

## 1008

Shady John's Hike for 8 Sep 2010  
**The Backbone Trail to Saddle Peak**  
**Leader: John Chady**

### **The Hikes:**

**The Long Hike:** - 10 Miles round trip on the Backbone Trail from Piuma Road to Saddle Peak and return. 2000 foot elevation gained and lost.

**The Short Hike:** - 6.4 Miles round trip from Piuma Road to Stunt Road and return, about 1500 feet elevation gained and lost.

Both of these hikes begin at the Piuma Road Trail Head across from mile paddle 1.19. Shortly after beginning, the trail descends to the bottom of the canyon where it crosses a stream and begins the ascent. The first part of the hike is over a rather steep trail with many switchbacks. Frequent breath and water breaks will be automatic because of the dramatic views of canyon and mountains accorded at every turn. Frequent patches of shade will provide relief from the sun.

Those aspiring to the heights will depart the Backbone Trail at about 2.7 miles at the Saddle Peak Trail which tees in from the right. Turn right and continue to the top.

A Much Shorter Hike – About 2 miles round trip on the Backbone Trail from a marked Trail Head 150 yards East of Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road, or 50 feet PAST the Andy Gump, on the South side of Piuma Road to where the trail comes out on Piuma Road near mile paddle 1.19.

### Some Notes:

A flush toilet is available a short distance down the trail from the large paved parking lot on the South side of Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road on the Malibu side of the intersection (traffic light) with Piuma Road..

An Andy Gump is located on the East Side of Piuma Road, 150 yards up from Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon Road about 50 yards past a dirt parking lot where we will have refreshments in hopes to get some shade from the tree line. Those wishing to do the shortest hike or want to add 2 miles to whatever they wish to do should park here. For those beginning at the trail head at 1.19 mile paddle, there are 2 parking areas at mile paddle 1.07, one on each side of Piuma Road. We will move down to the parking area below the Andy Gump after the hike.

### **Getting to the Main Trail Head:**

From PCH go north on Malibu Canyon Road.

From the 101 go south on Las Virgenes Road.

Turn east at Piuma Road at the traffic light. Proceed east on Piuma Road. About 1/2 mile past Cold Canyon Road, and to mile paddle 1.07, park in either one.

The trailhead is on the left, a short walk up Piuma Road.