

Hike #563

Switzer Camp to Oakwilde to Gould Mesa

Host: Mike Dillenback

Start 9:30 am at Switzer Picnic Area

Hike length: approx. 9 miles, mostly down hill but with 500 foot gain at the end.

Difficulty: moderate

My first hike with this group was from Switzer to Oakwilde and back. I enjoyed that hike so much so I decided to do a modification of that hike. However, logistically a car shuttle will be necessary. We will start at Switzer, go to Oakwilde and then come out at the Gould Mesa trailhead (also known as Gabrielino Trail) on Hwy 2. Hopefully the shuttle won't be too prohibitive. This the reverse of hike # 16 in John Robinson's Trails of the Angeles.

Directions: Drive from La Canada up the Angeles Crest Highway approx. 2 mile, just past the first big bend, to a gated road on your right, under a powerline, where a small wooden sign points right and indicates Gabrielino Trail. Leave shuttle cars here for the return shuttle. Would appreciate it if the Valley and South Bay folks would coordinate car shuttles for their respective folks. Then proceed to Switzer Picnic Area where the hike begins.

Hike Description: We start at Switzer Picnic Area and follow the creek 1.1 miles to the old Switzer's Trail Camp Resort. If we are lucky we will see the famous Switzer Falls. Then we will climb over a high chaparral ridge and drop into a beautiful canyon. After 4 miles we will reach the remains of Oakwilde Trail Resort. This used to be one of the most popular resorts in the whole range. Next we will go 2.8 miles thru Paul Little and Nino Campgrounds to Gould Mesa. There we will take a right turn and proceed one mile and 500 ft elevation gain to our waiting vehicles. We will return to Switzer Picnic Area where we will have our snacks waiting.