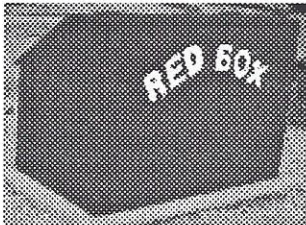


OTP & Others **400TH** Hike - - - Red Box Loop

October 29, 1997, 9:30 AM

Ron Forbess' Hike

Summary



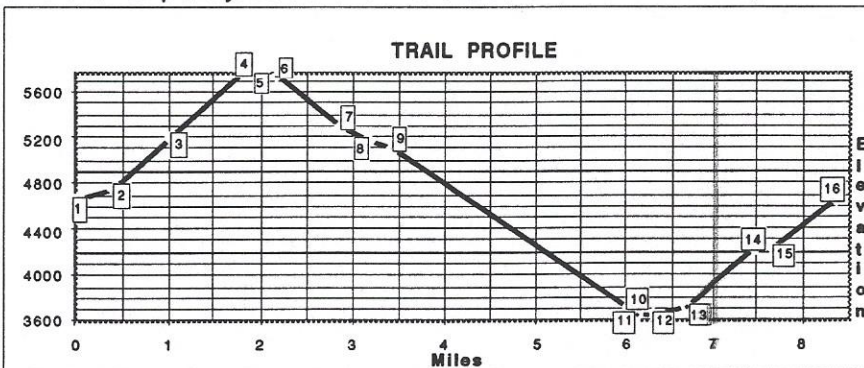
What better location to celebrate our 400th hike than from the "Red Box". This is a loop for the ambitious and a shorter jaunt for those wishing for a more leisurely hike - all on good trail, and plenty of shade. The entire loop is 8.35 miles - going up 1100 ft., dropping 2100 ft., and finally trudging back up 1000 ft. to Red Box. The shorter - 4.5 mile round trip - option returns to Red Box after reaching the saddle and walking to the top of Mount Disappointment.

Trailhead Directions

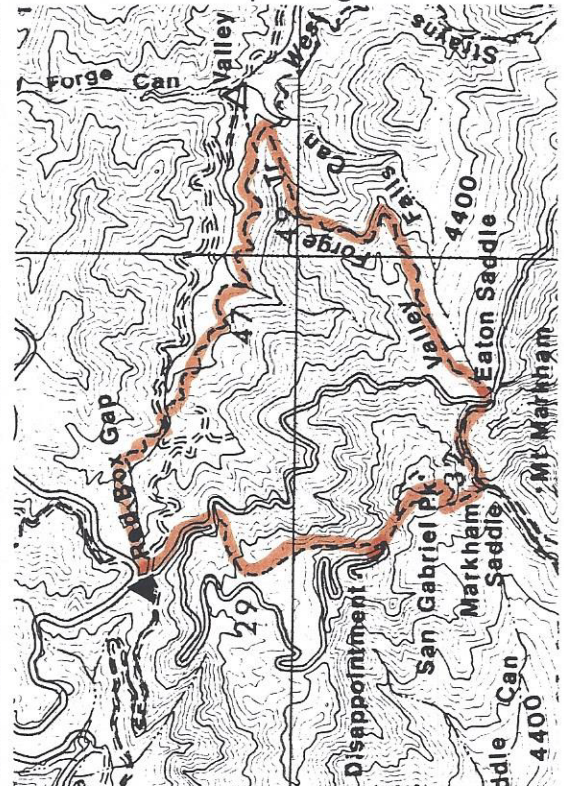
Meet at Red Box Station at mileage paddle 38.38 on the Angeles Crest Highway (about 14 miles from I-210 at the Mt. Wilson road turn off). Be sure to be there in plenty of time for a 9:30 departure.

The Hike

From Red Box we walk up the Mount Wilson Road for .4 mile to the Mt. Disappointment service road. The well maintained (built in 1988) San Gabriel Peak Trail starts from there. It wastes no time in zigzagging up the steep oak and conifer shaded slopes to the west. After about .6 mile the trail comes close to a stretch of the service road. It then resumes switchbacking, offering occasional views of the Mt. Wilson and West Fork country to the east. The trail finally intersects the service road and after .2 mile reaches the road to Mt. Disappointment. After a well deserved cookie break we will break into two groups. One will go another 200 ft. gain and about a quarter mile to the top of Mt. Disappointment, a former Nike missile base, now an antenna site, then return to Red Box. The other group will continue the loop hike by going down the trail to Markham Saddle. From there we head toward Eaton Saddle through the tunnel on the dirt service road. At Eaton Saddle we cross the Mt. Wilson Road to the beginning of the Valley Forge Trail. Down we go on this shaded and well maintained (for the most part) trail - 2.6 miles and 1400 ft. drop - until we join the Gabrielino Trail. The upper part of this trail goes on a fairly straight course high on the west wall of Falls Canyon, the lower part switchbacks through the shade of tall chaparral, big cone spruce and oak trees. Once on the Gabrielino trail we continue down for another .3 mile, passing the junction to Valley Forge Campground and a stone cabin before starting back up. Then it's up a little over 1000 ft. with one short level part just before we cross the service road, .7 mile from the Red Box parking lot.



Trail Location	Elevation				Miles			Hiking Time*	
	at points	between points	between marks	Cum.	between points	between marks	Cum.	between points	Cum.
1 Red Box Trailhead walk up Wilson Road	4666								
2 Start up San Gabriel Peak trail	4760	94		94	0.40		0.40	0:14	0:14
3 Trail comes close to road	5200	440		534	0.60		1.00	0:31	0:46
4 Mt. Disappointment fire road - go left	5790	590		1124	0.80		1.80	0:41	1:27
5 Junction - road to Mt. Disappointment	5780	-10	1124	1124	0.20	2.00	2.00	0:04	1:32
6 Disappointment - San Gabriel Saddle	5760	-20		1124	0.15		2.15	0:03	1:36
7 Markham Saddle - go left on dirt road	5300	-460		1124	0.70		2.85	0:16	1:52
8 Tunnel	5180	-120		1124	0.30		3.15	0:07	2:00
9 Eaton Saddle - go down Valley Forge trail	5110	-70		1124	0.25		3.40	0:06	2:06
10 Turn left at Gabrielino trail	3710	-1400		1124	2.60		6.00	1:02	3:08
11 Valley Forge Campground trail junction	3660	-50		1124	0.10		6.10	0:02	3:10
12 Stone Cabin	3650	-10	-2130	1124	0.20	4.30	6.30	0:04	3:15
13 Log Cabin	3720	70		1194	0.35		6.65	0:12	3:28
14 Trail Jct. to Camp HI Hill	4240	520		1714	0.80		7.45	0:39	4:07
15 Cross access road	4230	-10		1714	0.20		7.65	0:04	4:12
16 Red Box Trailhead	4666	436	1026	2150	0.70	2.05	8.35	0:34	4:46



* Hiking Time assumes 2 MPH plus 1 hour per 2000 feet elevation gain uphill and 2.5 MPH downhill 10/20/97