

Mount Waterman Loop

Date: July -- 30

Leader: Ron Forbess

Distance: 6.3 miles Round Trip Cumulative Elevation gain = 1300 ft.

Directions to Trailhead: Drive the Angeles Crest Highway to a parking lot on the left, north, side at highway mileage marker 58.02, 34 miles from La Canada. The after hike refreshments will be at the Buckhorn day use area about 100 yards farther up the road where there is a restroom and tables.

The trailhead is across the road at highway marker 58.00. There is a sign there that used to say "San Gabriel Wilderness, Angeles National Forest".

The Hike: Walk about 75 feet up the fire road, and then go left on a marked trail that parallels the highway for a quarter mile. The trail crosses the ski hut access road, which is the route the loop hikers will take back down. We continue on the trail on the other side of the road where there is a sign that says Mt. Waterman Loop and begins to ascend the forested slope. After climbing southward through tall stands of Jeffrey pine and incense cedar at 1.2 miles the trail reaches a saddle on Waterman's east ridge. From here you can look down into the wild upper reaches of Bear Canyon and to Twin Peaks beyond.

Our trail now turns west and climbs to the Twin Peaks trail junction at 2.2 miles where there is no sign. The faint Twin Peaks trail continues straight and our trail turns right. The main trail does not reach the actual summit of Waterman, it continues up until it drops through a shallow saddle and at about 2.9 miles reaches a junction. We take the left unsigned trail heading uphill to the peak. The total distance to the three boulder groups at the peak is 3.1 miles. The summit marker and register is on the westernmost rock pile at 8038 feet elevation, I did not find it when I was there.

You can return by the same route or continue the loop by taking the use trail 0.3 miles west from the peak down to the west end of the summit ridge which is the end of the service road, our return route. Follow the service road northeast about 0.65 miles to the upper end of the chair lift where the buildings housing the former warming hut, restrooms and food court are located. Don't be tempted to take the various side trails. The service road turns right, south, at the buildings and heads down.

It is important to take the service road down and not some of the ski runs and other access roads at this point. The service road is not marked, but it is a well-used dirt road that has tire tracks on it. After 2.0 miles you reach the point where the trail crossed the road at the beginning of the hike. At this point you can take the trail back to the trailhead or continue on the service road to the highway where you go left to the Buckhorn day use area for the refreshments and to the parking lot.