

Gold Creek to Yerba Buena Ridge and Fascination Spring via Oak Spring Campground

December 11, 2013

Jim Carlin Leader

Hike #736 on Description Disk

Distance (estimates – no GPS data):

Basic hike 5.3 miles RT with elevation gain of 1100 ft.

To cistern 7.9 miles RT with elevation gain of 1750 ft.

To Fascination Spring 7.5 miles RT with elevation gain of 2000 ft. (involves a 900 ft. drop to the spring from the ridge).

Directions to the Trailhead: Turn off the 210 Freeway at Osborn Street, which soon becomes Little Tujunga Canyon Road heading north. Four miles from the freeway, Gold Creek Road angles off to the right. The new Oak Spring parking lot (complete with rest room) is 0.6 miles up Gold Creek Road. An Angeles Forest parking pass is required. From the parking lot walk another 100 yards up the road to the marked trailhead.

The Hike: The trail climbs the ridge south of Gold Creek. The first mile is all up and offers views of the Hathaway School and the Mendenhall Ridge behind it. At about 1.5 miles, Oak Spring Campground is reached, a shady grove with a small stream. Cross the stream and continue south, generally upward for another mile to Yerba Buena Ridge and fire road.

The signed trail to Fascination Spring is about 100 yards down the road and a grassy knoll is another 100 yards further. The knoll is a good destination and offers views of: 1) Your house, if you live in the Valley, 2) The north end of the Verdugo Range, 3) Hansen Dam which was built in the late 30s, and 4) The Budweiser factory.

For those wishing to extend the hike can continue up the road to where the road reaches an obvious crest and a nearby cistern (adds 2.6 miles RT and 650 ft. elevation gain).

For those wishing to visit Fascination Spring, take the trail leading off of the fire road. This trail is steep and not in very good condition (adds 2.2 miles RT with elevation loss of 900 ft.).

Checkout comments on the Fascination Springs trek:

<http://www.meetup.com/SGV-Hikers/events/110948112/>

Doesn't sound too encouraging.