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
Graduations!

October 16-17 / Sat-Sun WTC
0 / 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 WTC
0 / 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.

October 30-31 / Sat-Sun WTC
0 / WTC Graduation for Orange County
... 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.

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.
Experience Outings

October 2-3 / Sat-Sun

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

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 & 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.

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 2-3 / Sat-Sun

I / Quail Mtn (5,813')
WTC, Long Beach

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

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

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

M / Moses Mtn (9331'), North Maggie Mtn (10,234')
PVSB, Natural Sciences, WTC

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.

November 20-21 / Sat-Sun

I / Mount Inspiration (5560'), Quail Mountain (5800')
HPS, WTC, SSSOC, OCSS

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 across-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

I / Inspiration Point (4520')
WTC

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

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

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

I / 2nd Annual Frazier Park Area Snowshoe Hike
Wilderness Adventures, WTC

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 snow postpones. Send email/sase, experience and carpool info to Ldr: Bill Valentine. Co-Leaders: Jane Simpson, Dave Coplen.

January 8-9 / Sat-Sun

I / Warren Pt (5103'), Lang Mine
WTC

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 campgound 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.
December 5 / Sun

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 29 / Sat</td>
<td>LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I / Warren Pt Navigation</td>
<td>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&amp;W phones to Ldr: Harry Freimanis. Asst: Bob Bradshaw.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7 / Sun</td>
<td>WTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>I / Malibu Creek State Park</td>
<td>Hike and navigate 5 mi, 300' gain. Use it or Lose it! Spend most of the day with Navigation Instructors sharpening your skills with map &amp; compass. Not a checkoff. Send e-mail (or SASE) for required info &amp; materials to Ldr: Marc &quot;Roadkill&quot; Hertz. Assts: tba.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 12 / Sat</td>
<td>LTC, Sierra Peaks, Desert Peaks</td>
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<tr>
<td>M/E / Local Baldy Snow Practice</td>
<td>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 &amp; 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&amp;W phones to Ldr: Nile Sorenson co-ldrs: Doug Mantle &amp; Tom McDonnell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16-17 / Sat-Sun</td>
<td>LTC, WTC</td>
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<tr>
<td>I / Indian Cove Navigation</td>
<td>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 sase, navigation experience/training, any WTC, rideshare info, H&amp;W phones, to Ldr: Nile Sorenson co-ldrs: Tina Bowman &amp; Tom Bowman</td>
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Most WTC students will find these trips within their abilities.

October 2 / Sat

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

0 / 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

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 submission is two weeks prior to seminar date. Registrar: Steve Botan.

October 24 / Sun

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

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

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

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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 (4 mi 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’)


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 Freckleton, 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!

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

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 backed-packed 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 worst 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.

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.
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. Second, the leaders were always prepared. 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, 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 slabilicious 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.

After a minute of silence honoring the 9/11/01 victims, we linger over lunch and snap photos by Janet Yee.

Everyone summits and signs the Silliman register, one of two SPS peaks in Sequoia NP. After a minute fix of a broken backpack, we were on our way. We were fortunate to see a stag 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 Hingeved, Peggy Thord. From LBSB: staffer Jean Konnoff, 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.

**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 we 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 sweetness 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!
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 back-country 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.

TRIP REPORT

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!
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...

www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc

or use the Application below and mail along with your course fees to:

WTC Registrar, P.O. Box 2262, El Segundo, CA 90245
(310) 967-2029 | wtcregistrar@angeles.sierraclub.org

2005 WTC COURSE APPLICATION

Reserve your space — apply today!

Check location preference:
☐ Long Beach-South Bay    ☐ West L.A.
☐ San Gabriel Valley    ☐ Orange County

First Name_________________________ Last Name_________________________

Address______________________________________________________________

City________________ Zip________________

Phone / Eve________________ Phone / Day________________

Email______________________________________________________________

How did you first hear about WTC?_____________________

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

______________________________

who is:  ☐ an instructor  ☐ a co-applicant.

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

Withdrawal from course | Students withdrawing from WTC are entitled to (1) a full refund (less a $10.00 service charge) 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.

Course Fees

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

Sierra Club membership no._________________________
or membership application date_____________________

Non-member $225 ☐
before 12/15/04: $210 ☐

Required text “Freedom of the Hills” 7th edition $20 ☐

Make registration checks payable to WTC

Total $________

REGISTER ONLINE

www.angeles.sierraclub.org/wtc

or use the Application below and mail along with your course fees to:

WTC Registrar, P.O. Box 2262, El Segundo, CA 90245
(310) 967-2029 | wtcregistrar@angeles.sierraclub.org

2005 WTC COURSE APPLICATION

Reserve your space — apply today!

Check location preference:
☐ Long Beach-South Bay    ☐ West L.A.
☐ San Gabriel Valley    ☐ Orange County

First Name_________________________ Last Name_________________________

Address______________________________________________________________

City________________ Zip________________

Phone / Eve________________ Phone / Day________________

Email______________________________________________________________

How did you first hear about WTC?_____________________

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

______________________________

who is:  ☐ an instructor  ☐ a co-applicant.

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

Withdrawal from course | Students withdrawing from WTC are entitled to (1) a full refund (less a $10.00 service charge) 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.

Course Fees

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

Sierra Club membership no._________________________
or membership application date_____________________

Non-member $225 ☐
before 12/15/04: $210 ☐

Required text “Freedom of the Hills” 7th edition $20 ☐

Make registration checks payable to WTC

Total $________
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 environment...”

MEMBERSHIP

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☐ Check enclosed, made payable to **Sierra Club**

Please charge my ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

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Card number ________________________________

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Contributions, gifts, or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include $7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and $1.00 for your Chapter Newsletter.

Please mail this form to

**Sierra Club**
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club, Wilderness Training Committee

FRIP # F94Q (N0469) - 1
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.