chunks of granite from the south and west



WTC pride on “Lamb Dome” (8478’); front row (l to r) Karen Buehler, Sharon Moore, Judith Jacques, Jasmine Brackett; back row (l to r) Bettie Pearson, Dana Hinds, Diana Gonzales, Laura Leaney, Oshie Magturo

sides as it flowed down the Tenaya Canyon and Snow Creek drainages. We had an adventurous climb and spectacular views, but ran short of daylight so we had to return to camp after visually scoping out the last couple hundred feet.

The next day we moved to an unnamed lake far from any trail. The terrain tended to push us toward the Tioga Road, but a determined course correction after lunch took us over a small dome and down a ridge into Mosquito Central, otherwise known as Cathedral Creek. We followed the creek for a short distance, then picked up the gully that led to our target lake. Dry, open forest alternated with downed trees and woody debris, but our hard work was rewarded with a good campsite by a lake that we had entirely to ourselves. We saw signs of bears, but no actual bears. Chastened by our recent off-trail experiences, my co-leader Karen and I decided to work with the terrain to make our way to the other geologic highlight of the trip, Little Devils Postpile. This formation is just off the trail to Glen Aulin and most people hike right on by without seeing it. We still had to wade through a lot of downed trees, but by following a line of small lakes to a saddle and then down another drainage of alternating granite ridges and open forest, we intersected the trail near the Tuolumne River. We followed this to the Postpile, which lies on the south bank of the river just a short hike upstream from a footbridge.



Little Devils Postpile in Yosemite National Park



Elizabeth
@Elizasoul80

Follow

[God creating mosquitoes]

"I wonder how I could get everyone to spray chemicals on themselves and also slap their own faces."

3:42 AM - 3 Jan 2016

136 310

The Little Devils Postpile is a remnant of an ancient volcano that intruded into the granite about eight-million years ago. The series of glaciations that moved through the area are more recent than that, and have eroded and exposed the formation. It is smaller and less well defined than its more famous cousin near Mammoth, possibly because the rock is andesite rather than basalt. We reached the formation



View of Cloud's Rest and Half Dome from southeast of Polly Dome

around lunchtime, and after lunch and relaxing by the river, we climbed and explored it to our heart's content before making our way back to our hidden lakeside camp. The next day we used the same route to get to the trail and hike back to Tuolumne Meadows, stopping by the Soda Springs and Parson's Lodge before making our way back to the bus that would return the group to civilization. Glacial geology, check. Significant off-trail travel, check. Conifer variety, not so much. But a wonderful exploration of some of Yosemite's hidden wonders none the less.

Dyadic Peak

MR-rated trip, March 24–25, 2018
Led by Monica Suua and Regge Bulman

It has become a tradition at this point. Every spring, a couple weeks after snow camp, we plan a trip to Dyadic Peak. It's a chance to thaw out after a couple trips in the snow.

This year was no different and a group of 12 of us met alongside Highway 62 about 40 miles east of Twentynine Palms at midday on Saturday to start our adventure.

The group had six WTC students who were ready for some rock scrambling. While Peak 4377 had whet their appetites, Dyadic Peak promised to be a full-on scrambling buffet and, as always, it didn't disappoint.



Erik Coll is decked out for the desert and ready to tackle Dyadic

The five-mile hike into our camp was uneventful other than the plethora of horned lizards we crossed paths with. We decided to camp high and hike all the way up to the ridge at the top of the entrance gully. Our campsite afforded us great views down into the no man's land basin east of the ridge. As always, we talked about exploring it...maybe next time.



Is it still an "alpine" start in the desert at 3,000'?

After a nice happy hour and a beautiful desert sunset, we all headed for our sleeping bags – 5 a.m. would come way too soon.

The alarms went off as scheduled and, though sleepy, we all were happy for the cool temperatures. Soon enough it would be all sun and sweat, plus there was a nice calmness to the cool night air as we found our way down to the approach gully, each in our own pool of light from our headlamps.

By the time we got to the start of the mile-long gully that takes climbers to the summit area, the sky was brightening. We all peeled off a layer and switched out our headlamps for helmets.

Now the trudge up the gully would begin – sections of use trail broken up with short stints of third-class scrambling. The gully is a grind, fairly easy traveling but up, up and up. It doesn't take too long before someone always sarcastically yells out, "Are we there yet?"

Eventually the answer was actually "yes" and we stood in the bowl between the three peaks of Spectre, Aqua and Dyadic. Spectre and Aqua are obvious from the bowl, clearly visible to the southwest and north, respectively.

Dyadic, on the other hand, is a little more fickle. It was basically southeast of our resting spot, but it couldn't be seen. In all reality, it can't actually be seen until you are nearly standing on it. Thus the fun was about to begin.

The route finding between the top of the approach gully and Dyadic proper is a maze of gullies and cracks, rockhopping and downclimbs. To find your way without having someone who has been there before almost guarantees you'll be climbing up a dead end or two. Luckily, several of us had been there a time or two and the climb went smoothly, just a couple hesitant pauses – "was it this crack or that one" – along the way.

After a lot of rock, we finally stood at the base of the infamous 20' chimney. Here we broke out the harnesses and a couple short ropes. Getting twelve climbers through the chimney and to the summit was going to take some time and some teamwork.



Martin Keyt is all smiles with Bernie Fox, Ainesh Sewak and Sonia Soriano right behind



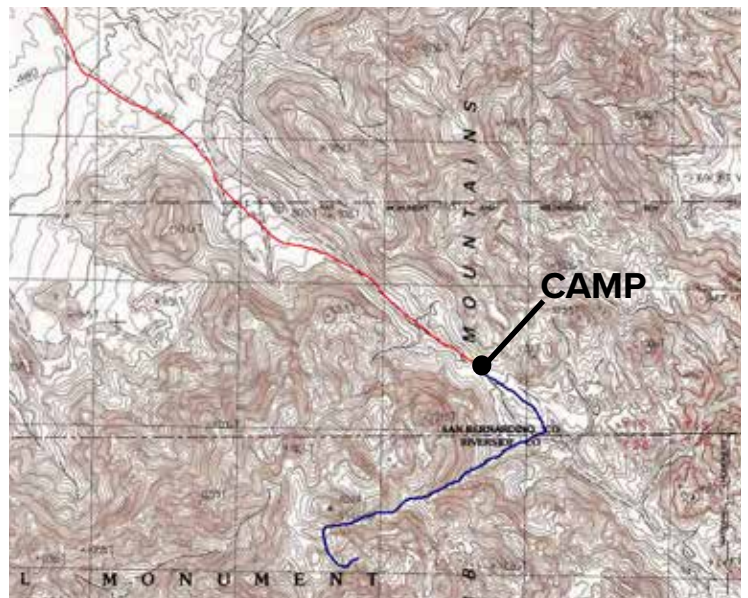
At the summit (back, l to r) Martin Keyt, Ainesh Sewak, Monica Suua, Jeffrey Kimura, Keith Henry, Regge Bulman, Bernie Fox, Dave Carter, Sonia Soriano; (front, l to r) Erik Coll, Ted Lubeshkoff, David Portillo

Between the chimney and the summit, there are a number of spots where the average hiker/climber might appreciate a quick belay or at least a spotter. A number of moves are made with some significant exposure. Though nothing is exceedingly hard, there are some steparounds and dropoffs that give the casual hiker or new climber a healthy shot of adrenaline.

The final move, an awkward step across a notch which ends in an off-width crack, is fitting. It's kind of exposed, it's kind of scary and it's a whole lot intimidating – rope please!

Soon however, the twelve climbers had made the final move and we all stood on the summit. Smiles, backslapping, snacks and pictures ensued. Mother nature had kindly cooperated and the views across the desert were spectacular. It's always a treat to sit on Dyadic with miles and miles of basically unvisited desert spread out before you. Getting to that point always seems to be an adventure...no matter how many times you've been there before.

Now all we had to do was do it all over again, this time in reverse.



Mt. Mallory and Lone Pine Peak

I-rated trip, July 20–22, 2018

Led by Mathew Hengst and Garry McCoppin

Mt. Mallory and Lone Pine Peak was a three-day trip primarily aimed at students who had taken the Sierra Club Wilderness Travel Course, though it was open to anyone who follows Sierra Club outings. The trip came about because Olancho Group Leader Garry McCoppin had been here in the 1980s with a precursor to the Wilderness Travel Course when he broke his leg during a glissade gone wrong. He's now in his 70s (and kicking more ass than you'd think possible at that age) and wanted to get up there again.

I'm always up for an adventure with Garry and we planned a moderate sounding three-day adventure. The first day would be an easy-ish hike into camp where we'd spend the afternoon relaxing and maybe get in a swim. On the second day we would follow the trail up to Meysan Lake and climb a chute to access Mount Mallory and Irvine. Then we threw in Lone Pine Peak on the last day because it's a fun climb and so damn impressive from Highway 395 that many people assume it must be Mount Whitney.



Trip leaders Garry McCoppin and Mathew Hengst not letting a minor downpour phase them

We were looking at a forecast with rain and “unsettled” weather predicted every day – to that point, July had been a real wild ride, weather-wise.

Our trailhead was Meysan Lakes which is along the south side of the road just below Whitney Portal. It's an underappreciated trailhead considering it's easy to access, doesn't have the wag bag requirements of the Whitney trail and sees a fraction of the traffic. It also makes for spectacular camping, as long as you don't mind climbing 3,500' of gain in about five miles to get up to the lakes.

To get to the trail proper you have to go through the campground and then pick up a road leading through some private summer homes. From there the trail climbs from about 8,000' to 10,800' in a few miles. Even with the easy pace, it was a steep climb and we had a few people feeling the altitude.

As expected, the clouds were building rapidly and by mid-morning we started to hear thunder in the distance. It started



Hiking up the trail to Meysan Lakes while thunderclouds build

raining on us on the switchbacks above Little Meysan and it was coming down pretty good when we arrived at Grass Lake where we planned to camp.

The main trail makes a hard right at about 10,970' and a use trail heads off to the left towards Grass and Peanut Lakes. Just north of Grass Lake there are a large number of great spots that are spread out far enough you would never have to see another group. The lakes themselves are pretty, but too vegetated for swimming, so if you want to swim it's best to day hike up to Meysan Lake.

I ended up with a nice little spot overlooking the lake with a view up towards Mallory. There was a slab that didn't allow water to pool beneath the tent which turned out to be a good thing because it proceeded to rain and hail for hours. Unfortunately, since it was raining hard it was a bit of a mess setting up the tent. In the minute or so it took to get the poles in and throw the rain fly over the tent, water got everywhere.

It really made me miss the simplicity of my bivy where setup just involves unrolling and climbing inside. While a lot of people freak out about the thought of getting stuck in a bivy during a long rainstorm like this, I always just get comfortable and fall asleep. Still, it wasn't too bad having a three-person tent to myself and getting to spend a few hours stretched out listening to the rain, hail and thunder.

The rain stretched on to the point cooking dinner was done in the tent vestibule, but it finally let up around 7:30 p.m. and everyone briefly came together for a slightly damp post-dinner chat before heading off to bed.

The weather forecast was predicting another day of afternoon showers, so we wanted to get moving as early as was feasible. Since the climb up to Meysan Lake was on trail, we decided to leave before sun up and do the first part with headlamps. With the aid of my GPS we were able to follow the trail, though the further up we went, the more it tended to split off into multiple use trails.

We made Meysan Lake in about an hour and, using the rather helpful picture from the Secor guidebook, identified the second-class East Slope route we'd be taking up. (The East Chute looked tempting, but we had to keep things second-class since this was an I-rated trip.)



Looking up at the East Slope route from Meysan Lake

We went around the western side of the lake which turned out to be a mistake as the eastern shore is significantly easier. Rock hopping around the lake was enough of a challenge that two folks elected to head back to camp rather than head up the chute. It wasn't exactly pleasant going, thanks to the loose rock and dirt, but it was doable and our views went from fairly impressive to epic.

By the time we reached the top of the chute the clouds were building and it was becoming obvious that we wouldn't have time to get Irvine if we wanted any chance of making it down before the rain. It took us about an hour from the top of the chute to the summit, with the altitude really kicking the crap out of us the last 400' or so. On the summit we found a register dating back to 1988 and saw that there had been several groups up recently.



After a climb up a very loose chute participants enjoy a vastly improved view

Oddly enough, the clouds only looked threatening on the eastern side of the crest which made the situation look a lot less threatening than it actually was. We snapped a few quick pictures when the clouds cleared along the ridge and headed back down, hoping the rain would hold off long enough to get down the chute.

The way down was far easier than going up but you still had to watch every step and everyone was happier once we were down. We made it down to the lake by 1:30 p.m. and things

were still dry! At least they were until we made it back around Meysan Lake and stopped for a moment to refill our water. A few drops quickly turned into a decent downpour which kept us moving briskly back to camp where we dove into our tents for a repeat weather performance.

Rain, hail, thunder and blinding flashes of lighting kept things entertaining and I spent a relaxing few hours lying back listening to it all. I've always found it to be an incredibly relaxing experience to be inside a tent in weather like that and my only complaint was that I couldn't really look out and watch the storm since it was coming down hard enough that water and grapple were striking the ground and bouncing inside the tent!

The next morning all but one person was up for Lone Pine Peak and we again started a bit before it was light. This ended up resulting in a bit more bushwhacking than was strictly necessary but hey, at least the brush was cold and soaking wet as we climbed through it.

From a distance, the chute from Grass Lake looks somewhere between impossible and just really unpleasant, but once you get right under it you can see it's fairly straightforward. I had initially thought to aim more to the middle of the chute to take advantage of some larger rocks, but once we started up we found that wasn't necessary. At about 11,800', the chute swings to the left and you aim for the notch at the top. There was a lot of fresh rockfall and some minor mudslides in the chute but the angle is such that you mostly don't have to worry about your footing, so it's just a bit of work.

Once we made it to the top we were treated to a spectacular view of the peaks to the north and from that point there was basically a use trail to the summit with tracks that were mostly filled with grapple from the day before. We left camp at 5:15 a.m. and we were on the summit by 8:45 a.m. just in time to get a view before the clouds moved in.

The descent back to camp went smoothly and we were back at our tents by 11:30 a.m. I fully expected to get rained on during the hike out, but mountain weather tends to be hard to predict. There were a few times where it felt like it was about to rain but for the most part we got to hike out in the sun.

We made it to the cars by 3:45 p.m. and headed down the hill for a well-earned meal and an almost reasonable drive home.



Our group on the summit of Lone Pine

Red and White Mountain

MR-rated trip, July 20 – 22, 2018

Led by Regge Bulman and Monica Suua

Let's admit it, you can't believe everything you read on the internet – what with “fake news” and everything. So while researching our trip to Red and White Mountain online, I stumbled across the following regarding the Northeast Ridge route and was a bit concerned.

“Secor describes this route, first climbed by Norman Clyde, as the best route on Red and White Mtn. This isn't really saying much as all the routes to this peak are generally crappy up and over tons of loose talus – perhaps this is just the least crappy of a bad hand dealt to this pile of rubble.”

“Pile of rubble?” Ouch! We could only hope this was the work of Russian trolls. It was clear that this mountain needed some love.

Nine of us met at the McGee Creek trailhead early Friday morning, July 20, packed and ready to go. The Sierras were in a monsoon cycle and the forecast for the entire weekend called for nice morning weather, but an increasing chance of thunderstorms throughout the afternoon and evening. Our goal was to get to camp before any rain. The hike in moved from rolling grassy terrain, through rocky, forested landscapes, to the ragged edge of treeline at Big McGee Lake. We happily arrived there just after noon because huge white thunderhead clouds were already forming all around us.

We all got tents pitched in what seemed to be appropriate spots – nothing low-lying – and within the hour, we had retreated inside as the sky had turned dark and the rumble of thunder echoed. Drizzle quickly turned to rain, then heavy rain, and then some sleet and hail got mixed in just for fun. Winds kicked up and I believe we were all questioning the storm-worthiness of our tents and our tent-pitching skills. Eventually, a few cracks of thunder and flashes of lightening were so close and deafening, that we were even rethinking whether backpacking was an advisable hobby in general.

The rain continued to come down heavy and steady. Then we heard an unmistakable, “Oh damn!” Soon, mixed in with the sounds of the storm were sounds of unhappy, distressed humans, tent zippers being opened, rattling gear and general scuffling about. Fiona and Ryan's tent spot hadn't been a low spot, per se, just an ever-so-slightly lower spot on a wide slope. The slope funnelled all of the rain from the terrain above us to the lake below and their tent had become inundated with a few inches of water in the process. Nothing says fun like moving your tent in the middle of a downpour!

Before their tent was completely resituated, we were treated to a, “Damn it, us too!” Another tent spot had been flooded and soon Chelsey and Zach were also doing the “we're moving our tent” dance.

Tents were moved and the storm continued. After several hours, the rain finally began to lighten. By 6 p.m. it was over and we all emerged – some dry, others not so much. In the remaining hours of light, we all did our best to dry belongings, eat, filter water and prepare for the next morning. The intensity of the storm seemed to make everyone fans of really early



Red and White Mountain from the McGee Creek trail.

alpine starts. Being in a soggy tent during that storm was one thing, being on a Sierra ridgeline in a storm like that?...

“4 a.m. start, anyone?”

So, Saturday at 4 a.m., there we all stood in the dark – all but one, that is. Zachary's boots had taken the worst of it in the great tent move and were still soaked. You never know what little thing might push you from “This is going to be great!” to “This is going to be miserable.” The thought of climbing in soaked boots for eight-plus hours did it for Zachary and I can't say I blame him.

With no moon and only pools of light from our headlamps, we stumbled up the slope to find the trail to Upper McGee Lake. Once found, the trail section we thought would take 20 minutes, took 40 in the darkness, but finally just as the eastern sky began to lighten, we were looking down on Upper McGee Lake – the adventure could now begin.

The Northeast Ridge route leaves the trail at the upper lake and crosses the lake's outlet before scrambling up a broad, loose slope to the ridgeline well west of the peak. The stream crossing at the outlet hadn't been given a second thought – until we stood next to the stream in the pre-dawn light.

Someone scouted upstream, someone scouted down – no simple crossing seemed to exist, and the previous day's rain dump had only made it worse, no doubt. After much consideration, we all finally agreed on the “best” place to cross. A few long-legged individuals went first and it wasn't as bad as it looked, however for the shorter folks, well, “Make sure you stick the landing.” We all did the best to assist each other and soon we all stood on the opposite side, boots still relatively dry.

Now the trudge began. From the stream to the ridge is 1,200' of gain over rugged and rocky terrain. There is no clear “route,” just bobbing and weaving as you work your way up toward the ridge – generally working slightly to the east as you go. There are occasional rock bands with some short class three sections, but all in all it's generally dealer's choice – go where you want as long as it's up.



Surprisingly, what the 1,200' is not, is excessively loose. You're not on solid granite slabs, but in general, it's decent Sierra scrambling all the way to the ridge – take that, internet.

As we neared the ridge, we stayed to the right of the large cleft/gully that came up from the direction of Big McGee Lake. The internet had warned to gain the ridge to the west of the cleft. Once there, we realized the warning was superfluous – anyone who looked down the walls of that gully wouldn't think about trying to cross it.

Once on the ridge, we took a break and soaked in the amazing views. We also could now see our route to the peak – a pretty section of ridge that took us to the summit block itself. As we began moving along the ridge, our concern about loose rock abated. Now anything kicked loose would tumble harmlessly to unoccupied terrain below. The group spread out along the ridge as each person found his or her ideal path – sometimes on the ridge proper, sometime slightly below on the north side where easier traveling could often be found.

In short order, we had worked our way to the false summit (12,560') which lies less than 0.2 miles NNE of the main peak. Here we saw two issues that gave us pause. First, between the false summit and the summit block, along the N/S running ridge, were three sections of snow. They were not wide sections, but they were solid snow from far below to the ridgeline itself and the drop-offs on both sides were steep... really steep. If the snow was hard and/or icy, we had a big problem – expecting only rock along the ridge, there was not an ice axe in sight.

As I stepped up to the first snow section, I probed with a hiking pole. The west side was indeed hard. Even with a pair of crampons and an ice axe, I would have thought twice about crossing. Luckily, the east side of the ridge had now received a couple hours of sun and had softened. My pole sunk in nicely, and after flinging a few softball-sized rocks across the span of snow, and witnessing them plunk deeply and solidly into the soft snow, everyone felt better. To get that close and gotten shut down by 50' of icy snow would have been sad.

A dozen long steps later and I was on the other side. The snow along the east side of the ridge was actually perfect for crossing. Soon we had easily navigated our way across all three sections and stood at the base of the summit block. Now, issue number two stared us in the face.

Between our group and the summit lie 300' of third-class climbing. And now, finally, the internet had caught up with us. The steep terrain above appeared scattered with loose rock – lots of it in every shape and size. As we set out up the shallow chute above, we all became hyper-aware of our footing and what rocks were (and weren't) solid. We huddled closely in groups of three or four as we moved. Plenty of rock came loose and rolled, but luckily nothing larger than a soccer ball. By carefully picking our route and sticking together, no rocks did any damage. A few ankles were brushed, a lot of gravel was showered down upon us, but before we knew it, Monica



The summit of Red and White Mountain (l to r) Monica Suua, Chelsey Emanuel, Fiona McGinty, Ryan Lynch, Sonia Soriano, Cate Widmann, Ainesh Sewak



Monica Suua (finally) stands at the bottom of the “pile of rubble” section on the descent of Red and White Mountain.
(Take our advice and avoid this broad gully at all costs.)

pulled herself over a sharp ledge above and announced that we were there – nothing above us but air.

Summit pictures were taken and we all enjoyed amazing views in all directions. Red and White Mountain was not a “pile of rubble” at all, it was in fact quite lovely!

As we enjoyed our break, we did notice the wisps of clouds forming above. The ridiculous 4 a.m. start had worked as planned, we would be well off the ridgeline and on safer terrain soon, but the skies were definitely showing the early signs of a repeat storm performance.

The scramble back down the final 300’ was uneventful – more of the same loose rock and occasional sliders. At the base of the summit block, we made a decision to shortcut it back to camp. We had read a trip report where the party had, instead of retracing the ridge route to Upper McGee Lake, done a hard right at the N/S ridge and descended a broad gully back to Lower McGee Lake. Standing at the top of the gully, we could see why. The “shortcut” looked considerably shorter and the wide, shallow gully appeared second-class, as the trip report had claimed.

With clouds building, we were anxious to get down so off we went. At first, all seemed swell. The top section of the gully was easy traveling, still fairly loose, but we made quick progress on the descent. Gradually however, the looseness of the rock seemed to increase. Soon we were again huddled in our groups of two or three as we tried to make progress

without sending large loose rocks down toward another part of the group.

Progress slowed and more and more time was spent route-finding, avoiding drop-offs and desperately trying to find solid ground. Halfway down, I had the distinct feeling “the internet” was laughing at us. Whoever wrote that disparaging quote perhaps had traveled the same ground. At one rest spot, we even looked up and someone asked out loud, “Would it be better to climb back up and return the way we came?”

Luckily, gravity, exhaustion and ever-growing cloud formations convinced us to soldier on downward. The endless sea of loose rock continued. Eventually, we just spread out across the slope and, with no one below any other person, just moved downslope, loose rock be damned. A few shins were scraped and I believe everyone unexpectedly ended up on their butt at least once.

Finally, about 1,500 feet below the ridge, the terrain finally relented. Now it was a pleasant (albeit tired) cross-country romp back to our camp. The lesson had been painfully learned again. The shortcut from the summit back to camp had taken the same amount of time as climbing up the peak via the Northeast Ridge route. I guess that means...it wasn’t really a shortcut at all!

As we got to camp, we looked up to see a familiar site. The skies were rapidly darkening. We had been out over eight hours and made it back with an hour to spare before the rain would begin. Luckily, Zach had been busy and had made sure everything that was wet had gotten dry in the morning sun and breeze – he was everyone’s newest, bestest friend.

After a repeat of Friday’s storm, we again emerged from our tents just before sunset Saturday to eat, drink and prep for the morning hike out. Any thoughts of nabbing Mt. Crocker on Sunday morning were abandoned. We all agreed that getting out before Sunday’s inevitable storm and staying dry – and having a burger in Bishop – sounded like a much better plan.

The trip’s group consisted of Monica Suua, Chelsey Emanuel, Zachary Crocker, Fiona McGinty, Ryan Lynch, Sonia Soriano, Cate Widmann, Ainesh Sewak and Regge Bulman



The Northeast Ridge route (blue) and the “shortcut” route (red) back to camp.

Florence Peak

I-rated trip, August 18–19, 2018

Led by Megan Birdsill & Sarah Quist

Report written by Iona Brockie

The Sierra Club backpacking trip to Florence Peak included several personal firsts for myself – first WTC experience trip, first time in Sequoia, first time in a mountain lake. The entire experience was so enjoyable that I have already done all three again.

All the trip participants camped at Cold Springs Campground the night before, right around the corner from the Mineral King Ranger Station. We woke up to sunlight filtering through the trees and the strange sight of cars half wrapped in bright blue tarps. The area has a significant marmot population and these small furry creatures have quite the taste for car wiring. Luckily, it was late enough in the season that our trip did not require such precautions. The conversation still proved beneficial, as the description of marmots included a visual demonstration of how they walk – it quickly turned into the dance craze of the weekend.

The trip officially started at the Mineral King Ranger Station at 10 a.m. We met the other participants, introduced ourselves and started out. The first mile or so was a delightfully gradual start – perfect for chatting to our new trailmates and getting accustomed to the feel of our packs. We then followed switchbacks higher into the Mineral King valley, with the view getting better at every turn. The sun on the valley walls and trees was beyond picture perfect and we enjoyed an easy stream crossing below a beautiful little waterfall.



At around the four mile mark, we crossed over into a new branch of the valley and started to see a more “mineral” aspect of Mineral King. We did one packs-off break near a particularly red outcrop of rocks and Megan taught us some of the history of the area. It was originally inhabited by the Yokut tribe, but gets its name from local silver mining in the 1870s. In the 1960s, Walt Disney wanted to build a ski resort, but the Sierra Club fought to stop him. The area became part of Sequoia National Park in 1978.

There was another easy river crossing, then switchbacks up some rockier hills brought us into sight of Franklin Lakes and Florence Peak itself. That beautiful view carried us on through the last half mile until we found our campsite by the lake. To my delight, we were greeted by a chubby marmot sitting by a

stream. We set up camp, then enjoyed an easy rock scramble over to the upper lake. After a long day, everyone enjoyed dunking their feet in the lake – or more, if they dared to brave the cold!

We returned to camp to enjoy happy hour and dinner, and to watch a beautiful orange sunset. I was particularly impressed by Sarah Quist’s rehydrated salsa and her dedication to hauling in a full bag of tortilla chips. We headed off to sleep under the watchful silhouette of Florence Peak, excited to tackle it in the morning.

Day two started early. We enjoyed having lighter packs as we hopped back onto the switchbacking trail. We crossed the path of some sort of grouse and watched the first direct sunlight hit the summit.

As we neared the top of Franklin Pass, we left the trail behind, following loose, sandy ground through the gaps between large boulder structures. Shortly after, we hit my favorite moment of any summit – the reveal of the other side of the ridge. The ground fell away in front of us to a number of peaks and valleys, all beautiful in the morning sunlight – this was the Great Western Divide.

We continued to enjoy the view as we wound our way to the rocky final summit – a giant boulder pile with only a few cairns to suggest a potential route. It was challenging, but a lot of fun to pick out a route and weave through the rocks.

The summit itself was just big enough to fit us all. We signed the register and everyone added what Sierra Peak number it was for them. After taking in the view, we started back down.

Getting off the summit was as much of a fun challenge as getting up was. We got back to camp, packed up what we had left behind, then enjoyed a beautiful and chatty hike down. One trip member knew a lot of plants and I learned to identify coyote mint (*Monardella villosa*). It was a long second day and we were all exhausted by the time we reached the car.

However, the day’s challenges did not end there. We all stopped at Casa Mendoza in Three Rivers for dinner and several trip members conquered the biggest burritos we had ever seen! It was an admirable accomplishment. After that we carpoled home, passing other trip cars only to see everyone inside frantically marmot dancing.



On the summit. Trip participants included Megan Birdsill, Sarah Quist, Marisa Rodriguez, Jacqueline Sly, Rebecca Butler, Andrew Bergman, Jonathan Las Fargeas, Liliana Griego, Dmitry Medvedev and Iona Brockie

Castle Peaks (Mojave National Preserve)

I-rated trip, April 21–22, 2018

Led by Inge Mueller and Teresa Noonan

Desert Solitude in Southern California

Who knew that the Mojave National Preserve with its 1.6 million acres of public land is the third largest site operated by the national park service in the continuous United States – and home to the densest Joshua Tree forests? It is also a very remote and isolated place with very few amenities – perfect for a backcountry adventure!

The trip description read: *Overnight backpack to the base of Castle Peaks, the jagged peaks with majestic columns and pillars in the northeastern corner of the Mojave National Preserve. Hiking across rocky terrain surrounded by juniper, yucca and Joshua trees; high-clearance and four-wheel-drive required.*

Getting to our trailhead was an adventure in and of itself. Since the drive from LA was roughly 200 miles, we decided to start the trip with an optional overnight stay in Barstow (a private portion of the trip). Trip leaders Teresa and Inge had befriended a nice AirBnB host who agreed to let our entire hiking party of twelve camp out in his house on Friday night.

We set out early on Saturday morning and caravanned to the northeastern park entrance (Nipton-Searchlight exit on I-15). After traveling 25+ miles of rugged dirt road along Ivanpah and Hart Mine Roads, past remnants of the Old West, we arrived at our trailhead next to a dry lake bed and started hiking.

The desert landscape was unusually lush in this part of the park and we were treated to a variety of plant life such as juniper and Joshua trees, lots of yuccas and an abundance of wildflowers. We set up camp on a small mesa



close to the base of the Castle Peaks spires. After scrambling uphill to take a closer look at the landscape on the other side of the mountain range, we enjoyed happy hour while watching a glorious desert sunset.

The next day we navigated cross-country to complete our ten-mile loop and explored remnants of times long gone such as an abandoned mine shaft and cattle corrals.

The trip's group consisted of Andrew Goldstein, Cecil Crudo, Chris Sinclair, Judith Villegas, Megan Morrison, Melissa Besecker, Nadia Ammar, Suzanne Etheridge, Sora Kim, Suzanne Etheridge.



2018 WTC Graduation is Upon Us!

Saturday, October 27

Joshua Tree Lake (www.joshuatreelake.com)

2601 Sunfair Road, Joshua Tree, California 92252

If you haven't done so already, please RSVP to your Group Leader.

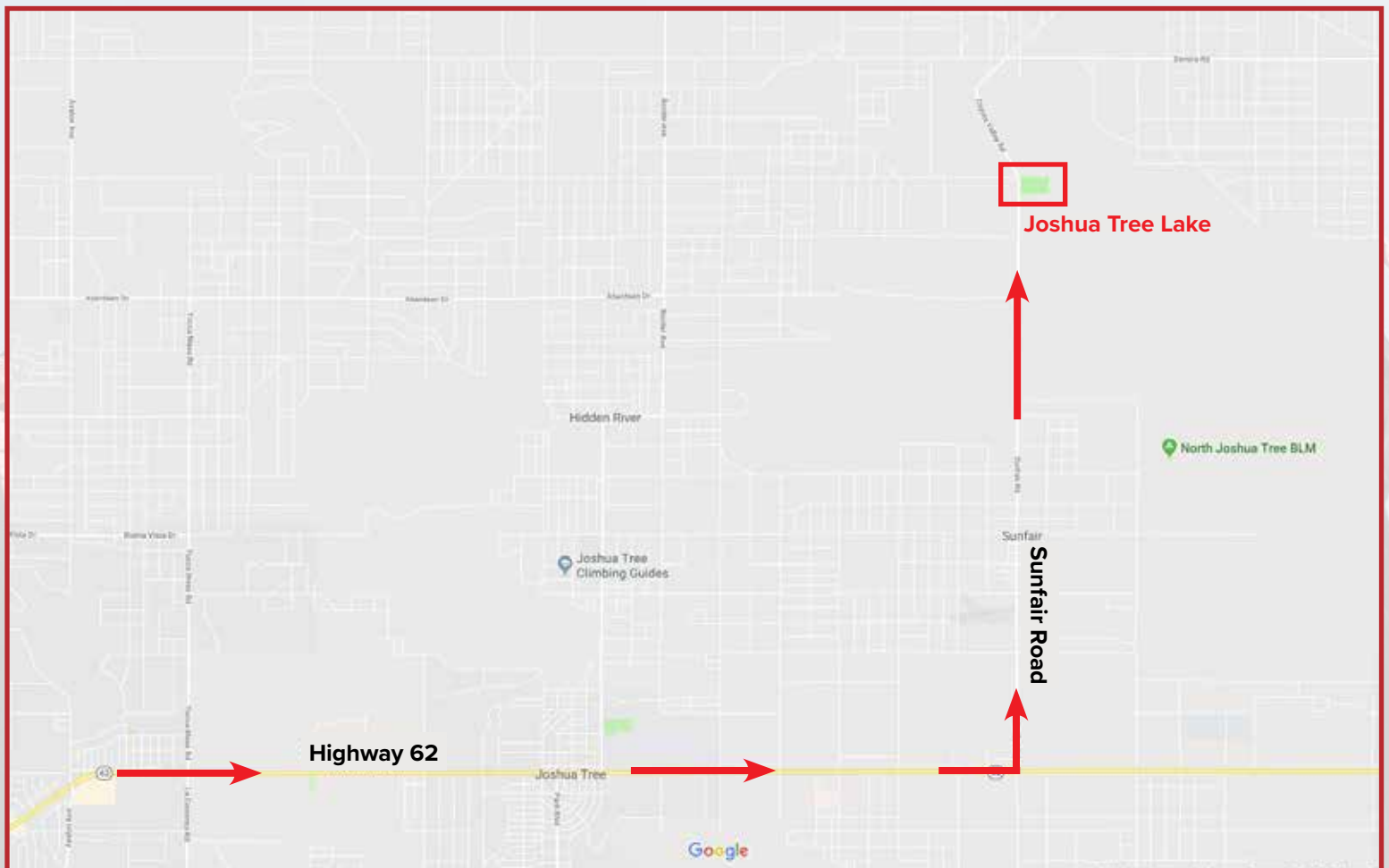
Congratulations, you did it! Now join your group and others from Long Beach/South Bay, Orange County, San Gabriel Valley and West Los Angeles for WTC graduation festivities. A graduation diploma and a prized WTC patch await you!

Students can arrive at Joshua Tree Lake any time after 12:00 Noon on Saturday and are welcome to camp on Saturday night.

Checkout time on Sunday is 11:00 a.m. *Note: Friday night arrival at Joshua Tree Lake is not permitted by students.*

Joshua Tree Lake is a private recreation area that we have reserved for our graduation. It is close to Joshua Tree National Park and its many activities and amenities.

Directions: Take the 10 Freeway to Highway 62. Proceed on Highway 62 to the Town of Joshua Tree. Continue on Highway 62 four miles past the signal at Park Boulevard. Turn left on Sunfair and proceed 5.2 miles to the entrance to Joshua Tree Lake and turn right (east) into the facility. *Note: there are many streets in the area that start with "Sun."*



Graduation Information

Saturday, October 27

Joshua Tree Lake (www.joshuatreelake.com)
2601 Sunfair Road, Joshua Tree, California 92252

If you haven't done so already, please RSVP to your Group Leader.

Designated Locations for Each Area

Each Area has a designated area for camping and for its graduation ceremony (see map below).

- Access to the tent camping area is being paid for by WTC. Go to the designated **WTC Tent Camping** location marked for our use, adjacent to the lake at the eastern end of the facility. Bring your own tent.
- RVs spaces are available at your own expense. Rates start at \$25.00 per night – more information can be found at: www.joshuatreelake.com/rvs/
- The graduation ceremony will be held around the lake.
- **Bring a camp chair** – the lake has no seating areas.

Graduation Ceremony

The graduation ceremony takes place on Saturday evening. Each Area has its own graduation ceremony and the starting time varies. Your Group Leader will let you know the starting time.

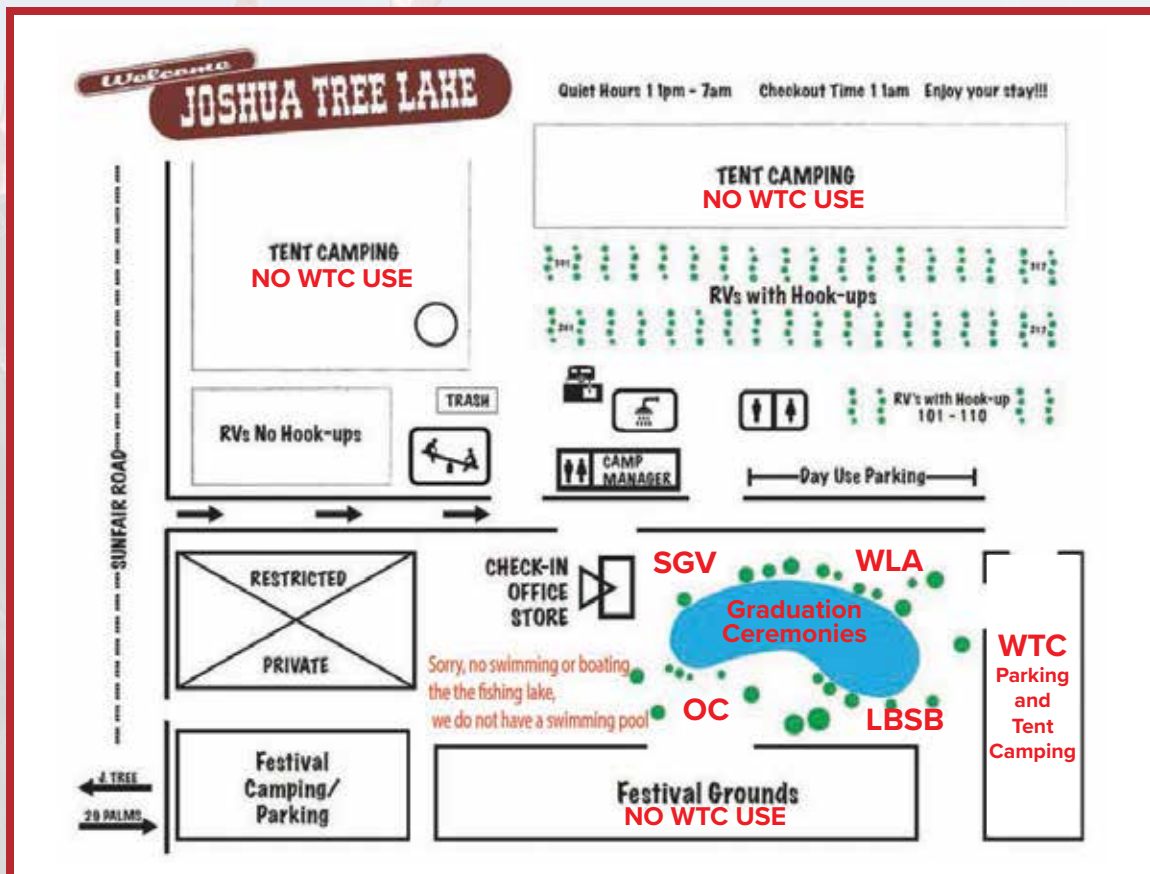
Graduation Activities

During graduation weekend, you are free to engage in private activities. If you decide to participate in a private activity, you should make sure that it is appropriate for you.

Consult with your group leader about the types of private activities that may be going on (e.g., hikes, rock climbing, etc.) Any private activity conducted during the weekend is not a Sierra Club trip. Climbing and other private activities are hazardous and can result in injury or death. If you decide to participate in a private activity, you assume all risks associated therewith.

Important Rules

- Go to the camping location designated for your Area.
- Noise carries in the desert. Be considerate of your neighbors. The park has established quiet time from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- Drink responsibly.
- Do not enter the lake – no swimming, boating, or fishing in the lake.
- No pets or other animals.



WTC OFFICERS

(see your *Student Handbook* for contact information)

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Cactus flowers on the Castle Peaks experience trip

We Want You...



...to write a trip report.

The next issue of the WTC Newsletter comes out in March, and we want to hear your stories and see the pictures from your 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?

Send stories and pictures to:
wtcnewsletter@wildernesstravelcourse.org.