

OTP Hike #310

3 JAN 1996

SHOJI KUBO

9:30AM

One Hundred Hikes

199

Cow Canyon Saddle to Sunset Peak

90

5 miles round trip; 1200' elevation gain

Classification: Moderate

Season: November-June

Topo map: Mt. Baldy

FEATURES

In winter and early spring, when snow blankets the high peaks of the range and the air is crisp and clear, the ascent of Sunset Peak is a particularly rewarding experience. From the 5796' summit you get a grandstand vista of the great horseshoe ridge—crowned by massive Mt. Baldy—that encircles upper San Antonio Canyon. To the northwest, beyond the deep canyons of the East Fork country, looms the line of peaks above Crystal Lake.

It's an easy stroll up the 3-mile fire road to the summit, well worth the effort to take in the high-country panorama under winter's glistening mantle.

DESCRIPTION

From the south end of Mt. Baldy Village, turn west up the Glendora Mountain Road to Cow Canyon Saddle, 1 mile. Park your car in the large clearing to the right (north) of the road.

Cross the road and proceed past the locked gate up the fire road. You ascend at a moderate grade through groves of big cone spruce and Jeffrey pine. About half way up, your fire road leaves the forest and climbs through scraggly chaparral. A 1975 fire burned these upper slopes and it will be many years before the trees grow back. After 2 miles, turn hard left at a road junction, then left again at a second junction ½ mile farther. Your final 100 yards to the summit is a steep climb.

On top, you'll find cement pillars and debris from the fire lookout tower that was once here. After taking in the splendid panorama, descend the way you came. A fire-break drops steeply down the north ridge of the mountain, but this route of descent is not recommended.

