

DATE: Dec. 13, 1995 9AM

Kashmir, who rarely gets lost, lead me to the top of Condor Peak. It was a beautiful hike but.

THE PROBLEM: The trudge back up to the gate on 3N32 was somewhat tiring. (remember the Mt. McKinley hike?)

THE SOLUTION: We will meet at the TRAIL CANYON TRAIL HEAD at 9AM. John and Locho will shuttle us up to Mill Creek Summit and over to the locked gate on 3N32 south of Mt Gleason, where we will start the hike. It will be down hill all the way except for those of us bagging the peak

DISTANCE: About 8 mi. Add about 3 mi. for side trip to peak.

ALTITUDE: 3,000 to 4,000 down hill. Side trip to peak has ups and downs totaling about 1,000 ft.

Directions to trail head: From the Foothill Freeway (210) in Sunland, exit on Sunland Boulevard. Head east on Sunland, which

soon merges with Foothill Boulevard. Continue to ORA VISTA AVE, turn north (left) and drive to its end at the "T" at Big Tujunga Canyon Road. Turn right and proceed five miles to a dirt road on the left, where a sign indicates parking for Trail Canyon. The road ascends a quarter-mile, then forks. Descend a quarter-mile to the right to an oak-shaded parking area.

Read this section backwards

HIKING ROUTE DIRECTIONS: From the locked gate on 3N32, hike 2 miles W on 3N32 to a road fork, then go left past a gate for 0.5 mile to a water tank; pass W of it and hike on fire road 13W05 for 1.0 mile S to a saddle where the ridge trail you are on is joined by the Trail Canyon Trail (marked "Condor Peak Trail - 13W03"), coming up from the W, at elev. 4860'. Continue S along the ridge and fire road up around the left (E) side of elev. 5162', then down to saddle 4800', then up to saddle 5120', just E of Condor Peak. Turn right (W) up a firebreak and over a false summit 0.5 mile and 500' gain to the summit.

The hike: The trail, a closed fire road, passes some private cabins that date from the 1920s and '30s, and arrives at the creek. The road ends and the footpath begins three-quarters of a mile from the trail head, at a creek crossing.

Trail Canyon Trail heads up-creek in the shade of sycamores, oak and alder. After half a mile, the path switchbacks up the canyon's chaparral-covered west wall. After a couple of bends in the trail, look for Trail Canyon Falls below.

The side trail to the falls is a precipitous path, made by use, not design, proceed at your own risk. An alternative route to the falls is to simply bushwhack up Trail Canyon from the point, back where the trail leaves the canyon. The latter route is safer, except at times of high water.

Past the side trail to the falls, Trail Canyon Trail drops back into the canyon, crossing and recrossing the creek for 2 1/4 miles to Tom Lucas Trail Camp. This oak- and

alder-shaded camp is perched on the edge of a meadow watered by the headwaters of Trail Canyon Creek. The meadowland is known as Big Clenega.

Energetic hikers will savor a late-afternoon or early morning assault on 5,440-foot Condor Peak. Ascend Trail Canyon Trail for a long, steep mile to a firebreak, then climb another long, steep mile to a point just below the peak. Clamber a hundred yards over fractured granite to the summit. Rewarding the peak-bagger are views of the San Fernando Valley, Santa Monica Bay and Catalina Island.

