

Newsletters of the Wilderness Adventures Section

AVENUES

October-December 2019



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Avenues is a quarterly publication of the Wilderness Adventures Section of the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Editor: Terry Ginsberg

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Contributors: Terry Ginsberg, Pixie Klemic, Mark Mitchell

Avenues Submissions

Did you have a special outing experience or want to report on a pressing conservation issue? Story and photo submissions to *Avenues* are welcome. All submissions are subject to editing. The deadline for the January-March 2020 issue is December 15, 2019. Send submissions to Terry Ginsberg terryginsberg@gmail.com

Outings Submissions

Outings write-ups should be sent to Mark Mitchell for approval: markamitchell@att.net.

WAS Officers:

Chair: Amanda Horak

Vice Chair: Mary Forgione

Secretary: Tejinder Dhillon

Treasurer: Terry Ginsberg

Membership Chair: Tejinder Dhillon

Outings Chair: Mark Mitchell

Conservation Chair: Dean Wallraff

Subscriptions: Tejinder Dhillon

Cover: Return to Taboose Pass,
Split Mountain Backpack
Photo: Mark Mitchell

Wilderness Adventures Section Management Committee Developments

Terry Ginsberg has volunteered to assume the position of Treasurer, which had been excellently managed by George Denny for many years. George, who recently received the Chester Versteeg Outings award from the LA Chapter, has been a veteran long term contributor to WAS, so we thank him greatly for his service. In return, Tejinder Dhillon will assume the position of Secretary.

The WAS Management Committee is working on a few projects which may be of interest to you. First, we are in the process of reconfiguring the Wilderness Adventures web site to make the format more consistent with those of other chapters and enable us to share our current information. Second, we are investigating whether we can provide *Avenues* in email as opposed to pdf format. Last, we are studying the feasibility of conducting bus trips to locations such as the Grand Canyon, Lassen Volcanic National Park, etc. If the economics appear practical we will be looking for people to train to head these trips in the future. ■

WAS Management Committee Meeting

**Sunday, October 27, 2019
5 pm-7 pm**

All Are Welcome!

**Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Office
3250 Wilshire Blvd #1106,
Los Angeles, CA 90010**

Everyone is welcome to join us to discuss upcoming trips in 2019 and ideas for hikes and trips in 2020. We're updating our Website. If you're interested in helping out, join us at the meeting or email Mandy Horak amandahorak@hotmail.com.

San Jacinto Backpack with San Jacinto Peak - August 3-4, 2019

"There was Water in Them Thar Hills"

Article and photos by Mark Mitchell

So we took the easy way up on Saturday, taking the tram from Palm Springs. This and the fact that the wet winter left enough flowing in streams for us not to have to carry many pounds of water allowed us to get to our Round Valley campsite quickly. From there we went on a lovely ten-mile hike through Hidden Divide, to Saddle Junction with its view of Idyllwild and Tahquitz, over the Wellman Divide, and back to camp. This afforded the chance to see vistas from peaks to glimpses of the Salton Sea, and flora from big-conifer woods, to slopes ravaged by forest fire, and also alternating understories of Corn Lilly, blooming Lupine, skin-scratching sharp-thorned Whitehorn Ceonothus, and lush expanses of ferns. Sunday we hiked to the top of San Jacinto Peak, returned to camp, and headed back to the top of the tram, where we indulged in health food like French fries before heading home. ■



Forest fire sculpture



Creek leaping



View towards Taquitz



Ahh, morning coffee in camp!



San Jacinto summit

Split Mountain (14,058') Backpack - Aug. 30-Sep. 2, 2019

"A Trip in the Nick of Time"

Article and photos by Mark Mitchell

This was a good weight-loss workout. We gained and lost around 13,500 feet in four days, almost 8,000 feet with full packs (thanks to the 6,000 feet gain to get to Taboose Pass). We managed a couple hiking-boots-off crossings of high-flowing Taboose Creek, established a first-night camp on granite slabs near Taboose Pass, climbed Cardinal Mountain and moved camp to near the South Fork of the Kings River on the second day, summited Split Mountain on the third, and then backpacked out on the fourth. Besides the breath-taking beauty and comradery on the outing, what was great was the perfect weather we had —no winds on the peak summits, and even a cooling mist of rain most of the way back down into the Owens River Valley, which is most often uncomfortably hot at this time of year. (The one exception to the perfect conditions was the swarm of mosquitoes in our Upper Basin campsite.) What was scary, in retrospect, is that a fire hit the Taboose Creek area two days after we were there, so that a Split Mountain climber who came just after us had to be helicoptered out and multiple cars were destroyed at the trailhead. ■



Climbing Cardinal Mountain



On the summit of 14,058-foot Split Mountain



Fording Taboose Creek



Heading back to Taboose Pass

Backbone Trail Hikes

Bob Cody has announced the following schedule for the Fall Backbone Trail hikes. Eighty eight (88) participants have done two or more hike segments. Thirty two (32) have done at least 4 segments. Only 8 hikers have completed all eight (8) segments. People who complete all eight (8) hikes will receive the Backbone Trail patch below.

Number	Date	Miles	Up/Down	Hike
1	Sat 10/12	10	2000'/500'	Will Rogers to Temescal Ridge
2	Sun 10/13	8	1000'/1200	Temescal Ridge to Trippet Ranch
3	Sat 10/19	7	2000'/500'	Trippet Ranch to Lois Ewen Overlook
4	Sun 10/20	7	600'/2000'	Lois Ewen Overlook to Tapia Park
5	Sat 10/26	10	2000'/500'	Tapia Park to Latigo Canyon
6	Sun 10/27	7	700'/1200'	Latigo Canyon to Encinal Canyon
7	Sat 11/2	10	1400'/1000'	Encinal Canyon to Mishe Mokwa
8	Sun 11/3	17	2500'/4500'	Mishe Mokwa to La Jolla Canyon

Construction of The Backbone Trail began in the early 1980's with the intent of connecting trails between Will Rogers State Historic Park and Trippet Ranch. The highest point is Sandstone Peak at 3,111 feet. There are red volcanic formations, sculptured caves and forested streamside areas. Weather permitting there are views of the Pacific Ocean and Channel Islands.

More than 450 vertebrate species have been observed, of which 380 are birds. These include the usual snakes and lizards as well as bobcats, coyotes and mountain lions. There are relatively few trees and the usual chaparral flora. ■



Forest News

By Terry Ginsberg

As of September 20 the segment of the highway from Red Box that is closed is scheduled to open at the end of October "if all work is complete and conditions are deemed safe".

Fingers crossed!

The US Forest Service has said that since the drought in the fall of 2010, 147.6 million trees have died across 10 million acres of federal land. However due to an increase in precipitation in recent years the number of dying trees in 2018 was the lowest since 2014. The survey found 42,000 dead trees in San Bernadino

National Forest, 4,000 in the Cleveland National Forest and 9,000 in the Angeles National Forest. CalFire Director Thom Porter says the forests of California are still under significant stress from drought, insects, disease and prolific wildfire". Sheri Smith USFS entomologist said "the cumulative tree die-off is one of the largest in the history of the state."

Since the destruction of Vetter Mountain Lookout in the 2009 Station Fire, volunteers of the Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association (ANFFLA) alongside many others have worked diligently to repair the trail leading to the site and staff a temporary lookout site at Vetter Mountain. Construction of Vetter Mountain Fire Lookout Tower funded through Southern California Edison is expected to be completed by the end of this year

Forest Bathing is a new type of outing adopted by the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club. It does not require a towel but rather involves completely taking in all of nature's sights, sounds and smells. Unlike hiking, movement is much slower and there are breaks for meditation and monastic walking in silence. The leader will ask participants to touch rocks, plants and trees; smell the forest and listen to birds or other sounds. Enjoying the full experience of sipping water is encouraged. Various studies have posited that spending time in nature can contribute to stress reduction and mental rejuvenation.



Volunteer workers at Vetter Mountain.
Photo courtesy of Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association

Reviewing the news pertaining to the San Bernadino and Santa Monica mountains, I noticed more than a few articles about the mountain lion, car accidents, rescues relating to people separated from their hiking group and people dying from dehydration. I have the impression that most of these human incidents could have been avoided. Our Sierra Club guidelines seem to be on target for keeping us all safe.

Smokey the Bear turned 75 years of age this year. The character was based on a 5 pound, three month old cub who climbed a tree amid a New Mexico forest fire but his paws and hind legs were burned. His original name was Hotfoot Teddy.

Jerry Perez the Angeles National Forest Supervisor indicated at a recent Forest Committee meeting that the Forest Service budget tends to stay relatively flat. This is interesting in light of increased risks of damage due to changes in climate, demography and usage of the forest.

After being away for three years I have noticed a tremendous increase in the number of people hiking on the local trails. On the weekend, in many places, you must arrive at the crack of dawn to get a parking space. One part of me is annoyed by this situation but another part thinks "hey it would be fantastic if we can get all these people motivated to protect our wilderness and support climate change." How can we do it? ■

2019/2020 Outings

In order to participate in a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver, usually included on the sign-in sheet. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see the following: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms> or, call (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

Carpooling/Ridesharing: In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make 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 the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Cancellation Policy: Reservations: For outings costing over \$10, arrange reservations in advance by sending a check payable to Wilderness Adventures. Unless otherwise noted, cancellation is without penalty up to 30 days before departure; thereafter 90 percent refundable only if a suitable replacement is found. For trips where group size is limited by permits or safety, up to a \$50 deposit can be required (in addition to any permit or reservation fees), refundable at the trailhead if you show up, and participate in the outing. No-shows' checks will be forfeited. For all trips that charge a fee to participate, other than a permit fee, the chapter is registered as a California Seller of Travel #CST 2087760-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. Questions? Contact the leaders.

Weekend & Overnight Outings

Unless otherwise noted, all outings are fully sponsored by the Wilderness Adventures Section. To contact hike leaders, see Leaders, page 14.

October 5, Saturday

O: Saturday in Santa Monicas #10 - Topanga Overlook (2469'), Saddle Peak (2805'): Join us on our 10th outing, a strenuous 10 mile, 2300 gain loop hike, taking the Mountaineers Route to the 360 panoramic view at Topanga Lookout from Stunt Road. Lunch will be on Saddle Peak (2805) with ocean views. Return via Stunt High Trail. Bring water, lunch, and lugsoles. Rain or Red Flag alert cancels. Leaders: Bob Cody, John Skidmore, Terri Straub.

October 11-13, Friday-Sunday

O: Fall Colors Hiking, Bishop and Mammoth area: Come hike with us and see the Fall Colors near Bishop, CA. Arrive on your own Friday night, hike all day Sat and half day Sunday. Exact hikes will be determined based on where the best fall colors are. Participants must be in good condition to hike 8-12 miles in hilly and high altitude terrain. Stay 2 nights, Friday and Saturday, in shared hotel room at the gorgeous Creekside Inn in Bishop, a convenient location and stunning landscaping. Hotel includes hot breakfast, an outdoor heated pool, hot tub, and free parking. Each room has a private balcony. \$50 cancellation fee, if you cancel less than 30 days before departure. This trip is limited to 16 participants only so RSVP as soon as possible. To RSVP, email Tejinder Dhillon at tkdsierra hiking@gmail.com, with recent hiking experience, roommate preference and payment details. Leaders: Tejinder Dhillon, Terri Straub.

October 12, Saturday

O: BACKBONE TRAIL #1 – Will Rogers to Temescal Ridge: Come join us as we hike the entire Backbone Trail (67 miles) in eight hikes over four consecutive weekend Saturdays and Sundays. Our first Backbone Trail in the Santa Monica Mountains will be 10 miles with 2000 elevation gain on the BBT from the start at Will Rogers Park. We will first hike up to Inspiration Point then along Rodgers Road past Temescal Peak. Then we will leave the BBT taking the Temescal Ridge Trail for 3 miles to our car shuttle point at the Temescal Ridge Trailhead. TRAILHEAD LOCATION: We will meet initially at 8:00 AM at the Split Rock Trailhead near the corner of Via Las Palmas and Via La Costa in Pacific Palisades. From PCH take Sunset then left on Palisades Drive, drive 3.5 miles then continue onto Chastain Parkway going 0.5 miles to a right on Via Las Palmas past a small traffic circle and then left into the trailhead parking area. CAR SHUTTLE: From the Split Rock Trailhead, we will car shuttle 8 miles down Palisades Drive and then across Sunset Boulevard to the start at Will Rogers State Park. LEADERS: Bob Cody, Tejinder Dhillon, John Skidmore.

October 13, Sunday

O: BACKBONE TRAIL #2 – Temescal Ridge to Trippet Ranch: Our second Backbone Trail hike in the Santa Monica Mountains will be 8 miles on the BBT with 1000 elevation gain from Temescal Ridge to Trippet Ranch. We will start at the Temescal Ridge Trailhead taking the Temescal Ridge Trail for 3 miles to pick up the Backbone Trail. We will then take the BBT past Hub and Eagle Junctions to Musch Camp. We will then take the Musch Trail finishing at Trippet State Park, our car shuttle point. TRAILHEAD LOCATION: Meet at Trippet Ranch parking lot at 8:00 AM.

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Take PCH to Topanga Canyon Boulevard, North 4 miles to Entrada Road, 1 mile, 2 left turns to lot; or 7 mi S of 101/Ventura Freeway on Topanga Canyon Boulevard to Entrada Road). Park free on Entrada Road and walk in or in lot (fee, or free with appropriate parking permit). CAR SHUTTLE: From the meeting point at Trippet Ranch, we will car shuttle 12 miles down Topanga Canyon Boulevard to PCH and then up Palisades Park to the Split Rock Trailhead. LEADERS: Bob Baldwin, Ken Beauchene, Bob Cody.

October 19, Saturday

O: BACKBONE TRAIL #3 – Trippet Ranch to Lois Ewen Overlook, 23363 Saddle Peak Rd, Calabasas, CA 91302, USA:

Our third Backbone Trail hike in the Santa Monica Mountains will be 7 miles with 2000 elevation gain on the BBT from Topanga Canyon to the Lois Ewen Overlook. We will hike from Trippet Ranch to behind Topanga Canyon School passing across Old Topanga Canyon Road to take Hondo Canyon and then the Fossil Ridge Trail to the Lois Ewen Overlook. We will then leave the Backbone Trail for a lunch with views at the Topanga Overlook. TRAILHEAD LOCATION: Meet at the Lois Ewen Overlook at 8:00 AM at the intersection of Stunt, Saddle Peak, and Scheuren Roads. CAR SHUTTLE: From the meeting point at the Lois Ewen Overlook, we will car shuttle 7 miles across Saddle Peak Road and Tuna Canyon Road to the start point at the Trippet Ranch off Topanga Boulevard. LEADERS: Bob Cody, Wlodek Proskurowski, Ron Rosien.

October 20, Sunday

O: BACKBONE TRAIL #4 – Lois Ewen Overlook to Tapia Park:

Our fourth Backbone Trail hike in the Santa Monica Mountains will be 7 miles with 600 elevation gain on the BBT going from Lois Ewen Overlook to Tapia Park. The hike will climb past Saddle Peak and then descend along the Saddle Peak Trail crossing Piuma Road to the Piuma Ridge Trail where it intersects at Piuma and Las Virgenes. TRAILHEAD LOCATION: Meet at the southeast corner of Las Virgenes and Piuma Roads at 8:00 AM. From PCH go north on Malibu Canyon Road for 8 miles to Piuma Road or from the 101 go south on Las Virgenes for 5 miles to Piuma Rd. CAR SHUTTLE: From the meeting point at Piuma and Los Virgenes we will car shuttle 8 miles on Stunt Road to the start point at Lois Ewen Overlook. LEADERS: Jessica Brozyna, Bob Cody, Diana Gonzalez.

October 26, Saturday

O: BACKBONE TRAIL #5 – Tapia Park to Latigo Canyon: Latigo Canyon Trailhead, 1763 Latigo Canyon Rd, Malibu, CA 90265, USA. Our fifth Backbone Trail hike in the Santa Monica Mountains will be 10 miles with 2000 elevation gain on the BBT going from the Tapia Park area to the Latigo Canyon Trailhead. We will take the Mesa

Peak Trail though the upper Corral and Solstice Canyon areas. TRAILHEAD LOCATION: We will meet at 8:00 AM at the Latigo Canyon Trailhead on Latigo Canyon Road, from PCH go north 7 miles on Latigo Canyon Road to a dirt lot on the right side or from the 101 go 7 miles south on Kanan Dume to a left on Latigo Canyon Road then 3 miles to the dirt lot now on your left. CAR SHUTTLE: From the meeting point at the Latigo Canyon Trailhead we will car shuttle 14 miles to the start point at Piuma and Las Virgenes via Mulholland and Las Virgenes. LEADERS: Alison Boyle, Bob Cody, Joan Schipper.

October 27, Sunday

O: BACKBONE TRAIL #6 – Latigo Canyon to Encinal Canyon:

Our sixth Backbone Trail hike will be 7 miles with 700 gain on the BBT through Newton, Zuma, and Trancas Canyons. We will start at the Latigo Canyon Trailhead taking the Backbone Trail across Kanan Road then taking the Zuma Canyon Trail over to Encinal Canyon. TRAILHEAD LOCATION: We will meet at 8:00 AM at the Encinal Canyon Trailhead. From PCH go 6 miles north on Kanan Dume Road to Mulholland Hwy then west 3 miles on Encinal Canyon Road to shoulder parking on north side of road just east of Fire Camp #13. CAR SHUTTLE: From the meeting point at the Encinal Canyon Trailhead we will car shuttle 7 miles to the start point at the Latigo Canyon Trailhead. LEADERS: Bob Cody, Craig Percy, Catherine Ronan.

November 2, Saturday

O: BACKBONE TRAIL #7 - Encinal Canyon to Mishe Mokwa:

Our seventh Backbone Trail hike in the Santa Monica Mountains is 10 miles with 1400 elevation gain on the BBT. We will take the Etz Meloy Trail, the newest addition to the BBT, starting at the Encinal Canyon trailhead. We will cross the Mulholland Highway and then take the Etz Moloy Trail, with views of Triunfo Pass and the Boney Mountains, to end at the Mishe Mokwa Trailhead. TRAILHEAD LOCATION: We will meet at 8:00 AM at the Mishe Mokwa Trailhead. From PCH go north 7 miles on Yerba Buena Road to the Mishe Mokwa trailhead parking area on the right, one mile east of Circle X Ranch. CAR SHUTTLE: From the meeting point at the Mishe Mokwa Trailhead we will car shuttle 7 miles via Little Sycamore Canyon and Decker Roads to Encinal Canyon Trailhead. LEADERS: Bob Cody, Mary Pickert, Shana Rapoport.

November 3, Sunday

O: Classic Wilshire Walk: Moderately paced 16-mile urban walk from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica. Pass by iconic section of L.A., including MacArthur Park, Korea Town, the LaBrea Tar Pits, Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, Westwood and more before finishing at the statue of Saint Monica overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Meet 8 a.m.

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1 Wilshire Blvd. Take the Expo Line or 720 Bus back to DTLA (\$1.75 on a TAP card). Leaders: Mary Forgione, Joan Schipper, Will McWhinney, Jane Simpson.

November 3, Sunday

O: BACKBONE TRAIL #8 – Mishe Mokwa to La Jolla Canyon: Our eighth and last Backbone Trail hike in the Santa Monica Mountains will be 17 miles on the BBT on the Sandstone Peak, Chamberlain, Blue Canyon, Wood Canyon, and Ray Miller Trails before finishing the La Jolla Campground. TRAILHEAD LOCATION: We will meet initially at 8:00 AM outside the La Jolla Campground on PCH just south of the entrance (Ray Miller Trailhead). From the PCH, the La Jolla Campground Parking Area is 4.9 miles northwest of Yerba Buena Road (Neptune's Net); or 4.2 miles southeast of Las Posas Road. Go past the yellow gate into the parking area or park along the shoulder (on the east side of PCH). CAR SHUTTLE: From La Jolla Canyon, we will car shuttle 17 miles up the long and winding Yerba Buena to the Mishe Mokwa trailhead. LEADERS: Bob Cody, Terri Straub, Jeff Taylor

Saturday, November 9, 2019

Pasadena Group & WAS

O: Millard Canyon/Tom Sloane Saddle/Mt. Lowe Campground Loop Hike: (12 miles, 2500 ft gain). We'll start at Sunset Ridge in Altadena to hike up Millard Canyon to Tom Sloane Saddle and then continue across to Mt. Lowe Campground on trails that have been recently repaired by a local trail-building group. The third part of the loop from the campground back to Sunset Ridge is on the Mt Lowe railroad bed. Meet at 8 am at the yellow flashing light at the intersection of Loma Alta and Chaney Trail in Altadena. The flashing light is between Lincoln Avenue and Fair Oaks Avenue, both exits on the 210 Fwy. Bring water, lunch, jacket, and good hiking boots. Leaders: Ginny Heringer and Terry Ginsberg.

November 16, Saturday

O: Saturday Peaks in the Santa Monicas Peaks #11 - Sandstone Sextet: Join us on our 11th Saturday Peaks in the Santa Monicas, a strenuous hike from the Mishe Mokwa trailhead to 6 peaks: 9 mi, 2,700' gain. Here's your chance to get six peaks in one day on a strenuous hike at a moderate pace to the highest point in the Santa Monica Mountains, Sandstone Peak (3111), then Boney Peak (2825), Exchange Peak (2950), Tri-Peaks (3010), Pop Top (2390), and Big Dome (2912). Return on the Mishe Mokwa portion of the Backbone Trail, passing Split Rock with views of Balanced Rock. Meet at 8:00 AM at Mishe Mokwa trailhead (PCH 16 miles west of Malibu Canyon Road, Yerba Buena road north 7 winding miles to parking area on right side 2 miles past the Circle X ranger station). Bring water, lunch, and lug soles. Rain or Red Flag alert cancels. Leaders: Bob Cody, Ladislav Czernek, Mandy Horak.

December 7, Saturday

O: Saturday Peaks in the Santa Monicas #12 - Griffith Park Peaklets: Join us on our 12th Saturday Peaks in the Santa Monicas, our 10th annual trek of Griffith Park, the finest city park in the country. This is a strenuous hike of 13 miles at a moderate pace with 3500 feet elevation gain on scrambles to ten or more different peaklets. Plan to spend most of the day hiking at a moderate pace. We will hike from Burbank Peak to Beacon Hill passing by Bee Rock, the Hollywood Sign, Dantes View, and the Old Zoo. Peaklets, rocks, and hills include Bee Rock (1056), Taco Peak (1572'), Mt. Bell (1587), Mt. Chapel (1622), Mt. Lee (1640), Cahuenga Peak (1820), Burbank Peak (1190), Mt. Hollywood (1626), Glendale Peak (1190), Beacon Hill (1001), and even peaklets we will name on the hike. We will start at 8:00 AM. Meet at the second Griffith Park merry-go-round parking lot (on Crystal Springs Drive in the park turn at the sign that says Merry Go Round and go to the dead end then turn right drive past the first parking lot to the next one above the Merry Go Round). Lunch at the Magic Tree. Poles could be useful. Bring water, lunch, and lug soles. Rain or Red Flag alert cancels. Leaders: Bob Cody, Mary Forgione, Jeff Taylor.

Saturday, December 7, 2019

Pasadena Group & WAS

O: Sierra Madre to Orchard Camp: Join us on this beautiful hike up little Santa Anita canyon. The hike is 9 miles round trip with 2,000 feet elevation gain (Moderate). Meet 9:00 am at Lizzies Cafe at the junction of Mira Monte Avenue and Mt Wilson Trail Drive, in Sierra Madre. From the I-210 exit to Baldwin Avenue drive north on Baldwin to Mira Monte Avenue and turn right. Go two blocks and park on the street. Restroom at the trailhead. Please bring hiking footwear, water, layers, lunch, & hat. Rain cancels. Leaders: Dave Taylor and Terry Ginsberg.

December 8, Sunday

O: San Gabriel Mountains Hike - Josephine Peak (5,558 ft): Ten years after the Station Fire, let's see how the ecosystem has recovered on this stroll up a fire road to great views at the site of an old fire lookout. 8 miles round-trip, 1,900 feet gain. Wear sturdy shoes or lug-sole boots and bring the usuals for a day hike, including lunch and at least two quarts of water. Leader: Mark Mitchell, Co-Ldrs: Dean Wallraff, David Cuddy, Diana Gonzalez. Meet by 8:30 AM at La Canada Ride Share - Angeles Crest Highway (Hwy 2), Just N of Foothill Fwy (I-210). Cars parked in Angeles National Forest will need to display Adventure Passes.

January 18, Saturday;

OCSS, Wilderness Adventures

I: Mt. Pinos Backcountry Ski Tour: Moderately strenuous 4+ mile, 500' gain to panoramic vista. Ski from end of Mt

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Pinos Highway to summit at Condor Point. Possible side trips to Inspiration Point, other destinations, or just playing may add a few miles + a few 100 feet elevation loss & gain. May ski lower on mountain if conditions warrant. Part of route may be in pre-existing tracks, but recent snowfall or aesthetics may require breaking new trail. Intermediate X-C skills required & metal-edged, backcountry skis & backcountry boots highly recommended. Bring winter clothing, water, lunch. No snow or likely blizzard cancel trip. Send e-mail or phone leader w/ experience level/conditioning for trip details in the 2 weeks before trip. Leader: Mark Mitchell, Co-Ldr: Mark Fleming. Cars parked in National Forest will need to display Adventure Passes.

January 24- 26, Friday-Sunday;

OCSS, Wilderness Adventures

I: Winter Combo Getaway Bus Trip to Mammoth Lakes:

This trip has it all. Enjoy backcountry ski touring and snowshoe touring with leaders; XC ski or snowshoe on your own at Tamarack Nordic Ski Center; Downhill ski or snowboard on Mammoth Mtn; Learn to cross-country ski in the backcountry with our instructors (must preregister for free lessons). Newcomers and non-skiers welcome, tons of stuff to do in Mammoth! Stay at Sierra Nevada Resort (2 per rm, 2 beds, priv.bath) close to shopping, night life, free shuttles. Leave O.C. 2 PM with pickup in San Fernando Valley. Return O.C. Sunday 10PM. Includes. bus, lodging, breakfast bagels, happy hour, Sunday dinner, bus refreshments and driver gratuity. Send email address (or 2 SASE), phone#, \$320 with Sierra Club number or \$335 non-members (check payable OCSS) to Reservationist/Asst Leader: Donna Specht, 22221 Wood Island Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92646. Just need a ride or a room? Ask about Transportation or Lodging only cost. Leader: Mark Fleming, Ski Leaders: Homer Tom. Backcountry Ski Instructors: Julie Smith-Meek & Scott Meek. Snowshoe Leaders: Todd Clark and Sylvie Cote.

February 29, Saturday;

OCSS, Wilderness Adventures

I: Angeles Crest Backcountry Ski Tour: Get that high mountain snowy woods feeling just minutes from LA! Moderately strenuous 6+ mile, out and back. Ski from snowgate at road closure along Angeles Crest Highway. Possible side trips up snow bowls may add a couple more miles + several 100 feet elevation gain & loss. Intermediate X-C skills required & metal-edged, backcountry skis & backcountry boots highly recommended. Bring winter clothes, water, lunch. No snow or likely blizzard cancel trip. Send e-mail or phone leader with experience level/conditioning for trip details in the 2 weeks before trip. Leader: Mark Mitchell, Co-Ldr: Mark Fleming. Cars parked in Angeles Nat. Forest will need to display Adventure Passes.

March 20-22, Friday-Sunday

OCSS, Wilderness Adventures

I: Winter Combo Getaway Bus Trip to Mammoth Lakes;

Ski Downhill or Snowboard on Mammoth Mtn. Daily backcountry ski tours and snowshoe tours with the leaders. XC Ski or Snowshoe on your own at Tamarack Nordic Center. Past Beginner Backcountry ski lesson students, Newcomers & Non skiers Welcome. Tons of stuff to do in Mammoth in Winter. Sierra Nevada Resort Lodging, two per room, 2 beds/private bath, Close to shopping, night life, casual and fine dining, free shuttles. Leave Orange County 2:00 pm, Sylmar pick-up later. Return Orange County Sunday approx 10pm. Includes bus, lodging, breakfast bagels, happy hour, bus refreshments, Sunday dinner. Send 2 large sase, OR E mail address, phone, cell phone, pick up location (Orange County or San Fernando Valley), \$320 with Sierra Club #or \$335 for non members (check payable to OCSS) to Asst Leader/Reserv: Donna Specht, 22221 Wood Island Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92646 (donnaspecht@juno.com). Ask about Transportation or Lodging only costs. Leader: Mark Mitchell. Staff: Mark Fleming, Fran Penn, Tejinder Dhillon

Tuesday & Thursday Hikes

October 1, Tuesday

O: Tue Moderate easy pace Hikers / Red Rock Canyon from Stunt Rd: Moderately paced 4 mile, 800 ft gain hike up a fire road and then down into hidden Red Rock Canyon with bright brick red rock formations. Seasonal streams, good views, chaparral and sage habitats. Meet 8:00 AM at Stunt Road trailhead. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Valley Circle/Mulholland Dr exit south, turn right on Valmar Rd (becomes Old Topanga Cyn Rd), right on Mulholland Hwy for 3 miles, left on Stunt Rd for 1 mile, park on dirt shoulder on right. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Rita Okowitz, Asst: Mirit Rabinovitz

October 3, Thursday

O: Thu Moderate Hikers / Nike Missile Radar Site: Moderately paced 8 mile 1100 gain hike with great mountain and valley views. Meet 8 AM at Caballero Canyon trailhead in Tarzana (from 101 Ventura Fwy take Reseda Blvd, exit 23, south 2 miles to east side of street across from entrance to Braemar Country Club). Bring 2 quarts water, lunch, sturdy hiking footwear, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leader: Diane DeMarco Asst: Nancy Krupa

October 8, Tuesday

O: Tue Moderate easy pace Hikers / Caballero Canyon and Bent Arrow Trail: Moderately paced 6 mile loop hike with 900 ft elevation gain up a typical SM Mtn canyon onto old dirt Mulholland, then briefly into Topanga State Park.

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Chaparral and valley views. Meet at 8:00 AM at the Cabalero trailhead. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Reseda Blvd exit, turn south and go 2 miles, street parking. Trailhead is on east side across from Braemar Country Club entrance. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Mirit Rabinovitz, Asst: Rita Okowitz

October 10, Thursday

O: Thu Moderate Hikers / Malibu Creek State Park:

Moderately paced 8 mile 1000 gain hike including Lookout Trail with great views, Century Lake, and Reagan picnic area. Meet at 8 AM at Cistern trailhead on Mulholland Hwy, about half way between Cornell Rd and Las Virgenes / Malibu Canyon Rd (from 101 Ventura Fwy take Kanan Rd, exit 36, south 1/2 mile, turn left on Cornell and veer to right continuing south 3 miles, past Paramount Ranch, to Mulholland Hwy, turn left and go a little more than a mile to street parking and trailhead on south side of Mulholland). Bring 2 quarts water, lunch, sturdy hiking footwear, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leader: Diane DeMarco Asst: Nancy Krupa

October 15, Tuesday

O: Tue Moderate easy pace Hikers / Rocky Peak:

Moderately paced 6 mile 1100 ft gain hike in Santa Susana Mtns to Rocky Peak, primarily on fire road through dramatic sandstone rock formations, coastal sage scrub and chaparral with great views of Simi and San Fernando Valleys. Meet 8:30 AM at Rocky Peak Rd trailhead. From westbound 118 Fwy take Rocky Peak Rd exit, street parking just beyond end of off ramp or park over bridge. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Sherry Rendel, Asst: Richard Shamban

October 17 Thursday

O: Thu Moderate Hikers / Pico Canyon: Moderately paced 8 mile round trip 1600 foot gain hike through historic Mentryville with ruins of California Star Oil #4 and great views of the Santa Clarita Valley. Meet at 8 AM at trailhead (from Interstate 5 take Lyons Ave west. It will become Pico Canyon, continue on Pico Canyon until it ends at dirt parking area right before green entry gate and park outside gate. Bring 2 quarts water, lunch, sturdy hiking footwear, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Mimi Knights, Reaven Gately

October 22 Tuesday

O: Tue Moderate easy pace Hikers / Chatsworth Park / Stagecoach Road: Moderately paced 4-5 mile hike with appx. 700 ft elevation gain in Santa Susana Pass State Historical Park, including Historic Stage Coach Road. Meet 8:30 AM at park. From Topanga Canyon Blvd turn west on Devonshire St., continue to end and enter Chatsworth Park Entrance. Continue to 2nd parking lot by recreation building. Bring 2 qts water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen.

Rain cancels. Leaders: Richard Shamban, Asst: Pixie Klemic

October 24, Thursday

O: Thu Moderate Hikers / Trippet Ranch, Musch Trail, Eagle Rock Loop: Moderately paced 8 mile 1200 gain hike in Topanga State Park. Meet 8:30 AM at Trippet Ranch parking lot (from 101 Ventura Fwy take Topanga Canyon Blvd, exit 27, south to Entrada Rd, turn left (east), go about one mile making two left turns to stay on Entrada Rd, and park along Entrada Rd outside lot or pay to park in lot). Bring \$ for parking, 2 quarts water, lunch, sturdy hiking footwear, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Ted Mattock, Diane DeMarco

October 29, Tuesday

O: Tue Moderate easy pace Hikers / De Anza Park to Liberty Canyon:

Moderately paced 6 mile, 800 ft gain. The trail follows Las Virgenes Creek to the Talapop Trail overlooking Liberty Canyon to see an old adobe in Malibu Creek State Park. Lots of trees, views of the mountains and interesting plants. Meet 8:30 AM at De Anza Park, Calabasas. Exit 101 Fwy at Lost Hills Rd., turn south. (Left if coming from the Valley) Proceed 1 mile to parking lot on the right in De Anza Park. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Rita Okowitz, Asst: Mirit Rabinovitz

October 31, Thursday

O: Thu Moderate Hikers / Cheeseboro Cyn: Moderately paced 9-10 mile hike in Agoura Hills to Shepherds Flat, over grasslands and along an old ranch road following a streambed. Meet 8:30 AM at trailhead (from 101 Ventura Fwy take Cheseboro Rd, exit 35, turn north on Palo Comado Canyon Rd then right on Cheseboro Rd, and go north 1 mile to park entrance, turn right and follow road to dirt parking area at end). Bring 2 quarts water, lunch, sturdy hiking footwear, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leader: Diane DeMarco Asst: Nancy Krupa

November 5, Tuesday

O: Tue Moderate easy pace Hikers /Upper Las Virgenes (Ahmanson):

Moderately paced 5 mile hike with 700 ft gain. Enjoy our recently acquired Santa Monica Mtns Conservancy land at the edge of the Simi Hills. Hike the rolling grassland hills of oaks and coastal sage and visit the old ranch house at Lasky Mesa. Meet 8:30 AM at Victory trailhead. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Valley Circle Bl. exit and go north to Victory Bl., about 2 miles. Turn left on Victory, go 1/2 mi. to fee parking area. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Muddy when wet. Rain cancels. Leaders: Rita Okowitz, Asst: Pixie Klemic

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November 7, Thursday

O: Thu Moderate Hikers / Weldon Canyon Overlook:

Moderately paced 8 mile 1200 gain hike through oaks, black walnut and fir trees, passing BFI planted oaks as a condition of landfill expansion, to overlooking views of Santa Clarita and San Fernando Valleys. Meet 8:30AM East Canyon trailhead of Santa Susana Mtns. Take Calgrove Blvd, exit 166, from northbound Interstate 5, turn left (west) under the freeway and take the Old Road south about 1 mile to parking entrance after church on right, and continue past trailhead sign to parking area. Bring \$5 for parking, 2 quarts water, lunch, sturdy hiking footwear, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Mimi Knights, Reaven Gately

November 12, Tuesday

O: Tue Moderate easy pace Hikers / Malibu Creek

State Park / Grasslands Trail: Moderately paced 4 mile, 300 ft gain hike over Grasslands Trail to the Rock Pool and Century Lake. See how the area is recovering from the Woolsey Fire. See the sites where many movies were shot. Meet 8:30 AM at Trailhead on Mulholland Hwy just west of Malibu Canyon and over bridge. Park along road. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Las Virgenes Rd/Malibu Canyon exit, go south 5 3/4 miles to Mulholland Hwy. Turn right, go over bridge and park. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Rita Okowitz, Asst: Richard Shamban

November 14, Thursday

O: Thu Moderate Hikers / Doubletree to China Flat:

Moderately paced 8 mile 1200 gain hike in scenic Simi Hills, through chaparral, grasslands and oaks. Meet 8:30 AM at Doubletree trailhead in Oak Park (from 101 Ventura Fwy take Kanan Rd north 2.1 miles to Sunnycrest Dr, turn right and go 0.8 mile to signed trailhead on right and park along street). Bring 2 quarts water, lunch, sturdy hiking footwear, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leader: Diane DeMarco Asst: Nancy Krupa

November 19, Tuesday

O: Tue Moderate easy pace Hikers / Piuma Trail –

Backbone: Moderate 5 mile hike with 600 ft gain along part of the backbone trail. See how the area is recovering from the Woolsey Fire. Some shade under beautiful oak trees. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, and sunscreen. Meet at 8:30 AM at trailhead. Exit 101 to Las Virgenes Canyon towards beach. Turn left on Piuma road and drive into small parking lot at corner of Piuma and Las Virgenes. Leaders: Rita Okowitz, Asst: Mirit Rabinovitz

November 21, Thursday

O: Thu Moderate Hikers / Stunt High Trail to Saddle

Peak: Moderately paced 8 mile 2000 gain hike to Saddle Peak from Stunt Road in Calabasas. Meet 8:30 AM at

Stunt High trailhead. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Valley Circle/Mulholland Dr, exit 29, go south, turn right on Valmar Rd (becomes Old Topanga Cyn Rd), then right on Mulholland Hwy for 3 miles, left on Stunt Rd for 1 mile, and park on dirt shoulder on right. Bring 2 quarts water, lunch, sturdy hiking footwear, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leader: Diane DeMarco Asst: Nancy Krupa

November 26, Tuesday

O: Tue Moderate easy pace Hikers / Hummingbird

Creek Trail: Moderately paced 4.6 mile, 1000 ft gain hike up Hummingbird Creek through a narrow canyon and open chaparral, past sculpted caves and the magnificent sandstone rock formations of the Santa Susana Mountains. Meet 8:30 AM at Hummingbird Trailhead. From westbound 118 Fwy take Kuehner Dr. exit, north .3 miles to posted street parking. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Sherry Rendel, Asst: Richard Shamban

December 3, Tuesday

O: Tues Moderate easy pace Hikers / Top of Reseda

to Nike Site: Moderately paced 6 mile, 600 ft gain hike along old dirt Mulholland to cold war Nike site. Great views of SF Valley and Encino Reservoir. Meet 8:30 AM at top of Reseda Blvd in Tarzana. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Reseda Blvd exit, turn south and go 3 miles to Mulholland Gateway Park. Choice to park along street below the white line at beginning of fee area or pay fee and park above. Meet at trailhead at the top. Bring water, snacks, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Sherry Rendel, Asst: Richard Shamban

December 5, Thursday

O: Thu Moderate Hikers / East Canyon to Mission

Point: Moderately paced 9 mile 1400 gain hike, first going up East Canyon Mtn of Santa Clarita Woodlands Park to ridge, then across Corral Sunshine Mtn to Mission Point, with great views of San Fernando Valley. Return same way. Meet 8:30 AM at East Canyon trailhead of Santa Susana Mtns. (take Calgrove Blvd, exit 166, from Interstate 5, turn west under the freeway and take the Old Road south about 1 mile to parking entrance after church on right, and continue past trailhead sign to parking area). Bring \$5 for parking, 2 quarts water, lunch, sturdy hiking footwear, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Mimi Knights, Reaven Gately

December 10, Tuesday

O: Tue Moderate easy pace Hikers / Las Virgenes

Canyon: Moderately paced 6 mile 800 ft gain hike on picturesque trail and along a seasonal stream among the beautiful grasslands of Simi Hills. Meet 8:30 AM at trailhead kiosk. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Las Virgenes

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Rd exit north 1.75 miles to end; street parking. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Rita Okowitz, Asst: Mirit Rabinovitz

December 12, Thursday

O: Thu Moderate Hikers / Upper Zuma Canyon Backbone Trail, Zuma Ridge Rd: Moderately paced 8 mile 1400 gain hike on scenic trail through lovely canyon that burned in the Woolsey fire, then on fire road with great mountain and ocean views, to Buzzards Roost. Meet 8:30 AM at Newton Canyon Trailhead. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Kanan Rd exit, go south on Kanan Rd to paved trailhead parking area on west side just north of Tunnel 1 (3rd tunnel from 101 about 1 miles past Mulholland Hwy). Bring 2 quarts water, lunch, sturdy hiking footwear, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leader: Diane DeMarco Asst: Nancy Krupa

December 17, Tuesday

O: Tue Moderate easy pace Hikers / Franklin Canyon: Moderately paced 5 mile, 800 ft gain hike up and down a chaparral canyon, with a wonderful view of WLA and the Pacific Ocean, and beside a lake in the midst of Beverly Hills. Meet 8:30 AM at Franklin Park/Ranch parking lot. From 101 Fwy take Coldwater Canyon south 2 1/2 miles where it crosses Mulholland Drive West. Make a 90 turn onto Franklin Canyon Drive (sign reads Road Closed 800 yds) and enter park. Pass upper parking lot at nature center, continue veering right around lake. Turn right at stop sign at bottom of lake, drive mile and veer left on Lake Drive. Follow to end and park. Warning: Stop at camera monitored stop signs in park or you will be ticketed. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Sherry Rendel, Asst: Mirit Rabinovitz

December 19, Thursday

O: Thu Moderate Hikers / Caballero Canyon, Topanga State Park: Moderately paced 8 - 10 mile hike in northern Topanga State Park. Meet 8:30 AM at Caballero trailhead in Tarzana (from 101 Ventura Fwy take Reseda Blvd, exit 23, go south 2 miles to east side across from Braemar Country Club entrance). Bring 2 quarts water, lunch, sturdy hiking footwear, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leader: Richard Shamban Asst: Nancy Krupa

January 2 Thursday

O: Thu Moderate Hikers / Chumash Trail to Fossils: Moderately paced 8 (optional 10) mile 1500 gain hike in rolling hills of Santa Susana Mtns. Meet 8:30 AM at trailhead. From 118 Fwy take Yosemite Ave, exit 29, north 0.4 mile, turn right on Flanagan Dr, continue 0.8 mile to end and park. Bring 2 quarts water, lunch, sturdy hiking footwear, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Mimi Knights, Reaven Gately

January 7 Tuesday

O: Tue Moderate easy pace Hikers / Malibu Creek State Park Cornell to MASH Site: Moderately paced 6, mile 600 ft gain hike including Lookout Trail with great views, Century Lake, MASH site, and Reagan picnic area. Meet 8:30 AM at Cornell & Mulholland dirt parking area. From 101 Ventura Fwy take Kanan Rd exit, go south on Kanan Rd mile, turn left on Cornell Way and veer to right continuing south 3 miles (past Paramount Ranch) to paved entrance for dirt parking area on east side of street just south of Mulholland Hwy. (Entrance on Lake Vista Rd.) Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Mirit Rabinovitz, Asst: Sherry Rendel

January 9, Thursday

O: Thu Moderate Hikers / Malibu Creek State Park: Moderately paced 8 mile 1000 gain hike including Lookout Trail with great views, Century Lake, and Reagan picnic area. Meet at 8:30 AM at Cistern trailhead on Mulholland Hwy, about half way between Cornell Rd and Las Virgenes/ Malibu Canyon Rd (from 101 Ventura Fwy take Kanan Rd, exit 36, south 1/2 mile, turn left on Cornell and veer to right continuing south 3 miles, past Paramount Ranch, to Mulholland Hwy, turn left and go a little more than a mile to street parking and trailhead on south side of Mulholland). Bring 2 quarts water, lunch, sturdy hiking footwear, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leader: Diane DeMarco Asst: Nancy Krupa

January 14, Tuesday

O: Tues Moderate easy pace Hikers / Bear Divide to Walker Ranch: 6 mile, 500 ft gain, 1300 ft loss hike. We will start at the top of the San Gabriel Mtns at Bear Divide, hike the ridge to the Wilson Saddle with great views of the Valleys, then down the Los Pinetos Trail into the oaks at Walker Ranch in Placerita Cyn SP. Meet at Walker Ranch trail head parking area for car shuttle to Bear Divide at 8:30 AM. From Hwy 14 in Newhall take Placerita Cyn Rd exit and go east about 3 miles, passing Placerita Cyn Park entrance, to dirt shoulder parking for Walker Ranch on right. Street parking on Placerita Canyon at Walker Ranch trailhead. Do not block gate. Bring water, snack, lugsoles, hat, sunscreen. Rain cancels. Leaders: Pixie Klemic (818) 787-5420 pklemic@roadrunner.com, Mirit Rabinovitz (818) 726-4848 mirit28@hotmail.com

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AVENUES

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