

# TRACKS



March/April 2013

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On the web: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/gls/>

## Presidents' Day Weekend at Joshua Tree

February 15—18

By Susan Campo

When we reached the campgrounds at Black Rock, we were met with some very somber news, indeed! The co-leaders and friends were unable to attend for serious reasons. Grace was battered by the wind and a car door just as she was about to leave for the trip. "Humpty Dumpty had a great fall," off the wall of the driveway!!! But we trust that the doctors and the loving care of Mary who flew home from Siberia WILL put Grace back on the trail in time! We also missed Jude who took Grace to the hospital and stayed to watch bulldog Lily. Meanwhile Dawn found herself hobbling on a broken foot, and we missed her partner Teresa as well!

Our beloved leader Barbara Edwards knew "that the show must go on!" She assigned others to help with the week-end. Everyone who participated had a wonderful time! Barbara meets the needs of many people on her now famous campouts. She sends out emails to help us prepare before the trip and offers numerous activities for everyone to chose from. A real facilitator! So it is no surprise that the actual campout was a grand success.

On Saturday some of the group did a side trip to the Morongo Reserve for a walk to an oasis. Others did the Panorama Trail out of the campground. In the afternoon Marie Ammerman led a basic class in navigation. She was patient and skilled in answering questions on reading and



Camp leader Barb, and Karen, her co-leader on her day hike.

orientation of the map.

The potluck for Saturday night was a "feast" that covered three picnic table. One for side-dishes, another for the main courses and a third was for drinks and dessert. Jeff Johnson out did himself with his famous coco cake from scratch and the

(Continued page 3)



Resting out of the wind behind a rock on the way to Pinto Peak and Mt. Minerva Hoyt on Sunday, led by Susan and Marie. Photo from Susan.



Around the campfire on Saturday night. Photo from Susan.

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## Anne's I-Provisional

### Quail Peak (5813') and Mount Minerva Hoyt (5405')

By Alan Schimpff

Partly cloudy, a high of 65 degrees, 5 mph winds. That was what the weatherman predicted. And he (or she), was right on for a change.

For the weather on the day of the provisional was quite different from when Anne and I first scouted the trail in mid-December last year. Then, it felt like the temperature was in the low teens, the wind fierce and biting, teeth hurting from the cold, lips and tongue numb. Anne had to lend me a pair of socks (clean, of course) to serve as mittens over my gloves.

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# Safety Corner

By Marie Ammerman

In an effort to make Tracks even more useful, if that's even possible, we're going to add safety and gear tips. If you have any specific topics you'd like covered, please email Marie Ammerman at ammermanm@yahoo.com.

## Navigation

As everyone knows, I love navigation. The subject of map and compass is endlessly fascinating to me, but you don't have to be a nav nerd to appreciate the



importance of staying found in the wilderness, or to understand how to use a map and compass. These are skills every hiker, whether leader or participant, should have. Bob Myers and I had an article published as an addendum to the last Tracks, discussing the need for navigation skills, and encouraging folks to learn more about it by attending the LTC Nav Noodles. To quote Bob again: "Our navigation program is not limited to prospective leaders. We provide opportunities for beginners to learn basic navigation skills and for experienced leaders to refresh their skills. In other words, **our navigation program is for everyone...**"

Good navigation doesn't just keep you from becoming lost. Other serious emergencies may call for the skill to read a topo map and use a compass to navigate one's way out of danger. Forest fires, landslides or flash floods might make a trail impassable; life-threatening injury to a group member may dictate finding a safe place for a helicopter to land and a route to

get to that place; serious injury might also mean needing to find a quicker way to civilization than the route you had planned to use. Running out of water, due to a leaky hydration bag while hiking in the desert, might mean needing to find the only spring in the region. Could you do that with the skills you currently have?

As noted in our article, it's a good idea for participants to have navigation skills of their own, and not just rely on the leaders. Not only could something happen to the leaders, leaving you to fend for yourself, but you could become separated from the rest of the group. Having a map with you is great, but only if you know how to read and use it. Knowledge is not just power, it's safety. At the very least, get into the habit of acquiring some sort of map of the area in which you will be hiking, even if you are on a GLS or other guided trip. There are all kinds of maps you can purchase, from USGS topos maps to Tom Harrison maps to maps found in hiking books, which you could photocopy for your outing. Even a

*(Continued next page)*

# 25th Anniversary GLS T-Shirts!

The GLS 25th Anniversary logo has been printed on heather gray T-shirts, like the ones shown in the photo. T-shirts are \$15 each, available in unisex sizes Small/Medium/Large/X-Large.

To order a T-shirt, please make a check payable to "GLS" and mail to: Amanda Smith, 831 Kodak Drive, Apt. 1/2, Los Angeles, CA 90026. Please be sure to include the size of T-

shirt you are requesting along with your phone number and/or email address in case we need to get in touch with you. If you need the T-shirt shipped to you out-of-town, please contact Amanda with the details first so we can estimate shipping costs before you write a check.

Questions? Email Amanda at [queenpin@earthlink.net](mailto:queenpin@earthlink.net).



## Information about GLS

**General questions about GLS**, call Grace at 323-697-6886 or Mike at 818 399-4035.

**Questions about a specific event**, please call the leaders listed in the schedule. Contact info is inside the back page.

**Sign up for the FREE GLS email list**, with a weekly email digest of GLS events, go to: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/news/MailingLists.asp>. Your email address remains confidential and is not displayed to others.

## Next GLS Management Comm. Meeting

The next GLS management committee meeting has not been scheduled, but will probably be in April.

GLS management committee meetings are (usually) held about every two months, on weeknight evenings, by conference call. All GLS subscribers are welcome.

You may call one of the committee members to confirm meeting time, how to call in, or ask about the agenda, or for other information.

### GLS Mission

The Gay & Lesbian Sierrans Section of the Angeles Chapter fosters the purposes of the Sierra Club by making available a wide range of events for gays, lesbians, and their friends. These activities include conservation, education, hikes, bike rides, beach walks, car camps, boat trips, social gatherings and fundraising.

### GLS Newsletter

The GLS newsletter, TRACKS, is published six times a year. Annual subscriptions are \$15 for issues sent by US mail, \$10 for issues sent in PDF format by email, \$25 for both. Three year subscriptions are, respectively, \$35, \$20, and \$55. Send subscription requests and related membership correspondence to: GLS, P.O. Box 1300, South Pasadena CA, 91031-1300.

### Mgmt. Committee

**Grace Hengst**,  
Chair  
**Sharon Hartley**,  
Co-Chair  
**SK Chiou**,  
Treasurer  
**Amanda Smith**,  
Secretary  
**Brad Keistler**,  
At-Large

### Other GLS Volunteers

**Membership**,  
Jeff Cuevas  
**Conservation**,  
Tom Molloy  
**Webmaster**,  
Alan Schimpff  
**TRACKS Editor**,  
Jeff Johnson

.....  
**Our outing volunteers are listed on page 11.**

## Safety Corner

*(Continued from the previous page)*

simple, free, photocopied trail guide from a visitor's center might be useful in an emergency. You won't know unless you have one with you on the trail.

As the weather warms, we'll all be thinking about getting out there again. To prepare, check out the LTC nav schedule below and find a nav noodle or beginner's clinic you could attend. Also watch out for my next "Very Basic Nav Workshop," which I hope to hold in the fall. If you're really interested in learning to use a map and compass, search for orienteering events. Orienteering uses special maps and takes place on a set course, but the skills involved- terrain recognition, using a compass to determine location and direction of travel, and more- are essentially the same skills needed to navigate in the back country. There are also books and other organizations and classes you can try.

As Bob said, "we encourage you to attend one of our navigation events in 2013. Our noodles are held in scenic areas and all are free. We will work with you to accomplish your navigation objectives and you will receive a variety of helpful navigation materials. And if you are a

prospective leader, we will help you pass the checkoff. Many pass on the first attempt while others require more practice."

To sign up for any of these nav outing dates, please email LTC Navigation Chair Bob Myers at [rmmymers@ix.netcom.com](mailto:rmmymers@ix.netcom.com).

Date	Day	Location
April 20, 2013	Sat	Warren Point Navigation Noodle, JTNP
April 21, 2013	Sun	Warren Point Navigation Noodle, JTNP
May 4, 2013	Sat	Beginning Navigation Clinic
June 1, 2013	Sat	Heart Bar Peak, SBNF
June 2, 2013	Su	Grinnell Ridge Navigation Noodle, SBNF
August 4, 2013	Sun	Mt. Pinos Navigation Noodle, LPNF
September 22, 2013	Sun	Grinnell Ridge Navigation Noodle, SBNF
Fall [to be announced]	Sat	Beginning Navigation Clinic
November 16, 2013	Sat	Indian Cove Navigation Noodle, JTNP
November 16, 2013	Sat	Navigation Workshop on Third Class Terrain, Indian Cove, JTNP
November 17, 2013	Sun	Indian Cove Navigation Noodle, JTNP
December 8, 2013	Sun	Warren Point Navigation Noodle, JTNP

## Joshua Tree Weekend

*(Continued from the previous page)*

pink frosting swirls. Old friends and new friends, laughter and camaraderie, over 30 of us communed by the campfire! We enjoyed Barbara's cones that produced colored flames.

Sunday a 4 mile-loop nature hike was offered. Others meandered through the unique plants in the park. Susan Campo and Marie Ammerman led an I-rated, 11 mile cross-country hike to the highest point in the park, Quail Mtn. and also to a peak newly named. Minerva Hoyt peak is named after a lady from Pasadena who after losing an infant child spent a lot of time in the desert. She became so interested in the desert plants that she convinced FDR to make Joshua Tree a National Monument in the 1930s. Later Pres. Clinton made it a National Park. We also need to give a word of thanks to our I-rated leader, Ann Mullins for the use of her topo map and to Alan Schimpff for suggesting that we hike to these peaks in spite of the fact that it was his fourth time doing it in the same year.

Sunday evening some of the folks headed home while others enjoyed sharing a Mexican dinner. Monday was a holiday so many enjoyed one more day of beautiful desert scenery.

Keep your eyes on Tracks so you can join GLS next time Barbara plans a campout! A tip to the wise: Get your reservation in early!



*In January, LTC Navigation Chair Bob Myers led a group on a cold weather navigation outing on snowshoes at and around Mount Pinos. Marie Ammerman was there and took these pictures.*



*Marie's navigation hike in Black Rock Canyon near camp at Joshua Tree. Photos from Susan.*

# Bedford Peak

By Jeff Johnson

For several years, GLS has had a late winter hike to Bedford Peak in Orange County. This year, some things worked out pretty well for this hike.

Though rain the day before caused the Forest Service to close the road past the trailhead, the road was closed only to motor vehicles. We were able to walk in to the trailhead from the town of Silverado.

Another effect of rain the day before a winter hike is fresh snow on the 10,000'+ peaks you can see to the north from here. Our highest elevation on this hike is just over 3800' so we did not expect much snow on the trail. We started out under blue skies and sunshine, hoping for dramatic views of distant white mountains.

Geologist Laura was coleader this year. Right after the trailhead, ❶ she pointed out by the trail some layers of sandstone and siltstone, called turbidite. She guessed this might be part of the Bedford Canyon Formation, which has the oldest exposed rocks in Orange County.



A little snow on the north side of Mount Modjeska, 5496 feet, 2nd highest peak in the Santa Anas.

Higher up, we passed a disturbed area by the trail that might suggest exploratory digging, if you were looking for signs of old mining activity. This area is full of old mines, many of which (I read) are in the Bedford Canyon formation, mostly on the opposite side of the canyon. These are the mines that put the “silver” in Silverado. The most famous is the Blue Light Mine, which operated on and off from the late 19th century through World War 2. In 2002, two brothers died exploring the mine. Most of the mine’s entrances have since been closed off.

One of the last switchbacks on the trail cuts into the hillside, exposing ❷ more turbidite layers, but here with dramatic ripples and folds. Laura explained that this was probably caused by compression during later geological activity. After the Bedford Canyon Formation was formed, the underlying granitic core of the present mountains rose up from beneath, and other volcanic activity moved things around, heaving and squashing and causing lots of deformation. The rocks associated with that volcanic activity are called the Santiago Volcanics, and are now mostly worn away. But these disruptions in the Bedford Canyon Formation are said to be what

caused the formation of the minerals that have been mined here.

At the first significant ridgetop, we could see snow-covered Baldy to the north, just visible through clouds. From there we had another mile of ridge walking on old fire roads, with just a dusting of snow in the shadows, then a brief climb through brush to the summit.

At the summit we were disappointed to find the clouds completely obscuring the view of all the mountains to the north. That one glimpse of Baldy was about all the snowy peaks that we saw that day. And it was cold sitting on the peak in the shade in the wind, so we did not dawdle long before heading back down the way we came.

On the way down, Laura spotted something ❸ that we had not seen yet. In this spot, we saw the recognizable turbidite layers and, on top of them at a different angle, some other kind of rock that Laura thought might be a small igneous intrusion that might be a diabase dike. Later, when Laura later looked more closely at a bit of that rock, she said that she was able to see plagioclase feldspar crystals, which is consistent with the idea of it being a diabase dike. That may be a bit of the Santiago Volcanics.

Back at the trailhead, we found that the Forest Service Visitor Center in the parking lot was open, staffed by an eager volunteer inside. A hopeful sign for 2013, since in my 20 years of trips from this trailhead, this building has never been open before.



Some of the group at the summit ridge of Bedford Peak.

## Anne's I Provisional

*(Continued from the first page)*

But back to Feb 2nd, the day of Anne's I-provisional. Almost 20 people showed up. As I parked my truck, I noticed a familiar GLS face in the space next to mine – SK's. Got out and walked to where Anne was having everybody sign in. Quite a mix of hikers from different organizations – the Peaks section, WTC, rock climbing clubs, and Perfect Pace. Anne, as usual, had everything under control, and actually got everybody on the trail a good ten minutes

prior the official start time of 7:30 a.m.

The trailhead was at Hidden Valley Day Use picnic area in Joshua Tree, most of it cross country. Joshua Trees were abundant until we reached the first gully to take us out of the desert floor. Anne had her compass and topo map in hand as she navigated us towards our first peak, Quail Mountain, the highest point in Joshua Tree National Park at 5,813'. After a break for lunch, we then proceeded to the next peak, Mount Minerva Hoyt (5405'), named after a Southern belle from Mississippi whose

eventually descending to the gully that would lead us back to the desert floor. We all got to bag a third peak along the ridge.

I actually did this hike for a fourth time with Susan

Campo and Marie Ammerman leading a group of GLS hikers over Presidents' Day weekend. Different people (and weather conditions) on the trail always makes for a different experience.

And Anne did get a passing evaluation for her I-rated day hike. Now on to planning her I-rated backpack this summer...



Leader Anne, with her map. Photo Alan Stauffer.

A break on the way to Quail Mountain. Photo Alan Stauffer.



efforts were instrumental in the existence of what we now know as the Joshua Tree National Park. From Minerva Hoyt Peak, we followed the ridge line (probably my favorite part of the day) through yucca trees,

## More Joshua Tree Pictures

*Photos from Susan except as noted*

Setting off to Quail Mountain



J.T. GLSer Eric with Amber.

Photo Alan Schimpff.

Around the campfire at dusk on Saturday evening, the evening of the potluck and Barb's colorful pine cones.



Distant Mt. San Jacinto under snow.



On the way to Panorama Point.



Photo from Alan.



# Conservation Notes

By Tom Molloy

## Dogs and Hiking

Many of us dogs lovers, enjoy bringing our dogs on hikes designated as dog hikes.

Here are a few good things to remember:

1. Dogs are not always allowed. Check to trip notes to see if it's a dog hike. Leaders of course need to research to see if dogs are allowed on a particular trail before designating a dog hike.

2. In Southern California, most trails where dogs are allowed require them to be on a leash. The reason is that dogs can disturb other hikers, get in fights with other dogs along the trail, and scare wildlife away. Dogs off leash can be an impediment and/or hazard to the safety of hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians and often harass or intimidate wildlife

3. Good trail etiquette calls for the dog and owner, yield the right of way to hikers, bikers and horses.

4. Dogs in wilderness upset the life cycles of Coyotes, Bob cats, fox, Deer and other animals who won't forage for food where a dog has "marked" thus lessening their range. Dogs often chase quail and other birds inadvertently sometimes killing their young.

5). Dogs will pick up wilderness ticks and poison oak on their coats, potentially bring Lyme disease and poison oak into your home.

6). Last but not least, if you dog is with you, pick up or bury it! (you know what)

## Help stop the spread of the New Zealand Mud Snail

The invasive non-native New Zealand mud snail has found its way into our Southern California streams and rivers, and they



Left: sign at a trailhead at Peters Canyon Regional Park in Orange County.

Right: New Zealand mudsnails, *Potamopyrgus*



*antipodarum*, with a dime, for scale.

From <[http://fl.biology.usgs.gov/pics/nonindig\\_mud\\_snail/mudsnail/mudsnail\\_4.html](http://fl.biology.usgs.gov/pics/nonindig_mud_snail/mudsnail/mudsnail_4.html)>

have through much of the U.S.

Impacts to contaminated waterways can be substantial. They can reduce food resources and populations of other macro-invertebrates, particularly mayflies, caddis flies and chironomids. They can also reduce whole-stream algal production. There is very little information New Zealand mudsnail as a food resource for fish, but it does not appear that they are a preferred food of trout. There is general consensus that New Zealand mud snail could have a significant impact on trout fisheries, including federally listed species. To help avoid their spread...

### The basics:

- Don't be a carrier! Avoid transferring anything wet (especially, waders, boots, and gear) from stream to stream.
- Keep it DRY! After every trip to a stream or lake, remove all mud and debris, visually inspect, and completely dry your belongings. If you can, put your wet things in the dryer on high heat for a minimum of 2 hours. Air drying your belongings at temperatures of at least 85°F for 24 -48 hours will also kill mudsnails.

These are the easiest, and most basic things you can do to prevent the spread of New Zealand Mudsnails and prevent the introduction of other invasive species into our local waterways.

### For extra steps you can:

- If you wade, freeze waders and other gear overnight (at least 6 hours).
- Have extra waders and boots that are used only in infested waters. Store them separately.
- After leaving the water, inspect waders, boots, float tubes, boats/trailers—any gear used in the water.
- Remove visible snails with a stiff brush and follow with rinsing.
- If possible, freeze or completely dry out any wet gear.
- Never transport live fish or other aquatic animals or plants from one water to another.

Snails range in size from a grain of sand to 1/8 inch in length and are black or brown in color.

More information at:

<<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/mudsnail>>

## Los Leones, Trippet Ranch, and Beyond

By Jeff Johnson

This January 19 hike was the kind California winter hike you want to your friends in (let's say) Rochester about when they are in a snow blizzard. The miles of sunny, skyline ridges above the Pacific Ocean. The view from the Parker Mesa overlook of the towers of downtown L.A., of beaches, of local mountain ranges rolling off into the distance, and the

Channel Islands all the way out even to (I believe) San Nicolas and San Clemente.



Lunch under the rustic, gnarled oaks of Trippet Ranch State Park in Topanga

Canyon. Then on to the end of the trail at some place called Vereda da la Montura, named for that movie star who once lived down the street from your house. Who knows, it might be true. And what better company than a dozen friendly GLS hikers? Thank you Anna and Alan!

# Outings & Events

## March

**March 2, Saturday**

**O: Angeles National Forest Restoration Nancy Beverly** (event organized by Tree People)

After the Station Fire a few years ago, the Angeles National Forest needs our help with restoration, so join us for a morning of tree planting from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. sponsored by Tree People. They will supply the tools, here is what you need to do: wear long pants, dress in layers, bring a jacket, wear closed-toe shoes (hard sole boots strongly recommended). Also, bring sunscreen, a full water bottle, your own snacks and a sack lunch. Bring a day pack as you would to a hike to make sure you have all the necessary items for a safe day. Bulk water will be available to refill your water bottle. Please remember: Tree planting at high elevations can be rigorous work, so enjoy a hearty breakfast before you arrive. I need to have your RSVP (at nancybeverly@sbcglobal.net) by February 9th. I need your name, street address, home & cell phone numbers. I will be checking the Mountain Forestry Hotline (818-623-4871) for event location (which I will email to you) and for last minute changes due to rain, fire, etc. I'm including the number here should you want to check it yourself. Finally: they lock the gate to wherever we'll be going, so it's important that you be on time.

**March 9, Saturday**

**O: Mt. Lowe (5603')**

**Dora Olea, Diane Zaepfel**

Join us for a hike up Mt. Lowe once known as "Railway to the Sky," Los Angeles' first funicular. Only a few foundations exist today! A moderate paced hike. We will pass a beautiful waterfall in the distance, nice trees and views of the city. The gain/loss is 3,798 ft. in 13 miles RT. From the summit we will see Mt. Markham, Brown Mountain, Mt. Disappointment and San Gabriel Peak. Dogs welcome on leash. Must bring Adventure Pass, 2 liters of water, lug soles, sunscreen, and your lunch. Meet at 8am in the Millard campground parking lot. From the 210 exit Lincoln Ave head north 1.9 miles. Turn right on W Loma Alta Dr., make a left on Chaney Trail (flashing red light) 1.5 miles to the parking lot. Contact Dora at chamaca1954@att.net or 213 200-0239 if you have questions. CONTACT LEADER BY EMAIL BY MARCH 8th. Rain cancels.

**March 16, Saturday**

**O: O'Melveny Park**

**Dora Olea, Jeff Johnson**

The second-largest park in L.A. County, smaller only than Griffith Park on the opposite site of the Valley, offers the best view of the San Fernando Valley. We will take a stroll along citrus groves, grassy fields, and a riparian canyon in this tranquil park situated in Granada Hills. The first 0.9 mile explores the initial section of the well-maintained lawns shaded by oaks and eucalyptus trees extended over a quarter-mile into Bee Canyon Trail. For a better view of the Valley and a good workout we will hike up the challenging Mission Point Trail that climbs over 1,000 ft in 1.5 miles. A moderate pace hike with approx. 4 miles round trip. 1,400 ft. elev. gain/loss. Short car shuttle.

Bathrooms and water at the trailhead. Dogs welcome on leash. Bring water, lug soles, sunscreen, and a potluck lunch item to share. Meet 9 am. From CA 118, exit at Balboa Blvd. and head north 2.3 miles to Sesnon Blvd. Make a left on Sesnon, following it for just over 0.5 miles to the entrance of O'Melveny Park on the right. Free parking, carpooling is recommended. Questions? Dora at chamaca1954@att.net or 213 200-0239.

**March 24, Sunday**

**O: Franklin Canyon**

**Barbara Edwards, S.K. Chiou**

This is a reschedule of the hike that was cancelled in January. Franklin Canyon is an undeveloped 600+ acre canyon behind the Beverly Hills Hotel. It features a lake, historic ranch and hillside hiking trails that boast a rich history as movie and TV show locations. Memorable Hollywood moments filmed here can be seen in such films as *It Happened One Night*, and on TV in *The Andy Griffith Show*. We will hike approximately 4.5 miles, 800 feet elevation gain, easy to intermediate. Meet at the Sooky Goldman Nature Center parking lot at 9:30am for coffee and bagels before hiking. Hike starts at 10am. Well behaved dogs on leashes welcome. Don't forget water, lunch and hiking boots. Directions: From the 101 Freeway, take Coldwater Canyon Boulevard south to the intersection of Coldwater Canyon and Mulholland Drive. Make a 90 degree right turn onto Franklin Canyon Drive. There is no street sign "Franklin Canyon." Road signs read "Road Closed 800 Feet" and "Sunset to Sunrise"; this is the park entrance. Do not make a U-turn for this will bring you onto Mulholland Drive instead of Franklin

(Continued next page)

## Weekly Griffith Park Conditioning Hikes

**What:** Every Wednesday night, join us for a moderate (strenuous if you are out of shape) hike to Mt. Hollywood, 6 miles, 1145' gain/loss. This is a great mid-week workout. Lug-soled boots are best for traction, but some hikers wear sneakers. Bring a quart of water, snacks if you like, and a flashlight if not used to hiking in the dark. We have a few tiny breaks on the way up, stop at the top, gawk at the city lights until we get a chill, and then

return to our cars by approx. 9:30 p.m. Dogs are welcome; bring a leash and extra water. Rain cancels.

**When:** Every Wednesday, (except holidays) 7 p.m. sharp, end by 9:30 p.m.

**Where:** By the flagpole near the vending machines at the Crystal Springs Griffith Park HQ/Visitors Center, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, LA.. (Note: Mapquest, Google Maps, etc. may be misleading.)

**Directions:** (1) From I-5 north,

exit at Griffith Park exit, 0.25 mi. beyond Los Feliz Bl. Make a right turn at the 3-way stop sign. Proceed 0.6 mi. and turn in the driveway just before the Ranger Station. If you miss the driveway, proceed 0.1 mi, turn right at the stop sign, drive 0.15 mi. to the parking lot. (2) From Los Feliz Bl., turn north on Crystal Springs Dr. Proceed 0.5 mi. to the 3-way stop sign, go straight, and then follow (1) above directions to the Ranger Station. (3) From Fwy. 134 East, exit Victory Bl. Turn right at the stop sign, then

immediately left onto Zoo Dr. Wind around about 2 miles and turn onto Crystal Springs Dr. south. There may be detours. Proceed approx 1 mi. Turn left at the 4-way stop sign at the Ranger Sta./Crystal Springs area. Drive 0.15 mi and park. (4) From Fwy. 134 West, keep to your right coming out of Glendale. Exit at Zoo Dr, just past San Fernando Rd. Wind around past the Western Heritage Museum to Crystal Springs Dr. Turn left, and proceed as in (3) above.

## Signal Hill Conditioning Walks

**What:** Up, over and around Signal Hill. 3-4 miles, 500-750 ft. gain/loss. Easy if you are in good shape, moderate and

maybe even strenuous if you are out of shape. Walking on pavement and gravel. Sensible walking shoes,

water, layers for cool evening breezes. Drizzle goes, rain cancels. Questions? Call Jeff 562-434-8473.

**When:** Every *last* Wednesday of the month (except

holidays), at 7:00 pm. Back at the cars around 8:30 pm.

**Where:** Meet on Industry, just west of intersection with Redondo, in Signal Hill. Plenty of street parking.

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## Outings and Events

Canyon. Stay on paved surface to reach the Sooky Goldman Nature Center, 2600 Franklin Canyon Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 (310-858-7272). Rain cancels.

### March 30, Saturday

#### O: Descanso Gardens

#### Barbara Edwards, S.K. Chiou

Descanso Gardens is a 160 acre preserve of woodlands, chaparral and fabulous gardens, located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge, 91011, near the intersection of the 210 and 2 freeways. Entrance fees are: Adults 8\$, Seniors/Students \$6. Parking is free. Meet at the entrance at 9 am. We will enter as a group, stroll gingerly through the lilac garden, rosarium and Japanese gardens. Then, break for lunch around 11 am at the picnic area near the parking lot. Bring your own or purchase a gourmet sandwich at the café. After lunch we will visit the Boddy Mansion, California gardens and camellia forests. Blooming in March will be camellias, irises, fragrant lilacs, cherry trees, daffodils and possibly tulips. Our entire stroll will be approx 3 miles, 200 ft gain. If a gingerly stroll is not for you, there are miniature choo-choo train rides and guided tramcar tours available for a nominal fee. Children welcome. RSVP to leader if possible, in case of any last minute changes, at [greyhound@sbcglobal.net](mailto:greyhound@sbcglobal.net). Major rain cancels. <http://www.descansogardens.org/>

## April 2013

### April 7, Sunday

#### O: Arroyo Seco

#### Dora Olea, Jeff Johnson

The trail alternates between following the old road and stream-hopping where roadbed and bridges have washed out. The canyon closes in and the scenery becomes more woodsy – giant canyon oaks, alders, willows, sycamores, and even eucalyptus. It is a short and easy hike, 6 miles round trip, about 4:30 hrs. 500 ft. gain/lost. Nearly obliterated by floods and fires, its nature's stillness reigns supreme in the canyon, broken only by the sound of the arroyo (stream) and hikers' laughs. Our potluck will have near the Brown Canyon Debris Dam. Bring lug soles and extra socks, a potluck item to share, sunscreen, hat and sunglasses as well as plenty of water. Dogs must bring their own water. Bathrooms during the hike. Meet at the parking lot at 9:30 am sharp. From the 210 Freeway, take the Arroyo Blvd. off-ramp and drive N. on Arroyo which promptly becomes Windsor Ave. Continue N. 0.70 miles a parking lot on left hand-side between W. Mountain View St. and Ventura St. Rain cancels. Questions? Contact Dora at

[chamaca1954@att.net](mailto:chamaca1954@att.net) or 213 200-0239.

### April 13, Saturday

#### O: Seven Peaks Plus

#### Susan Lucille Campo, Dora Olea

This fabulous hike was first offered in Jan 2011. Now Susan is back with more! Dora suggested that this outing should be re-named: 10 Peaks and Points. Something new has been added to this loop hike....the rarely visited **Turtle** is back! It is a total 12 miles, 2500 feet gain/loss, and is more **strenuous** than it sounds. But it will prove to be a "blast" for those in good shape and with a spirit of fun and adventure. Getting to the trail head may mean an early rise, but if you want an **amazing** hike, this is it! Bring: at least 3 liters of water, lunch, snacks and appropriate clothing for weather changes. Also bring long sleeve shirt and long pants for passage through some short bushy areas. Meet at 8:30 am at the trailhead. Please RSVP the leader so we will be expecting you! **Specific directions** from SF. Valley: Exit the 101 FWY in Agoura Hills at Kanan Dune road, go left over freeway. In about 6 miles turn right on Mulholland. In 1.8 miles continue left-ish onto Encinal Road. In 4 miles make a right on Lechusa and go a short distance. Turn right on Decker Cyn. Rd. In .7 mile make a sharp left on Mulholland. In only .3 turn right on Little Sycamore Cyn. Rd. (the name of the road changes to Yerba Buena...no problem... and 3.6 miles after you took Little Sycamore you will see trailhead parking on both sides of the road. The one on your left is a larger dirt lot. Park and meet here. It will take you 20 to 30 min. to drive from the exit of the 101 in Agoura Hills to get to the parking lot at our trailhead. If you are coming from the PCH, ocean side, consult your map and note that our meeting point is 2 parking lots past Circle X Ranch ranger station.

### Apr 20 - Apr 21, Sat - Sun

#### O: Los Padres; campout with 2 peaks

#### Dora Olea, Jeff Johnson

Away from modernism but in touch with nature, where nature will be your blanket if you forget your sleeping bag. We will stay in a primitive campsite, bring your own water. First hike planned for Saturday, followed by potluck in camp. The Saturday peak hike route will be announced when access has been verified by the leaders. On Sunday, feeling all fresh and energetic, we will hike about 10 miles R.T. to climb Thorn Point with its lookout tower and views over the Sespe Wilderness, 2000' gain/loss. Bring camping gear, lug soles, dress in layers, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat, water for two days and a potluck item to share. Adventure Pass needed to park. Space is limited. RSVP and details, contact Dora at [chamaca1954@att.net](mailto:chamaca1954@att.net).

### April 21, Sunday

#### O: Rustic Canyon Hike and Adventure

#### Barbara Edwards, S.K. Chiou

Next to Will Rogers State Historic Park, there is a shady canyon with a shady past. Murphy Ranch, a compound built by Nazi sympathizers in the 1930s was abruptly abandoned and left to decay in Rustic Canyon. Now the grounds of Murphy Ranch are uninhabited, dilapidated, and possibly haunted, but beautifully cloaked with live oaks and sycamores. This makes it fabulous for a cool morning hike through woodland trails dotted with Nazi ruins (and ghosts?). We will do a 4 mile hike r/t, with 600 ft gain total. Well behaved dogs on leash allowed. Meet at 9am on the corner of Capri and Amalfi Dr. in Pacific Palisades. There's plenty of free parking in the neighborhood. Bring lunch or a snack, plenty of water, hat, sunglasses, lugsoles. We will return to the cars before 1 pm. Directions: Take 405 Fwy and exit on Sunset Blvd. Drive southwest on Sunset (towards the ocean) for approx. 3.2 miles and turn right (north) on Capri Dr. Proceed for another ½ mile to Amalfi. Questions? Barb at [greyhound@sbcglobal.net](mailto:greyhound@sbcglobal.net).

### April 27, Saturday

#### O: Sandstone Peak Loop, Tri Peaks side trip

#### Anna Baum, Tom Molloy

7.5 miles RT, 1400-ft altitude gain/loss, approximately 4.5 hours hiking. Moderate to strenuous. Stunning panoramic ocean/mountain views. This moderately paced hike takes us on a lovely loop through a shady canyon and past unique formations of volcanic rock masquerading as sandstone formations, then on to the highest peak in the Santa Monicas, Mt. Allen (3,111 feet). We're adding a short side-trip to Tri Peaks for extra credit. We'll have great views of the ocean, the Channel Islands, and perhaps see wildflowers. Meet at Sandstone Peak trailhead parking lot at 9 AM. There is another lot a bit farther up the road, so make sure you're at the one marked Sandstone Peak Trailhead. This parking lot can fill up early; please carpool if possible. From Malibu: Take Pacific Coast Highway (1) north past the Ventura County line. Turn east on Yerba Buena Road. The Sandstone Peak Trailhead parking lot is approximately 5.5 miles from PCH, on the left side, about 1 mile after Circle X Ranch. An alternate route from Westlake Village and the 101: exit on Westlake Blvd from the 101 Freeway, and follow it south for several miles as it merges with Mulholland highway. Turn right onto Little Sycamore Canyon and it will become Yerba Buena Road as you cross the county line. Proceed on Yerba Buena Road for about 4+ miles to

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## Outings and Events

trailhead to the 2ND parking lot on the right side. If you see the Circle X Ranch, you've gone too far. Bring 10 essentials, 2-3 qts water, lunch, snacks, lugsoles, hiking poles. Questions? Contact Anna at 310-990-0610.

## Future Outings

**May 4, Saturday**

**O: Laguna Coast Wilderness Park  
Karen Lovett, Jeff Johnson**

Join us on this easy walk to Orange County's only natural lake. This will be a perfect opportunity for those new to hiking to see what it's all about and why we love it. We will take the Lake Trail out and back for a total of about 2 miles and then take Barbara's Lake Trail which takes us right along the lake and adds another half mile. This is a flat walk with negligible gain and loss. For those who are up for it, once we finish the lake walk, there are other easy trails we may choose to explore. Park at the Nix Nature Center (\$3 fee) and meet at the entrance to the Center at 10am. Bring snacks and water. Dogs not allowed. The nature center is located at 18571 Laguna Canyon Rd. (Route 133) in Irvine, which is 3.5 miles south of I-405, and 5.3 miles north of PCH (Route 1) in Laguna Beach.

**May 11, Saturday**

**O: Channel Island Day Hike  
Mike Brostoff, Tom Molloy**

The Channel Island day hike has now become an annual GLS tradition, attracting over two dozen participants each time. We will be taking a ferry to Santa Cruz Island where we will be offering a variety of hikes for different levels. There is no drinking water or food on the island, so pack your pack as for a normal outing. After returning to the mainland, we will head over to a nearby restaurant (optional.) We will meet at Island Packers 1691 Spinnaker Drive Ventura Harbor 93001 at 715 AM (805) 642-1393. The boat leaves at 8:00 AM. The ride is an hour and we should return to Ventura Harbor by 6:30 PM. The cost for the trip is \$65.00. Most of the fee pays for the ferry, the extra will be sent to Sierra Club conservation. Send a check made payable to GLS to: Mike Brostoff, 11220 Moorpark #110, Studio City CA 91602. Please include a note indicating whether you are interested in dinner afterwards, your e-mail address and the best phone number to reach you. If you don't have e-mail then please include a SASE. Bring minimum 2 quart water, lugsole hiking boots, snacks, & 10 Essentials. Note: in the rare case that weather may be poor, call 805-642-1393 after 5:30AM on the day of the trip. A recording will indicate if the boat is canceled.

**Jun 8 - Jun 9, Sat - Sun**

**O: Backpack, Altadena to Idlehour Trail Camp  
Dora Olea, Grace Hengst**

Details in future TRACKS.

**Jun 15 - Jun 16, Sat - Sun**

**O: Navigation practice hike in the ANF  
Marie Ammerman, TBA**

Details in future TRACKS.

**Jun 22 - Jun 23, Sat - Sun**

**O: Backpacking to San Gorgonio Mt.  
Dora Olea, Kirk Olsen**

Save the date!!!

**Jun 30 - Jul 6, Sun - Sat**

**O: Northern New Mexico  
Mike Brostoff, Grace Hengst**

Spend a week in Northern New Mexico at Takoja Retreats. Nestled on 40 acres, 28 miles north of Taos, the Takoja Retreat Center is surrounded by tall mountains and wide expanses of sage and cedar. There are many activities to suit everyone from exploring unlimited hiking trails and mountains, (including Wheeler Peak, the highest mountain in New Mexico standing at over 13,000 feet) to Taos with its pueblo and diverse artist scene. The mountains offer much more wildlife viewing than we are accustomed to in California. Bighorn sheep, black bears, and marmots are common, with an occasional mountain lion or porcupine sighting for the off trail adventurer, and don't forget, the coyotes will sing you to sleep every star-filled night.

There will be a few group activities, but most of the week is left free to spend the time as you wish. You have your option of camping on the property or staying in the two Adobe domes complete with kitchen, bathrooms and showers. They have added authentic New Mexico cuisine to complement the full buffet breakfasts served every day. In addition, there are three complete evening dinners and one supper of gourmet leftovers. Price for the trip varies depending on the accommodations you choose:

- *Dome:* Private 2 person loft with bathroom: \$400 (per person)
- *Dome:* Communal sleeping area: \$365
- *Camping:* \$315

Since the acoustics of the domes can generate a lot of noise, we are encouraging people to camp. Campers will have access to the bathrooms and showers. Please send check payable to GLS, phone number, address and email address to Mike Brostoff 11220 Moorpark #110 North Hollywood, 91602. If interested in the loft, please contact Mike first to check for availability.

**August 20-23, Tues 6:45am -Fri 5pm**

**O: Mule Pack I, basecamp upper Pine Creek  
Susan Campo, Diane Zaepfel**

What a fabulous opportunity to explore the wilderness above Bishop, CA! The mules save your back by carrying in our camping supplies and dropping them at our base camp. You hike with only your day pack. The hike to the base camp is "moderate", 2000 feet gain and 6 miles to camp at 10000' elevation. You are free to relax, fish, enjoy nature around the many lakes

of the area. One day some will want to explore west toward Italy Pass. Another day we can go south on a trail over Pine Creek Pass to the lake area (Moon Lake) at the top of French Canyon. (We will be north of where we hiked one day last summer on the Mt. Humphrey Mule pack trip.) Optional hikes range up from 6 to 12 miles RT (visit up to 12000' elev.), but you can also spend the days doing less strenuous nature walks at 10000'. You will need to drive up to our pack station on Aug 19 and camp overnight for free or drive up from Bishop very early on Aug 20. We are finished by 5 pm on Aug. 23.... You must reserve ASAP. The good news is that this packer is more reasonable than last year; we get the dunnage drop for \$275 each (a bargain!). Email leader soon with personal questions and to show your interest. Also see the outing below. NOTE: Some of those people on the above Mule Pack trip will be staying over in Bishop for the nights of Aug. 23 and 24 so as to position ourselves again for the SECOND mule pack adventure. We will use that time to do laundry, buy more food, eat, drink and REST! You are welcome to sign up for just one of the 2 consecutive mule pack trips or both.

**August 25-28, Sun 7am - Wed by 5 pm**

**O: Mule Pack II, basecamp Horton Lake (optional hike up Mt. Tom)  
Susan Campo, TBA**

This trip is open to beginners and does not involve as much elevation gain or distance as the previous mule pack. We will walk in approximately 5 miles, 1000 foot gain. However, for those well-conditioned and prepared, (leader's approval necessary), we will use one of our layover days to hike up Mt. Tom, 13652' elev., 3652' gain, partly on "use trails" and scree (6 miles RT depending on route from base camp, "strenuous" hike). Others can relax in the meadows and lakes below and will enjoy their experience as well. Other days we will explore the upper Horton Basin together and sit by a beautiful waterfall. You will see Four Gables Peak looming above us. Gorgeous! (This trip is slightly more than the first one because of a fuel surcharge to bring the mules over and back to the Pack Station by trailer.) Less than last year's dunnage drop, this trip is \$290 per person. You must reserve ASAP. Email the leader soon to indicate interest and ask questions. NOTE: If you want to attend the GLS campout at Rock Creek, you can do your laundry in Bishop and be right on time for your next outing!

**Aug 29 - Sep 1, Thu - Mon**

**O: Rock Creek  
Barbara Edwards, Grace Hengst, Jude Demarrah**

Rock Creek, Palisades Group site, carcamp. More info to follow.

**December 21, Saturday**

**O: Christmas Tree Count  
Susan Lucille Campo, Diane Zaepfel**

More info to follow.

## March and April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	4	5	6 Griffith Park Anne, Dora	7	MAR 1  8 _____	2 Angeles National Forest Restoration Nancy, Tree People  9 Mount Lowe Dora, Diane
10	11	12	13 Griffith Park Marie, Nancy	14	15	16 O'Melveny Park Dora, Jeff J.
17	18	19	20 Griffith Park Dora, Mike	21	22	23
24 Franklin Canyon Barbara, SK	25	26	27 <small>full moon</small>  Griffith Park Marie, Susan  Signal Hill	28	29	30 Descanso Gardens Barbara, SK
31	APR 1	2	3 Griffith Park Marie, Dora	4	5	6
7 Arroyo Seco Dora, Jeff J.	8	9	10 Griffith Park Anne, Susan	11	12	13 Seven Peaks Plus Susan, Dora
14	15	16	17 Griffith Park Nancy, Mike	18	19 <i>t</i>	20 Los Padres campout Dora, Jeff J.  <i>Through Sunday</i>
21 Rustic Canyon Barbara, SK  <i>End Los Padres campout</i>	22	23	24 Griffith Park Anne, Amanda  Signal Hill	25 <small>full moon</small> 	26	27 Sandstone Peak Loop Anna, Tom
28	29	30	MAY 1 Griffith Park TBA	2	3	4 Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Karen, Jeff J.

# GLS Leader Contact Information

Please call after 9 AM and before 9 PM

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Teresa Nick	612-384-0421	nickx002@tc.umn.edu
Tom Molloy	310-589-9125	tomsmolloy@yahoo.com

## GLS Outings Volunteers

**Mike Brostoff, Outings Schedule**  
Contact Mike about scheduling outings, to check for available dates, and to submit write-ups.

**Dawn Wilson, Outings Liaison to Angeles Chapter**  
Contact Dawn about questions of leadership requirements and Sierra Club

Outings Policy. Dawn is the primary person to read the communications from the Angeles Chapter regarding outings and inform the other leaders.

**Laura Rainey, Weekly Reminder**  
Laura sends out the weekly email announcing upcoming events. If an event must be altered or canceled after publication, e-mail Laura and cc Mike.



## Important Outing Information

### Waiver

To participate in a Sierra Club outing, you must sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver before the outing, go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or call 415-977-5630.

### Rating Codes

*These codes indicate the technical difficulty, not the strenuousness.*

**O** Applies to uncomplicated outings such as hikes on trails or the equivalent (with minimal navigation skills).

**I** Includes outings that involve cross-country travel where navigation is necessary. Rougher ground than "O" outings may be traversed, and use of hands for balance may be necessary. Climbing level: 2nd class terrain.

**C** Events under external

control of a non-Sierra Club entity, (i.e. ranger, guide, concessionaire).

### Outing Reservations

Reservation fees of from \$5-\$15 are refunded only when you show up and if they aren't needed to offset costs.

Cancellation policy on more expensive trips is as follows: Cancellation within 30 days, no refund without replacement. If your spot is filled, 90% will be refunded. This policy is in effect unless the leader states otherwise in writing. Always send two SASEs, contact and drive/carpool information. Make checks payable to "GLS".

### Dogs

For most people, the presence of a well-behaved dog can be entertaining, or at worst a mild annoyance. However, this is not true for everyone. Some people suffer from various

levels of fear of dogs. Because of this, and the potential intrusion on wildlife, the Sierra Club policy is that dogs are not allowed on Club outings unless the write-up states DOGS OK. Make sure you bring adequate food, water, a bowl, and a long leash.

### Seller of Travel Notice

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

### Adventure Pass

National Forests in Southern California (Los Padres, San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and Cleveland) require parked cars to display an Adventure Pass. The pass is available from ranger stations, sporting goods stores, and other local merchants and costs \$5 per day or \$30 per year. Plan on getting it before your outing, as most outlets do not open early. Many Sierra Club members dispute this user fee and

protest it by not buying a pass, possibly incurring a ticket. The choice is yours.

### Carpooling

To facilitate the travel logistics for outings, participants often 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 participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

### Rideshare Points

Directions to all rideshare points in the Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities or at: [http://angeles2.sierraclub.org/get\\_outdoors/know\\_you\\_go/rideshare\\_meeting\\_places](http://angeles2.sierraclub.org/get_outdoors/know_you_go/rideshare_meeting_places)

### La Canada Rideshare Point

Exit 210 at Rte 2 / Angeles Crest Hwy. Go N (uphill) 1/4 mi on Rte 2, park at curb on right, on long uphill.

# TRACKS

SIERRA CLUB/GLS

P.O. BOX 1300

SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91031-1300

# TRACKS

Subscribe to TRACKS, the GLS newsletter, and find out about all the GLS outings and events every month. You do not need to be a Sierra Club member to subscribe.

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South Pasadena, CA 91031-1300



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