

June 12, 1996  
 ROLAND BASSETT

# HIKE 12

OLD CABIN SITE  
 OLD BONEY ROAD  
 DANIELSON HOME  
 from Rancho Sierra Vista (loop)

Maps: Newbury Park, topo  
 Triunfo Pass, topo  
 Point Mugu State Park  
 Distance: ~~8~~ 12 miles roundtrip  
 Elevation: 2100' gain and loss  
 Terrain: Road and trail  
 Time: 5½ hours including  
 lunch  
 Trailhead: Potrero Gate

From the Ventura Freeway in the west end of Thousand Oaks turn south on Borchard Road. Follow Borchard 1½ miles until coming to Reino Road then turn left. Drive 2 miles on Reino (which becomes Potrero Rd) to Pinehill Avenue, turn left and drive to the Rancho Sierra Vista parking lot.

Follow the road until coming to a trail that crosses a big field on the left. One-half mile of trail brings you to the beginning of Old Boney Road. Walk on the road uphill for a ways, then downhill and across the stream. The road goes uphill following the stream then makes a hairpin turn to the right. A short side trip from this point takes you to a view of the waterfall. To get there, go upstream on the path, turning right as you come to a sidestream, then upstream to the waterfalls.

After returning to the harpin turn continue on the road for about 3/4 mile until coming to a fork. Take the left fork and reach the Old Cabin Site in 10 minutes. Other than a rock fireplace and chimney, the only visible evidence of a cabin is a level area with some rocks, indicating the cabin outline and floor. The slope downhill from the site is grassy with scattered oaks shading the soil. A trail on the upper side of the open area leads to the Boney Mountain Ridge. Today's hike, however, continues on the road, dropping down slightly as it passes the spring then crosses the stream.

The next 1/2 mile is up the steep slope on the north side of the stream, gaining 350' altitude before levelling off just before

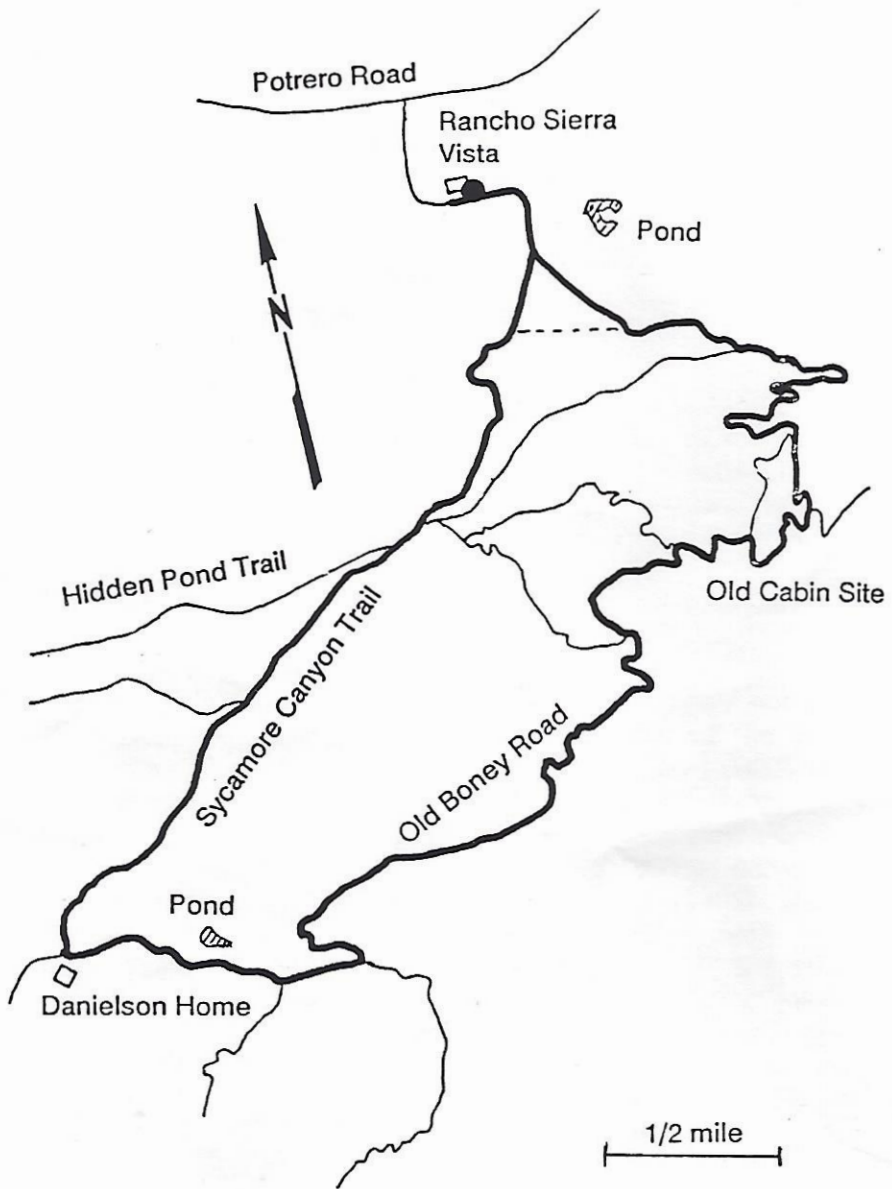
reaching Old Boney Road. Turn left and continue on the road. After 4/10 of a mile a marked trail on the right leads down the slope to the northwest and intersects the Sycamore Canyon Trail. One half mile farther along Old Boney Road another trail leads down the slope, joining the first trail near the bottom of the canyon. Don't take either of these trails unless you want to shorten the hike 3½ - 4 miles. Continue along the road generally in a westward direction but with considerable turning. Most of the grade is downhill, but occasionally some uphill comes along. 2.2 miles after the last trail junction, an old road comes up the streambed from the Danielson Home. There is a boulder near the junction that must be 10' in diameter - a good landmark.

Turn right and follow the road down to and across the stream. 300 yards after the stream crossing, a trail goes uphill on the left. This trail is not distinct and as of now is not marked. Continue on down the road, which can also be indistinct because the winter rains wipe it out. Keep on the west side of the stream, passing by a pond, then down a heavily wooded valley toward the ranch.

Upon reaching the paved road turn right and go upstream. There are restrooms and water one-half mile up the road. Sycamore Canyon is appropriately named. Sycamores dominate the entire valley. Oaks take over on the edges of the valley, and either sage near the coast, or chaparral farther inland predominate on the slopes; but the Sycamores own the valley.

A paved road comes into the Sycamore Canyon Trail on the left about a mile up from the Danielson Home. This is the Ranch Center Road and leads to Wood Canyon. Another 3/4 mile upstream and the Hidden Pond Trail enters on the left. Continue on the road as it gains 300 feet in one mile, then another mile to the trailhead.





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