

589

OTP HIKE FOR NOV21, 2001

HIKE LEADER: Jim Gardner

DESCRIPTION: Chilao - Charlton round trip loop, with side trip to Vetter Mountain.

DISTANCE: About 4 - 8.7 miles, depending on the route taken. (See below)

GAIN: Total gain/loss for the whole hike is about 1500'. (See below)

DIRECTIONS: Take Angeles Crest Hwy to mileage paddle 49.69, and turn left into Chilao Campground. Go about 0.1 miles to a small parking area by the Silver Moccasin Trail entrance point.

THE HIKE: There are three ways to do the hike, ranging from easy to moderately strenuous:

1. We all start out on the Silver Moccasin Trail headed southwest. The trail at first skirts the campground area, and is a bit easy to lose. After about one mile, it becomes a forest service road, and after about 2 miles one reaches blacktop in Charlton campground. The shortest hike is to turn around at this point and return on the same trail to Chilao. This would be about 4 miles, and a loss and regain of a few hundred feet.
2. Continue on the Chilao - Charlton loop by turning left on the blacktop and hiking to the Charlton entrance on Angeles Crest Hwy. Cross the highway, jog slightly left 100 feet or so, and enter the dirt road, which goes to the saddle between Mt. Mooney and Devil Peak. The view from Devil Peak is supposed to be very good, but is an additional 1.6 mile round trip, which I did not scout. Total distance (without Devil Peak) is 5.4 miles, and 800' gain and loss.
3. Add the Vetter Mt. side trip by turning left on the blacktop in Charlton as mentioned above, and going about 100' to the entrance to the next leg of the Silver Moccasin Trail. Turn right onto the trail, and after about 0.1 mile, veer right onto the Vetter Mountain Trail. The trail crosses the road to the fire lookout a couple of times, but stay on the trail all the way to the summit and lookout. Retrace your steps back via the Vetter Mountain trail to the blacktop in Charlton, turn right and continue as in #2. above. The fire lookout is manned by a volunteer organization from Memorial weekend to the first snowfall, so should be open (assuming no snow in the next 3 weeks). Total distance of the Vetter leg of the trip is 3.3 miles, and 700' gain/loss, bringing the trip total to 8.7 miles, and 1500' gain/loss.