

630

OTP Hike

Tunnels to Nowhere

September 18, 2002

For those of you who have Mike's Hike File discs, this is hike no. 94 & 110. For those who don't have them I will include my usual long dissertation.

Leader: Roland Bassett

Distance: 5.5 miles round trip

Elevation gain: 900 feet

Effort: Easy

There are two abandoned highway tunnels on this hike. Lecho Torres can expound on the history of these tunnels and why the road is called "the convicts road". Lecho had a significant role in surveying the road and the tunnels when he was a surveyor for the county. The first tunnel is a mere 1.7 miles up the trail with another one somewhat further. We have never had to chase the bears out of the tunnels on our previous hikes. We will walk through both tunnels unless some delinquents have filled them with scree. The trail goes on a bit further but it becomes very narrow and dangerous then disappears.

There are two reasons I have selected this hike; 1) the temperature will probably be high and the hike is short and 2) I have never done it.

From the 210 Freeway, exit on Azusa Ave. (Highway 39) and go north. This becomes San Gabriel Canyon Road. After passing the second reservoir on the right, turn right on the East Fork Road and proceed about 3.4 miles to Shoemaker Canyon Road on the left. Take this road about 1.8 miles and park near the locked gate.

We will depart at the usual time of 9:30 AM.