

Hike #510

CALABASAS PEAK
from Woodland Hills
via Summit-to-Summit Motorway

DATE: March 8, 2000
TIME: 9:30 AM
LEADER: Vicky Ritter

Distance: 8 miles
Elevation: 1750' gain and loss
Terrain: Trail and fireroad
Time: 3 1/4 hours
Trailhead: Ganelon Dr. in Woodland Hills

NOTE THESE CHANGES TO DIRECTIONS TO TRAILHEAD FROM PREVIOUS HANDOUT.

From Topanga Canyon turn west on Mulholland DR., then turn left on Mulholland HWY in Woodland Hills to Eddingham Avenue; turn left and proceed to Adamsville Avenue; turn right, go to Ganelon Dr.; turn right to yellow END sign. Park on street.

A steep trail drops down beyond the last house on the right. This goes to a north running intermittent stream. Turn right upon reaching the streambed and begin looking for a trail that branches left, going up a gully to the west. This steep trail makes a turn left working up onto a ridge. Stay on the trail until reaching the "Summit-to-Summit" fireroad, then turn right. Go west as you stay close to the ridge. This is a perfect road to view many of the "modest mansions" in Calabasas. You will cross Old Topanga

Canyon Road at its high point and continue west going around a fireroad gate, then uphill. A private road leading to Deer Creek Ranch branches left and should be avoided.

The next segment of the hike is about 2 miles long and gains 550 feet in a series of uphill climbs interspersed with level stretches. The route stays well up on the ridge as it makes a left hand sweep from a west to south heading. Nearing Calabasas Peak you will lose some altitude, then make a left turn and gain 200 feet going around a shoulder to the right and up a grade with the peak on the right. When the roadcut dwindles, cut back to the right and walk along the trail that goes up a bulldozed area to the peak. A break in the chaparral near the top indicates where the trail goes through. A steep, but short, climb puts you on top. At 2163' Calabasas Peak overlooks everything close by. Only the east-west backbone to the south, dominated by Saddle Peak, is higher. The view one mile west is of Stokes Canyon and Stokes Ridge. Beyond is Malibu Creek State Park distinguished by the volcanic Goat Buttes. Climb this at night to see the lights of the Thousand Oaks area and the Ventura Freeway. Return on the same road you came; cross Old Topanga Canyon Blvd. and continue east. Pass the ridge by which you came up to the road, continuing about 1/2 mile, reaching a 4-road intersection. Stay left going uphill, reaching another road fork after leveling out on the ridge. Turn left and start the final downhill stretch of about 2/3 mile to the trailhead.