

650

April 9 -- Simi Hills - Movie Terrain -- Jim Carlin

Distance: 7 miles total, with shuttle.

Elevation: 1540 feet up, 1600 feet down.

We will be re-exploring this area just north of the Simi Freeway on the border between Ventura and Los Angeles Counties - re-explore since Tom Frye and Roland Basset have covered a portion of this ground before, and we did this hike last on 5 May 1999.

The area consists of dramatic sandstone formations, which have served as backdrops for movies since movies were invented. In fact the hike ends at the famous Corrigan Movie Ranch, known as Corriganville. Besides movie making, we may see all kinds of, or evidence of, wildlife: turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks, bobcats, raccoons, deer, opossums, etc. On the way back we'll traverse the wildlife tunnel under the 118 freeway, and experience native wall paintings offered by other forms of wildlife.

The Hike: We start on the Hummingbird trail climbing up toward the Simi Hills, paralleling the 118 freeway, stopping to visit caves and a rock house along the way. When we get to the Rocky Peak fire road, we turn left and climb up to the Rocky Peak cutoff. We detour out to the peak at this point to see the painted white line showing the boundary between LA and Ventura Counties, and the mysterious compass painting below on the rocks. We return back down the Rocky Peak fire road until we get to the cutoff for Corriganville with its signposts and old photographs detailing movies that were filmed there. We will party there.

For non-Valley people: Hummingbird Trailhead: Take 118 freeway west-bound, exit at Kuehner Dr., turn right (north) and park immediately on either side of Kuehner.

For Valley people: Assemble at Corriganville parking lot no later than 9:00 AM: Take 118 freeway westbound, exit at Kuehner Dr., TURN LEFT (south), drive 1.1 miles to Smith Rd. (2nd stoplight), turn left, drive to end and park in lot. Combine drivers into 1 or 2 cars and return to the Hummingbird Trailhead in time to start hiking at 9:30 AM.

After the party, Valley people will transport non-Valley drivers to their cars at the Hummingbird Trailhead.