

OTP HIKE FOR SEPT. 23, 2009 (In place of Mt. Pacifico)

HIKE: Backbone Trail and Zuma Ridge Trail to Buzzard's Roost Ranch

Leader: Jim Spotts

Distance: Approx. 8 miles round trip.

Elevation: Approx 1000 ft elev.gain

Note: This a replacement hike for the originally scheduled hike for Sept. 23. The original trailhead and hike route are in the burned area and are presumed to be nothing but ashes. It makes it hard on us hikers who picked hikes off of Angeles Crest and Angeles Forest Hwys whenever possible. Bah Humbug!

Driving directions: From PCH: Go north on Kanan Dume Road until you go thru the tunnel, then park in the parking area on the left side of the road.

From the 101: Go south on Kanan Dume Road about 2 miles beyond the intersection with Mulholland Road and park in the parking area on the right. If you go thru the tunnel, you have gone too far.

Note: There are no restrooms at the trailhead.

The Hike: From the trailhead the first portion of the hike goes northwest 2.5 miles on the Backbone Trail. The first half mile is a bit tricky, as there are several false trails. Stay on the most heavily used trails upslope from the creek. About 2 miles along the trail we pass Upper Zuma Falls which are probably dry. There is a poor trail over to the Falls which is not a recommended sidetrip. At 2.5 miles the Backbone Trail comes out on Zuma Ridge Trail, which, despite the name, is a graded fireroad. We travel south up this moderately steep trail 1.4 miles to the "top". This is a good place for lunch, with a sweeping view of the ocean from Catalina to Santa Cruz Island. Do not take the side road that leads to the Buzzard Roost Ranch. It is private property. The planned hike turns around here and returns the way we came. Those who want more mileage and altitude gain can continue along the fireroad toward the ocean before turning around.

Refreshments will be at the trailhead.