

# TRACKS



November/December 2011

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

## Life Works

By Amanda Smith

On September 28, the GLS Wednesday night regulars were joined by a delightful group of young adults and mentors from the LifeWorks LGBTQ Youth Mentoring program (<http://modelsofpride.org/lifeworks>).

LifeWorks is a youth development and mentoring program at the LA Gay & Lesbian Center which offers one-on-one, peer and group mentoring opportunities for LGBT, queer and questioning youth ages 12-24. Their goal is to help LGBTQ youth to realize their goals and dreams in a safe space, with positive and affirming role models, and workshops & activities that are fun and educational – like hiking with GLS!

The group came to us through my friend Jamie Biggs, a GLS hiker who also mentors at LifeWorks. I wasn't familiar with the group, and had never given much thought to leading a youth outing before, having considered it the exclusive domain of the Sierra Club's youth-focused Inner City Outings section.

But I remember very well just how isolated and alone I felt as a gay teen...I would've given anything to find a group like LifeWorks! Needless to say, a lot has changed since I was a teenager, but even

now, and even in the big city of Los Angeles, LGBTQ youth still face homophobia and isolation. So when Jamie asked if the LifeWorks group could join our regularly scheduled GLS Wednesday night hike, I thought it was a fantastic idea and couldn't wait to make it happen.

Dora, Nancy and Jeff C. volunteered to co-lead the outing with me, and Inner City Outings program manager Melanie MacInnis also jumped in to help, going out of her way to expedite our paperwork, background checks and applications. By the evening of the hike, GLS was represented by four freshly certified Youth Outing leaders.

Between our gang of Wednesday night regulars, a few new folks, and the LifeWorks group, we had what may have been a record turnout for a Wednesday in Griffith Park - 36 participants! After I gave the official Sierra Club introduction, LifeWorks' program coordinator, Sofia Smith introduced the group, told us more about the great programs they offer and encouraged us all to become mentors!

Most of the kids who came on the hike were in their mid-teens or older, and most were very enthused to be there. A few had hiked before, but hiking at night was a whole new experience for all of them.

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Photo by Sofia Smith

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## The Backpack That Almost Wasn't

By Marie Ammerman

The weather forecasts looked worse each day prior to the Ediza Lake Backpacking trip. The lake is in the back country outside Mammoth Lakes, at about 9300', so afternoon thunder showers aren't unexpected. Still, this one didn't look good. The night before the trip, I conferred with Dora, and decided to call everyone to offer an alternative if the weather was really bad - a two-day car camp, with dayhikes in the area, the idea being that if everyone drove all the way up there and the weather was

too dangerous for backpacking, it wouldn't be a total bust.

In the end, seven participants and two leaders showed up at Agnew Meadow group campground Friday night, wondering what would happen in the morning. As Friday became Saturday, it was still up in the air, but by dawn, it was obvious the trip would happen. Glorious sunshine cascaded into the woods around camp, and everyone packed up in a frenzy of activity. The sunshine continued for the first half of the

*(Continued on page 4)*

## From the Chair

Working on a play or a screenplay takes many things... creativity, determination, allowance, fortitude. And time. I've found over the years that little bits of time don't cut it. My mind, in order to get back into a script and its characters, needs long stretches of time. It's as if I have to step back into that universe and become fully part of it, not looking at it as if I'm driving by in a car glancing at a shop window. I've also found over the years it takes a good 15 - 30 minutes to warm up - not unlike the first mile of a run, during which I used to feel awkward, tight, grumpy, leaden. But after that first

mile, the flow would kick in. The same is true in writing. So if you're out there thinking about exercising - be it running, hiking, biking, know that if you can get through those first few minutes, that first mile, you'll feel terrific. If you hike with us, you'll also get a good conversation as well. This little essay on time is also my way of signaling that I'm stepping down as Chair of GLS. It's been a rewarding job and I'm happy to have served, but now, well, I need more time for writing. Here's hoping I'll be inviting you to one of my productions in the coming months and years.

*Nancy Beverly*

## Leaders' Hike Totals to Marie

Remember, Marie Ammerman is tracking how many hikes GLS leaders have led, to keep the Kathy B. awards up to date. Leaders, please send the total number of hikes you have led/will lead since last December to Marie, <ammermanm@yahoo.com>.

**GLS Holiday Party!**  
**Saturday December 10**  
*Party information on page 8*  
**...and the photo contest is back!**  
*Contest info & guidelines on page 6*

## GLS Management Committee Meeting, Sept. 29, 2011

Amanda, Jeff J., Nancy, Sharon, and SK were on the call.

Board discussed the upcoming GLS 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event in 2012 and enthusiastically welcomed the suggestion from Marie Ammerman to do a weekend at Harwood Lodge. Considered dates and settled on first weekend in October (6-7). The board also discussed the possibility of another GLS anniversary-related event, a hike in Malibu January 2012 and it was suggested that we ask Alan & Tom to lead it.

Chapter awards: Group debated potential nominees for Chapter awards, due in Nov, event in May. Critical evaluation of award categories and GLS members who might fit into them.

Reserves Report - SK/Barb reported that GLS does not have any excess reserves, which is a good thing, report has been sent to Chapter.

Treasurer update: We have received about \$5,000 in deposits from participants from Susan's upcoming Thanksgiving Trip and Grand Canyon.

Youth Outing: Amanda reported on the recent attendance of the LifeWorks Youth Mentoring Group (from the LA Gay & Lesbian Center) on the Wed night Griffith Park hike.

Walk on Items: Several groups have reached out to GLS to see if we're interested in co-sponsoring an event with CA Men's Gathering, and Long Beach State Women's

basketball. Group considered potential for cross promotion with these organizations, but felt that the opportunities would best be left up to interested individual leaders to pursue.

Trail Maintenance - Group discussed that acknowledged that Sierra Club and/or National Forest policies for participating in Trail Maintenance are somewhat challenging and concluded that we should look for other opportunities for similar community service opportunities, tree-planting, etc.

Board Nominations -- Nancy & Jeff leaving after their terms, so we would like to nominate two new people to join the board. We need to start thinking about our nominees for the management committee for next year. The terms of Nancy, Jeff, and SK run out this year.

*Amanda Smith*

### Information about GLS

**General questions about GLS**, call Grace at 323-227-6444 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 is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 29, at 7pm**. Committee members will meet by conference call.

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

**Nancy Beverly**, Chair  
**Amanda Smith**  
**Jeff Johnson**  
**Sharon Hartley**  
**SK Chiou**, Treasurer

### Other GLS Volunteers

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

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

## Life Works

*(Continued from the first page)*

Though I would've loved to keep all 36 of us together, it just wasn't practical in this instance, so we divided into two groups to accommodate the differences in pace.

On the trail, I got to talk to some of the LifeWorks group, Destin, Zion, and Frankie "Skittles" – a young man in a rainbow flag cape with abundant energy who would have preferred to run all the way to the top of the mountain if only we could've kept up with him. It was great to see them all interacting so warmly together and at one point Sofia described the group

as a "family", which I could relate to – GLS has become the same to me.

By the time we reached the water tower, a heavy fog had rolled in and obscured our views of the city. Some in the group were also beginning to lag behind. We still had the steepest section of the hike ahead of us, so I reluctantly decided to turn back then rather than try to race up the hill where we wouldn't be able to see much anyway. The group was disappointed that we wouldn't be going all the way to the top, but I promised to make it up to them by stopping at the Old Zoo on the way down.

Built in the 1930s and shuttered in the 1960s, the Old Zoo's antiquated enclosures are creepy even in the daytime, so I knew it would be even more fun after dark. As luck would have it, the area was being prepped for the annual Halloween Haunted Hayride with gruesome blood-splattered stage props positioned in the old cages! Everyone seemed to get a kick out of posing with the props and exploring the ruins, a perfect finale to our hike! We headed back to the ranger station and arrived right on time to



Photo by Sofia Smith

reconnect with the other half of our group.

It's always a pleasure to hike with smart, charming and funny people, and the LifeWorks mentors and mentees were all that and more. I only wish I'd had more time to get to know everyone, but I guess I'll just have to lead another hike with them!

Big thanks to Jamie Biggs for bringing us together, LifeWorks' program coordinator Sofia Smith, ICO program manager Melanie MacInnis, GLS chair Nancy, and fellow leaders Dora and Jeff for all the support & effort in making it happen.



Photo by Jamie Biggs.



## A Very Brief Ode

By Marie Baca

*good food, great friends, and a barrel of fun.  
just another fine outing at ol' morro bay.  
we sang into the night --  
filled with "delight" (and other substances).  
but many were missing S. K.  
maybe next year.*



Oyster catcher on the rocks.  
Photo Barb Edwards.



Excellent coffee, Gail!  
Photo Barb Edwards.



Betty's fireside attire.  
Barb Edwards.



Hikers gathering before setting off in two groups. Photo Heather McNaught.

## Valencia Peak Hike

By Heather Sargeant

On Saturday, September 3, a large group of GLS campers car pooled over to Montana de Oro State Park. One group took off with Barb to enjoy the cliff walk. Eight of us set off to climb Valencia Peak. The overcast day made it perfect for the hike, and we were amazed at the profusion of wild flowers along the trail. We even found one identified as "indian pink", different from indian paintbrush, which I had never seen before. As we reached the summit at 1,346 ft, the sun broke through the clouds giving us a wonderful view looking inland, although the coastline was still socked in. After a snack we took an alternate way down, which brought us out above the camp site, and to the visitors center.

## Morro Bay

Barb Edwards again took a happy GLS crowd to Morro Bay for a wonderful Labor Day weekend, September 2—6.

Here are a few words and a few pictures from the long weekend campout by the beach, including a hike led by Heather Sargeant.

Barb's cliff walk. Photo Heather McNaught.



Look at our pretty rings! Photo Barb Edwards.



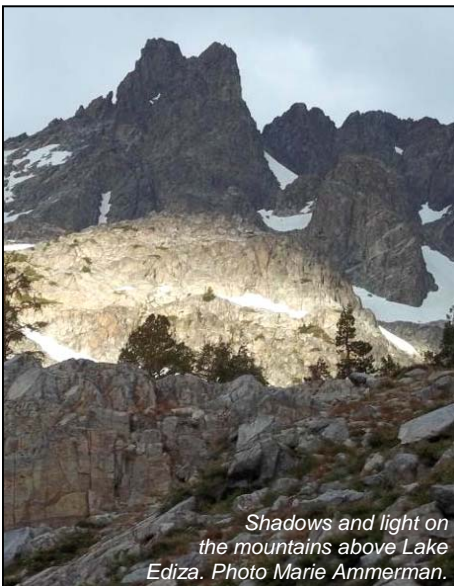
About to set off from the trailhead. Photo Sam, and Hanns Lee.



Crossing Shadow Creek. Photo Hanns Lee.



Shadow Lake. Photo Hanns Lee.



Shadows and light on the mountains above Lake Ediza. Photo Marie Ammerman.



Lake Ediza. The campsite was on the lakeside rock formation on the far side of the lake. Photo Dai Le and Hanns Lee.

## The Backpack That Almost Wasn't

*(Continued from the first page)*

trip as the group wound their way into the canyon on the Shadow Lake trail, passing by Olaine Lake in the lower canyon before following the trail over the rocky hillside that forms one side of the Shadow Creek drainage. The views from the trail at that point were stunning, and also worrying—there were storm clouds coming in. A light rain began, and everyone donned raingear. It looked like it might pass, so onward we went. We stopped for lunch by beautiful Shadow Lake, and were served a stronger rain shower for dessert. The temperatures were still good, and everyone had all the right gear, felt great, and were all in good spirits, so we pressed on. In the end, we made it to Ediza in time to have a respite from any rain and set up the tents. Then, it poured. It got colder, too, but the rain didn't last a really long time, and there was still light left for folks to get their dinners and get ready for the night. Two more rain showers passed overhead that night, but in the morning, once again, there was sunshine. Dora had suggested the night before that we get on the trail early and stop for breakfast later, which is what we did. This worked out particularly well, because we were able to enjoy Ediza under all the sunshine we were to see that day. Fortunately, the rain held off until

we'd gotten off the steep, rocky part of the trail, and didn't really get bad until we were all in our cars and on our way home.

In spite of all the wet weather, we had a wonderful time. The Shadow Lake Trail to Ediza Lake is absolutely gorgeous. There are tumbling creeks, majestic trees, snow-covered peaks, and lush grasses studded with orange, yellow, pink, red and creamy white wildflowers. Wide green meadows opened out on each side, and even in the gray light it was magic.

One of the nicest bits of trail magic was making a new friend, Sam. He had taken our group photo for us at the trailhead, and later caught up with us on the trail. He and his wife had done other backpacking trips together, but this was his first solo trip, so we invited him to join us. He did, and we weren't sorry. Turns out that he wasn't, either. He enjoyed our company, as we did his, and said we'd kept him going in spite of the weather; otherwise, he might have "just bailed."

In the end, it's that persevering spirit that made the trip so special. Everyone had a positive attitude, a wondering enjoyment of all we saw, and a concern for fellow trip members. With people like this on our trip, how could we not have the best time possible? There's already talk of "next year."

# Barbara Takes Us Back to Beverly Hills

By Nancy Beverly

Nobody does a tour like Barb Edwards. She took us on a 3+ hour extravaganza of some of Beverly Hills' finest mansions and estates on October 16. We got to ooh and ahhh over the previous homes of Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob Thornton, Sonny & Cher, Bill Cosby, Elizabeth Montgomery, Agnes Moorehead, Milton Berle and Gloria Swanson. A Barb Tour always includes dishy details, so as we stood in front of the nearly side-by-side homes of Gary Cooper and Mexican spitfire Lupe Velez, we learned about their ill-fated romance (she committed suicide)... and then later in the tour we saw the living room window where gangster Bugsy Siegel was gunned down (and peered up the driveway next door from where the gunman supposedly fired). My personal fav was the last stop on the tour, The Witch's House. With its sloping roofs, falling shingles and quirky walls, it looks as if it's right out of a storybook -- and in fact, it was used in silent movies in the 1920s in Culver City before being moved to Beverly Hills. Eat your heart out, Starline Tours (several of their vans passed us while as we walked), we've got Barb, Tour Guide Extraordinaire.



Barb consulting her copious notes.



Where Ava Gardner lived with Artie Shaw, one of her seven husbands.



The witch's house (aka the Spadena house).



Marion Davies lived here.

# Waterman by Day

We had another good day hike to the top of Mount Waterman on Saturday, Oct. 23, with leaders Nancy Beverly and Jeff Cuevas. Beautiful weather, pleasant company, the nice, moderate trail to the top and the grand views over the L.A. basin reminded us why we are here and why we are hiking. The group included some hikers completely new to GLS and some old timers, as well as Teddy the Tiny (dog).



## Conservation Notes

Tom Molloy

### Stay Informed, start talking!

The new cabal of would be presidents are each trying to out-do each other in how, should they be elected, they would accelerate environmental destruction. There is a new drill-baby-drill with a Texas twang. One from the north who campaigns on eliminating the EPA. In unison many of them call for increased oil production from the Canadian tar sands, and for a rapid

ramp-up in fracking (releasing natural gas by pumping massive amounts of toxic chemicals and fresh water into the earth), which is polluting the water, soil and air of Northeastern states. Global warming is a disputed theory, they tell us. (Even evolution is in question. We may yet find the earth to be only 4000 years old—who knew!) No need to prioritize green energy, or decrease carbon emissions we're told. (Once the glaciers and icebergs are all melted, the oil fields of the arctic will be fully available to exploit, and they are already being mapped.) They talk of

opening our wilderness and public lands to more exploitation for short term goals. The people who back this new set are very well funded. "Remember," another of them just informed us that "corporations are people, my friend." We have to begin working now to expose them for what they are. We can't have our families and friends stay home again in the next election. Voter turnout in the mid-term election was 42%, and look what was ushered in! Stay informed, start talking, get involved, the future of our wild lands and the flora and fauna that depend on it are at stake!

## Big Sycamore Canyon Hike

Dora and Grace led this hike near Malibu on Sept. 25.



Photos Teadd Wenrick



## Verdugo Loop Hike

Dora and Amanda led this hike from Stough Canyon Oct. 8.



Photos Teadd Wenrick



## GLS Photo Contest

It's back! Submit your pictures from GLS hikes in the past year. We'll all be looking at them at the Holiday Party on December 10 and voting for our favorites then.

- Any GLS subscriber may submit up to 8 photos taken on GLS outings between Dec. 1, 2010 and Nov. 30, 2011.
- Submit photos to our Webmaster before Dec. 4 at: <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.
- Submit each photo with: your name;

the name and date of the GLS outing when you took the picture; an optional title for the picture; an optional description up to 50 words long.

- Photos may be on any subject relevant to the mission of GLS.
- Consider whether the people in your pictures are OK with it.
- Photos will be posted for viewing on Flickr <<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, [angeles.sierraclub.org/gls](http://angeles.sierraclub.org/gls)

- Holiday Party attendees will vote for their favorites at the party, and winners will appear in Tracks.
- Voters will vote for their favorites overall and their favorites in these categories:
  - \* **GLS on the trail**
  - \* **GLS in camp**
  - \* **Flora and fauna**
  - \* **Landscape and scenery**
  - \* **Humor**
- GLS will provide a slide show of submissions at the Holiday Party, so we can view them there before voting.
- In case of questions, GLS mgmt. comm. members will decide how to proceed.

# Outings & Events

## November 2011

**November 5, Saturday**

**O: Cheseboro and Palo Comado Canyons**

**Dora Olea, Amanda Smith**

Two canyons in one loop in the Santa Monica Mountains. Cheseboro Canyon and Palo Comado Canyon serve as an important wildlife corridor between the interior Transverse Ranges in the north and the Santa Monica Mountains to the south. There is a good chance of seeing deer, bobcats, coyotes, rabbits, and owl, along the trail. In fact, these canyons have the largest concentration of nesting sites of birds of prey. While looking for birds of prey on the sky, we will lunch in the Sheep Corral trail near the creek bed. Starting at Cheseboro Canyon Trail, we follow an old ranch road along a streambed through a valley oak savannah and coast live oak riparian zone. At 3.3 miles we could smell the odor of rotten eggs as part of the Sulphur Spring site. The Baleen Wall opens up the canyon to chaparral slopes. From Palo Comado Cyn, the breathtaking scenery of China Flat comes into view. All along, Palo Comado Cyn offers a tapestry of canyon-bottom woods and slopes adorned with dense patches of chaparral and sandstone outcrops. A long moderate hike, 10.3 miles rt., 5 hours long with 1200 ft. gain/lost. Dog owners be aware that there may be foxtails growing along the route, as well as the presence of mountain

bikers. Bring lug soles, lunch, sunscreen, hat and sunglasses as well as plenty of water. Dogs must bring their own water. Bathrooms at the trailhead. Meet at the trail head at 9:30 am. From the Valley, take 101 west to the Cheseboro Road exit. Turn right at the stop sign and head north on Palo Comado Canyon Road. At the next stop sign, turn right (north) onto Cheseboro Road. Parking at the end of the Cheseboro Canyon Rd. Rain cancels. Questions? Contact Dora at 213-200-0239 or doraolea@yahoo.com

**November 13, Sunday**

**O: Porter Ranch Trails Hike**

**Dora Olea, Grace Hengst**

A suburban hike at its finest! This loop with its atypical trails ranging from dirt roads and broken pavement to surface streets never lets you forget where you are. It was once the locations of remote vacation homes and horses owned by L.A.'s rich and famous. Porter Ranch now consists of a master-planned community of upscale suburban housing. It was the last portion of the San Fernando Valley to be developed. We will begin with a stroll along Aliso Creek, crossing a native plant restoration area before a contrasting saunter over a graded short hillside. Most of the trails utilize old roadbeds, with the exception of the Palisades Trail. The 2-mile section of this trail between Tampa Ave and Reseda Blvd offers fantastic views of the Valley, and would make a worthwhile hike on its own. This is a moderate hike, about 7 miles RT, with about 1000' gain/loss, in about 4 hours. Dogs welcome. Wear lug soles, bring

sunscreen, 2 liters water, and a potluck lunch item to share. Meet 9am at the Aliso Canyon Park trailhead on Rinaldi St. From CA 118, exit at Reseda Blvd and head north. Turn right on Rinaldi St and look for the sign for Aliso Canyon Park on your left after 0.5 mi. There is no parking directly in front of the park, so proceed past the sign, make a U-turn, and park along the north side of Rinaldi. Questions? Dora at (213) 200-0239, Grace at (323) 697-6886.

**November 19, Saturday**

**O: Mugu Peak -- La Jolla Valley**

**Tom Molloy, Alan Schimpff**

A comprehensive trek through the western quadrant of Pt. Mugu State Park. The hike begins in La Jolla Canyon, then crosses a field to ascend Mugu Peak. The trail then descends into La Jolla Valley, a large grassy meadow, and then joins up with a well-graded and scenic trek along the ridge dividing La Jolla Cyn. and Big Sycamore Cyn. Curving down the rounded slopes east of La Jolla Canyon, the trail takes in sweeping views of the Pt. Mugu coastline and the distant Channel Islands. Round-trip: 10 miles, 1950' elevation gain. Bring at least 2 quarts of water, lunch, and the 10 essentials. Call leader to RSVP. Meet at 9:30 AM at the parking area for the Ray Miller Trailhead. Drive north on PCH about 35 miles past Santa Monica. Take the first turn off to the right after passing the Big Sycamore Campground and "the great sand dune." Parking fee. Usually free parking can be found on PCH. Call leaders to RSVP, 310-589-9125. Rain cancels.

*(Continued next page)*

## Weekly Griffith Park Conditioning Hikes

*Please note changes in directions due to the closure of part of Crystal Springs Dr. between the LA Zoo and the Ranger Station, Mar-Nov 2011*

**What:** Every Wednesday night, join us for a moderate (strenuous if you are out of shape) hike to Mt. Hollywood, 5 miles, 1145' gain/loss. This is a great mid-week workout. Lugsoled 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 PM Dogs are

welcome; bring a leash and extra water. Rain cancels.

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

**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) If driving north on I-5, 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 Riverside Drive, which becomes 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) Driving on Fwy 134 going west, exit at I-5 south toward Los Angeles. Exit I-5 at Los Feliz Blvd West toward Hollywood. Proceed to Signal light and turn right at Riverside Drive. Proceed as in (2) and (1) above to Ranger Station

parking lot.

(4) From Fwy 134 East, exit Forest Lawn, turn right at bottom of ramp. Proceed one block and turn left. Proceed one block and turn right on Griffith Park Drive (you'll be in front of Travel Town). Stay on Griffith Park Dr. and come all the way through the park – it's very dark and not lit with street-lights. Pass the golf driving range on your left, pass the playground/picnic area on your right. You'll finally come to a T-stop (Griffith Park Drive & Crystal Springs Road). Turn right. Proceed to the next stop sign at the Ranger Station and turn left. Drive all the way around behind the Ranger Station to park.

## Outings and Events

**Nov 24 - Nov 27, Thu - Sun**

**O: Thanksgiving Desert Outing**

**Susan Lucille Campo, Barbara Edwards**

Come join the GLS family (limited to 30 participants) for a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner at our hotel in Beatty, Nevada on Thurs. Nov. 24. We will be staying where the action is! Enjoy evening entertainment and scenic exploration/hiking during the day. For easy and interesting hikes, Barbara will be leading an URBAN GHOST TOWN WALK. On another day she will walk around the Ubehebe Crater and visit the renowned and beautiful Scotty's Castle. Susan has scouted out something NEW this trip that you won't want to miss if you are so inclined and fit (leader's approval required). We will climb Whaguyhe Peak (second highest in the Grapevine Mts.) and another surprise, reachable only by high clearance vehicles. This trip includes Thanksgiving dinner, some fun surprises at the hotel and 3 nights lodging, non-smoking two per room for a total of \$130 each. (If you need a single, room the total is \$234 with no roommate.) To reserve your spot you must first e-mail Susan Campo, <susanlucillecampo@yahoo.com>. Your reservation will be confirmed when you send your check made out to GLS to the address she will indicate.

## December 2011

**December 3, Saturday**

**O: Echo Mountain (Anne's provisional)**

**Anne Mullins, Kim Homan**

Moderately paced historic hike on the Sam Merrill Trail to Echo Mountain. At the top, we will visit the ruins of two old hotels (Echo Mountain House and The Chalet) before retracing our steps down the mountain. 5 miles rt with 1400' elevation gain. Meet at 8:30am in front of the iron gate of the Cobb Estate at the top of Lake Ave. Directions: From the Foothill Freeway (210) in Pasadena, exit on Lake Ave. and travel north 3.5 miles to its end at Loma Alta Drive. Park along Lake Ave. Bring two liters of water, snacks, sunscreen, lugsoles recommended. Rain cancels. Questions? Contact Anne at hike2thepeak@gmail.com.

**December 10, Saturday**

**O: GLS 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 to bring. GLS provides beverages, plates, silverware, and lasagna (vegetarian and meat). There will be two 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. We will count the ballots for election to the GLS Management Committee and announce the new board members at the party. 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.

**December 11, Sunday**

**O: Natural History Museum**

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

Join us for a fun afternoon at the museum! Roam the brand new Dino hall where you can (almost) snuggle up to 20 complete dinosaur and ancient sea creature fossils, and tour the magnificent 1930s dioramas of North American and African mammals. Not excited about dead animals? Then visit the insect zoo where you are welcome to get up close and personal with little live creatures, peruse rare gems and minerals under fiber-optic lighting, or explore the archeological treasures of ancient Latin America and four centuries of Southwestern artifacts depicting life in California's past. And those are just some of the permanent exhibits... Meet at 9:30 AM in

### **Where was that bear?**

*The cover of the last issue of Tracks had a picture of hikers on Islip Ridge in the San Gabriels, and a bear in the background. Were you able to find the bear?*

front of the main museum entrance (facing the South Lawn). We will plan to have a lunch picnic at the beautiful rose garden next door, featuring GLS Holiday party leftovers for dessert. Bring lunch or buy it there. Bring cash for parking (\$10) and cash or credit for museum admissions (\$12 regular adult, \$9 seniors 62+). Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007, Phone: (213) 763-DINO. <<http://www.nhm.org>>. Questions? Contact leader: <[skchiou@yahoo.com](mailto:skchiou@yahoo.com)>.

**December 17, Saturday**

**O: Silent Night Hike**

**Marie Ammerman, Anna Baum**

Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Solstice, Kwanzaa, or something entirely different, this time of year is usually a time for reflection. Or it would be, if we had a moment to ourselves in the holiday rush. Well, we hope to give you that moment. Please join us for an entirely silent night hike- a time to reconnect with nature and yourself on a short trip into the Verdugo Hills above Burbank. Starting around 6 p.m., we will hike 3 miles roundtrip, with about 645 feet of gain, over fire roads and single-track trails, listening to the night sounds around us, watching the stars come out overhead, and feeling the gentle darkness envelope us. We anticipate the hike would take about 2.5 hours, including time at the overlook for meditation or simple reflection. Bring water, warm layers, lugsoles, and a flashlight for emergency use only, please. Please phone or email Marie to sign up or ask questions, 818-842-6401 or <[ammermanm@yahoo.com](mailto:ammermanm@yahoo.com)>. No dogs, please. Rain cancels.

**Dec 29 - Jan 1, Thu - Sun**

**O: Grand Canyon New Years**

**Celebration**

**Susan Campo, Alan Schimpff**

*This trip has been completely filled, with a*



## Outings and Events

*waiting list. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, contact Susan.*

See the 7th Wonder of the World and World Heritage Site with WORLD CLASS hiking ! This is a luxury trip that includes 2 nights lodging on the South Rim at the Thunderbird Lodge and 2 nights lodging at the bottom of the Grand Cyn at Phantom Ranch. To participate you must be able to hike at least 13 miles, 5000 ft. decent and gain on different days. Questions? Email Susan, <susanlucillecampo@yahoo.com>.

## Future Outings

**January 7, Saturday**

**O: Laguna Coast Wilderness Cardio Hike (Nina's provisional hike)**

**Nina Burokas, Jeff Johnson**

Laguna Coast Wilderness Cardio Hike: 8.5 mi, 1,000' gain. Join us for a moderately-paced but strenuous (calf/quad-burning in sections) hike through the southern section of this 7,000 acre coastal canyon. Our route: Laguna Bowl Road to Boomer Ridge Road across Old Emerald Trail to the ocean end of Emerald Canyon Road and back. Meet 9AM at the Laguna Bowl Trailhead (660 Laguna Cyn. Road, next to tennis courts); parking: free + meter. From 405: exit CA-133S toward Laguna Beach, 8.5 miles to trailhead. From 73: 2.9 mi S of El Toro Rd. From PCH: 1/2 mi N on Broadway/133/Laguna Cyn. Rd. Bring sturdy shoes/boots, water (2 qts+), snacks and \$ for optional apres-hike lunch and/or wine-tasting at Laguna Culinary Institute. Rain cancels. Recent rains may alter route. Questions? Email Nina at <nina.burokas@gmail.com> or call (after Nov. 1) 949-226-4316.

**Feb 17 - Feb 20, Fri - Mon**

**O: Anza Borrego State Park**

**Barbara Edwards, Grace Hengst**

Come celebrate Presidents' Day with three nights of camping in the beautiful desert. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the largest State Park in California. The park features washes, wildflowers, palm groves, cacti and sweeping vistas. We may have the chance to see roadrunners, golden eagles, kit foxes, mule deer and bighorn sheep as well as iguanas, chuckwallas and the red diamond rattlesnake. Average temps are low 70s daytime and night mid 40s. Activities will include plenty of nature walks and hiking. Hot showers available. Well-behaved dogs permitted in campground but not on trails. Cost is \$48 per person for 3 nights of camping and all parking fees. We have 2 group sites. Some RV sites available. Please send check and email address to: Barbara

Edwards, 1739 S. Sherbourne Dr., L.A. 90035. Questions? Contact Barb, <greyhound@sbcglobal.net>.

**February 19, Sunday**

**O: Snowshoe Hike, Mt. San Jacinto**

**Kirk Olsen, Dora Olea**

Join us for a leisurely snowshoe hike on groomed trails near the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway Mountain Station (elevation 8,516'). Meet at the Valley Station at 10:30 am with snowshoes in hand - they can be rented at any good sports shop if you do not own them. Please allow time to park and ride the bus. We will purchase our tickets and ride up together. Once situated, we will hike for approximately 3 hours and then eat a warm meal at the Mountain Station cafeteria. Distance and elevation gain will depend on our speed - approx. 3 miles and 500 ft. Ticket, weather and cafeteria information available at [www.pstramway.com](http://www.pstramway.com). Note: We have learned though experience that renting snowshoes at the top is not a viable option. Dress appropriately and bring water, snacks, snowshoes and money for the tram & cafeteria. RSVP to Dora (213) 200-0239 or [doraolea@yahoo.com](mailto:doraolea@yahoo.com) so we know to expect you.

**March 25, Sunday**

**O: O'Melveny Park**

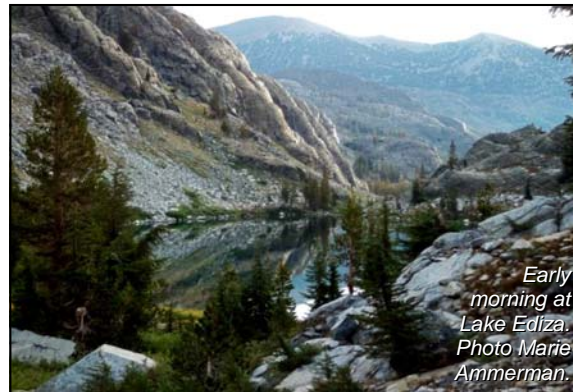
**Dora Olea, Jeff Johnson**

The second-largest park in L.A. County yielding 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 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 213-200-0239.

**Jul 29 - Aug 3, Sun - Fri**

**O: Back Country Camping**

**Susan Campo, TBA**



Early morning at Lake Edlza. Photo Marie Ammerman.

Mule drop on McGee Creek. Lots of day hikes. OK for beginners. More info in upcoming Tracks.

**Aug 10 - Aug 15, Fri - Wed**

**O: Back Country Camping**  
**Susan Campo, TBA**

Piute Pass, Humphrey Basin, Desolation Lake. More info in upcoming Tracks.

**Aug 30—Sept 3, Thu—Mon**

**Rock Creek Carcamp**  
**Barbara Edwards, Jude Demarrah, Grace Hengst**

Carcamp at Palisades group site, elevation 8500', south of Mammoth. More info in upcoming Tracks.

**Oct 5 - Oct 7, Fri - Sun**

**O: GLS 25th Anniversary Celebration**  
**Marie Ammerman, TBA**

Save the date! In 2012, GLS will celebrate its 25th anniversary in many ways, one of which will be a fabulous weekend party at the Sierra Club's Harwood Lodge, near Mt. Baldy on this weekend. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details. To volunteer to help with this event, please contact Marie Ammerman at 818-842-6401 or <[ammermanm@yahoo.com](mailto:ammermanm@yahoo.com)>.



## Goodbye to Sarah Hess

Sarah is leaving Long Beach to go to Michigan, where she will study veterinary technology. Goodbye Sarah!

# November and December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>OCT 30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>NOV 1</b>	<b>2</b> Griffith Park Marie, Grace	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Cheseboro and Palo Comado Canyons Dora, Amanda
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Griffith Park Amanda, Dora	<b>10</b> <small>full moon</small>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Porter Ranch Trails Hike Dora, Grace	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Griffith Park Nancy, Eva	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Mugu Peak and LaJolla Valley Tom, Alan
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Griffith Park Dora, Grace	<b>24</b> Thanksgiving Desert Outing Susan, Barb <i>through Sunday</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <i>end Thanksgiving desert outing</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Management Committee Meeting Info page 2	<b>30</b> Griffith Park Marie, Dora	<b>DEC 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Echo Mountain Anne, Kim <i>Anne's provisional</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Griffith Park Eva, Nancy	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <small>full moon</small>
<b>11</b> Natural History Museum SK, Barb	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Griffith Park Marie, Grace	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Silent Night Hike Marie, Anna
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Griffith Park Amanda, Nancy	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Griffith Park Dora, Marie	<b>29</b> Grand Canyon New Year Celebration Susan, Alan <i>through Sunday</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

# GLS Leader Contact Information

Please call after 9 AM and before 9 PM

Alan Schimpff	310-589-9125	alanschimpff@netscape.net
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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 writeups

### 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 rest of the leaders.

### Laura Rainey, Weekly Reminder

Laura sends out the weekly email announcing upcoming events. If an event needs to be altered or canceled after publication, e-mail Laura, and cc Mike.

### Dave Benson, Outings

#### Submission to Angeles Chapter

Outings to be published in the Angeles Chapter Schedule must adhere to Chapter formatting guidelines. Mike B. forwards outings for the chapter schedule to Dave, who ensures that they meet these guidelines before sending them to the Chapter.

### Anne Mullins, Trail

#### Maintenance/Leader Meetings

Three times a year, we volunteer for trail maintenance for one of the local parks. Afterward, we hold a potluck followed by a leaders meeting. Anne coordinates the trail maintenance work and the potluck. Mike facilitates the leaders meeting.

## 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/ carpool points in the Angeles Chapter Schedule of Activities or at: <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/pvsvb/pages/rideshare.html>

### La Canada Rideshare Point

Exit 210 at Rte 2 / Angeles Crest Hwy. Go N 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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- New  Renewal  Gift  Change of Address
- Send print TRACKS by US mail \$15 - 1 yr; \$35 - 3 yr
- Send email TRACKS (pdf file) \$10 - 1 yr; \$20 - 3 yr
- Send print and email TRACKS \$25 - 1 yr; \$55 - 3 yr

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Category:	Individual	Joint	Mail to:
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Student	\$24	\$32	
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When you join the Sierra Club, please use this form. The FRIP no. on the form brings part of your membership dues to GLS

FRIP#  
F94QW04721