

1044

July 13, 2011

Sunset Ridge (Cheney Trail) – Mount Lowe Trail Camp

Location – San Gabriel Mountains

Round Trip Distance – Up to 12 miles

Elevation Gain/Loss – Up to 2800 ft.

Map – USGS 7.5 min Pasadena

Hike Leader – Jim Carlin

For the history of this area, please go to [Hike #552 - Mount Lowe Railway Tour](#). EXCEPT this hike starts from the Cheney Trail trailhead instead of the Sam Merrill Trail.

Directions to the Trailhead: Exit 210 just east of Devil's Gate Dam on Arroyo/Windsor Blvd. Go north over the freeway and take the first right turn at Woodbury Road. After several blocks, turn left up Lincoln. Go a mile or so and turn right on Loma Alto Road proceeding to a left turn on the Cheney Trail signified by the flashing yellow light. Go up the narrow winding road to the top of Sunset Ridge, parking on each side of the road. Do not continue on the road which descends down to Millard Campground.

Primary Hike – to Mt. Lowe Trail Camp: Walk east on the Sunset Ridge fire road past a foot trail beginning at about 100 yards to the left, taking the second foot trail which contours north and east along Millard canyon's south wall. After some climbing, you continue past a fork with a left branch (Millard Canyon Trail to Dawn Mine – NOW CLOSED) on the signed Sunset Ridge Trail to the Sunset Ridge –Mount Lowe fire road. Upon reaching the fire road, turn north and follow the fire road above Millard Canyon, eventually passing through the remains of the rock outcropping once known as Granite Gate. Continue on to Mt. Lowe Trail Camp, nestled in a grove of oak and spruce. The stone wall foundation just east of camp is all that remains of old Mt. Lowe Tavern.

Viewpoints of yesteryear to look for: the Cape of Good Hope, Horseshoe Curve, and the most famous of all, Grand Circular Bridge. There is no bridge here now, just a sharp hairpin turn of the road.

Alternate Hike #1 – Rabbits: From the trail camp, continue up the fire road, going right (southeast) at a road junction, one half mile to Inspiration Point. Immediately east of the point is an unmarked trail dropping into Castle Canyon. Follow this narrow trail as it zigzags steeply down through spruce and oak shaded Castle Canyon, around the head of Rubio Canyon, where you cross a small creek (usually water), and over to Echo Mountain. Return to the Mt. Lowe fire road by walking west along the Echo Mountain rail bed to pick up the Sunset Ridge trail and return.

Alternate Hike #2: Continue up along the fire road as far as you wish, and return the way you came.

Alternate Hike #3: Echo Mountain: After turning north on the fire road, look for the beginning of the rail bed trail to Echo Mountain a short distance above and turn right. Return the way you came.

After Hike refreshments at the parking lot (oh how I wish I had Henry's adjustable table).