

Hike #399

## WEST HILLS RIDGE, BELL CANYON

Hike for November 12, 1997

(Carlin - )

9:30 AM

- Approximately 6 miles.
- About 500 foot elevation gain and loss.

Today's hike will explore a portion of the western edge of the San Fernando Valley. With clear weather, we should experience excellent views of the Valley, and the now-dry Chatsworth Reservoir, the Santa Susanna mountains, and a chance to peek into the gated community of Bell Canyon.

Initially, we will be walking up a bridle path, but this soon turns into a rabbit warren of trails going over hill and dale into the "back country". There are many birds, the usual chaparral and chemise, and when I hiked it, a deer or two, rabbits, ground squirrels, and the like. Because of the many trails, we must stay together or at least within view of each other. Although you can find your way out, you just may not end up where you started from. The trail surface runs from soft dirt to large rocks. It is quite steep in places. (There, Carlin-truth-in-hiking policy!)

We will meet in front of the Carlin Abode: 23725 Community St., West Hills, CA. We will walk from there, eat lunch on the trail and return for refreshments, and bathroom facilities, and the other comforts of home.

To get to Carlin's house, exit north from the Ventura Freeway (101 North) at Valley Circle, travel approx. 8 miles past Roscoe Blvd. At the next street north of Roscoe, turn right (the only choice) onto Schoenborn, then almost immediately, turn left onto Starkland. Starkland sweeps down and to the right transitioning into Community St. Carlin's house is about 5 houses down on the left (north side of the street).