

OTP HIKE FOR 1 JULY 1998

HIKE LEADER: JOHN CHADY

FROM CHEESEBORO CANYON VIA PALO CAMADO TO CHINA FLAT AND RETURN

THE HIKE: We will depart from the Cheeseboro Canyon parking lot at 9:30 AM and follow the Modelo Trail (.7 Miles) to the Palo Camado Connector. This is a short but steep climb. A left turn at the junction will lead around and down/up (1.5 Miles) to the Palo Camado Trail. The Palo Camado Trail (4.4) is a wide, level ranch road through oak trees and a meadow like area to China Flats. The last 2 miles to China Flats will be a 1200 foot elevation gain with lots of wild flowers and views of the terrain below. For the gazelles and antelopes, the trail continues to Simi Peak (.8 Miles). **But watch your time!** Stop at 2-1/2 hours.

Leader's Note: Vicki Ritter, Dick Battin and I hiked to the "lake" in 2-1/2 hours with both pedometers reading 6 miles. We stopped often to sniff the flowers, enjoy the view and catch our breath.

THE RETURN: Begin by returning via Palo Camado Trail. At about 1 Mile note 2 narrow trails leaving the main trail to the left. Take the upper-most. This trail will lead you along the North side of the canyon with some switch backs and small stream crossings and a gradual descent to Cheeseboro Canyon floor. Lots of flowers in bloom along here too. After about another mile a spur at 90 degrees goes off to the right. This will lead you to the trail between Shepherds Flat and Sheep Corral where you will take a left. At the Shepherd's Flat junction take the Sulphur Springs Trail and Cheeseboro Canyon Trail all the way back to the parking lot.

Leader's Note: This route was about 6 -1/2 miles but took only 2-1/4 hours. Lots of shade.

ALTERNATE HIKE: Begin as above except crossover from Palo Camado to Cheeseboro Canyon on the Ranch Center Trail. This trail is rated moderate to strenuous and 1.1 Miles. Have lunch under the oaks and beside the stream at the picnic ground. Return to parking lot via Cheeseboro Canyon Trail. This loop is approximately 6 or 7 miles.

ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE: Bring a good book and hike to the picnic ground (1.6 Miles) and enjoy a day of reading and bird watching.

Weather will be **HOT**. Not much shade except on the return along the Cheeseboro Canyon Trail. Dress appropriately. Bring extra water. **NO POISON OAK** unless you get off the trail on the return in the vicinity of the stream.

HOW TO GET THERE: From the junction of the 101 Freeway (Ventura) and Las Virgenes Canyon (aka Malibu Canyon) go West about 3 Miles to Chesboro offramp. Exit to right, follow to the right. Turn right at stop sign, Cheeseboro Road. Follow Cheeseboro Rd to driveway to the parking lot. Please be alert to oncoming traffic; road narrows to one lane. Ignore cars parked at entrance to park but follow driveway back to parking lot.

CHEESEBORO CANYON/ PALO COMADO CANYON SITE

