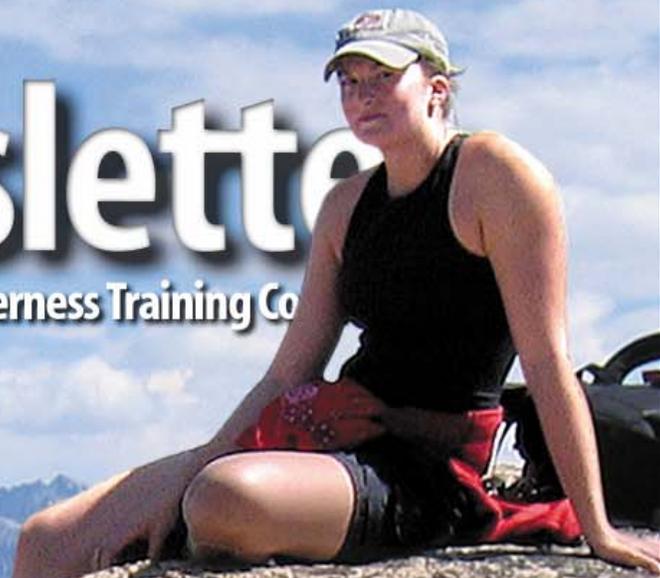




Newsletter

Newsletter of the Wilderness Training Co



Up Above the World So High

Like a diamond in the sky,
OC / WTC student Amika Hebert
polishes off Sequoia National Park's
Mt. Silliman on her way to graduation

www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc

Vol. 15, No. 4 / Fall 2004

WTC Officers

See page 6 for contact info

WTC

Tom McDonnell
Chair & Outings

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Registrar

Long Beach

Richard Boardman
Chair

Mike Adams
Outings

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Orange County

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Susan Richmond
Outings

Larry McKinley
Registrar

The WTC Newsletter is published quarterly for students and staff of the Wilderness Training Committee and delivered via U.S. Mail or distributed at class sites. It's also available in color the WTC website: www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc as a download in PDF format.

All questions, copy and photo submissions should be directed to Edd Ruskowitz, WTC Newsletter Editor at (714) 564-9130, or emailed to hikinedd@yahoo.com

WTC Info Line 310-967-2029

Graduations!

October 16-17 / Sat-Sun

O / WTC Graduation for West LA

...at Harwood Lodge, Mt Baldy in the Angeles National Forest. Car camp. Possible local trail and/or cross country day hikes. Sun Graduation Ceremony. Please car-pool as parking is limited. Contact your WTC group leader for details.

October 23-24 / Sat-Sun

O / WTC Graduation for San Gabriel Valley

...at Indian Cove Campground, Joshua Tree National Park. Car camp. Possible local trail and/or cross country day hikes. Sat evening Graduation Ceremony. Please car-pool as parking is limited. Contact your WTC group leader for details.

WTC

October 23-24 / Sat-Sun

O / WTC Graduation for Orange County

...at Indian Cove Campground, Joshua Tree National Park. Car camp. Possible local trail and/or cross country day hikes. Sat evening Graduation Ceremony. Please car-pool as parking is limited. Contact your WTC group leader for details.

WTC

WTC

October 30-31 / Sat-Sun **NEW DATE!**

O / WTC Graduation for Long Beach – South Bay

...at Sheep Pass Campground Joshua Tree National Park. Car camp. Possible local trail and/or cross country day hikes. Sat evening Graduation Ceremony. Please car-pool as parking is limited. Contact your WTC group leader for details.

WTC

Trail Card Mania!

Got your supply of hiker-friendly WTC Trail Cards? Here's a great way to introduce WTC to friends, acquaintances, fellow workers, fellow hikers, fellow fellows... bequeath them a WTC Trail Card that includes a brief description of the course, your name (so you can get credit that's probably good for something in some afterlife), and a handy list from the great script of D.W. Griffith's classic film, "The Ten Essentials."

So don't delay – contact your Group or Section leader, or grab a handful at graduation. Remember: don't leave camp without 'em!



Trips

Liability Waiver Notice To participate in a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To see a copy of this waiver prior to attending the outing, please see www.sierra-club.org/outings/chapter/forms

Transportation Notice In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make voluntary carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Headline Deadlines

For publication in the Winter 2005 WTC Newsletter:

November 23 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 21 Last day for all WTC Newsletter submissions.



Brian Reynolds, 1973-2004

page 10

Experience Outings

October 2-3 / Sat-Sun

WTC

I / Last Chance Backpack to Tahquitz Peak (8846')

This is your last chance to graduate WTC! Sat backpack, 3.5 mi 1600' gain, from Humber Park in Idyllwild to Tahquitz Valley and set up camp. Then dayhike to the summit of Tahquitz Pk Sat afternoon & return to camp. Sun hike to Skunk Cabbage Mdw and Red Tahquitz Pk, return to camp and pack out. Must carry all the water you need for the weekend. (Sorry!) WTC or equivalent required. Send sase/email, resume of conditioning & experience, H&W phones & rideshare info to Ldr: Georgette Rieck. Co-Ldr: Jason Lynch.

October 2-3 / Sat-Sun

WTC, Long Beach

I / Quail Mtn (5,813')

Backpack in beautiful Joshua Tree National Park. Sat hike 5 mi with easy gain to Juniper Flats and set up camp. Continue xc 2 mi hike 1000' gain to the highest peak in the park with stunning views all around and even a chance to see Big Horn Sheep. Dry camp – you must carry all the water you need. Sun hike out, followed by optional tour of unique Samuelson's Rocks on the way out of the park. Send sase/email (preferred), H&W phones, recent conditioning/hiking experience to Ldr: Kristen Mahaffey. Asst: Janet Yee.

October 9-10 / Sat-Sun

WTC

I / San Jacinto (10,804'), Cornell (9,721')

Sat backpack 6 mi, 3300' gain, from Humber Park to Round Valley; climb Cornell to lunch ledge. Sun climb San Jacinto 1700' gain. Hike out. Send 2 sase, resume with recent experience & conditioning, H&W phones to Ldr: Mike Bolde. Asst: Pat Johantgen.

October 9-10 / Sat-Sun

PVSB, Natural Sciences, WTC

M / Moses Mtn (9331'), North Maggie Mtn (10,234')

Join us on this late season backpack to the Mineral King area. Backpack 3 mile, 1000' gain to camp, then climb N. Maggie. Sun, climb Moses and out. Take time to learn from our naturalist about the fauna and flora. Send email (preferable) or sase to Ldr: Barry Holchin. Asst: Kent Schwitkis. Naturalist: Sherry Ross.

Outings of Interest

Most WTC students should find these outings within their abilities. Unfortunately, these trips do not qualify for WTC graduation; they're just really, really interesting.

October 16 / Sat

Wilderness Adventures, WTC

I / Wonderland of Rocks Traverse in Joshua Tree NP

You've done the map exercise in class, but have you ever wanted to find out what the hike to Willow Hole is really like? Join us for this 6+ mi, 1000' gain moderately strenuous xc hike with lots of Class 2 bouldering. Start and end at Indian Cove Campground in Joshua Tree NP. Visit Rattlesnake Cyn and Willow Hole along way. Optional car camp Sat night at Indian Cove. Send email, 2 sase, recent hiking/conditioning experience, H&W phones, rideshare info, interest in car camp to Ldr: Brent Costello. Asst: Jason Lynch.

October 30 / Sat

WA, WTC

I / Sheep Mtn (5141')

Strenuous 13 mi rt, 2900' gain hike on trail and xc, in the desert terrain of the rugged Santa Rosa Mtns south of Palm Springs. Send sase/esase, recent conditioning/experience, H&W phones to Ldr: Chip Dever. Asst: David Coplen.

November 13 / Sat

WTC

I / Eagle Mtn #1 (5,350')

Sat hike Eagle Mountain #1 in Joshua Tree NP starting from the Lost Palms trailhead near the Cottonwood Springs campground. This cross-country route includes a boulder scramble up a steep ridge to reach the summit. Strenuous 9 mi rt, 2400' gain, moderately paced hike. Comfort with class 2 rock required. Car camp recommended Friday night. Send email/2 sase, conditioning/experience, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr: Melissa Kane. Asst: Dave Coplen.

November 20-21 / Sat-Sun

Desert Peaks, WTC

I / Black Butte (4504'), Orocopia Mtn (3815')

Join us for 2 fun relatively close desert peaks. Sat climb Black Butte from Bradshaw Trail Rd, 7 mi, 1800' gain. Sat night potluck and happy hour at camp. Sun climb Orocopia from Pinto Rod, 6 mi, 1400' gain. Contact Ldrs: Patty Rambert, Virgil Popescu.

November 20-21 / Sat-Sun

HPS, WTC, SSSOC, OCSS

I / Mount Inspiration (5560'), Quail Mountain (5800')

Here's a chance to climb Inspiration by a more interesting route and camp in the desert in Joshua Tree, too. On Saturday we'll backpack in about 4 miles, with a mere 444' of gain, to Juniper Flats and set up camp. Then it's off to find Inspiration from the west, 10 miles r.t. and 1200' of gain on trail and cross-country. On Sunday we'll set off cross-country on a 4 mile r.t., 1000' gain jaunt to Quail, return to camp, and backpack out. Send e-mail (preferred) or sase, with recent hiking and backpacking experience, H&W phones to Leader: Greg De Hoogh. Asst: Cheryl Gill

November 21 / Sun

WTC

O / Inspiration Point (4520')

Learn about the Wilderness Travel Course on hike to Inspiration Point. Easy to moderate paced 8 mile rt, 2600' gain hike up Castle Canyon passing historic Echo Mountain and on to Inspiration Point. Return via the Sam Merrill trail. Meet some of our leaders and staff on introductory WTC conditioning hike. Meet 8:30 am, top of Lake Avenue in Altadena. Bring minimum 2qts water, lunch and lug soles. Rain cancels. Ldr: Ted Slap. Asst: Jane Simpson.

December 4-5 / Sat-Sun

WTC

I / Quail Mtn (5813'), Ryan Mtn (5457')

Joshua Tree NP weekend. Sat day-hike Ryan as warm up, 1100' gain, 3 mi rt on trail. Car camp or motel. Sun hike Quail Mtn from Hidden Valley, 10 mi rt, 1750' gain, all cross-country. Send email or sase with experience, condition, address, H&W phones to Ldr: Chi A. Choi. Asst: George Denny.

January 8 / Sat

Wilderness Adventures, WTC

I / 2nd Annual Frazier Park Area Snowshoe Hike

Break out your snowshoes for winter snow play on moderately paced snowshoe hike on road, trail and cross-country in Frazier Park/Los Padres NF. Last year Tecuyah Mt, this year Tecuyah again or something new. Maximum gain 3000' and less than 10 mi rt. Open to beginning snowshoers who possess mountain hiking experience, as well as to experienced snowshoers. Rain or no-snow postpones. Send email/sase, experience and carpool info to Ldr: Bill Valentine. Co-Leaders: Jane Simpson, Dave Coplen.

January 8-9 / Sat-Sun

WTC

I / Warren Pt (5103'), Lang Mine

Joshua Tree NP weekend. Sat hike to historic Lang Mine from Quail Spring picnic area, 820' gain, 5 mi rt all cross-country including crossing Johnny Lang Canyon. Car camp or motel. Sun climb Warren Pt from Black Rock campground via NE ridge, cross-country, 4 mi rt, 1000' gain. Send email or sase with experience, condition, address, H&W phones to Ldr: Chi A. Choi. Asst: Marc Hertz.

January 22 / Sat **Wilderness Adventures, WTC**

I / San Gabriel Mountains Snowshoe Hike

Winter snow play on moderately paced snowshoe hike on road, trail and cross-country in San Gabriel Mountains. Destination to be determined by snow level. Maximum gain 3000' and less than 10 miles rt. Open to beginning snowshoers who possess mountain hiking experience, as well as to experienced snowshoers. Rain or no-snow postpones. Send email/sase, experience and carpool info to Ldr: Dave Coplen. Co-Ldrs: Jane Simpson, Bill Valentine.

February 6 / Sun **WTC**

O / 6th Annual Pre-Conditioning Hike

New students practice for the real deal the following week or old-timers just reminisce what it was like as a student on this 9 mi, 2000' gain car-shuttle hike in the Verdugo Mts. Meet 7:00 am at the westernmost of two Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy trailheads on La Tuna Canyon Rd., 3.2 mi East of Sunland Bl. or 1.3 mi West of the I-210 overpass/exit. Parking is tight, carpool if possible. Exit at Beaudry in Glendale. Co-Ldrs: Garen Yegparian, Will McWhinney.

Training Opportunities

Most WTC students will find these trips within their abilities.

October 2 / Sat **LTC**

Deadline for Leadership Training Seminar

Become a qualified Sierra Club leader! Last day for receipt of application and payment by LTC Registrar for enrollment in Oct 16 Seminar. TBD location. Next Seminar is Spring 2005. See application on LTC web site: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc> Registrar: Steve Botan.

October 2 / Sat **LTC, WTC**

O / Mt Lowe (5603') Beginning Navigation Clinic

5 mi 500' Spend the day one-on-one with an instructor learning/practicing map and compass. Beginners to rusty old-timers welcome. Not a checkoff. Many expert leaders will attend; many I-rated leaders started here in the past. Send sase early, \$25 deposit (Sierra Club—refunded at trailhead), H&W phones to Diane Dunbar. Co-Ldr: Richard Boardman.

October 16 / Sat **LTC**

Leadership Training Seminar

Become a qualified Sierra Club leader! TBD location. See application on LTC web site: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ltc> Deadline for application submittal is two weeks prior to seminar date. Registrar: Steve Botan.

October 24 / Sun **LTC, WTC**

I/M / Indian Cove Navigation

Navigation Noodles to satisfy Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Practice or checkout. To receive homework assignment, send navigation experience/training, sase to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw.

October 29-31 / Fri-Sun **LTC, Harwood, WTC**

C / Wilderness First Aid Course

Runs from 8 am Fri to 5:30 pm Sun. Includes lodging and meals. CPR within previous 2 years required. Satisfies LTC WFA requirement for I, M, and E ratings. \$165 with SC#/\$175 non-member (full refund through) For application, send email/sase to Ldr: Steve Schuster.

November 12-14 / Fri-Sun **LTC/WTC**

E/M / Indian Cove Rock Workshop/Checkoff

This intermediate and advanced workshop is based on the rock requirements

for M and E leadership. Checkoffs for M and E rock will take place on Fri and Sat. Checkoffs must be prearranged with leader. It is a restricted trip; to participate you must be a member of the Sierra Club and have a suitable rock climbing experience. Check with leaders regarding campsite. Send sase and/or email, recent climbing resume and rideshare info to Ldr: Ron Hudson. Asst: Patty Rambert.

November 13-14 / Sat-Sun **LTC, WTC**

I / Indian Cove Navigation

Navigation Noodles to satisfy Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresh, altimeter, campfire. Sun for checkout. To receive homework assignment, send navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&W phones, sase to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw.

December 5 / Sun **LTC, WTC**

I / Warren Pt Navigation

Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park for either checkout or practice to satisfy either Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send sase, navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&W phones to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw.

January 9 / Sun **LTC, WTC**

I / Warren Pt Navigation

Navigation noodle at Joshua Tree National Park for either checkout or practice to satisfy either Basic (I/M) or Advanced (E) level navigation requirements. To receive homework assignment, send sase, navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&W phones to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw.

January 29 / Sat **LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks**

M/E / Local Baldy Snow Practice

Come review all aspects of snow climbing including rope travel, use of the ice axe, and snow anchors. For anyone wishing to practice their skills or brush up on new techniques, especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC mbrs with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Send SC#, climbing resume and email address, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson co-ldrs: Doug Mantle & Tom McDonnell

November 7 / Sun **WTC**

I / Malibu Creek State Park

Hike and navigate 5 mi, 300' gain. Use it or Lose it! Spend most of day with Navigation Instructors sharpening your skills with map & compass. Not a checkoff. Send e-mail (or SASE) for required info & materials to Ldr: Marc "Roadkill" Hertz. Assts: tba.

February 12 / Sat **LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks**

M/E / Local Baldy Snow Practice

Come review all aspects of snow climbing including rope travel, use of the ice axe, and snow anchors. For anyone wishing to practice their skills or brush up on new techniques, especially for aspiring M & E leader candidates. Restricted to SC mbrs with prior experience with the ice axe. Lack of snow may cancel. Send SC#, climbing resume and email address, H&W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson co-ldrs: Tina Bowman & Tom Bowman

April 16-17 / Sat-Sun **LTC, WTC**

I / Indian Cove Navigation

Navigation Noodles to satisfy Basic (I/M) level navigation requirements. Sat for practice, skills refresh, altimeter, campfire. Sun for checkout. To receive homework assignment, send navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&W phones, sase to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw.

The Gnarly Stuff

Technically Challenging Trips – not suited for WTC students *Strong WTC students with prior mountaineering experience may qualify.*

October 1-4 / Fri-Mon

Sierra Peaks, Ski Mountaineers

M / North Guard (13,327'), Francis Farquhar (12,893')

Enjoy High Sierra in the Fall. Fri backpack (6 mi, 5500' up) to Sphinx Lakes for base camp. Climb Sat and Sun, N. Guard (8 mi rt, 4000'), Farquhar (4mi rt, 2000'). Mon pack out. Send sase/email (preferred) to leader with class 3 experience, conditioning to Ldr: Jim Crouch. Asst: Reiner Stenzel.

October 9-10 / Sat-Sun

WTC

M / New York Mtn (7532'), Clark Mtn (7907')

Two desert peaks in the East Mojave area. Restricted to Sierra Club members with class 3 rock experience only. Sat climb New York Mtn 4 mi rt, 2000' gain, class 3 crack near summit. Drive to base of Clark Mtn. Happy hour and campfire. Sun climb Clark Mtn 2 mi rt, 1900' gain, steep class 3. Applicants submit SC#, climbing resume, email/sase, H&W phones, rideshare info to Ldr: Brad Hinkle. Asst: Patty Rambert.

Outings Leader Directory

Please see the Outings Leader/Staff Directory on page 5 of the WTC Newsletter print version for SASE and contact information

Awoke to this on Lamarck Col. Water had pooled in a bowl carved into the top of a large boulder. As the water nearest the center surface began to freeze overnight, stored heat kept the water from freezing near the rock surface until after the center had froze. Outward and downward expansion from the freezing forced the water from the bottom upward through a newly created, weakest-point crack in the center, the water freezing as it emerged, and rising as more water followed. You can follow the growth of the crack by following the width of the ice sculpture from the top to its bottom. It reached about 5 inches in height.

An hour later this was all gone.



And the Ultra-Cool Cow says:

MUAH!

Muah Mountain and Trail Peak SPS/WTC, June 5-6, 2004

Patty Rambert (Leader) writes:

An excited group of ten people gathered on Saturday, June 5 at 10:30 a.m. at Horseshoe Meadow, up the hill from Lone Pine. The trip destination had been changed due to a change in leadership. Patty Rambert one of the original leaders was able to lure George Wysup into the Sierras with promises of beautiful temperatures, scenery and a fun group of people. So George came up with a plan to do Muah Mountain and Trail Peak as a two day backpack with peak climb, thereby qualifying for a WTC Experience trip. So we are all set, we notify the participants and everyone is a GO! The ten participants were Patty Rambert, George Wysup, Brett Mizelle, Jennie Thomas, Lisa Buckley, Edith Jaranilla, Doug DeYoung, Jim Freckelton, Wayne Vollaire, and Gary Bowen. I had a great time, a few bugs but enjoyed the Horseshoe Meadow area, hiking part of the PCT, doing an SPS Peak (Muah Mountain), doing an unlisted peak (Trail Peak) and meeting potential new SPSers. I thought it would be fun to hear about others experience on the trip, so we are going to pass the trip report around.

George Wysup (Co-leader) writes:

Patty asked me, rather at the last minute (she must have been desperate), to assist on a WTC/SPS outing whose leader was forced to drop out. I noted that the trip was M-rated (due to class 3 on Crag Peak) and that it would be quite warm on the weekend. I am only I-rated, so we would have to stop well short of Crag's actual summit. Patty and I hate doing that! As I felt a bit tired at that time I came up with an alternative that should not extract too great a toll on our bodies, and would be high up enough for reasonable temperatures. Patty went for it.

I really enjoyed helping to lead this trek, despite a few mosquitoes at our camp above Diaz Meadow. And, as a retired old dude, it was great to be with some fine young folks for a change. Patty and I hope that many of these folks will strive to become M or E rated leaders some day.

Jennie Thomas, WTC Orange County, Group 1 writes:

This was a great first experience trip after finishing WTC. The trip was filled with people who had just completed WTC and who were on their first or second experience trip. Muah Mountain is a great destination for people like myself looking to get started climbing in the Sierras. Our leaders, Patty Rambert and George Wysup made a last minute trip destination change, but we were undaunted and ready to get out into the Sierra for the weekend. A late start on Saturday morning left us plenty of time to hike in, set up camp, climb Muah Mountain, and then return to camp for a nice happy hour (around 6:30 pm). There were patches of snow on Muah Mountain providing a nice source of cool water on the way. Saturday morning, we set out at 8:00 am after a short walk to pump water out of a nearby stream. We took the PCT to the base of Trail Peak and completed the climb to the summit in about an hour. We were out to the cars in the early afternoon, which left us time for Pizza in Lone Pine before returning to Orange County. Overall, great trip with great people!

Edie Jaranillo writes:

Despite the discomfort of altitude and mosquitoes I had a great time backpacking in the Southern Sierras for the first time. A bit of advice for people that are very sensitive to altitude sickness, acclimate by trying to sleep at the trail head, hydrate the night before and eat a high carbohydrate diet to have enough "oomph" to push you through the hurdles of a heavy pack and altitude. I came up with a friend that same morning. We backpacked in and climbed the peak. Knowing that in the past I have gotten sick at 10,000+ level I should have gone up that Friday night and acclimated. Coming from 2000+ level to 10,000+ within a few hours was just too much for my system to handle. I forced myself to climb Muah Mountain and starting "puking" 400 feet from reaching the summit that I had to consent to be left behind to prevent the worse scenario of deterioration of AMS. After 3 more episodes of "puking", hydration was key for the evening agenda. Downing 3-5 liters of filtered water had its downfall of keeping one up, your tent partner and nearby neighbors of hearing the "zip, zip" every _ hour. Thank God for the almost full moon and starlit skies I didn't need to have my head light to find my private BR. My apologies to the people I have inconvenienced. As a reminder for me, a lighter pack, good sleep, acclimation, hydration and Diamox should be a good formula to test for future high elevation backpack trips. Overall it was a great experience trip. We had good leaders, good company, good weather and a great time. I'll climb it again.

On Muah Mountain – Jim, Gary, Lisa, Patty, Jenny, Brett



Wayne Vollaire – WTC Orange County, Group 2 writes:

I was happy to have the trip plans change as needed to allow the WTC experience trip to continue. I was pleasantly surprised by the picturesque open meadows and running streams at the 10,000' elevation of Horseshoe Meadow. As we hiked both on trail and cross-country, the conversations within our group provided additional enjoyment to the trip. Special mention has to be made about George frequently calling the 2-minute warning of the need to be ready to move on. Warnings of being in an active bear environment never produced any visible activity or unwelcome need to share our food. Muah Mountain and Trail Peak were pleasant hikes that required a moderate effort that paid off in spectacular views. Trail Peak provided a 360-degree view with a nearly full view of Owens Lake bed off to the east, Mt. Langley to the north, Olancha Peak to the south, and inviting meadows as far as the eye could see. Even though Trail Peak is not on any list, it will be on my personal list as a "do again" peak and will be on my recommended list. Patty and George, you did a terrific job at making last minute alternate plans for our weekend outing. Thank you.

Doug Deyoung writes:

Having attended many club trips in the past, this trip followed many of the trends I have noticed. First, the leaders were quite enthusiastic and helpful throughout the journey. They were conscious of the group's needs and gave us freedom when we needed it yet held us together in others. When one of the group fell ill to apparent altitude sickness, they were reassuring and patient with the victim and tried to help her achieve the goal of climbing Muah Mountain. All this with a trip that was literally rebuilt from the ground up when the original trip leader had to cancel. Thanks to Patty for burning the midnight oil and keeping the outing a go.

Another tradition, which went over well, as usual, was the "potluck". We feasted on fresh strawberries, fine chocolates, nuts, imported salami, and many other delights that would normally not be found in that neck of the woods. Thanks to all for the treats.

All's Well That Ends Well

Mt. Silliman

WTC, September 10-12, 2004

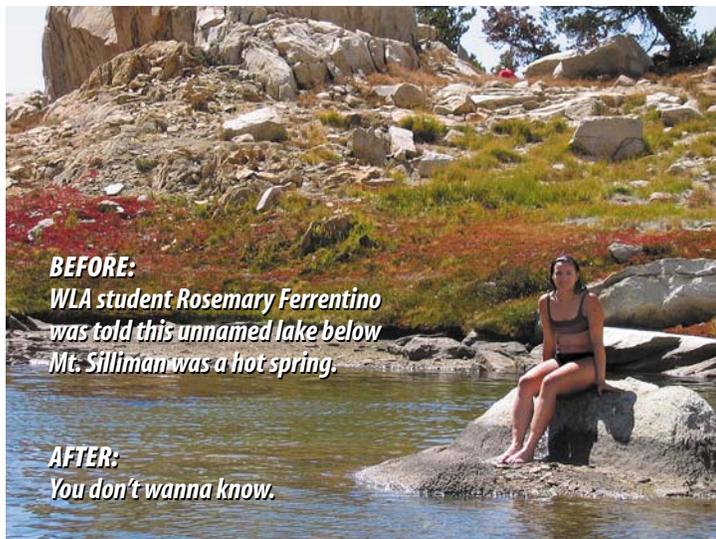
By Jane Simpson and Janet Yee

When you think of 11,188 foot Mt. Silliman in Sequoia NP, you think slabs.

This is a slabicious climb. Some people do it in a day. We were doing it in three. We like to take lots of pictures, enjoy the scenery, and involve participants in route finding. And, face it, we're not tigers. Or could it be the lure of those hot showers at the Visitor's Center before 5 pm? Not to mention arriving home in time for dinner!

By Labor Day 2004, 13 eager participants were packing their gear, blissfully unaware of the frenzy unleashed when the unexpected happened. Leader One, Janet Yee, had a death in her family. Just 4 days before departure, Leader Two, Cheryl Gill, developed strep throat. That left Leader Three, Jane Simpson, without a co-leader. Burning up the internet produced zero results. Faced with the prospect of canceling the trip, Janet finally agreed to come along so that we could get all the WTC students to graduate.

FADE IN: Friday 9/10 late morning finds a sweaty group trudging up the trail from Lodgepole, turning up the use trail towards Silliman Lake. Jane leading out and Janet sweeping up. Breezes cooling the air as altitude is gained. Vibrant red-orange-yellow-golden fall colors above 8,000'. Setting up camp below the slabs, the first task is to find water in the creek. Late in the season, water can be iffy, but after a bushwhacking expedition, pools are found with enough water to fill bottles and buckets. Garbage Bag salad preparation goes according to Cheryl Gill's strict plan. Everyone had cut their fresh veggies and bagged them appropriately. Perhaps next year, no asparagus.



BEFORE:

WLA student Rosemary Ferrentino was told this unnamed lake below Mt. Silliman was a hot spring.

AFTER:

You don't wanna know.

Lisa Buckley, WTC Orange County, Group 2 writes:

Thanks Patty and George for going on with the show and not canceling the trip. I'm glad I went up the night before, the campsite at the trailhead was perfect. We had a nice dinner and then a leisurely breakfast before the hiking began. The views from the peaks were beautiful. I'm still not sure why Wayne carried a bucket of snow to the top of Muah. Ron was shocked and disappointed to learn that I brought beer nuts to the potluck. Unfortunately, the mosquitoes enjoyed me a little more than I enjoyed them. I thought at first that it was because I am so sweet. I have since read that mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide, lactic acid and especially sweat. So, it was my sweatiness and not my sweetness that drew them to me. Now I can't even be flattered by all the mosquito bites I received. All in all though, it was a wonderful experience for my first SPS peak and my first backpacking trip. Thanks everyone!



Silliman peak party.

Saturday 9/11 is slab day. This is that "trust your boots" moment we all emphasize so much in WTC. After a few faltering steps for some, everyone soon crawls upwards nicely, following a buddy-system with stronger scramblers helping others. LBSB staffer Jean Konhoff is a great help in assisting the leaders. On the way to the summit, the route touches on two lakes, Silliman and the glorious no-namer above. After puffing up the final steep gully and hitting the scree, the first sight of the Kings-Kaweah and the Great Western Divide from the summit ridge are breathtaking.

Everyone summits and signs the Silliman register, one of two SPS peaks in Sequoia NP. After a minute of silence honoring the 9/11/01 victims, we linger over lunch and snap pix, before the wind kicks up and we head down for a rewarding swim (some of us) or hair washing (others) or water pumping duties at the no-namer lake. That night's special event is a group Happy Hour with lots of cheese (8 kinds) and crackers. But no brownies! Cheryl's strict plan was in play again. Prize winner Sharon Moore demo'd fresh-made bruschetta.

Sunday 9/12 we pack up camp early. Hot showers, exploring the giant Sequoia grove, and pizza await us! Practicing Leave No Trace principles, we make sure no men's underwear briefs are left behind hanging in the trees (Oops! Who forgot that?). After one last minute fix of a broken backpack, we were on our way. We were fortunate to see a stag deer with huge antlers on our way back out through Silliman meadow.

Everyone in the group helped out on this trip, and we had a fun mix of participants from all WTC areas. From OC: Rick Deuning, Amika "rock climber girl" Hebert, Claire Hingeveld, Peggy Thron. From LBSB: staffer Jean Konhoff, Jessie Enriquez, Joe Kreneks and son Joe, Jr. (alias "GQ Joe" on our trip!), Sharon "bruschetta" Moore, Yvette "coffee, please" Moseman. From WLA: Rosemary "triathlete and marathon girl" Ferrentino, and 2003 graduate Marti Smith. Our one non-WTC participant, Gary Hartung had a chance to learn all about WTC.

— photos by Janet Yee

Hikin' Haute Cuisine

**Mt. Agassiz Gourmet Backpack
WTC, September 18-19, 2004**

By Edd Ruskowitz

You can take Mt. Agassiz out of the gourmet backpack, but you can't take the gourmet out of Ron Campbell and Georgette Rieck. Two leaders determined to bathe in the backcountry decadence of culinary excess.

Fearing a threatening weather front, the group of nine set up camp at Long Lake, well short of Bishop Lake – our original destination – to allow for a faster getaway just in case (the leaders' excessively large loads may have played a part in the decision). Originally a group of ten, we found out later our AWOL participant had rolled her SUV into a ditch at 3 a.m. on the way to Bishop for the trip. Though she thankfully was uninjured, except for, "bumps on my head, aches in my neck, bruises all over my body, lock jaw and I bit my lip," the same can't be said for the shrimp and quinoa riding along with her (this is a sobering reminder that the most dangerous part of the trip can be the drive).

We may have missed out on Mt. Agassiz due to unexpected snow, but no one minded when it came to scarfing down... uh, I mean, placating the palate with un-hikelike delicacies such as carrot and coriander soup with freshly chopped cilantro, endive with eggplant punjabi, shrimp and mandarine orange salad with sesame sauce, cous cous and cajun andouille sausage with pesto and sun dried tomatoes, smoked gouda and more sun dried tomatoes, chicken sausage in rice and even *more* sun dried tomatoes.



Trish's chicken sausage, onions, sun dried tomatoes and rice – hey bears, come 'n get it!

All this was accompanied by three types of California and Australian wines responsibly re-bottled in Platypi, along with an amusing supply of Piña Coladas, just for fun. But the coup de grace was two glorious pints of ultra premium, frozen heaven – Godiva ice cream and vanilla bean gelato, lovingly packed into camp with dry ice by Georgette. It went well with the homemade oatmeal raisin cookies. All this would have meant nothing, of course, if not presented on the festive, autumn-themed tablecloth, also packed in by Georgette, its colors bringing out the deep browns and greens in the surrounding rock.

As feared, we awoke Sunday to a breakfast menu of snow cones, effectively bagging the bagging of Agassiz and triggering a rapid striking of camp. Only two and a-half miles back to the cars, then down to Bishop for a gourmet breakfast at Jack's.

Now here's something that would've fit right in on Ron and Georgette's Gourmet Backpack. In an over-the-top show of appreciation, Orange County Group 2 students pitched in and gave each Group 2 leader a little ripstop, wine bottle backpack, complete with strap and buckle, cinch neck, hood, hiking boot name tag and shoulder straps – wearable if your name's Barbie or Ken. Inside the backpack was a bottle of Merlot with a personalized thank-you label. All the students contributed, particularly Lisa Buckley organizing the wine and Tami Roby who designed and created the wine packs. See you at graduation!



Decadent? Us?



Ron pours Wayne some soup; Bill's not so sure...



Patiently aged in plastic



The morning after: penance for gluttony

Tell a Friend

You may not know this, but most WTC students first hear about the course through a friend or relative. If you've enjoyed WTC, tell a friend. Or a relative, an acquaintance, business associate, your receptionist, the UPS guy (I think his name's Brown), the annoying neighbor down the street with the yappy dog... no, wait; scratch that last one...

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www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc

or use the Application below and mail along with your course fees to:
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(310) 967-2029 | wtcregistrar@angeles.sierraclub.org

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

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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) up to 10 days before Lecture One; (2) a 75% refund within 9 days of Lecture One; (3) and a 50% refund after Lecture One through Lecture Four. No refunds made after Lecture Four. Refunds for the required text made only if you've not received the book.

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Sierra Club member \$210
before 12/15/04: \$195

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Required text "Freedom of the Hills" 7th edition \$20

Make registration checks Total \$ _____
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IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND



You could always pick WTC leader Brian Reynolds out of a crowd, or the background shadows of a photograph: he was the one with

the biggest smile, the brightest eyes, the one having the most fun. For Brian, life was a wonderful gift to be enjoyed, an adventure of discovery to share with friends. That is what Brian was doing the weekend of August 22, when he fell and died while climbing the steeply exposed Northeast Face of Middle Palisade on a mountaineering trip sponsored by WTC and the Sierra Peaks Section.

Brian fell unexpectedly from a ledge during a rest stop as the climbing party approached the summit ridge. He had been climbing strongly, and those standing near him said he released the rock and fell back as they waited for a guided group with climbers on a short rope to descend past them. One of the leaders of Brian's party, Patrick McKusky, wrote:



"We were about half way up the 3rd Class section of the climb when we halted to let another group descend around us. Brian was standing on a ledge, about eight feet to my right. As the other group was moving past us, Brian fell backwards. He uttered no sound and he made no movement. He passed away instantly and he did not suffer. None of us know how or why he fell. Less than an hour earlier, I asked Brian how he was doing. He looked at me with his beautiful smile and said, 'Everything is perfectly fine.'"

The leaders descended to him and finding his body lifeless, called the Inyo County Sheriff. The Inyo Search and Rescue Team flew in on a Forest Service helicopter and remained with his body overnight until it could be evacuated the next day.

Brian was born August 7, 1973 in Anaheim and grew up in Long Beach. He was 31. He was raised camping and hiking in the eastern Sierra, and excelled in challenging outdoor sports from surfing to skateboarding. He was a brilliant student and a lover of music who played string bass in the orchestra and spent many summers as a student and counselor at Arrowbear Music Camp. He graduated from Stanford and Columbia Law School and passed the bar in 1998.

Brian sought to deepen his experience in the outdoors by taking the Wilderness Travel Course in the San Gabriel Valley in 2000, and he graduated and became an assistant leader. His love of climbing and his skill as a climber grew and led to frequent trips to Joshua Tree and ascents of increasing difficulty in the Sierra, including a recent climb of Cathedral Peak's Southeast Buttress. He was a gifted teacher, beloved by students for his dedication and generosity and his ability to clarify any difficult subject and make anything fun. He made scary moments on the rocks seem easy, and when the gear flew out of the car on the highway Brian's cool and poise would save the day. He applied his gifts and his love of excellence to the big and small — from campfire songs and deep-fried twinkies at happy hour to encouraging the struggling student.

Brian's passion for teaching, sharing and seeking and his courage to change led him in 2003 to surrender a lucrative law career and pursue his master's in history at UC San

Diego. He returned to law this year while finishing his degree.

At Brian's memorial, the church was overflowing and his gift for bringing different people together and making them smile survived him. His friends and family spoke lovingly of him. His aunt got the most laughs by her reference to his "S#! - Eating grin"; his former babysitter thanked his family for the privilege — and the challenge — of knowing and caring for Brian and his brother Dave. His friends at his law firm recalled their amazement on a backpacking trip he organized and the Frisbee golf game he put together at an out of town wedding. A friend recalled his thoughtfulness after she lamented her loss of the ocean after a move to the Midwest. He sent her a wordless message with photos of the sea.

Brian is survived by his mother, Jean, his father, Russ, his brother, Dave, his stepmother, Dee, his stepbrother and stepsister, Trevor and Hallie, and many others who adored him.

A music scholarship fund in his name has been established. Donations can be sent to Arrow Bear Music Associates, c/o Brian Reynolds Music Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 1294, Lakewood, CA 90714.

— Beth Epstein



*“To explore, enjoy,
and protect the wild
places of the earth;
to practice and
promote the
responsible use of
the earth’s ecosystem
and resources;
to educate and
enlist humanity to
protect and restore
the quality of the
natural and human
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Melissa Kane at the apex of her provisional lead to Mt. Silliman. Since there's no sound, we can only guess as to what she's saying. O.K., some of the guesses may be a bit outside, but if you think you know better you can

email your guesses to hikinedd@yahoo.com. By the way, those unsuccessfully pursuing anonymity are Lisa Buckley, Trish Magdaleno and Wayne Volaire. Sorry.