

Hike #391

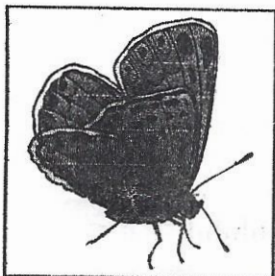
SWITZER FALLS TO ARROYO SECO

17 SEPT 1997

9:30 START

HIKE LEADER TOWNSEND

GATE TO LOWER PARKING LOT IS OPEN



The description below applies to get to the Switzer parking lot and the start of the hike. We will park and start the hike from the lower parking lot but instead of hiking to Bear Camp we will stay on the high trail from the Switzer Falls viewpoint. This means we will take the right at the fork on the trail and continue for a mile before we descend to the Arroyo Seco.

There is a pleasant lunch spot by the creek that is actually only about one-half mile to Oakwilde. I'm not sure it's a good idea to lunch at Oakwilde because it would extend the 8-mile hike to 9 miles. If the weather is cool and the highway gate is indeed open, we will take the longer hike. I called the Ranger Station who assured me that the gate is open but we will see.

DESCRIPTION

Drive up the Angeles Crest highway, #2, 10 1/2 miles from La Canada to the side road down to the Switzer Picnic Area, 1/2 mile past the junction of the Angeles Crest and Angeles Forest highways. Turn right and descend 1/4 mile to the lower parking area.

The hike starts at the wooden bridge for pictures. Cross the bridge and follow the trail down-canyon for one mile to Commodore Switzer Trail Camp. From the trail camp cross the creek and follow the trail as it climbs and then contours along the west slope above the falls. About 1/4 mile beyond the camp is a junction, we take the right trail that stays high rather than the left that descends to Bear Creek.