

Sent: Monday, January 24, 2000 4:53 PM
Subject: OTP Hike for February 9, 2000

Hike #504

To All:

This is a repeat of Ron Forbess' Verdugo Mountain Hike of February 26, 1997, with the optional added extension of continuing on up to Verdugo Peak (3126 ft). Ron's warning about leg scratching brush along the trail should be taken seriously by wearing long pants.

The basic hike is a loop 7.8 miles, 1480 ft. up, 1860 ft. down, with the last 1.6 miles rising 380 ft. back up to the cars. The extended hike to Verdugo Peak will add about 3 miles total and add an additional 470 ft. both up and back totaling 11 miles and lowest to highest elevation change of 2325 ft. That ought to take care of anybody's latent hiking urges!

Exit the 5 freeway at Olive St. (Burbank), head north. Olive St. becomes Country Club Dr. after passing under an arch at Sunset Canyon Dr. Turn right on Via Montana and park along the road near the intersection of Camino de Villas. This place has been forever enshrined in our OTP traditions from the last time we were there. It is situated across from a block of condos, from which a woman yelled at Marlene when she used a bush prior to starting the hike.

We start at 9:30 AM by crossing a patch of grass to pick up an old dirt road bed going north. We contour across a hillside toward some houses in the bottom of Sunset Canyon. At 0.2 mile, we turn right where another road goes sharply up the ridge, and we continue for another 1.7 miles. Near the top of this stretch, at a spot with a nice view southwest, we look for a rock cairn concealing a register notebook where we can leave a record of our passage should we dare to.

At 1.9 miles from start, we come upon a maintained dirt road which goes left a short distance to a water tank, and then right to the Verdugo Fire Road on the crest of the ridge. We continue up-ridge for 0.5 mile until we reach an unmarked 4-way junction. It is here the rabbits will continue on up the fire road to Verdugo Peak, returning the same way. The others (and later the rabbits) will take the middle branch (the road on the right quickly dead-ends), and continue for 0.3 mile to a junction with Brand Park Road which is marked by a wooden bench on the shadeless ridge-line. This may be the proper place to have lunch and enjoy the view.

Brand Park Road is used for the return journey, 3.3 miles of twisting and turning until arriving in Brand Park in the valley below. On the way down, we'll loop around a small landfill near the bottom, and perhaps dodge a few garbage trucks. In a corner of the park stands Glendale's architecturally noted Brand Library, originally a Spanish-Moorish style mansion built by Leslie Brand around 1900. Near the library and up-canyon are the remnants of the tropical gardens that once graced the Brand estate.

We return to the cars by walking 1.2 miles along Mountain Street (which becomes Sunset Canyon Drive as we pass from Glendale into Burbank) to Tujunga Ave. We turn right on Tujunga (which becomes Camino de Villas) and walk 0.4 mile uphill to Villa Montana and our cars (a total of 400 ft.). When Ron did this hike, he provided a shuttle from Brand Park, which must of really helped those that were tired, because all of us that walked back to the cars agreed that that last 0.4 mile is one long grind. I have no objection to repeating this shuttle, but that is up to Ron. I am not setting up a shuttle for this hike - after all this is a Carlin hike, and I've got a reputation to maintain!

See ya there!