

YOSEMITE II BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL CREW
JUNE 2013 MONTHLY REPORT
Anna Asp, Backcountry Trails Supervisor

OVERVIEW:

I'm writing this from our backcountry camp in Tiltill Valley— so happy, thankful, and excited to be here! But I'm getting ahead of myself. The start of June marked the ends of many things" the end of our season's 3rd maintenance spike (Styx Pass on Yosemite's northern boundary with Ansel Adams Wilderness), the end of our maintenance runs near Miguel Meadow, and the end of our time stationed out of our front country camp. At Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, Monday, June 10th, saw us trekking out to our new home, past Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, past Rancheria Falls and its lovely switchbacks, and nestling into our new home—well as nestled as we can be on a bit of a slant. Welcome to Tiltill Valley, AKA, Camp Tilty! Many thanks to our NPS Sponsors for organizing the logistics, and for coordinating a smooth camp move with support from our Yosemite Packers. Following camp set-up we were ready and racing to hit the trail maintenance, completing our goals to work Tiltill Mountain and Mount Gibson for a total of 17.55 miles maintained in June.

CURRICULUM:

June's curriculum starts as each month has and will continue to, with back strength and flexibility classes. These classes wrap up with the crew participating in PT's best to mark their ever-increasing strength. This month's best: Plank- Ryan (6 min. 45 sec.), Superman-Kelli (4min), Chair pose- Brian (7 min), push-ups- Brant (63), pull-ups- Ryan (15).

Doug Matheson taught us some handy knots (one rumored to have enabled him to pull his car from a ditch using only rope and his trucker's knot).

We started in our corpsmember classes, learning juggling from Ryan, enjoying a Bikhram Yoga session from Gillian, and getting the tricks from Brian to draw various versions of Celtic knots.

We had a few celebrations this month: Sent out Father's Day cards featuring photos of Yosemite (taken by the renowned Ansel Adams), celebrated a Halloween-themed birthday for Kyle (meaning there were costumes, lots of candy, and tummy aches the next morning), and had a Summer Solstice party.

Journals were passed around the circle as we dedicated some time to describe each crew mate, and just when we thought we had a good idea about each other, we started getting a deeper look through each crewmember's own description of them. Brant, Cass, Brian, Gillian and Andrae thus far started off sharing their life stories for about 45 minutes.

We also tried out the new backcountry gym from our strength-building class which featured: pull-up bar, dip bar, and a pulley-rigged, upper body total workout system.

Our emergency response classes featured a little wilderness survival training, learning a couple methods to build a rain-shedding debris shelter, followed by backcountry style splint-making, and training on gathering pertinent information from a patient to write SOAP notes and then deliver them during live transmission on "common" via Park radio.

Weekend Destinations:

Weekends saw corpsmembers, a C 1, and sponsors ranging all over Yosemite, including: Ten Lakes, Half Dome, Cloud's Rest, an attempt up Mount Clark, May Lake, Mount Hoffman, Lembert Dome, a x-country exploratory attempt up Tiltill Mountain, a 33-mile round trip day hike to Mahan Peak, Ardeth Lake, Miwok Lake, Bear up Lake, Lake Vernon, a x-country adventure in Deep Canyon, and Tilden lake, Etith Lake, Stubblefield Creek. Many fish were caught during the weekend excursion. Fish ranging from: rainbows, golden, and brook trout. Wildlife sighting during the weekend included: Deer, bears, ospreys, bald eagles, golden eagles, rattlesnakes, skinks, California newts, a sociable gopher snake, a fisher, and many mosquitoes that all of us could care less to see again.

CORPSMEMBERS WORDS OF WISDOM:

Contributed by Brant, quoting the Alchemist, "I don't live in either my past or my future. I'm interested only in the present. If you can concentrate always on the present, you'll be a happy man. You'll see there is life in the desert, trust there are stars in the heavens. Life will be a party for you, a grand festival because life is the moment we're living right now."—Paulo Coelho

Contributed by Cass from *The Cider House Rules*, "Living on land where you can occasionally see a long way provides the soul with a perspective of a beneficially expansive nature."—John Irving