

**Hike on September 16, 1998****Upper Arroyo Seco****Hike Leader: Wolfgang**

**Direction to trailhead:** Take Angeles Crest Highway (2) north from La Canada for 10 miles. A short way past the junction of Angeles Crest and Angeles Forest (N3) Highways, you'll see the Angeles National Forest Clear Creek Information Station on your right. About half-mile past the information station, turn right down the winding paved road to the Switzer Picnic Area. **Start time: 9:30 AM**

**The hike:** The hike will take us from the Switzer to the Oakwilde Picnic Area and back. Per the hiking guide this will be a 9 miles round trip, however, per Ron's calculation it is actually 10.2 miles. (We all know who is right) Suggestion is to have lunch at the Arroyo Seco creek bottom (round trip about 8 miles), with only the eager beavers continuing to the Oakwilde Picnic Area.

Detailed description: From the Switzer Picnic Area, the trail begins across the bridge at the lower end of the picnic grounds. Cross the bridge and follow the trail into the canyon. The pathway meanders with the stream under oak, alder and spruce. We'll cross and recross the stream several times and do some easy boulder-hopping. In a mile, we'll reach Commodore Switzer Trail Camp.

From the camp, we'll cross the stream and follow the trail on the west slope. Pretty soon we should have a nice view of the falls. At the signed junction bear right (southwest) on the main trail – the Gabrielino National Recreation Trail - down to Oakwilde. The trail leaves the main Arroyo Seco canyon, crosses a chaparral ridge, then drops into Long Canyon. It then descends to Arroyo Seco creek bottom and follows the creek about a mile to Oakwilde Trail Camp. Return is the same way.

Since the first part of the hike has an elevation loss of about 1,400 foot – surprise, surprise - we will have a gain on the way back. For this reason, I like to suggest that we have lunch at the Arroyo Seco creek bottom. This would give some the option to continue afterwards the one mile to the Oakwilde Picnic Area (two miles round trip) while others would start their way back to Switzer .

