

G. Z. Thomas' Hike
Shuttle from Charlton Flat to Shortcut
29 June 1994

We will be going on the hike I took on June 15th when I took a "different hike together" with you guys. We will all arrive at Charlton Flat, see description attached, no later than 09:15. This is 24 miles from La Canada on the Angeles Crest Highway. We will shuttle back down Angeles Crest 5 miles to the Shortcut trail head for the start of the hike. This is @ mile marker 43.3. We do not cross the road; we take the North trail toward Charlton Flat. **We plan to leave at 09:30.** The trail drops 500 feet to Upper Big Tuiunga Canyon before it starts a 1200 foot climb to the road to Vetter Mountain. The Vetter summit fire lookout is another 300 to 400 feet up. We return to Charlton Flat for much needed refreshments. We pick up the shuttle cars on the way down the mountain. Good Luck!

Shortcut to Vetter Mountain Lookout

6 miles round trip; 1600' elevation gain

Classification: Easy

Season: All year

Topo map: Chilao Flat

FEATURES

Simply put, Vetter Mountain offers you maximum view for minimum effort. The fire lookout, perched on this prominent high point above Charlton Flat, affords a rewarding 360-degree panorama of the heartland of the San Gabriels. To the south, the dark summits of the front range, dominated by Strawberry and San Gabriel peaks, rise above smog-assaulted slopes. Eastward lies the rugged depression of the San Gabriel Wilderness, and the gray mass of Old Baldy looms on the distant skyline. To the north, beyond the pine flats of Charlton and Chilao, rise the backbone peaks of the range—Pacifico, Waterman, Twin Peaks, Williamson. Westward and southwestward, the ridgeline drops steeply into the trenches of Alder Creek and the Big Tujunga. All of this view is yours for a half-hour's effort.

The Vetter Mountain Lookout is no longer in use. As of this writing (August 1989) the old lookout building is being restored and re-equipped to serve as a visitor information center.

DESCRIPTION

Drive up the Angeles Crest Highway to Charlton Flat, 24 miles from La Canada. Turn left into the Charlton Flat Picnic Area; follow the upper road (far left) to the locked gate at the beginning of the Vetter Lookout access road. Park here, taking care not to block the road.

Walk up the dirt access road, traveling west with a switchback near the end, to the summit fire lookout.

An alternate route, slightly longer and with 200' more gain, begins near the northwest, lower end of the picnic area, across from the Wolf Tree Nature Trail. A wooden sign saying VETTER MTN. points the way. The trail follows a shallow draw southwestward, crossing two fire roads at midpoint, to the summit ridge just west of the lookout. From the ridge, turn left and climb 200 yards to the top.

