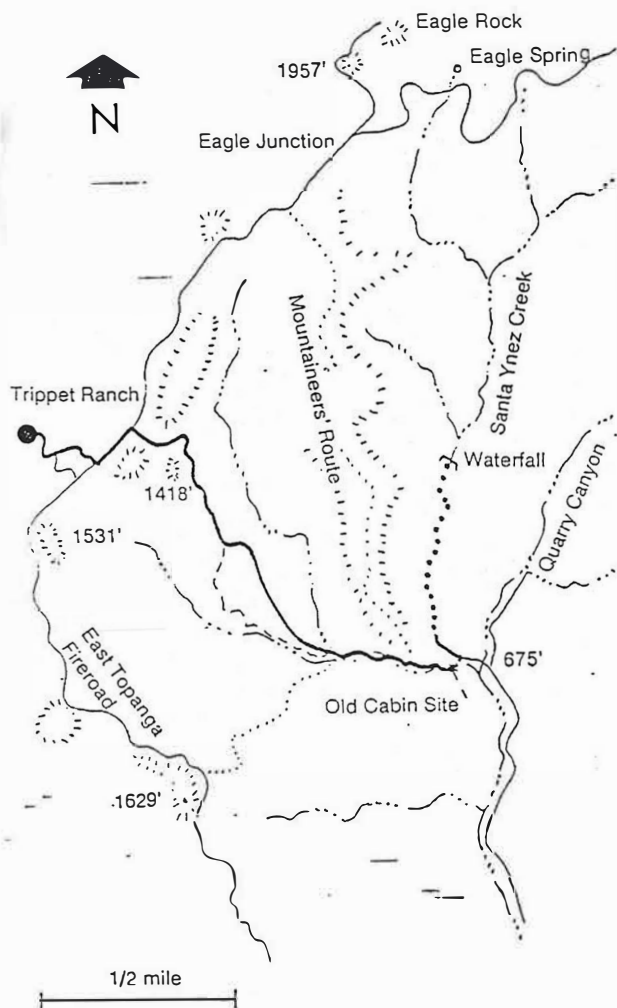


## OTP Hike #329

### SANTA YNEZ CANYON WATERFALL



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## HIKE 47

UPPER SANTA YNEZ CANYON  
to the waterfalls  
from Trippet Ranch

June 5, 1996 9:30 Tom Frye

Maps: Topanga, topo  
Topanga State Park  
Distance: 6 miles roundtrip  
Elevation: 1100' gain and loss  
Terrain: Combination fireroad,  
trail, and steep ridge  
Time: 3 hours  
Trailhead: Trippet Ranch

On Highway 27 just north of the town of Topanga, turn east on Entrada Road. Once on Entrada Road turn left at every street intersection, 1.1 miles to the entrance of Topanga State Park. Park your car. (There is a parking fee)

From the east end of the parking lot take the trail past the right of the white brick building. Turn right on the Nature Trail and wind uphill through the woods. This trail goes across a grassy area that has a succession of attractive flowering plants every spring: Blue-eyed Grass, Owl Clover, Brodiaea, and Violet.

At the top of the hill turn left on the fireroad and continue uphill until the basalt knoll on the right is passed, then turn right and start down into Santa Ynez Canyon. This section of the trail is in the area burned over in November 1977, and as a result the chaparral has temporarily been replaced by other vegetation. Mustard, Morning Glory, Filaree, Horehound, Wild Cucumber, Bush Lupine, Tree Tobacco, and many other flowering plants can be seen along the trail. About half mile down the trail start looking for a side trail on the left, just after coming down a steep grade on a reddish-tinged sandstone. (It isn't well-marked and can be missed.) Take this side trail and descend along a rocky ridge.

Soap Plant (Amole) is everywhere along the ridge. Six foot tall plants bloom in May and June, the flowers opening in late afternoon. Farther down the trail, the ridge is covered by deerweed, which grows very thick after a fire. As the chaparral returns, the deerweed disappears to a great extent. The sandstone

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ridge dips steeply to the west, about 45°. The south end of the sandstone ridge has a number of round sandstone inclusions.

A couple of trails leave the ridge and drop down to the trail in the canyon to the west, or we may continue south on the ridge.

Upon rejoining the original trail down in the canyon, turn left. You are instantly in a new environment of Oak, Sycamore, and Walnut trees; Blackberries and Currants line the trail. About 500 yards down the trail are some caves in the cliff on the right. The wall of the canyon is very steep in this part of the Santa Ynez. If you look to the right you will see beautiful examples of conglomerate rock. To the left in about 200 yards and obscured by chaparral are two rock chimneys, all that remain of an old cabin site. The trail forks farther downstream. Take the left fork and go upstream.

Follow a trail upstream for about 3/4 mile. You will cross the stream several times — and may even run out of trail on occasion, because every storm brings down new sand and gravel and makes a few changes. By staying close to the stream you will come to some waterfalls. That is the objective of this segment of the hike. Eventually, rock-climbing ability and equipment are needed to proceed. This is a good place to turn around, retracing your steps to return to the roadhead.

A couple of variations in the route are available: (1) Instead of taking the ridge trail above the sandstone cliff, you can stay on the main trail and follow it all the way to the fireroad that leads to Trippet Ranch. (2) A bushwhack trail goes steeply up the ridge to the north, starting just a few yards west of the two chimneys. (3) An indistinct trail branches from the main trail about 400 yards west of the two chimneys and goes uphill on the left, heading southwest. This overgrown trail starts through a thick stand of Poison Oak, gains 900 feet, and tops-out on the East Topanga Fireroad. The trail is almost impossible to find because of the overgrown vegetation.