

## Hike #528

**Subject:** Carlin Hike for 9 August

### Crystal Lake to South Mt. Hawkins Lookout

We did this hike last on 15 September 1993. It is advertised at 10 miles round trip, 2800 ft elevation gain and loss. It is a shortened version of #79 in "100 Hikes - Trails of the Angeles." Still, it is classified as moderate.

We have been to Mt. Hawkins (the northern-most peak) which we have reached from Dawson Saddle (part of the infamous Leete-lost hike). We made it to South Mt. Hawkins the last time we did this. In between these two peaks are Middle Hawkins and Sadie Hawkins. The Hawkins name comes from Nellie Hawkins, the beautiful waitress at the Squirrel Inn which was located up the North Fork of the San Gabriel where Coldbrook Canyon is today. Nellie was the inspiration for many a mountain men in those days (1901-1907). Some day we must walk the sharp ridge running north and south between these 4 peaks, but not today.

Drive to upper (northern) edge of the Crystal Lake Recreation Area 25 miles from Azusa on Hwy. 39. Park in the large dirt parking lot to your right just before the locked gate (1993 instructions which should work this time hopefully).

The trailhead is marked by a metal sign across from the parking area. This is actually true, although we never saw the sign the last time and fumbled around until Jim Spotts finally found the trail off of one of the access roads. I earned a Trail Blazers award on this one! We were all amazed when we walked the trail back to the parking lot and found the beginning of the trail right where the instructions said it would be! (I think I can find our way this time, but you had better come along anyway Jim Spotts).

We walk the trail as it makes a gradual ascent through oak, pine and cedar. When the trail crosses the South Mt. Hawkins fire road, we turn right and take the fire road up to the peak. There was a fire lookout tower on the peak, and we should find its foundations up there along with a fine view. We return the same way.

Jim Carlin