

Hike #500

The great and glorious OTP will celebrate its 500th hike on January ¹²15, 2000.
For this auspicious occasion we will repeat last year's hike to Mt. McKinley from Big Tujunga Road via Gold Creek Canyon Road.

Hike leader: Irene Adam

Round trip: 8 1/2 - 9 miles

Degree of difficulty: Moderate to strenuous

Reward: 360 degree view of Iron #2, Condor, Strawberry, Wilson Observatory, Lukens & part of the San Fernando Valley. On the ascent we pass a lovely forest previously not hiked by our group.

Driving directions: From #210 west take the Sunland exit. Turn right. Sunland meets Foothill at the first light. Take it. Turn on Oro Vista, the 3rd light. This turns right into Big Tujunga Canyon Road. Drive 5 miles to Gold Creek Canyon Road to your left after a bridge. You may park either on the side of Big Tujunga or on every bend of Gold Creek Canyon Road.

The hike: We begin at the locked gate of 3N29 and keep on a good all weather dirt road to Gold Canyon Saddle. Then turn right on a trail (formerly a road) to the west of Yerba Buena Ridge to the next saddle, 4,620'. Leave the main trail to a faint trail on an easy ascent to the summit of Mt. McKinley. Descend either down Yerba Buena Ridge or retrace your steps back to Gold Creek Saddle.

Rain need not cancel this hike, but since it makes driving hazardous, I will cancel if need be.

I will pass out sheets with animal foot prints. This area is the home of many species.

The paddle for parking on Big Tujunga Canyon Road and Gold Creek Canyon Road is #2.01.

Some pertinent mileage numbers are:

1.9 miles to the first water tank and end of greatest gain in elevation;

3.2 miles to the 2nd water tank where many hikers will have lunch & return;

3.7 miles to the saddle from which McKinley can be climbed on a use trail by going up *the* ridge. It is a shortcut which Hazrat likes.

4.6 miles to an access on the back side of McKinley which is very, very easy.

At the later access there is a large duck and a broken shovel marking the right turn from the regular trail. You will cross-country for 300' elevation gain *on a faint trail to the summit (4976)*.

Something new has been added at the summit, a sign-in can. The Sierra Club had this as a recent hike so they probably put it there although it is NOT on the 100 peaks list.

I suggest that everyone take a short food break at BOTH water tanks. No matter what the time, I am always famished when I see them.

Irene Adam