

Hike on June 28, 2000

Upper Arroyo Seco

Hike Leader: Wolfgang Jahn

Direction to trailhead: Take Angeles Crest Highway (2) north from La Canada for 10 miles. A short way past the junction of Angeles Crest and Angeles Forest (N3) Highways, you'll see the Angeles National forest Clear Creek Information Station on your right. About half-mile past the information station, turn right down the winding paved road to the Switzer Picnic Area. Start time: 9:30 AM

The hike: The hike will take us from the Switzer to the Oakwilde Picnic Area and back. This will be an about 10 miles round trip. (To the Arroyo Seco creek bottom and back about 8 miles)

Detailed description: From the Switzer Picnic Area, the trail begins across the bridge at the lower end of the picnic grounds. Cross the bridge and follow the trail into the canyon. The pathway meanders with the stream under oak, alder and spruce. We'll cross and recross the stream several times and do some easy boulder-hopping. In a mile, we'll reach Commodore Switzer Trail Camp.

From the camp, we'll cross the stream and follow the trail on the west slope. At the signed junction bear right (southwest) on the main trail - the Gabrielino National Recreation Trail - down to Oakwilde. The trail leaves the main Arroyo Seco canyon, crosses a chaparral ridge, then drops into Long Canyon. It then descends to Arroyo Seco creek bottom and follows the creek about a mile to Oakwilde Trail Camp. Return is the same way.

