

SWITZER'S TO BEAR CANYON

May 9, 2007

Leader: Sally Spotts

Approximately 8 miles round trip and 1000 ft. elevation gain.

DIRECTIONS TO TRAIL HEAD:

Drive up the Angeles Crest Highway (Hwy 2) from La Canada for 10 miles. About 4 tenths of a mile after the Clear Creek junction of Angeles Crest Highway & Angeles Forest Highway, look for Switzer's on the right. Go through the hopefully open gate and down to the Switzer Picnic area parking lot.

THE HIKE:

From Switzer Picnic area to Switzer Trail Camp, to Arroyo Seco, to Bear Canyon Trail Camp and return. To shorten the hike, there are several nice spots for lunch along the route and there are other options out of Switzer's.**

DETAILS OF THE HIKE:

Cross the wooden bridge over the Arroyo Seco creek at the west of the parking lot and head downstream 1 mile to Commodore Switzer Trail Camp. Here we cross the creek and leave the creek to climb the hill along the west slope above Switzer Falls. At the signed trail fork, we go to the LEFT and proceed down to rejoin the Arroyo Seco. (Note: do not go to Oakwilde} Down at the Arroyo Seco again, we turn right (continue downstream) for approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the point where Bear Creek flows into the Arroyo Seco.

Here we turn left and go UPSTREAM into Bear Canyon along Bear Creek. About 2 miles up Bear Creek, the trail climbs onto a forested "bench" on the right side of the creek where the Bear Canyon trail camp is located. This is the lunch spot. Return by the same route.

**For those who want more miles, you can continue past the Bear Canyon trail camp toward Tom Sloan saddle.

For those of you who want different trail, you could take a car to Red Box and walk down to Switzer's, or go out and back towards Red Box from Switzer's.