

Mike Gesser — I expanded this to include your Mt.
DAWSON SADDLE TO SAN GABRIELS HIKING HEAVEN TRAIL

OTP Hike #0194
START: 0930 ON 9-15-93 NAVIGATOR: DAVID LILLBACK

10+ MILES ROUND TRIP TO MIDDLE HIGH COUNTRY

ELEVATION GAIN OF 1237FT TO THROOP PEAK; THEN
560FT LOSS & 508FT GAIN TO MT. BURNHAM; AND THEN
519FT GAIN TO NORTH BALDY MT. AT 9399FT.

ACSC MAP: LOS ANGELES AND VICINITY
TOPO MAP: CRYSTAL LAKE

CLASSIFICATION: MODERATE, BUT ABOVE 7900FT.

TRAVEL ROUTE THAT THE VALLEY BOYS WILL USE: FROM
JUNCTION I-405 & I-101 VIA I-405 NORTH TO I-5 TO
ROUTE 14 (ANTELOPE FREEWAY) TO PEARBOSSOM HWY TO
LARGO VISTA(N4) TO BIG PINES; & THEN ROUTE 2 WEST
TO DAWSON SADDLE. DISTANCE IS 74.7 MILES - MOSTLY
ON FREEWAY, LESS MOUNTAIN CURVES & LESS TIME.

WHEREAS, FROM SAME JUNCTION VIA I-101 EAST TO 134
TO ROUTE 2 TO LA CAÑADA-FLINTRIDGE TO ANGELES
CREST NORTHEAST TO DAWSON SADDLE IS 68.5 MILES;
BUT 49 MILES IS ON WINDING MOUNTAIN ROADS. THAT
MEANS ALLOWING FOR 80 MINUTES FROM LA CAÑADA.

PARK IN THE LARGE CLEARING NORTH OF THE ROAD.

HIKE DESCRIPTION:

Directly across the road is the original trail, &
a new trail is 150 yards east down the road. Take
the old trail which switchbacks up the ridge to
join the new trail at 0.25 mile at the top of the
ridge. At the 1.5 mile split, take the right fork
trail up the northwest ridge which steepens as the
summit of Throop Peak (9138ft) is reached. Take a
breather and enjoy the sparkling clear air and the
north-side view of the forest monarchs and below -
the far away Mojave Desert. Mt. Hawkins is a mile
to the west. This high country backbone forms the
northern boundary of Sheep Mountain Wilderness.
Take care descending the east slope, steep in spots
but not too difficult, to reach the Pacific Crest
Trail. Go left about 200 yards to a junction with
the new trail coming in from the left. This will be
NOTE: THE + DENOTES UP TO 0.75MI. FOR SCRAMBLING

the return trail. Should anyone wish to shorten the
hike to 4.5 miles, this is the time and place. The
peak-baggers will continue down the PCT eastward
and then up the trail around the northside of the
bump in the ridgeline: forested 9047ft Mt. Burnham.
Down to another saddle and around one more bump in
ridge, and finally begin the climb of North Baldy,
9399ft (renamed in 1931 as Mt. Baden-Powell).

As you rise above 9000ft, the forest thins and
you pass several ancient limber pines. Just north
of the top you intersect the Baden-Powell summit
trail; from here walk up two short switchbacks &
you are there. On the bald crown, a metal register
and a weathered flagpole placed by the Boy Scouts
commemorates Lord Robert Stevenson Smyth Baden-
Powell and the end of the "Silver Moccasin" Trial
of Endurance: 53-miles from Chantry Flats over a
5-day period. Looking southeast across a chasm
deeper than the Grand Canyon, the view over to Old
Baldy (Mt. San Antonio at 10,064ft), is magnificent.
The many pronged watershed of the East Fork of the
San Gabriel River, before it enters the Narrows
may be traced as the progressively lower ridge lines
disappear into haze. One caution: these high moun-
tains may cause thunderheads to form when moisture
flows up from Baja California. The high altitude
will increase the need for more water and require
deep breathing to obtain enough oxygen.

Return to Dawson Saddle using the new trail that
was previously indicated. Refreshments await if the
early returnees havn't consumed everything.

