

1091

Switzer's to multiple destinations

July 18, 2012

Leader: Jim Spotts

DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD: Drive 10 miles up Angeles Crest Hwy. from La Canada/210 turnoff. About 0.4 miles after the Clear Creek junction look for the Switzer's turnoff on the right. Go through the gate and down to the Switzer Picnic area parking lot.

THE HIKES: The main hike starts down along the Arroyo Seco, climbs up above to get around the falls, and goes left at the fork to Oakwilde and then drops back down to join the Arroyo Seco. It then continues down the Arroyo Seco until it meets Bear Creek coming in from the left. You then go up Bear Creek Canyon approximately 2 miles to Bear Creek Campground. These final 2 miles involve a lot of rock-hopping and are somewhat challenging. The distance for this hike is approx. 8 miles with a climb of approx. 1000ft.

Variations: You can turn-around and not go up Bear Canyon for a hike of 4 miles and 600ft. climb. There is also a 1/4 mile side-trip up the Arroyo Seco to the base of the falls to add a little distance and interest. The other choices involve taking the trail from the parking area to Red Box and back (or one way with a shuttle). This is an 8 mile round trip with approx. 1000 ft. climb. The trail was not in great shape the last time people took it due to damage from the Station Fire. It may be better now.

Refreshments will be served at the parking lot.