

OTP Hike July 02, 2003

Red Box Parking Lot to Mount Wilson

Hike Leader: Bill Townsend

**Direction to trailhead:** Drive up the Angeles Crest Highway to Red Box about 14 miles from La Canada.

**Detailed description:** The hike starts from Red Box down to Valley Forge Camp Ground downhill for 2.3 miles and 1000 feet. Some may want to eat lunch there and return back to Red Box for a total of 4.6 miles. Others will continue to Rattlesnake Trail and proceed up 2200 feet (4.3 miles) to Mount Wilson road. Even though this hike totals 6.6 miles, it is usually enough for most so a shuttle is nice. The trip back Mount Wilson Road is all downhill, it adds another 7 miles to the journey.

At the start of the hike we go east on the San Gabriel Trail for about 2.1 miles. We then take a left turn-off to Valley Forge Camp Ground about .25 miles away a spot for lunch for some.

The rest of us will continue on the San Gabriel Trail towards West Fork for about another 1.5 miles. At that point we turn right onto Rattlesnake Trail. In spite of the switchbacks, the trail runs through lush forest all the way to Mount Wilson Road. This is the way to climb Mount Wilson on a hot day. You cross Strayns Creek several times enroute; hopefully there will be a trickling stream.

**Summary:** The total distance is 6.6 miles and about 2200 feet elevation gain. For those who turned back at the Valley Forge Camp Ground, it is 4.6 miles and about 1000 feet gain.

**Call for Shuttle:** I need one to three volunteer drivers from the short hike to drive up Mount Wilson Road to pick-up the long hikers. If you leave about 45 minutes after you return to Red Box we will be waiting on the road (two miles further hike). If there is only one driver at the pick-up, we can take two trips. Previously we left a car at the top early, but parking is difficult.