

**Hike June 18, 2003**  
**La Jolla Valley – Mugu Peak**  
**Hike Leader: Wolfgang Jahn**  
**Starting time: 9:30 AM**

**Trailhead:** Ray Miller trailhead on PCH opposite Thornhill Broome Beach campground about 22 miles north of Malibu Canyon Rd. N1.

**Description of hike** (with kind permission from Dick Battin who led this hike on Nov. 14, 2001): Two trails start from the Ray Miller Trailhead at the mouth of La Jolla Canyon. The wide one going up along the dry canyon floor ahead is the La Jolla Canyon Trail – our return route. We will take the narrow, inconspicuous La Jolla Ridge Trail to our right. It starts by curling up along the toe of a ridge, where it meets a short spur trail going down to an equestrian staging area. It then doggedly climbs 2.4 miles to a junction with the Overlook Trail, a wide fire road. Keep going north on the Overlook Trail, wind your way around several bumps on the undulating ridge, and arrive at a saddle 4.5 miles from the start, from where roads descend east into Wood Canyon and west in La Jolla Valley. We go left and descend moderately into the floor of the valley.

La Jolla Valley Walk-in Camp at 5.0 miles has restrooms and oak shaded picnic tables.

**Alternate Hike:** Just beyond the camp there is a trail to the left going south 2.3 miles back to the trailhead (total distance 7.3 miles with 950 ft. elevation gain).

**Primary Hike:** Continue west in the direction of a military radar installation on Laguna Peak. Ignore trails going left, right and left (I just hope Dick will be on the hike to guide us); we'll want to gradually circle to the southwest and south, heading for a saddle on the right, northwest, shoulder of Mugu Peak. Attaining that saddle at 6.8 miles, we'll have a great view of the Pacific Ocean.

From the saddle, the trail contours south and then east around the south flank of Mugu Peak. We continue to another saddle just east of Mugu's 1266 ft. summit. Five minutes of climbing on a steep path puts you on the barren top.

Return to the saddle east of the peak and continue descending to a junction in a wooded recess of La Jolla Canyon. Turn right, proceed east along a hillside and then hook up with the La Jolla Canyon Trail where you turn right. Nearing the canyon's mouth, we'll pass a little grove of walnut trees and a small, seasonal waterfall. We'll descent to join a dirt road and arrive 15 minutes later at the Ray Miller Trailhead (total distance 10.3 miles with 1950 ft. elevation gain).

