

# OTP HIKE FOR 12 APRIL 2000

HIKE LEADER: JOHN CHADY

## PALO CAMADO/CHEESEBORO CANYON LOOP

**THE HIKE:** We will depart from the Cheeseboro Canyon Park parking lot at 9:30 A.M. The hike will take the Modelo Trail, a short but steep climb. At the junction we will take the Palo Camado Connector trail to the left and follow it to the Palo Camado Canyon Trail which is a wide ranch road. Where the road begins to climb to the left, we will take a trail connecting to the Sulphur Springs/Cheeseboro Canyon Trails at Shepherds' Flat back to the parking lot. We will eat lunch under the oak tree near Sheep Coral.

For those who wish to travel farther and higher (and faster), they can continue on the road up the hill, 1200 foot elevation gain, to China Flat and have lunch by the pond at the corral. (When Vicki, Dick Battin and I scouted this, our pedometers measured about 12 miles roundtrip.) Return to the parking lot as above...or retrace your way back to the parking lot. A shortcut across private property does exist which eliminates the need to go up and over the ridge. We used it last time and no one hollared at us.

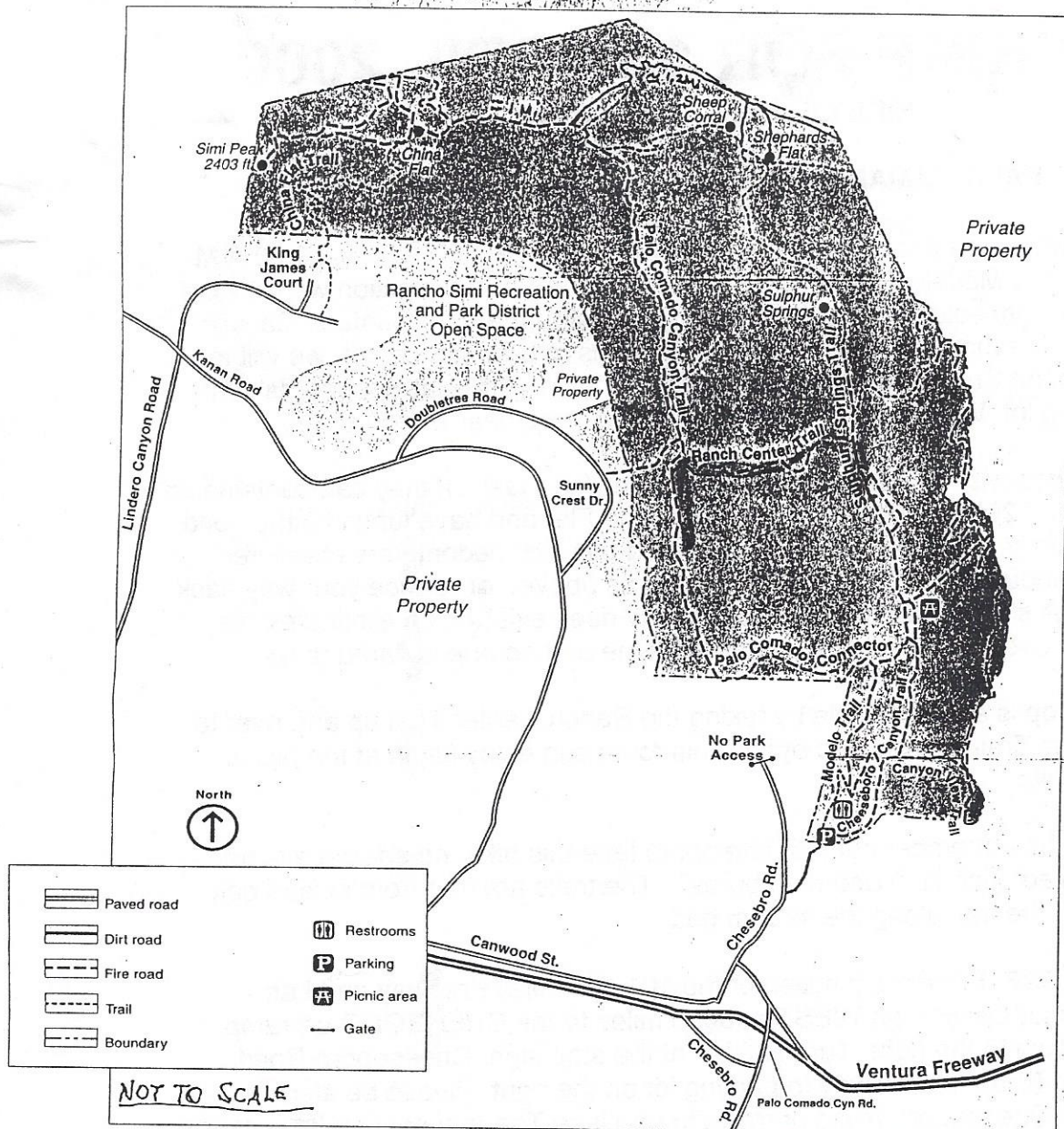
A shorter loop is also available by taking the Ranch Center Trail up and over to the Sulphur Springs Trail. Those who opt for this route can enjoy lunch at the picnic tables under the oaks.

For those who remember our last attempt to take this hike, no special effects have been scheduled such as "controlled burns". The trails are free from poison oak unless one gets off the trail along the stream bed.

**HOW TO GET THERE:** From the junction of the 101 (Ventura) Freeway and Las Virgenes (aka Malibu) Canyon go WEST about 3 miles to the CHEESEBORO off ramp. Exit to the right, follow to the right. Turn RIGHT at the stop sign, Cheeseboro Road. Follow Cheeseboro Road to driveway to parking lot on the right. Please be alert to oncoming traffic as Cheeseboro Road narrows to one lane. The real parking lot is at end of the drive.

**REFER TO MAP ON BACK FOR DETAILS.**

# CHEESEBORO CANYON/ PALO COMADO CANYON SITE



## Trails

**Modelo Ridge Trail** 0.7 mile, moderate—This trail meanders from the parking lot through grasslands to a lone coast live oak on the ridge. Watch for raptors and coyotes. The trail drops east and joins the Cheeseboro Canyon Trail.

**Ridge Trail** 1 mile, easy—Starting at the ridge line on the Modelo Trail and continuing north along the ridge, this pathway offers views of both canyons. It ends at the Palo Comado Connector Trail where you can turn right, and travel east to Cheeseboro Canyon, or left, and travel west to Palo Comado Canyon.

**Palo Comado Connector Trail** 1.5 miles, moderate—Travel this old ranch road across the ridge and through a section of Modelo Shale to reach either Cheeseboro or Palo Comado Canyons.

**Cheeseboro Canyon Trail / Sulphur Springs Trail** 4.6 miles, easy—Follow an old ranch road along a streambed through a valley oak savannah and live oak riparian zone. A picnic area is located 1.6 miles from the parking lot. As you near Sulphur Springs, at 3.3 miles, smell the odor of rotten eggs. Look for wildflowers in this lush area in the springtime. As you pass under the Baleen Wall the canyon opens up and chaparral slopes replace the grasslands. The trail continues through a drier area and ends at an old sheep corral where you can picnic near the creek bed or watch the sky for golden eagles.

**Canyon View Trail** 0.7 mile, moderately strenuous—At the south end of Cheeseboro Canyon this trail splits to the right of the main trail and climbs to a knoll above the Lost Hills landfill. Looking back towards the west, you can see

most of Cheeseboro Canyon from the headwall to the mouth, chaparral to oak grassland.

**Palo Comado Canyon Trail** 4.4 miles, moderate to strenuous—The first 1.2 miles of this trail is a gentle stroll along a creek to the old ranch center. The dramatic elevation gain begins a mile past the ranch site where you will climb from 1,200 feet elevation to scenic China Flat at 2,140 feet elevation.

**Ranch Center Trail** 1.1 miles, moderate to strenuous—This trail crosses a chaparral hillside and connects Cheeseboro and Palo Comado canyons.

**Simi Peak Trail:** 0.8 mile, moderate—Travel this winding trail to Simi Peak the tallest point in the area at 2,403 feet elevation. Enjoy a spectacular view of Oak Park, Agoura Hills and Simi Valley.