

OTP & OTHERS

Hiking and Debating Society

SAN GABRIEL RIVER, WEST FORK, HIKE/BIKE

The hike for April 11, 2001 will be an easy stroll or bike ride up the West Fork of the San Gabriel River. The whole way to Cogswell Dam is on a paved road from which all vehicles except official vehicles are excluded. If you wish, this is an excellent opportunity to bring a bike. Roller skates are also an interesting possibility. All major stream crossings are by bridge so that if any one gets their feet wet it will be at most a minor dampening. On this hike each individual can go as far or not as they wish. Cogswell Dam is 8 miles from the trailhead, an easy trip if you bring a bike.

From the 210 Freeway go north on Route 39, which becomes San Gabriel Canyon Road. The West fork is a short way beyond the East Fork Bridge. Park in the West Fork parking lot on the left, about 11 1/2 miles above Azusa. A pit toilet is available. An Adventure Pass is required for each parked car.

We will convene at 9:15 AM at the trailhead and with a 15-minute grace period we will start the hike at 9:30 AM. Arrive early enough to arrange your gear and do your socializing so that we can start the hike at 9:30 AM.

The group will divide itself into subgroups and each group will choose the venture of their choice. Each subgroup will choose a leader who will keep track of the hikers in their subgroup.

The bikers can bike to Cogswell Dam, 8 miles up the West Fork. Hikers can hike up the West Fork as far as they wish.

As an optional side trip, one mile up the West Fork is the Bear Creek trail up Bear Canyon on the right. On Bear Creek there will be several

stream crossings and some rock hopping.

Continuing up the West Fork you will pass the rugged portals of Big Mermaids and Little Mermaids Canyons, trailless and inaccessible parts of the San Gabriel Wilderness. After 4 miles the canyon narrows and the sidewalls steepen, with sheer rock cliffs. At 7 miles you reach Glenn Trail Camp, nestled in a woodsy recess where Glenn Canyon intersects the main stream. A pit toilet is available. A short side trip requiring a bit of boulder hopping can be made to the falls of Glenn Canyon, 1/4 mile up from Glenn Trail camp. There are three cascades, one right above the other, in the densely wooded canyon. To see all three at once, climb about 30 feet up the west slope opposite the lower fall. In times of high water, these are the most spectacular falls in the range. From Glenn Camp the road climbs so steeply that few people ride their bikes up, most have to walk and push. At Cogswell, ride across the dam and speculate about the trail on the other side.

Trip data:

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Distance	1 to 16 miles, round trip (to Cogswell)
Elevation gain	0 to 600 feet (to Cogswell)
Effort	Easy to Moderate
Leader	Mike Gessner

Recommended Maps:

Los Angeles County and Vicinity	Automobile Club
Angeles National Forest	U S Forest Service
Glendora, Azusa	7.5 minute Topographic
Trail Map of the Angeles High Country	Tom Harrison