

OTP HIKE FOR 4 DECEMBER 1996

Mt. Pacifico

- THE ASSAULT ON MT. PACIFICO - A new hike for OTP, selected and scouted by Hasrat and Irene, our entrepid weekend hikers.
- PAST HISTORY - We've hiked the Pacific Coast Trail (PCT) to Mt. Pacifico twice: 9 Sep 1992 (Carlin) and 4 Aug 1993 (Spotts) both times hiking east from Mill Creek Summit on The Forest Mtn. Hwy. The first time out, we saw a sign indicating the mileage as 6 miles (12 miles round trip) instead of the advertised 8 miles round trip which dampened our spirits somewhat and as a result we did not reach the summit. On Spotts' hike we went ahead anyway, and reached the summit. (See hike No. 55, p 135 in One Hundred Hikes in the San Gabriels).
- TODAY'S HIKE - We will again hike the PCT, but we will walk to the north-west from Pinyon Flats. Exact mileage is not known, but it appears to be under the 12 miles round trip from Mill Creek, probably more like **10 miles** (see the attached map and judge for yourself). To make the crest, we will have to leave PCT and scramble some 500 vertical feet up the open west ridge as we did on the previous assault on the peak. I do not have an adequate topo map, but it looks like the total elevation gain will be under **2000 feet**. It is an up and back hike so that hikers can choose to go as far as they want and return.
- DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD - From the intersection of Angeles Hwy (Rte. 2) and I-210, drive north on Rte. 2, **26.5 miles** to the intersection with Sulpher Springs Road (Three Points). Turn left (north) and note odometer reading - we are going to go **3.6 miles** total from this point as follows: drive road past Horse Flats road, past Adler Saddle onto Co. Rd. 5N04, then across Pinyon Flats (all choices made at subsequent forks and intersections by turning to the RIGHT) until you see the PCT intersection with the road. The PCT leads across the road at this point, to the south toward Sulphur Springs, to the north to Mt. Pacifico. There is parking some 100 yards beyond PCT.
- DESCRIPTION - 7124 foot Mt. Pacifico looms high on the northern rampart of the San Gabriels, offering far-reaching panoramas over the Antelope Valley and the Mojave Desert. On days when the sky is clear of the usual desert haze, the viewer can make out, on the distant horizon, the sawtooth peaks of the High Sierra and the distinct cone-shaped summit of Telescope Peak overlooking Death Valley (yeah, sure!). Legend says that Mt. Pacifico and its all-year spring were a hangout of Tiburcio Vasquez and his gang of horse thieves in the 1870's (i.e. Horse Flats). In fact, the famous *bandido* supposedly gave it the name "Pacifico" because he could see the Pacific Ocean from the top. There is a large campground on top, and a group of monstrous boulders to clamber over.
- DEFAULT "HIKE" IN CASE OF RAIN: MEET AT GENE AUTRY'S COWBOY MUSEUM, NEAR THE ZOO IN GRIFFITH PARK AT 10:00 AM.
- Hike Master Jim Carlin

