

Sep 3 -- Three Points to Twin Peaks -- Rich Frederick

The trailhead is at Three Points on the Angeles Crest Highway 27 miles from the 210 freeway. 2.4 miles past Chilao turn left at the Camp Valmont area keeping left to the parking area. There are toilets available at the parking lot.

First of all, it is a long hike. If you go all the way to the top of Twin Peaks it is between 14 and 15 miles. Starting at 0900, Theo and I got from the Three Points parking lot to the saddle between Waterman and Twin Peaks (6 1/3 MILES) in two hours. It took us another hour (with several pauses) to get to the top of the Peaks. After lunch we came down much faster, but there followed a good climb back up the Waterman slope so that we returned to the parking lot (again many rest stops) just short of 400 PM, seven hours! Total elevation gain and loss in excess of 3000 feet. If anyone wants to do this entire hike, you must start no later than 0830 in the morning, if not sooner.

Secondly, although the weather was ideal, the distance and the ups and downs mean you need a lot more water than usual. Double up!

Thirdly, we were plagued from start to finish by swarms of gnats. Insect repellent and nets are advised.

However, take heart. The trail is wonderful, as it passes through the wilderness. Views are magnificent. And there are good turnaround points. The first comes at roughly three miles as one passes through a low swamp grass area that literally obscures the trail.

About a quarter of a mile further on one comes to an obvious beautiful viewpoint with a large mass of rocks. Lunch here and return. Not much elevation gain and about seven miles.

The next obvious goal is the saddle. About 12 miles and maybe 1000 feet loss and gain. I may renege on my stated intent to do the whole hike and do the saddle instead. If I don't do that, it will be hard to lead the hike at all!

Hope to see you all there; it's wonderful country.