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28 APRIL 1999

Hike #464

GRANT E. TRETTEL
9:30 AMSERRANO VALLEY LOOP
from Sycamore Canyon
Campground

Maps:	Point Mugu, topo Triunfo Pass, topo
Distance:	8½ miles roundtrip
Elevation:	1100' gain and loss
Terrain:	Steep trail and road
Time:	3-3/4 hours
Trailhead:	Sycamore Canyon

This is a moderate trip taking you through some of the most scenic parts of the center of the Park. Big Sycamore Canyon with its large trees, Serrano Canyon with dense foliage, an open field, a ridge, and a large expanse of chaparral present a variety of plant forms.

Reach the trailhead by driving 20 miles west of the Malibu Canyon Road on the Pacific Coast Hwy to Sycamore Canyon. Park outside the gate.

Walk through the campground and upstream on the Big Sycamore Canyon Trail. A mile and a half after leaving the campground you will pass the Serrano Canyon Trail on the right. That will be the trail that you will come down later. Continue up the gently graded Sycamore Canyon, occasionally crossing the stream. This part of the canyon is wide, and is typical of this outstanding sycamore savannah. Deep grass under spreading trees, deer tracks and on occasion a deer, a couple of acorn woodpeckers sitting on Sycamore branches making short flights if you walk up close, a ground squirrel; all these make this eco-system a vibrant, live and interesting place to visit. One hour after leaving the trailhead you will be near the Wood Canyon Trail junction. Several trails branch out from the main trail in this area; the one that you will be taking is on the right and is a trail, not a road.

The initial view of this trail is shocking after the previous level walking. The trail goes up a steep ridge relentlessly gaining 800 feet before reaching a level area near Old Boney Road. There is some consolation in the spectacular view of Sycamore Canyon.

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