

OTP Hike #465

Subject: Trailhead Directions 5 May Hike at Zuma

To All;

I am repeating this e-mail just to say that when we drove past the Zuma Beach intersection yesterday, I saw "Busch" on the street sign where we should turn right. There is a shopping mini-mall on the north-west corner of the intersection. I did not see Merritt Dr. as we drove past. As you go up Busch, you'll come to the "T" intersection with Merritt, and you will continue on the right hand arm which is the continuation of Busch.

The hike explores the LOWER PORTION of Zuma Canyon. Yes, OTP'ers, I can't seem to get Zuma Canyon out of my system.

Vickey, Tom Frye, Dick Battin and I did an overlook for this hike when we scouted the Zuma Ridge trail, and it looks like a much more moderate terrain than what we experienced in the upper portion of Zuma Canyon. Lecho advertised it as "an easy hike" at 6.7 miles (although I total up only 5 miles for his route).

The hike will essentially be a loop with an extension along the creek, up into Zuma canyon. The trail is shown as ending suddenly, up against a very steep hill. The stream seems to wander around this hill, so I cannot see why we cannot continue up-stream, but we'll have to wait to see what prevails when we get there. We have some options if we get past the hill, including hiking on to the "beach spot" we visited last time, then climbing up the Edison Access road to the Zuma Ridge trail, returning to the trailhead on high ground. The conditions when we viewed it from above was dry vegetation with a dusty streambed, but recent rains may have changed this. Poison Oak should still be a problem so take precautions.

The trailhead actually serves both Lower Zuma Canyon and Zuma Ridge trails. It is located about 1 mile north of PCH at the dead end of Busch Drive. Take PCH west through Malibu continuing past the turnoff for Zuma Beach. Carefully watch for MERRITT DRIVE- turn right (north). You will soon come to a "T" intersection with Busch Dr., go straight ahead on BUSCH DR. to the end. Park at the trailhead parking lot on the right. We'll meet in time to begin at 9:30 AM. Refreshments served at trailhead at end.

See ya there.

Jim