

Yosemite-Wawona Ski-Snowshoe Trip

Sierra Club Outing Martin Luther King Weekend

By Keith and Beth Martin, Leaders

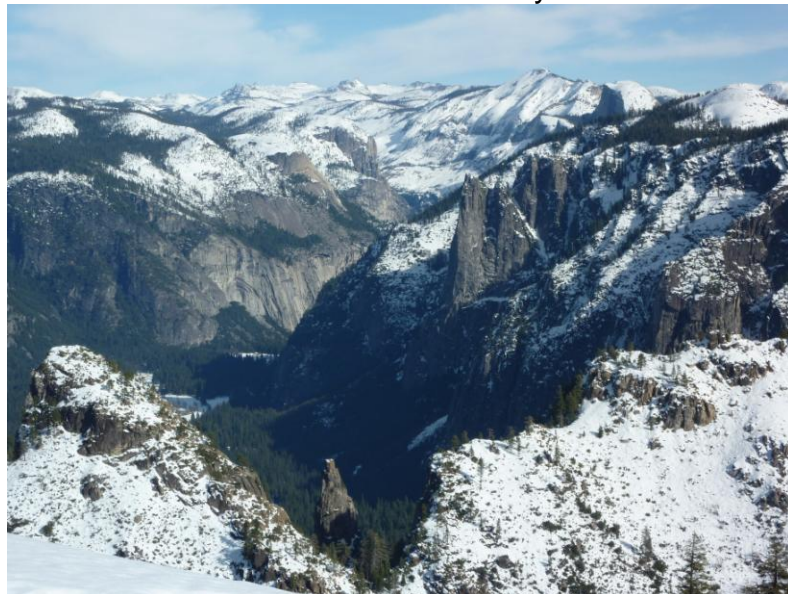
Many of us have visited Yosemite in the summer and are familiar with the Park's many delights clothed in bright sunshine and summer warmth. Fewer have taken in the park when winter snows and hand-numbing cold are the expected experience. Yet if one plans for the obvious discomforts, experiencing the magic of the heart of the Sierra Nevada in winter offers its own delights.

Fifteen Sierra Club members joined together over the Martin Luther King weekend to enjoy the frostier side of Yosemite. Arriving Friday afternoon, we stayed at a cabin at the Redwoods in Yosemite, a privately held portion of land adjacent to the Wawona Hotel about five miles from the south entrance to the park. The next three days participants hiked, cross-country skied with Beth and me or snow-shoed with Kent Schwitkis and Sherry Ross.

Saturday we all got an early start and carpooled up to Badger Pass. Located five miles up the Glacier Point Road from the Chinquapin Junction, Badger Pass Ski area offers lift skiing, track skiing, marked backcountry trails and miles of wilderness. Several of our participants first outfitted themselves with backcountry skies or snowshoes at the cross-country rental store. We then departed for an eight-mile round trip journey out to Dewey Point, overlooking Yosemite Valley and providing breathtaking views of the Yosemite high country. The weather was clear and unseasonably warm.



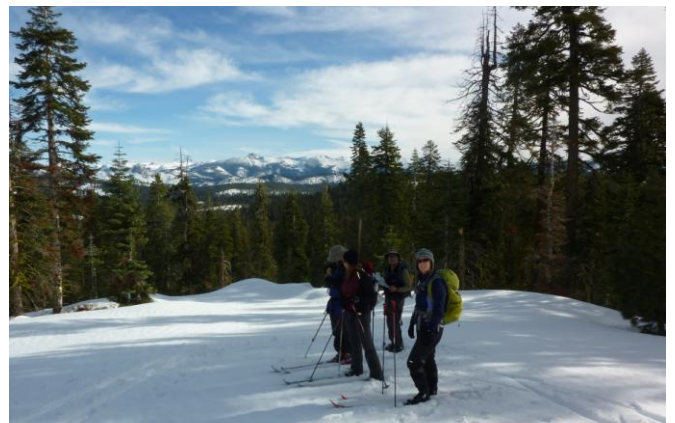
Lori and Elisa at Dewey Point



Yosemite Valley from Dewey Point

We even saw bees unsuccessfully searching shrubs and plants for blooms. The trail was well marked and the snow compacted by many winter pilgrims.

Sunday found some of the group snowshoeing with Kent and Sherry. Others took cross-country and skate-skiing lessons



Tempo Dome

at Badger Pass. Beth and I took a select group on a backcountry ski adventure. We rode the lifts at Badger to the top of the runs. Then we skied to the top of Tempo Dome, down the north side, across to Westfall

Meadows, north to the old Badger Pass Road and then back to Badger Pass. We skied on untrodden snow, coming across only two other people during most of this adventure.



Westfall Meadows

Monday a few left early. The rest of us hiked on compact snow in the Mariposa Grove, beholding the Grizzly Giant and the California Tree surrounded by a skirt of winter snow—a magnificent end to our visit before carpooling home.

Both nights we all returned to the cabin and together cooked up meals using fresh and healthy ingredients. No one went away hungry.



Successful meal preparation



At Mariposa Grove: Eva Eilenberg, Keith Martin, Lori Woodruff, Shadman Habibi, Sharon Moore, Sherry Ross, Kent Schwitkis, Tom Horner, Beth Martin