

# OTP & OTHERS

## HIKING & DEBATING SOCIETY

### Mount McKinley

The hike for May 10, 1995 will be to Mount McKinley. No, not Denali, but our own little Mount McKinley right here in the San Gabriel Mountains. This is not one of the higher or better known peaks in our local range. It's main claim to fame is simply its name. Think of being able to brag to your friends and family that you have climbed Mount McKinley. You might just forget to mention what state this mountain is in. Be sure to bring your camera, this a great photo opportunity. We will pass a higher and more respectable peak on our way to Mt. McKinley. Dedicated peak baggers will be able to do Iron Mountain as a very short side trip.

Kathy and I did this hike about two and a half years ago. On that occasion the air was very clear so we had great views. The hike follows Mendenhall Ridge with outlooks to both the north and south.

#### The Drive:

Allow an hour for mountain driving from the 210 Freeway. Drive north on Angeles Crest Highway (39) from the 210 freeway to Angeles Forest Highway, about 9.3 miles. Turn left and continue onto Big Tujunga Highway. Drive to Mill Creek Summit and turn left onto the road toward Messenger Flats. Drive about 8.8 miles. At a fork in road take the left fork, not to Messenger Flats. Proceed about 0.5 miles to another fork. Take the right fork not into Lightning Point camp ground. Continue about 1.5 miles to a locked gate. Park in wide area on either side of the road.

We will convene at the trailhead at or before 9:15 AM. There will be a 15 minute waiting period to adjust our gear, mill around, socialize and wait for the slow pokes. We will start the hike at 9:30 AM. This is a long hike so we will not be able to delay the start later than 9:30. The late-comers can try to catch up or make-do with Iron Mountain.

### The Hike:

The hike will be mainly on a fire road. There will be no stream crossings or rock climbing. There is more danger of coming across Sasquatch than poison oak. I expect this to be a very safe and scenic hike. We will hike on a trail only from the beginning of the Yerba Buena trail to Mt. McKinley summit. The quarter mile from the saddle to the peak is a bit of a scramble but I believe it is less so than Strawberry Peak.

The hike profile is as follows;

Location	Distance (miles)	Elevation (feet)	Elevation Diff. (feet)
Trail Head		5730	
Indian Ben Saddle	2	5058	-672
Iron Mountain	3	5360	+302
Yerba Buena Trail	4.5	4960	-400
Mt. McKinley Saddle	6	4540	-420
Mt. McKinley	6.25	4926	+386

### Trip data:

Distance 12.5 miles, round trip

Elevation gain See Hike Profile

Effort Moderate but long

Leader Mike Gessner

### Recommended Maps:

San Fernando Valley Area Automobile Club

Angeles National Forest U S Forest Service

Condor Peak 15 minute Topographic

Sunland 15 minute-Topographic