

TRACKS



November/December 2015

Volume 28, No. 6

By Jeff Johnson

The summer of 2015 was not good for hiking in the local mountains. It was hot, then hotter, then there was fire, and smoke, then storms, or at least the threat of storms, and then more storms. Our hikes kept getting canceled during the peak summer season when we should have been out enjoying the beauty of wild southern California together.

But by October, things still looked good for our scheduled hike in the San Gabriels from Dawson Saddle to Mt. Baden-Powell. Then a summer rockslide onto the Angeles Crest Highway east of Islip Saddle cut off access to Dawson Saddle.

So what could we do that would be high enough not to be too hot, and would not be overrun by crowds diverted from closed areas? Most of us have been to Mt.

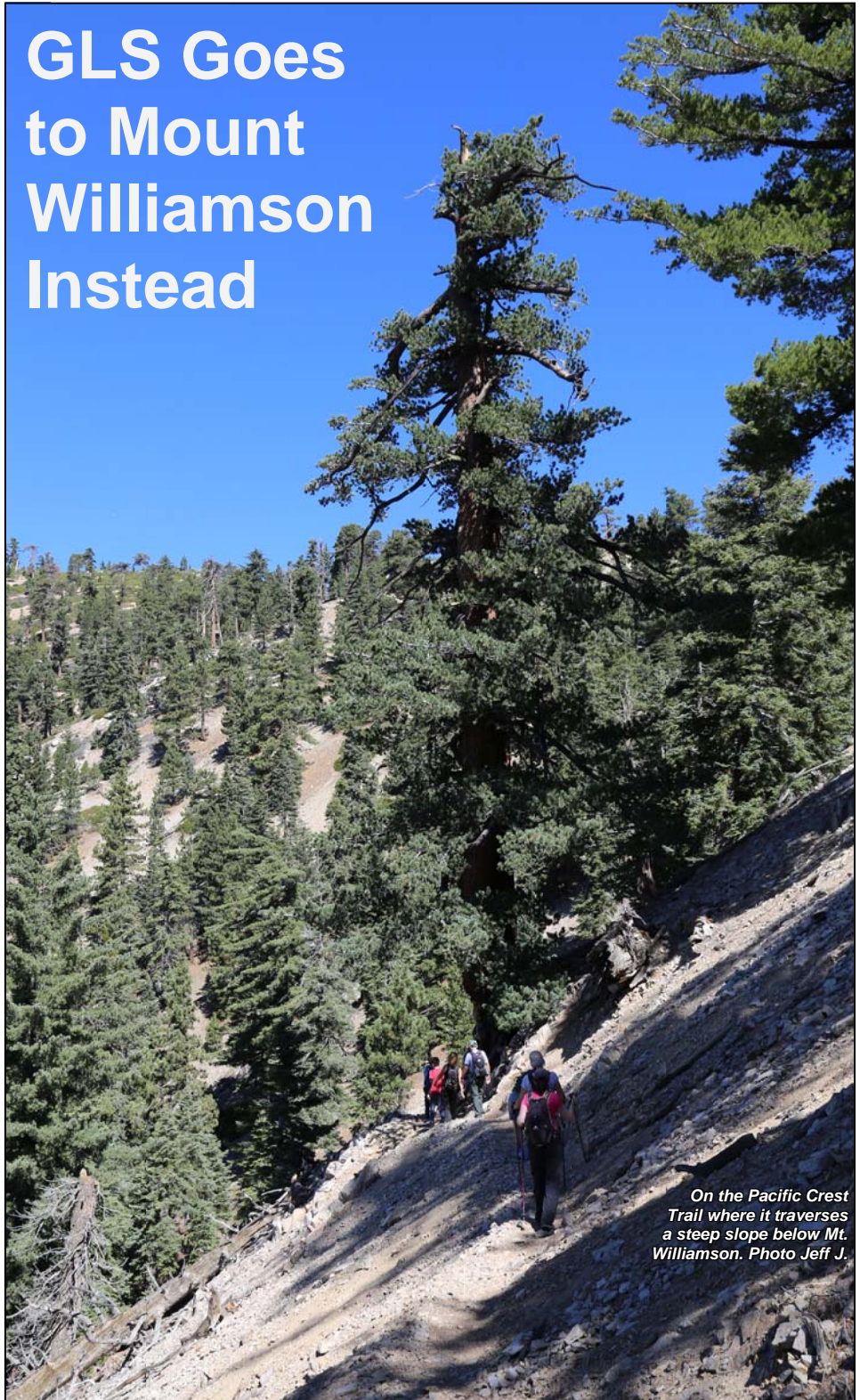


Islip enough times recently. How about Mt. Williamson from Islip Saddle? The trail from the Islip Saddle parking lot toward Mt. Williamson is a section of the Pacific Crest Trail. I had never been to Mt. Williamson. So I joined the GLS group that diverted there on October 10.

Some of us started up the trail a little weighed down because we didn't trust the weather even for a short day hike, so brought extra layers and extra water. It

(Continued on page 4)

GLS Goes to Mount Williamson Instead



On the Pacific Crest Trail where it traverses a steep slope below Mt. Williamson. Photo Jeff J.

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Message from the GLS Chair

All good things must come to an end, but only so even better things can come into being. A couple of us will be leaving the GLS board, including myself, which means there will be an opportunity for new folks to jump into the ring and help out. I have

learned a lot about GLS, and FROM GLS during my two years as Chairperson, and I am proud to have served you all to the best of my ability. All the board members have worked hard, and are dedicated to the health and well-being of our organization. It's been

a privilege to serve with them. Thanks to all of you for your support of my efforts, and I wish you all well in everything you do. In the meantime, if you are interested in getting more involved with GLS, please contact any board member to express your interest or to ask any questions. Thank you!

Marie Ammerman

A Change to the Weekly Griffith Park Hikes

By Marie Ammerman

As many of you know, GLS has had a weekly hike in Griffith Park since its inception. You may also know that the Sierra Club requires two leaders for all such outings, and given the conditions on these hikes—darkness, steep and sometimes rutted trails, many intersections—two leaders are very necessary. Unfortunately, it's become increasingly difficult to find enough leaders to cover every single week, all year round. We have had to cancel at least one hike because we could not find two leaders; we

have had leaders hiking with injuries just to be sure the weekly hike went ahead. We simply can't go on this way, and with the potential for cancellations anyway due to the strong El Nino predicted, the GLS leadership has decided to try going to a schedule of two hikes per month during the winter. The Griffith Park Conditioning Hike will now officially take place on the first and third Wednesdays during the months of December through March. We will take up a weekly schedule again in April, when we sometimes see an increase in hike attendance.

For those of you who will miss hiking every single week, we encourage you to get together and plan your own private hikes. GLS cannot arrange these for you, or take any responsibility for them, but we always encourage people to get out there and have a good time in nature. Maybe take these non-hike Wednesdays to invite other GLS hikers to explore trails in your neighborhood, or to get together socially in some way. Whatever you do, we wish you the best during this winter, and hope you'll be able to join us for those two hikes each month. Thank you for your understanding, and for your support of GLS and of our dedicated leaders.

GLS Management Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2015

All board members were present except Dawn.

The board discussed GLS' participation in a graffiti removal project at Griffith Park; Nancy is organizing this event and details will be forthcoming. GLS will need to buy supplies for this activity, S.K. reported that we have funds available.

The board also discussed the need for

a leaders meeting; it was agreed that a date will be chosen after the new OARS website goes up.

In addition, the annual Christmas party was discussed; be sure to make it, the Board will be **revealing a surprise during the party!**

Lastly, the board discussed that a few board positions will be open in January.

Next meeting is planned for October 22, 6:30 PM.

Monday, Oct. 22, 2015

The board discussions covered a number of subjects: nominees for the upcoming election; the project to paint over graffiti in Griffith Park on November 21; ongoing plans for a new technology that will take GLS into the future; the holiday party, to take place on December 5, and the **big surprise to be unveiled at the party.**

Next meeting is planned for Tuesday, November 17.

Kyla Hjertstedt and Tammie Barta

Information about GLS

General questions about GLS, call Marie at 818-406-3529 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/mailling_lists>. Your email address remains confidential and is not displayed to others.

On Meetup: <www.meetup.com/GLS-Gay-and-Lesbian-Sierrans>

On Facebook: <www.facebook.com/groups/87511347304>

Next GLS Mgmt. Comm. Meeting

The next management committee meeting is scheduled on Tues. Nov. 17, at 6:30 PM.

GLS management committee meetings are held about every two months, usually 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. Comm. 2015

Marie Ammerman,
Chair
Tim Vo,
Co-Chair
Kyla Hjertstedt and
Tammie Barta,
Secretary
SK Chiou,
Treasurer
Dawn Wilson,
Member at Large

Other GLS Volunteers

Membership,
Jeff Cuevas
Conservation,
Tom Molloy
Webmaster,
Tammie Barta
TRACKS Editor,
Jeff Johnson

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

Safety Corner No. 11

Flash Floods

By Marie Ammerman

With a strong El Nino predicted for the coming winter, it's important to review safety procedures for high water conditions.

The most important things, of course, are preparation and awareness. No matter what area you are going to, be sure to check the weather several times, including right before you leave, and always pay attention to severe weather warnings. If there's a ranger station or visitor center associated with the area, consider calling them to find out the state of any streams, and the expected weather. Also ask about the condition of the trails if there has been

any recent rain which could have caused erosion. As always, plan escape routes that will take you around potentially dangerous stream crossings.

Once you're on your way, watch the weather. Even if skies are clear right over your head, thunderstorms at higher elevations could send higher volumes of water down active streams or down dry gullies and washes you may have to cross. In some places this can happen with astonishing speed; hence the term "flash flood." If there is a snowpack above you, try to create a route that will allow stream crossings in the morning, before the sun has hit the snow and caused melting that will swell the streams downhill.

You've heard that it's not good to cut switchbacks, and erosion is the reason.

Trails are designed to keep erosion to a minimum by using switchbacks, and when people create straight trails that cross those switchbacks, they are also creating a path for water to run straight downhill and erode the banks of the trail, causing trail collapse and/or landslides that cover the trail. As you hike, not only should you stay on the established trail, but also keep an eye on the path as it runs along gullies, canyons, or any steep place. Heavy rains can sometimes undercut a trail, and you will want to stay far from the edge if you see this situation up ahead.

As always, remember that turning back and living to hike another day instead of taking potentially deadly risks is always the wise choice!

Lightning Safety Tips

By Nancy Beverly

Wednesday, October 14, started off like any of the other hundreds of Wednesdays we've hiked Griffith Park in the evening – nothing unusual whatsoever. And then when we were coming down from Mt. Hollywood, around 8:30 p.m., we began to notice flashes in the sky. At first I thought they were plane lights but the flashes continued and we realized we were seeing lightning. We hustled down the fire road to make sure we were no longer on the highest ridge around. I shared with our group that, ironically, I'd sent out just last summer a pdf of a magazine article about lightning safety to our GLS leaders. In "light" of our experience on 10/14 (and the fact that I couldn't remember all of the article's great tips), I thought it would be good to share with everyone via TRACKS the salient points:

- Lightning can strike within 10 miles of a storm (and 30 minutes before or after the rain moves through); sound travels roughly one mile every five seconds
- The only completely safe place is inside a fully-grounded building (not porches or gazebos)
- Lightning can travel through plumbing, wiring or concrete, so stay clear of metal windows and doors, as well as water, and do not lie down on a cement floor
- A hard-top enclosed vehicle is a good second choice; the lightning will travel through the metal frame and down to the ground (it's not the rubber tires protecting you)

If you're out on the trail, which we often are, here are tips for that situation:

- In hot weather in high mountains, be off the peaks before maximum cloud activity in early- to mid-afternoon. That's when rising hot air has been heated enough to form clouds with enough activity in them to cause lightning. On hot days, you often see thunderheads growing over the San Gabriel peaks in the afternoon
- Do not be the highest thing around; get off ridges and get into a deep, dry ravine or canyon
- Do not think a cave will shelter you – lightning can hit the rocky face and jump the entrance to someone standing inside
- Do not stand under a lone tree or utility pole; open fields and water are also extremely dangerous; instead, take shelter under trees of uniform height
- If you're with a group looking for cover, spread out at least 15 feet apart in case one person is struck (then the current would be less likely to strike others)
- If you have a backpack, sit on it, without your feet touching the ground; the next best thing is to crouch with your feet together (get rid of your hiking poles); do NOT lie down
- If someone is struck, call 911 if you can; assess the situation (do not put yourself in further harm) and move the person to a safer location – you can touch them, they don't carry an electrical charge; check for breathing and a pulse and administer CPR if necessary
- Lightning CAN strike the same place twice

GLS Election

If you are a GLS subscriber...

Please vote for management committee members who will serve for the next two years. You can vote by mail or by email—instructions on the ballot attached to this issue.

Why wait for Spring cleaning? If you have trail guides, travel books, bestsellers, field guides, camping or hiking gear in good/clean condition (tents, sleeping bags, boots, poles, backpacks, etc), or anything else you want out of the closet - come to the GLS holiday party and donate them to the silent auction fundraiser. All proceeds go to GLS. Barbara Edwards will be our auction coordinator.

GLS Holiday Party

Sat., Dec. 5, 2 - 6 pm
at Grace and Mary's
house in Los Angeles

More info on page 8

PHOTO CONTEST guidelines p. 5

Mount Williamson

(Continued from page 1)

wasn't long before we met a PCT through hiker whose backpack looked smaller than mine. He said that everyone brings too much stuff. He had shipped a bunch of stuff home from Washington right after he started in the Spring. He said the group he was with was averaging 25 miles a day. For us, maybe some day, but not October 10.

This is a nice section of trail, well-maintained and, since this area has not burned recently, many trees. Lots of views in all directions from a different perspective than from the peaks that we visit most often, which are to the south of Mt. Williamson. Since most of the people in the trailhead parking lot were going south on the PCT, our trail on the north side of the road was not crowded.

At the junction of the PCT and the Mt. Williamson spur trail, we met a group of Korean hikers, or at least hikers from Koreatown in L.A. who were speaking Korean. They took our pictures and we took theirs.

The summit of Mt. Williamson is one of several bumps on Pleasant View Ridge, but we were not completely sure which of those bumps it was. We found a stone pile on the top of the first bump and decided to call that bump the summit. After a snack and a brief nap for at least one of us, we headed down. We made it back to the La Canada rideshare point early enough to still get things done that afternoon.

This hike is worth repeating. Maybe next time we can continue to more distant bumps on Pleasant View Ridge.



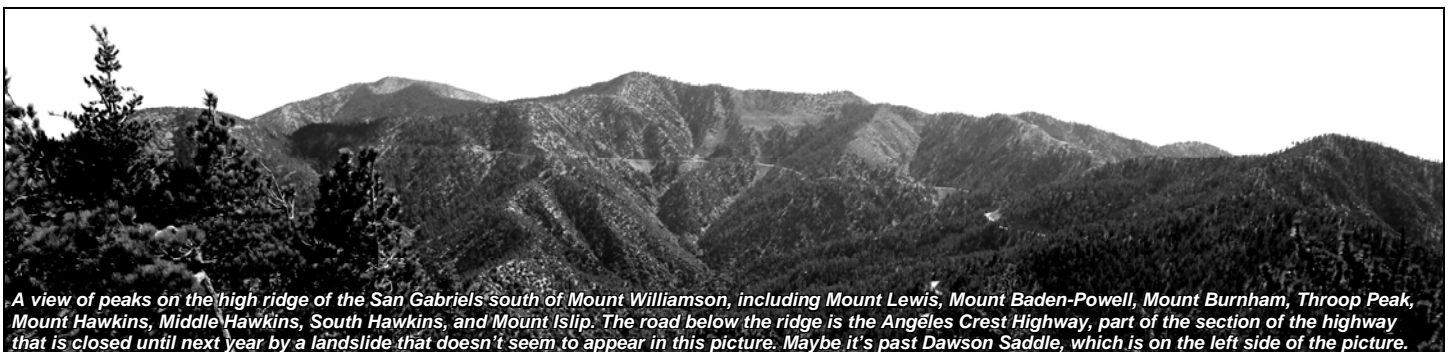
Group shots and selfies at an overlook on the PCT. Photo Nancy Beverly.



Checking the map to decide whether we really had arrived at the summit of Mt. Williamson or whether it was the higher bump in the background. Photo Jeff Johnson



On a shoulder of Mt. Williamson, heading down. Photo Jeff Johnson



A view of peaks on the high ridge of the San Gabriels south of Mount Williamson, including Mount Lewis, Mount Baden-Powell, Mount Burnham, Throop Peak, Mount Hawkins, Middle Hawkins, South Hawkins, and Mount Islip. The road below the ridge is the Angeles Crest Highway, part of the section of the highway that is closed until next year by a landslide that doesn't seem to appear in this picture. Maybe it's past Dawson Saddle, which is on the left side of the picture.

GLS Photo Contest

It's back! Submit your pictures from GLS hikes in the past year. We'll all be looking at the pictures at the **Holiday Party on Dec. 5** and voting for our favorites then.

- Any GLS subscriber may submit up to 10 photos taken on GLS outings between December 1, 2014 and November 30, 2015.
- Submit photos before December 3 to: <alanschimpff@netscape.net>.
- Submit photos as digital files, JPEG format (.jpg). Any size is all right, but very large photos may be resized smaller to work better online.
- Photos may be of any subject relevant to the mission of GLS.
- Consider whether the people in your pictures are OK with it.
- Holiday Party attendees will vote for their favorites at the party.
- Winners will be published in Tracks.
- Submit each photo with:
 - Your name
 - Name and date of the GLS outing when you took the picture
 - Optional title for the picture
 - Optional description, up to 50 words long
 - Optional contest category (or categories) for each picture
- Voters will vote for their favorites overall and in some categories:
 - Group shot
 - GLS people
 - On the trail
 - In camp
 - Flora (plants and trees)
 - Fauna (animals)
 - Landscape and scenery
 - Humor
- GLS will provide a slide show of the pictures at the Holiday Party, so we can view them there before voting.
- Photos will be posted for viewing online at: <<http://www.flickr.com/photos/43971315@N03/>> without your name but with the descriptive info you provide and with an identifying number. The Flickr address will be posted on our website, <www.sierraclub.org/angeles/gay-lesbian-sierrans>
- In case of questions, GLS management committee members will decide how to proceed.



Ventura to Ojai by Bike

Story and photos
by Kyla Hjerstedt

Ready, set, pedal!

If you ask me, there's nothing like a good bike ride. And perhaps the only thing better than cycling with friends, is cycling, with friends, free of vehicles of the four (or more) tire variety!

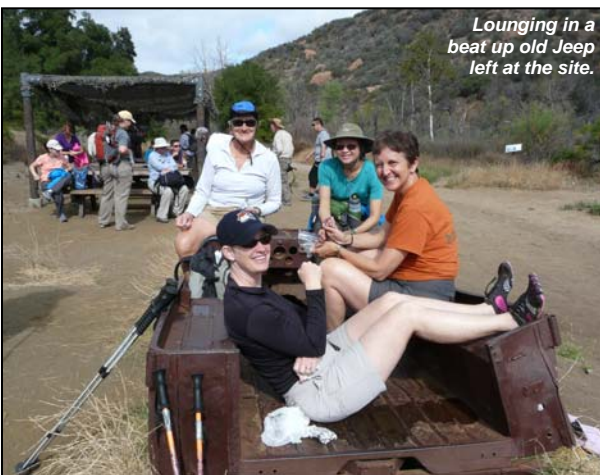
Lucky for me, I found 8 other souls who thought a 32 mile ride from Ventura to Ojai sounded like a good way to spend a Saturday morning. The Ventura River Trail connecting coastal city to artsy agricultural town, provides an amazing opportunity for walkers, joggers, and cyclists to experience

a mixture of landscapes, outdoor art pieces, and industrial spaces. It's a good representation of So. Cal, if you ask me; a little bit of everything within an hour and a half drive...or in our case, ride. As the tradition goes, once the 16 mile trek to Ojai is accomplished, it's time to sit back and chat over a good meal at the Ojai Cafe Emporium. True to fashion we ate, drank, and shared lots of words and laughter. A big thanks to all who braved the unusually hot for October weather and made the journey from Ventura to Ojai and then back again.



Tammie's Provisional Hike to the M*A*S*H Site at Malibu Creek State Park

By Tammie Barta, photos by Nancy Beverly



Lounging in a beat up old Jeep left at the site.



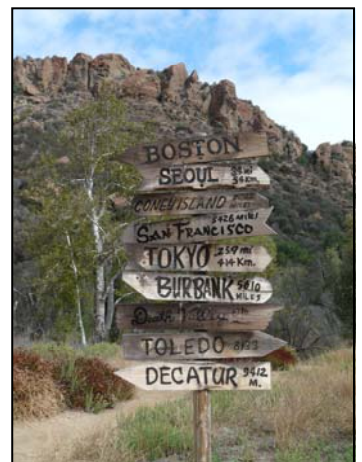
Some historical photos on view in a shed at the site.

The weeks leading up to my provisional hike were filled with record highs, unheard of intermittent humidity (at least for So. Cal), and what felt like unending sun filled skies. I found myself hoping that Malibu Creek State Park would be close enough to the ocean to offer us a good day of hiking as the date neared. Who would have guessed we'd ALMOST get rained out!

The phone calls started at 6am, not many, but a few. The rain had been coming down throughout Los Angeles county for most of the night and as the morning overtook the night the rain lessened but didn't stop; people wanted to know if the hike was still on. My answer, of course, I'd be there rain or shine. It was the morning of my provisional hike and I was getting nervous. Would the hike be rained out? All we could do was show up and see what the weather had in store for us.

It rained on and off during our drive from Temple City to Malibu Creek State Park, but when we arrived, there wasn't a rain drop in sight. We had beautiful blue skies and big white puffy clouds. It was my perfect day.

We had a full group with a total of 26 in



attendance. It was a pleasant hike to the M*A*S*H site where we stopped for a snack break and photographs with the set memorabilia. When we returned to the trailhead I thanked everyone by bringing out some yummy brownie bites.

Again, thank all of you who joined me on my provisional hike!

Outings & Events

November

November 7-8, Saturday-Sunday

O: Big Bear: Sugarloaf Mt.

Nancy Beverly, Kyla Hjertstedt

It's becoming an annual tradition: Big Bear in the fall! On Saturday, we plan to make it to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain, which we fell a little short of last year. It's roughly 10 miles roundtrip with 2000' elevation gain, going up to 9952'. If you're planning on coming on that hike, get some rigorous hikes in! On Sunday morning, we'll adlib – perhaps an easy hike on the way out of town, or if the weather is good, a little kayaking... and then there is the Big Bear Discovery Center to explore. If you'd like to spend the night Saturday at Tammie & Kyla's (our gracious hostesses!) in Big Bear, RSVP to nancybeverly at sbcglobal.net by November 3rd (by then we should know the weather forecast). If you're just hiking Saturday, RSVP by noon November 6th. Directions to the appropriate trailhead & the gals' home will be sent out. Sorry, no showing up at the last minute – we may have to change plans due to the weather and who knows what the cell phone service will be. For the hike(s), bring the ten essentials and for staying overnight, bring money for dinner at a restaurant, whatever you'd like for breakfast, and a sleeping bag. Overnight indoor guest limit is eight; there is a little room on the out-door porch for

sleeping under the (chilly) stars and driveway space for camper type things (no tents in the yard, sorry!). Questions to Nancy: nancybeverly at sbcglobal.net.

November 8, Sunday

O: Three T's: Thunder Mt. (8587'), Telegraph Peak (8985'), Timber Mt. (8303) from Baldy Notch to Icehouse Canyon Loop

Dora Olea, Heather Sargeant

We will start at the Mount Baldy ski lift parking area (6320'), take the chair lift up to the Baldy Notch (7840') then we will hike the Three T's. From Timber Mountain, we will descend through Icehouse Canyon. We will be hiking at a moderate pace. Around 8.5 mi, 2700' gain/3400' loss. This trip requires a car shuttle back to the starting point. If chair lift is not working, this will add an additional 1500' gain. Must be comfortable hiking long distances at altitude. Moderately strenuous day long hike with possible spectacular views of the mountains. Bring hat, jacket, sunscreen, hiking poles are strongly recommended, lunch, 3 liters of water, 10 essentials, \$ for lift (approximately \$20). Rain cancels. Meet 7:00 a.m. sharp at the Icehouse Canyon parking lot. Adventure Pass must be displayed. Directions: 210 E. exit on Baseline Rd. Turn left, Next light turn right on Padua Av., right onto Mt. Baldy Rd. Go past Mt. Baldy Village 2mi. turning right at Icehouse Cyn. Space limited by wilderness permit provided by leaders—hikers must contact Dora ahead of time at 213-200-

0239 or chamacasister@gmail.com.

November 15, Sunday

O: Rancho Los Alamitos Walking Tour, Long Beach

Laura Rainey, Karen Lovett

Rancho Los Alamitos is an amazing place of beauty as well as an historical oasis located in eastern Long Beach. This 7.5 acre site includes traces of an ancestral village, an adobe-core ranch house ca. 1800, four acres of lush historic gardens, and a restored working ranch barnyard. Please join us for an afternoon walk as we explore the Rancho Center, less than 2 miles, stroll the gardens, and hang out in the barnyard with the horses, goats and chickens. Docent tours of the historic ranch house are available as well. Admission is free and parking is available at the Rancho. The Rancho is located within Bixby Hill, and can be accessed through the residential security gate at Anaheim and Palo Verde. From the 405 Freeway, exit Pale Verde Avenue and continue south to the gate. From 605 Freeway, exit Willow, follow to Palo Verde and turn south. Meet in the parking lot at the Rancho at 1:45PM. Questions? Please contact Laura at geowmn@verizon.net.

November 21, Saturday

**O: Griffith Park Graffiti Removal
Nancy Beverly, Marie Ammerman**

It's been a while since GLS had an opportunity to "give back" to the community, but now's our chance. Our Wednesday night hike regulars know

(Continued next page)

Weekly Griffith Park Conditioning Hikes

What: On Wednesday nights, 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: **WINTER 2015-16**

November: 4, 11, 18

December: 2, 16

January: 6, 20

February: 3, 17

March: 2, 16

7 p.m. sharp, end by 9:30 p.m.

Where: Near the flagpole and picnic tables at Crystal Springs Griffith Park HQ/Visitors Center/ Ranger Station, 4730 Crystal Springs Drive, LA. (Note: Mapquest, Google Maps, etc. may be misleading.)

Directions:

(1) From Los Feliz Blvd. (which

you can reach from I-5 or coming from Hollywood), turn north on Crystal Springs Dr. Proceed 0.5 mi. to the 3-way stop sign, go straight, and proceed 0.6 mi. and turn right in the driveway just after the Ranger Station. Drive around behind the Ranger Station to Park. Then meet us in the courtyard in the center of the buildings (picnic tables, soda machine, big tree). (2) From Fwy. 134 East, exit Victory, turn right at bottom of ramp. Make immediate left onto Zoo Drive. Drive through the park, passing the zoo on your right and the Gene Autry

Museum on your left. Curve around and pass the golf course. You'll come to a stop sign at Griffith Park Drive & Crystal Springs Road (which is the road you're on now, it changes names). Proceed one more block to the next stop sign at the Ranger Station and turn left. Drive all the way around behind the Ranger Station to park. Then meet us in the courtyard in the center of the buildings (picnic tables, soda machine, big tree). (3) From Fwy. 134 West, take the Zoo Drive exit, turn left onto Zoo Drive and proceed as above (directions 2).

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.

Outings and Events

that areas of Griffith Park that are not easily reached by vehicle have been vandalized with graffiti. We are going to help fight the tagging by spending a day hiking up to some of these spots and painting out the graffiti on some man-made structures. Most materials will be supplied, but if you'd like to help even more by bringing your own paintbrush, roller, or roller cover, that would be great. We will meet at the same place we usually do for the Wednesday night hikes—at the ranger station on Crystal Springs drive. Bring a lunch, water, lug soles, a pack for carrying supplies, and wear old clothes! Meet at 9 a.m. to sign in, organize our groups, and share our supplies. Hiking distances will vary depending on the number of folks attending; we will try to fit your hiking distance to the pace and level you prefer if possible.

Please sign up with Nancy at nancybeverly@sbcglobal.net or with Marie at ammermanm@yahoo.com. We really need folks to take the time to sign up because the number of participants we have will determine how much we can do and how much paint and other supplies we'll need. We look forward to seeing you out there!

Directions: (1) From Los Feliz Blvd. (which you can reach from I-5 or coming from Hollywood), turn north on Crystal Springs Dr. Proceed 0.5 mi. to the 3-way stop sign, go straight, and proceed 0.6 mi. and turn right in the driveway just after the Ranger Station. Drive around behind the Ranger Station to Park. Then meet us in the courtyard in the center of the buildings (picnic tables, soda machine, big tree). (2) From Fwy. 134 East, exit Victory, turn right at bottom of ramp. Make immediate left onto Zoo Drive. Drive through the park, passing the zoo on your right and the Gene Autry Museum on your left. Curve around and pass the golf course. You'll come to a stop sign at Griffith Park Drive & Crystal Springs Road (which is the road you're on now, it changes names). Proceed one more block to the next stop sign at the Ranger Station and turn left. Drive all the way around behind the Ranger Station to park. Then meet us in the courtyard in the center of the buildings (picnic tables, soda machine, big tree). (3) From Fwy. 134 West, take the Zoo Drive exit, turn left onto Zoo Drive and proceed as above (directions 2).

November 28, Saturday

O: Verdugos

Gail Wise, Gina Masequesmay

We'll be working off some of that Thanksgiving Day turkey and stuffing with a 6.3 mile hike in the Verdugos. Beginning from the Stough Canyon Nature Center, we'll hike up to a saddle with a view out to the Valley, then we'll ascend up to Warden Grove. We'll mostly come back the way we came, with a small detour past the ruins of the Old Youth Camp. Total elevation gain will be approximately 1'400 feet. Sun screen is recommended, as most of the trip will be exposed. Bring layers, appropriate footwear, snacks and two liters of water. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Nature Center. Rain cancels, drizzle does not. For questions, contact Gail at gailwise2@gmail.com

December

December 5, Saturday

SE: Holiday Party

Grace Hengst, Mary Adair

This year the GLS Holiday Party is again at Grace and Mary's Mount Washington home. This is a time to talk with other GLS members and just have fun sharing the holiday spirit! The festivities start at 2pm and finish at 6pm.

Please bring a *potluck* item to share, and let Grace know what item you plan on bringing. GLS provides beverages, plates, silverware, and lasagna (vegetarian and meat).

There will be 2 door prizes, a "Half & Half" *raffle* in which there will be 30% to first winner, 20% to second winner, and half goes to the GLS treasury.

There will also be a *silent auction*, so please bring a new or used hiking/camping/other item, in good condition, to the party. The proceeds go to GLS. Please reclaim any unsold items at the end of the auction.

Also, view and vote on photos submitted for the *GLS photo contest*—guidelines for the contest are on page 5.

We will count the ballots for election to the GLS Management Committee and announce the new board members at the party.

This year there will be a *surprise announcement* from the GLS Management Committee.

And *Michelle Saucedo* who hosts GLS annually at Takoja Retreats in New Mexico will be present.

Send a check to "GLS" for the admission charge of \$5.00. Send to: Grace Hengst, 1717 Burnell Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90065. Enclose SASE if you need directions to the house. Caution: Mapquest

can get you lost in this area, so call Grace at 323-697-6886 in the days before the party if you need clarification. Parking: you may need to park on the surrounding streets, as there is no legal parking on Burnell Drive.

December 13, Sunday

O: Abalone Cove Reserve Nature Walk, Rancho Palos Verdes

Laura Rainey, Karen Lovett

This ecological reserve has tide pools, beautiful bluff-top viewing areas, and dramatic trails. Join us as we explore Abalone Cove at low tide. We'll be walking less than 2 miles (40' gain/loss) round trip from the parking lot down to the beach below and back. Park in lot at Abalone Cover Shoreline Park at 5970 Palos Verdes Drive South, across from Wayfarer's Chapel. Parking fee for less than 2 hours is \$6, and goes up to \$12 for more than 2 hours. Meet at Abalone Cover Trail Head at east side of parking lot at 2:00PM. Walk will end by 4:00PM, when the park closes. Bad weather cancels. Questions? Please contact Laura at geowmn@verizon.net.

December 19, 2015

O: Winter Solstice Evening Hike Topanga State Park

Dawn Wilson, Teresa Nick

Join us for a short, moderate hike in Topanga State Park and an early celebration of the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. Topanga Canyon was formerly inhabited by the Chumash Indians, a tribe that celebrated the Winter Solstice or "return of the sun." We will meet in the late afternoon at sunset and enjoy the night sky during our short 4 mile, round trip hike to Eagle Rock. We will meet at the kiosk at the far end of the parking lot of Trippet Ranch. Please **PARK OUTSIDE THE STATE PARK ENTRANCE** on Entrada Road, NOT in the Trippet Ranch parking lot as the **GATE WILL CLOSE** at sundown. When parking on Entrada Road, park on the shoulder, but within the white line to avoid getting a parking ticket. Meet at 3:45 pm, hike will begin at 4:00 pm sharp. This is a moderate, short hike of 4 miles and 750 ft. elevation gain. We expect to return by 6:30 pm. For those interested, we will plan to have dinner afterward at a nearby casual restaurant. Rain cancels. Bring: At least 1 liter of water, flashlight or headlamp, lugsoles, 10 essentials. Pace: Moderate. Time: Meet 3:45 pm, depart 4:00 pm sharp. RSVP: If you plan to join us for dinner

(Continued on the next page)

Outings and Events

afterward, please RSVP to dawnxwilson@gmail.com by Tuesday, December 15. Getting there: Topanga State Park, 20829 Entrada Road, Topanga Canyon, CA 90290. From the 101, drive 7.7 miles south on Topanga Canyon Road and take a left on Entrada Road. Drive on Entrada Road for one mile, following signs for Topanga State Park. Park along Entrada Road outside the park entrance - but make sure that your wheels do not cross the white line on the road. Questions? Contact Dawn at dawnxwilson@gmail.com.

December 26, Saturday O: Solstice Canyon Grand Loop Alan Schimpff, Tom Molloy

Moderate to strenuous 8 mi, 2,000' gain ridgeline hike on Solstice Canyon's Rising Sun, Sostomo, and Deer Valley loop trails, with ocean views! Hike through a dense canopy of alder, oak, and sycamore trees that shade the canyon's year-round stream. Directions: Heading north on PCH, turn right at Corral Cyn. Rd. About a quarter mile up, you will see and drive through the gated entrance to Solstice Cyn. Drive past the first parking lot to get to the upper parking area. Highly recommend carpooling as parking may be limited. Hike starts promptly at 9 AM. Bring min. 2 quarts water, good hiking shoes, lunch & 10 Essentials. Questions? Contact Alan, 310-589-9125.

December 27, Sunday O: Zuma Loop Trail Alan Schimpff, Tom Molloy.

This a great workout rewarded by beautiful scenery. Trail is can be described as moderately strenuous. The trail includes two major ascents, a descent into Zuma Canyon, crossing a stream and a traverse along a ridge with beautiful ocean views. Round-trip: 11 miles, 2800 elevation gain and loss. Bring at least 2 quarts of water and the 10 essentials. Meet at 9:00 AM at

the trailhead. If taking the 101 west, turn left on Kanan Road and head over the mountains to PCH. On PCH, head northwest for about ½ mile (or two stoplights) until you reach Busch Road. Turn right on Busch and follow it to the end of the road which is the trailhead, park there. If taking PCH west, pass Kanan Road until you come to Busch Road about ½ mile (or two stoplights) later. Turn right on Busch and follow it to the end of the road which is the trailhead. Questions? Contact Alan at 310-589-9125.

Future Outings

January 2, Saturday O: Los Liones to Parker Mesa Overlook Gina Masequesmay, Gail Wise

This is a wonderful, moderate 7.3 mile roundtrip hike from Los Liones Trailhead to the popular Parker Mesa Overlook (1525 ft.) that offers a spectacular view of LA. On a clear day, you can see Downtown LA, the San Gabriel Mountains, Catalina Island, and Palos Verdes. Elevation gain is 1292 ft. The trail begins with a 1.3 mile shady ascent that then meets with the main fire road. The next 2 miles on the fire road is exposed with that first mile being steep uphill. Make sure you bring a hat, sunscreen, 2 L of water, shoes with good tractions, snacks, waterproof/water-resistant shell, and layers in case the weather gets cold. Rain cancels; drizzle does not. Estimated hike and rest time totals 4 hours. Meet at 8:30 AM at the Los Liones Trailhead in Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. Contact Gina at 818.835.1059 or Masequesmay.gina@yahoo.com.

March 6, Sunday O'Melveny Park to Mission Point Dora Olea, Jeff Johnson

The second-largest park in L.A. County, second only to the expanses of 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. K-9 welcome. Bring water, lug soles, sunscreen, and your lunch. 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. Rain cancels. Questions leader Dora at (213) 200-0239 or chamacasister@gmail.com.

March 11-13, Friday-Sunday O: Backpack: Eureka Peak + 1, Joshua Tree National Park Dora Olea, Jeff Johnson

Backpack for well-conditioned beginners and above. Join us on this "welcoming Spring Backpack" to the western portion of the Joshua Tree National Park. This trip will cover approximately 9 miles and 2,500' of gain/loss over Sat. and Sun. On Friday, we will sleep at specific campground (optional). On Saturday, we will pack in about 3 miles and set up the camp in the middle of nowhere and then on to Eureka Peak (5518') for possible views of JTNP, and return to camp. On Sunday, we will day hike in the vicinity for more views and return to break camp and hike back to cars. Most hiking routes will be on dry sandy streambeds. Leaders will stash water. Interested participants must provide a hiking resume by February 15 for consideration. Optional Mexican Feast on Sunday. Space is limited. For more info and RSVP, contact Dora at chamacasister@gmail.com

August 5-8, Friday-Monday O: Backpack: Cottonwood Lakes (11040'), New Army Pass Dora Olea, Jeff Johnson SAVE the DATE



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SIERRA CLUB WTC

The banner features a silhouette of a hiker with a backpack against a blue background with a topographic map overlay. The Sierra Club logo and 'WTC' are in the bottom left corner.

November and December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOV 1	2	2	4 Griffith Park Dora, Jan	5	6	7 Big Bear Nancy, Kyla <i>Through Sunday</i>
8 Three Ts Dora, Heather <i>End Big Bear</i>	9	10	11 Griffith Park Gina, Dora	12	13	14
15 Rancho Los Alamitos Walking Tour Laura, Karen	16	17	18 Griffith Park Nancy, Dora	19	20	21 Griffith Park Graffiti Removal Nancy, Marie
22	23	24	25 <small>full moon</small>  No Griffith Park Signal Hill	26	27	28 Verdugos Walk Gail, Gina
29	30	DEC 1	2 Griffith Park Nancy, Dora	3	4	5 GLS Holiday Party Grace, Mary
6	7	8	9 No Griffith Park	10	11	12
13 Abalone Cove, Rancho Palos Verdes Laura, Karen	14	15	16 Griffith Park Dora, Gina	17	18	19 Winter Solstice Evening Hike, Topanga State Park Dawn, Teresa
20	21	22	23 No Griffith Park	24	25 <small>full moon</small> 	26 Solstice Canyon Grand Loop Alan, Tom
27 Zuma Loop Trail Alan, Tom	28	29	30 No Griffith Park Signal Hill	31	JAN 1	2 Los Liones to Parker Mesa Gina, Gail

GLS Leader Contact Information

Please call after 9 AM and before 9 PM

Alan Schimpff	310-589-9125	alanschimpff@netscape.net
Amanda Smith	323-646-0771	amandajillsmith@gmail.com
Anna Baum	310-990-0610	ambaumlosangeles@gmail.com
Anne Mullins	323-522-6640	hike2thepeak@gmail.com
Asher Waxman	323-876-2889	amuirman@yahoo.com
Barbara Edwards	310-839-0593	greyhound@sbcglobal.net
Beth Epstein	562-439-0646	b.epstein@verizon.net
Carol Jeffcoate	562-985-1007	
Dawn Wilson	612-384-0180	dawnxwilson@gmail.com
Diane Ru	626-688-8642	zappydz@gmail.com
Dora Olea	213-200-0239	chamacasister@gmail.com
Gail Wise	310-433-2298	gailwise2@gmail.com
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Teresa Nick	612-384-0421	teresa.nick@me.com
Tom Molloy	310-589-9125	tomsmolloy@yahoo.com

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.



Marie A. and the GLS group that on May 10, 2008 she was leading past this point at Windy Gap on the PCT to Throop Peak.

Important Outing Information

Waiver

To participate in a Sierra Club outing, you must sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver before the outing, go to: <http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/local-outdoors>. Questions? Call 415-977-5528.

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, (such

as a ranger, guide, or a concessionaire).

SE Social event.

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://angeles.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 the long, straight uphill section in a residential neighborhood.

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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Fill in this form and send it with a check made out to GLS to:
GLS
P.O. Box 1300
South Pasadena, CA 91031-1300



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Name: _____

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Student	\$24	\$32	
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