

You won't believe what you can do

O.T.P. and Others Hiking & Debating Society Hike, July 3, 1996

OTP Hike #333

43 Chantry Flat via Sturtevant Trail to Hoegee Trail Camp, Mt. Zion, Big Santa Anita Canyon

10 miles round trip; 1800' elevation gain

Classification: Moderate

Season: November-June

Topo map: Mt. Wilson

*Robt. "Bob" Dufel
Hike Leader &
"Lost Sheep" Award Recipient*

FEATURES

This very attractive circle hike follows the old Sturtevant Trail, known today as the Upper Winter Creek Trail, from Chantry Flat to Hoegee Trail Camp, then climbs over Mt. Zion Saddle and drops into upper Big Santa Anita Canyon. You then follow the canyon trail down past Sturtevant Camp, Spruce Grove Trail Camp, and Cascade Picnic Area to lower Winter Creek, then climb back up to Chantry Flat. This is a delightful circle trip—one of the best in the San Gabriels—passing across chaparral-coated slopes with expansive canyon views, through lush conifer forest and streamside woodland, alongside bubbling creeks, fully sampling the grandeur of the Big Santa Anita watershed.

Wilbur Sturtevant, known as "Sturdy" to his friends, built his trail from Sierra Madre over the ridge into Big Santa Anita Canyon, then along the west slope to his resort camp in 1896. For decades, the famous Sturtevant Trail felt the trod of many boots and the joyous voices of legions of hikers bound for the delights of Big Santa Anita and its many hostleries of the "Great Hiking Era." One who hiked the Sturtevant Trail and fell in love with spruce-and-fern-lined Winter Creek was Arie Hoegee, who built his resort camp there in 1908. For three decades it was a favorite destination for hikers. The rustic buildings are long gone, but the Forest Service has made the little streamside glen into Hoegee Trail Camp, with stoves and tables. Hoegee's Camp has an unusual distinction: in the 24-hour period January 22-23, 1942, a total of 26.12 inches of rain fell here, establishing a Southern California record that still stands.

One Hundred Hikes

9:30 A.M.

IT'S AMAZING WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER.

DESCRIPTION

From Foothill Freeway in Arcadia, take the Santa Anita Avenue off-ramp and drive north to Chantry Flat, 6 miles.

PARK NEAR SOME PICNIC TABLES IF ANY -

From the upper parking area at Chantry Flat, take the fire road that begins to the left (south) of the ranger station, adjacent to the sloping picnic area. After ¼ mile, at the road's second switchback, turn right onto the Upper Winter Creek Trail, indicated by a wooden sign. Follow the trail as it climbs, contours, and then drops along the west wall of Big Santa Anita Canyon, mostly through chaparral, passing a Mt. Wilson trail junction, to Winter Creek, in 2 miles. Your trail fords Winter Creek, briefly climbs and then drops to another trail junction. For Hoegee Trail Camp, go right; the trail refords Winter Creek and reaches the spruce-shaded camp after a few minutes' walk. (An option that cuts your hiking distance in half is to descend the Winter Creek Trail to the Big Santa Anita Canyon Trail, then turn right and climb back up to Chantry Flat.)

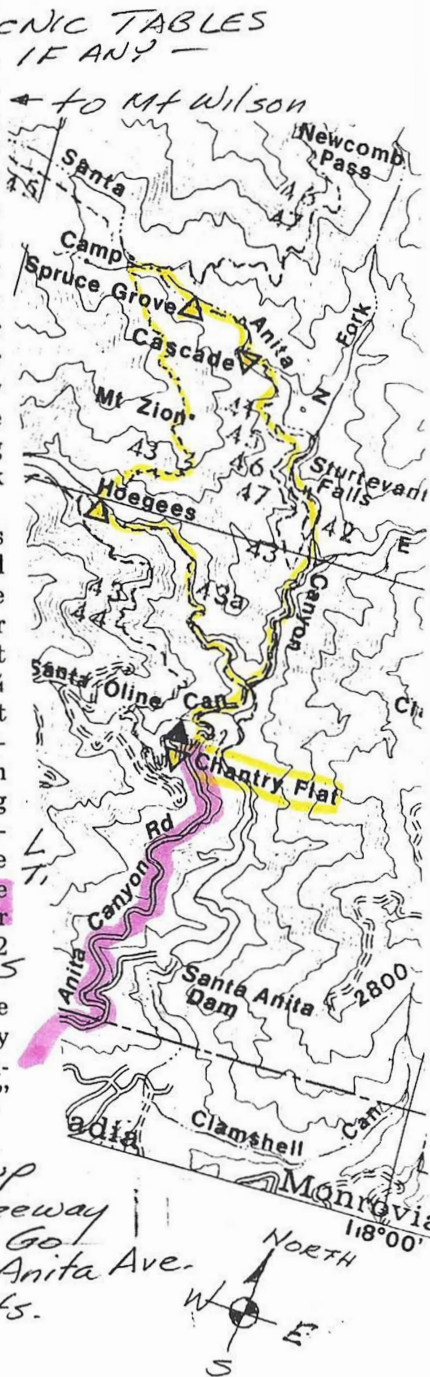
To continue on the full circle trip, retrace your steps from Hoegee Trail Camp back up to the Mt. Zion Trail junction, marked by a small sign. Go right and follow the newly restored Mt. Zion Trail (which is really the upper section of the old Sturtevant Trail) as it climbs, first through forest and then chaparral, to Zion Saddle, 1¼ miles. A side trail right leads ¼ mile to Mt. Zion's summit and spectacular views over the Big Santa Anita watershed. Your main trail then gently descends through lush forest, mostly big-cone spruce, to a junction with the Big Santa Anita Canyon Trail, ¾ mile. Turn right and descend the canyon trail, fording the creek twice, to Spruce Grove Trail Camp, ½ mile. Your trail descends to Cascade Picnic Area, contours the mountainside, drops to Winter Creek, and climbs back up to Chantry Flat (see Trip 42 for a full description).

REFRESHMENTS

Note: This circle trip was made possible by the restoration of the upper Sturtevant, or Mt. Zion, Trail by Sierra Club volunteers and a group of San Gabriel Mountains aficionados known as "The Big Santa Anita Gang" in 1984-1985.

*DON'T GET LOST -
STAY TOGETHER.*

Lunch Time



DIRECTIONS: Valley Boys take the 118 Ron Reagan Simi Valley Freeway or 101 Ventura Freeway East to the 210 Foothill Freeway. Go Southeast to Arcadia, then turn left on Santa Anita Ave. & go North about 6 miles to the Chantry Flats Upper Parking Lot.

So. Bay & West L.A. Drivers go up the 605 San Gabriel River Freeway to the 210 Foothill Freeway. Go West about 4 miles to Santa Anita Ave. & turn North to Chantry Flats.